THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

The Short Dykes of Mid and North-East Wales

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The Short Dykes of Mid and North-East Wales

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Short Dykes in Mid and North-East Wales

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'Thin is my shield on my left flank,
Though old, if I can,
I shall stand watch at the ford-dyke of Morlas'[1]

1 *Introduction*

Dyke studies in the Welsh borderlands tend to be the preserve of only a few. They have normally been examined in isolation, morphological and archaeological rather than geographical, for they do not fit readily into studies of settlement or economy or death. The names of the archaeologists who have studied them recur – Cyril Fox, Noel Jerman, David Hill – yet the dykes, whether the great earthworks associated with the names of Offa and Wat, or the shorter dykes are amongst the most impenetrable of monuments even if they are amongst the most obvious of landscape features in the border region. Offa's and Wat's Dykes continue to receive a considerable amount of attention, the short dykes much less so, as demonstrated in a recent synthesis where not a single mention of them occurs (Arnold and Davies 2000).

The thinking behind the present study was that an assessment of all of the known dykes along the Welsh border falling within Powys and the former county of Clwyd might promote a better understanding of their origins, purpose and significance than the usual approach of examining small groups of them as discrete entities.

This is not part of a pan-Wales programme of work. Short dykes are not ubiquitous across Wales. That much is obvious from even the most cursory examination of the literature on Welsh archaeology. Equally it soon becomes apparent they are relatively localised even in our region. But, they do appear on the English side of the border and any assessment ought strictly to ignore the political boundary which is no more than an artificial construct.

This report on the dykes follows a standard format. After the introduction, history and desk-top analysis of the data, the gazetteer details each dyke in turn under a number of consistent heads. Each description is accompanied, wherever possible by one or two plots of the earthwork, one in conventional hachured form, the other as a block diagram distinguishing, where possible, between bank and ditch. The gazetteer is ordered by (P)rimary (R)ecord (N)umber.

2.1 The study of short dykes: the broader context

It is wholly beyond the scope of this study to synthesise the vast and disparate mass of evidence, generated over many years, that exists for the variety of earthworks that go under the heading of dykes. There is a substantial literature available for the United Kingdom, ranging geographically from the southern counties of England to central Scotland and perhaps beyond, and chronologically from the observations of Colt Hoare on 'cattle-ways' at the beginning of the 19th century right up to the present. We might even turn to O. G. S. Crawford for a wider perspective which takes in western Europe and beyond (1954, 183). Here a handful is examined briefly which should give an impression of the wide range of earthworks that can or have been classed in this way.

Some dykes, primarily those constructed on a massive scale as defensive barriers or territorial boundaries, have been studied in considerable detail: Wansdyke (Fox and Fox 1958) and Bokerley Dyke (Bowen 1990) in this respect are the counterparts of Offa's Dyke. The imposing Cambridgeshire Dykes clearly acted as obstacles to passage in the early medieval era (Fox 1923) and there are similar if less massive examples in other parts of East Anglia such as the Launditch, Fossditch and others in Norfolk, although Williamson (1993, 70) has eschewed a defensive interpretation and argued instead for the control of passage linked perhaps with a symbolic demonstration of territorial control. From a more recent era there is the Scots' Dike, constructed around 1552, to define the boundary between Scotland and England (RCAHMS 1997, 47).

On the chalklands of southern England, Williams-Freeman, who coined the phrases, and others were describing both 'cross-ridge dykes' and 'cross-valley dykes' on the basis of their topographical positions in the early decades of the 20th century (Williams-Freeman 1915, 32; 1932; 1935), while Curwen (1951) added spur dykes to the repertoire. Williams-Freeman's interests were primarily in Hampshire and the adjacent counties of Sussex and Dorset, but he listed Wiltshire, Berkshire and the wolds of east Yorkshire as other areas where such

dykes were present (Williams-Freeman 1932, 24). It was Williams-Freeman, too, who attempted a morphological and topographical characterisation, distinguishing between 'univallate entrenchments' where there was a single bank and ditch from the 'bivallate entrenchments' where the ditch was sunk between two banks, and the multiple banks and ditches, whilst focussing on dykes that ran from one steep slope to another across flatter ground (1932). Later Colin Bowen (1961, 32) was to flag up the fact that there were significant regional differences masked by the all-embracing term, 'cross-dyke' while Bradley (1971) in a typically thoughtful article undermined the earlier views of 'covered ways' (or sunken droveways) and barriers or 'toll bars', replacing these interpretations with the concept of land divisions towards the end of the Bronze Age.

In Dorset there are examples of cross-ridge dykes associated with areas of Iron Age settlement and thus indicative of a prehistoric origin (RCHME 1970, 509), while in Wiltshire the bivallate dykes on the Ebble-Nadder ridge divided the ridge into a series of territories, probably in the 1st millennium BC. But the univallate earthworks on the same ridge may have had varied functions: some were part of trackway systems, others controlled traffic (Fowler 1964).

Comparable are the obstructive earthworks, also termed cross-dykes, on the Cheviots in northern England lying across "ridges, necks and other ground flanked by natural features... The frequency of their association with old roads supports their identification as obstacles, perhaps of the medieval raiding period but possibly earlier and doubtless not all attributable to a common origin" (Ordnance Survey 1973, 156; see also Crawford 1954, 187).

Different in their morphology are the great multiple banks on the North York Moors which are seen as boundaries. Exemplified by the Cleave Dyke, 5.6 miles of linear banks and ditches, on the Hambleton Hills in Yorkshire, the dykes are viewed as a system of territorial division related to the allocation of upland summer pasture for settlements on the lower ground early in the first millennium BC (Spratt 1982; 1989). Associated with these were cross-ridge dykes that sub-divided the territories or 'estates' but which might be additions to the pattern towards the end of the first millennium BC (Spratt 1989, vi). But there are other Yorkshire dykes which have been viewed as obstacles to intruders advancing along Swaledale in the centuries immediately after the Roman withdrawal (Fleming 1998, 18), and similar arguments have been cited for Grim's Ditch near Leeds (Fleming 1998, 28), and further south the Grey Ditch near Bradwell in the Peak District of Derbyshire (Fleming 1998, 21).

In southern England the equivalent of the Yorkshire boundaries are found in the linear ditches formerly termed 'ranch boundaries' of Wiltshire Hampshire and Berkshire, commencing in the Late Bronze Age and continuing in some cases into the succeeding Iron Age. An elegant analysis of these is to be found in the Wessex Linear Ditches Project report (Bradley *et al* 1994, 3), and indeed it was Bradley who saw these as the plateau counterparts of the cross dykes (1971, 11).

Dykes elsewhere have received steady attention as in northern Cumbria (Higham 1978), where earthwork examples are viewed as land divisions separating the open upland from the enclosed and often cultivated lower land, particularly in the Roman era but running back too into the late prehistoric centuries. In their purpose they parallel the head dykes of later centuries which we find in the Scottish borderlands (Winchester 2000, 54) as well as in Wales and elsewhere.

But there are a range of other functions that emerge from a study of linear earthworks: medieval township boundaries can appear in the form of earthworks and in Yorkshire 'acredykes' bounded the medieval open fields (Spratt 1989, 18); in fenland and marshland, dykes appear frequently, as the mechanism by which land was reclaimed and enclosed ground protected from flooding, and this can be seen in the argaes constructed beside rivers in the Welsh borderlands; and the boundaries of deer parks have their own morphology, although in normal circumstances such boundaries would effect secure enclosures (Williamson 1997, 93).

What emerges, other than the variety of sites and the significant number still surviving, is the importance of detailed examination of specific groups of earthworks, as seen for example in the work of Peter Fowler in Wiltshire (1964), of Richard Bradley in Sussex (1971) and of D A Spratt in Yorkshire (1989). Such studies tend to show that in any one area the linear earthworks present a composite picture of landscape utilisation: no single explanation will cover all of the known dykes and each individual and group of dykes has to be examined in its own right in the first instance (cf Spratt 1989, 15). Equally as Bradley and his colleagues have sought to emphasise long-lived dyke systems may have developed and been modified through time, and perhaps, too, taken on new roles (1994, 150). The period of construction can vary from the later Bronze Age through to the early medieval period while if we pull deer park boundaries and flood defence systems into the equation that range can be extended into the medieval and post-medieval centuries.

2.2 The study of short dykes: function

On the basis of this geographically dispersed spread of earthworks we can list the following functions advanced for different dykes:

a) Defensive earthwork: Cambridgeshire Dykes; Bokerley Dyke; Grim's Ditch near Leeds and others (Fleming 1998)

b) Control of traffic and access on ridgeways (see Crawford 1954, 186)

c) Boundary marker, whether tribal or frontier: Wansdyke (Yorke 1995, 27); Grims Ditch

d) Boundary marker for territory or land holding: north-east Yorkshire (Spratt 1989, 16); Wiltshire etc (Bradley 1994)

e) Division between different farming zones; north Cumbria dykes (Higham 1978; Bowen 1961, 33) or southern chalklands (Williams-Freeman 1932, 27); South Downs (Bradley 1971).

f) Beach head defences: Bindon, Dorset (see Crawford 1954, 186)

g) Cattle ways: southern chalklands (Williams-Freeman 1932, 27); north Yorkshire dykes though now generally discredited

h) Deer parks: generally, throughout the UK; for instance north-east Yorkshire (Spratt 1989, 18)

i) Flood defences, as in the Fens

j) Others, generally antiquarian speculation: Roman roads such as Ackling Dyke. Also banks to prevent coaches driving round the turnpikes at night

3.1 The historical study of the short dykes of the Welsh Borderland

Up to this point the discussion has deliberately avoided any mention of the Welsh borderland which is the focus of the study. We may start by establishing the history of the study of the dykes on the Welsh side of the border.

It comes as no surprise, given the substantial size of some of them, that the short dykes of the borderland attracted the attention of 19th-century antiquaries such as E R Morris (1889) and J M E Lloyd who wrote in great detail on the Wanten Dyke (1901). Lloyd and his fellows saw short dykes in terms of defensive positions for repelling invaders and secondarily for hindering those carrying off stock (Lloyd 1901, 281). The nature of such earthworks and the attribution of the great dyke to Offa encouraged them to deliberate on historical contexts for the shorter earthworks (Fig 1). Lloyd attributed the Wanten Dyke and its neighbours in the Kerry area to a 13th-century lord defending the borderland for Henry III against the Welsh, and in this he was following, though perhaps not knowingly, Archdeacon Thomas who had posited a somewhat similar argument though with a different 13th-century personality as its originator (Lloyd 1901, 295).

By this time some of the more obvious earthworks were being depicted on large-scale Ordnance Survey maps and those already recorded by the antiquaries came to feature in the Royal Commission volumes, particularly that for Montgomeryshire (1911). But at the same time other linear earthworks were entered which initiated the confused picture that we have today.

Between 1925 and 1932 Cyril Fox studied the great linear earthwork of Offa's Dyke, but a projected study of the 'Short Dykes' that he learnt of in the central zone of the borderland never materialised (Fox 1955, xxiii), even though his fieldwork took him widely into Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire in 1933. Fox (1955, fig 70) distinguished 18 short dykes along the border area (Fig 1). He commented on the Kerry Hill dykes - and some elsewhere that were sufficiently proximate to Offa's Dyke - implying a degree of relationship (Fox 1955, 106, 113, 161), perceiving them to be the works of lowland folk trying to prevent the movement of those in the hills to the west, and those further north to prevent inroads from north Wales. The identification of such an association was perhaps inevitable and in this Fox was following John Lloyd who, not content with his 13th-century attribution of the Wanten Dyke to a follower of Henry III, also linked the Short Ditches to Offa's Dyke

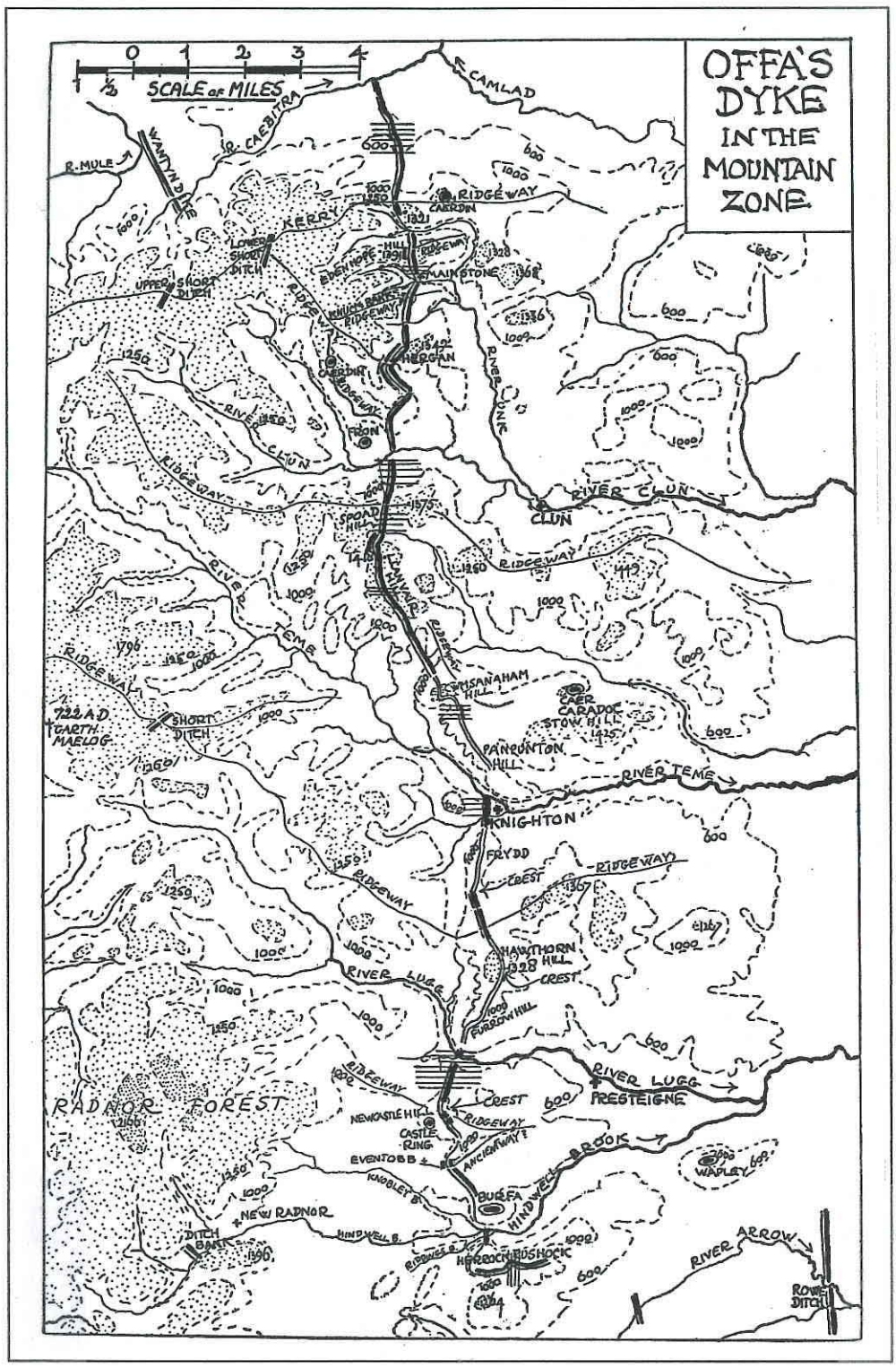

Fig 1 Cyril Fox's plan of the dykes in the Welsh Borderland (from Fox, 1955)

(Lloyd 1901, 290). Fox was particularly keen on the mode of construction of the Lower Short Ditch which he felt was identical with portions of Offa's Dyke. He argued as a working hypothesis that the Short Ditches in Kerry were the defensive works of Mercians at a time prior to Offa, 'and that when the lowlanders had realised the limits of their power to advance and consolidate, Offa's Dyke formed an agreed boundary (not a defensive barrier) across the debateable land. He distinguished the cross-ridge dykes (such as those in the Kerry Hills) from the three cross-valley dykes such as Wanten Dyke, Fron Hill Dyke near New Radnor and Rowe Ditch, each of which was sited at the western end of a fertile valley (Fox 1955, 162). The last of these used not deep re-entrants at the terminals but so Fox argued, woodland. Again, similarities in technique led him to believe that the cross-valley dykes were Mercian in origin, 'evidence of long-continued warfare between the agricultural Mercians and their "troublesome" neighbours the Welsh highlanders (who perceived their hereditary lands being encroached on' (Fox 1955, 164). These localised efforts on both sides of Offa's Dyke were seen as pre-Offan (Fig 1).

Other short dykes seem to have been less attractive to Fox. Footnotes in his great survey of Offa's Dyke refer to those around the Vyrnwy and Tanat, those in Radnorshire surveyed by Jerman (see below), and a group of three on the Long Mynd in Shropshire (Fox 1955, 165), though these last were definitely of 'Mercian' type. Nevetheless with the exception of those in Radnorshire Fox favoured a broadly Mercian date for all of the earthworks that he distinguished as 'short dykes', and saw them in the context of access and the ancient trackway systems that utilised the ridgeways, at a time when the frontier was in a state of flux perhaps going back into the 7th century (Fox 1955, 286), and in an area which was particularly vulnerable. It is Fox's hypothesis which has tended to colour at least some of the subsequent thinking on short dykes, and probably, by accident rather than design, has influenced the classification of more recently identified linear earthworks as dykes with potential 'Dark Age' or early medieval connotations, even where such a classification seems inappropriate on the evidence.

Cyril Fox's work did much to inspire others, notably Noel Jerman who surveyed the group of Radnorshire dykes in 1934, his field notes surviving with those of Fox. Fox saw these as precursors of the much larger dykes (Offa's and Wat's Dykes), although the latter were also frontier boundaries. Jerman viewed the position of Cefn y Crug Dyke, one of the Radnor Forest dykes, as 'typically Mercian [but] the dyke has neither the straight alignments nor the size of a normal Saxon dyke. [Thus it was not] part of a comprehensive Mercian scheme [but] represents instead some line of demarcation, probably erected at a considerably later period' (Jerman 1935, 287).

It was inevitable that Fox's thinking should influence subsequent archaeologists. S. C. Stanford adopted a similar line of argument with the Rowe Ditch in Herefordshire and others west of Offa's Dyke as Mercian outworks of the great earthwork (Stanford 1980, 186). Trevor Rowley too, following David Hill, saw the linear dykes as broadly contemporary with Offa's Dyke (Rowley 1986, 79). Historians too were convinced with Glanville Jones considering that the short earthworks 'were at first designed locally as cross-ridge dykes to control upland lines of communication, or as cross-valley dykes to protect English lowland settlements' (Jones 1972, 294), his statements reminiscent of what Aileen Fox had written over twenty years before (Fox 1949, 116).

Cyril and Aileen Fox in their work for the prehistoric section of the *Glamorgan County History* In the 1930s located nine cross-ridge dykes on the high Glamorgan ridges, and basing the interpretation on both topographical and archaeological evidence inferred that they were 8th/9th century in date (RCAHMW 1976, 5; Fox 2000, 82). Their examples all faced north, restricting passage at the points of the ridges, where re-entrant valleys created the narrowest thoroughfare, but the Foxes also considered that they might have defined the extent of tribal grazings. Not so Aileen Fox and subsequently Glanville Jones, both of whom divined them as controlling movement from the interior to the coast, imitating Mercian techniques in the 8th century, 'a fluctuating dividing line between the cantrefs of Morgannwg and Brycheiniog' (Fox 1949, 117; Jones 1972, 294). Historical interpretations were part of the package at this time. One of the solitary dykes in south-west Wales – the Clawdd Mawr across the Towy/Teifi watershed near Cynwyl Elfed – had been flagged as the eastern boundary of Dyfed in the 8th century, while in north-west Wales one of the very few large linear earthworks, Clawdd Seri, is adjudged, a little more recently, to have marked the extent of Cwm township on the open hillside, possibly in the early medieval period (Gresham 1983, 242).

In the 1960s C B Crampton working on pollen analysis demonstrated that a number of the Glamorgan dykes, though not all, were constructed after the formation of some peat, suggesting a historic date for them (1966). RCAHMW re-analysed the ten Glamorgan dykes in the 1970s suggesting that there were two groups on the basis of their location: some formed potentially defensive lines and incorporated dry stone walling or revetting (RCAHMW 1976, 6). A second group were weaker and would have required reinforcing with a hedge or

palisade to provide adequate defence. Three of the dykes had small ringworks lying behind or close to them suggesting a relationship, and in one case both the dyke and the ringwork were unfinished, but the relationship remains unproven. RCAHMW (1976, 6) also argued that one of the dykes was probably no more than a parish boundary bank and another, atypical in form, might also be part of a parish boundary. They also encountered one linear earthwork which was interpreted as the medieval deer park pale at Senghennydd, and considered another to be simply a hollowed trackway (1976, 6). No documentary evidence had been forthcoming for any of them, and the RCAHMW noticeably neither confirmed nor refuted the Foxs' interpretation, although it is evident that an early medieval origin was assumed (1976, 4).

But one point must be emphasised here. It must always be borne in mind that we are dealing with an absolute minimum of two groups of dykes. Firstly, there are those which Fox chose to interpret as Mercian earthworks acting as barriers to the approaches from Wales. Secondly, there are earthworks which may overlap with the first group and go under the popular term of cross dykes. The first group are of course historically geared, the second are couched in terms of topographical determinants. It cannot be stressed strongly enough that we are not dealing with an homogeneous group of earthworks, and an increasing interest in cross dykes and cognate earthworks in southern England (Fowler 1964, Bradley 1971) found a local reflection in 1975 when Graeme Guilbert discussed some cross-dykes of putative of later second or first millennium BC date on Ratlinghope Hill towards the northern end of Long Mynd near Church Stretton in western Shropshire, and geared towards the control of stock on that hill. He questioned whether all of Fox's Mercian short dykes were necessarily of the early medieval period (1975, 372). Others Shropshire dykes such as the High Park House dyke, the Devils Mouth dyke and the Barristers Plain dyke, all three on the east side of Long Mynd which Fox saw as Mercian earthworks (1955, 165, footnote 3), have attracted similar interpretations from more recent commentators including the Ordnance Survey field investigators and the English Heritage inspectors.

In the late 1970s (or perhaps as late as 1980/1) David Hill put sections across several of the dykes in the Kerry area without startling results (Hill 1981). He was at pains to point out that critically, the short dykes could not be dated, and while he avoided direct criticism of Fox's Mercian thesis, he did comment that the dykes could be of other dates. Stanford commented on the Rowe Dyke but avoided any assessment of the other dykes to the west of Offa's Dyke, other than implicating them in the Mercian expansion of the 7th century or linking them as outworks to the great dyke itself (1980, 186, 194). Either way they were seen as barriers to eastwards penetration. Hill, it has been argued, also seems to see those off to the west as broadly contemporary with Offa's Dyke (Rowley 1986, 80), though others have been less ambivalent, suggesting that even those in south Shropshire such as the Lower Short Ditch which appear geographically to form part of the Kerry earthwork group are thrown into doubt with the argument that there is nothing to place them in the Mercian era (Shropshire SMR). Thus for Shropshire Fox's hypothesis appears less tenable, though not necessarily to all (see for instance VCH 1998, 75), than a generation ago.

In Herefordshire there are a number of dykes, though only one - the Rowe Ditch at Pembridge – was attributed by Fox to the Mercians. Others have yet to be evaluated, at least in print.

The study of short dykes has been quiescent in recent years at least from a Welsh perspective, though here the writer must note that no thorough search of the regional literature for the West Midlands has been attempted, so that this overview might need to be revised if other research comes to light. The border dykes have come into focus only in syntheses (e.g. Arnold 1990), but it is also apparent that other views have developed which have not necessarily found in a home in a publication. This aspect we will need to consider further in the next section.

New dykes do emerge from fieldwork programmes within the study area, though only sporadically. The most productive fieldwork has tended to be in the eastern part of the area, the majority of which has been under the auspices of the Uplands Initiative promoted by RCAHMW. However, a limited number of potential sites (e.g. PRN 6725) have also been recorded during fieldwork associated with the preparation of environmental statements for proposed windfarms. CPAT fieldwork on the Radnor Forest uplands in 1992 (PRNs 6862 and 6871), during the Radnorshire Hills upland survey of 1997 (PRN 35471) and, more surprisingly, Ruabon Mountain in 1995 (PRNs 19604-6 and 19675), suggest that, at least in relatively remote areas, a number of short dykes remain to be discovered.

3.2 The distribution of dykes in Wales and the Welsh Borderland

Fig. 2 provides an overview of the distribution of short dykes and cognate earthworks in Wales and the borders, based on information provided by the SMRs of the four Welsh Trusts and those of Cheshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire. It cannot be stressed strongly enough that this presents a distribution pattern based solely on the writers' interpretation of the existing records which vary in their comprehensiveness and their reliability, both within the individual SMRs and between them. For mid and north-east Wales only those short dykes which are currently classed as authentic have been shown, while in Glamorgan the data are based heavily on the Royal Commission's observations of the 1970s. The records for the English counties no doubt reflect varying levels of modern fieldwork and observation, and neither the time available to us nor the nature of the current project allows us to assess the English records with the same degree of rigour.

Taking the distribution map at face value, various interesting features emerge. Against the small-scale map of the whole of Wales and the borderland (fig 3) the distribution of short dykes indicates a concentration in the central Marches. However this is misleading, for on a larger scale map the pattern breaks down into a series of clusters. The main concentration of short dykes is in the central Marches, in Radnorshire and southern Montgomeryshire, and in the western parts of adjacent Shropshire and Herefordshire. There is a secondary concentration in northern Montgomeryshire and the anomalous set of three dykes on Ruabon Mountain, together with one or two others, in Denbighshire, but otherwise north Wales is completely devoid of such earthworks as is the western half of Powys. Further south, in Monmouthshire and Brecknock - as Briggs has emphasised (RCAHMW 1997, 274) - the distribution is so thin as to be almost non-existent, whilst the re-emergence of dykes in the hills of Glamorgan is intriguing. The outliers in south-west and north-west Wales are equally interesting because of the negative aspects.

The distribution pattern, then is far from uniform, but localised and this hints at specific responses to external stimuli probably at different times. It should also be viewed in the light of current interpretations of the evidence and the validity of Cyril Fox's hypothesis, as well as the possibility that it may include the occasional linear earthwork likely to be dismissed after further work.

4.1 The dykes of mid and north-east Wales

We turn now to a specific study of the short dykes in Powys and the former county of Clwyd, the primary object of this project (Fig. 3). We start with a statement on the methodology adopted during the preliminary stage of the project. Next we define our terminology, important for all that follows, not least for determining the subject matter, and this is followed by an assessment of some of the other linear earthworks that have been confused with short dykes in the past in this region. The bibliography lists all the sources consulted during the duration of the first stage of this project and the compilation of this report. Needless to say not all are referenced in the text, nor is it comprehensive, particularly in relation to what has been written on dykes in other parts of the United Kingdom. For the study area, we would like to believe that no major or substantive sources have been omitted.

4.2 Methodology

The starting point as with so many others is the regional Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). The accumulated data from field and desk-top research has found its way into this repository and offers an obvious starting point for the survey.

The 'Type 1' 'Type 2' and 'Type 3' fields in the SMR database were interrogated for all occurrences of the term *linear earthwork*, and a computerised extract was provided, courtesy of the Head of Curatorial Services, for further analysis. It needs to be reiterated at this stage that the terms *dyke* and *clawdd* are not accepted terms in the SMR glossary, linear earthwork being preferred. However, the former term does occur frequently in the appellations given to linear earthworks, perhaps too frequently.

All entries were then examined further to assess their relevance to the project. The term *linear earthwork* covers a much wider range of site types than simply the dykes of the borderland. Field and enclosure boundaries, tracks and roads, and even peat cuttings and quarries can be encompassed by the term, and such a wide range will inevitably come to the fore where *linear earthwork* is recorded under Type 2 or Type 3. Where the descriptions indicated that the earthworks were indeed ordinary field boundaries or other anomalies of this

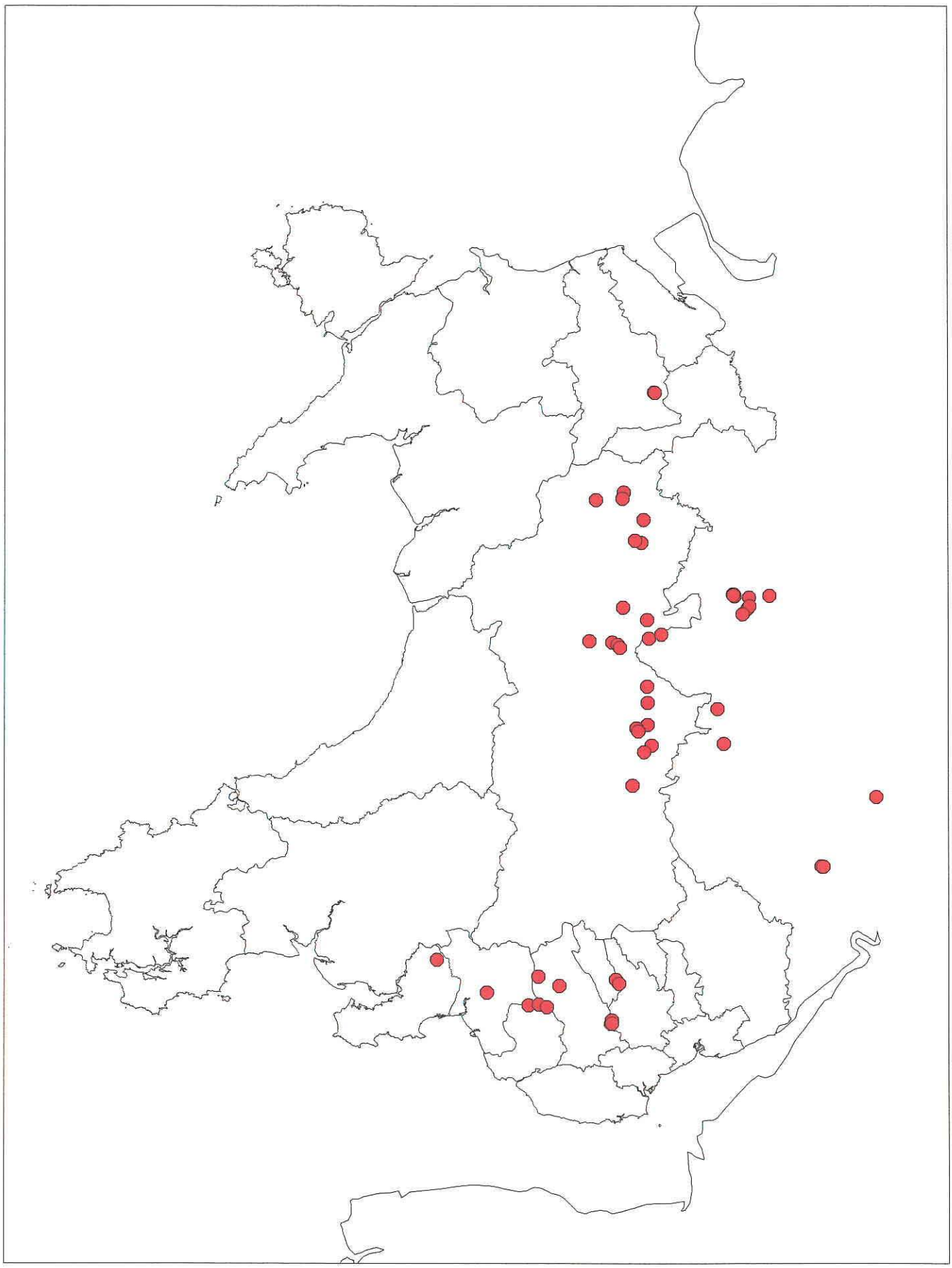

Fig 2 Dykes in the Welsh Borderland

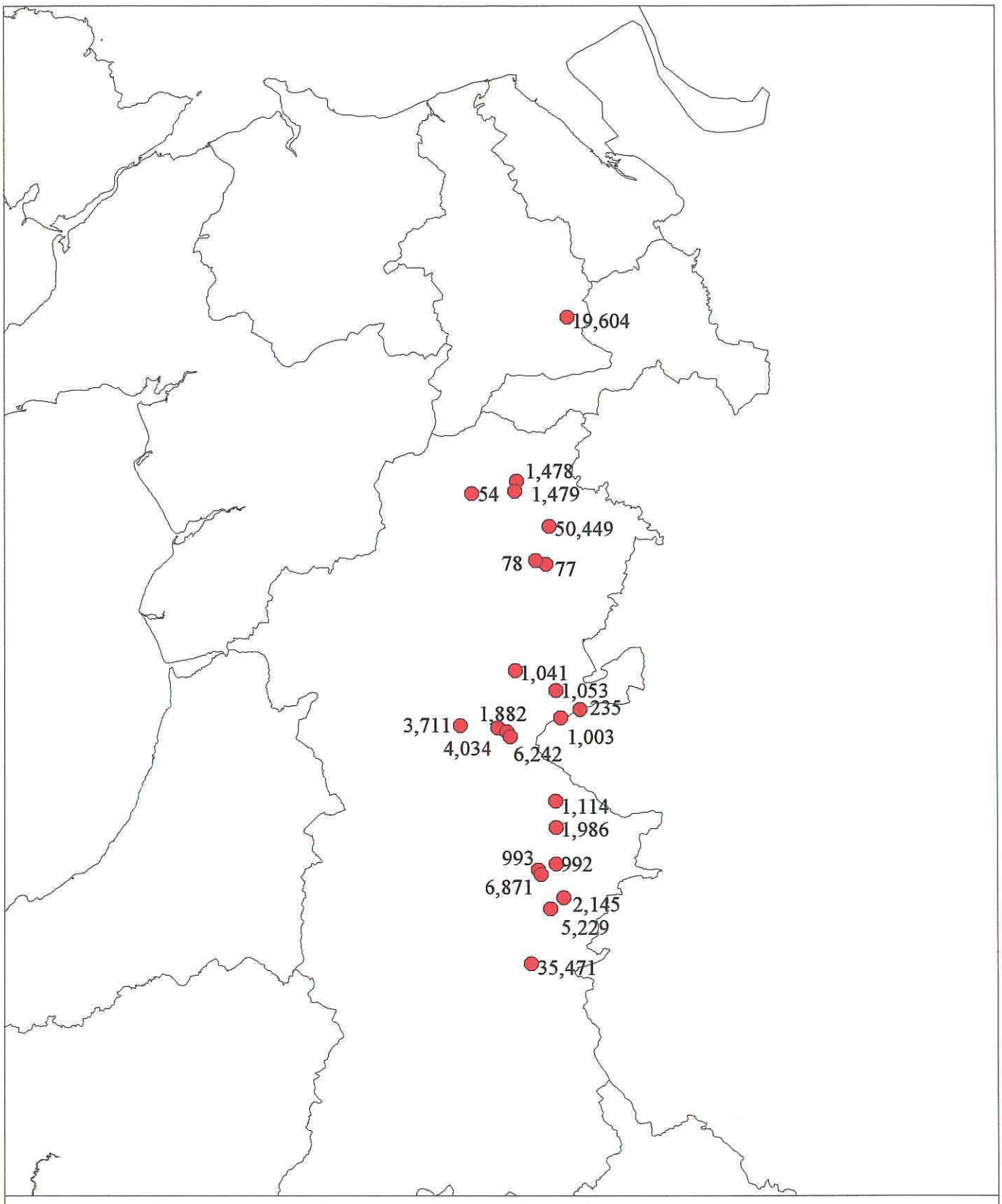

Fig 3 Known dykes in mid and north-east Wales

type, they were immediately discarded, but where there was any hint of uncertainty, the records were highlighted for further assessment.

Duplicated records were identified as with PRN 1180, Pen-y-Clawdd Dyke I which can be shown to be the spurious application of data for a genuine dyke known as Pen-y-Clawdd II (PRN 1986) to a different grid reference.

While most of the records referred to sites that are or, at least, were earthworks, the possibility that some linear features were revealed only by placenames was also recognised as relevant. Thus there are both *dyke* and *clawdd* names in the dataset. However, most of the records comprising only a *clawdd* name have had to be abandoned as far as further fieldwork is concerned. A fair proportion have been visited in the past by the Ordnance Survey field investigators or the Royal Commission without much success, and it seemed unlikely that any fieldwork that might be undertaken during the current programme would have a more satisfactory outcome.

An analysis of the records in the National Monuments Record (NMR) in Aberystwyth was also undertaken in case any earthworks or place-names of relevance had been identified by Royal Commission staff but had failed to reach the SMR.

Sites from both the SMR and NMR that survived this initial sorting process, but for which some uncertainties remained, were then assessed where appropriate through the examination of the original records in which their occurrence was noted, early Ordnance Survey and other maps, and also aerial photographs. Ultimately three categories of site were defined for the purposes of analysis: those linear earthworks than can legitimately be termed dykes (regardless of their date or function); those where sufficient questions remain to justify detailed field examination; and those linear earthworks which can be dismissed for whatever reason. All three are listed as Appendices 1 to 3, respectively, at the end of this report.

The gazetteer at the end of this report covers sites in the first two categories and offers an indication of which of these sources have been utilised. Utilising Ordnance Survey digital data, licenced through the various local authorities in the region and through the Welsh Assembly, all the known and possible dykes have been plotted to facilitate further work, using CPAT's GIS software (Map Info), although in a significant number of instances no plan exists of the earthwork in question.

Equipped with as much information as is available, it is anticipated that every dyke will then be examined in the field, not only to establish its authenticity but also its current condition. We concur with Richard Bradley's observation that 'it is through field survey, rather than through excavation, that most progress has been made [on studying linear ditch systems] both in Wessex and in other parts of the country' (Bradley *et al* 1994, 12). It is envisaged that this fieldwork will continue into 2002/03, and this report in practice covers only the desk-top element of the study. A second report covering the fieldwork element will be prepared in due course, and in the circumstances it has been decided not to include in this preliminary report a section on the morphology of the dykes.

4.3 Terminology

The term *linear earthwork* has an acceptable pedigree. It has been used by the Ordnance Survey (1973, 154) to differentiate those earthworks running between two points from those that defined enclosures, and there is a tacit assumption that such features may often have functioned in conjunction with natural features in the landscape such as scarps, watercourses and perhaps woodland. It is also very relevant to the Welsh SMRs, being the chosen particular for use in the key 'core data' field termed 'Type'. But *linear earthwork* is one of those broad terms that has a 'catch-all' significance and can be adduced for any bank and ditch that conforms to the Ordnance Survey description from field banks through to large defensive earthworks. Subsequently its use – and that of its abbreviated form 'linears' as adopted by H C Bowen (1990, 10) - is best restricted to those earthworks whose form and origin, for whatever reason – inadequate record, destruction, antiquarian description etc – are too vague for greater precision.

'Dyke' is also widely applied (though absent from the SMR), not only to ditches but also to banks or a combination of the two, and perhaps even to hedges and walls. More specifically in the context of this report are the terms *short dyke*, which has certainly been in use for more than half a century (Fox 1949, 116) and *cross dyke*. The former has some cogency as a descriptor, apart from being used occasionally on modern Ordnance Survey maps, though as a relative term it assumes that dykes such as the Wanten Dyke at over 2km

long, is small-fry compared with others, which in the vicinity of Offa's and Wat's Dyke is quite acceptable but elsewhere may be less appropriate unless applied on a national scale. The *cross dyke* as we have seen above was a term favoured by fieldworkers in the earlier 20th century, but it is considered to be a limiting term and is applicable to only a proportion of the dykes in the borderland. Finally we should mention *entrenchment* favoured by the Ordnance Survey in the late 19th century, and also by Fox in his notes of the 1930s, but now, perhaps fortunately, an anachronism.

The Welsh term *clawdd* also has a wide application, appearing quite frequently in place and minor names. The Welsh name for Knighton - Tref y Clawdd - and the fact that earthen field boundaries in north-west Wales are regularly termed *clawdd* indicates the two ends of the scale. But in its interpetation as 'ditch' it can appear where there is an enclosure or hillfort and also as a dyke relevant to the present study. It appears too in a range of other contexts. South-east of the Roman fort of Caersws, Cae Clawdd Bach (PRN 1578) almost certainly indicates the course of one of the roads that served the fort.

Taking the above into account we have stuck with the term *short dyke* for those earthworks that fall within the purview of this project. It may be not be totally appropriate, but it seems to us to be better than the alternatives.

4.4 Definition

What criteria can be used to define a short dyke?

a) it is a linear feature running between distant points and not forming part of a contemporary enclosure. While a bank and ditch represents the most common form there are some variations.

b) often, though not universally, it cuts across a spur, ridge or valley but may run over several such features.

c) it may be integrated into an existing field pattern but will almost certainly pre-date it. In negative terms where it lies on unenclosed upland, it is set in isolation and bears no relation to any enclosure boundaries, relict or otherwise, in the vicinity.

d) its size is not a significant factor in the application of the term, although it certainly is more important when considering a function.

4.5 A preliminary classification

As noted above we have divided the earthworks in our region initially into three groups, those where we can be reasonably positive that they fall within our definition of a dyke (Appendix 4), those which have some similarities, but for whatever reason – degradation, poor records, uncertain interpretation – have not been confirmed (see Appendix 5), and in addition there is a range of linear features constituting the third group which after consideration have been dismissed as dykes to be studied in this report (see Appendix 6).

Those earthworks listed in Appendix 4 that can legitimately be termed dykes are at a heterogeneous collection, but as a preliminary guide we have sub-divided into three groups which we will here class as a) barrier earthworks; b) boundary works; and c) cross dykes (Fig 4). It must be stressed, however, that this classification is provisional and may well be modified as a result of further work, particularly in the field.

A) Barrier earthworks

PRN Lower Short Ditch – PRN 235 (750m)
Upper Short Ditch – PRN 1003 (800m)
Wantyn Dyke – PRN 1053 (2300m)

Crugyn Bank Dyke – PRN 1882 (720m)
Two Tumps Dyke I – PRN 4034 (700m)
Two Tumps Dyke II – PRN 6242 (150m)

Short Ditch – PRN 1114 (640m)
Pen y Clawdd Dyke II – PRN 1986 (270m)

Fron Hill Dyke – PRN 2145 (310m)
Llanfihangel Nant Melan dyke – PRN 5229 (60m)

Ty Newydd Dyke – PRN 1478 (260m)
Aber Naint Dyke – PRN 1479 (560m)

The Kerry Ridgeway dykes were those that Fox focused on in the 1930s (Fig 4). The Lower Short Ditch (shared with Shropshire) for instance stands in contrast to several of those below because of its uncompromising straight line between one valley head and another. The Upper Short Ditch, also spanning the boundary, has a slight curve and it seems probable that a part of its Shropshire section which would have taken it to a valley head has been levelled beyond recognition. Then there is the Wantyn Dyke, again following a straight course regardless of the topography, and significantly its most northerly section adopting a different alignment (as postulated by Lloyd) has failed to convince other, later commentators. Longest of all is the earthwork that comprises three separately named elements: Crugyn Bank Dyke, Two Tumps Dyke I and Two Tumps Dyke II. We might perhaps be cautious in grouping the Crugyn Bank Dyke with the other two, for though they served the same purpose, in practical terms they controlled different (though adjacent) access routes, the former a spur offering an approach to the Severn Valley, the latter the Kerry ridgeway. Yet as they prevented access from the same route from the west, it is legitimate to view them as integral elements of the same system, and the contention is strengthened when they appear in conjunction on aerial photographs. While the mores southerly of the Two Tumps Dykes stops abruptly on the crest of the ridge, this seems to be in keeping with the intermittent nature of this particular barrier earthwork.

The Short Ditch in Beguildy (Rads) sits in isolation, well away from Offa's Dyke, but nevertheless was included by Fox in his Mercian group (1955, 168). That it is a cross ridge dyke there can be no doubt, but its straight alignment (other than a slight angle at one terminal), its size with vertical ditch to bank height of 3m and its length encourage us to set it in the barrier class. Furthermore a little more than 3km to the south is the Pen y Clawdd Dyke. On the face of it this is not an intelligible feature but if our hypothesis is correct that it once ran over Crungoed Bank to the north-west (and perhaps we are mirroring Cyril Fox's thoughts in 1934), it becomes more of a barrier work designed to protect an approach from the ground that falls away to the south-west. Together, the Short Ditch and Pen y Clawdd Dyke might be seen as integral elements of a system that protected access to the upper valley of the Lugg (Fig. 5).

Then there are the cross-valley earthworks. Only a couple of these are known – the Fron Hill Dyke, up to 2.8m high and the less impressive Llanfihangel Nant Melan dyke which appears to have suffered from later land use. It is surely more than a coincidence that these are both on the Summergil Brook (west of New Radnor) less than 4km apart and cutting across the narrow valley before it opens out onto the wider level of the Walton Basin, though in neither case is it entirely clear whether they face west or east.

The Ty Newydd and Aber Naint Dykes (Fig. 6), which might probably be treated as integral elements of a single scheme and indeed are often paired in the sources, are less than 1.5km apart, yet are anomalous in more ways than one. Both have ditches on their north sides. David Hill favoured a post-Conquest date, perhaps 12th or 13th-century for the former, and the Ordnance Survey, too, mooted a post-Conquest date for the latter. There are obvious problems, not least that the Ty Newydd earthwork has been claimed to be only a partial survival of what was formerly a larger earthwork, yet the evidence on which this is based has not been published to a satisfactory standard leading to some doubts. The faintly sinuous courses of both do not argue for defensive barriers yet the scale of the Aber Naint Dyke, a cross dyke between two valleys with a vertical height of 4.0m, might put it into such a class. By comparison Ty Newydd is a feeble earthwork. Should we see them, as the Ordnance Survey originally did, as barriers, blocking the pass from the Tanat Valley in the north to the Cain Valley further south. This is not impossible, and it does appear to be one of the easier routeways, yet the hypothesis is not entirely convincing.

B) Boundaries

Clawdd Mawr Dyke – PRN 54 (450m)
Aberbechan Dyke – PRN 1041 (900m)
Bwlch y Cibau Dyke – PRN 50449 (1300m)

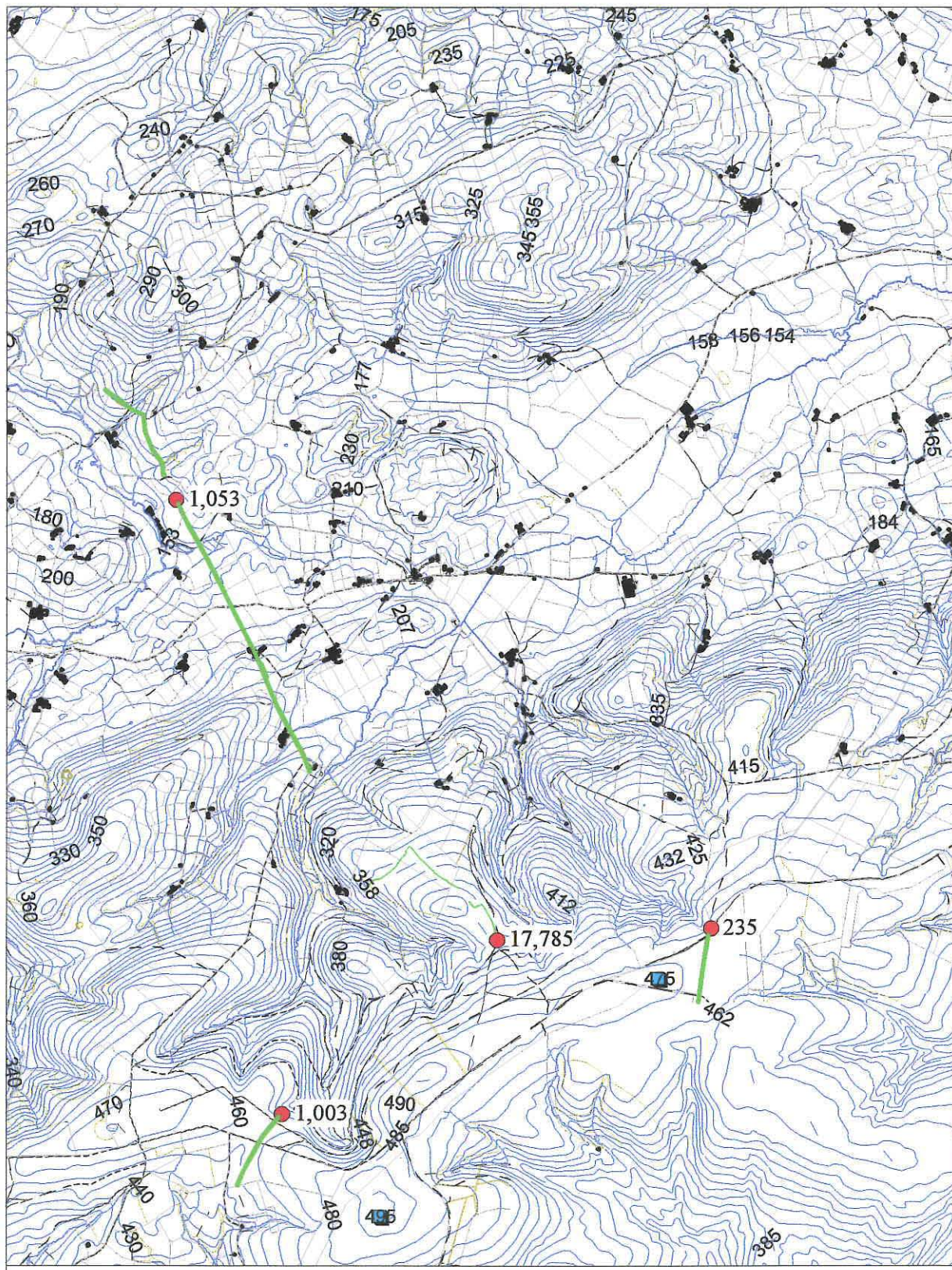

Fig 4 Kerry ridgeway dykes, Scale 1:40,000

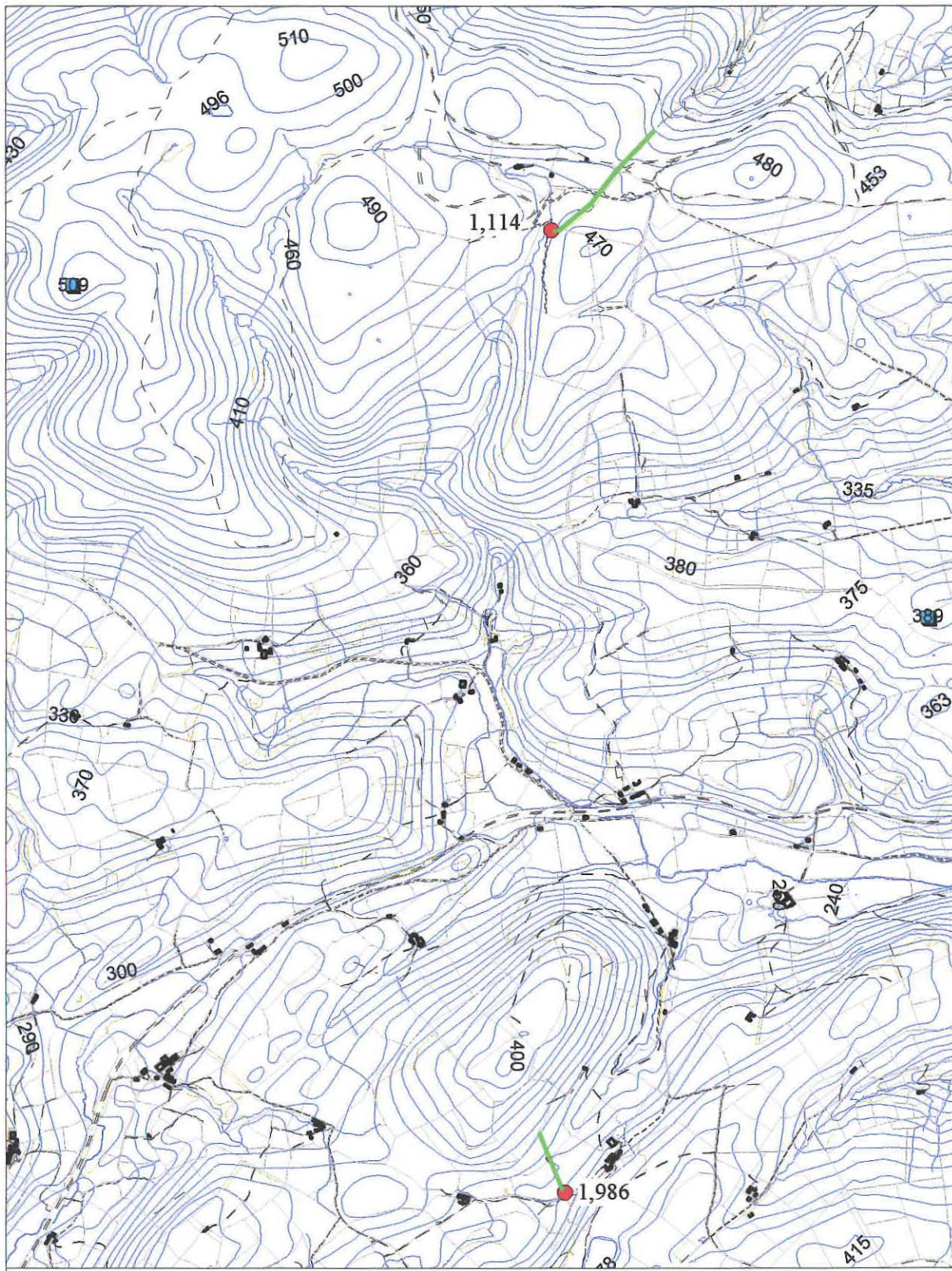

Fig 5 Beguildy dykes, Scale 1:25,000

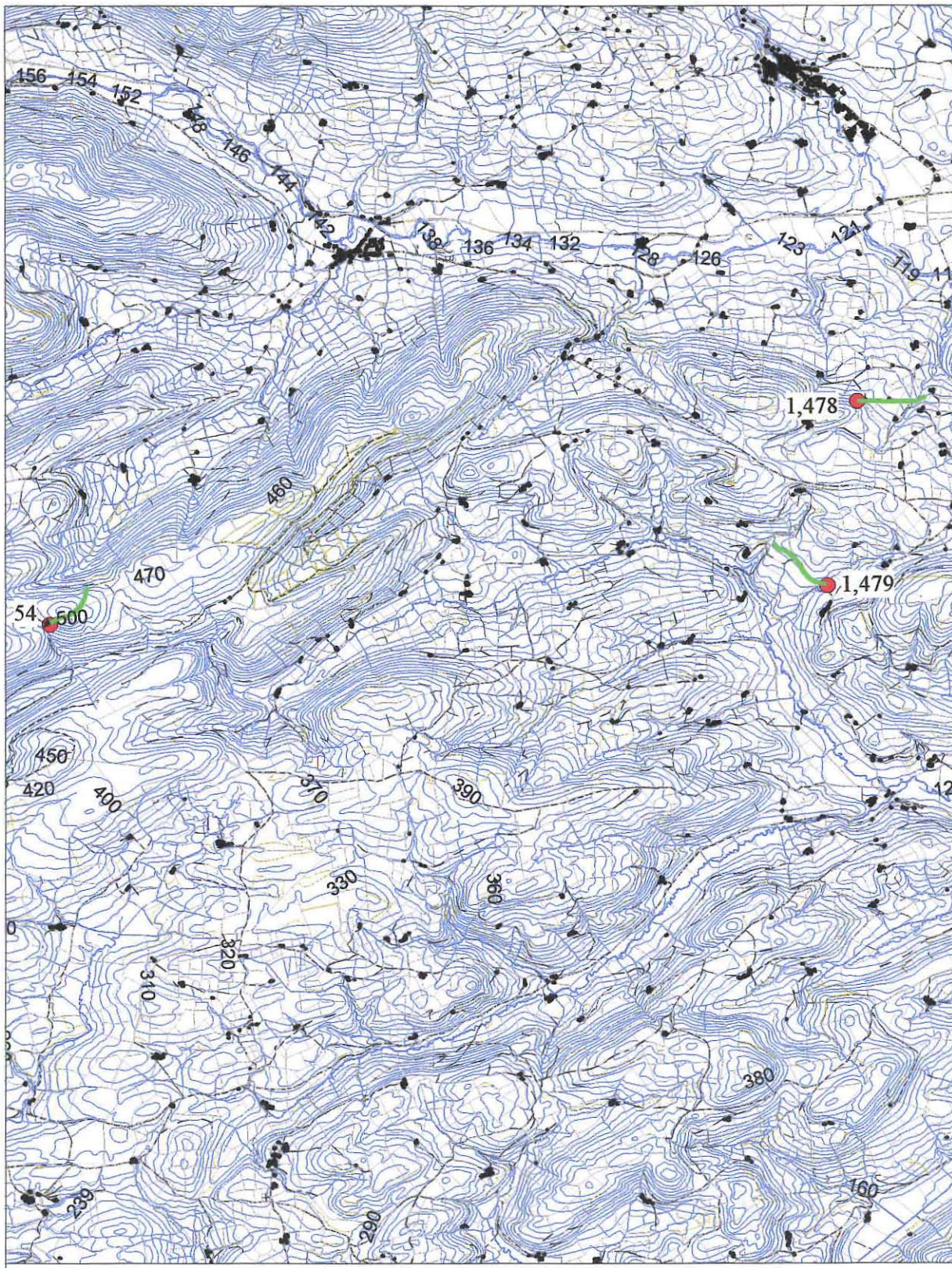

Fig 6 Tanat valley dykes, Scale 1:50,000

It is a feature of these earthworks that that they do not necessarily adopt the most efficient line topographically (or at least so it appears from a study of their mapped alignment), or occupy specifically defensive location. Clawdd Mawr near Lake Vyrnwy is a good example for with its slightly sinuous course it is 450m long, while had it been constructed on a straight north to south line the earthwork could have been reduced to perhaps 300m and adopted a position where the brow of the hill on which it sits lay behind it and not immediately in front. Bwlch y Cibau Dyke adopts a slightly winding course down a ridge, fractionally below its crest, but then turns through a right-angle to cut across two ridge ends and their adjacent valleys before ending (or so it appears on the crest of another ridge). It has a complex morphology with in places up to three banks and two ditches. The Aberbechan Dyke likewise has a sinuous course, running out of a valley and then up a hillside, more like a holloway than a defensively positioned earthwork.

C) Cross dyke groups

Dyffryn Meifod group: Bwlch Aeddan Dyke – PRN 77 (430m)
Clawdd Llesg Dyke – PRN 78 (170m)

Radnor Forest group; Shepherds Well Dyke – PRN 992 (140m)
Cefn y Crug Dyke – PRN 993 (304m)
Cowlod Dyke – PRN 6871 (108m)

Red Hill Cross Dyke – PRN 35471 (110m)

Giant's Grave Dyke – PRN 3711 (240m)

Ruabon Mountain group: Cyrn-y-Brain dyke III – PRN 19604 (71m)
Cyrn-y-Brain dyke I – PRN 19605 (47m)
Cyrn-y-Brain dyke II – PRN 19606 (42m)

It is difficult to make much sense of the location of Bwlch Aeddan Dyke, but it does cross from one valley head to another, as does Clawdd Llesg Dyke, 1.5km to the north-west. Both face uphill. Perhaps more significantly they lie in the rolling landscape to the south-east of the Vyrnwy as it runs down Dyffryn Meifod. The presence within 2km of three small enclosures of putative prehistoric date and several other larger examples a little further to the south is suggestive.

The Radnor Forest dykes are also atypical yet because of their geographical proximity it is tempting to see them as part of a group (Fig. 6). Shepherds Well Dyke adopts the shortest crossing of a ridge on the northern side of the Forest. Like Cefn y Crug Dyke on the north-west side, its ditch faces into the heart of the Forest plateau. But the Cefn y Crug earthwork is hardly a barrier – it stops short of the steep slope on the west, and for an area where erosion and degradation should have been limited it is not built on any scale. The Cowlod Dyke is an anomaly; its existence as an earthwork is not in doubt but set on slightly sloping ground and not controlling the ridge it looks only half-finished, and is included here only because of its geographical proximity to the other Radnor Forest earthworks. It is tempting to think of Cefn y Crug Dyke as a boundary, almost symbolic, and to accept the possibility that these might indeed have something to do with defining the extent of medieval Forest of Radnor.

The dykes on the upland massif of Radnor Forest are of relatively small size. So too are those on the common of Llanbedr and Glascwm, one of them so small in fact that it is barely visible and it is difficult to justify its inclusion here. Red Hill Cross Dyke, however, has the appearance of a cross dyke, albeit a weak one, yet it falls well short of any meaningful slope, particularly at its northern end. The Giant's Grave Dyke in southern Montgomeryshire seems to be an isolated earthwork, although there is another earthwork, the Mount Pleasant Dyke (PRN 6680), in a curious topographical location, not too far distant. Small in size it would be tempting to suggest that it originally extended further to the north-west towards the head of a stream, though there is no evidence for this. But in its location and its scale it has some similarities to the dykes on the Radnorshire commons recorded above. We are inclined to see this as defining the boundary of upland grazing ground. They are clearly not defensive barriers nor would they prevented the passage of stock or deer.

Finally, there are the three earthworks that go to make up the Cyrn-y-Brain group on Ruabon Mountain, which other than the as yet unassessed Clawdd Collen (PRN 101625; see Appendix 5) and one or two other uncertain

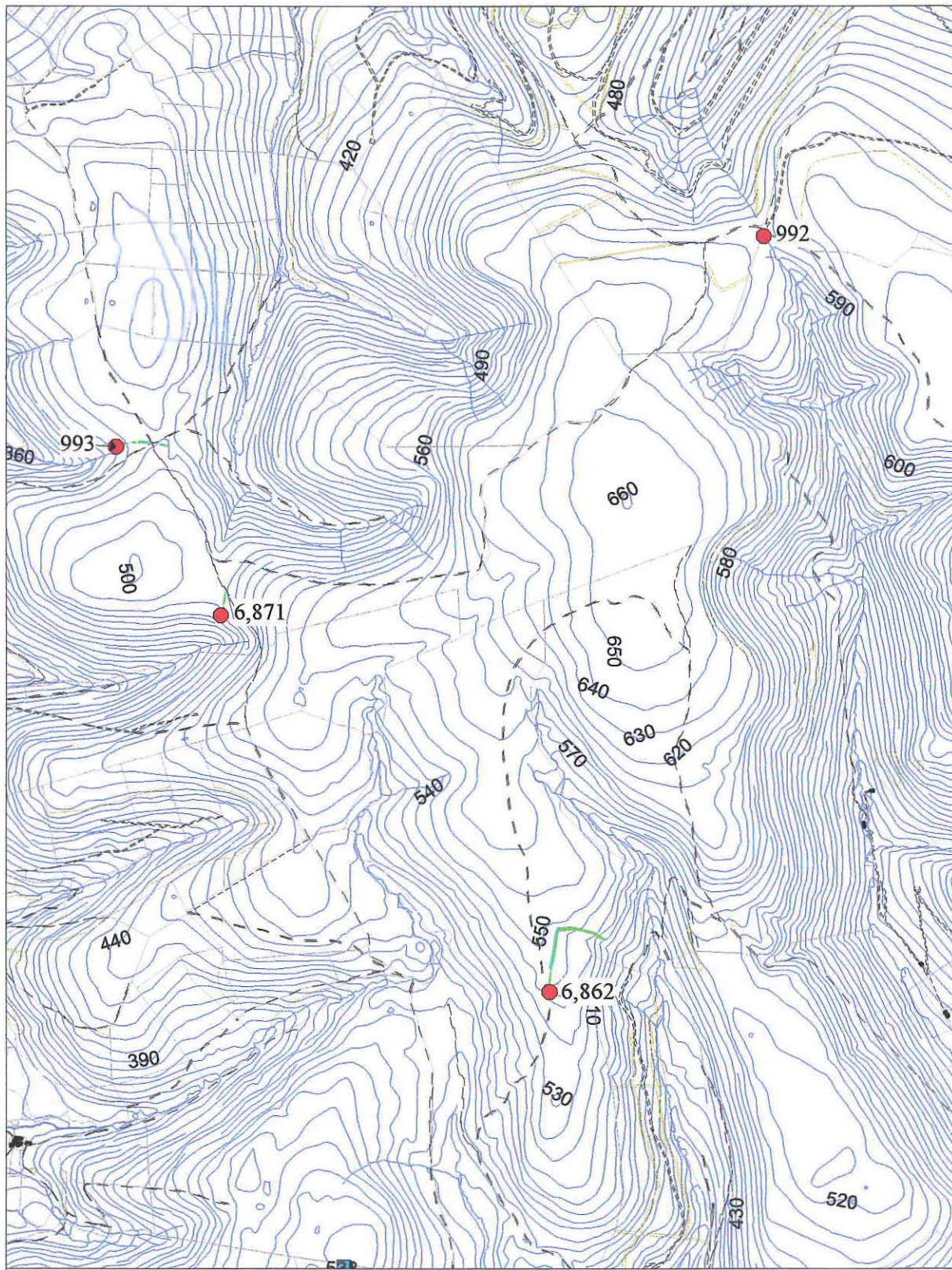

Fig 7 Radnor Forest dykes, Scale 1:25,000

linear earthworks, are virtually the only dykes in Denbighshire or indeed in the former county of Clwyd. As befits there unique geographical status they do not conform to the cross dyke but occupy a shelf below the ridge. There can be little doubt that they represent three elements of the same system, but quite what that system and its date was remains unclear. It seems somewhat unlikely that the hafod further to the east is related.

4.6 Morphology

Based on the existing records alone, it appears that the dykes in the study area consist of a range of morphological types. There are double-banked dykes (*e.g.* Aberbechan Dyke: PRN 1041; Disgwylfa Dyke: PRN 5370, and even what appears to be a triple-banked example in Bwlch y Cibau dyke: PRN 50449), where the outer bank appears to be rather than just the spoil from cleaning out operations, although in other cases such as the Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882) and the Giant's Grave Dyke (PRN 3711), the second bank is little more than a diminutive counterscarp. And secondly there are those consisting of a bank and ditch, often previously called cross-ridge dykes (*e.g.* Cefn y Crug dyke: PRN 993; Short Ditch: PRN 1114; Upper Short Ditch: PRN 1003). But whether this differing morphology reflects different functions is far from certain. Bwlch Aeddan Dyke is claimed to consist of two scarps with a berm between. Pen y Clawdd Dyke seems to consist only of a bank, but its degraded state may conceal the associated ditch which must have provided material for the bank.

The size can vary between a few centimetres to a considerable barrier. The Lower Short Ditch has a vertical ditch-to-bank height of 2.5m. But the Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478) south of the Tanat Valley, has a shallow and intermittent ditch which appears to serve little use except as a drainage feature.

4.7 Chronology

Fox as we have seen tended to the view that many if not most of the dykes that he and others were studying in the 1920s were of Dark Age origin, particularly of the 7th-8th centuries (Fox 1929, 150), and this general attribution has fed through to the SMR where most dykes are given a putative Dark Age label unless research has specified otherwise. Hill (1981) is less committed, and thought some unspecified examples might be medieval, while accepting Guilbert's contention that those on the Long Mynd in Shropshire were prehistoric. There is a body of opinion that puts some of the earthworks into a full medieval context, the 12th/13th century being favoured. David Hill has certainly suggested this for the Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478) and perhaps others.

But none of the short dykes in Powys is intrinsically datable, and direct associations are almost entirely absent. Indicators of the chronology if available at all are circumstantial or inferential.

4.8 Interpretation

It is evident even from the desk-top assessment of the dykes in central Wales that no one solution to the allied questions of their origin and function will suffice; there is sufficient morphological and locational variation in what is really quite a restricted number of earthwork sites to indicate disparate identities. If their morphology is varied, so is their geographical distribution. There is no even spread in the range of earthworks under study, but rather some potentially significant patterns emerge.

Cyril Fox was clearly swayed by the appearance of the dykes in and around the Kerry ridgeway, where the historic counties of Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Shropshire meet, to see in this group of perhaps four dykes (treating the Crugyn Bank Dyke and Two Tumps Dykes as a single entity) the minor equivalents of the much greater earthwork of Offa's Dyke. We tend to concur with the view that these did function as barriers to passage from the west hills, cutting across the grain of the land, though whether Fox was correct in attributing to a slightly earlier phase of Mercian activity in the borderland is not something that can be confirmed.

There are three other groups of dykes which might also fall into the category of barriers, and it is perhaps not without significance that each group ostensibly consists of a pair of earthworks. Near Knighton (Rads) are the Short Ditch and Pen y Clawdd Dyke, both possibly protecting the approach to the Lugg Valley, near New Radnor are Fron Hill Dyke and Llanfihangel Nant Melan dyke, different in that both cut across the same valley, and present barriers to traffic (though possibly from the east), and finally in an entirely different part of the

borderland are the Ty Newydd and Aber Naint Dykes. To put any sort of date to them would be entirely speculative. But they do seem to have at least some of the same attributes as the Kerry ridgeway earthworks even if they are much less impressive.

The three earthworks that make up the second class, here defined as boundary earthworks - Clawdd Mawr Dyke, Aberbechan Dyke and Bwlch y Cibau Dyke – are clearly in a different class. The last two with their complex multiple banks and ditches do not have the simplicity that is a hallmark of the barrier earthworks, but their sinuosity and length mark them out, and generally they are not in sufficiently defensive positions to merit the enhanced protection that the complexity of the earthworks seems, at first sight, to provide. But their form seems almost to mirror natural features in places where no suitable ones were available, and these double-banked dykes might almost be artificial attempts to replicate stream gullies which would then form recognisable boundaries. While any direct comparison with the great multiple-banked boundary earthworks of Yorkshire could be dismissed as fanciful, the seemingly unnecessary complexity of our Powys examples may hint at a similar sort of function.

Finally, there are the cross dykes spanning ridges and running from break of slope to break of slope; this at least is the theory. Of course some of the barrier features noted above do exactly the same. But a number of the cross dykes in this third class are on quite a small scale. One wonders whether, if they were in the lowlands and were integrated into field systems, they would be recognised at all. The Radnor Forest earthworks form a disparate group and it is difficult to visualise how any one of them could have functioned as a practical obstacle, given that each stops short of a natural barrier. As boundary markers they might make more sense. The same can be said of the two isolated examples - Red Hill Cross Dyke and Giant's Grave Dyke – and in their physical form, too of the three short banks on Cyrn-y-Brain, though such is their obvious remoteness from all the other known dykes and their proximity to each other that we believe some atypical solution will have to be found for their presence on this shelf of Ruabon Mountain. To end on a speculative note the Dyffryn Meifod group may come closest to one of the generally accepted interpretations of cross dykes elsewhere in the United Kingdom, as features associated with Iron Age or earlier settlement.

5 Other linear earthworks and dykes

This section examines some of the other earthworks and associations that have been recorded, not always very thoroughly in the SMR, and identifies those earthworks that require field examination for a better elucidation. Some of these earthworks could in fact be short dykes but the current records are inadequate to demonstrate this, while others have been confused with the short dykes that in this report are our primary concern. This confusion may have originated because of the general use of the term *linear earthwork* in the SMR.

There is little in western Powys. Where linear earthworks have been identified in the past further assessment has usually demonstrated the likelihood that they are parts of former field systems, or anomalous earthworks that cannot be readily classified (as with the Waunmarteg Bank - PRN 4159).

Unproven dykes

There are one or two earthworks which because of their morphology, location or inadequate record require further assessment. Chief among these is the Black Hill Dyke (PRN 5226) which is a curiosity in itself because it was depicted on the Tithe map for Glascwm in 1843. It is atypical in its location because of its siting on the side of a hill, and its slight size also raises questions; secondly Disgwylfa Dyke (PRN 5370) an earthwork running across the neck of a ridge in the Black Mountains. This is a border area where perhaps surprisingly there are virtually no dykes, but, given that past interpretations include a post-medieval estate boundary, further assessment is required; and thirdly Cwm Claisfer bank (PRN 43183) on Mynydd Llangynidr, which is poorly recorded but may be a prehistoric linear feature. To these can be added Mount Pleasant Dyke (PRN 6680) close to the accepted dyke known as the Giant's Grave Dyke (PRN 3711), but in a curious location, Fawnog y Bont dyke (PRN 6725), a linear earthwork immediately to the north of the Wye valley in the extreme western reaches of Montgomeryshire, Y Gelli bank (PRN 33399) in the Brecon Beacons which may be no more than a artificial drainage feature, and the earthwork of Llyn Dwr W (PRN 81383) and Druids Hill (PRN 81384) recorded on aerial photographs of the Epynt plateau during a recent RCAHMW mapping exercise.

Granges

Medieval granges sometimes had their boundaries defined by earthworks. A bank known as Fishpools the Boundary Bank (PRN 21363) has been posited as a boundary associated with the monastic holding at Monaughty (Rads), although arguments in favour of this interpretation have yet to be marshalled, while the Royal Commission recently recorded in western Radnorshire an earthwork (PRN 17790), believed to be the medieval boundary of Dolhelfa grange, one of the Cwmhir Abbey holdings (Percival 1993). On open moorland on the Wye/Marcheini watershed, this is recorded as having a bank up to 2m high in places and a substantial ditch. More famously, in the 12th century the Black Dyke (PRN 17926), lying to the north-east of Llanbrynmair in Montgomeryshire, defined a part of Strata Marcella's manor (Williams 1990, 58), and the Abbot's Ditch (PRN 766) is said to have defined part of the land holding of the Celynog grange, north-west of Newtown (Monts), although ground traces of it have proved elusive.

Head dykes

The fact that the boundary or head dyke (also ring dyke, mountain wall, etc) that divided the enclosed lands of a farm (or group of farms) from the open upland grazings could sometimes be constructed on a more substantial basis than other enclosure boundaries, has occasionally led to some confusion in both nomenclature and interpretation. The Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 497) is probably one such head dyke, but this awaits confirmation.

Boundary banks

There are a series of earthworks that may define boundaries, whether of parishes, townships, commons or individual land holdings. There is a strong possibility of confusion through the adoption of non-specific terminology, but it is likely that a very small percentage of such boundaries have yet found their way on to the SMR. An earthwork near Bronllys (Brecs), first recorded in 1979 as a bank with flanking ditches, may be no more than a medieval land boundary but goes under the name of Maes Clawdd, hence the reason for the visit (PRN 5565). A bank (PRN 4573) that edges the common on Y Golfa in Castle Caereinion (Monts) has been recorded as a dyke, as has the ditch between the townships of Burton and Shordley (PRN 101696) in north-east Wales; in both cases it seems more likely that these are boundary features. Likewise the Ruabon Mountain Boundary Bank (PRN 101510), first recorded in the relevant RCAHMW Inventory of 1912 seems to be a parish boundary, while the Mountain Lodge boundary bank (PRN 19675) in the same area may have had a different function. The Llechwedd Bank (PRN 35715) and Coed y Fron boundary bank are probably but not certainly earthworks relating to land holdings.

Even this category is far from clear-cut. The Upper Wantyn Dyke (PRN 17785), believed by J. M. E. Lloyd at the end of the 19th century to be an extension of the main Wantyn Dyke, and classed as such by the Ordnance Survey on their modern maps, appears to have been ignored (or overlooked) by Fox while Hill dismissed it as a 'minor agricultural construction' (Hill 1981).

And there are some miscellaneous earthworks that may fall in this group such as the Waunmarteg bank (PRN 4159), in north-west Radnorshire; Esgairnantau bank and ditch (PRN 6862) on the Radnor Forest plateau which seems to have acquired its somewhat suspect reputation as a dyke on the back of the more authentic earthworks further to the north on the same massif; the Drum Ddu N bank and ditch (PRN 13434) on Abergwesyn Common which sound s as though it may be a boundary; the Gwar Yr Gigfran Earthwork (PRN 17327) in the eastern part of the Brecon Beacons; and the curious Dancing Ground Boundary Bank (PRN 35324) on Llanbedr Hill.

Quarries

Linear quarries have in the past been mistaken for dykes. Thus a quarry consisting of a line of scoops on the Begwns, a common in the ownership of the National Trust in southern Radnorshire, has been classed as a linear earthwork.

Several earthworks which may fall under this heading require further examination, namely the Gwar y Cae earthwork (on Moel Dod, west of the Ithon in Llanbadarn Fynydd (Rads).

Tracks

Unlikely as it appears on initial consideration that a trackway could be mistaken for a dyke, we should recall that some of the Sussex dykes were originally interpreted as covered ways (see above), and that a heavily worn holloway might indeed give the appearance of a ditch.

In the 1930s Noel Jerman recorded, though in no great detail the Llanafanfawr Dyke (PRN 4340) which supposedly ran for up to 25km across western Brecknock. Subsequent fieldworkers, notably the Ordnance Survey have had difficulty in identifying this on the ground, and the only corroborative evidence appears to be a simple *clawdd* place-name.

Leats

The provision of a water supply by the excavation of a gully from a source higher up a hill is widespread, although relatively few of these earthworks are recorded in the SMR. One possible example lies on the Glascwm Commons but it is not entirely clear how the Erewillim Dyke (PRN 5225) acquired its name, although its proximity to the better defined Black Hill Dyke (PRN 5226) a few hundred to the north may point to a misnomer by association.

Placenames

In some cases *clawdd* does appear to have a direction connection with a short dyke, e.g. the farm of Cloddiau lies near to the Aberbechan Dyke (PRN 1041). But there are many others where no such association can be demonstrated. 'Cae Clawdd Bach' (PRN 1578) for instance was of interest to the Royal Commission but they decided that the name must refer to the Roman road which separated the two fields (RCAHMW 1911, 72). Several *clawdd* toponyms in the wild uplands north of the Elan valley seem to refer to trackways of putative medieval if not earlier date, but others could be indicative of peat cuttings.

The term *clawdd* is one that crops up frequently. In the 19th century, for instance, there was a tenement called 'Nant yr Hen Glawdd' in Llangynog (Thomas 1911, 220); its location has not be established. Clawdd Coch (PRN 3200) in Brecknock was postulated as a dyke by one authority,only to be dismissed as such at a later date. But perhaps more interesting is Clawdd Collen near Chirk (PRN 101625) which has remained elusive since Edward Lhuyd claimed it as 'a short dyke similar to Offa's Dyke' at the end of the 17th century, but which may be the earthwork visible on aerial photographs (see gazetteer).

There are however, a number of earthworks or sites of earthworks that need further examination. The Creggin Dyke (PRN 1672) is the name seemingly given to an earthwork just to the east of the Wye Valley in St Harmon (Rads) by the Royal Commission in 1913. Since that date, there have been claims that it has been obliterated, but this may be because of a mis-location, and there are suggestions from desk-top sources that it still survives as a boundary earthwork.

Traditions

Noel Jerman's fieldwork in Radnorshire in the 1930s revealed not only the group of authentic dykes referred to in an earlier section but also a local tradition in Llangunllo of a dyke which came to be termed Hen Gefn Dyke (PRN 5232). This was supposed to run along a ridge and to have been visible before the enclosure of that part of the parish. It appears that Jerman had no success in locating this earthwork but aerial photographs do show a linear feature, though there is a suspicion that it may only be a spine of natural rock. Fieldwork may clarify this matter.

Mistaken identities

The SMR can only be as good as the information that is put into it, and there are one or two examples of recorded 'dykes' where there are reasons to doubt the validity of the original record. An earthwork was recorded on Kerry Hill (PRN 4714) by CPAT in 1978, but rather than being a previously unrecognised dyke, it seems possible that the recorders mistakenly located the well known Two Tumps Dyke system (PRN 1882).

Written records

Occasional instances of earthworks for which only a written record is known have been identified. One such is Archdeacon Thomas' speculation, probably of late 19th- century origin about the name Llysfaen between Llandudno and Abergele on the north coast of Wales. He pointed out that this might have been the 'palace' of a

secular chieftain or an ecclesiastical foundation, and went on: "the greater proportion, representing probably the original foundation, is enclosed by a considerable dyke, which ran from shore to shore, and is still plain on the east side, and is still traceable by the remains of a stone wall and significant place-names most of the way" (Thomas 1913, 224). We are not aware of any further work on this feature, nor of any attempt to identify its landscape setting.

6 *Further work*

This desk-top assessment is at best only a first stage in the study of the short dykes in Powys. We are under no illusions that further work might assist in placing any of these dykes in their proper chronological niche – even work on the scale of a David Hill campaign carries no guarantee of success. But we do feel that there are some approaches which could useful enhance the record of these often enigmatic monuments.

A programme of further work is thus proposed, dependent of course on the availability of funding, and consisting of:

a) Site visits to all confirmed and possible dykes in order to enhance the existing records of their nature, morphology and siting, and to record their condition with a view to future management and protection, and to consider their current protection, particularly in the light of the different groups of earthworks that have been isolated above.

b) Detailed measured surveys of those earthworks which are either poorly recorded or not at all.

c) Selective excavation to answer specific questions about the morphology of certain dykes

d) Liaison with archaeologists working in England and in south Wales, including liaison between Cadw and English Heritage, in order to take a broader view of what is clearly a limited cross-border resource.

7 *Acknowledgements*

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End Notes

1 Taken from *Gwahodd Llywarch i Lanfawr* ('Inviting Llywarch to Llanfor'). From I. Williams 1978, 22; translated by F Olding.

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Appendix 1: Project Design

Grant-aid programme Threat Related Assessments **Financial year**

1 Code number and project title

CPAT 000

SHORT DYKES AND LINEAR EARTHWORKS

2 Location: NGR, Community, SAM no/SMR no

Various

3 Summary of proposals for current/forthcoming year

Scoping study to review present condition and present state of knowledge of short dykes and other major linear earthworks along the Welsh borderland in the Clwyd-Powys area. The proposed study includes a desktop review of all appropriate sites, rapid condition survey of selective sites in Radnorshire to assess the validity of a more comprehensive fieldwork programme in a subsequent year. It is anticipated that the fieldwork element of the study will be extended to the whole of the Clwyd-Powys area in a subsequent financial year, assuming that satisfactory results are achieved in this first year of the project.

The principal aims of the project in its first year will be to develop a methodology for recording the presence, condition and state of preservation of the short dykes, with a view to enhancing knowledge and understanding of these monuments, identifying those which are being most adversely affected by erosion, and developing strategies for managing them more effectively in future.

It is envisaged that fieldwork recording will follow the model provided by the Cadw-funded studies of Offa's Dyke, and at the same time taking advantage of the kind of GIS-based approach being developed for the management work on Offa's Dyke in England and Wales as part of the current Offa's Dyke Initiative.

4 Description of the site(s), area, material etc and assessment of archaeological importance

The short dykes form an important though little-studied component of the field archaeology of the Welsh borderland, particularly in Powys.

Many of the dykes still survive as earthworks, which because of their size and scale are often important visual components of the historic environment. On a more academic level it appears that some of the short dykes appear to have potential for helping to map and define the extent of some of the Welsh early medieval kingdoms, though others may be very much earlier or later in date, defining prehistoric territories on the one hand or medieval hunting estates. A preliminary assessment suggests that about 85 dykes of this kind are known in the Regional Sites and Monuments Record, of which over 25% are in Radnorshire.

Previous studies of the short dykes of the Welsh borderland have tended to focus on small groups of sites in limited areas. It is hoped that by looking at all the known dykes in their topographic context, more general conclusions can be drawn about their morphology, siting and associations,

which will have a bearing upon their function and chronology.

5 Nature of threat, the likely extent of timing and destruction

The short dykes of the Welsh borderland, particularly those in Powys, have come under considerable pressure over the last twenty years, particularly from agricultural activity, and a number of cases of damage to scheduled and unscheduled stretches of dyke have been reported.

It is envisaged that the project will in due course provide an opportunity to extend the work that Cadw has promoted in developing management strategies for Offa's Dyke and Wat's Dyke to these shorter dykes.

6 Research objectives

a. Improving knowledge of the form, siting and extent of the short dykes of the Welsh borderland.

b. Reviewing the cultural and historical context of these monuments.

c. Assessing the vulnerability of this element of the archaeological resource, review of the scheduling criteria which might be appropriate regionally, and recommendations for future management strategies.

d. Enhancement of the Regional Sites and Monuments Record and ENDEX.

7 Proposed work programme

See also Project Management Plan in section 15. The anticipated work programme includes the following elements (as numbered in the Project Management Plan):

1 Administration

Project Management; AMI monitoring; Financial statements; Audited statement; CPAT Committee Reports; Half-Year/Annual Reports; Archaeology in Wales report.

2 Methodology

Development of a methodology for: the identification of all relevant sites; their field recording and the collection of data relevant to their form and condition; for strategising management data, drawing on the knowledge and expertise of the Offa's Dyke Management Officer and the recognisable end-products of his project in order to develop a system appropriate to this study that could be used for other dykes studies if required; and for GIS modelling.

3 Record Assessment

Definition of the resource throughout Clwyd and Powys; creation of a database; standardization of terminology for short dykes and allied linear features to include drafting of site-type descriptions. Analysis of data for the whole region including the use of SMR and NMR, aerial photograph sources, antiquarian records, place names, early cartography, etc to ensure that as full a dataset as possible is available for each dyke.

4 Fieldwork

Liaison with landowners concerning access. Field visits to as many dykes as possible in Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire, with recording emphasis on size, condition and management. Aerial survey

of those dykes not adequately photographed in the past. One or more field visits with Mrs A Caseldine to assess the palaeoenvironmental potential of selected dykes leading to some level of input into the final report.

5 Report Preparation

Report preparation to focus on an overview of the dykes in the region, and a synthesis of past research on dykes. Correlation and review of condition and management of those sites studied in detail in the field.

6 Archive

Submission of records and archive to Sites and Monuments Record.

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8 Specialist requirements

Input from Astrid Caseldine on palaeoenvironmental potential.

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9 Proposed timing of work programme

To be completed during course of financial year. See Project Management Plan Timetable in section 15. A second year of fieldwork is anticipated.

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10 Presentation of results

Compilation of a survey report in *CPAT Report* series, including the following elements: summary of the work undertaken; background; methodology including application of techniques and approaches used for the Offa's Dyke programme; synthesis of the results; interpretation, classification and appraisal of the significance of the archaeological resource within a regional and national framework; conclusions; gazetteer of linear earthworks included in the documentary assessment and in the fieldwork. Preparation and dissemination of report, with separate paper on recommendations for scheduling enhancement, and for management of the resource; general and specific recommendations for further work in this and other areas.

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11 End products

a *During the coming year*

1 Survey report in *CPAT Report* series as outlined in section 10 and separate report on scheduling recommendations and management.

2 Summary report on CPAT website **www.cpat.org.uk.**

3 Summary report in *Archaeology in Wales* 2001

4 Project archive (field record forms, slides, prints, negatives) to be deposited with the regional SMR

5 Enhanced SMR data to be fed into END in due course

b 2002/2003

1 Further CPAT Report

2 Possible synthesis for publication in appropriate journal

12 Progress

Not applicable

13 Project supervisor

a Name

Bob Silvester

b Qualifications

BA, MIFA

c Position in organisation

Deputy Director

d List of unpublished excavations

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e Details of other commitments during the coming year

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Appendix 2: Definition

A short dyke can be defined as a linear earthwork consisting of at least one bank or ditch or a combination of two or more of these elements, running between two points, and not forming a part of a contemporary enclosure. Its relationship to the natural topography is likely to be significant in that its location is unlikely to be random, but may appear to relate to natural scarps, valley sides or the like. It can be of any length or size, and in date it could be of any date between the Bronze Age and the medieval period, though intrinsically it will be almost impossible to date.

Appendix 3: Scheduled dykes in mid and north-east Wales

Name	PRN	SAM No	Relative proportion scheduled
Clawdd Mawr Dyke	54	Mg 101 (POW)	Full length of dyke scheduled. Some of the line of former ditch on SE side is unscheduled.
Bwlch Aeddan Dyke	77	Mg 100 (POW)	Full length of dyke scheduled. Gaps caused by road and probable later disturbance unscheduled.
Clawdd Llesg Dyke	78	Mg 098 (POW)	Full length of dyke and wider area beyond its S end scheduled.
Lower Short Ditch	235	Mg 223 (POW)	All of Welsh section scheduled, but most of dyke is in Shropshire.
Upper Short Ditch	1003	Mg 201 (POW)	All extant parts of Welsh section scheduled, but rest of dyke is in Shropshire.
Aberbechan Dyke	1041	Mg 061 (POW)	Two major sections scheduled, but gap at Little Aberbechan and section nearing Cloddiau unscheduled despite features being present.
Wantyn Dyke	1053	Mg 208 (POW)	Only discrete sections scheduled, though there appears to be evidence for further extant features which are unscheduled.
Short Ditch	1114	Rd 089 (POW)	Full length of dyke scheduled, though sceduled area is very close to the NW edge of the dyke.
Ty Newydd Dyke	1478	Mg 025 (POW)	Main section of dyke scheduled. Two extant lengths on either side of Garth Ucha at the W end and possible E continuation unscheduled.
Aber Naint Dyke	1479	Mg 024 (POW)	Main length of dyke scheduled. Two short sections of bank have been missed. Possible cropmark continuation to NW unscheduled.
Crugyn Bank Dyke	1882	Mg 062 (POW)	Full length of confirmed dyke scheduled. However, significant portions are unscheduled as the area is badly drawn.
Two Tumps Dyke I	4034	Mg 063 (POW)	NW end of dyke and some of SE end missed out of scheduled area, probably as this is badly drawn. Possible S continuation unscheduled.
Two Tumps Dyke II	6242	Mg 063 (POW)	Extant section scheduled, but possible N continuation extends beyond scheduled area.
Red Hill Cross Dyke	35471	Rd 183 (POW)	Scheduled area is on different alignment to the dyke.
Llechwedd Bank	35715	Mg 251 (POW)	This site is scheduled as it lies within an area of settlement. Only part of the bank lies within the scheduled area.
Bwlch y Cibau Dyke	50449	Mg 077 (POW)	All the extant sections of the dyke are scheduled apart from a short section at Ty Newydd. Possible N continuation unscheduled.

Appendix 4: Known Dykes (by name)

PRN	*Name*	*NGR*	*to NGR*	*Map*
1479	Aber Naint Dyke	SJ12692171	SJ12232206	SJ12SW
1041	Aberbechan Dyke	SO12719444	SO13549465	SO19SW
77	Bwlch Aeddan Dyke	SJ17271064	SJ16881046	SJ11SE
50449	Bwlch y Cibau Dyke	SJ17801638	SJ18601713	SJ11NE
993	Cefn y Crug Dyke	SO16086414	SO16296414	SO16SE
78	Clawdd Llesg Dyke	SJ15721120	SJ15771136	SJ11SE
54	Clawdd Mawr Dyke	SJ06152138	SJ06472168	SJ02SE
6871	Cowlod Dyke	SO16526343	SO16546354	SO16SE
1882	Crugyn Bank Dyke	SO10118575	SO11038546	SO18NW
19605	Cyrn-y-Brain dyke I	SJ20674826	SJ20694830	SJ24NW
19606	Cyrn-y-Brain dyke II	SJ20754821	SJ20774825	SJ24NW
19604	Cyrn-y-Brain dyke III	SJ20524828	SJ20524834	SJ24NW
2145	Fron Hill Dyke	SO19875989	SO19636014	SO15NE
3711	Giant's Grave Dyke	SO04438609	SO04378628	SO08NW
5229	Llanfihangel Nant Melan dyke	SO17905818	SO17915823	SO15NE
235	Lower Short Ditch	SO22348850	SO22248775	SO28NW
1986	Pen y Clawdd Dyke II	SO18787057	SO18677081	SO17SE
35471	Red Hill Cross Dyke	SO15044980	SO15004987	SO14NE
992	Shepherds Well Dyke	SO18806503	SO18766510	SO16NE
1114	Short Ditch	SO18737463	SO19157504	SO17SE
4034	Two Tumps Dyke I	SO11468515	SO11888467	SO18NW
6242	Two Tumps Dyke II	SO11988439	SO12018423	SO18SW
1478	Ty Newydd Dyke	SJ12942327	SJ13392325	SJ12SW
1003	Upper Short Ditch	SO19468724	SO19178676	SO18NE
1053	Wantyn Dyke	SO18759140	SO19628980	SO19SE

Appendix 4: Known Dykes (by PRN)

PRN	*Name*	*NGR to*	*NGR*	*Map*
54	Clawdd Mawr Dyke	SJ06152138	SJ06472168	SJ02SE
77	Bwlch Aeddan Dyke	SJ17271064	SJ16881046	SJ11SE
78	Clawdd Llesg Dyke	SJ15721120	SJ15771136	SJ11SE
235	Lower Short Ditch	SO22348850	SO22248775	SO28NW
992	Shepherds Well Dyke	SO18806503	SO18766510	SO16NE
993	Cefn y Crug Dyke	SO16086414	SO16296414	SO16SE
1003	Upper Short Ditch	SO19468724	SO19178676	SO18NE
1041	Aberbechan Dyke	SO12719444	SO13549465	SO19SW
1053	Wantyn Dyke	SO18759140	SO19628980	SO19SE
1114	Short Ditch	SO18737463	SO19157504	SO17SE
1478	Ty Newydd Dyke	SJ12942327	SJ13392325	SJ12SW
1479	Aber Naint Dyke	SJ12692171	SJ12232206	SJ12SW
1882	Crugyn Bank Dyke	SO10118575	SO11038546	SO18NW
1986	Pen y Clawdd Dyke II	SO18787057	SO18677081	SO17SE
2145	Fron Hill Dyke	SO19875989	SO19636014	SO15NE
3711	Giant's Grave Dyke	SO04438609	SO04378628	SO08NW
4034	Two Tumps Dyke I	SO11468515	SO11888467	SO18NW
5229	Llanfihangel Nant Melan dyke	SO17905818	SO17915823	SO15NE
6242	Two Tumps Dyke II	SO11988439	SO12018423	SO18SW
6871	Cowlod Dyke	SO16526343	SO16546354	SO16SE
19604	Cyrn-y-Brain dyke III	SJ20524828	SJ20524834	SJ24NW
19605	Cyrn-y-Brain dyke I	SJ20674826	SJ20694830	SJ24NW
19606	Cyrn-y-Brain dyke II	SJ20754821	SJ20774825	SJ24NW
35471	Red Hill Cross Dyke	SO15044980	SO15004987	SO14NE
50449	Bwlch y Cibau Dyke	SJ17801638	SJ18601713	SJ11NE

Appendix 5: Unconfirmed Dykes (by name)

PRN	*Name*	*NGR*	*to NGR*	*Map*
17926	Black Dyke	SH927028	SH934031	SH90SW
5226	Black Hill Dyke	SO17355199	SO17505190	SO15SE
101625	Clawdd Collen	SJ24484025	SJ24474043	SJ24SW
497	Clawdd Mawr Dyke	SH97361115	SH98011106	SH91SE
38450	Coed y Fron boundary	SJ03201997	SJ03382009	SJ01NW
1672	Creggin Dyke	SN97237064	SN97907062	SN97SE
43183	Cwm Claisfer bank	SO144160		SO11NW
35324	Dancing Ground Boundary Bank	SO13074797	SO12934830	SO14NW
5370	Disgwylfa Dyke	SO25952375		SO22SE
17790	Dolhelfa Grange boundary	SN94907271	SN95147341	SN97SW
81384	Druids Hill	SN91024005		SN94SW
13434	Drum Ddu N bank and ditch	SN95946078		SN96SE
5225	Erewillim Dyke	SO173516		SO15SE
6862	Esgairnantau bank and ditch	SO17906184	SO18136206	SO16SE
6725	Fawnog y Bont dyke	SN84508300	SN84658300	SN88SW
21363	Fishpools Boundary bank (multiple)	SO1853467581		SO16NE
964	Gwar y Cae earthwork	SO08007687	SO07997690	SO07NE
17327	Gwar Yr Gigfran Earthwork	SO067192		SO01NE
5232	Hen Gefn Dyke	SO19137021	SO19537089	SO17SE
4714	Kerry Hill Earthwork	SO111851		SO18NW
4340	Llanafanfawr Dyke	SN917557	SN808512	SN95NW
35715	Llechwedd Bank	SH99192198		SH92SE
81383	Llyn Dwr W	SN94963691		SN93NW
5565	Maes Clawdd Earthwork	SO16653790		SO13NE
6680	Mount Pleasant Dyke	SO03758636	SO03728625	SO08NW
19675	Mountain Lodge boundary bank	SJ24604750		SJ24NW
101510	Ruabon Mountain Boundary Bank	SJ24264783	SJ24284814	SJ24NW
4573	Sylfaen Dyke	SJ17700660	SJ18650675	SJ10NE
17785	Wantyn Dyke, Upper	SO20918842	SO20008875	SO28NW
4159	Waunmarteg bank	SO00907672	SO01657670	SO07NW
33399	Y Gelli bank	SN89552124		SN82SE

Appendix 5: Unconfirmed Dykes (by PRN)

PRN	*Name*	*NGR*	*to NGR*	*Map*
497	Clawdd Mawr Dyke	SH97361115	SH98011106	SH91SE
964	Gwar y Cae earthwork	SO08007687	SO07997690	SO07NE
1672	Creggin Dyke	SN97237064	SN97907062	SN97SE
4159	Waunmarteg bank	SO00907672	SO01657670	SO07NW
4340	Llanafanfawr Dyke	SN917557	SN808512	SN95NW
4573	Sylfaen Dyke	SJ17700660	SJ18650675	SJ10NE
4714	Kerry Hill Earthwork	SO111851		SO18NW
5225	Erewillim Dyke	SO173516		SO15SE
5226	Black Hill Dyke	SO17355199	SO17505190	SO15SE
5232	Hen Gefn Dyke	SO19137021	SO19537089	SO17SE
5370	Disgwylfa Dyke	SO25952375		SO22SE
5565	Maes Clawdd Earthwork	SO16653790		SO13NE
6680	Mount Pleasant Dyke	SO03758636	SO03728625	SO08NW
6725	Fawnog y Bont dyke	SN84508300	SN84658300	SN88SW
6862	Esgairnantau bank and ditch	SO17906184	SO18136206	SO16SE
13434	Drum Ddu N bank and ditch	SN95946078		SN96SE
17327	Gwar Yr Gigfran Earthwork	SO067192		SO01NE
17785	Wantyn Dyke, Upper	SO20918842	SO20008875	SO28NW
17790	Dolhelfa Grange boundary	SN94907271	SN95147341	SN97SW
17926	Black Dyke	SH927028	SH934031	SH90SW
19675	Mountain Lodge boundary bank	SJ24604750		SJ24NW
21363	Fishpools Boundary bank (multiple)	SO1853467581		SO16NE
33399	Y Gelli bank	SN89552124		SN82SE
35324	Dancing Ground Boundary Bank	SO13074797	SO12934830	SO14NW
35715	Llechwedd Bank	SH99192198		SH92SE
38450	Coed y Fron boundary	SJ03201997	SJ03382009	SJ01NW
43183	Cwm Claisfer bank	SO144160		SO11NW
81383	Llyn Dwr W	SN94963691		SN93NW
81384	Druids Hill	SN91024005		SN94SW
101510	Ruabon Mountain Boundary Bank	SJ24264783	SJ24284814	SJ24NW
101625	Clawdd Collen	SJ24484025	SJ24474043	SJ24SW

Appendix 6: Discounted Linear Earthworks

PRN	*Name*	*NGR*	*Map*	*Type*
401	Allt Quarry	SO17614458	SO14SE	Linear quarry
766	Abbot's Ditch	SO052974	SO09NE	Linear earthwork
768	Aber Clawdd placename	SO06919920	SO09NE	Linear earthwork ?
1052	Fron Heulog Earthwork	SO17509250	SO19SE	Field system
1180	Pen y Clawdd Dyke I	SO185697	SO16NE	Non antiquity
1215	Dol y Gaer earthwork	SH992113	SH91SE	Bank
1473	Hirnant Dyke	SJ060250	SJ02NE	Linear earthwork
1578	Cae Clawdd Bach placename	SO038910	SO09SW	Placename
1774	Pigyns Cropmark	SN94959805	SN99NW	Non antiquity
1854	Esgair Clawdd placename	SN91308280	SN98SW	Placename
1944	Gwar y Ty Dyke	SN89827422	SN87SE	Linear earthwork
2084	Wern y Clawdd placename	SO17654510	SO14NE	Placename
2259	Pant Weddus Earthwork	SN91803076	SN93SW	Field system ?
3059	Panne bank	SN95874706	SN94NE	Boundary marker
3100	Llywfan bank	SN87553995	SN83NE	Boundary marker
3200	Clawdd Coch placename	SO07232340	SO02SE	Linear earthwork ?
3201	Ffordd Las Placename	SO066222	SO02SE	Road ?
3391	Cilrhew Dyke	SJ212200	SJ22SW	Linear earthwork ?
3477	Middle Gaer Bank	SO17152170	SO12SE	Field system
3615	Pen Twyn Bank	SO07014248	SO04SE	Field system
3730	Clawdd Du Mawr placename	SN8569	SN86NE	Placename
3871	Cil Faenor Bank	SO17142407	SO12SE	Field system ?
4056	Rhandir yr Ffridd Bank	SH98501085	SH91SE	Field bank
4198	Dol Folau Dyke I	SN91906599	SN96NW	Linear earthwork
4214	Dol y Dre Dyke	SO106681	SO16NW	Boundary marker
4237	Alltgethin Dyke	SO036865	SO08NW	Non antiquity
4275	Maesgwyn Dyke I	SO16504360	SO14SE	Linear earthwork
4276	Maesgwyn Dyke II	SO16364365	SO14SE	Linear earthwork
4514	Heldre Hill Field System	SJ281094	SJ20NE	Field system ?
4594	Rhos y Brithdir earthwork	SJ12902294	SJ12SW	Enclosure?

PRN	*Name*	*NGR*	*Map*	*Type*
4609	Lower Main bank	SJ18001602	SJ11NE	Field system ?
4639	Plas View Bank	SO091936	SO09SE	Boundary marker
4644	Upper Bryn Trackway	SO10259220	SO19SW	Trackway
4673	Highgate cropmark	SO115957	SO19NW	Linear cropmark
4746	Borfa Hafod Ditch	SO05619705	SO09NE	Linear earthwork ?
4768	Graig Wen Dyke	SH98940866	SH90NE	Boundary marker
4769	Pen Coed bank and ditch	SH98820921	SH90NE	Boundary marker
4779	Dol yr Heol Ditch	SJ09250112	SJ00SE	Quarry?
4802	Mynydd y Gribin Earthwork	SJ0102	SJ00SW	Pillow mound ?
4974	Mynydd Y Cemais Earthwork	SH86700538	SH80NE	Peat cutting ?
5179	Clawdd Du Bach placename	SN8670	SN87SE	Placename
5193	Cilgwnfydd Earthwork	SO035543	SO05SW	Field marker ?
5349	Twyn Disgwylfa Dyke	SO16031786	SO11NE	Linear earthwork
6243	Dol Folau Dyke II	SN92386610	SN96NW	Linear earthwork
6244	Bwlch y Maen Dyke	SJ0625	SJ02NE	Linear earthwork ?
7087	Rhiw Gam Earthwork	SO08607997	SO07NE	Quarry
8560	Pentre Bank	SO152982	SO19NE	Trackway ?
12778	Y Foel boundary bank	SO1028183175	SO18SW	Field boundary
12825	Upper Green boundary	SO1293378926	SO17NW	Drainage ditch
13400	Trawsnant boundary ditch	SN95346130	SN96SE	Field boundary
15903	Clocaenog park boundary I	SJ040524	SJ05SW	Park boundary
15904	Clocaenog park boundary II	SJ030543	SJ05SW	Park boundary
15921	Rhiwlwyfen bank and ditch	SN7576798481	SN79NE	Boundary bank ?
15984	Llwchgarrreg bank and ditch	SN7760493848	SN79SE	Field boundary
17609	Dinorben hillfort, boundary bank	SH968755	SH97NE	Boundary bank
17788	Long Plantation bank	SO207881	SO28NW	Bank
19441	Dyffryn Lane linear ditch cropmark	SJ203013	SJ20SW	Linear cropmark
19476	Coidmarchan deer park	SJ1155556097	SJ15NW	Park boundary
21364	Fishpools Boundary Bank II	SO1860267825	SO16NE	Boundary bank
21365	Fishpools Boundary Bank I	SO1864967275	SO16NE	Boundary bank
21532	Pabyll'wyd-ganol boundary bank	SO0541882879	SO08SE	Boundary bank

PRN	*Name*	*NGR*	*Map*	*Type*
21586	Great Park boundary	SO0616272542	SO07SE	Park boundary
21587	Abbey Cwmhir Great Park boundary	SO0650672569	SO07SE	Park boundary
21595	Little Park boundary	SO0525572243	SO07SE	Park boundary
21876	Forest Wood boundary	SO2445567072	SO26NW	Field boundary
21879	Navages Wood boundary I	SO2670658919	SO25NE	Boundary bank
23540	Rhandre-gynwen ridge III	SJ29121005	SJ21SE	Non antiquity
24400	Bathafarn park boundary	SJ16405800	SJ15NE	Park boundary
24605	Hafod yr Abad boundary	SJ18804820	SJ14NE	Field boundary
26889	Cwm Crogau boundary bank II	SN96715736	SN95NE	Field boundary
26893	Cwm Crogau boundary bank I	SN96715806	SN95NE	Field boundary
26947	Rhallt placename	SJ237095	SJ20NW	Placename
26970	Park Wood Boundary I	SO16703431	SO13SE	Boundary bank ?
32867	Sarn y Bryn Caled cropmark ditch	SJ2182404977	SJ20SW	Linear cropmark
34588	Cwm Dyfnant W bank	SO00902413	SO02SW	Field boundary
34890	Beguildy/Bettws-y-Crwyn parish boundary bank	SO172818	SO18SE	Boundary bank
35373	Cefn Wylfre Bank I	SO13775088	SO15SW	Field boundary
35515	Cockalofty boundary bank	SO24403845	SO23NW	Field boundary
35565	Bwlch boundary	SO232355	SO23NW	Field boundary
35579	Chwarel Ddu boundary I	SO24803750	SO23NW	Boundary bank
35636	Wern Ddu boundary bank	SO24853877	SO23NW	Field boundary ?
35801	Rhiw Wen bank	SO21503499	SO23SW	Bank
35807	Parc Bach bank	SO24323498	SO23SW	Boundary bank ?
37039	Ucheldre Wood boundary	SO1401398914	SO19NW	Boundary bank ?
38070	Llandrinio Linear Cropmark	SJ2958617324	SJ21NE	Linear cropmark
38194	Lower Varchoel Linear Cropmarks	SJ2369912515	SJ21SW	Linear cropmark
38196	Varchoel Lane Linear Cropmarks	SJ2389812731	SJ21SW	Linear cropmark
38197	Coppice Lane earthwork	SJ2505712667	SJ21SE	Linear earthwork
38199	Collfryn enclosure, linear cropmarks	SJ2228117336	SJ21NW	Linear cropmark
38438	Ffridd Cynon-isaf boundary	SJ02592073	SJ02SW	Field boundary
39073	Coidmarchan deer park	SJ1203556173	SJ15NW	Park boundary
39074	Coidmarchan deer park	SJ1202056773	SJ15NW	Park boundary

PRN	*Name*	*NGR*	*Map*	*Type*
39075	Coidmarchan deer park	SJ1168157248	SJ15NW	Park boundary
39076	Coidmarchan deer park	SJ1137056731	SJ15NW	Park boundary
39151	Coidmarchan deer park	SJ1144056060	SJ15NW	Park boundary
70869	Plas Uchaf earthwork	SJ1792724635	SJ12SE	Linear earthwork ?
77985	Nant Mill Wood Boundary	SJ28535005	SJ25SE	Field boundary
81651	Rhos-swydd 'dyke'	SO12126505	SO16NW	Linear earthwork ?
100748	Clocaenog park boundary	SJ03205445	SJ05SW	Park boundary ?
101332	Cross Banks bank	SJ37004100	SJ34SE	Linear earthwork
101696	Burton - Shordley Township ditch	SJ32855885	SJ35NW	Boundary ditch
102092	Henfryn Bank	SJ07687939	SJ07NE	Linear earthwork
105028	Blaen Cwm Llawenog linear earthwork	SJ09283415	SJ03SE	Bank

The Gazetteer

The gazetteer falls into two parts, the first section covering those dykes considered to be authentic, the second for those earthworks which have not been confirmed as dykes from the desk-top exercise alone.

Reference should be made to Appendices 4 and 5 which function as indices and ordered by both P(rimary) R(ecord) N(umber) and by Name. The gazetteer is ordered by PRN.

Each gazetteer entry contains basic data such name, NGR etc and a description based on the readily available sources. It is anticipated that each description will be superseded after fieldwork has been completed.

Each description is supplemented by plans and aerial photographs where available.

The first plan is developed from the GIS plotting undertaken for the project. It depicts the earthwork in simple outline form using different colours for the bank (green), ditch (blue) or scarp (red), against a background of contours and boundaries. Plan scales vary according to the overall size of the earthwork.

The second plan is the Ordnance Survey depiction of the earthwork. Generally, though not consistently, at a scale of 1:2500, these plans come from a variety of map editions.

The third illustration is composed of relevant aerial photographs taken from CPAT's archives, where such photographs are available.

Clawdd Mawr Dyke **PRN 54** **SAM Mg101(POW)**

NGR From SJ06152138 to SJ06472168 **MAP** SJ02SE

History
This was first identified in the RCAHMW Inventory of 1911, where it was recorded as a massive and well-preserved dyke crossing the boundary of Llanrhaeadr-ym-mochnant and Hirnant parishes, and was known locally as 'Boncyn Rhyfal'.

It is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Mg 101).

Morphology
The bank following a broadly NE/SW alignment, is about 450m in length, 1.6m high and 5m wide; the bank is steeper on the N face than the S, and it has a flat crest about 1.5m wide. The accompanying ditch on the NW side is 1.8m deep and 2.5m wide, but near the SW end of the earthwork there is a 67m-long stretch of ditch on the SE side also.

Damage by a watercourse some 160m from the N end, revealed a composition of small stones and earth.

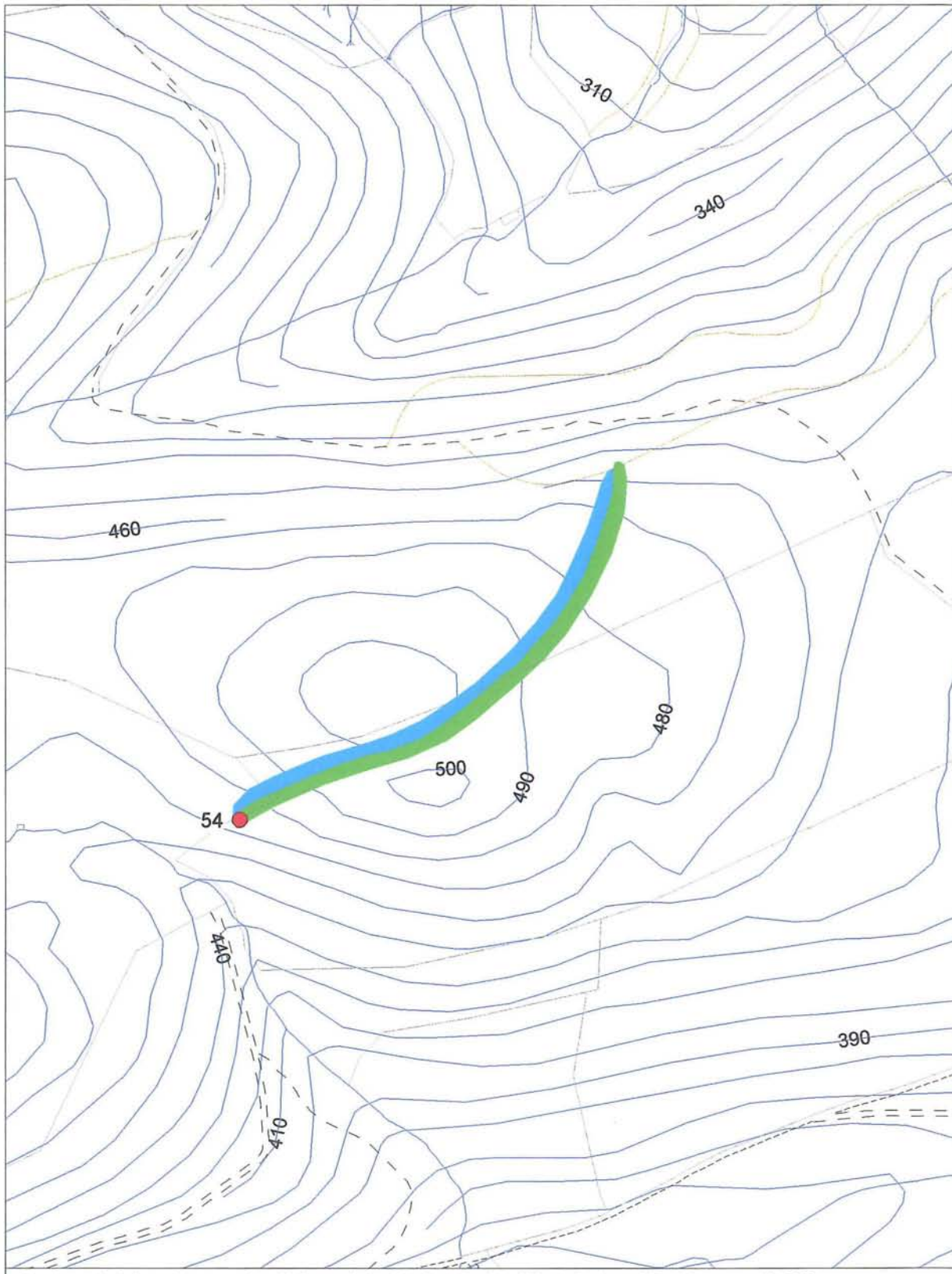
Location
The earthwork crosses a ridge aligned NE to SW, approximately 4km SW of the village of Penybontfawr. The NE end runs through forestry planted in 1981 and terminates on the edge of a steep slope running down to a stream. The SW end overlooks a stream gully.

Associations
There is an upright slate boundary stone on the fence line 30m from SW end of dyke.

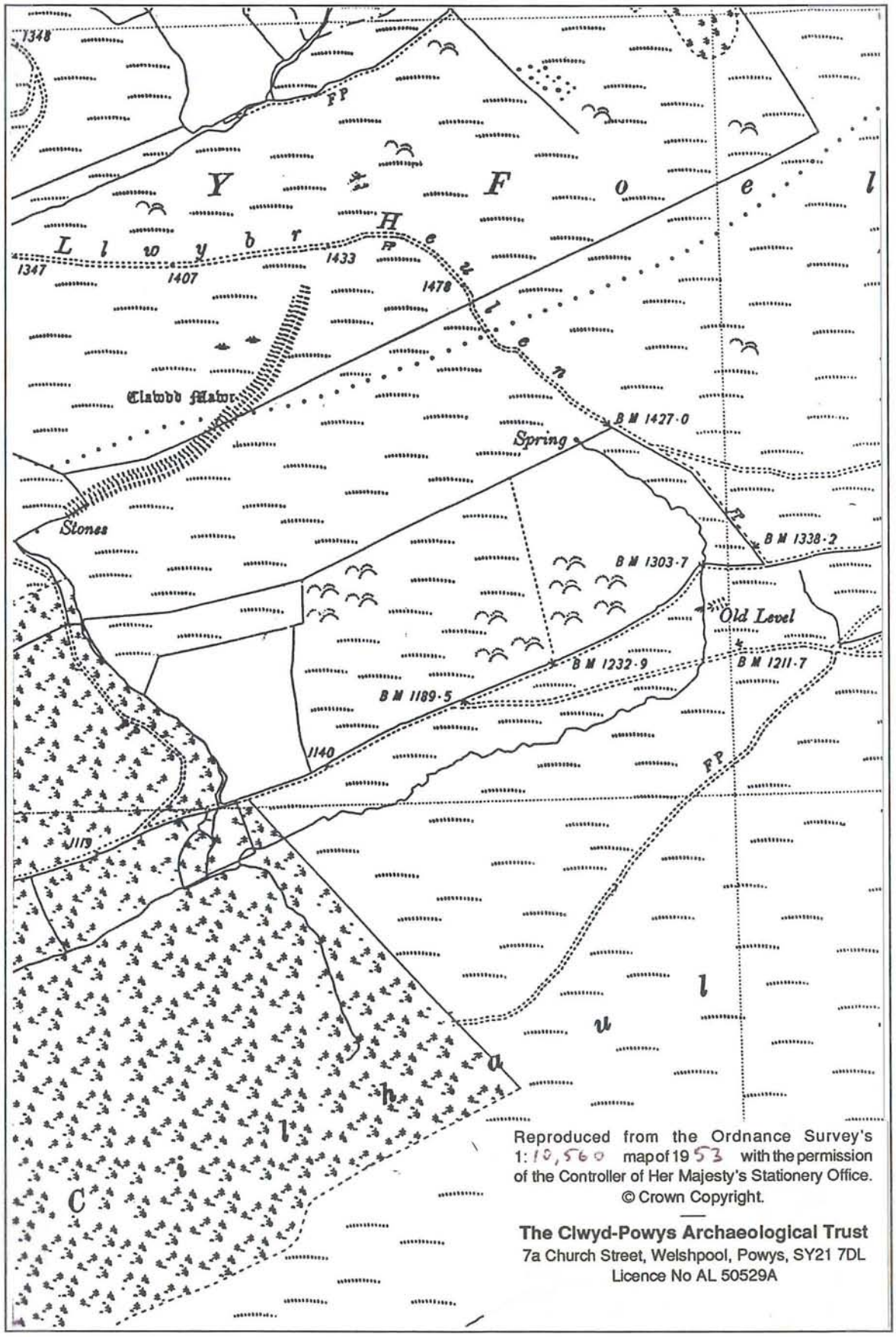
A 'rapier' is said to have been found on the site in the 1880s.

Sources
CPAT visit 1978
Evans, 1880, 55
OS record 1977
RCAHM 1911, 47 & 126
SMR

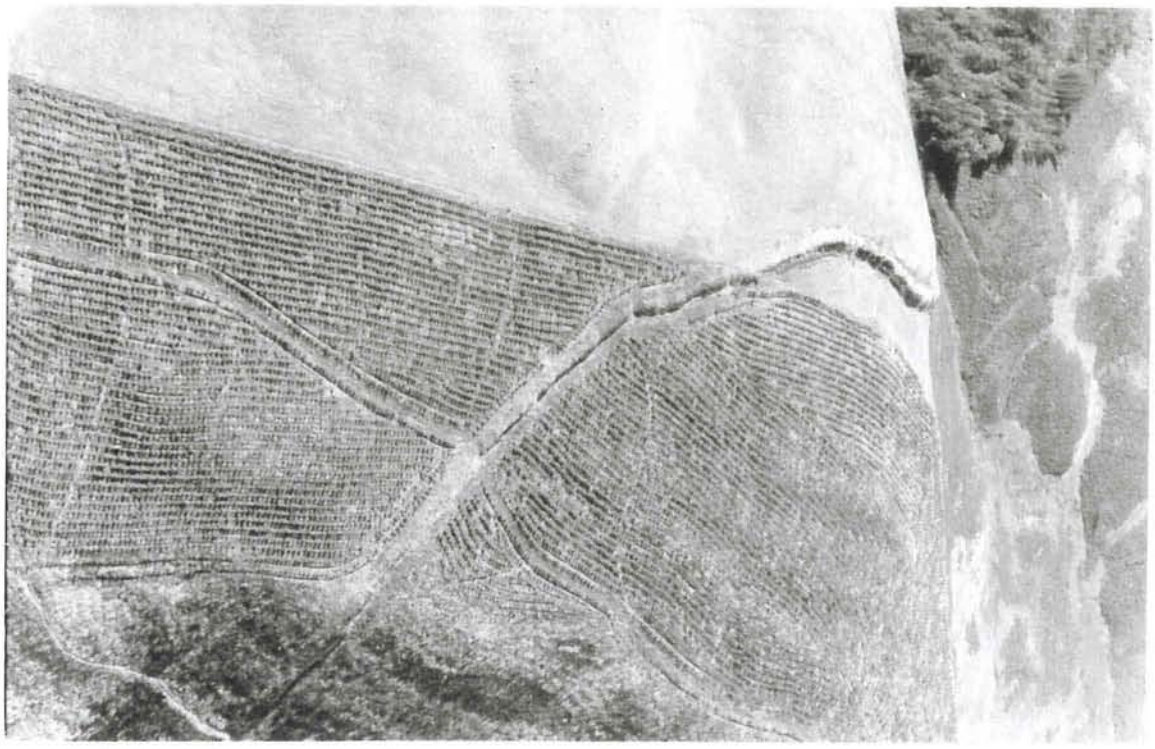
CPAT oblique AP: 81/8/4
CPAT oblique AP: 86-MB-123



Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 54), Scale 1:5,000



Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 54), OS 1:10,560 map (Provisional edition)



81/B/4
13 Sept 1981
SJ 064 214
Clawdd Mawr,
Hirnant, Powys.
PAR 54
Llanfyllin-
gm-Machynlleth

Clawdd Mawr dyke (PRN 54), NE part of dyke

86-MB-12W

Clawdd Mawr dyke (PRN 54), SW part of dyke

Bwlch Aeddan Dyke **PRN 77** **SAM Mg100(POW)**

NGR From SJ17271064 to SJ16881046 **MAP** SJ11SE

History
In 1911, when it was first described in the RCAHMW Inventory as an earthen dyke set across the neck of a pass, it was said to be hardly discernible. Subsequently, or so it appears, the western end was damaged when two farm buildings were constructed.

It is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Mg 100).

Morphology
Described as two N-facing 4m-high scarps separated by a 4m-wide berm, possibly the remains of a bank and ditch, although there may be some natural terracing integrated. A natural ridge at the E end appears to have been scarped on its N face to form the linear earthwork, though this is not very prominent.

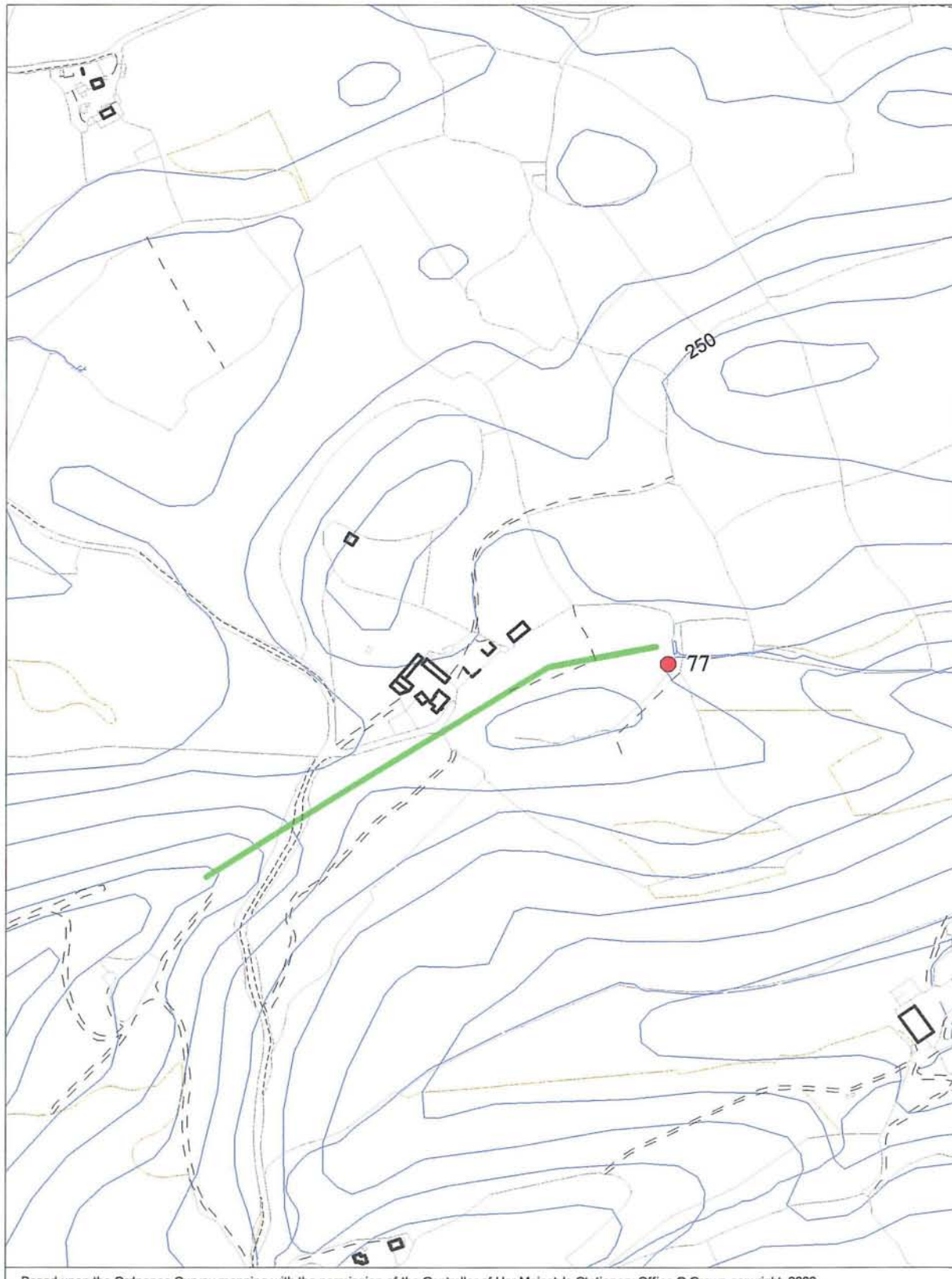
Location
It runs across the saddle between two local summits on a dissected plateau to the SE of Dyffryn Meifod, approximately 3km SSE of the village of Meifod in northern Powys.

The W end passes from woodland into rough pasture, while the E section runs through pasture.

Associations

Sources
Cadw field monument warden visit
CPAT visit 1978
OS record 1972
RCAHM 1911, 44
SMR

CPAT oblique AP: 87-12-14
CPAT oblique AP: 93-07-0007



Bwlch Aeddan Dyke (PRN 77), Scale 1:5,000

Clawdd Llesg Dyke **PRN 78** **SAM Mg098(POW)**

NGR From SJ15721120 to SJ15771136 **MAP** SJ11SE

History
The dyke was first reported in 1879. Ten years later, with a pleasantly pedantic touch, it was suggested that the correct name for the site should be Clawdd Eliseg, after its assumed constructor, an early Prince of Powys, who had raised the dyke to defend the approaches to the castle of Mathrafal.

It was described by the RCAHMW Inventory as a much dilapidated earth bank running across a ridge between two small watercourses, and is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Mg 098).

Morphology
The earthwork comprises a bank and ditch running N/S across a ridge between two streams, the ditch on the E (uphill) side. On the N side of the road the dyke takes the appearance of 2 broad banks either side of a central hollow running in a straight line from the road to the stream to the north. This has probably been caused by ploughing over the years. Its approximate length is 170m, although the scheduled area extends 40m further south. The bank averages 1m high, its ditch 1m deep.

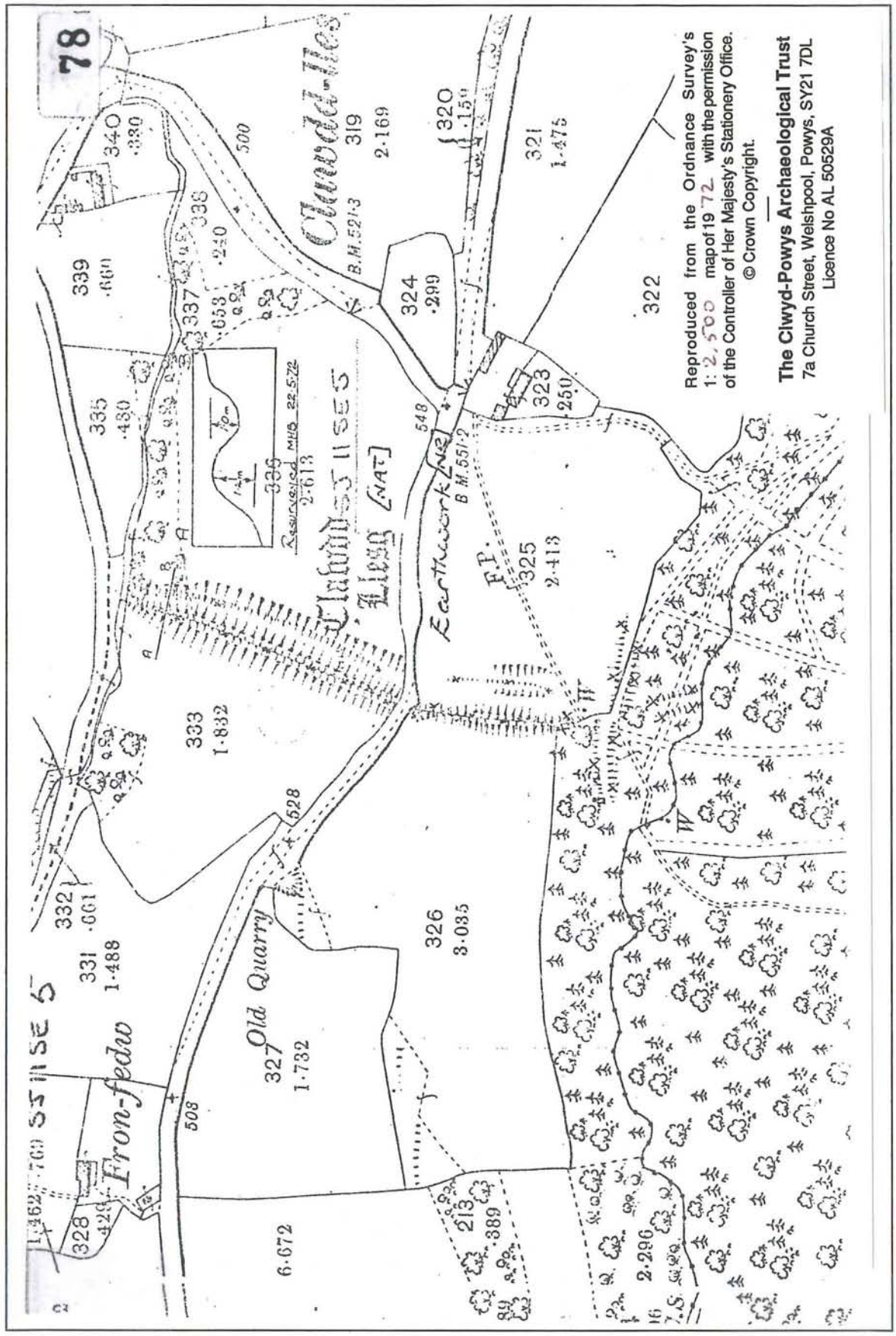
Location
Crosses a ridge between two streams on the SE side of Dyffryn Meifod, approximately 2km S of Meifod village.

Associations

Sources
Cadw field monument warden visits
OS record 1972
RCAHM 1911, 44
SMR
Williams-Wynn 1879, 326
WVL 1889, 296

CPAT oblique AP: 84-27-27
CPAT oblique AP: 93-07-0010

Clawdd Llesg Dyke (PRN 78), Scale 1:2,500



Clawdd Llesg Dyke (PRN 78), OS survey drawn at 1:2,500. Not to scale

84-27-27

SJ 157113
Clawdd Llesg dykes,
Guilsfield Without,
Powys (M).
MONTGOMERYSHIRE

PA2 0078, SAM Mg 98

Clawdd Llesg dyke (PRN 78), S part of dyke

93-07-0010

Clawdd Llesg dyke (PRN 78), overall view of dyke

Lower Short Ditch **PRN 235** **SAM Mg223(POW)**

NGR From SO22348850 to SO22248775 **MAP** SO28NW

History
First described by Lloyd at the beginning of the 20th century, this earthwork is shared with Shropshire. The RCAHMW were keen to link this dyke with the Wantyn Dyke.

Dvaid Hill has excavated it at three points, one at a break in its course and one at a terminal.

The Welsh portion is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Mg 223).

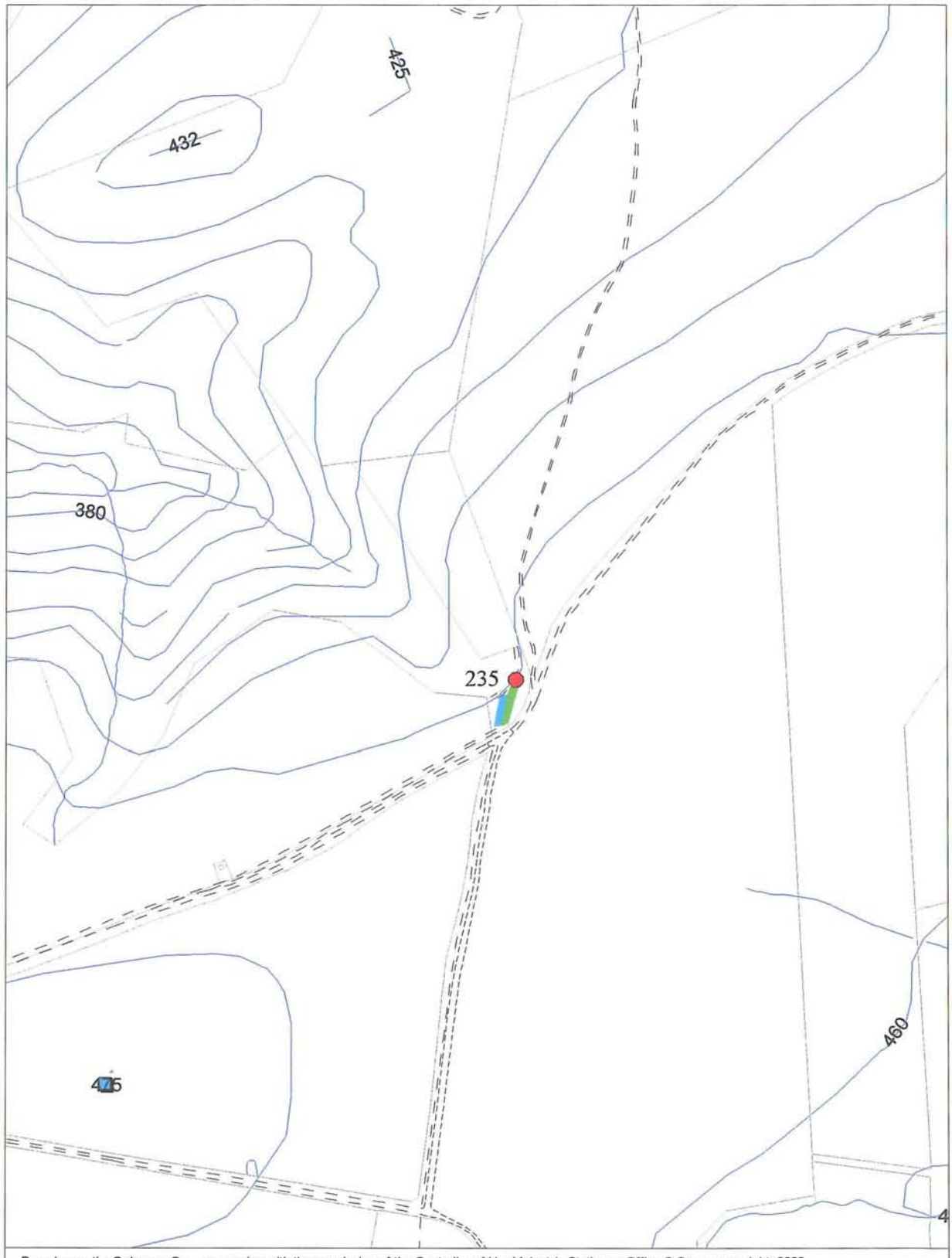
Morphology
The earthwork consists of a bank with a ditch on the W side. A 1948 AP shows a ploughed out extension to the N in Shropshire. The Montgomeryshire section runs from SO 2233 8852 to SO 2232 8846. Here the bank is 8m wide, the ditch 3m wide, and there is a vertical height of 2.5m from ditch base to bank top. The Ordnance Survey gives the length as 750m, while CADW suggests a total length of 800m, the Welsh section only 30m long.

Location
It crosses the Kerry ridgeway (and also the England - Wales border).

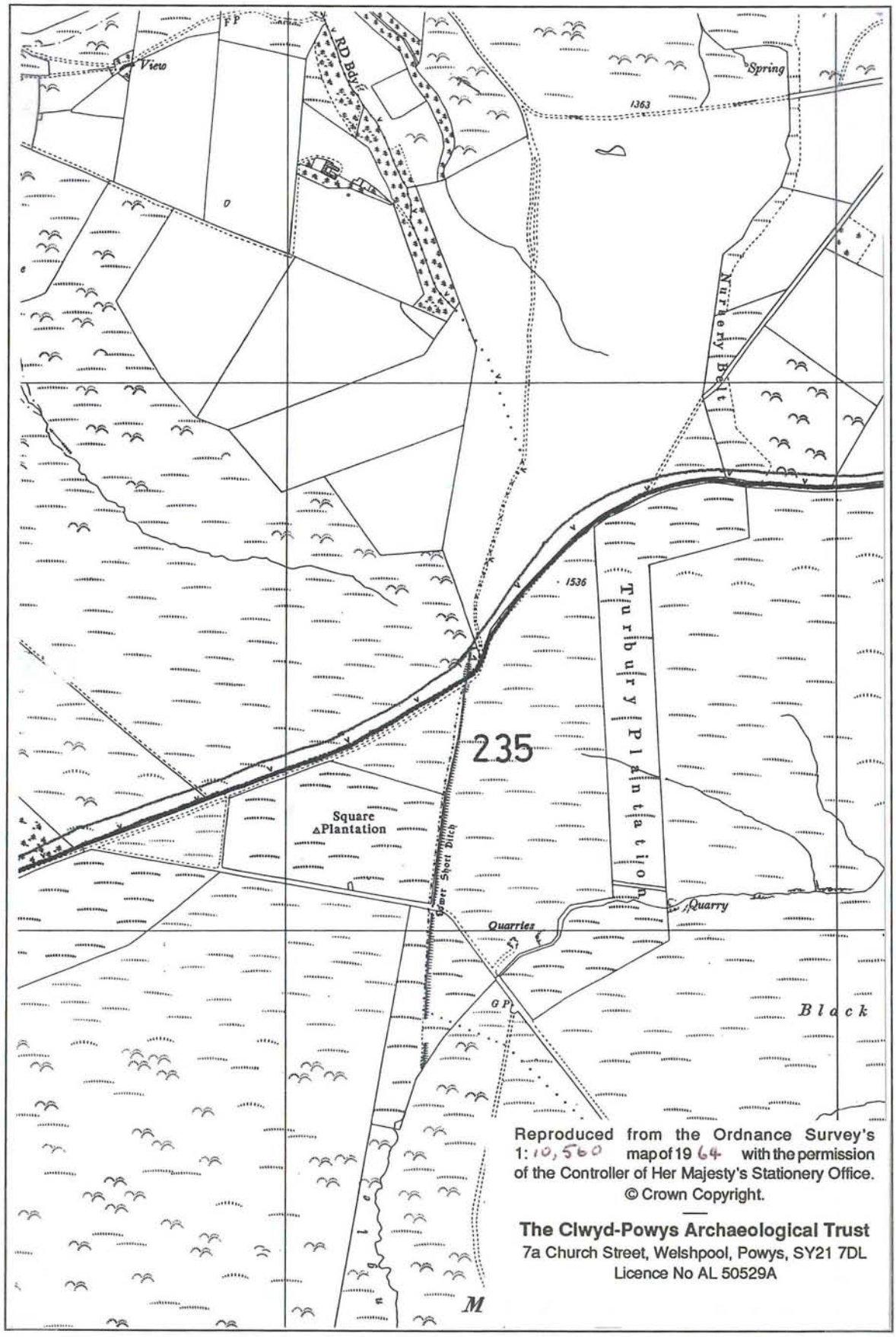
Associations

Sources
Lloyd 1901
Lloyd 1902
OS record 1973
RCAHM 1911, 58
SMR
Youngs et al 1986, 152

CPAT oblique AP: 83-26-05
CPAT oblique AP: 89-MB-1172
RAF vertical AP: 541/40 No 3433, dated 22/05/1948



Lower Short Ditch (PRN 235), Scale 1:5,000



Lower Short Ditch (PRN 235), OS 1:10,560 plan.

83-26-5

SO 222 880
Lower Short Ditch,
Clun / Mainstone,
Shropshire.
23 November 1983
SA 1199

Lower Short Ditch (PRN 235), overall view of dyke and its surroundings

83-MA-172

Lower Short Ditch (PRN 235), overall view of dyke

Shepherds Well Dyke **PRN 992** **SAM**

NGR From SO18806503 to SO18766510 **MAP** SO16NE

History
Though depicted on early editions of the large-scale Ordnance Survey maps through the use of hachures, the earthwork seems to avoided description until recorded by Noel Jerman in 1935. He identified as a means of controlling the routeway across the top of Radnor Forest, a view reiterated by Cyril Fox in 1955.

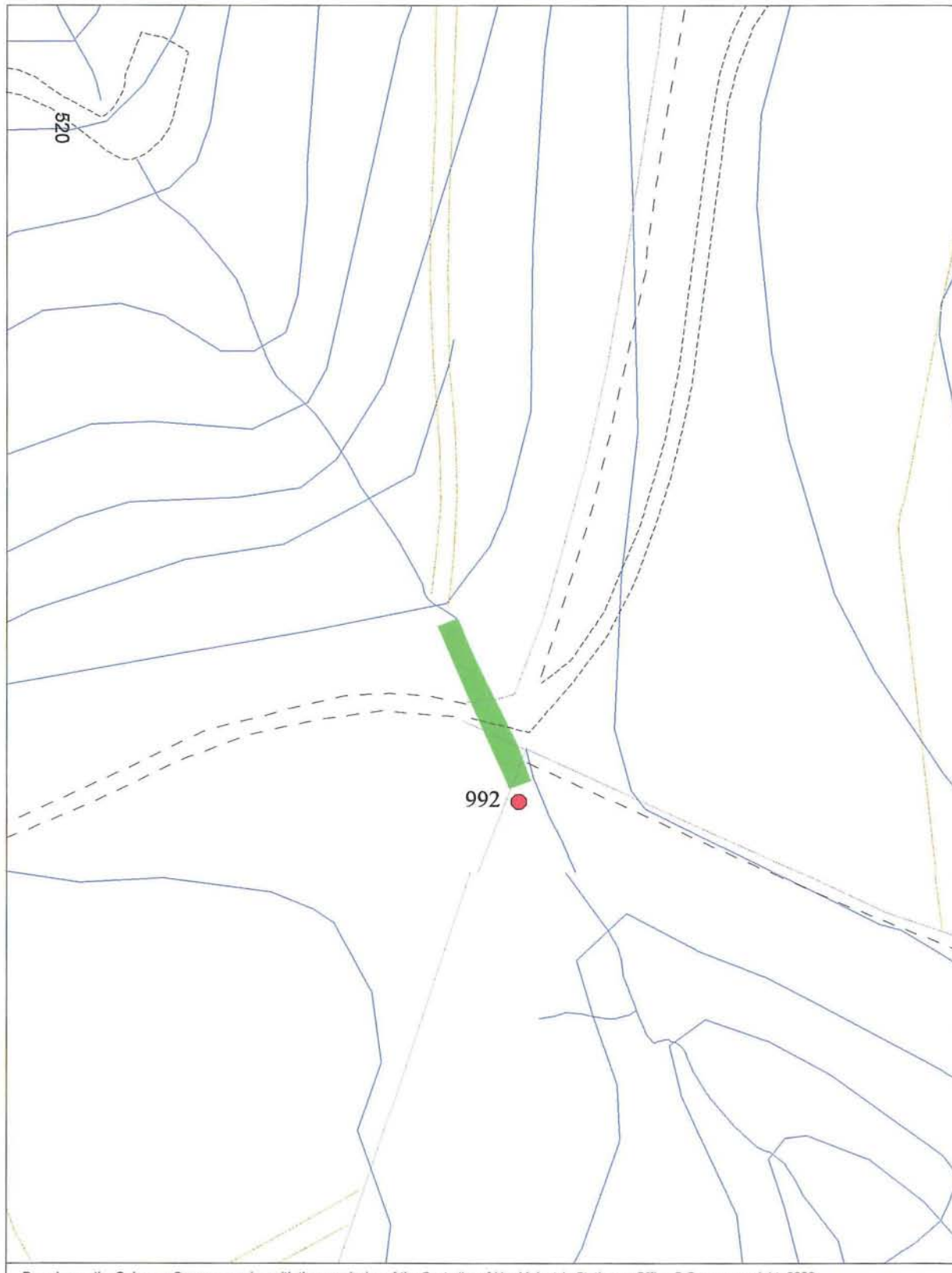
W E Griffiths visited the site on behalf of the RCAHMW 1973, by which time, apparently the size of the earthwork had been reduced and the counterscarp lost, though Griffiths did remark that because of the rain and the mist he could not give the site the attention it deserved.

Morphology
The earthwork with its NW/SE alignment consists of a bank with a ditch on its W side and a counterscarp bank, the whole being 140m in length. The bank is up to 0.9m high with a bank top to ditch bottom height of 2.1m. Griffiths also referred to a further section, larger in scale, running SW from the N end of Harley Dingle for 32m.

Location
The dyke crosses a saddle on a ridge, between the Cwm y Gerwyn and Harley Dingle ravines on the Radnor Forest plateau.

Associations
The SW arm of the dyke, which has yet to be confirmed, appears to be confused by a holloway leading to modifications in its appearance.

Sources
Fox 1955, 165
Jerman 1935a, 282
Jerman 1935b, 279
NMR (Griffiths 1973)
OS record 1978
SMR



Shepherd's Well Dyke (PRN 992), Scale 1:2,500

Cefn y Crug Dyke **PRN 993** **SAM**

NGR From SO16086414 to SO16296414 **MAP** SO16SE

History
There is no evidence that the Ordnance Surveyors recorded this earthwork and as with the other dyke on the top of Radnor Forest this was first described by Noel Jerman in 1935. He considered that it controlled traffic moving from S to N, a view repeated by Cyril Fox in 1955. There has been some subsequent debate about the age and function of the dyke, resulting from its form (aligned E/W with a ditch on S) and size (a bank only 0.3m high), and it was unclear whether it might be associated with other cross-dykes in the area.

Following a field survey by CPAT in 1992, G. Owen suggested that this and the other dykes on the plateau might have played a role in defining the original bounds of Radnor Forest in the Middle Ages.

Morphology
The earthwork consists of a low bank with a ditch on its S side. Three gaps in the earthwork result from trackways passing through it. CPAT AP (92-MB-126) appears to show the gap used by the main trackway along the ridge being inturned slightly to the south. Perhaps this signifies that there was a gap in the dyke when it was constructed.

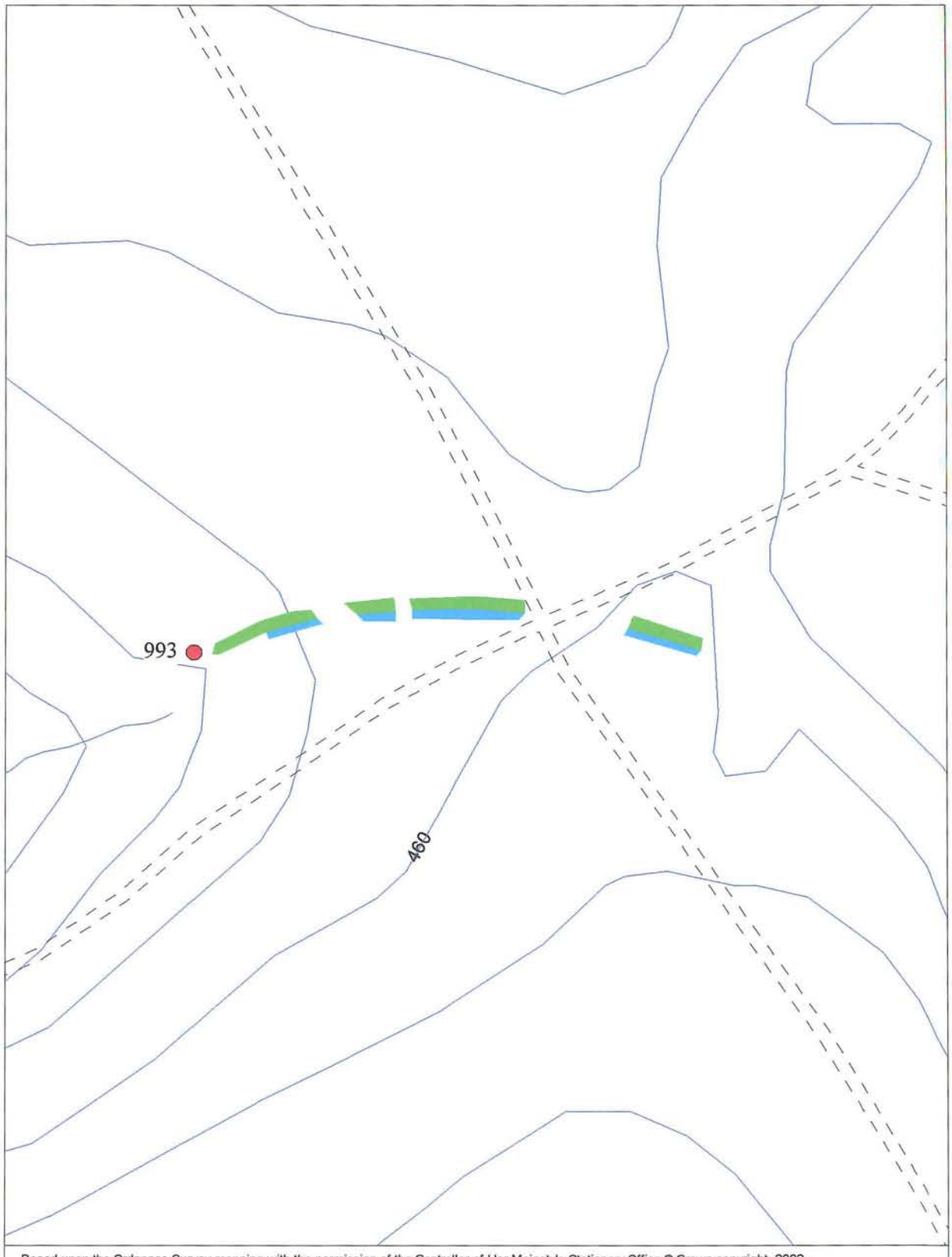
The bank is 304m long and about 5m wide. At most it is about 0.3m high, and the ditch has a depth of similar proportions.

Location
The earthwork runs in a curving line between Cwm Ffrwd ravine on the W and a re-entrant from the Cwm Merwys ravine on the E. It thus cuts off a well-defined lobe on the NW front of Radnor Forest in central Radnorshire (Powys).

Associations
Cut by three trackways.

Sources
Fox 1955, 165
Jerman 1935, 286-7
OS record 1978
Owen 1992
SMR

CPAT oblique APs: 92-MB-125 & 126
RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/1873 No 1141, dated 04/12/1946



Cefn y Crug Dyke (PRN 993), Scale 1:2,500

Cefn y Crug Dyke (PRN 993), overall view of dyke and its surroundings (to W of trackways)

Upper Short Ditch **PRN 1003** **SAM Mg201(POW)**

NGR From SO19468724 to SO19178676 **MAP** SO18NE

History
This dyke, part of which lies in Shropshire, was already known in the later 19th century when it was distinguished on the first edition of the large-scale Ordnance Survey map.

It was then described by the RCAHMW in 1911, in more detail by Fox in 1930 and by the Ordnance Survey field investigator in 1978. The field investigator also argued that its current southern terminal was not convincing and that a more logical place for it to terminate would be the steep slope above a dingle about 200m further to the south. Certainly it is suspicuous that as depicted on the late 19th century large-scale Ordnance Survey maps the dyke ends abruptly at the boundary of an old enclosure and A. J. Bird in 1977 claimed that 300 yards had been ploughed away.

A section was cut across the dyke by students of David Hill in 1981, revealing a rock-cut ditch of considerable size.

The northern (Powys) section is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Mg 201). The southern section is scheduled as Salop 213.

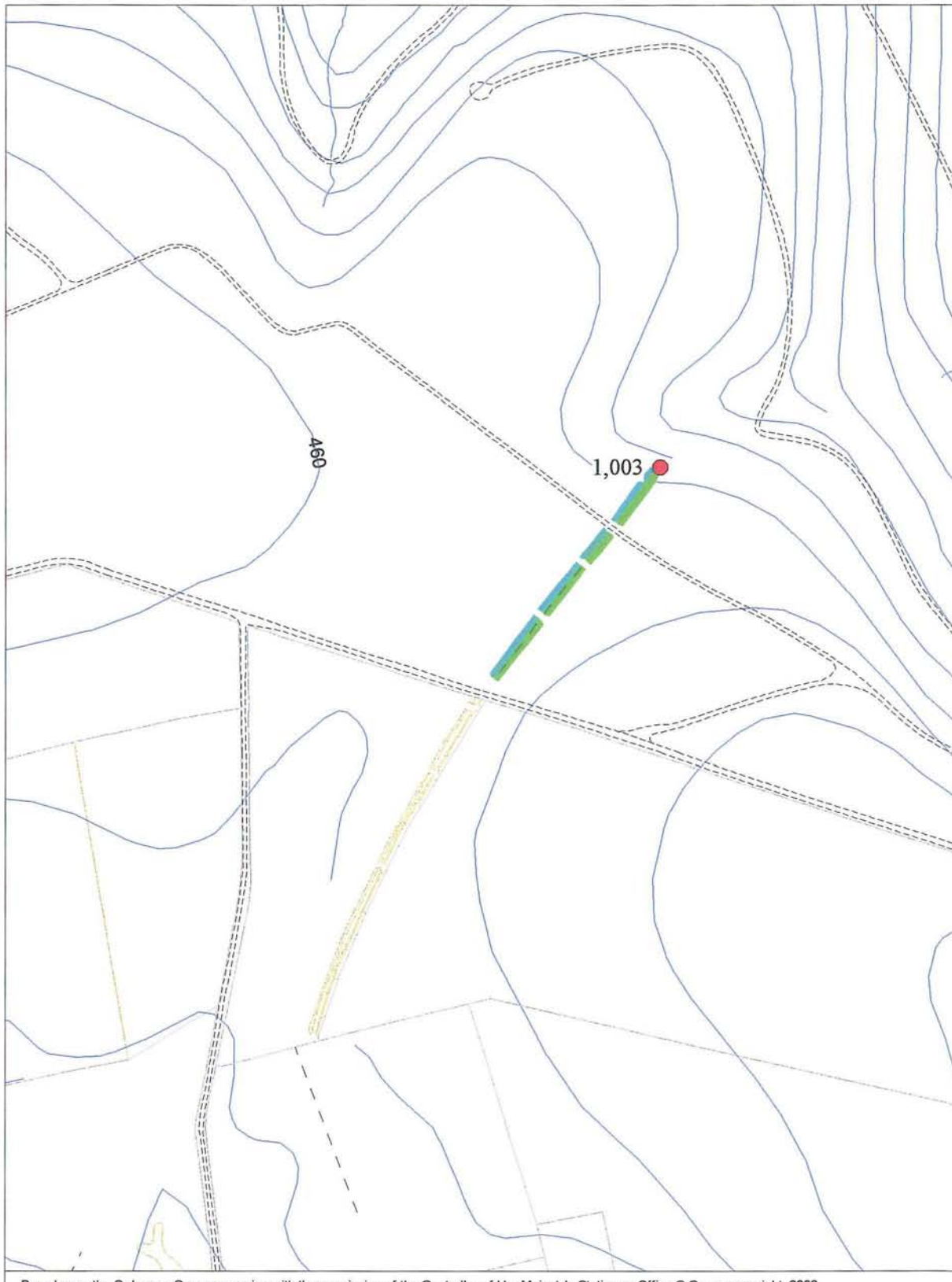
Morphology
The dyke consists of a bank with a ditch on its west side. There may have been an original gap where the county boundary and a track passes through it (OS information). The total length of Upper Short Dyke is now about 555m (The scheduled section north of the county boundary is c.230m long). The bank on the Powys side is about 6m wide and is 0.6m high on its east face and up to 2.0m above the ditch bottom on the west. The ditch is generally around 0.6m deep.

Location
The Upper Short Ditch straddles the border between Shropshire and Powys and thus between England and Wales. One of the Kerry (Montgomeryshire) dykes, it runs from the head of a dingle at its northern (Powys) end and fades out on a slope at its southern (Salop) end. The N end is put at SO 19468723 (although there is some discrepancy in the statements as to where the precise northern end is located), the S end at SO 19178675.

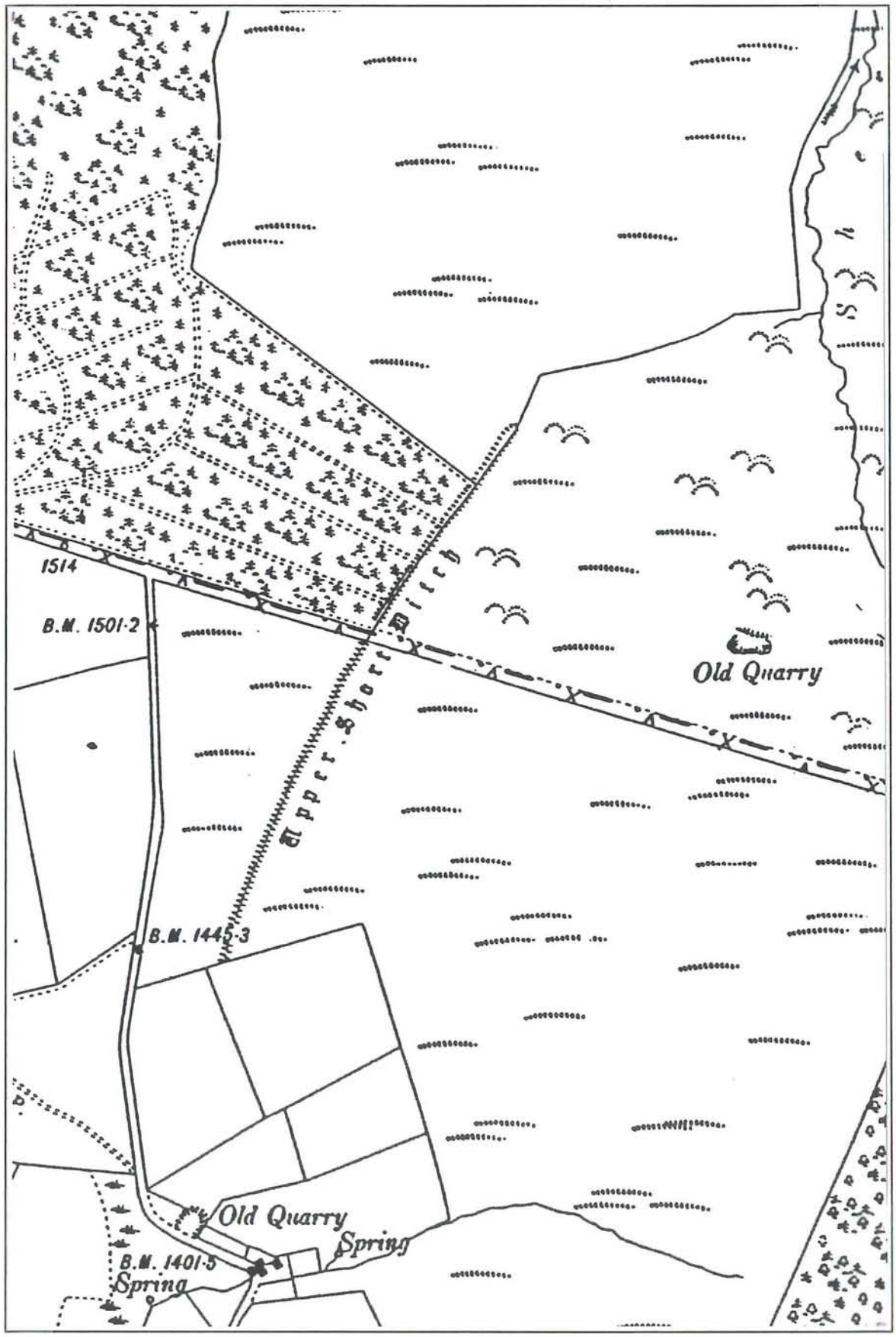
Associations
None known.

Sources
Bird 1977, 93
Fox 1930
Fox 1955, 167
Hill 1981
Lloyd 1901
Lloyd 1902
OS record
RCAHM 1911, 58
SMR

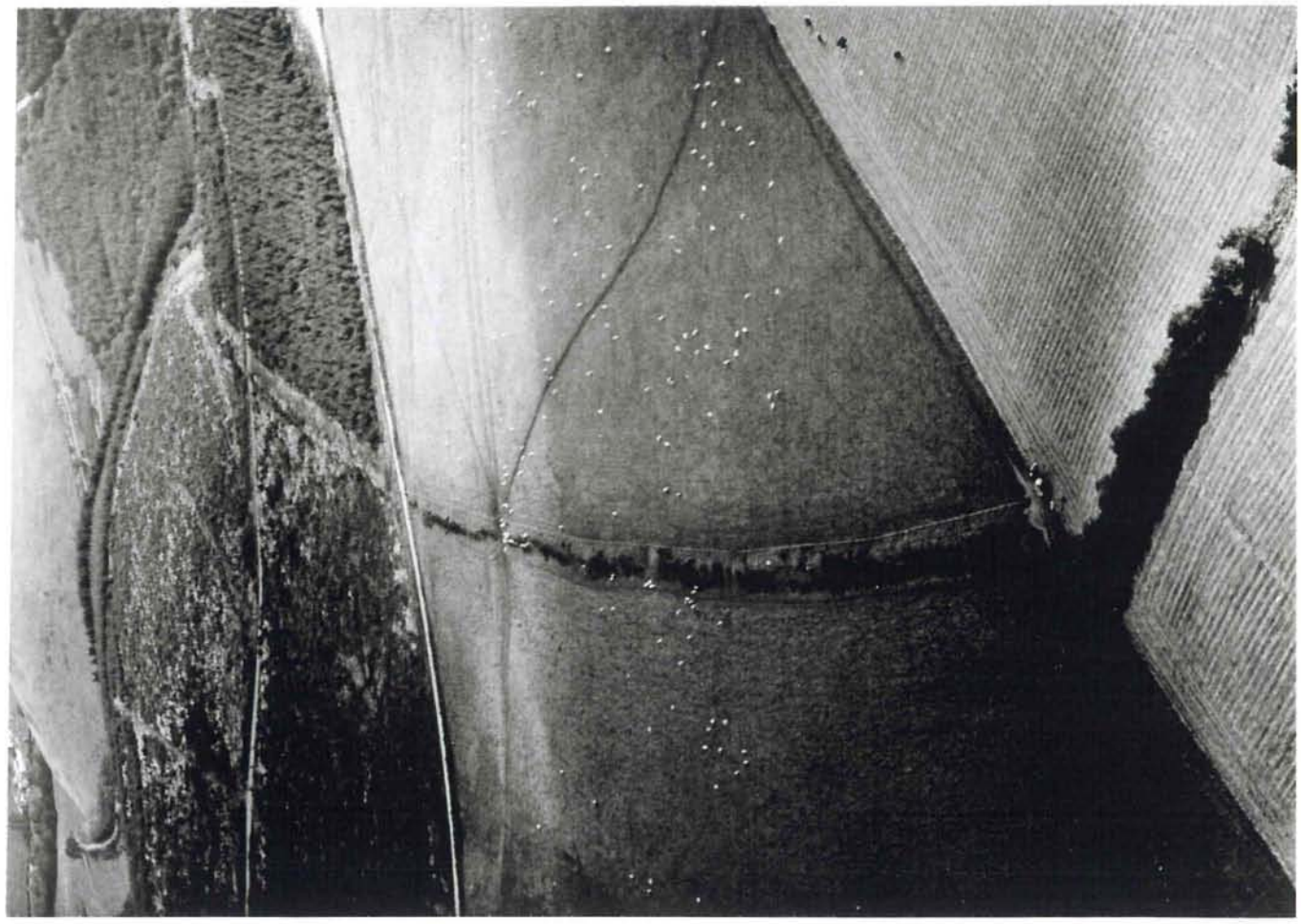
CPAT oblique AP: 86-MB-1104
CPAT oblique AP: 89-MB-1168



Upper Short Ditch (PRN 1003), Scale 1:5,000

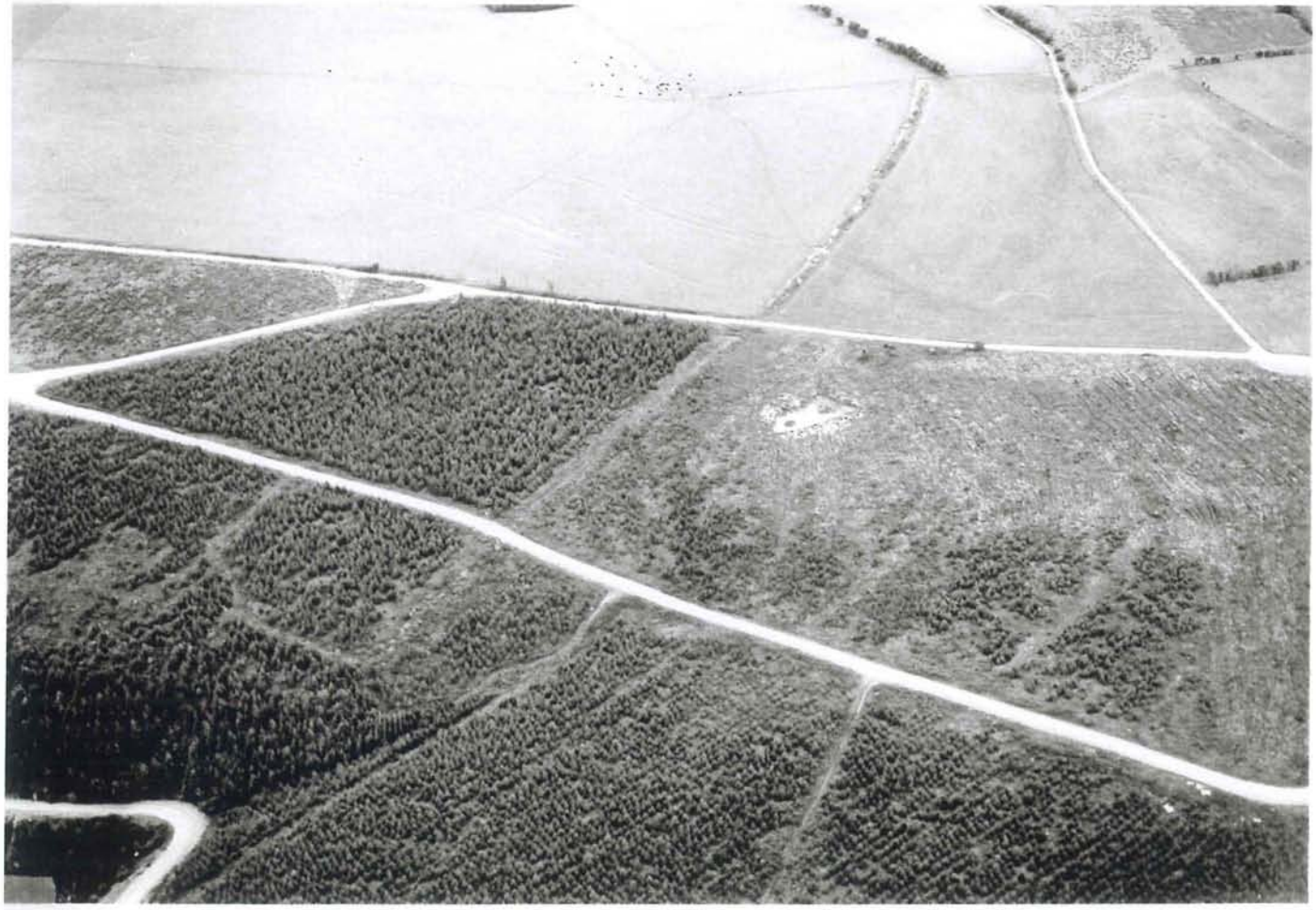


Upper Short Ditch (PRN 1003), 2nd edition OS 1:10,560 plan.



86-MB-1104

Upper Short Ditch (PRN 1003), SW end of dyke



89-MB-168

Upper Short Ditch (PRN 1003), NE end of dyke

Aberbechan Dyke **PRN 1041** **SAM Mg061(POW)**

NGR From SO12719444 to SO13549465 **MAP** SO19SW

History
Parallel banks either side of the farm of Little Aberbechan were depicted on early Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th century and first described by the Royal Commission in 1911.

Small-scale excavations in 1996, reportedly about 20m south-west of the southernmost part of the scheduled area (SAM Mg 61), failed to identify any extension of the dyke's features.

Morphology
The RCAHMW in 1911 identified parallel banks, each with an external ditch on their north sides, and a vertical height on average of 6' from ditch bottom to bank top. The average distance between the two dykes was around 25'. Much of the line survived, except where Little Aberbechan overlay the line.

A fuller description emerges from more recent work. West of the road for about 150m the dyke has double banks between 10-20m apart with the Bechan Brook running in between; the banks are between 2.0 and 3.0m high. North-east of the road for another 70m the banks are about 18.0m apart, and have a maximum height of 3.0m. Little Aberbechan lies on the line of the earthwork and its buildings and yard appear to have destroyed all traces of it.

East of Little Aberbechan it is double banked in parts, but while the southern bank and ditch continue almost to the farm of Cloddiau, the northern bank fades out quickly. To the north-east of Cloddiau a hedgeline appears to extend the line the dyke. The hedge sits on top of a 2m-high scarp but there is nothing to suggest a continuation of either the bank or ditch.

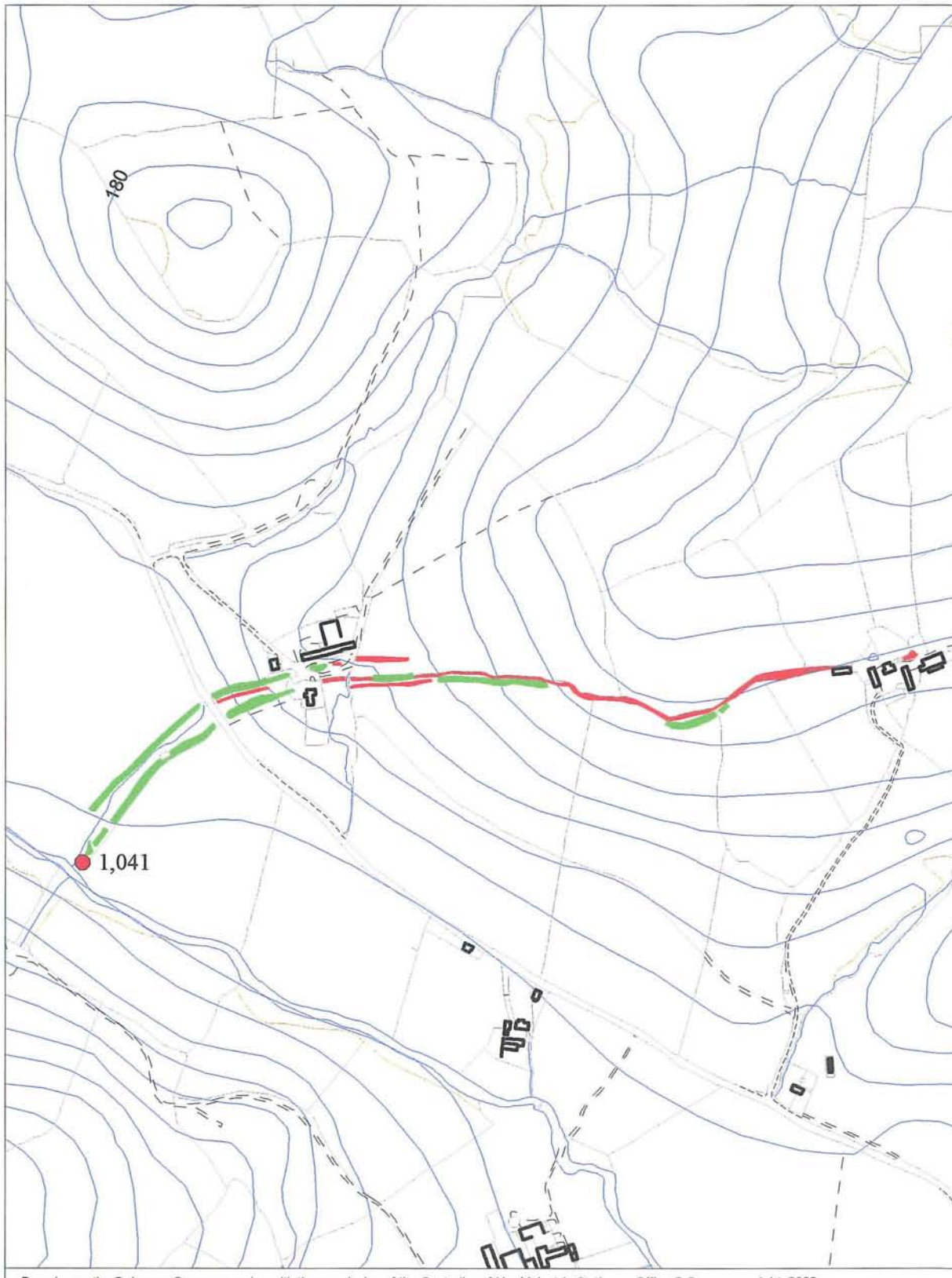
Cartographic and aerial photographic sources have failed to reveal any of the missing detail in the system.

Location
Aberbechan dyke is situated in the parish of Llanllwchaiarn, near Newtown (Montgomeryshire). The paired dykes run up from the Bechan Brook in a NE direction. Once beyond a metalled road (B4389) the alignment is closer to W to E. The dykes run under the farm of Little Aberbechan, continuing, though intermittently, towards the adjacent farm of Cloddiau, but seemingly stopping short of it.

Associations
None identified.

Sources
Cadw Field Monument Warden records 1988, 1991; 1996; 1997
Phillips 1932, 456
Jones 1996
RCAHM 1911, 120
SMR

CPAT oblique AP: 85-MB-174
CPAT oblique AP: 89-MB-1111
RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/2474 Nos 3014-3015, dated 09/03/1948



Aberbechan Dyke (PRN 1041), Scale 1:6,000

85-MB-124

Aberbechan Dyke (PRN 1041), E end of dyke

84-MB-1111

Aberbechan Dyke (PRN 1041), W end of dyke

Wantyn Dyke **PRN 1053** **SAM Mg208(POW)**

NGR From SO18759140 to SO19628980 **MAP** SO19SE

History
The Wantyn Dyke (but sometimes Wanten) first appeared on large-scale Ordnance Survey maps in the later part of the 19th century, as did its first written record, in a history of the parish of Kerry (Morris 1889).

At the beginning of the 20th century it was fully described by J. M. E. Lloyd, who was followed by the RCAHMW in 1911. Lloyd in what was pioneering work was keen to define the full extent of the earthwork and in doing so made claims for the course of the dyke which have since been questioned.

Fox included a brief discussion of it in his assessment of the various short dykes in 1955, and in 1981 David Hill in an unpublished typescript stated that the Wantyn Dyke was two miles long and cast doubt on the existence of the northern section identified by Lloyd. And he also dismissed a link with the banks known as the Upper Wantyn Dyke which had been discovered by Lloyd. Hill cut a section across a denuded part of the dyke revealing a bank of dump construction and a shallow ditch. In a separate statement in the same year he postulated a 12th/13th-century date for the Wantyn Dyke and others, eschewing Fox's Mercian attribution. It appears that he subsequently cut a further three or four sections of which only a brief record has been published (Hill 1986, 152).

Portions of the dyke are now scheduled as Mg 208.

Morphology
The Wantyn Dyke comprises a bank with a ditch on its west side. Its course - about 2 miles - is intermittent as a result of degradation over the centuries.

There are several extant lengths of dyke. Full descriptions can be found in Lloyd's 1902 article, though the best guide remains the Ordnance Survey field notes of 1972. Starting from the south near the bottom of the Caebitra valley there is a short length of bank adjacent to the farm of Little Cwmearl (SO 19678959. Its north-western alignment is picked up by a minor road. A second short stretch was identified where the road diverges to the south of Gwenthriew and was still apparent in 1972, centred at SO 19309029, though it may now have been levelled. Rejoined by the road, which later gives way to a field boundary, the bank can be seen as a scarp, in places up to 2m high. Beyond a crossing of a tributary of Afon Miwl it continues its straight alignment as a scarp bank still in places 2m high, and, running almost along the contours it shows as more of a bank with a vertical height of 2.3m above a very shallow ditch (SO 18579180). East of Goetre farm its alignment falters slightly as it clings to the contour which brings to the edge of the valley of another tributary. Lloyd then envisaged a significant shift to a west-north-west alignment as it crossed the stream and ran up the northern slope of the valley beneath a hedge bank (SO 18309209) - it is depicted as such on modern Ordnance Survey maps but it is this section that appears to have been unacceptable to David Hill, nor to have convinced the Ordnance Survey field investigator.

Three sections of the dyke are scheduled: the northern opposite Goetre farm is c.360m long, its bank is reputedly up to 3m above the adjacent ground level on the west but only c.0.5m high on the E side; the central section (north-east of Pen-y-gelly Mill) is c.150m long with a slight bank, highest on the west side; and the southern section (east of Wern Cottages) reaches a maximum height of c.1m.

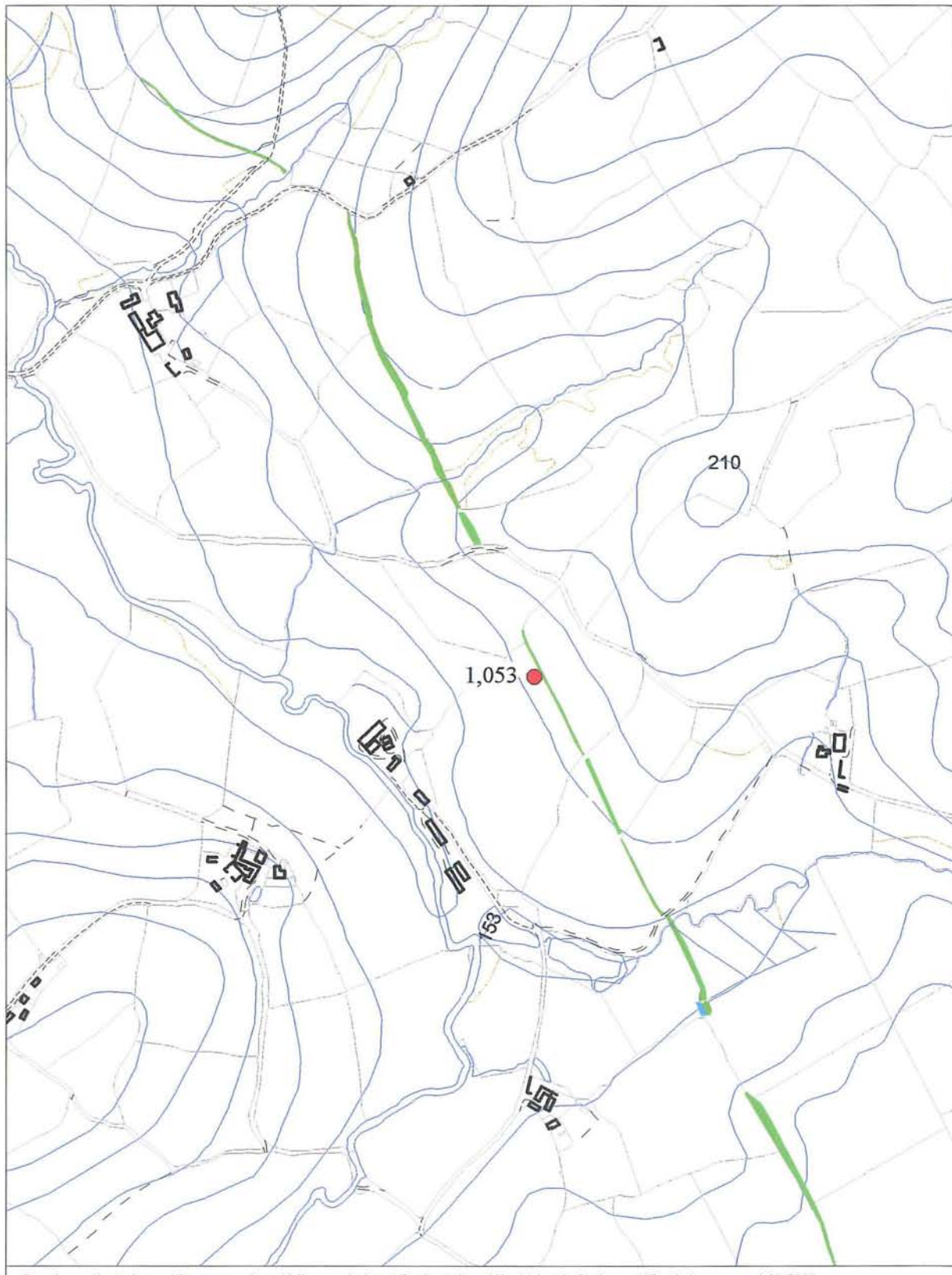
Location
The Wantyn Dyke lies in eastern Montgomeryshire (Powys), about 2 miles to the east of the village of Kerry and just to the west of the hamlet of Sarn.

Associations

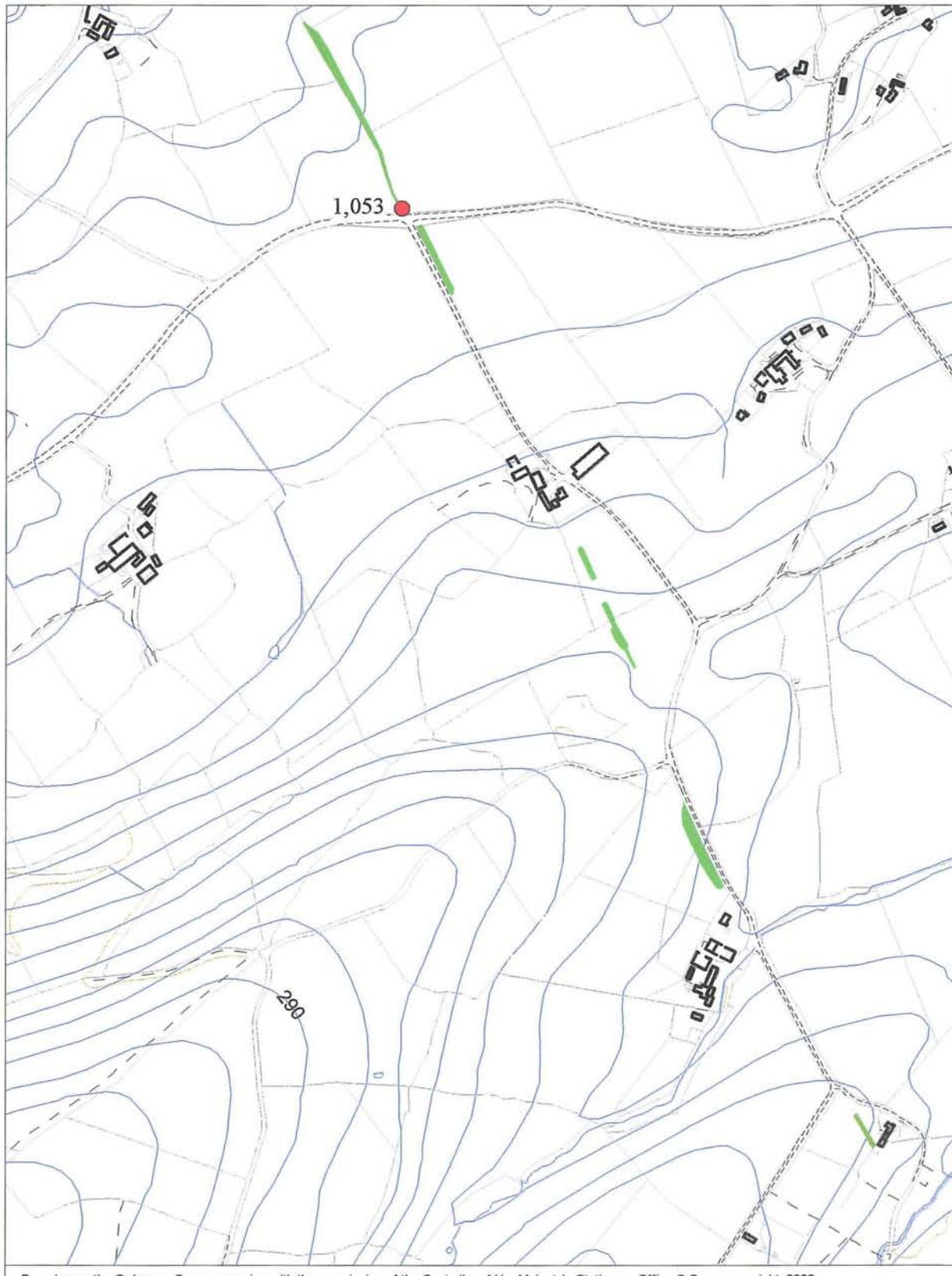
Sources

Fox 1955, 168
Hill 1981a
Hill 1981b, 185
Hill 1986, 152
Lloyd 1901
Lloyd 1902, 301-326
Morris 1889
OS record 1972
RCAHM 1911, 58
SMR

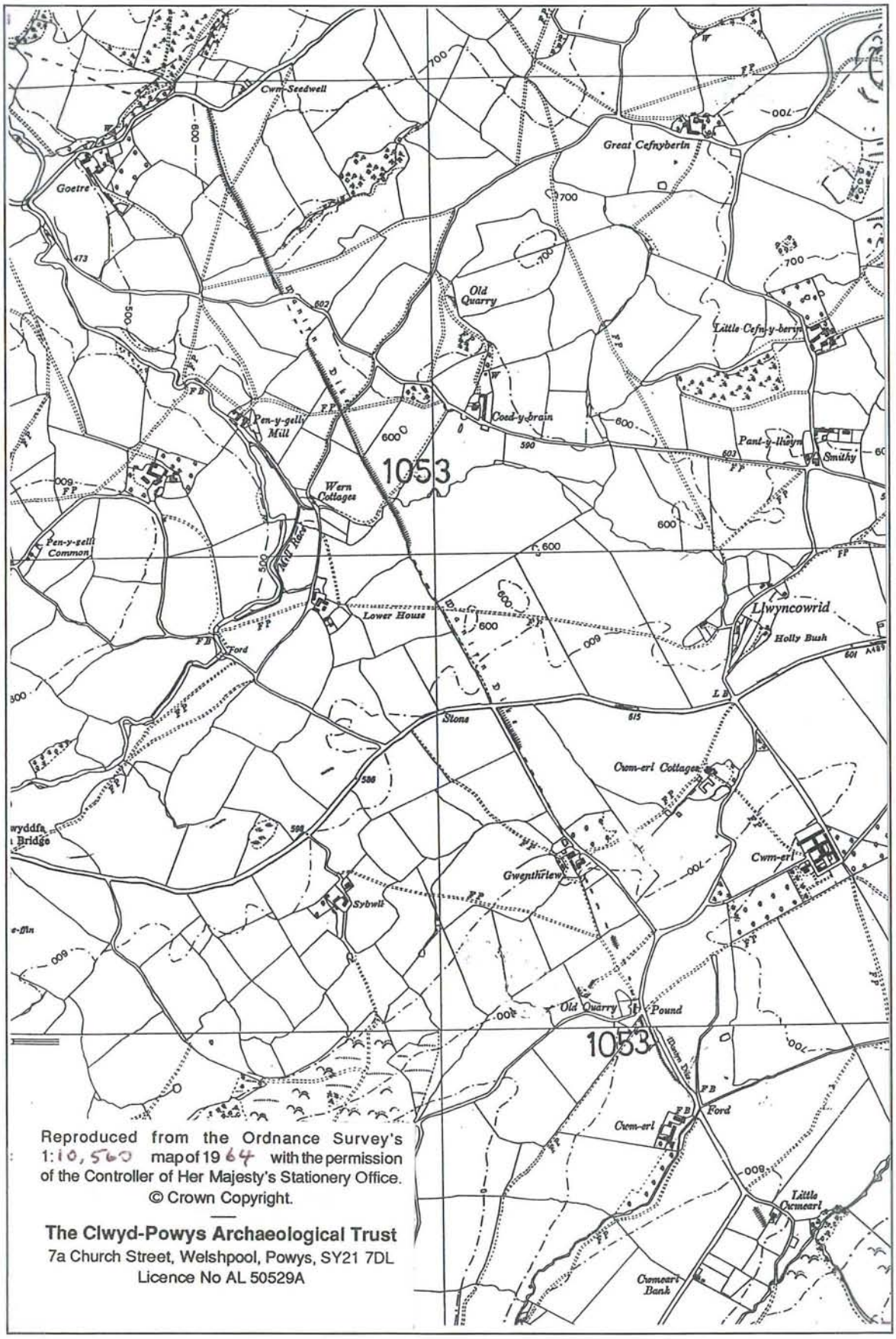
CPAT oblique APs: 87-12-34 & 35



Wantyn Dyke, N section (PRN 1053), Scale 1:7,000



Wantyn Dyke, S section (PRN 1053), Scale 1:7,000



Wantyn Dyke (PRN 1053), OS 1:10,560 plan.

Short Ditch **PRN 1114** **SAM Rd089(POW)**

NGR From SO18737463 to SO19157504 **MAP** SO17SE

History
The Short Ditch, as with so many other dykes was first defined on early Ordnance Survey maps, and was subsequently described by the RCAHMW in 1913. Fox mentioned it in passing in his volume on Offa's Dyke, and the Ordnance Survey field investigator in 1978 was able to add little to the record.

In the 1980s it was scheduled as Rad 89.

Morphology
The earthwork consists of a bank with a ditch on its north-west side and a counterscarp throughout much of its length. Fox's claim that it followed a straight course on the plateau but then curved at either end to follow the contours of the hill does not appear to be born out by modern plans which shows it as having a straight alignment throughout. However, a 1992 CPAT AP (92-MB-0053) reveals that the south-west end curves to the west and terminates at a recent quarry overlooking a small stream valley; it runs down the slope of the valley and not across it. The north-east end terminates at the head of a stream which itself continues on the same alignment to the north-east.

The dyke is about 640m long and the only record of its dimensions is that given by the RCAHMW who claimed it as 2.4m -3.0m high over the ditch and about 1m high on inner side. The ditch, however, was reputed to be 1.8m deep yet only 1.5m wide.

It is not possible to determine whether there was an original passage through the earthwork.

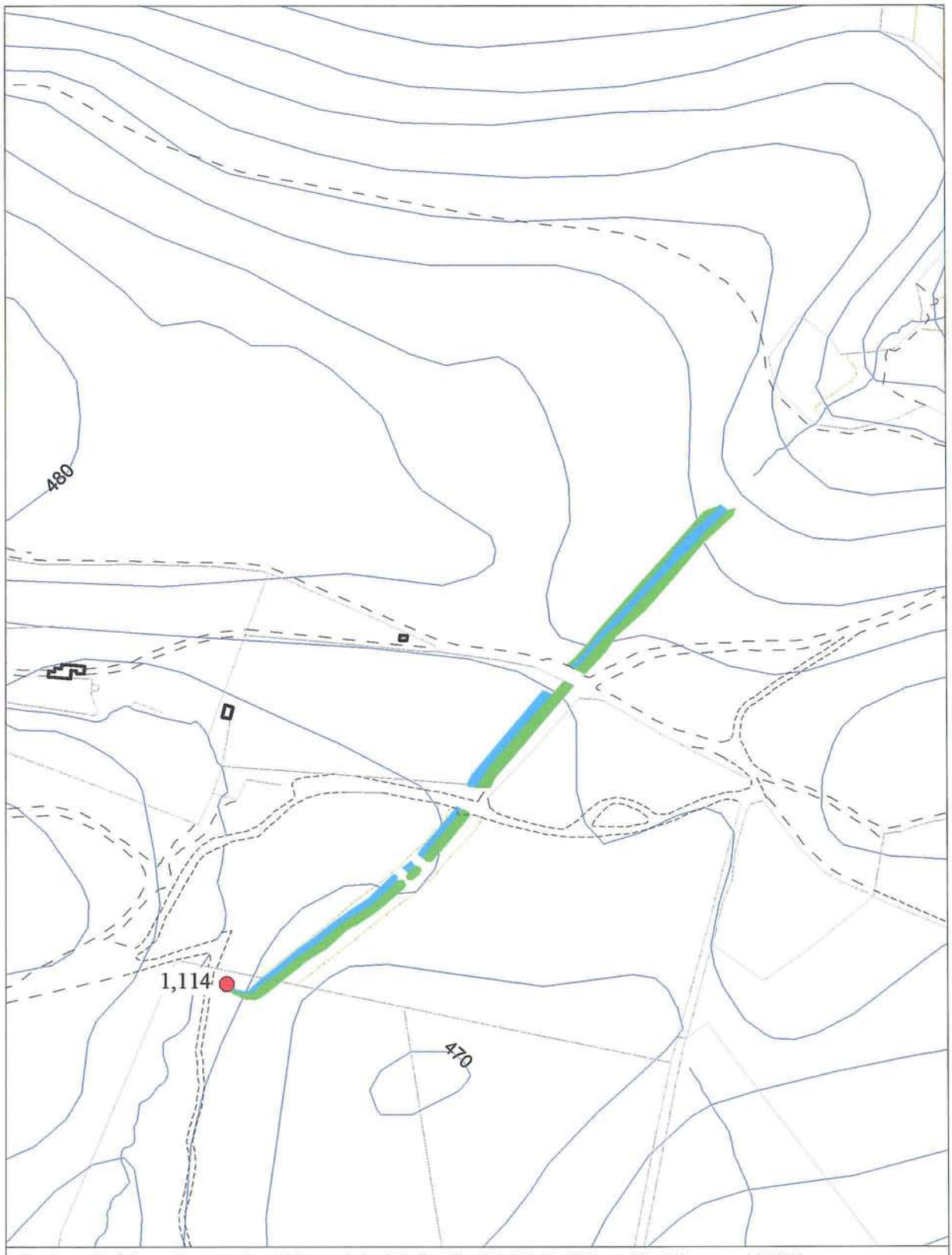
Location
The Short Ditch in eastern Radnorshire (Powys) straddles the boundary between the former parishes of Beguildy and Llangunllo.
It runs on a north-east to south-west alignment between deep-set valleys that hold tributaries of the Teme and Lugg respectively.

Its southern terminal is at SO 18717461, its northern at SO 19177506.

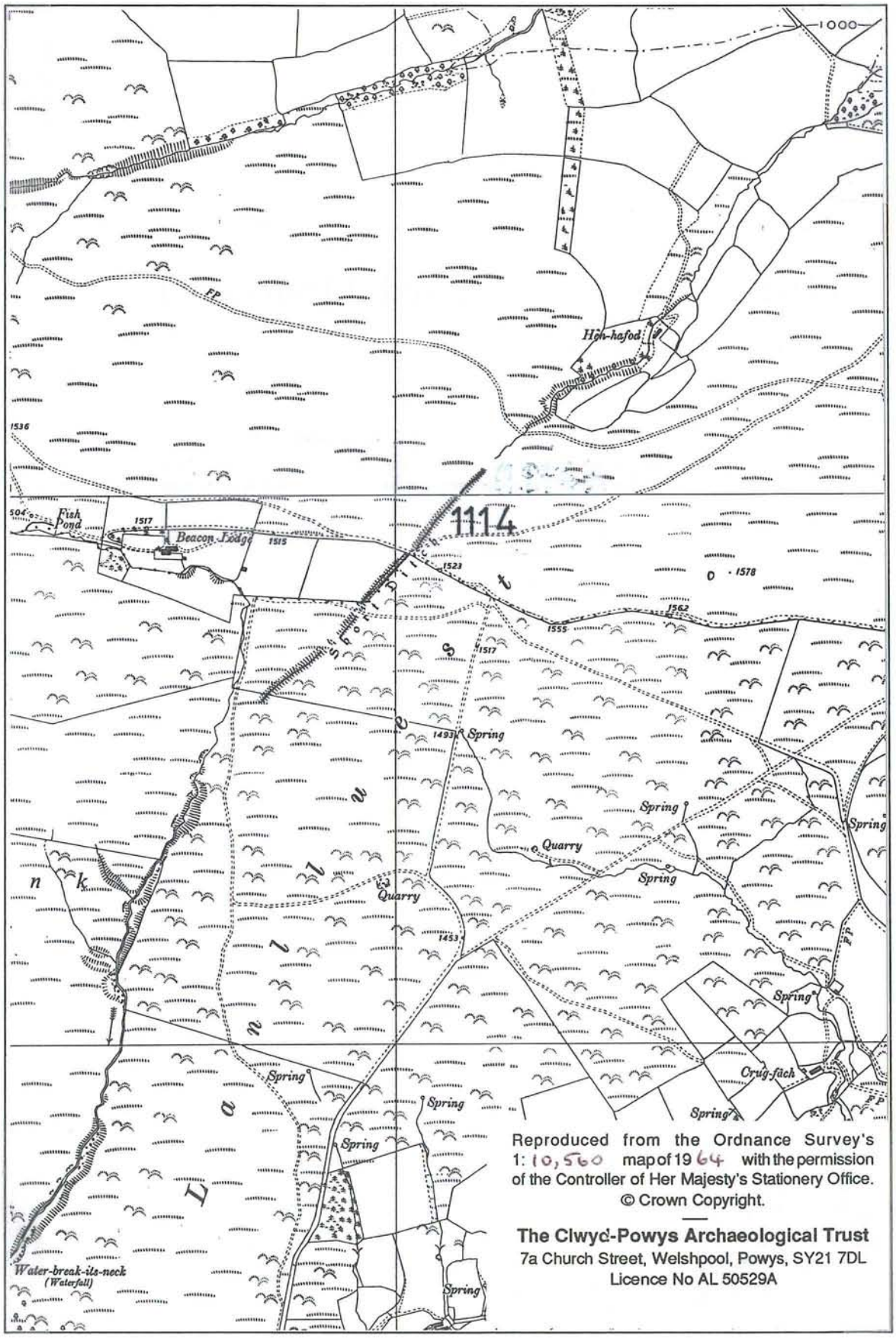
Associations

Sources
Fox 1955, 168
OS record 1965
RCAHM 1913, 24
SMR

CPAT oblique APs: 86-MB-166, 1168 to 1171
CPAT oblique AP: 86-9-33
CPAT oblique AP: 92-MB-0053
RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK 1873 No 6061
RCAHMW oblique APs: 985049-46 & 47



Short Ditch (PRN 1114), Scale 1:5,000



Short Dyke (PRN 1114), OS 1:10,560 plan.

96-MB-1168

Short Ditch (PRN 1114), NE end of dyke

92-MB-0053

Short Ditch (PRN 1114), SW end of dyke

Ty Newydd Dyke **PRN 1478** **SAM Mg025(POW)**

NGR From SJ12942327 to SJ13392325 **MAP** SJ12SW

History
This earthwork was shown as an 'entrenchment' by the Ordnance Survey at the end of the 19th century, and the dyke was first described by the Royal Commission in 1911.

Its line was confirmed by the Ordnance Survey in the mid-1970s and their recorder associated it with another dyke - the Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479). Both, so it was thought, were designed to block the pass from the Tanat Valley in the early medieval era, though other interpretations were not ruled out. In 1979, one of David Hill's students, Anne Cookson examined the dyke in more detail, using aerial photography, geophysical survey, place-name evidence, fieldwalking and trial excavations, and concluded that the dyke was originally 900m in length rather than the 250m previously defined. In its longer form it ran from Garth Ucha (SJ 13002325) to the foot of Allt Tair Ffynnon mountain (SJ 1368 2347). The presence of a farm, Ty'n-y-clawdd, in the centre of this previously unrecognised section was presumably material to its identification. David Hill writing after this work had been completed thought that the dyke might fit better in a post-Conquest (12th/13th century) context.

In 1982 the Ordnance Survey questioned the newly discovered extension, puzzling why the dyke was so well-preserved on the west side of the ravine that it abuts, yet had disappeared completely to the east of it. No full report appears to have been published on the work undertaken in 1979, and from the very restricted data available it is impossible to evaluate the claims. However, early post-war aerial photography does show the crop- or soilmark of a poorly defined linear feature turning through a right-angle, to the west of Garth-ucha. A short length of slight bank is identifiable on a 1986 CPAT oblique aerial photograph, suggesting that there was a westward extension, and Cadw's field monument warden, citing an oral source (?), claimed that the western portion of the dyke continued for a further 250m to Garth Wood but had been demolished in living memory.

Much of the extant earthwork is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Mg 25).

Morphology
The Royal Commission identified a 300-yard length of dyke with a bank rising to a maximum vertical height of 12' and a ditch up to 3' deep on its north side.

The earthwork as it shows at present is a little less than 260m in length. The bank is up to 2.0m high and 5.0m wide, and 3m on its north side. The ditch is shallow and intermittent and functions as a drainage feature. The B4580 cuts through the eastern end above the ravine.

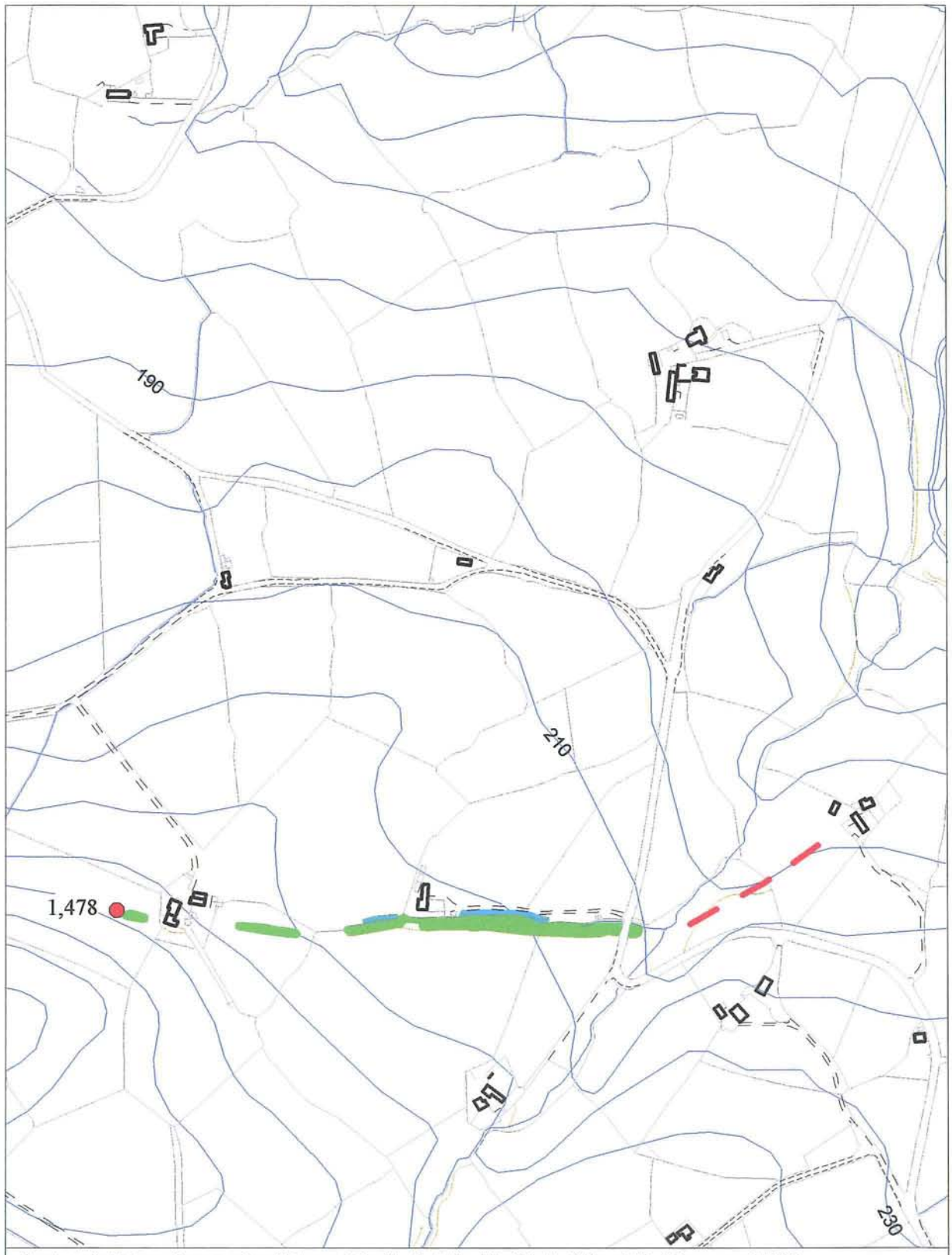
West of this traces are fugitive though the nature of the terrain would seem to require its continuation. A length of bank has been identified from aerial photographic sources (CPAT 86-MB-449) in the field to the east of Garth-ucha, and this source appears to also show a short length of bank continuing to the west of the farmstead. RAF aerial photographs display an L-shaped cropmark to the west of Garth-ucha, but its significance is unknown. Cookson's discoveries cannot be evaluated, though a note on CPAT aerial photograph 84-40-28 suggests that the work included some excavation; there are traces of a scarp running ENE towards Ty'n-y-clawdd on CPAT aerial photograph 84-40-27.

Location
Ty Newydd Dyke is set on a sloping hillside, terminating on the east where the ground drops steeply to a stream. On the west it stops at the foot of a hill. Ty-newydd Farm lies immediately above the dyke.

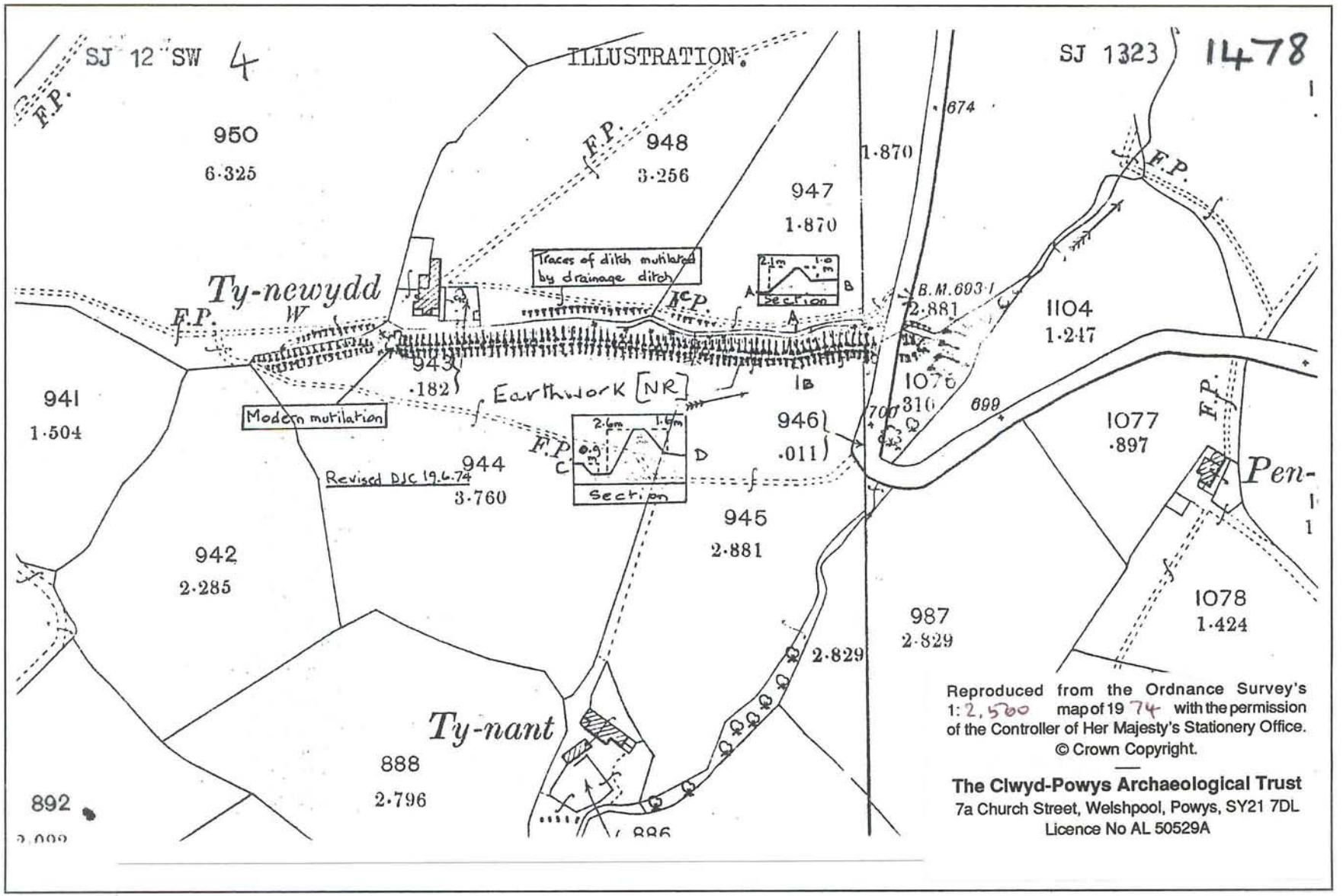
Associations
A stone culvert or spring emerges from beneath the dyke to the east of its centre point.
Sources

Cookson 1979, 45
Hill 1981
OS record 1980
OS record 1982
RCAHM 1911, 126
SMR

CPAT oblique APs: 84-40-23, 27 & 28
CPAT oblique AP: 86-MB-449 to 451
CPAT oblique AP: 93-01-01
RAF vertical AP: 106G/UK/1468 Nos 3301-3302, dated 04/05/1946



Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478), Scale 1:5,000



Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478), OS 1:2,500 plan.

Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478), main part of dyke

Ty Newydd Dyke (PRN 1478), probable extensions at W end of dyke

Aber Naint Dyke **PRN 1479** **SAM Mg024(POW)**

NGR From SJ12692171 to SJ12232206 **MAP** SJ12SW

History
Like its near neighbour, the Ty-newydd Dyke, this was first depicted and described as an 'entrenchment' by the Ordnance Survey at the end of the 19th century, and was subsequently described by the Royal Commission in 1911.

Later records, particularly that by the Ordnance Survey, confirmed its description and dimensions, although a section of its ditch near the south-east end of the earthwork appears to have been lost after it was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1902 (2nd edition). Like the Ty-newydd Dyke the Ordnance Survey proposed alternatives of either an Early Medieval or a post-Norman date.

The earthwork is now scheduled as Mg 24.

Morphology
The earthwork comprises a bank aligned north-west to south-east on a slightly curving course with a ditch on the north side along most of its length. It cuts across an interfluvial spur abutting the valley of Nant y Clawdd on the south-east and runs towards an unnamed stream on the north-west. Though it fades out before reaching the valley, its line is continued by a field boundary. This continuation is also suggested by CPAT APs 84-40-14 &17. There is an irregular scarp on the opposite side of the stream to the south-east end of the dyke, visible on CPAT AP 86-MB-448, but from its appearance it seems likely that this is natural.

A modern road follows its line on its south side.

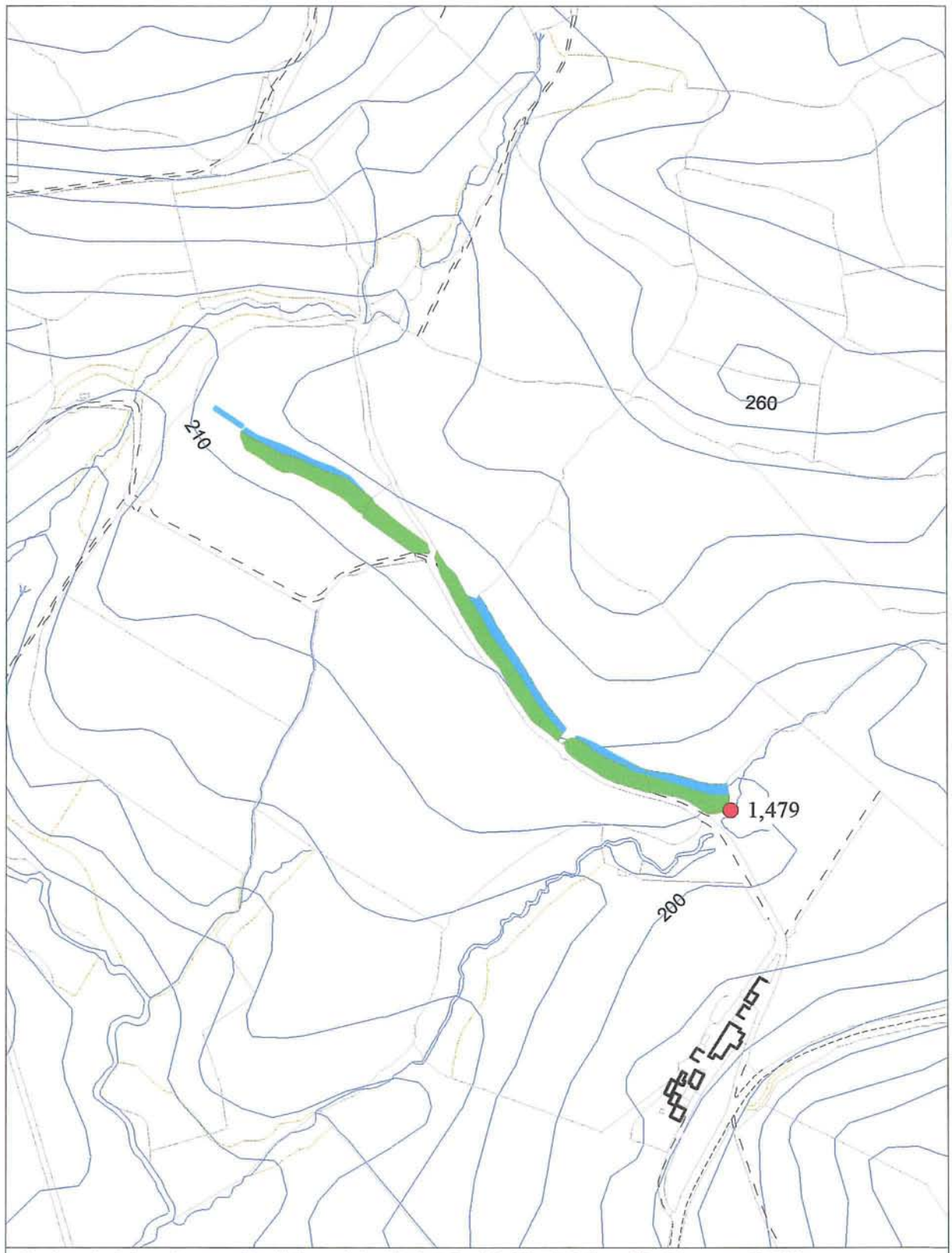
The overall length is about 560m and the height of the bank around 4.0m with a ditch 2.0m deep.

Location
The Aber Naint Dyke occupies an interfluvial spur above one of the tributaries that feeds into the Afon Cain in northern Montgomeryshire (Powys). The village of Llanerfyl lies about 6km to the south-east.

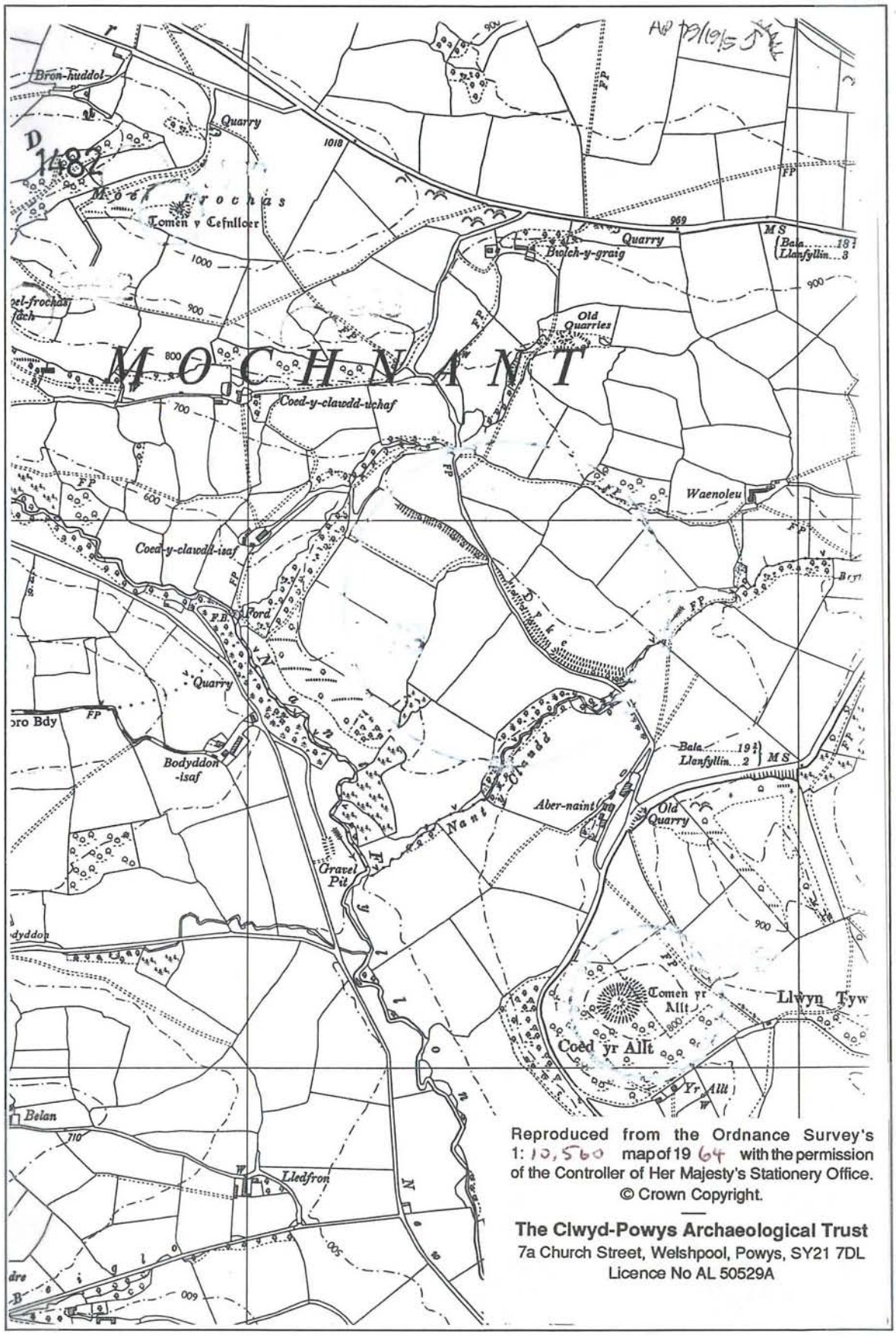
Associations

Sources
OS record 1975
RCAHM 1911, 126
SMR

CPAT oblique APs: 84-40-14 & 17
CPAT oblique APs: 86-MB-446 to 448
CPAT oblique AP: 89-MB-1218
RAF vertical AP: 106G/UK/1468 No 6296, dated 04/05/1946



Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479), Scale 1:5,000



Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479), OS 1:10,560 plan.

Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479), NW end of dyke

84-40-14

SS 125218
Aber-naint dyke,
Llanhaeadr-ym-
Mochnant,
Powys (M).
26 December 1984.

PRN 1479, SAM Mg 24

Aber Naint Dyke (PRN 1479), overall view of dyke and its surroundings

Crugyn Bank Dyke **PRN 1882** **SAM Mg062(POW)**

NGR From SO10118575 to SO11038546 **MAP** SO18NW

History
This dyke was originally called "The Double Dyche" in the RCAHMW Inventory, where it was grouped with two other nearby dykes: Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034) and Two Tumps Dyke II (PRN 6242).

Fox also grouped these earthworks and considered them to be of Mercian origin. Later sources have largely followed the earlier records, with a few minor differences where different elements have been recognised.

A visit by the field monument warden of Cadw in 1998 resulted in a suggestion of a possible continuation across the valley towards the line of the Two Tumps dyke (PRN 4034) where the latter follows a steep gully. Examination of various AP sources reveals that the dyke was longer than previously acknowledged.

Much of the earthwork is scheduled as Mg 62.

Morphology
The earthwork runs in an east-south-east direction from the head of a shallow and marshy valley, diagonally across Crugyn Bank, towards the source of the River Mule, about one kilometre away. However as currently visible it fades out several hundred metres short of the Mule.

It comprises a bank with a V-shaped ditch on its west-south-west and a counterscarp bank beyond. The confirmed length of the earthwork is about 470m, but there are possible continuations beyond (see below). The main bank is 1.2m high on the inner side and 1.7m above the ditch; the counterscarp is 0.6m high externally and 1.2m above the ditch.

There are indications on aerial photos of a continuation further east for another 250m as far as the B4355 and this seems to be confirmed from the Cadw field monument warden's description in 1988 which identified vague traces here.

East of the main road, aerial photos suggest a continuation as far as one of the streams forming the headwaters of the Mule, and the scheduled area has been extended on this side for 300m. There is possibly a further length between two of the tributaries even further to the east. These seem to be born out by the field monument warden's remarks in 1998, and are readily visible on CPAT AP 87-MB-1181.

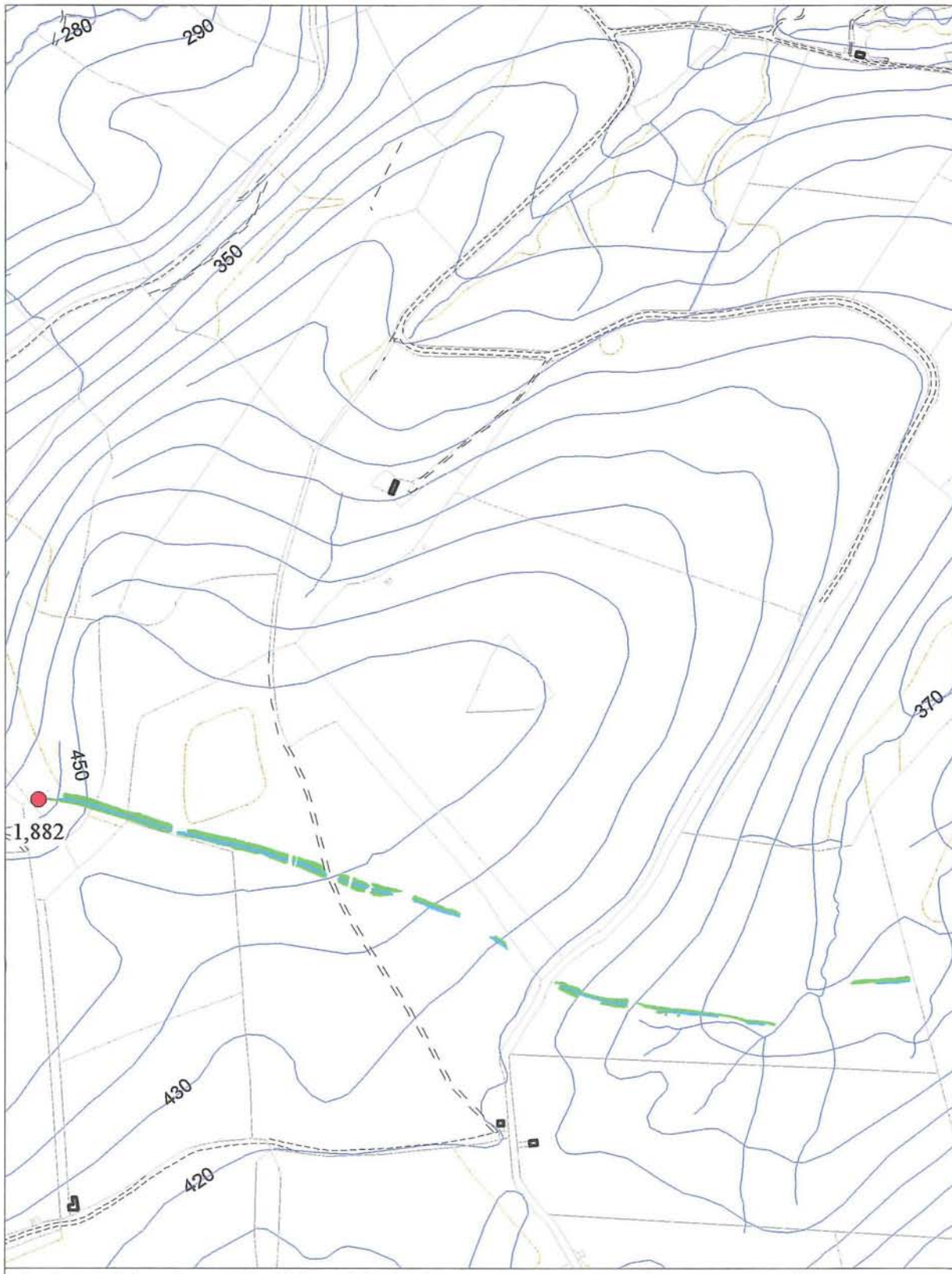
Location
The Crugyn Bank Dyke lies in the extreme south of the old county of Montgomeryshire, a little more than 5km south of Newtown. It is one a number of dykes found in the vicinity of the Kerry ridgeway.

Associations
Very likely to have formed part of a continuous dyke system with PRNs 4034 and 6242.

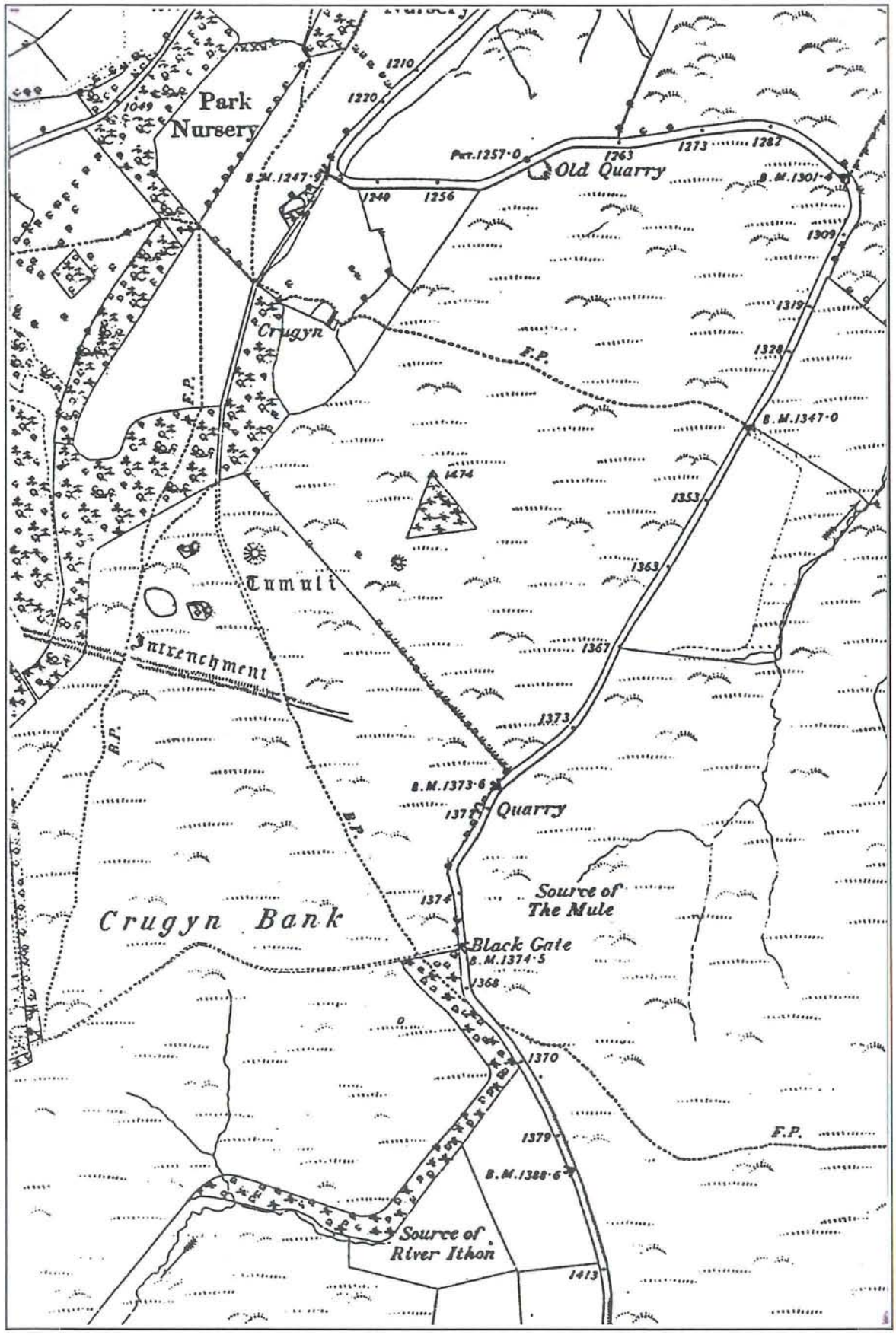
Sources
OS record 1978
RCAHM 1911, 59
SMR

CPAT oblique APs: 87-MB-1161, 1169 & 1178 to 1181

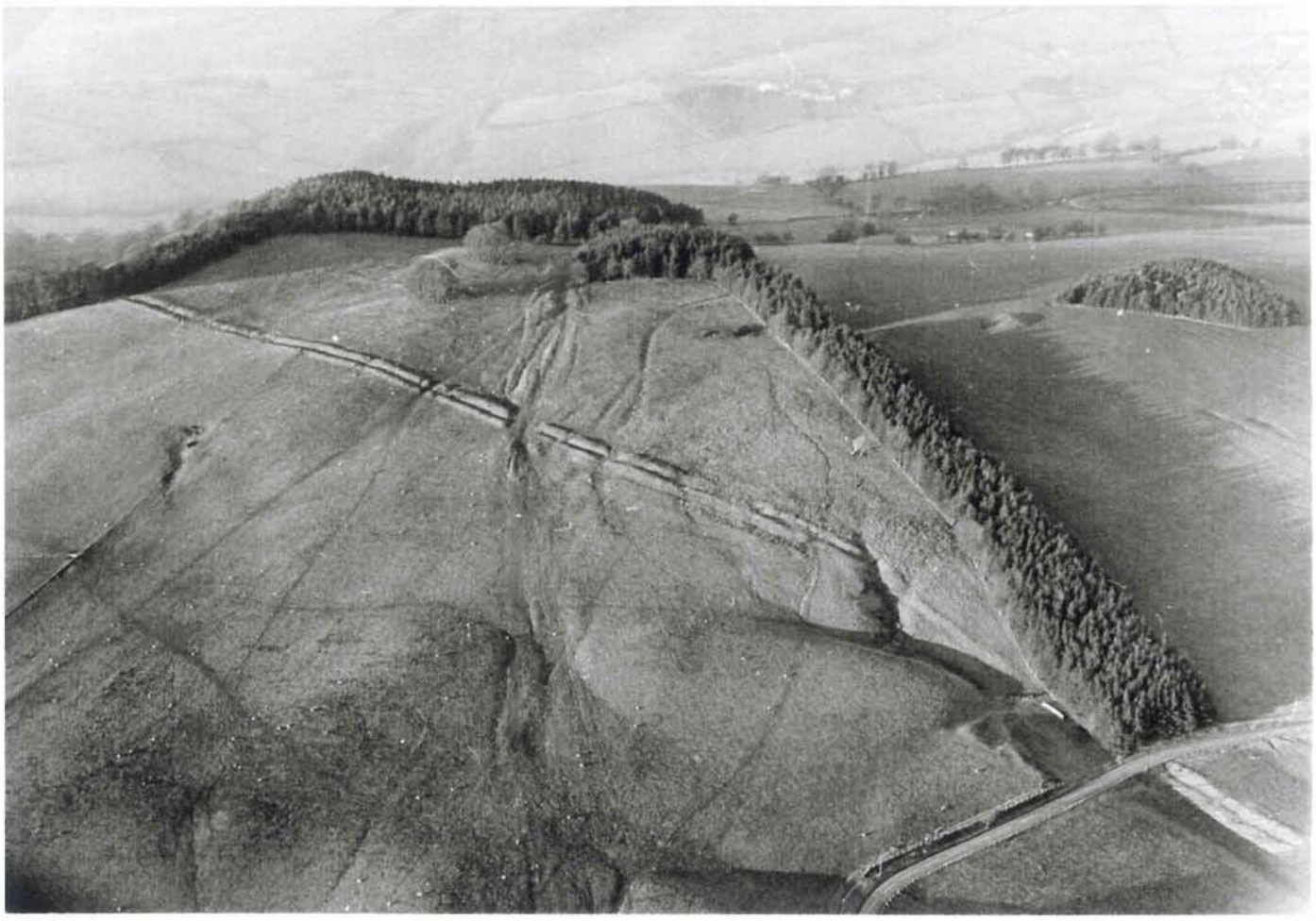
CPAT oblique APs: 89-MB-1151 & 1153
RAF vertical AP: 541/40 No 3449, dated 22/05/1948
RCAHMW oblique APs: 925314-25; 925314-27; 925314-31; 995002-41; 995002-43



Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882), Scale 1:7,500



Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882), 1st edition OS 1:10,560 plan.



Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882), main section of dyke

Crugyn Bank Dyke (PRN 1882), E end of dyke showing its probable continuation

Pen y Clawdd Dyke II **PRN 1986** **SAM**

NGR From SO18787057 to SO18677081 **MAP** SO17SE

History
The earthwork was first recorded by the RCAHMW in 1913.

It was visited by Cyril Fox 1934 when he commented that much of it had already disappeared, and was recorded in more detail by Noel Jerman in the following year. Contrary to Fox's opinion the OS in 1972 stated that the dyke was as described by the Royal Commission, and W E Griffiths of RCAHMW added substantively to the discussion in 1973.

Morphology
The earthwork consists of a bank with no apparent ditch, running north-north-west/south-south-east across a saddle, and it forms the western boundary of fields immediately to the west of Pen-y-Clawdd farmhouse.

Its southern terminal against a ravine looks genuine, but W Griffiths of RCAHMW thought that it continued on the opposite side of the valley as a shelf on the slope, continuing for another 60m.

At the opposite, north, end it fades out in an unlikely position and this may suggest that originally it continued. Aerial photographs signal a ploughed out boundary on a north-west alignment commencing at the point where the earthwork stops and continuing for 220m to meet another boundary continuous across the western face of Crungoed Bank. However no references to such a significant extension to the dyke have yet been identified.

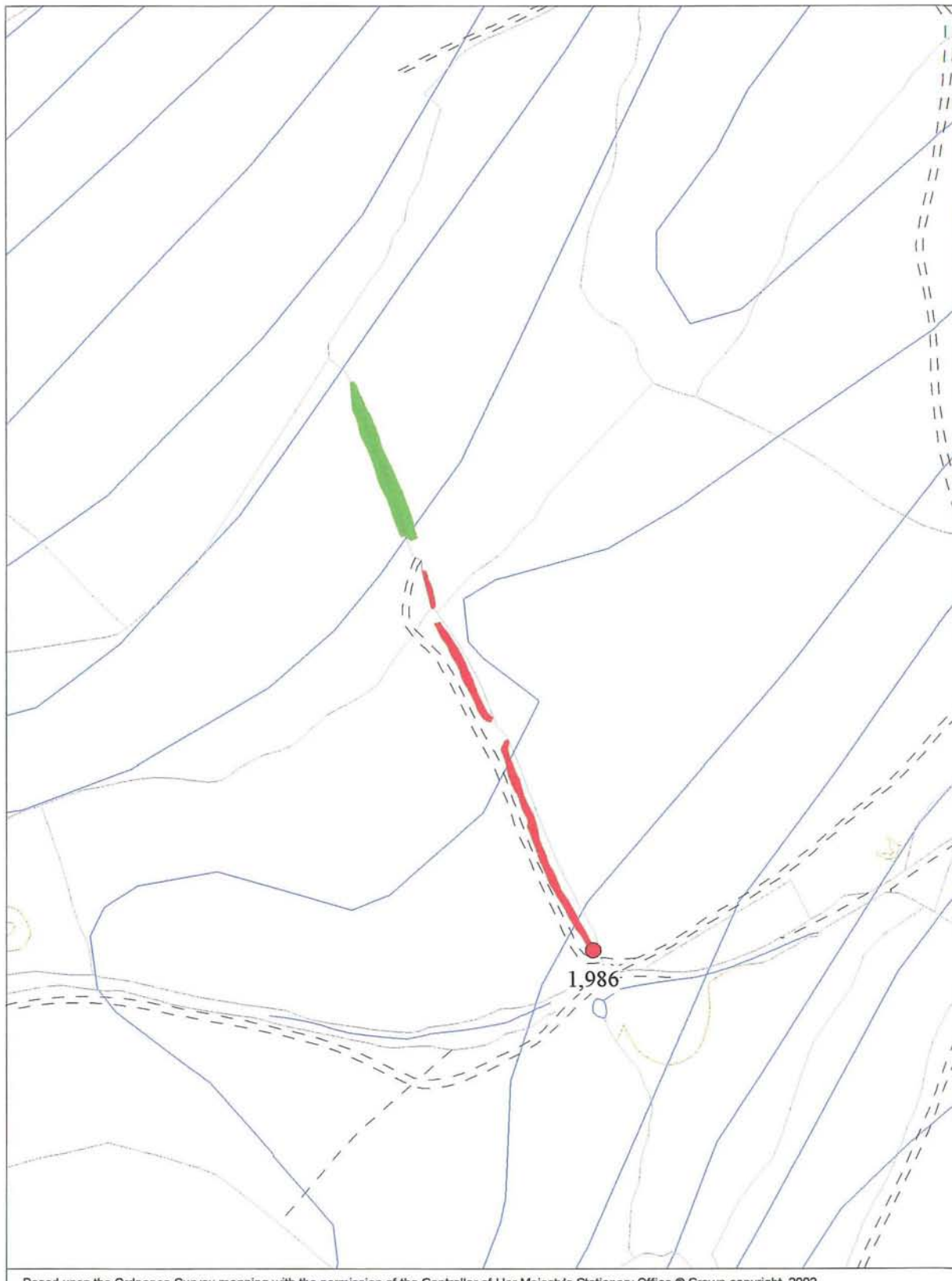
The earthwork as recorded at present is some 270m and the bank is 1.8m to 2.4m wide on top and 8.5m wide at the base and up to 2.7m high, though in some places it is no more than 1.2m high: it becomes larger as it runs southwards. Its terminals are at SO 18677081 and SO 18787056.

Location
A Radnorshire (Powys) dyke lying on a west-facing slope to the south-west of the village of Llangunllo in the hills to the south of the Radnor Forest massif.

Associations

Sources
Fox 1932-34
Fox 1955, 165
Jerman 1935a, 279
NMR
OS record 1972
Phillips 1966
RCAHM 1913, 96
SMR

RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/2095 No 2235, dated 28/05/1947



Pen y Clawdd Dyke II (PRN 1986), Scale 1:2,500

Fron Hill Dyke **PRN 2145** **SAM**

NGR From SO19875989 to SO19636014 **MAP** SO15NE

History
Fron Hill Dyke (known to the RCAHMW also as Ditch Bank) seems to have been first reported by the Radnorshire county historian Jonathan Williams in 1818.

Its site was shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1891, and was described by RCAHMW in 1913, and updated by the OS in 1978.

In recent years alternative interpretations have been proposed, namely a manorial boundary (SMR), a cross-dyke (Burnham 1995) or a parish boundary (NMR).

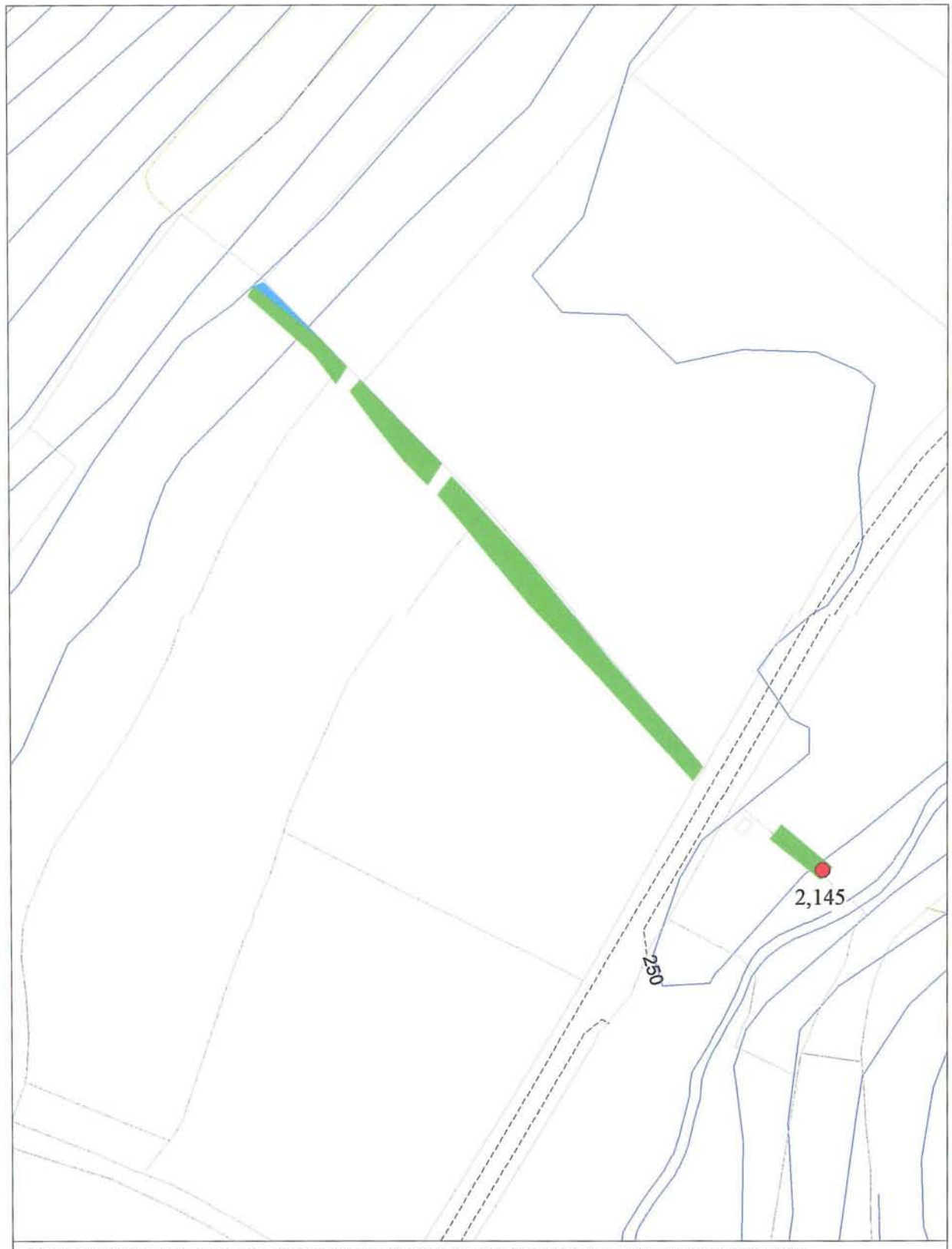
Morphology
This earthwork - a bank with traces of a ditch on the south-west side - follows a straight course across the valley floor and up the north-west slope. The RCAHMW gave the length as 360m, terminating on the steep flanks of the valley, with the slight traces of a ditch on the south-west.

A more recent description (OS) puts it at 310m long with a width varying from 4.5m at the southern end to 9.5m at the northern and respective heights of 1.0m and 2.8m. The OS, however, could see no indications of a ditch.

Location
Fron Hill Dyke lies across the valley of the Summergil Brook between Radnor Forest to the north and the hills further south. The small town of New Radnor lies little more than 1km to the east.

Associations

Sources
Archaeol Cambrensis 1863, 367
Burnham 1995, 119
Fox 1955, 163
OS record 1978
RCAHM 1913, 93
SMR
Williams 1818, 179



Fron Hill Dyke (PRN 2145), Scale 1:2,500

Giant's Grave Dyke **PRN 3711** **SAM**

NGR From SO04438609 to SO04378628 **MAP** SO08NW

History
Edward Hamer in 1868, reportedly offered the first, somewhat perplexing, description of the site, ' a curious work called the Giant's grave which consisted of two elongated mounds, crossing each other in a star shape, both 21 yards long. Of soft earth and five feet high'. It seems clear that what Hamer recorded and indeed what he drew was a pillow mound (cf. RCAHMW 1982, fig 171; and the name, too, would be more appropriate to a short mound rather than a linear earthwork).

Subsequently, the RCAHMW in 1911 confused two different sites, describing a double bank and medial ditch, about one quarter of a mile long and bisected by a modern road. The name of course has stuck, although it is surprising that the cross-shaped earthwork has not been recognised again.

A fuller description was provided by the OS in 1978.

Morphology
It consists of two banks with a medial ditch about 240m long; the east bank is 0.8m high and about 6m in width while the west bank at 0.3m high and up to 4m wide is slighter and this give the impression of a bank and ditch with a counterscarp. Between them, the ditch is 2-3m wide and 0.4m deep.

Location
The Giant's Grave Dyke lies towards the north end of the long ridge that edges the eastern side of the narrowing valley of the Severn, south of Caersws in southern Montgomeryshire (Powys).

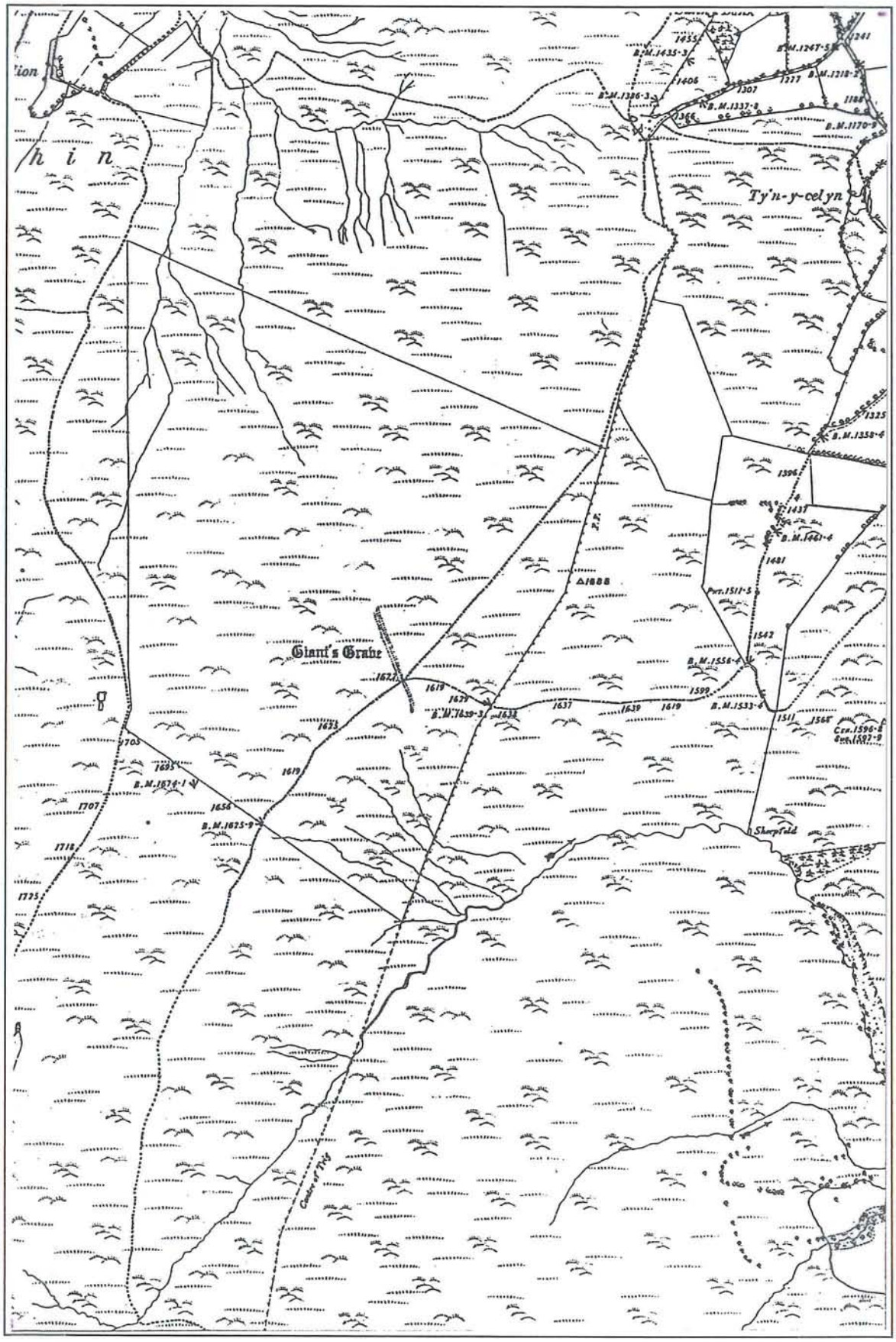
It crosses a saddle at the northern end of the ridge, and terminates at a steep-sided gully at the south end and in a rush bed above a gully on the north. Its straight central section is completed by slightly curved terminals.

Associations
None known.

Sources
Hamer 1868, 23
OS record 1978
RCAHM 1911, 70
SMR

RAF vertical AP: 540/488 No 3142, dated 11/5/1951

Giant's Grave Dyke (PRN 3711), Scale 1:2,500



Giant's Grave Dyke (PRN 3711), 1st edition OS 1:10,560 plan.

Two Tumps Dyke I **PRN 4034** **SAM Mg063(POW)**

NGR From SO11468515 to SO11888467 **MAP** SO18NW

History
This dyke, originally called "The Double Dyche" in the RCAHMW Inventory of 1911, is generally grouped with two others that are seen as integral elements of the same complex (PRNs 4034 and 6242); it is a relationship that can be seen clearly on CPAT AP 87-MB-1169. They were first identified in the 19th century and are depicted on the Ordnance Survey maps from late in that century.

Fox examined these earthworks, grouped them as a single barrier complex and pronounced them to be of Mercian origin. Later sources have largely followed the earlier records, with a few minor differences where different elements have been recognised.

The earthwork is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument, part of Mg 63, but the northern end was damaged by quarrying for roadstone in September 1983.

Morphology
The linear earthwork consists of a bank and ditch with a counterscarp on the south-west side, following a north-west to south-east alignment. It runs between two dingles, and there is the possibility of a short section of dyke on the far side of the south-eastern gully, though this might be related to later quarrying.

It is claimed that the bank is up to 1.2m high on its inner side and 1.7m above the ditch. The counterscarp is 0.6m on its external face and 1.2m above the ditch.

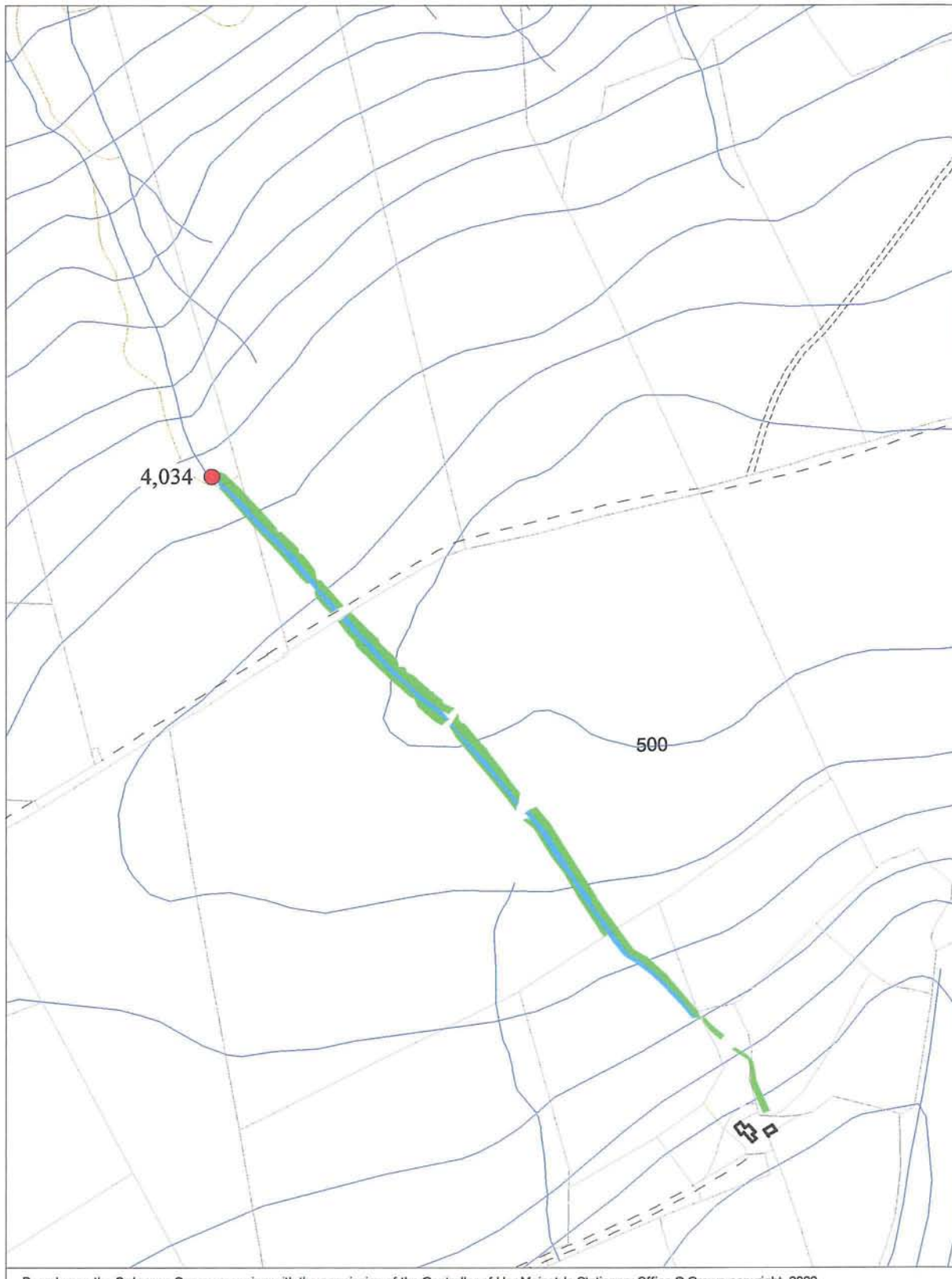
The visible section of the earthwork runs from SO 11468513 to SO 11868470, though there may be almost indistinguishable traces beyond this point and closer to the abandoned farm of Iyrchyn.

Location
Two Tumps Dyke I is one of several dykes in southern Montgomeryshire and northern Radnorshire (Powys) in the vicinity of the Kerry ridgeway. This one is on the western side of the Cilfaesty Hill commons and lies to the east of the B4355 linking Newton and Knighton.

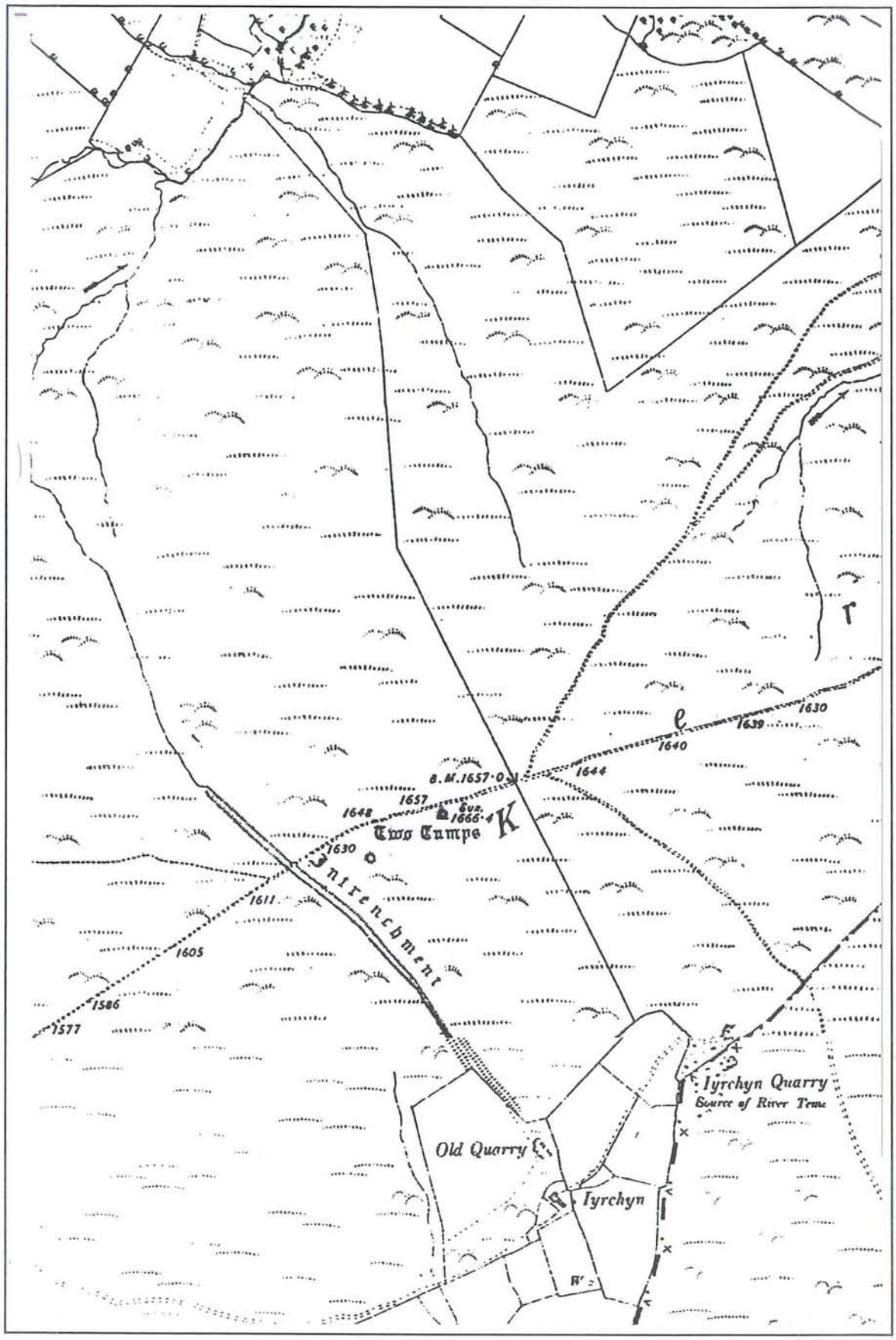
Associations
Very likely to have formed part of a continuous dyke system with PRNs 4034 and 6242.

Sources
Fox 1955, 168
Morris 1889
OS record 1978
RCAHM 1911, 58
SMR

CPAT APs: 87-MB-1163, 1166, 1169, 1174 & 1176
RAF vertical AP: 541/40 No 3449, dated 22/05/1948
RCAHMW oblique APs: 925314-24; 925314-29; 985051-46



Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034), Scale 1:5,000



Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034), 1st/2nd edition OS 1:10,560 plans.

87-MB-1163

Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034), main section of dyke

87-MB-1169

Two Tumps Dyke I (PRN 4034), overall view of dyke and its relationship to PRNs 1882 and 6242

Llanfihangel Nant Melan dyke **PRN 5229** **SAM**

NGR From SO17905818 to SO17915823 **MAP** SO15NE

History
A bank and raised platform were first recorded here by C. Dunn in the 1970s.

A subsequent visit by an Ordnance Survey Field Investigator provided fuller details of what appears to be a complex set of earthworks.

Firstly there is an embanked mill pond, running beside the stream, and fed by a leat running off the stream from the NW, a break in the SE side indicating the position of an undershot waterwheel. A level area beside the break may be where the mill was sited, but in addition there is a platform with the turf foundations of a building on the S side.

Secondly on the W side of the platform is a large ditchless bank, the N section of it thought to have been removed by the construction of the mill pond.

Morphology
A bank only, 60m long and 7m wide with a height on the W of 0.9m and on the E of 1.7m high. At the N end it has been lowered to 0.5m.

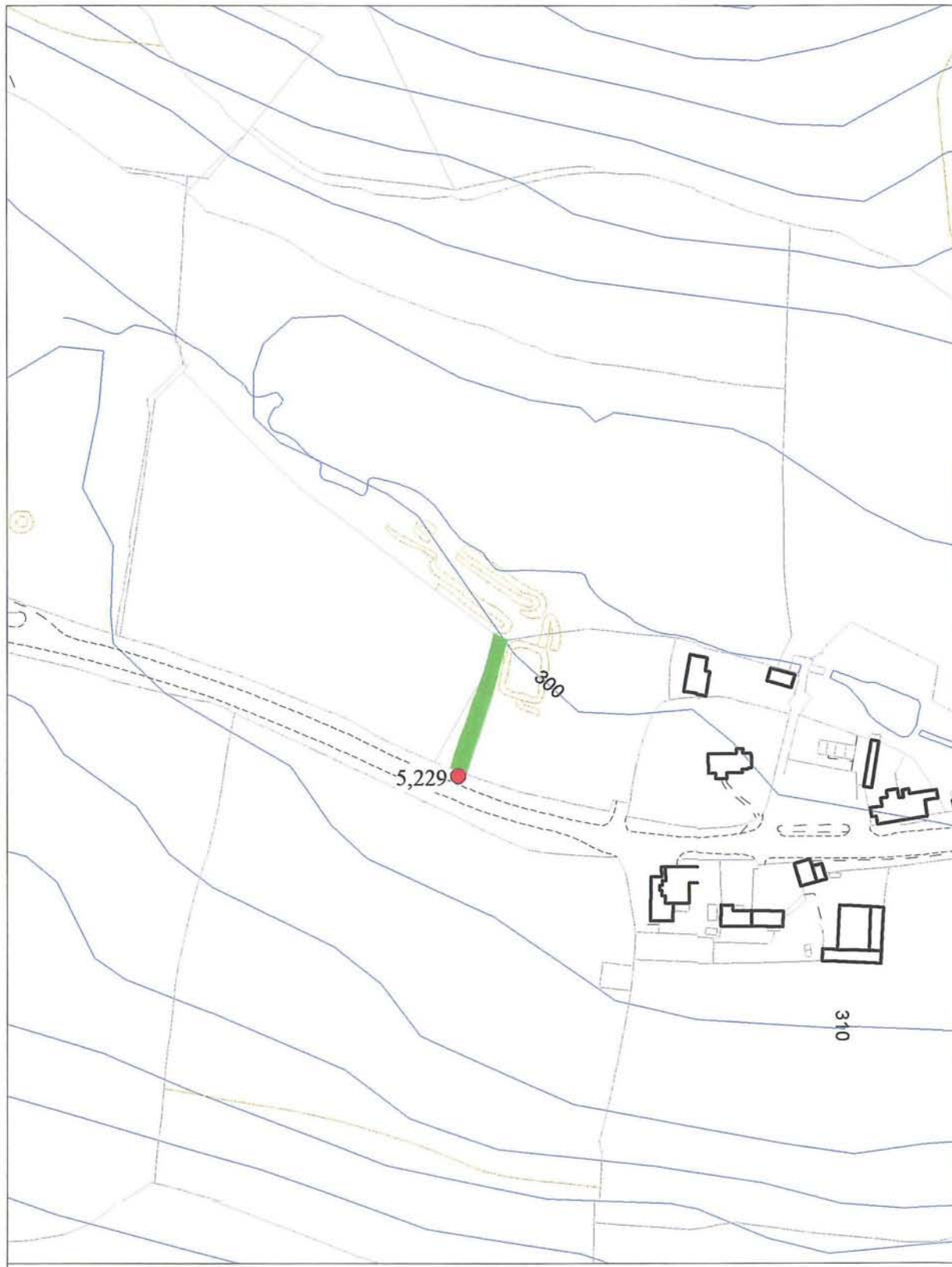
Location
Situated on the S side of the Summergill Brook and to the north of the main road that passes through the village of Llanfihangel Nant Melan. On ground rising from the valley floor.

Associations
Mill site at north end of bank.

One and a half miles upstream of Fron Hill Dyke, an apparently similar earthwork (PRN 2145).

Sources
CPAT 1994
Dunn (letter and plan) 1976
OS record 1978
SMR

RAF vertical APs: 106G/UK/836 Nos 3086-7, dated 25/09/1945
RAF vertical AP: 106G/UK/1190 No 4089, dated 27/02/1946
RCAHMW oblique AP: 92-CS-056



Llanfihangel Nant Melan Dyke (PRN 5229), Scale 1:2,500

Two Tumps Dyke II **PRN 6242** **SAM Mg063(POW)**

NGR From SO11988439 to SO12018423 **MAP** SO18SW

History
The earthwork was first recognised towards the end of the 19th century and was depicted on early Ordnance Survey maps.

It was described under the name of "The Double Dyche" in the RCAHMW Inventory of 1913, and was then examined by Cyril Fox in 1932.

Morphology
The dyke consists of a bank with a ditch and counterscarp on the west side. No dimensions specific to this section of the Two Tumps complex have been encountered.

Location
Two Tumps Dyke II is one of several dykes in southern Montgomeryshire and northern Radnorshire (Powys) in the vicinity of the Kerry ridgeway. This one is on the western side of the Cilfaesty Hill commons and east of the B4355 linking Newton and Knighton.

CPAT AP 87-MB-1169 gives an excellent overall view of the relationship between this section of dyke and others (PRNs 1882 and 4034).

The earthwork, one element of the Two Tumps complex, runs almost due north to south for a distance of around 150m, from the valley holding the headwaters of the River Teme terminating close to the crest and back from the next dingle; there is no evidence that it continued downslope.

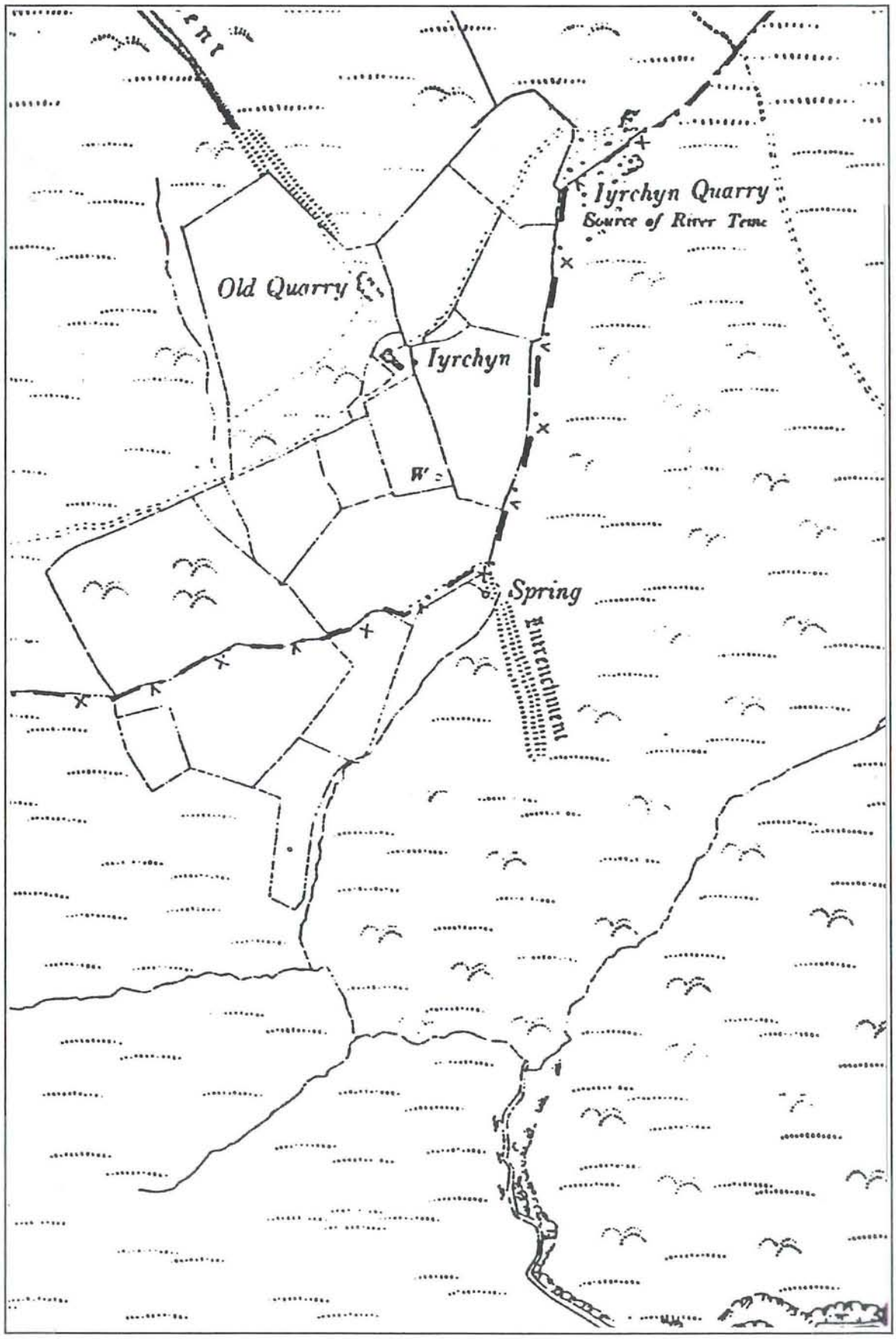
Associations
Two other lengths of earthwork (PRNs 4034 and 1882), both to the north-west are claimed as integral parts of the same system.

A field boundary runs on the same alignment across the U-shaped valley to the north to the abandoned farm of Iyrchyn. This could indicate a logical continuation of the earthwork, albeit one removed by agricultural operations, and there is some cropmark evidence to support this view.

Sources
Cadw Field Monument Warden's report
Fox 1932/33
Fox 1955, 168
Morris 1889
RCAHMW 1913
SMR

CPAT oblique AP: 85-17-11
CPAT oblique AP: 86-MB-141
CPAT oblique APs: 87-MB-1169, 1171 & 1172
RCAHMW oblique AP: 925314-21

Two Tumps Dyke II (PRN 6242), Scale 1:2,500



Two Tumps Dyke II (PRN 6242), 2nd edition OS 1:10,560 plan.

Two Tumps Dyke II (PRN 6242), overall view of dyke

Two Tumps Dyke II (PRN 6242), overall view of dyke and its possible connection to PRN 4034

Cowlod Dyke **PRN 6871** **SAM**

NGR From SO16526343 to SO16546354 **MAP** SO16SE

History
Earthwork that was first recorded during the 1992 Radnor Forest survey.

Morphology
A bank, about 108m long and 4.5m wide.

Location
It runs across the base of the spur called Cowlod, where it projects from the main massif of the Radnor Forest in central Powys.

Its course is approximately N/S in a curve from the edge of Fron-las Dingle, where it steepens markedly, ending at a trackway on the N.

Associations
Possibly related to the dyke (PRN 993) which is approximately 700m NNW.

Sources
Owen 1992
SMR

CPAT APs: 92-MB-128 & 130
RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/1873 No 1299, dated 04/12/1946

Cowlod Dyke (PRN 6871), Scale 1:2,500

Cowlod Dyke (PRN 6871), overall view of dyke (in foreground)

Cowlod Dyke (PRN 6871), overall view of dyke showing its geographical location

Cyrn-y-Brain dyke III **PRN 19604** **SAM**

NGR From SJ20524828 to SJ20524834 **MAP** SJ24NW

History
Earthwork first recorded during the Ruabon Mountain upland survey in 1995.

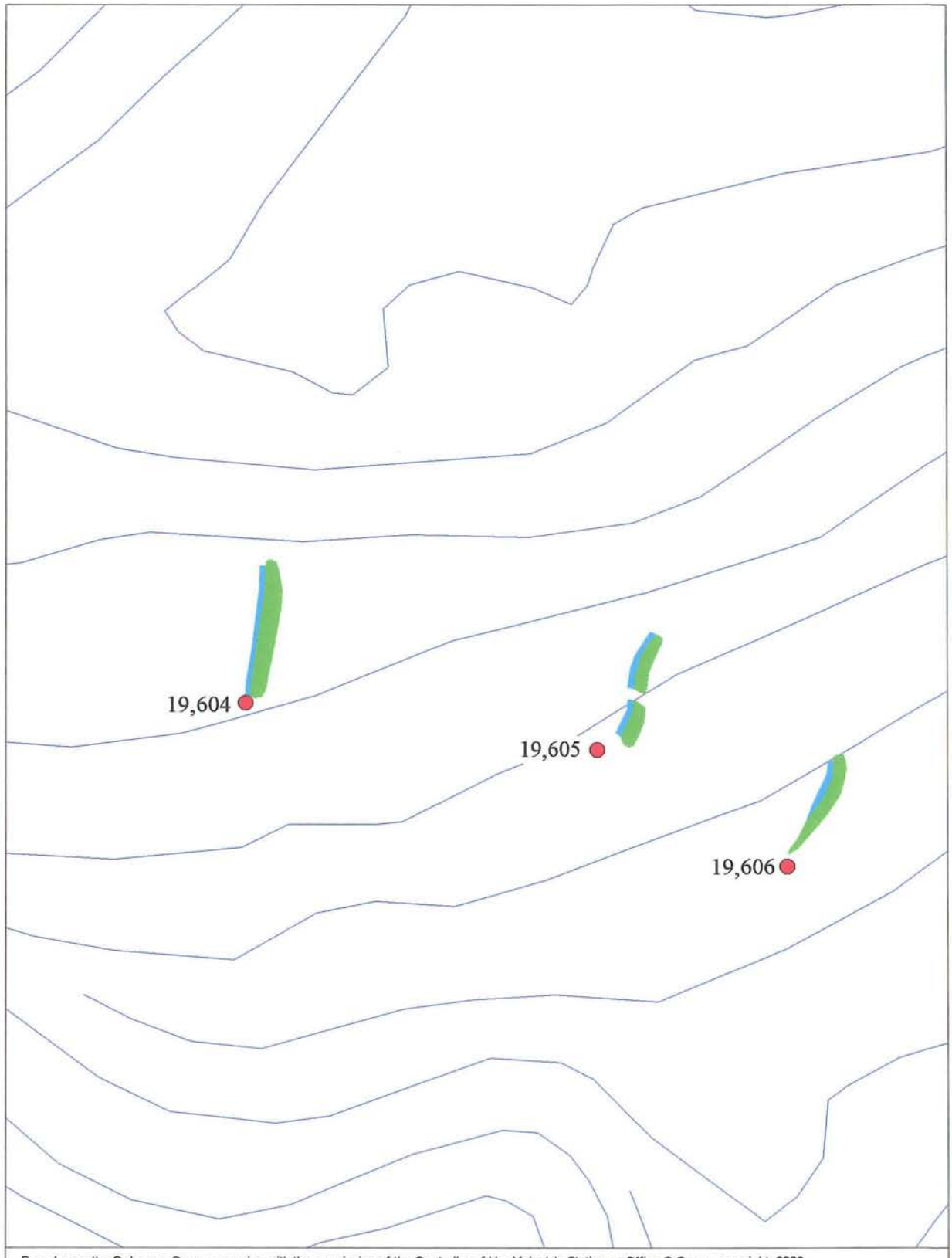
Morphology
Linear bank, 71m long, aligned N/S, with traces of a ditch on its W side. The bank is 0.8m high and 7.1m wide. There is a well-defined ditch terminal at N end, but the ditch fades out further S.

Location
The earthwork is situated on the S slope of Cyrn-y-brain hill, overlooking the upper end of the valley which runs south, past Valle Crucis Abbey, to the River Dee. S end terminates c.30m short of steeply sloping ground, while N end terminates c.20m short of steeper ground.

Associations
Probably related to two similar earthworks (PRNs 19605 and 19606) on Cyrn-y-Brain hill.

Sources
Silvester, B, 1995
Silvester, R J & Hankinson, R, 1995
SMR

RAF vertical APs: 58/1416/F21 Nos 107 & 108, dated 21/04/1954
RAF vertical APs: 58/1461/F22 Nos 46 & 47, dated 03/06/1954



Cyrn-y-Brain dyke (PRN 19604) in relation to PRNs 19605 and 19606, Scale 1:2,500

Cyrn-y-Brain dyke I **PRN 19605** **SAM**

NGR From SJ20674826 to SJ20694830 **MAP** SJ24NW

History
Earthwork first recorded during the Ruabon Mountain upland survey in 1995.

Morphology
Slightly sinuous bank with ditch on W side, 47m long and 6.6m wide. Possibly a slight inward curve at N end.

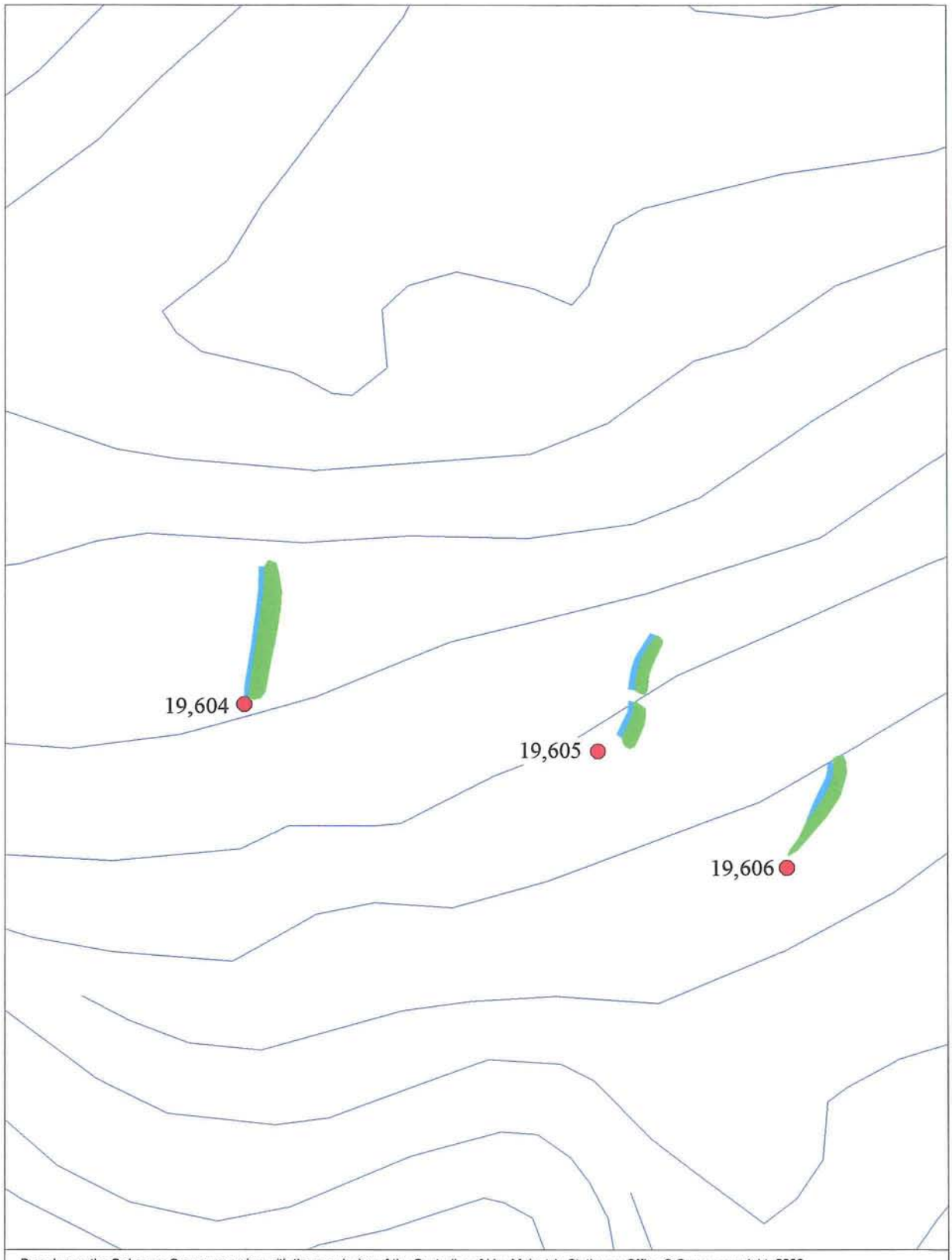
Location
Site is situated on the S slope of Cyrn-y-Brain hill, overlooking the upper end of the valley which runs south, past Valle Crucis Abbey, to the River Dee.

Associations
Later trackway cuts through earthwork.

Probably related to two similar earthworks (PRNs 19604 and 19606) on Cyrn-y-Brain hill.

Sources
Silvester, R J & Hankinson, R, 1995
SMR

RAF vertical APs: 58/1416/F21 Nos 107 & 108, dated 21/04/1954
RAF vertical APs: 58/1461/F22 Nos 46 & 47, dated 03/06/1954



Cyrn-y-Brain bank and ditch I (PRN 19605) in relation to PRNs 19604 and 19606, Scale 1:2,500

Cyrn-y-Brain dyke II **PRN 19606** **SAM**

NGR From SJ20754821 to SJ20774825 **MAP** SJ24NW

History
Earthwork first recorded during the Ruabon Mountain upland survey in 1995.

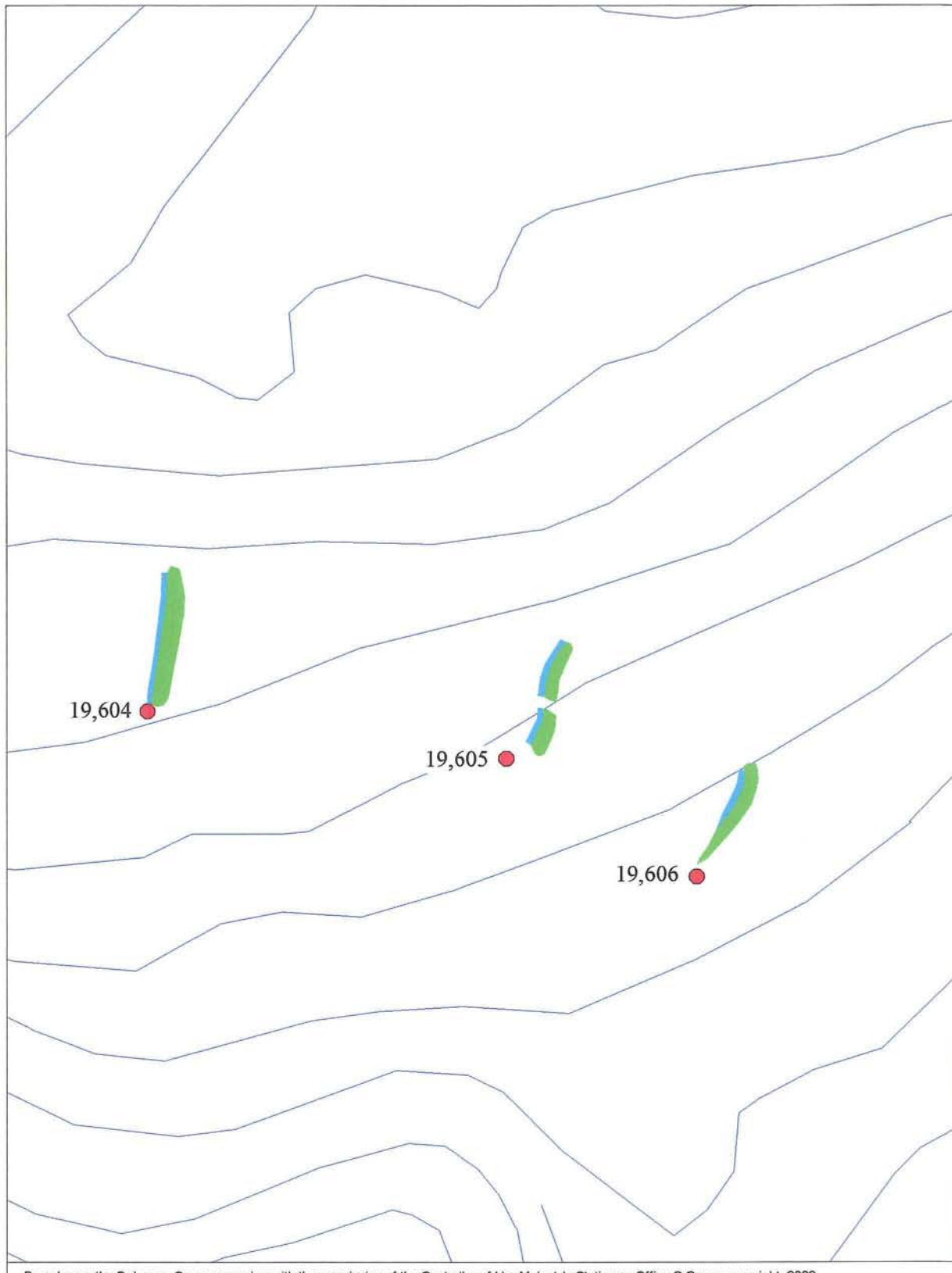
Morphology
Bank and ditch, aligned N/S, 42m long and 9.2m wide.

Location
Site is situated on the S slope of Cyrn-y-Brain hill, overlooking the upper end of the valley which runs south, past Valle Crucis Abbey, to the River Dee.

Associations
Probably related to two similar earthworks (PRNs 19604 and 19605) on Cyrn-y-Brain hill.

Sources
Silvester, R J & Hankinson, R, 1995
SMR

RAF vertical APs: 58/1416/F21 Nos 107 & 108, dated 21/04/1954
RAF vertical APs: 58/1461/F22 Nos 46 & 47, dated 03/06/1954



Cyrn-y-Brain bank and ditch II (PRN 19606) in relation to PRNs 19604 and 19605, Scale 1:2,500

Red Hill Cross Dyke **PRN 35471** **SAM Rd183(POW)**

NGR From SO15044980 to SO15004987 **MAP** SO14NE

History
The site was first recorded as an earthwork during the Radnor Hills Upland Survey of 1996-7, and scheduled in June 2000.

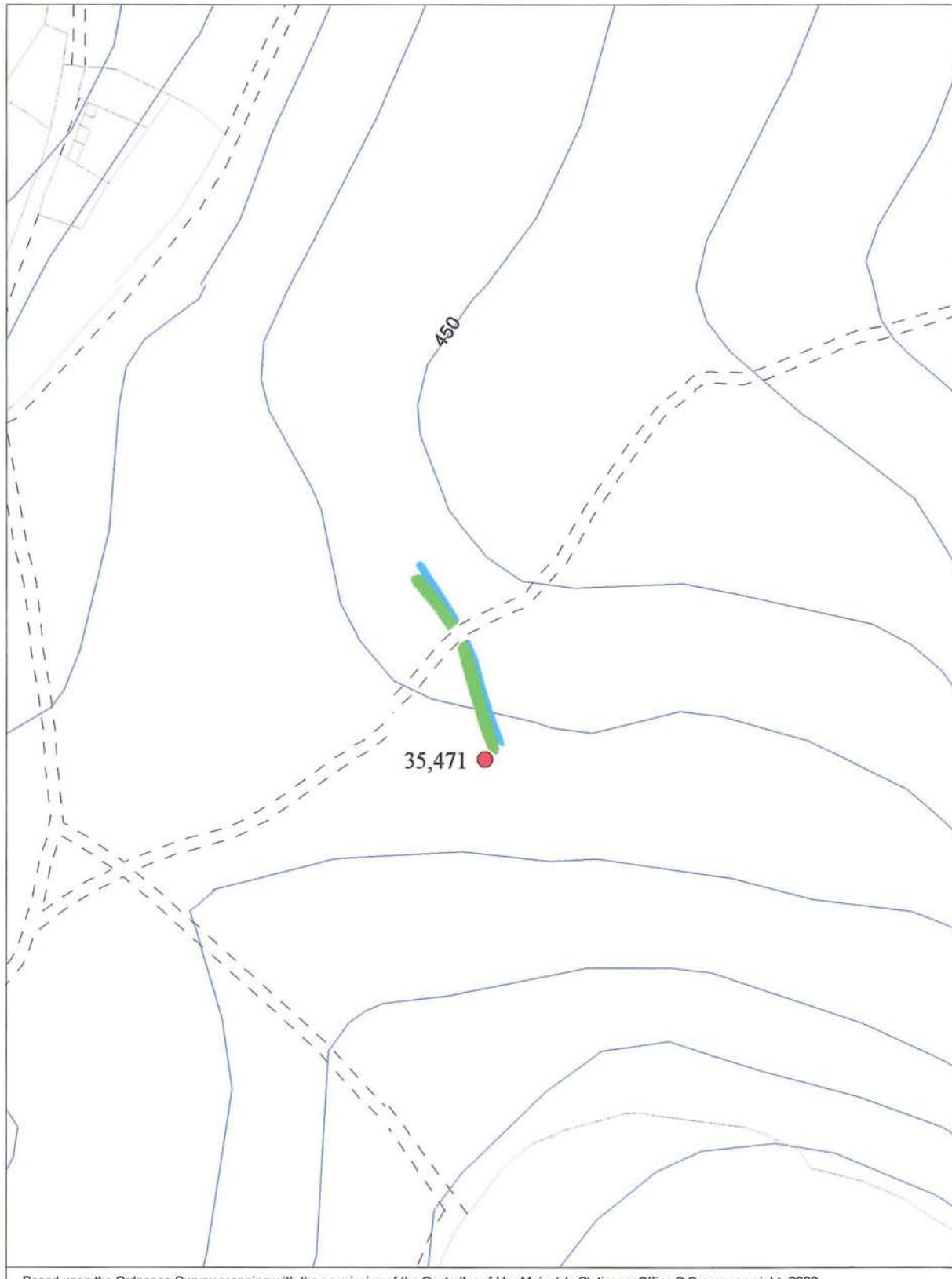
Morphology
A slightly curving bank, about 110m long, 4.5m wide and 0.8m high and running approx. N to S. A shallow ditch on the E side is 2.5m wide.

The bank is broken in at least two places by later trackways.

Location
It is situated on the Llanbedr and Glascwm Hills upland, one of the commons of central Radnorshire (Powys). It crosses the crest of a broad ridge running SW from Red Hill and to the E of a saddle.

Associations

Sources
Hankinson and Silvester 1997
SMR



Red Hill Cross Dyke (PRN 35471), Scale 1:2,500

Bwlch y Cibau Dyke **PRN 50449** **SAM Mg077(POW)**

NGR From SJ17801638 to SJ18601713 **MAP** SJ11NE

History
The earthwork was first recorded in a publication of 1876.

The RCAHM Inventory described its course in detail in 1911, and where multivallate earthworks were seen near the cottages called Bitfalld (Bidffald), it was suggested that they formed part of a defensive enclosure. It is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument and CADW field monument warden visits of 1987 and 1998 have added further detail to the site description.

A 50m length of dyke was deliberately levelled by the owner in 1987; the previous appearance of this section is recorded on CPAT AP 86-MB-434.

Morphology
Bwlch y Cibau Dyke is approximately 1.3km long. Its morphology is complex, varying from a scarp or berm with associated ditch at its simplest, to a complex triple banked earthwork with associated ditches. The more common form appears to be a single or double bank with associated ditch.

Commencing at its W end near Pen-y-boncyn, the earthwork is mainly a single bank or scarp, averaging 3m high. It is interrupted at Ty-newydd by farm buildings, but beyond this point the earthwork becomes more complex and consists mainly of a bank with a parallel scarp. As it nears Bitffald, the earthwork becomes more complex still and here there are three well-preserved banks; these run from SJ 1854 1666 to SJ 1859 1668. The earthworks are mostly interrupted at Bitffald, but become more simplified when they re-appear on the N side of the dwelling, where the dyke is represented by a double bank with associated ditches; one section has been largely removed by land improvement but the course of the ditches is evident on AP sources. The double banked section ends near a stream flanked by a plantation; to the N of the stream there are hints of a continuation, perhaps a double cropmark ditch, on CPAT AP 89-MB-769. The N terminal of this possible extension is at SJ 18551739.

Location
The dyke runs S from the Ceunant Mawr valley to Bitffald cottages before turning in a general SW direction and ending at the minor road which passes Pen-y-boncyn. The topographic location of the site is on the ridge which runs along the NW side of the valley of the River Vyrnwy, 5km NE of the village of Meifod.

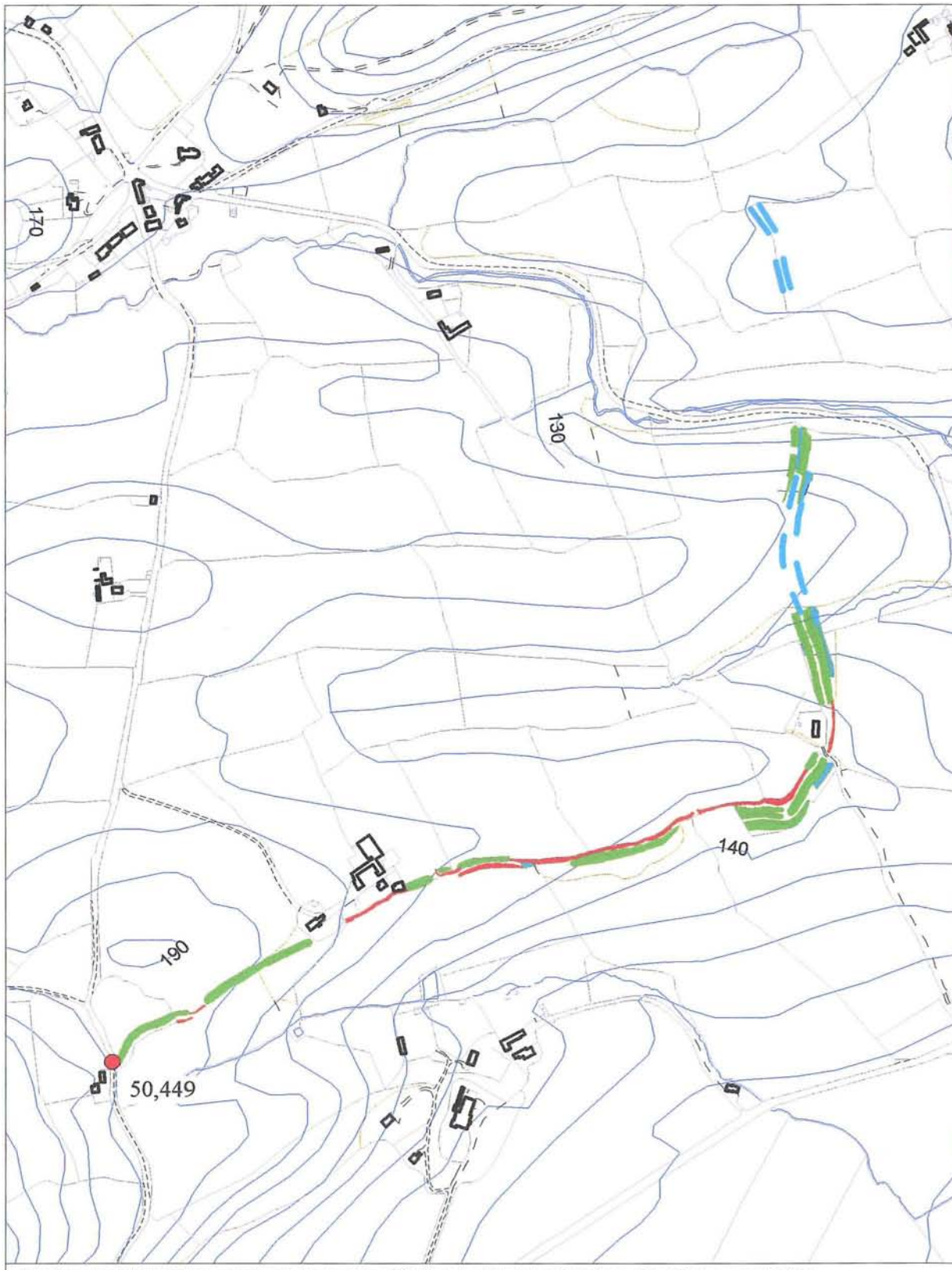
There is a possible continuation in a field to the N of the Ceunant Mawr valley; this is visible on CPAT AP 89-MB-769.

Associations
There has been a suggestion that the more complex section of the earthworks was originally part of a defensive enclosure.

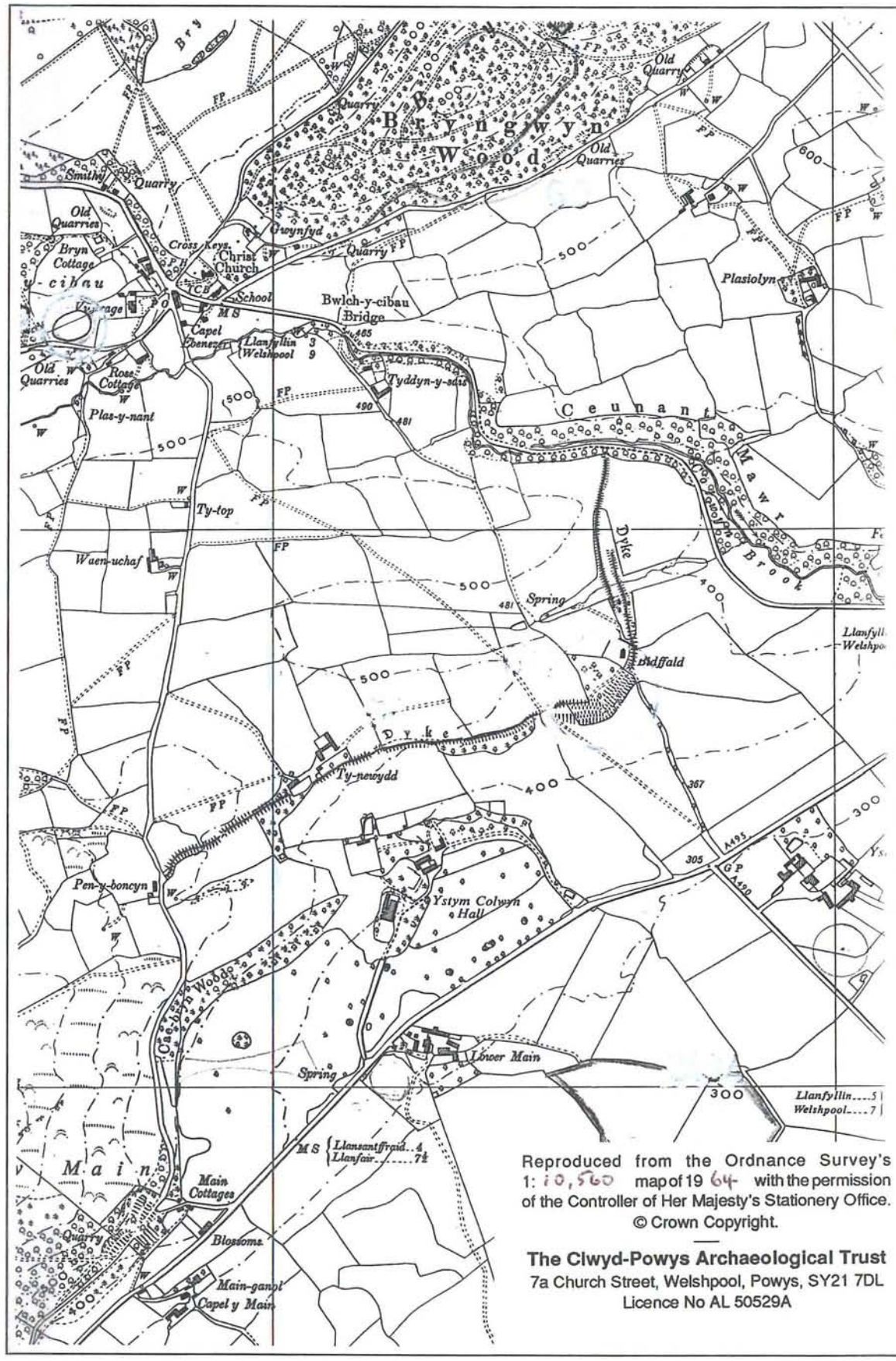
Sources
CADW field monument warden visits
Wynne-Edwards 1876
OS record 1972
RCAHM 1911
SMR

CPAT oblique APs: 84-40-02, 07 & 09

CPAT oblique AP: 86-MB-434
CPAT oblique AP: 87-MB-299
CPAT oblique APs: 89-MB-769 & 1216



Bwlch-y-cibau Dyke (PRN 50449), Scale 1:7,000



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Bwlch-y-cibau Dyke (PRN 50449), OS 1:10,560 plan.

84-40-2

SJ 183166
Bwlch-y-cibau dyke,
Meifod,
Powys (M).
26 December 1984.

PAR 0064, SAM Mg 77

Bwlch-y-cibau Dyke (PRN 50449), overall view of dyke

89-MB-769

Bwlch-y-cibau Dyke (PRN 50449), NE end of dyke showing its possible continuation to N

Clawdd Mawr Dyke **PRN 497** **SAM**

NGR From SH97361115 to SH98011106 **MAP** SH91SE

History
This linear earthwork was first described in the Royal Commission Inventory of 1911, though it had already appeared on earlier Ordnance Survey maps as a 'supposed fortification'. It was visited by Cyril Fox in 1933 who found it difficult to establish its purpose for it did not enclose an area nor did it control a route line; significantly he noted too that it was readily confused with the "network of other fence dykes which occur in many places over this region". Post-war aerial photographs suggest that it is not dissimilar in size to other parts of the nearby field system, and it seems likely that this is little more than a head dyke, albeit a rather sinuous one.

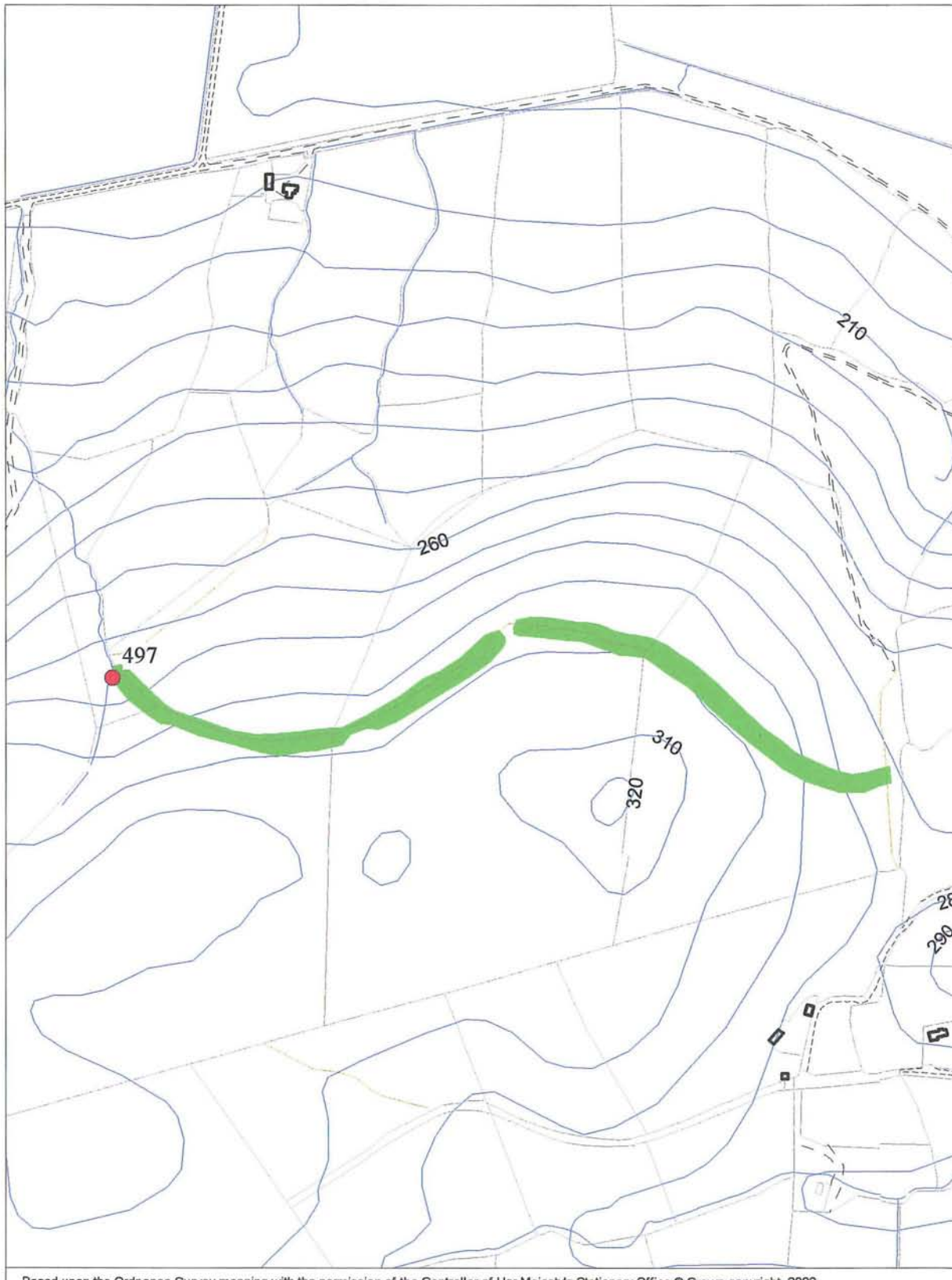
Morphology
A sinuous linear earthwork, apparently with a stone built central section that has a rock cut ditch on its uphill side. Four smaller dykes are said to run downhill from it towards the River Banwy and seem to reinforce the argument for it being part of a field system. However, the RCAHMW claimed it ran for more than one mile on Boncyn y Llwyn, 'practically linking the rectangular camp at Llymystyn with the circular mound at Moelpart', and that prior to ploughing in the early years of the 20th century, it was 6' high and 3-4' broad at the top.

Location
The earthwork is situated on the S side of the Banwy valley, approximately 1.5km WSW of the village of Foel.

Associations

Sources
Fox 1933
OS record 1961
RCAHM 1911, 100
SMR

CPAT oblique APs: 86-MB-100 & 101
RAF vertical AP: 106G/UK 1468 No 3146, dated 04/05/1946



Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 497), Scale 1:5,000

96-MB-101

Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 497), overall view of dyke

96-MB-100

Clawdd Mawr Dyke (PRN 497), overall view of dyke and its surroundings

Gwar y Cae earthwork **PRN 964** **SAM**

NGR From SO08007687 to SO07997690 **MAP** SO07NE

History
This earthwork was recorded in the 19th century on Ordnance Survey maps, and described in the RCAHMW Inventory for Radnorshire in 1913 as a short dyke. Subsequently, the possibility that it might be a pillow mound was mooted (NMR 1978) while a field investigator from the Ordnance Survey, also in 1978, suggested that except for the bank it had the characteristics of a linear quarry, whilst dismissing the notions that it was a pillow mound, dyke or defensive work. In 1998 in a further addition to the list of alternatives a member of CPAT's staff. advanced the view that it was an unfinished hillfort.

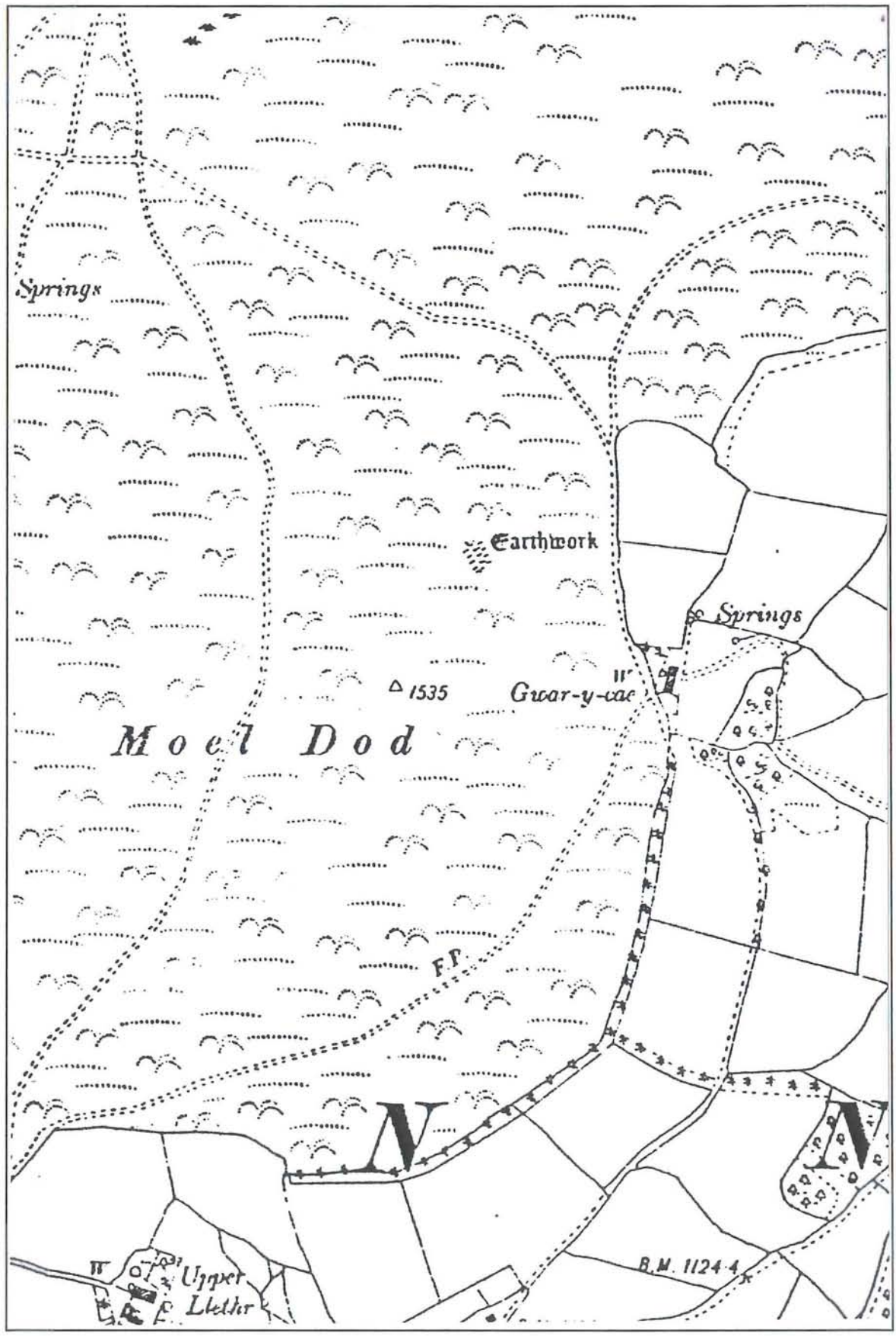
Morphology
The earthwork consists of a slightly curving bank with a ditch on the NE and a counterscarp bank. It is approximately 30m long and overall about 17m wide; its bank rises to a maximum height of 0.7m.

Location
The earthwork is located on common land on a NE facing slope below the summit of Moel Dod.

Associations

Sources
NMR
RCAHMW 1913, 58
SMR

CPAT oblique APs: 86-MB-309 & 310



Gwar y Cae earthwork (PRN 964), 2nd edition OS 1:10,560 plan.

Gwar y Cae earthwork (PRN 964), overall view

Creggin Dyke **PRN 1672** **SAM**

NGR From SN97237064 to SN97907062 **MAP** SN97SE

History
A well-preserved dyke running parallel to a minor road was recorded by the RCAHMW in 1913, and assumed to be part of a larger system incorporating the Gwar y Ty Dyke (PRN 1944).

Marks of a linear feature, faintly visible between SN 9754 7097 and SN 9776 7096 (approx 220m long) were spotted by the OS on a 1947 RAF AP in 1976. However, it now seems likely that the evidence seen by the OS is not the recorded dyke, and re-examination of the RAF APs shows a bank, which fits with the description of this feature, running ENE from Llidiart Carnau then curving to run E and further on SE, ending at a stream. This appears to represent a boundary delimiting the former extent of enclosure in this area, probably associated with Upper Nant Serth farm.

No trace of a linear earthwork could be seen by the OS in 1978, though the possibility that it had been ploughed out was noted. It is unclear where the appellation 'Creggin Dyke' originated. It appears only in the SMR, and not in any of the original records.

Morphology
In 1913 the earthwork was described as being 1.2m wide at the top and 1.8m high, with a faint ditch beside it. No further information is available.

Location
What has been called the Creggin Dyke is sited in western Radnorshire, about 3km north of Rhayader in uplands immediately to the east of the valley of the Wye.

In the absence of specific details its relation to the natural topography cannot be accurately assessed but it appears to run slightly tangentially to the axis of a gently sloping spur. If the site does indeed reflect the former limit of enclosure then it runs upslope from Nant Serth stream before following the south side of an east facing spur.

Associations

Sources
RCAHM 1913, 144
OS record 1978
SMR

RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/2095 Nos 1047-8, dated 28/05/1947
RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/2531 No 4270, dated 24/03/1948

Waunmarteg bank **PRN 4159** **SAM**

NGR From SO00907672 to SO01657670 **MAP** SO07NW

History
The earthwork was first recorded by the RCAHMW during the 1978 examination of vertical aerial photographs, and was considered to be earlier than other adjacent features. It was visited by the Ordnance Survey in the same year who were unable to ascribe a date or function to it.

Morphology
Described by the OS as a ploughed-out bank 4m wide with flanking ditches 2m wide, extending for the width of the field (150m).

Location
Earthwork in the hills of north-west Radnorshire (Powys), west of the valley of the Ithon. It is situated west of a minor road that runs south of Waun Farm.

The central NGR is given as SO 01317644, but the RCAHMW recorded its terminals at SO 00907671 and SO 0165 7670.

Associations

Sources
OS record 1978
SMR

RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/2095 No 3305

Llanafanfawr Dyke **PRN 4340** **SAM**

NGR From SN917557 to SN808512 **MAP** SN95NW

History
This earthwork, supposedly up to 25km long, was first recorded by Noel Jerman in 1930s, who provided general locational details.

Although the OS were able to identify in 1974 what they thought might be sections of it on high level vertical aerial photographs, a field investigation three years later found no traces. Similarly work by the RCAHMW for the Brecknock Inventory appears to have failed to identify any traces of the earthwork.

Morphology
No inforamtion available.

Location
The earthwork reputedly runs across the hilly terrain of north-west Brecknock (Powys), from Maen Gam (SN 917557) via Hen Glawdd which shows as a placename (at SN 913552) to Fannog Farm (SN 819516), with a possible continuation to Cwrt-y-Cadno (SN 691441).

Associations

Sources
Jerman 1935b, 83-4
OS record 1977
RCAHMW 1997, 274
SMR

RAF vertical AP: 106G/UK/1470 Nos 4342-8, dated 04/05/1946
RAF vertical AP: F41/58/3916 Nos 113-120, dated 07/11/1960

Sylfaen Dyke **PRN 4573** **SAM**

NGR From SJ17700660 to SJ18650675 **MAP** SJ10NE

History
The earthwork was first recorded by CPAT in 1978, and is almost certainly an earlier boundary of the common on Y Golfa, but appears to have been termed a 'dyke' at the time of its identification.

Morphology
Earthwork consists of a bank and ditch, but no information is available about its size.

Location
No details provided.

Associations

Sources
SMR

Kerry Hill Earthwork **PRN 4714** **SAM**

NGR From SO111851 to **MAP** SO18NW

History
The site was first identified on a CPAT visit in 1978, when it was described as a bank and ditch with a counterscarp on the downhill side. No further record is available and in view of the proximity of the nearby Two Tumps Dyke system (PRNs 1882 & 4034), there is the possibility of confusion with elements of that.

Morphology
Bank and ditch with a counterscarp bank on the downhill side, running along the contour. The bank rises above the ditch to a height of 0.7m. Both ends have been ploughed out.

Location
No adequate detail has been provided.

Associations

Sources
SMR

Erewillim Dyke **PRN 5225** **SAM**

NGR From SO173516 to **MAP** SO15SE

History
The SMR record of this earthwork is vague in the extreme, and it is not at all evident how or why the 'dyke' suffix was applied.

An AP of 1946 shows what appears to be a leat at this location.

Morphology
No information available.

Location

Associations
A possible association with the Black Hill Dyke (PRN 5226) needs to be considered.

Sources
SMR

RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/1873 No 6212, dated 04/12/1946

Black Hill Dyke **PRN 5226** **SAM**

NGR From SO17355199 to SO17505190 **MAP** SO15SE

History
The first indication of this earthwork, unusually, appears on the 1849 Tithe map where an 'Ancient Ditch' is depicted.

In 1913 the RCAHMW described a bank with a ditch on the upper or N side; the course of the earthwork was easily followed in winter, especially up the steep slope of Black Hill. The W end terminated almost at the crest of the hill and the E end faded into flat ground.

When the Ordnance Survey Field Investigator visited in 1978 the dyke was recorded as much shorter, and was considered to form a barrier across a saddle between two valleys, although in its present form only a little of the saddle is controlled.

Morphology
Bank and ditch with two gaps, one probably original.

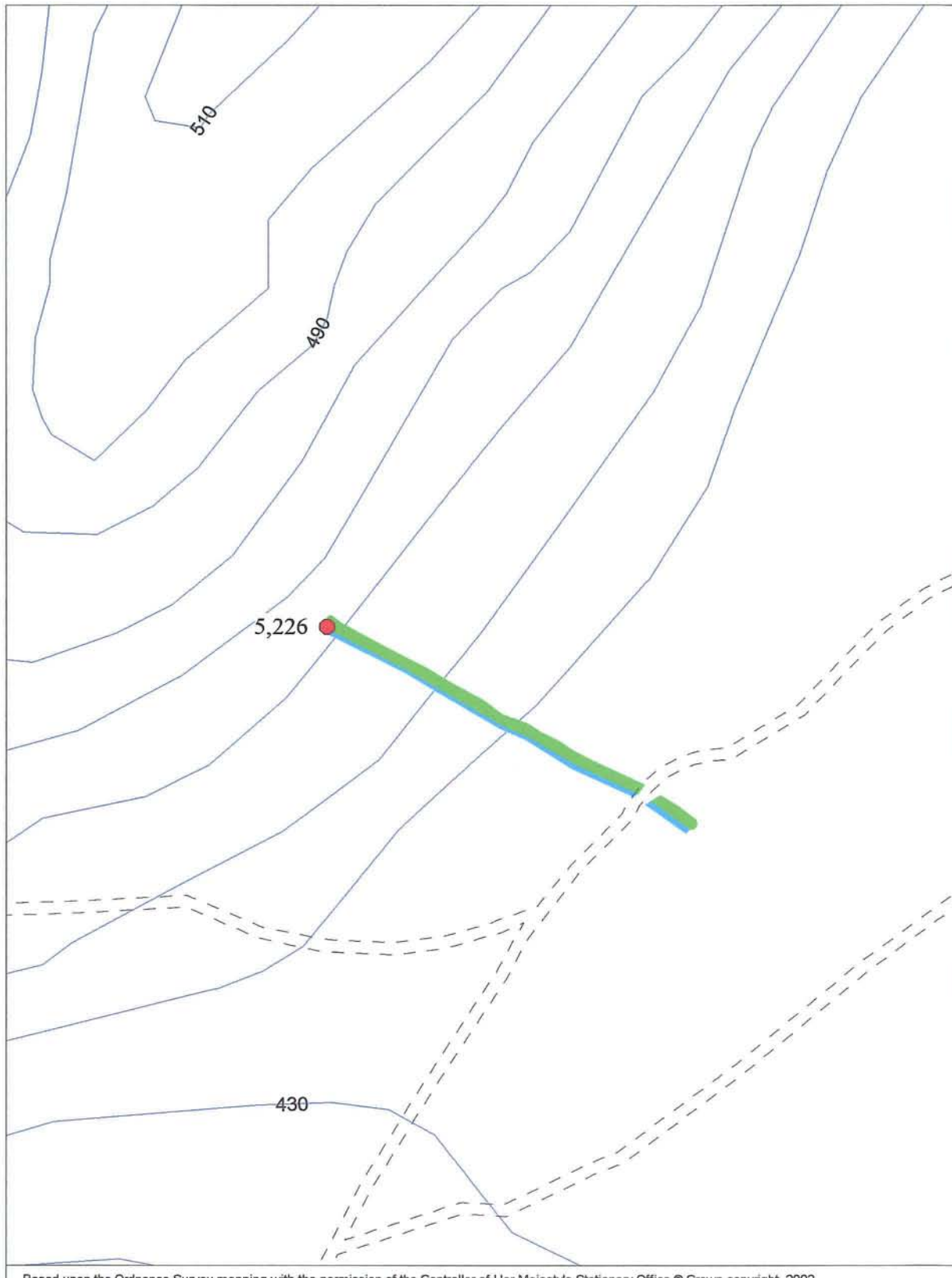
The Tithe survey showed the earthwork as about 450m long but this is likely to be an exaggeration. The OS recorded it as 174m long, commencing 100m up the south-east facing slope of Black Hill and terminating in level ground on the edge of a marsh. It was no more than 4m wide and 0.3m high, with a ditch on the south-west, 1.5m wide and 0.3m deep.

Location
Black Hill Dyke runs down the hill of that name, itself part of the Glascwm Hill commons in central Radnorshire (Powys).
The Tithe map had it running along the boundary between the parishes of Bryngwyn and Colva, but the parish boundary as shown on modern maps lies 100m to the south.

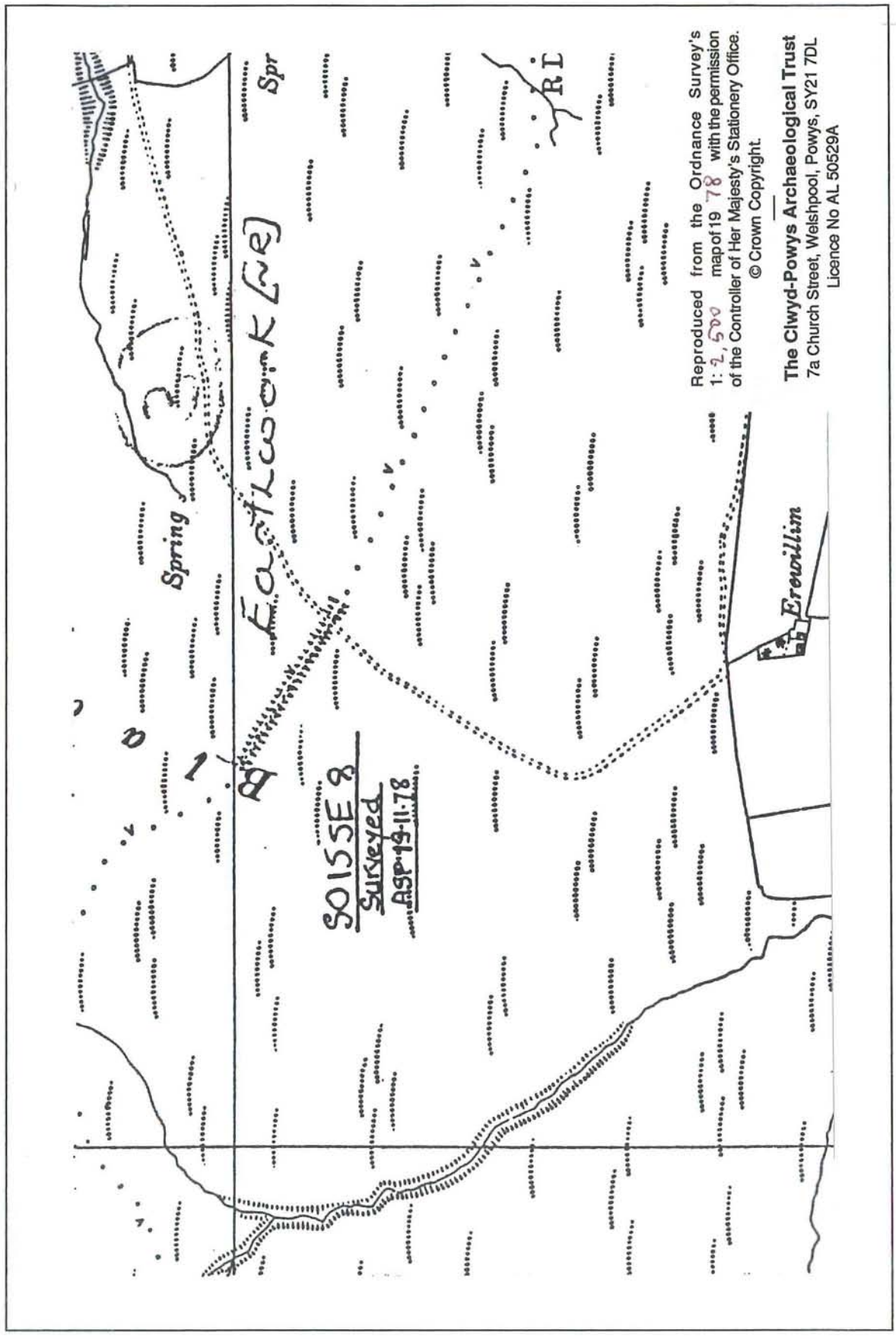
Associations
A possible hafod site (PRN 6057) nearby.

Sources
NMR archive
OS record 1978
RCAHM 1913, 19
SMR

RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/1873 No 6212, dated 4/12/1946



Black Hill Dyke (PRN 5226), Scale 1:2,500



Black Hill Dyke (PRN 5226), OS plan surveyed at 1:10,560. Not to scale.

Hen Gefn Dyke **PRN 5232** **SAM**

NGR From SO19137021 to SO19537089 **MAP** SO17SE

History
In 1935 H N Jerman claimed that local people referred to a low dyke that ran from the River Lugg, a mile north-west of Llangunllo, to Bleddfa. It was said to have been visible in earlier years a mile south-west of Llangunllo but the land had been enclosed and the earthwork was suffering from agricultural use.

Hen Gefn house is located at SO 1976 7090, and a ridge is visible on RAF APs from 1946 and 1947, although this could be a natural spine of rock.

Morphology

Location
From a point approximately 300m west of Hen Gefn, the feature identified on the RAF AP sources runs south-west for approximately 900m, following the crest of a spur.

Associations
The possibility remains that this could be a duplicate record of Pen y Clawdd Dyke II (PRN 1986).

Sources
Jerman 1935a, 282
Jerman 1935b, 84
OS record 1977
SMR

RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/1873 No 4142, dated 04/12/1946
RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK/2095 No 2235, dated 28/05/1947

Disgwylfa Dyke **PRN 5370** **SAM**

NGR From SO25952375 to **MAP** SO22SE

History
This earthwork was first recorded by CPAT in 1980, and again noted in 1996. Interpretations have varied between a short dyke and a 19th-century estate boundary.

Morphology
A double bank, each c.1.2m high, and overall 10m wide.

Location
Runs across the neck of a ridge in the Black Mountains.

Associations

Sources
CPAT 1980
Thomas and Earwood 1996
SMR

Maes Clawdd Earthwork **PRN 5565** **SAM**

NGR From SO16653790 to **MAP** SO13NE

History
A bank with flanking ditches was first recorded by CPAT in 1979. This has not subsequently been corroborated, but the RCAHMW have recorded a ditch in the wood at SO 1573 3720, where a quarry is depicted on the 1st edition OS map.

The SMR gloss on the original record was that this was probably part of a former field system and could well be a medieval boundary bank.

Morphology
Bank, 3m wide, with flanking ditches.

Location
Recorded as running E/W, but no further detail.

Associations
Nothing visible at given NGR on CPAT AP 87-MB-230, perhaps field has been improved.

Thought to be part of a former field system though could be a medieval boundary.

Sources
CPAT 1979
SMR

Mount Pleasant Dyke **PRN 6680** **SAM**

NGR From SO03758636 to SO03728625 **MAP** SO08NW

History
This earthwork was first recorded by CPAT in 1991, when it was described as a linear cross-dyke.

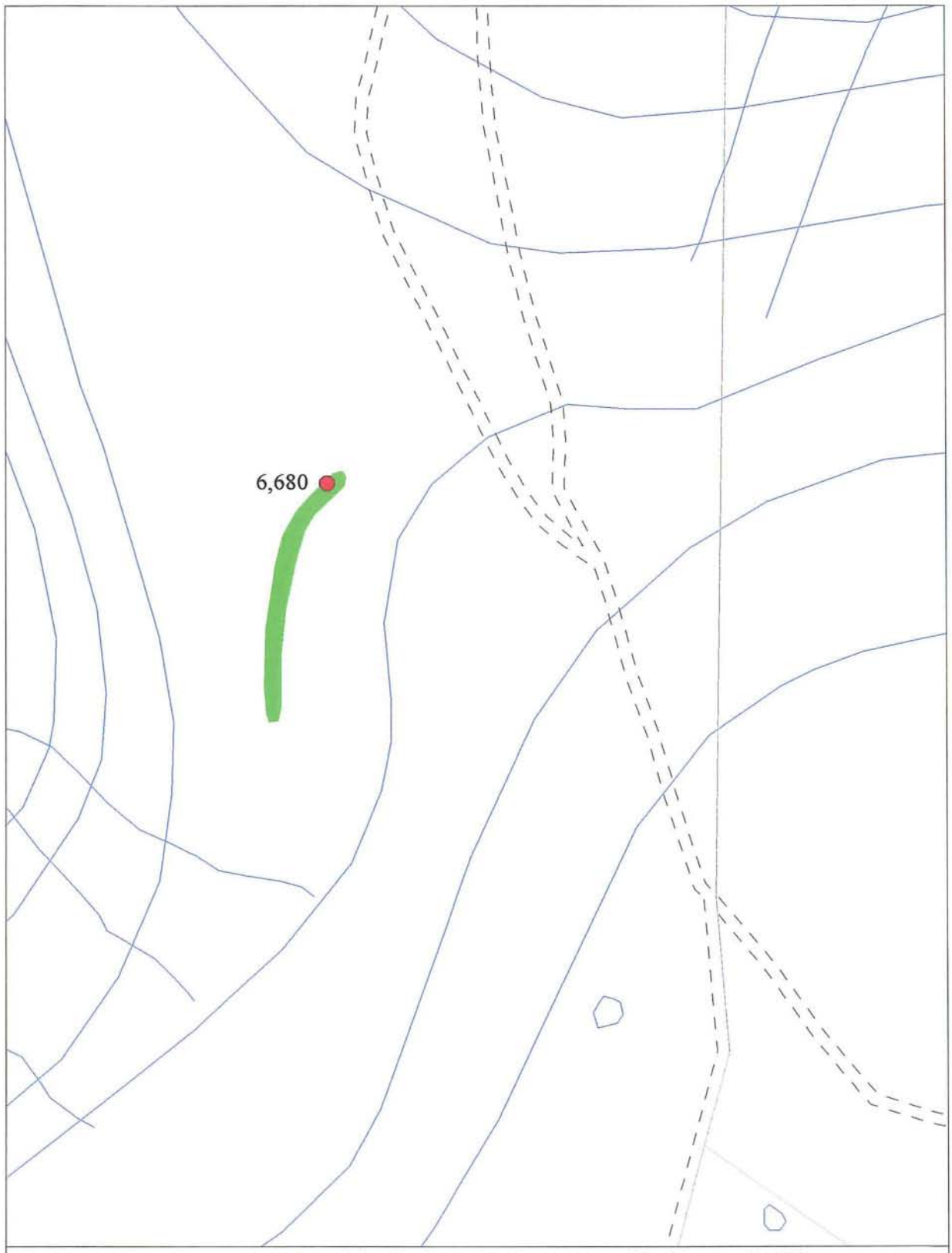
Morphology
A linear earthwork about 120m long, some 2m wide and 0.7m high.

Location
The earthwork runs on a N/S line and is located near the crest of a ridge on the E side of the River Severn, 2km to the SE of Llandinam village in southern Montgomeryshire (Powys).

Associations
It may be associated with an adjacent earthwork (PRN 3711).

Sources
Owen and Silvester 1991
SMR

RAF vertical AP: 540/488 No 3142, dated 11/05/1951



Mount Pleasant Dyke (PRN 6680), Scale 1:2,500

Fawnog y Bont dyke **PRN 6725** **SAM**

NGR From SN84508300 to SN84658300 **MAP** SN88SW

History
An earthwork first recorded by CPAT in 1991. It was described as a linear earthwork but named as a dyke. crossing the SW end of the ridge.

Morphology
An earthen bank, about 2m wide and 1m high.

Location
It crosses the SW end of ridge to the N of the River Wye, and continues downslope to the S, approximately 700m ENE of Pont Rhydgaled in western Montgomeryshire (Powys).

Associations

Sources
Owen 1991
SMR

Esgairnantau bank and ditch **PRN 6862** **SAM**

NGR From SO17906184 to SO18136206 **MAP** SO16SE

History
Earthwork that was first recorded during the 1992 Upland Initiative survey of Radnor Forest.

Morphology
A bank and ditch, approximately 470m long, the bank 2m wide.

Location
Earthwork situated near crest of ridge to W of Davy Morgan's Dingle, within the area of the Radnor Forest. It runs parallel to the ridge crest for 270m before turning through 90 degrees and losing its ditch, then runs for 200m downslope ending at a scarp overlooking Davy Morgan's Dingle.

Associations

Sources
Owen 1992
SMR

Esgairnantau bank and ditch (PRN 6862), Scale 1:2,500

Drum Ddu N bank and ditch **PRN 13434** **SAM**

NGR From SN95946078 to **MAP** SN96SE

History
Earthwork first described during an Uplands Initiative survey of Abergwesyn Common in 1998, but apparently depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map; it was interpreted as a path or a boundary.

Morphology
Bank with ditch on upslope side, the former having a rubble core covered in soil. It is aligned E/W, is 200m long and 4m wide, with the ditch 2m wide.

Location
Situated on a N-facing slope at the head of the Nant Cymrun valley, a tributary of the River Wye, 3.5km SSW of Llanwrthwl in NW Brecknock (Powys).

Associations

Sources
OS 1st edition 6" map, Brecon 5SW (1891)
Skeates 1998
SMR

Gwar Yr Gigfran Earthwork **PRN 17327** **SAM**

NGR From SO067192 to **MAP** SO01NE

History
An earthwork mentioned but not properly described in 1992.

Morphology
A bank and ditch running for at least 400m.

Location
It is located on a S-facing spur of Waun Rydd in the eastern part of the Brecon Beacons (Powys). It crosses (or perhaps ascends) a spur and then continues along edge of scarp to the N, before being obliterated by a landslip.

Associations
None evident.

Sources
Jones and Palmer 1992
SMR

Wantyn Dyke, Upper **PRN 17785** **SAM**

NGR From SO20918842 to SO20008875 **MAP** SO28NW

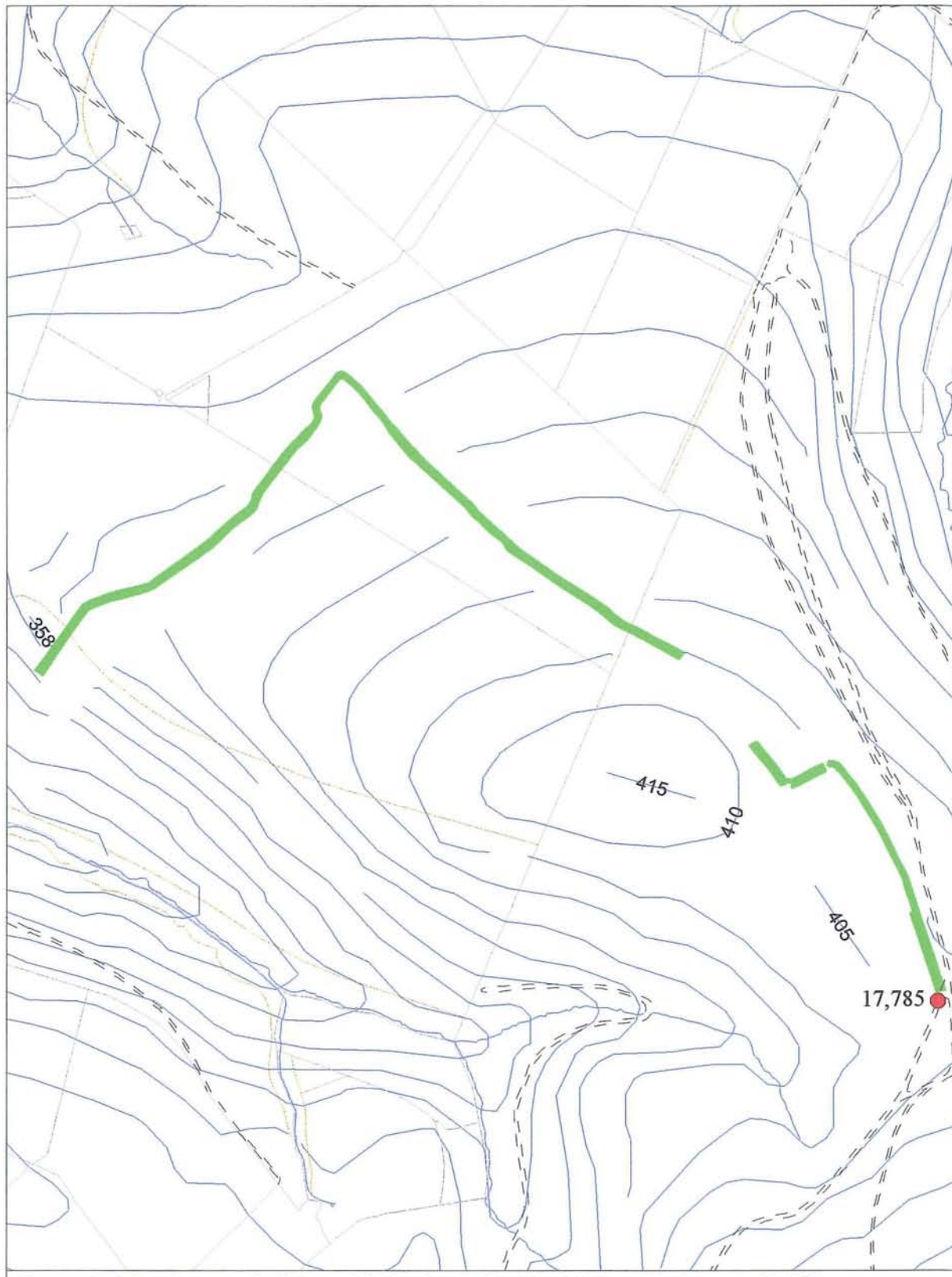
History
This earthwork was first recorded by J.M.E. Lloyd in the late 19th century and reported on in 1901. David Hill in 1981 in an unpublished typescript dismissed a link with the Wantyn Dyke proper, claiming that they were not physically connected nor of similar form; three excavations revealed morphological differences in construction led Hill to suggest that it had 'all the hallmarks of a minor agricultural construction'.

Morphology
The bank and ditch are about 1.35km long overall, its L-shape with arms of around 400m and 1000m.

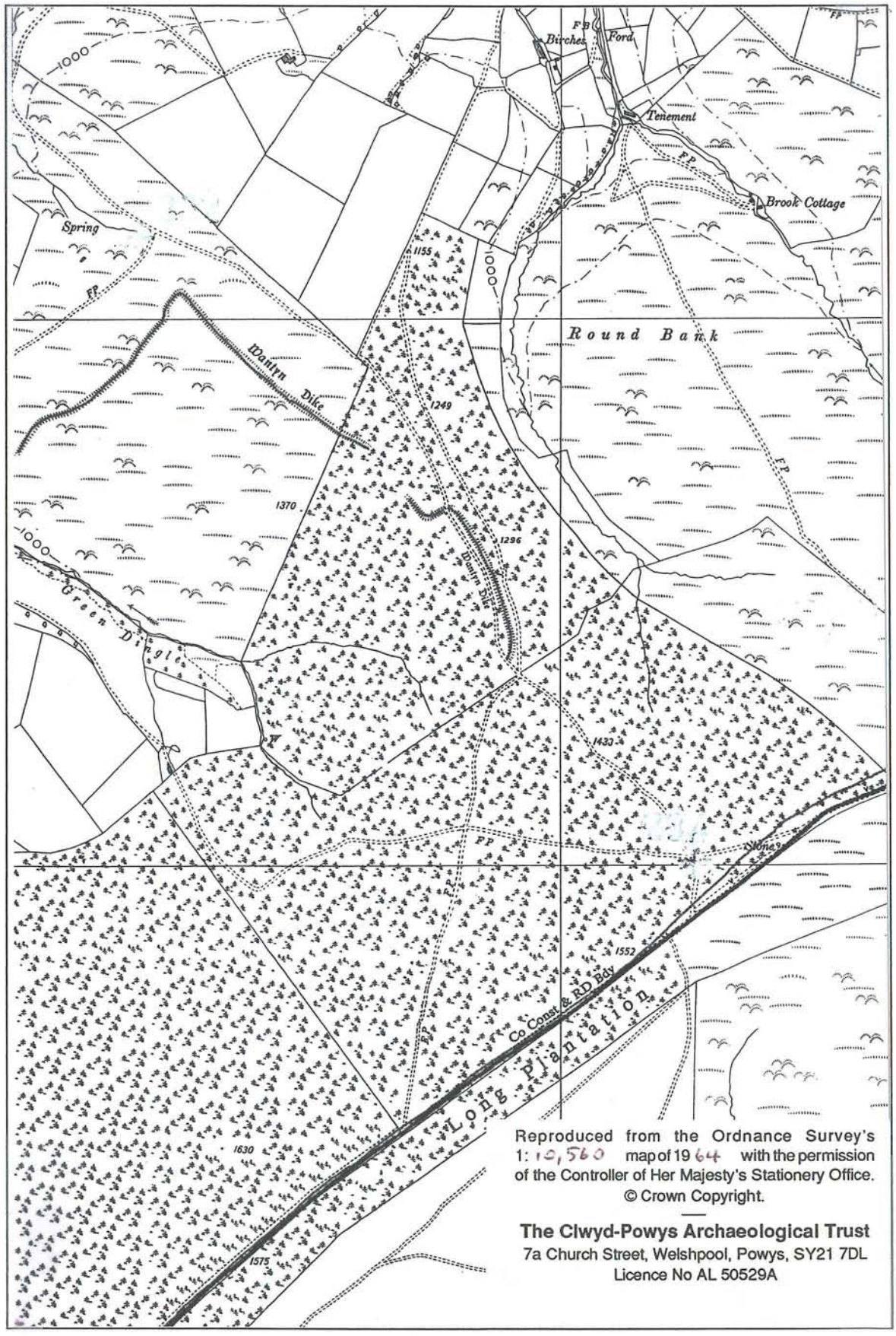
Location
The earthwork occupies a N-facing spur which runs off the ridge which is followed by the Kerry Ridgeway. The dyke runs N, then NW, before turning sharply and running SW to its end at the top of a steep slope overlooking Green Dingle.

Associations

Sources
Hill 1981
Lloyd 1901
Lloyd 1902
SMR
Youngs, Clark & Barry 1986



Upper Wantyn Dyke (PRN 17785), Scale 1:6,000



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Upper Wantyn Dyke (PRN 17785), OS 1:10,560 plan.

Dolhelfa Grange boundary **PRN 17790** **SAM**

NGR From SN94907271 to SN95147341 **MAP** SN97SW

History
Percival in 1993 referred to the boundary of the medieval grange of Dolhelfa, granted to Cwmhir Abbey in 1200. This earthwork was said to be a low bank forming part of the above boundary, running from a small gorge at the edge of the Marcheini Fawr to the edge of a steep gully which may be the former course of the Lleussic stream which flowed into the Wye.

RCAHMW APs show the earthwork clearly, with an abandoned appended field on its W side.

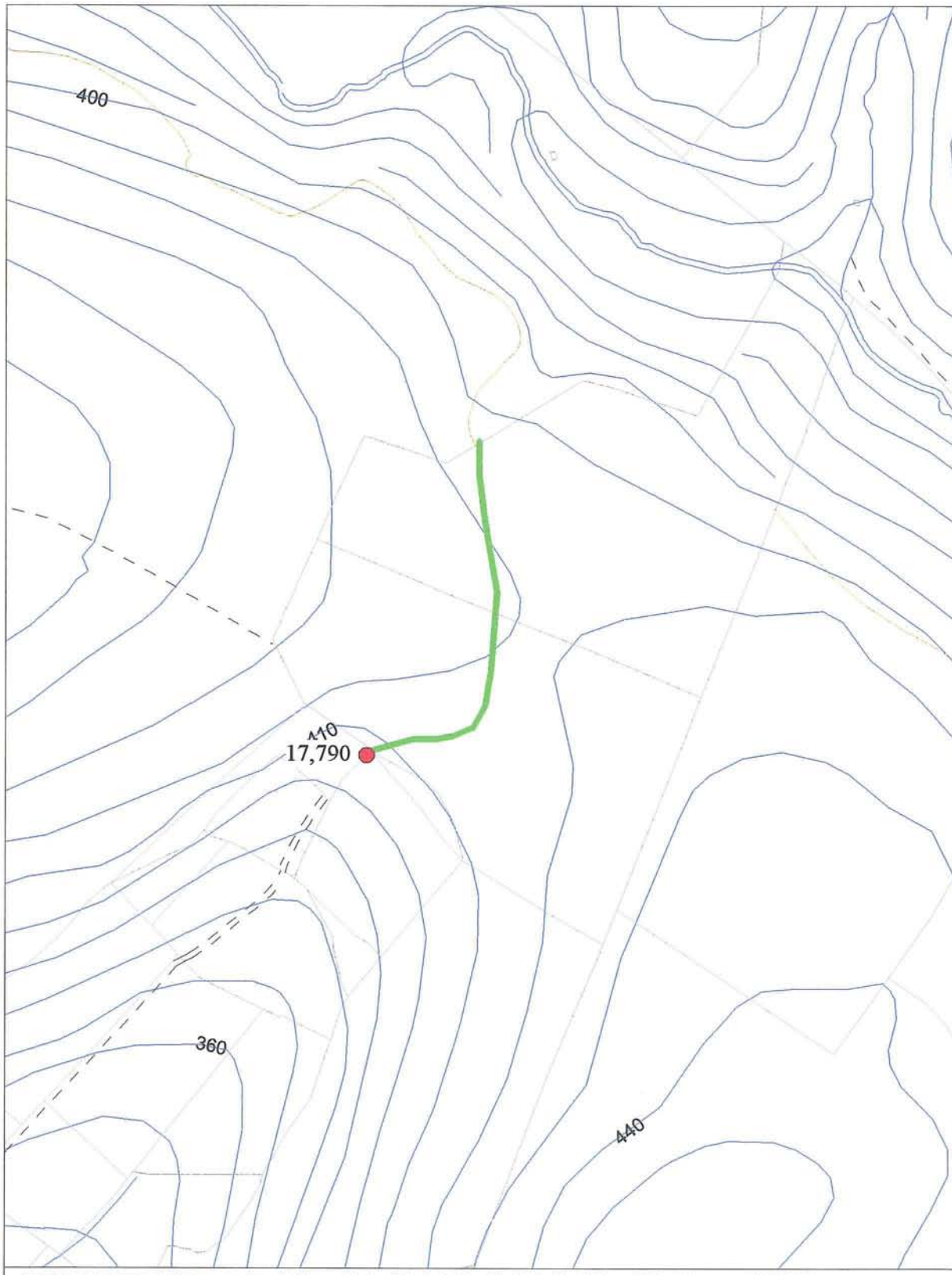
Morphology
Low earthen bank with accompanying ditch, but in open moorland the bank is up to 2m high and the ditch substantial.

Location
Runs from Marcheini Fawr valley (at SN 9514 7431) across a ridge to a stream gully (at SN 94907271) which forms a minor tributary of the River Wye. Bank with ditch visible on RCAHMW APs, terminates at its N end at a steep gully running down to the Marcheini Fawr.

Associations
Significant amounts of ridge and furrow also evident to W of bank.

Sources
Percival 1993
SMR

RAF vertical APs: CPE/UK/2531 Nos 4239 & 4240, dated 24/03/1948
RCAHMW oblique APs: 935121-43 & 44



Dolhelfa Grange boundary (PRN 17790), Scale 1:5,000

Black Dyke **PRN 17926** **SAM**

NGR From SH927028 to SH934031 **MAP** SH90SW

History
A charter of 1185 conferring lands on the Abbey of Strata Marcella refers on two occasions to the 'fossa nigra' or black dyke. Although not overtly stated in the charter this dyke has been assumed to be a monastic construction, but this cannot be the case as it was evidently in place at the time when the land was granted to the abbey. Possibly an earlier land and/or estate boundary.

The SMR, following Williams, suggests that this is the same site as the Abbot's Ditch (PRN 766) which has been mis-sited. However, it seems more probable that this earthwork relates to the Talerddig Grange, and hill names like Bryn Gwyn and Ynys Wen support this view; also Capel-yr-Aber lies approximately 1.5km to the SE.

Morphology
Ditch and bank, said to be 1km long.

Location
Bank apparently crossing a ridge at a saddle between Bryn Gwyn and Esgair Garnedd, two local summits forming part of the watershed between the valleys of the Afon Gam, a tributary of the River Banwy, and the valley of the Afon Laen, a tributary of the River Dyfi.

Ditch and bank were apparently still traceable recently (Thomas 1997, 114), running from the source of Nant y Capel (SH 927028) to Afon Gam at SH 938034. This might be the boundary depicted on the OS 6" map of 1903 (Montgomeryshire 27NE).

Associations

Sources
SMR
Thomas 1997, 114
Williams 1990, 60

Mountain Lodge boundary bank **PRN 19675** **SAM**

NGR From SJ24604750 to **MAP** SJ24NW

History
Earthwork first recorded during the Ruabon Mountain upland survey in 1995, when it was interpreted as a linear boundary.

Morphology
An earthen bank, containing some stone, 61m long running on an E/W alignment, with a possible 10m extension.

Location
The site is located on the east side of the crest of Ruabon Mountain, in a line between World's End and Mountain Lodge.

Associations

Sources
Silvester & Hankinson 1995a
SMR

RAF vertical APs: 106G/UK/1454 Nos 3210 & 3294, dated 02/05/1946

Fishpools Boundary bank (multiple) **PRN 21363** **SAM**

NGR From SO18534675 to **MAP** SO16NE

History
An earthwork first recorded by Thomas and Earwood in 1996 when it was considered to be associated with the monastic holding at Monaughty. It forms the boundary between Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Bleddfa parishes.

Part of it is visible outside the adjacent woodland on the 1946 RAF AP.

Morphology
Large linear bank.

Location
The bank crosses a ridge spur to the north of Cwm y Gerwyn, approximately 2.5km WSW of Bleddfa village.

Associations

Sources
SMR
Thomas and Earwood 1996

RAF vertical AP: CPE/UK 1873 No 5055, dated 04/12/1946

Y Gelli bank **PRN 33399** **SAM**

NGR From SN89552124 to **MAP** SN82SE

History
The site appears to have been recorded for the first time in 1992 by the RCAHMW, a broad linear, stony bank or mound, grass-covered, above Cray Reservoir.

Its function could not be determined, but it is possible that this bank mirrors those present on the opposite side of the Cray Reservoir; the local belief is that these features were created in the 19th century in an attempt to improve drainage prior to the sale of part of the Great Forest of Brecon.

Morphology
A broad linear bank or mound; turf covered and stony. It is 43.5m long, (WSW-ENE), 6.5m wide, with a height of 1.5m on the downhill side, and 0.8m on the uphill side.

Location
Sited on a steep NW facing ground above the Cray Reservoir in the Brecon Beacons in the far south of Powys.

Associations
19m beyond the W end of bank and on steep ground is a turf covered stony mound, 6m in diameter x 0.3m high. A ditch depicted on modern OS digital maps to the NE, originally extended further to the SW, and might also be related to this feature.

Sources
NMR
SMR

RAF vertical APs: CPE/UK/2487 Nos 4283 & 4284, dated 10/03/1948

Dancing Ground Boundary Bank **PRN 35324** **SAM**

NGR From SO13074797 to SO12934830 **MAP** SO14NW

History
The site was first recorded by CPAT during the Radnor Hills upland survey in 1996, when it was described as a linear boundary bank crossing a ridge.

Morphology
A linear earthen bank at least 330m long, and 2.5m wide but only 0.3m high.

Location
The earthwork is situated on the Llanbedr and Glascwm Hills upland, one of the commons of central Radnorshire (Powys). It crosses a ridge in a NW/SE direction at the W end of Llanbedr Hill, its NW end terminating close to a small pool. Its SE end enters a bracken infested area on a gentle S slope, through which it could not be traced.

Associations

Sources
Hankinson and Silvester 1997
SMR

Dancing Ground Boundary Bank (PRN 35324), Scale 1:2,500

Llechwedd Bank **PRN 35715** **SAM Mg251(POW)**

NGR From SH99192198 to **MAP** SH92SE

History
The earthwork was first recorded during CPAT fieldwork in 1996, within an area of an medieval settlement that was subsequently scheduled (in 1999). It seems probable that this is a former boundary associated with one or more of the nearby settlements.

Morphology
The earthwork takes the form of a substantial earth bank, 100m long, 5m wide and 1m high, situated to the N of a probable hafod (PRN 35714).

Location
Site is located on the S end of an interfluve between the Afon Cedig and the valley now occupied by the Lake Vyrnwy reservoir.

Associations
There are medieval and post-medieval settlements in the vicinity.

Sources
Silvester & Hankinson 1997
SMR

Coed y Fron boundary **PRN 38450** **SAM**

NGR From SJ03201997 to SJ03382009 **MAP** SJ01NW

History
The earthwork, forming part of a larger field system, now hidden by forestry, but depicted on early edition of the Ordnance Survey map, was first recorded during CPAT fieldwork in 1998. It was considered at the time to be a boundary but was suggestive because it forms a link between streams.

Morphology
The earthwork consists of an earth bank, 3m wide and up to 0.7m high, with a parallel wall, 1m wide and up to 0.5m high, providing an occasional revetment on its N side, but perhaps representing successive phases.

Location
The bank, located approximately 2km NE of the dam containing Lake Vyrnwy, in northern Powys, separates a subsidiary summit from the main Croes y Forwyn ridge. Both ends of the bank extend into adjacent forestry plantations.

Associations

Sources
Hankinson and Silvester 1998
SMR

Coed y Fron boundary (PRN 38450), Scale 1:2,500

Cwm Claisfer bank **PRN 43183** **SAM**

NGR From SO144160 to **MAP** SO11NW

History
Earthwork first described by Jones and Martin in 1998, from fieldwork.

Morphology
Low stone bank and ditch about 300m long.

Location
Located on part of the plateau of Mynydd Llangynidr in Brecknock (Powys), overlooking the upper part of Cwm Claisfer. It adopts a diagonal course across the hillside running from a lower to a higher natural shelf.

Associations
A large pointed stone is recorded as standing in line a short distance to the E, and the upper terminal of the stone bank is marked by a deeply set hut, about 2.5m across.

Sources
Jones and Martin 1998
SMR

Llyn Dwr W **PRN 81383** **SAM**

NGR From SN94963691 to **MAP** SN93NW

History
Earthwork recently recorded by the RCAHMW during the Mynydd Epynt aerial mapping project, and interpreted either as a boundary bank or possibly an infantry trench.

Morphology
A linear ditch aligned NE/SW and c.117.5m long.

Location
The earthwork ascends a gentle SW-facing slope above the source of Cwm Llythin on open moorland within the area of the Sennybridge (Mynydd Epynt) military range in northern Brecknock, 2.5km NNE of Llanfihangel Nant Bran.

Associations

Sources
NMR

Ruabon Mountain Boundary Bank **PRN 101510** **SAM**

NGR From SJ24264783 to SJ24284814 **MAP** SJ24NW

History
Earthwork first recorded in the 1912 RCAHMW Inventory for Flintshire which records the first recognition of the site after it was partially laid bare by the burning of heather in around 1886. It was considered to be a bank that defined a former boundary between the parishes of Ruabon and Llangollen parishes, for though the existing boundary ran approximately 400m to the W, it was believed that the difficulty in identifying the bank prior to 1886 had led to alterations in the line of the boundary.

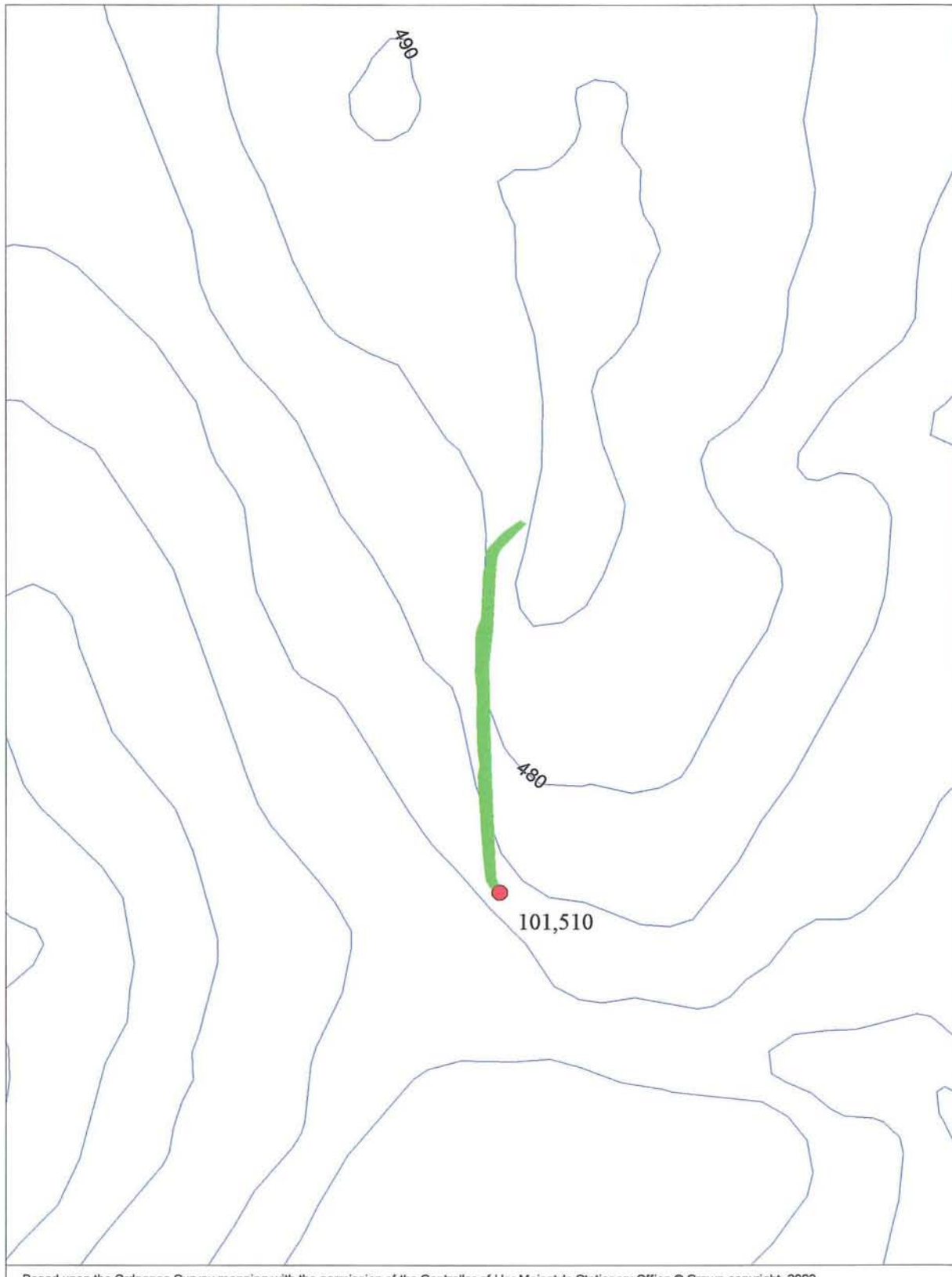
It is probably the bank depicted on the 1st edition OS map from the late 19th century (Denbigh 27SE).

Morphology
It comprises turf-covered stone walling about 270m long.

Location
The earthwork is located just to the E of the main ridge of Ruabon Mountain, 1.5km ENE of World's End.

Associations
It may be related to another earthwork - the Mountain Lodge boundary bank (PRN 19675) - which is in a similar location, approximately 700m to the SSE.

Sources
RCAHM, 1912
SMR



Ruabon Mountain Boundary Bank (PRN 101510), Scale 1:5,000

Druids Hill **PRN 81384** **SAM**

NGR From SN91024005 to **MAP** SN94SW

History
A composite record in that three earthworks were recently recorded by the RCAHMW during the Mynydd Epynt aerial mapping project, and interpreted as boundary banks.

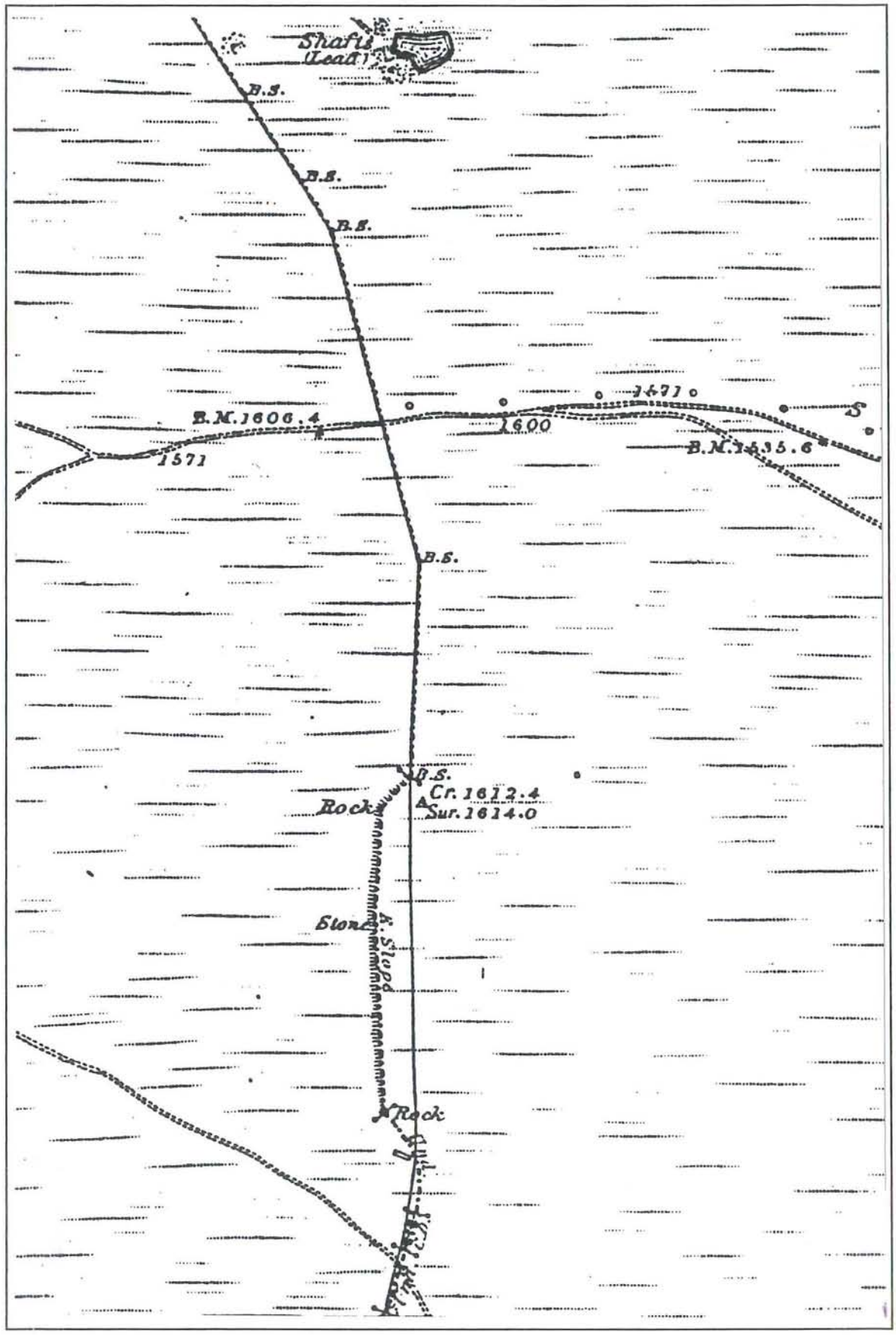
The earthwork(s) has a particular interest, however, as a bank named 'Clawdd Offa' is depicted here on an estate map of 1842, presumably a mis-interpretation by the creator of the map, yet it might suggest some similarity in form between this site and Offa's Dyke. The map suggests that the dyke continues westwards into Cardiganshire.

Morphology
Three banks converge on Druid's Hill, one a sinuous bank on the W and two others aligned N/S to the E.
The W bank is c.791m long, the two N/S banks are 861m and 639m long.

Location
Druid's Hill, 3.5km SE of Tirabad, is a spur on the western side of Mynydd Epynt in northern Brecknock (Powys).

Associations

Sources
NLW 134/1/5 Map 7038 (1842)
NMR



Ruabon Mountain Boundary Bank (PRN 101510), 1st edition OS 1:10,560 plan. Not to scale.

Clawdd Collen **PRN 101625** **SAM**

NGR From SJ24484025 to SJ24474043 **MAP** SJ24SW

History
Originally described by Edward Llwyd at the end of the 17th century as "Clawdd Collen on the Cefn Ucha, in the township of Pengwern: a short dyke similar to Offa's Dyke". Various clawdd placenames in the district support the presence of a short dyke. Mention is apparently made of "Clawdd y moneth (mynydd)" in a perambulation of the lordship of Chirkland made in 1569.

The RCAHMW could not identify the clawdd on the ground but considered that a hedge bank near "The Raven's Bowl"/"Carreg y big" on the former Cefn Ucha common just outside Chirk parish might represent it, running N from the mountain road down towards Cwm Alis.

This interpretation may be confirmed by a curving bank and ditch visible on RAF APs, particularly that taken in 1962.

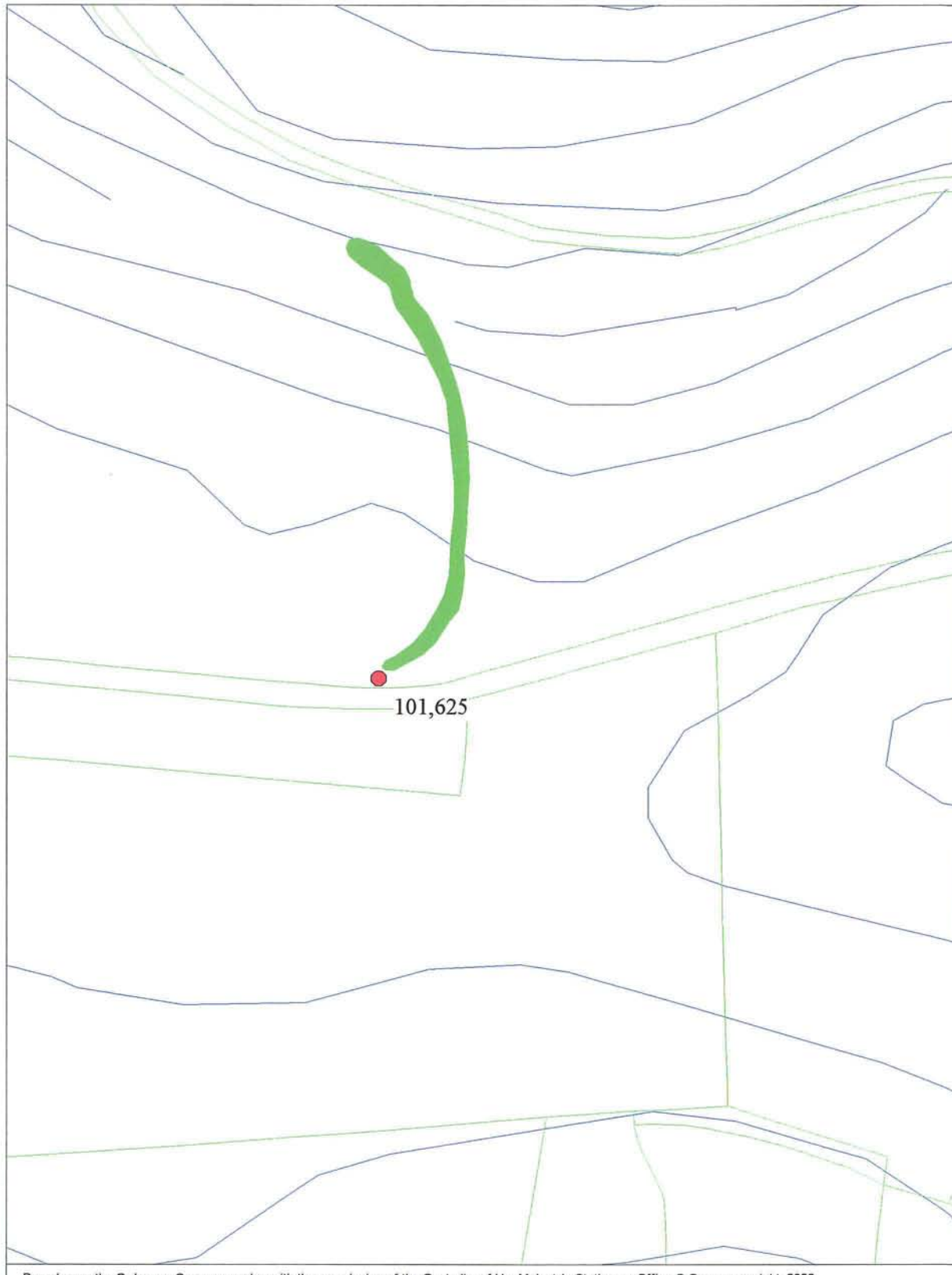
Morphology
No dimensions recorded.

Location
Situated on the former Cefn Ucha common, which lies on the crest of the ridge, S of the Vale of Llangollen, approximately 3km ESE of the town.

Associations
Possibly now functions as a hedge bank.

Sources
Morris 1910.
NMR archive.
RCAHMW 1914.
SMR.

RAF vertical APs: 106G/UK/1454 Nos 4450 & 4451, dated 02/05/1946
RAF vertical APs 540/488 Nos 4281 & 4282, dated 11/05/1951
RAF vertical AP 58/5171/F22 No 147, dated 06/06/1962



Clawdd Collen (PRN 101625), Scale 1:2,500