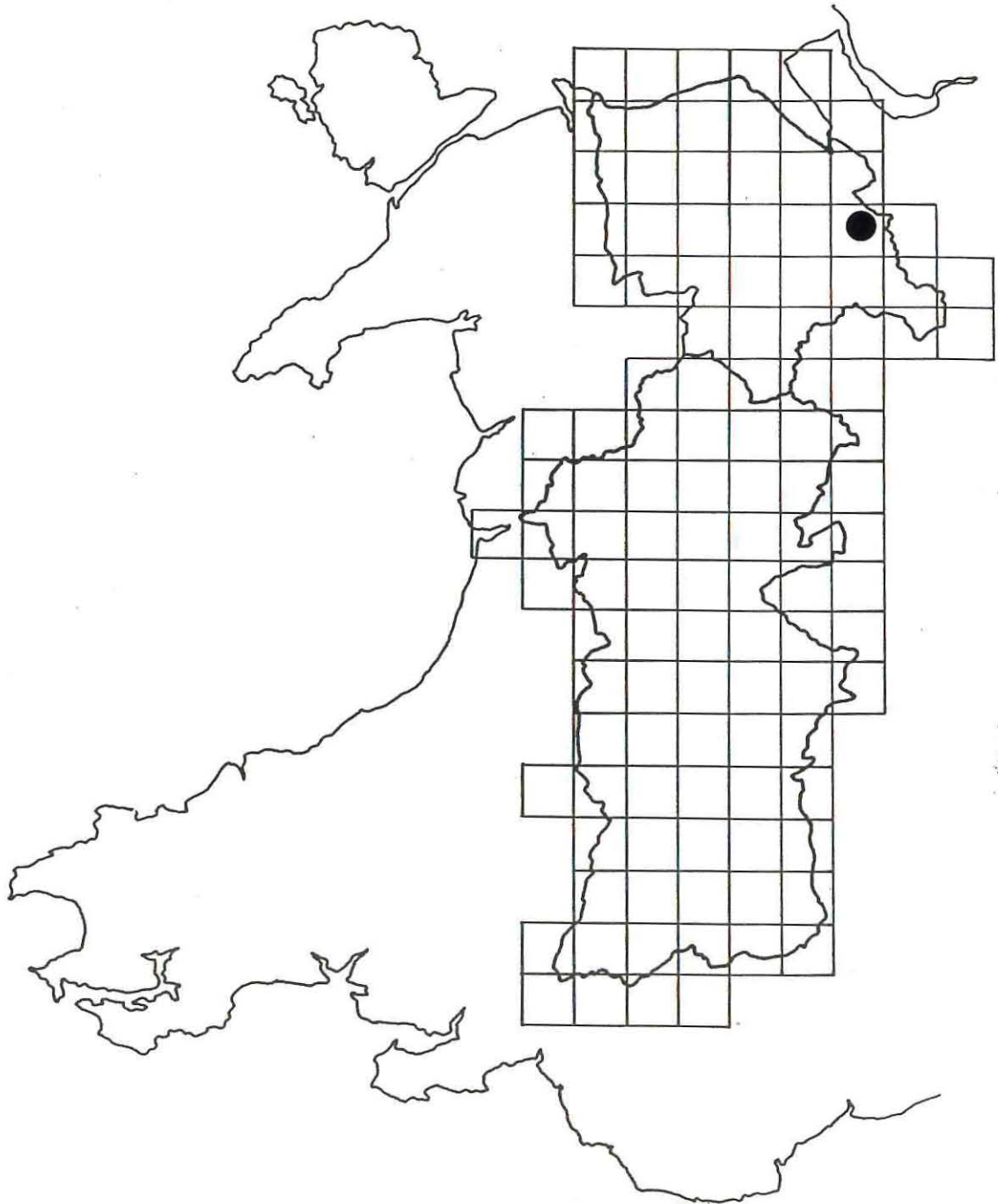


*Proposed Golf Course at Cam-yr-Alyn,
Rossett, Wrexham, Clwyd*
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



CPAT Report No 47

*Proposed Golf Course at Cam-yr-Alyn,
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by David Thomas
January 1993

Report prepared for Mrs J M Holmes

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1 Introduction

1.1 The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was commissioned in January 1992 by Allington Hughes, Solicitors, of Wrexham, on behalf of Mrs J.M. Holmes, to carry out an assessment of the proposed site of a golf course and other amenities on land at Cam-yr-Alyn, Rossett, Wrexham. The assessment was required as part of the client's planning application (ROS 20877) to Wrexham Maelor Borough Council, as specified in the brief prepared by the Council's archaeological adviser, the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

1.2 Desk-top research and field survey was carried out in January 1993 and the report prepared immediately afterwards.

2 Location

2.1 The area affected by the golf course and associated features covers an area of approximately 31 acres (12.5 hectares) between the village of Rossett and the dispersed settlement of Burton, and is centred at SJ 361 574 (Fig 1). The A483 Wrexham to Chester Trunk road forms the eastern boundary of the site.

3 Landscape and Topography

3.1 The site is generally flat, lying at c18m OD, just north of the River Alyn. The present house of Cam-yr-Alyn with its outbuildings lies at the centre of the area proposed for development, parkland separating it from Burton Road to the south, with the field to the north under improved pasture.

4 Known Archaeology

4.1 The only known feature of potential archaeological interest close to the area is a possible medieval road alignment along the north-western boundary. This identification is based on field name evidence from an adjacent field known as Cae Pen y Stryt, meaning 'field at the head of the street' where the line of the road is believed to be preserved as a modern trackway (CAR 1488).

4.2 We are informed that the parkland in front of Cam-yr-Alyn has been used in the past for the annual Rossett Show, and that the area has also been examined by a local metal detector club, though without significant success.

4.3 The nearby settlement at Rossett is recorded as an historic settlement, with documentation dating to the late medieval period (Silvester et al 1992).

5 Archaeological assessment

5.1 The archaeological assessment focused on the possibility of surviving earthworks, and the nature of the standing buildings. This field examination was backed up by limited examination of earlier cartographic sources in the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

5.2 There are few surviving earthworks within the proposed development area. Faint traces of ridge and furrow cultivation are just visible in the centre of the field to the north of the house, running south-west to north-east, and to the south in the parkland, running from north-west to south-east (Fig 2). The ridges are, however, little more than 15-20cm high. The ridges in the field to the north could be a result of modern pasture improvement, but this explanation is less satisfactory for the parkland to the south, and it is more likely that these are remnants of the wider pattern of ridge and furrow cultivation visible in Wrexham Maelor.

5.3 Differential preservation of the ridge and furrow has led to the survival of linear features in the parkland: in the south-west a low bank runs from east to west and then turns to the south for a short distance. This is considered to be a relict field boundary.

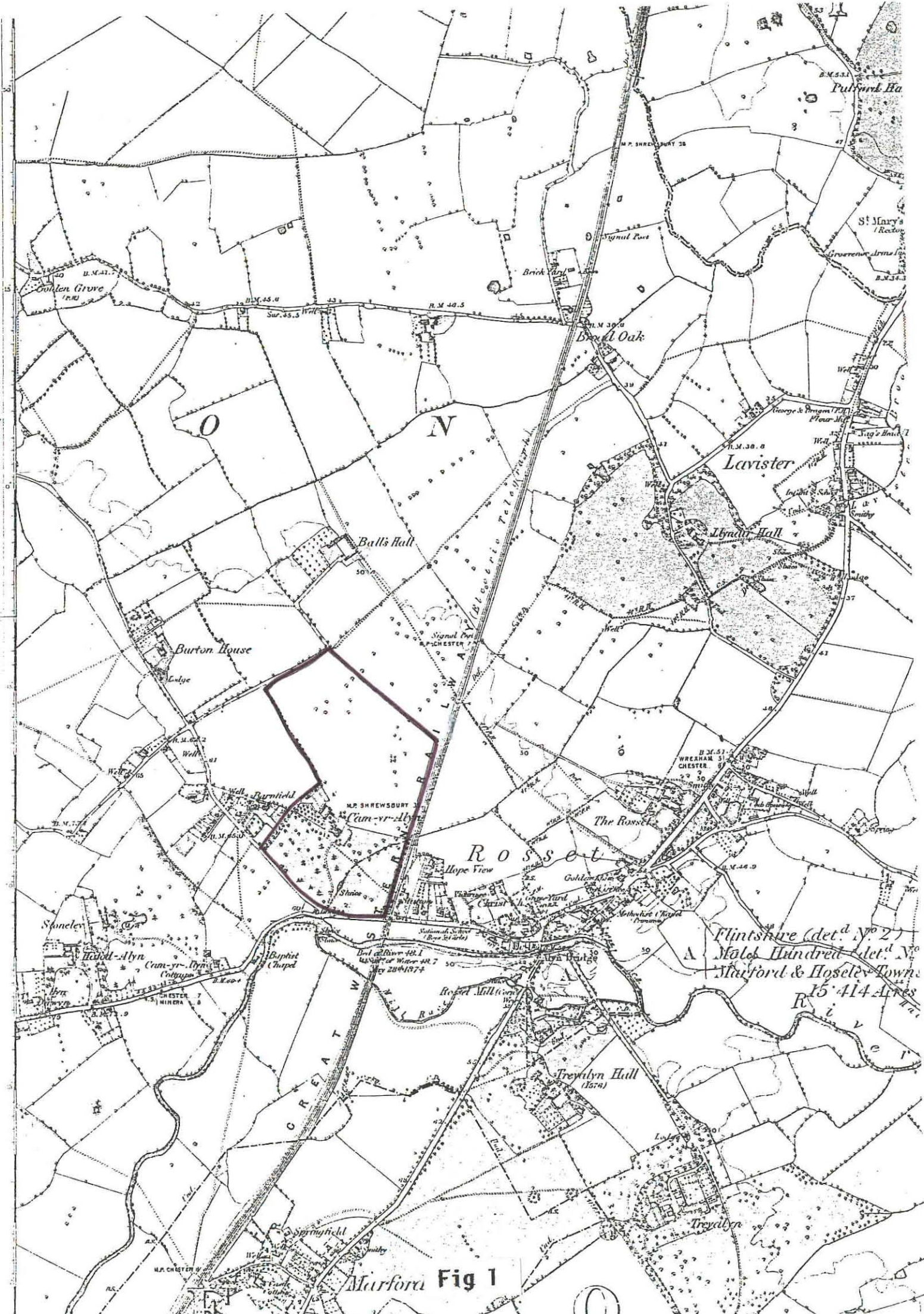
5.4 None of these features however are considered to be of particular archaeological interest.

5.5 Other earthworks are believed to be of either natural or relatively recent origin. A slightly raised area to the east of the present house garden is believed to be an earlier extension of that garden, and two trackways showing as holloways correspond to ones shown on the first edition OS 6" map published in the 1870's. Two former stream courses cross the site in the south-eastern corner.

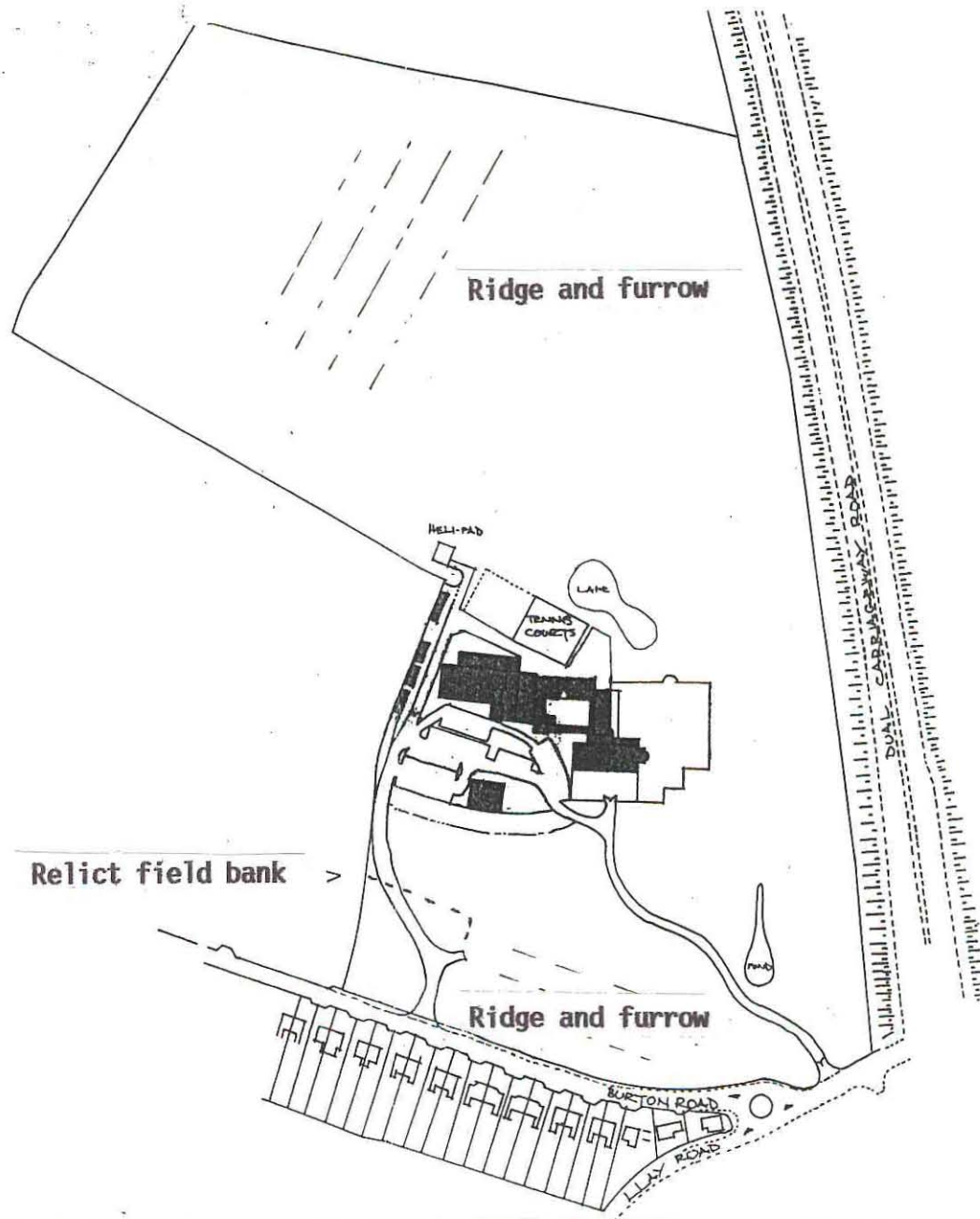
5.6 No trace of the suggested medieval road alignment survives within the development area.

5.7 Cam-yr-Alyn itself is probably of late-18th/early-19th century origin, while the associated outbuildings could be of mid-19th century date and include a well-preserved, brick-built barn, a less well-preserved coach house and an interesting though overgrown walled garden. It is probably unlikely that the house had a predecessor on the site. An estate map of Burton dated to 1631 in the National Library of Wales unfortunately does not extend to the development area, but nearby depicts a typical dispersed settlement pattern scattered houses along the various roads and lanes. Cam-yr-Alyn lying back from the road has the appearance of a house built by someone whose wealth was perhaps based on local industry in the 18th or 19th century.

5.8 The buildings are of some interest and would merit a photographic record, before any refurbishment or demolition takes place. This record would be enhanced if the photographs could be linked to any architect's plans that exist for Cam-yr-Alyn.



Marford Fig 1



Job Title CAM-YR-ALYN ROSSETT CLWYD.	Alan N. Higgins Associates. Chartered Architects 70 Chestergate, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 6DY. Telephone: Macclesfield (0625) 431702 Fax: (0625) 428259	Rev	Date	Init	Drawn	Drawing Title					
		A	VARIOUS	21/5/92	M	C.W	SCHEME C				
							Date	LOCATION PLAN (Golf)			
							MARCH '92				
							Scale				
							1:2500				
		NOTE: DIMENSIONS MUST NOT BE SCALED FROM THIS DRAWING									
						Drawing Number	1295	102		Rev	

Fig 2

References

Silvester, R.J., Walters, M., and Wayne, D. 1992 The Historic Settlements of Wrexham Maelor CPAT Report No 42