

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Plas Power and Nant Mill Woods, Wrexham
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



CPAT REPORT 295

CPAT Report No 295

Plas Power and Nant Mill Woods, Wrexham
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

David Thomas
October 1998

Report for the Woodland Trust

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

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Cover Illustrations, from top;

*Clywedog Stream
Bersham Western Weir
Plas Power Track*

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Introduction

The Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was commissioned in July 1998 by the Woodland Trust to undertake an archaeological and historical assessment of Plas Power and Nant Mill woods (centered on SJ295497; fig 1). The woods cover an area of 43.2ha and contain a scheduled portion of Offa's Dyke (De139 (WRE)).

The woodland was acquired by the Woodland Trust to enhance its wildlife, recreational and landscape value. The archaeological assessment aims to place the woodland within its historical context and to identify sites of archaeological interest for management purposes. Any specific management advice should be sought from the relevant archaeological curator, in this case the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, or, in the case of the scheduled portion of Offa's Dyke and the listed structures, Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

Sources and Methods

The National Monuments Record held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth was consulted for sites which lay within the woodland or in its vicinity. A search was also made of the regional Sites and Monuments Record held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their offices in Welshpool. Several sites in the woodland were identified from these sources. The scheduling papers produced by Cadw relating to the scheduled portion of Offa's Dyke were also studied.

The collections of the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, the Denbighshire Record Office in Ruthin and the Flintshire Record office in Hawarden were searched for readily-available documentary and cartographic sources, including eighteenth century estate maps and documents, the tithe map and apportionment, and early editions of the Ordnance Survey 25 inch and 6 inch series. The most important collection of estate records is the Plas Power collection held by the Denbighshire Record Office in Ruthin.

Although there is no published material on the wood itself, useful information arose from the study of secondary sources, in particular the *Denbighshire Historical Society Transactions*.

A rapid field assessment was carried out to record the condition of sites identified during the desk-top study and to search for previously unidentified ones. A systematic transect approach to the fieldwork was not adopted due to the density of the woodland and in places the steepness of the topography. Consequently, there may be further archaeological sites within the woodland which were not identified.

The cartographic sources were digitized and rectified to modern grid co-ordinates using AutoCAD software. The Woodland Trust stockmap was also digitized so that sites identified could be recorded in relation to modern management plans. The digital maps were converted into MapInfo tables and site records were then produced in FoxPro through MapInfo. The digital results of the project will be made available to the Woodland Trust.

Topography

The Plas Power and Nant Mill woods lie along both sides of the Clywedog river to the west of Bersham on the western side of Wrexham. Plas Power Wood, the easternmost wood, lies mainly on the northern side of the river, partly in the valley bottom and partly on the steeply-sloping ground which rises up to the southern side of Plas Power Park. The Nant Mill Wood lies further to the west, mainly on the southern side of the river. It lies partly within the flat valley bottom and partly on the steep slopes of the valley which rise up the southern side of the valley and along a tributary of the Clywedog to the south.

The underlying geology is of the Lower Westphalian series containing productive coal measures.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The earliest archaeological site within or in the vicinity of the woodlands is Offa's Dyke (PRN 10000). The dyke, probably built as a territorial marker, was constructed by Offa, the king of Mercia in the eighth century AD. The section that runs through Plas Power Wood (PRN 106760) is a well preserved section with both the ditch and bank visible.

The power of the Clywedog river has been harnessed for industrial development since at least the medieval period and powered a succession of corn and fulling mills along the river. Later, the river became a focus for the emerging iron industry with the establishment of the ironworks at Bersham. The importance of the Bersham ironworks grew through the eighteenth century under the direction of Isaac Wilkinson. The ironworks, which are now open to the public, have been the subject of extensive archaeological excavations and much is now known about the layout of the site and its development in the eighteenth century.

The dominant estate in the area during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was based at Plas Power. Plas Power House, extensively re-designed by John Gibson for Thomas Lloyd Fitzhugh in the mid-nineteenth century was destroyed in 1946-7, but several features built at the same time survive and are listed buildings. These include the lodges PRN 31270 (Cadw ref 16/E/11) and PRN 36684 (Cadw ref 16/G/14), and the wall (PRN 36664; Cadw ref 16/E/14) which surrounds part of Plas Power Wood. Nant Mill Wood was part of the Nant Mill holding which was in turn part of the Plas Power Estate.

Woodland History

There is no direct evidence for the date of major woodland clearance in the area around Plas Power and Nant Mill Woods although pollen evidence from sites throughout Wales suggests that much of the country had lost its extensive woodland cover by the end of the Iron Age. The remaining woodland was generally located on land not suitable for agricultural activity, such as the steep slopes of river valleys. Parts of the Nant Mill and Plas Power woods, particularly those parts on the steep slopes of the Clywedog and its tributaries, may never have been cleared for agricultural use, and it is likely that the wood was managed by the local population for firewood and timber in the period before the industrial revolution.

The proximity of the ironworks at Bersham, particularly in the period before the advent of the coal-powered blast furnace in the eighteenth century, would have created a heavy demand for charcoal. This is unlikely to have led to woodland clearance in the immediate area as it is more probable that the careful management of the existing woodland would have produced small-diameter wood which is more suitable for charcoal production. Surprisingly, no charcoal hearths were identified in the woodland during the present survey. This may simply be because undergrowth restricted the view in the wood during the field assessment. Alternatively, charcoal production could have taken place elsewhere. The latter explanation is supported by a reference which states that during the early part of the seventeenth century Simon Yorke of Erddig agreed to sell to the Wilkinsons of Bersham 479 mixed trees from his own woods for making charcoal on the spot (Davies 1973, 148n). Other furnaces in the area were known to have obtained charcoal from as far afield as Llangollen, Ellesmere and Llansilin (Edwards 1960, 41). It is possible, therefore, that charcoal for firing the furnaces at Bersham was obtained from beyond Plas Power Wood, either because suitable wood could not be found in the wood or because exploitation of the wood for the ironworks was prevented, perhaps because the wood was retained as picturesque woodland due to its proximity to Plas Power House.

The extent of the woodland in the present Plas Power and Nant Mill woods has not been stable over the past 200 years, the period during which the shape of the woodland can be traced on cartographic evidence. While the sloping ground appears to have been consistently wooded, patches of the flatter ground contained within the wood are represented on the

earliest maps as agricultural land. The first cartographic representation of parts of Plas Power Wood appear on a series of small maps of individual landholdings attached to the Plas Power estate drawn up in 1771-2 (CROR DD/PP/497). While the location of the features recorded on the maps cannot be identified with certainty, one map appears to relate to the area immediately to the west of Offa's Dyke and shows fields extending all the way to the river. Two other maps may show parts of the present wood to the east of Nant Mill. They both depict small cottages surrounded by agricultural land and may relate to crofts shown on the tithe map and early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps. Significant areas of agricultural land within the present wood are also depicted on the first edition of the one inch Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1836-7, on the tithe maps dating to between 1840 and 1845 (fig 2) and on later Ordnance Survey maps, including the first (fig 3) and second editions (fig 4) of the six inch map. Clearance may have occurred at any time, but the nature of the clearance, associated with small un-named cottages described as crofts on the tithe map, with few substantial boundaries surviving on the ground, suggest that the clearance was not of long-standing and occurred in the post-medieval period. The clearance may be related to exploitation of the wood for fuel to power the Bersham ironworks, but it is more likely that it is related to the expansion of agricultural land needed because of the rise in population during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries as people were attracted to the industrial centres.

The cartographic evidence from the tithe map and later maps records the re-establishment of the woodland in the cleared areas, and allows a comparison of the total area of woodland within the present wood at various times over the past one hundred and fifty years. The total area included in the Nant Mill and Plas Power woodlands is now 43.2ha. Of this area 39.9ha (92%) is covered by woodland, the rest being open ground. In 1845 only 28.12ha (65%) was covered in woodland while in 1880 30.56ha (71%) was wooded and in 1900 36.29ha (84%) was wooded. The expansion of the woodland was caused partly by deliberate plantation, for example in the area to the west of the Bersham Lodge leat (site 8) but a larger proportion of the expansion was caused by the abandonment of agricultural land and its invasion by species such as sycamore and ash. The cartographic evidence therefore suggests that 35% of the present woodland is secondary woodland rather than ancient woodland (fig 5). It is a mixture of native and imported species, some of which were planted this century in an attempt to establish a commercial woodland.

The Archaeology of Plas Power and Nant Mill Woods

A gazetteer of archaeological sites recorded in the Plas Power and Nant Mill woods is included in this assessment. Included in the gazetteer are management categories designed as a guide to the relative importance of the sites on archaeological grounds. Descriptions of the categories are included in this report as Appendix I. PRN numbers relate to sites already recorded in the CPAT SMR. Previously unrecorded sites are not given PRN numbers, rather they are numbered from 1 to 10. The location of the sites is marked on figure 6.

Several archaeological features have previously been recorded in Plas Power and Nant Mill woods. These include a scheduled portion of Offa's Dyke, and listed structures associated with the Plas Power Estate and Bersham iron foundry. A small-scale excavation of a possible tramway associated with the Bersham iron foundry was carried out by the Clwyd Archaeology Service during the 1980s (Grenter, pers comm). However, the archaeology of the woodland has never been fully investigated, and the present survey has identified several new features relating to the exploitation and management of the woodland and its resources.

Part of the boundary of Plas Power Wood is formed by Offa's Dyke. The section of the dyke (PRN 106760) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (De139(WRE)) and runs from north to south across the woodland. Although cut by a later tramway (site 1) it is a well-preserved monument. A small drain runs down the ditch of the dyke and drains into the Clywedog. An information board has been erected close to the monument.

Cartographic evidence suggests that the Nant Mill and Plas Power woods have not had stable boundaries for the past two hundred years and the nature of the present woodland boundary reflects this. Close to the Rhosberse lodge the boundary is formed by a high wall

constructed in a rusticated style (PRN 36664; Cadw ref 16/E/14), as is the boundary close to the Bersham lodge (site 2). Part of the boundary along the Bersham to Nant Mill road is formed by iron railings which have been damaged in places, presumably in collisions with cars. Where the wood borders agricultural land, the boundary is a low bank with post and wire fencing. There is some indication on the southern boundary of Nant Mill Wood (site 10) and elsewhere that in the past holly has been encouraged to grow on the edge of the wood as a barrier to stock.

The cartographic evidence suggests the existence of two structures on either side of the Clywedog. They may be the structures marked on the estate map of 1771-2, though the identification is uncertain. The first certain depiction is on the tithe map of 1840. The accompanying tithe schedule describes them as crofts. The southernmost structure is not marked on the first edition map but the northern one is, along with its surrounding small fields. Neither are shown on the second edition of the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map. Field assessment revealed that the westernmost structure (site 4) survives as a stone-built structure built into the bank of the river. The walls survive up to 2m high with an entrance on the south-western side. Little is visible in the location of the easternmost structure (site 5), although low walls up to 0.5m high which may once have formed part of the croft or an associated enclosure are visible in the undergrowth on the northern side of the stream.

The remains of a small house with associated buildings, once the home of the miller, survives on the southern side of Clywedog brook opposite Nant Mill (site 6). The stone walls survive up to 2m high but are overgrown with young trees and undergrowth.

The earliest feature associated with the industrial history of the woodland is a small coal shaft on the northern side of the tributary of the Clywedog in Nant Mill Wood (site 7). This is probably a bell-pit of unknown date dug to extract a small amount of coal for domestic use. Small pieces of coal were identified lying on the surface of a platform on the southern side of the shaft.

The exploitation of the Clywedog river as a source of power is represented by a weir (PRN 36686) that lies on the river. It was built by Isaac Wilkinson around 1750 and is a listed structure (Cadw ref 16/G/16). It is a high vertical weir built on a slight curve. The leat which leads away from the weir on the southern side is now dry but survives as a shallow ditch with banks either side (site 8). It is in good condition though it has been crossed recently during timber extraction.

The Caeau weir (PRN 36683; Cadw ref 16/G/13) lies on the river just outside the eastern boundary Woodland Trust property. The leat that runs off the weir to provide water and power to the Bersham ironworks (site 9) runs along the boundary of the woodland. It is possible that the weir and leat have medieval origins.

A trackway which runs through Plas Power Wood from Nant Mill (site 1) towards Bersham may be associated with the ironworks. It follows the contours and has been revetted in places with stone. It may have been constructed as a tramway, though a small scale excavation carried out by the Clwyd Archaeology Service failed to find any evidence for this (Greuter, pers comm). Whether it was a tramway or simply a cart track it is probable that the track linked the Bersham iron foundry with the Coedpoeth area where raw materials such as coal could be obtained. Although it is believed that most of the raw materials for the ironworks came from the south, around Rhosllanerchrugog, it is probable that the trackway was an important part of the Bersham economy. It is visible for most of its length and is generally well preserved. It is now part of the Clywedog Trail guided walk.

Conclusions

Neither Plas Power Wood nor Nant Mill Wood have had stable boundaries for the past two hundred years, and neither wood, as they defined today, have had total woodland cover. The archaeological resource of the woods ranges from the scheduled section of Offa's Dyke to features associated with Bersham ironworks and other industrial sites in the vicinity. Both

Offa's Dyke and the ironworks are important archaeological sites in terms of their local and national context. By association with Bersham, features such as the wier, tramway and leats are significant features.

Both woods are well used by the local population, attracted by the wood but also by Nant Mill and Bersham ironworks which are both in the care of Wrexham County Borough Council. The potential for interpreting archaeological features such as the tramway (site 1) and millers' house (site 6) is therefore high.

Acknowledgements

CPAT Contracts wishes to thank Clare Morgan of the Woodland Trust for her help during the project. Thanks also to the staff of the National Library of Wales for their permission to reproduce Figs 2, 3 and 4. Assistance was also given by the staff of the National Monument Record at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth, the staff of the Curatorial Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in Welshpool, the staff of the Denbighshire Record Office in Ruthin, and the staff of the Flintshire Record Office in Hawarden. My own thanks go to Pat Frost and Glyn Owen for their assistance during the fieldwork.

8 References

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Rackham, Oliver. 1990. *Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape* (Revised Edition). London: Weidenfeld and Nicholson.

Published Cartographic Sources

1837-9 Ordnance Survey One Inch Map Sheet LXXIV (National Library of Wales).

1880 Ordnance Survey Six Inch Map (first edition) Sheets XXVIII SE and XXVIII NSW (National Library of Wales).

1900 Ordnance Survey Six Inch Map (second edition) Sheets XXVIII SE and XXVIII NSW (National Library of Wales).

Unpublished Cartographic Sources

1771-2 Maps of Land Belonging to William Lloyd of Plas Power. (Denbighshire Record Office CROR DD/PP/497)

1840 Tithe Map of Bersham Township, Wrexham Parish (National Library of Wales A/C 404).

1844 Tithe Map of Esclusham Below Township, Wrexham Parish (National Library of Wales A/C 1256).

1845 Tithe Map of Esclusham Above Township, Wrexham Parish (National Library of Wales A/C 1272).

Manuscript Sources

1840 Tithe Apportionment of Bersham Township, Wrexham Parish (National Library of Wales A/C 404).

1844 Tithe Apportionment of Esclusham Below Township, Wrexham Parish (National Library of Wales A/C 1256).

1845 Tithe Apportionment of Esclusham Above Township, Wrexham Parish (National Library of Wales A/C 1272).

1899 Plan of Plas Power Estate. (Denbighshire Record Office CROR DD/PP/505)

APPENDIX I

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CATEGORIES

The following categories are based on those established for defining archaeological significance of sites during survey work on the Forest Enterprise (Wales) estate (Thomas 1997). They are intended only as a guide to the relative importance of the archaeological sites identified during this assessment.

Category A

Archaeological monuments of national importance

This category may include any site, whatever its form, which might meet the criteria for scheduling. It will by definition include all Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and listed buildings. Some, though not all, of the sites in this category may be recommended for scheduling if they are not already scheduled.

The main criteria for selection will usually be the rarity, condition and potential of the site. Typically, sites such as barrows, hillforts, linear earthworks or significant (ruined) buildings might fall in this category, although significant find scatters might equally well qualify on potential or relatively modern farmsteads on group value.

Category B

Archaeological monuments and landscape features of regional or local importance

This category may include any site, whatever its form, which while not meeting the criteria for scheduling may still be seen as of regional or local importance. For example, a type of site unique to a particular locality but common elsewhere, or severely degraded examples of commonly occurring types.

Category C

Archaeological monuments of lesser significance

This category comprises sites which while being of archaeological or historical interest are not worthy of conservation or active protection.

Category D

Sites with no defined physical presence

This category comprises findspots, sites noted but not accurately located in antiquarian references, sites known only from placename evidence and other reported sites whose authenticity is in doubt (e.g. certain sites which have not been verified by recent archaeological fieldwork). No sites from this category were identified during the present assessment.

APPENDIX II

SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF PLAS POWER AND NANT MILL WOODS, WREXHAM

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Woodland Trust have requested that an archaeological assessment be carried out at the above property (centered on c.SJ295497). The assessment is required to aid the proper management of the archaeological resource of the woodland and to place the woodland within its historical context.
- 1.2 The woodland covers 43.2ha and lies to the north-west of Bersham. Previously identified archaeological features in the woodland include a section of Offa's Dyke. Other archaeological assessments within woodlands in Wales have also demonstrated the survival of a wide range of unrecorded archaeological sites including charcoal burning hearths, deeply incised hollow ways and surrounding earthworks (Thomas 1996; 1997). The surveys have also demonstrated the range of documentary and cartographic sources available for the placing of the sites within their historic context.

2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of the assessment are:
- 2.2 to reveal by means of desktop survey and limited fieldwork the nature of the archaeological resource and historic context of the woodland.
- 2.2 to prepare a series of digital maps recording the development of the woodland as recorded on historic maps and related to the modern stock map.
- 2.3 to prepare a database of archaeological sites including site descriptions, location and assessment of their importance.
- 2.4 to prepare a report including an account of the historic context of the woodland along with a gazetteer of identified sites and maps of their location.

3 Methods

- 3.1 Desktop Survey
 - 3.1.1 A search of the archives held by the National Library in Aberystwyth, the National Monument Record based at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth, the Flintshire County Record Office in Hawarden and the Sites and Monuments Record held by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust will be conducted for material relevant to the property. This material may include estate maps, tithe maps and apportionments, early editions of the Ordnance Survey, manuscript documents and aerial photographs. Published sources relevant to the property will also be consulted.
 - 3.1.2 Digital maps will be created by rectifying cartographic material to modern grid co-ordinates under AutoCAD. The Woodland Trust stock map will also be digitised allowing the overlay of the historic map data.

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 Fieldwork will be carried out after the completion of the desktop assessment. The fieldwork will record the condition of sites identified during the desktop assessment and will record previously unrecorded sites. The transect approach to fieldwork will not be adopted as it is unsuitable for wooded areas.

3.3 Data Creation

- 3.3.1 A database will be compiled in FoxPro recording the location, condition and nature of specific archaeological features. The sites will be categorised according to their archaeological importance.
- 3.3.2 MapInfo tables will be created from the digital map data. Co-ordinates recorded in the FoxPro database will enable the sites to be viewed against the map tables.

3.4 Reporting

- 3.4.1 A report on the results of the survey will be prepared following the desktop survey, fieldwork and data creation. This will take the form of a typed and bound A4 document with sections on the historic context of the site, a gazetteer of sites and reference maps.

4 Resources and Programming

- 4.1 The assessment will be undertaken by 2 skilled archaeologists, one of whom has previous experience of carrying out assessments in wooded areas. Overall supervision will be by R.J. Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by one of the two archaeologists who conducted the assessment.
- 4.3 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.4 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employers Liability insurance.

References

- Thomas, D. 1996. *Priory Grove, Monmouthshire. Archaeological Assessment*. CPAT Report 211.
- Thomas, D. 1997. *Cwm George Woods, Vale of Glamorgan. Archaeological Assessment* CPAT Report 256.

David Thomas
Project Officer

STANDARD NOTES AND CONDITIONS

- 1 The quotation has been prepared using the appropriate rates of pay, traveling costs and other expenses normally used for archaeological fieldwork by Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (henceforward termed CPAT). It is subject to revision for work done after 31 March 1999.
- 2 An invoice will be issued for payment on submission of a report on 30-day settlement terms.
- 3 On acceptance of the tender, the client should provide a written order for the work. CPAT will not otherwise be able to commence work.
- 4 This estimate covers only the completion of the archaeological evaluation and the preparation of the commissioned report. The Curatorial staff of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust in their role as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority will be solely responsible for determining any recommendations for further action arising from the proposed assessment. There is no commitment on the part of those CPAT staff involved in contracting to provide services or advice to the client in any form subsequent to the submission of the project report.
- 5 Where CPAT is contracting to undertake a particular piece of work, it recognises that those intending to commission such work may wish to engage an independent archaeological consultant to assess the specification of works intended to satisfy the archaeological brief, to monitor the progress of the work or to advise on the recommendations for any further action.
- 6 Whilst CPAT will make every effort to ensure that its work is both thorough and accurate, it cannot be held responsible for any omission or misinterpretation arising from the limitations of the procedures as laid down in the project brief/specification.
- 7 CPAT cannot be held responsible for any alteration or modification to the results or conclusions in the report, made by the client or a third party.
- 8 It is understood that the client will arrange for access for CPAT and its agents to the areas involved in the examination, and that, if appropriate, landowners will be notified by the client before work commences
- 9 It is understood that the client will be responsible of the payment of any compensation to the occupier and/or owner as a consequence of the archaeological works.
- 10 CPAT will not be liable to indemnify the client against compensation resulting from unavoidable damage to crops, structures or services during on-site operations.
- 11 Work undertaken during the project will be covered by CPAT's existing Public Liability and Employer's Liability indemnities.
- 12 CPAT and/or its sub-contractors will make every effort to ensure that its works do not constitute a hazard to members of the public or persons authorised by the owner to be on the land.
- 13 CPAT will endeavour to keep the results of client's assessment work confidential for an agreed period of time after completion of the project. Thereafter CPAT's results and conclusions will be considered in the public domain, and CPAT reserves the right to publish reports on the work undertaken, with all due acknowledgment to the client.

- 14 CPAT undertakes not to give information to the media without the prior agreement of the client (or his agent).
- 15 CPAT will retain possession of copyright on all survey records and commissioned reports, and it retains the right to assign these to a another body of its choosing in due course. It will provide an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report and its contents in all matters relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- 16 Finds, artefacts and samples will remain in the temporary possession of CPAT until fully studied and reported on. Subsequently, the client/landowner will nominate an appropriate local or regional public museum to which these will be donated.
- 17 It is CPAT's policy to adhere to the *Code of Practice* of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and other current recognised Codes of Practice etc. specifically dealing with archaeological work.
- 18 CPAT's work will be monitored by the relevant regional curatorial body. CPAT should be informed in writing, if the client wishes to institute his own monitoring system.

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Figure 1: Location of Plas Power and Nant Mill Woods

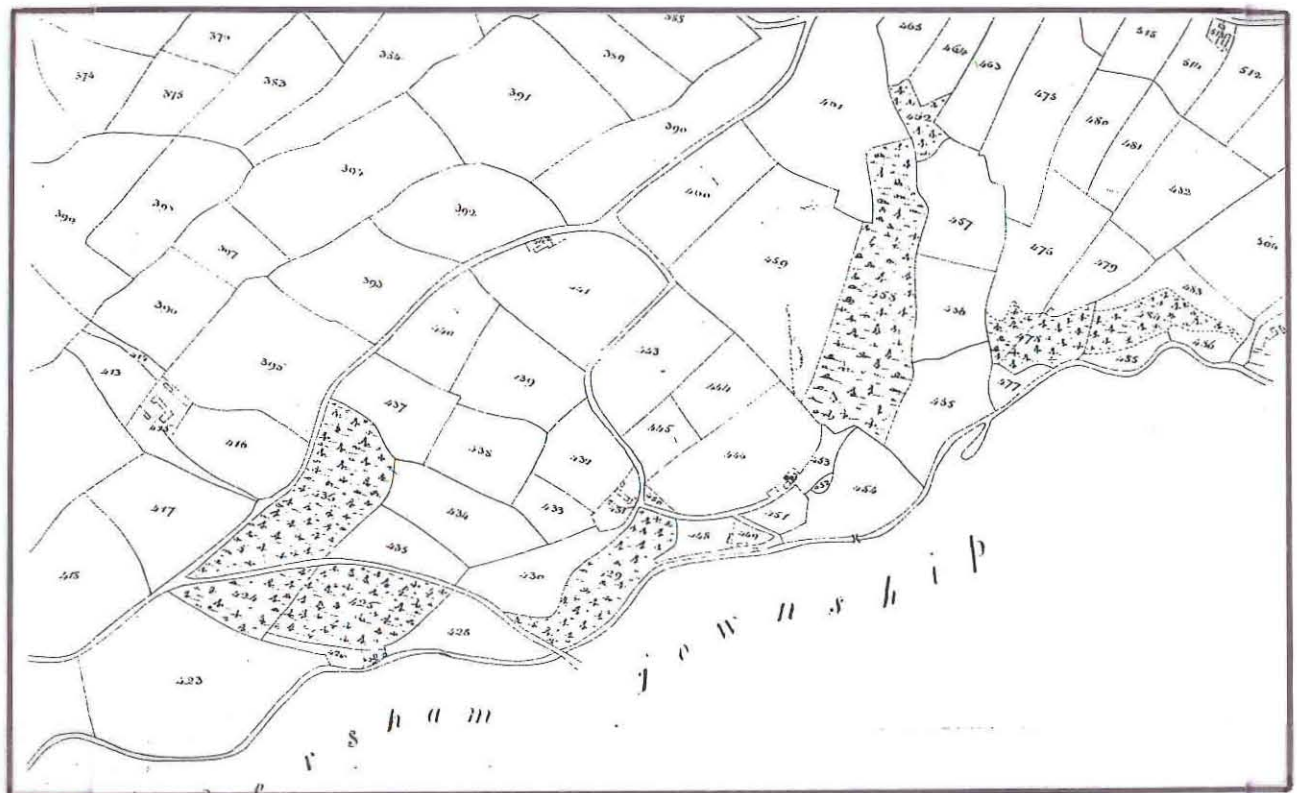
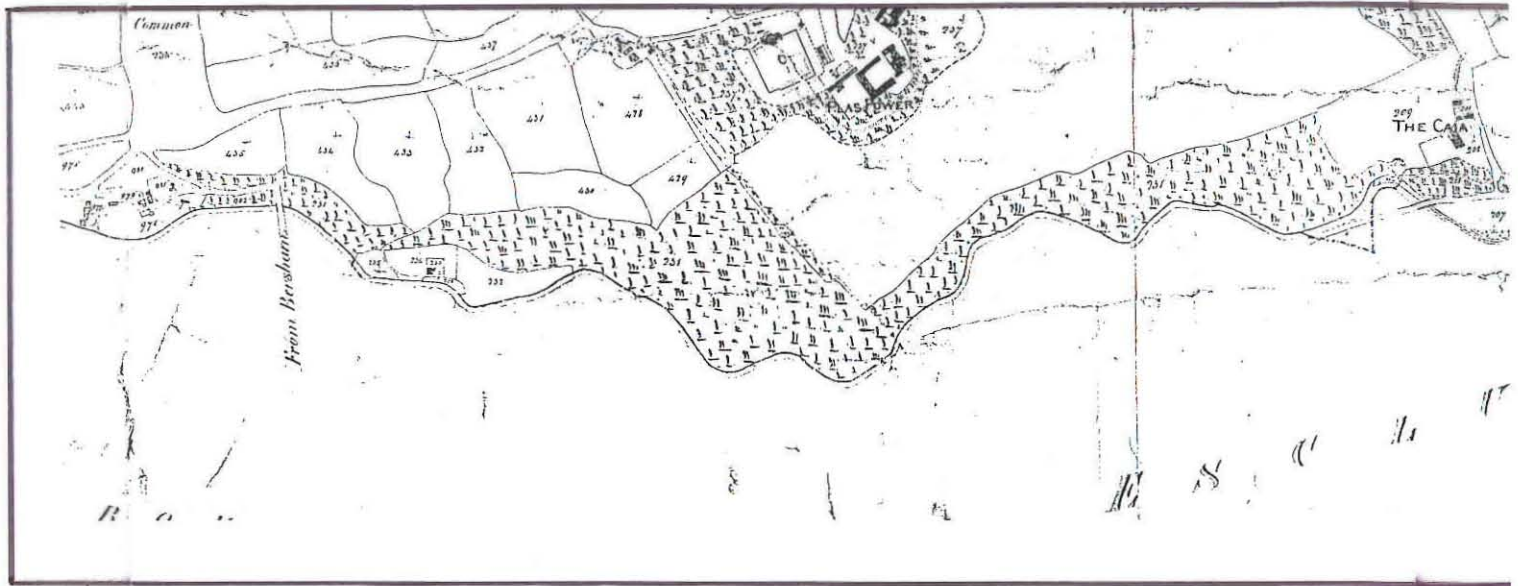


Figure 2: Extract of the Bersham Township tithe map (top) and Esclusham Above Township tithe map (bottom)

(Reproduced with the permission on the National Library of Wales)



Figure 3: Extract of the first edition of the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map, Denbighshire Sheet XXVIII.

(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Wales)

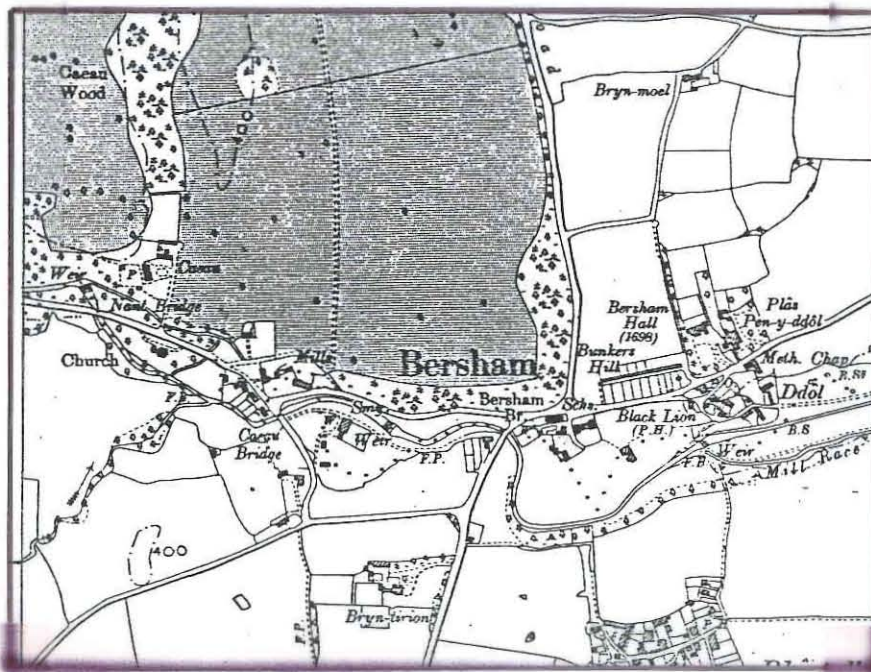
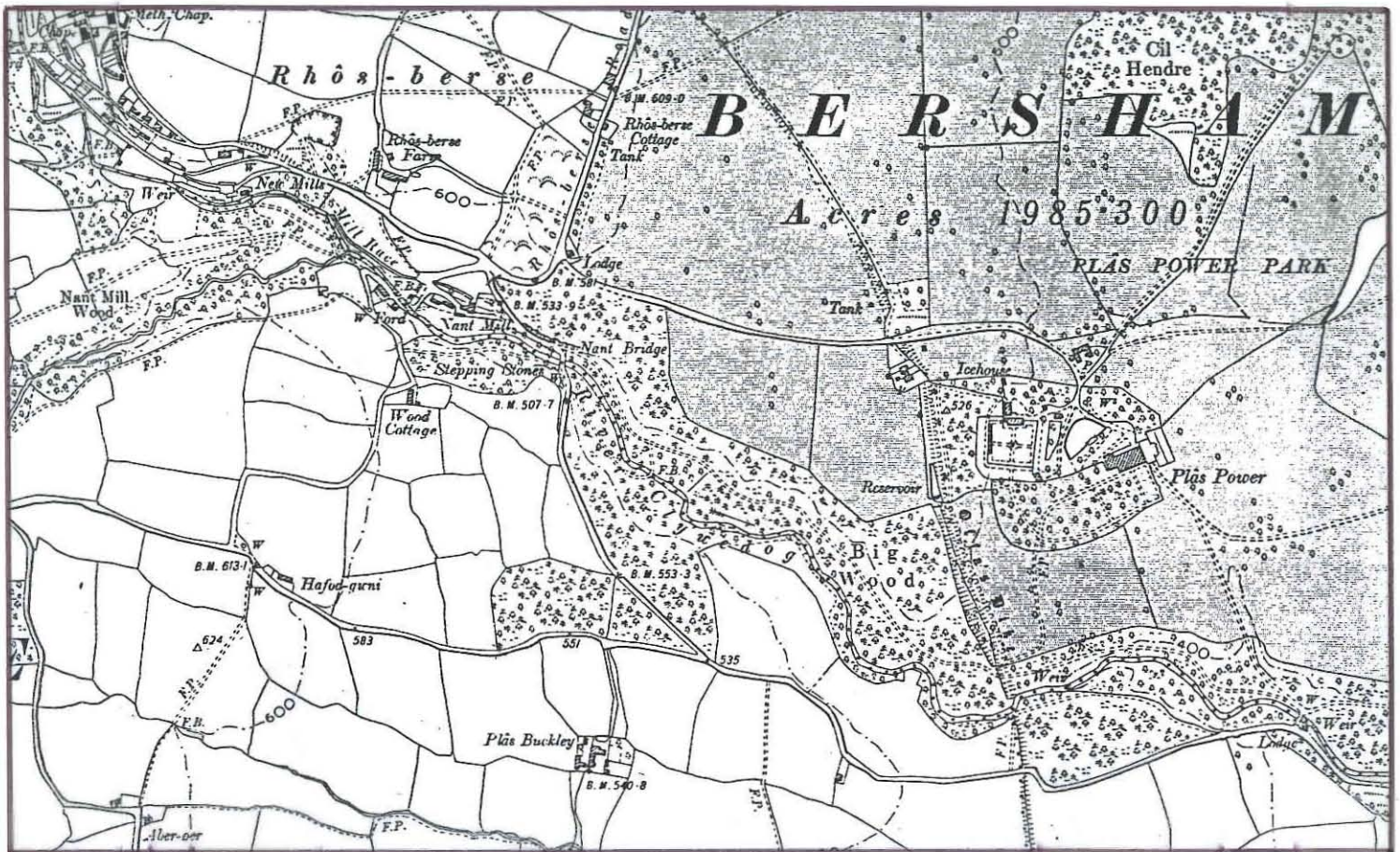


Figure 4: Extract of the second edition of the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map. Denbighshire Sheets XXVIII SE XXVIII SW.
(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Wales)

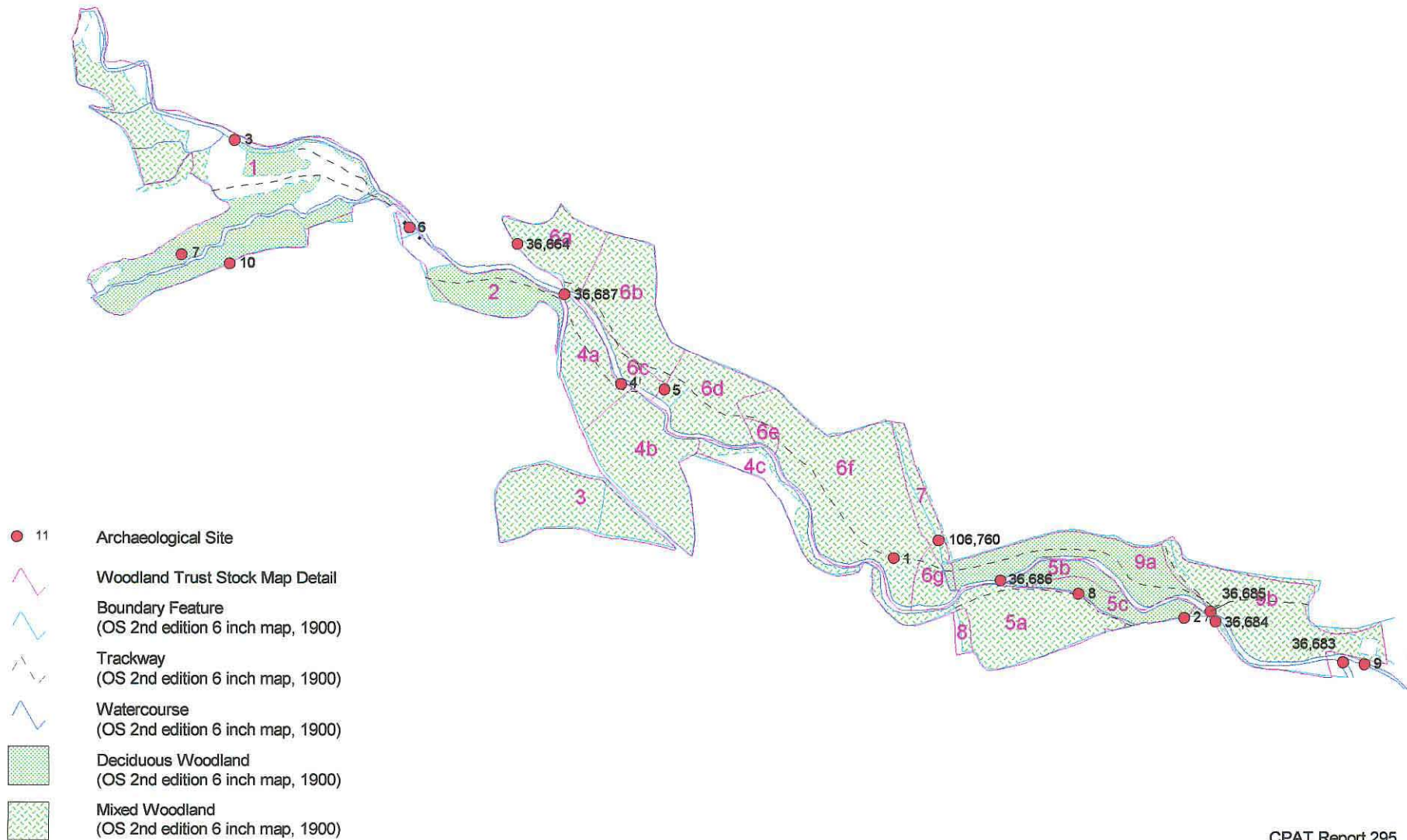
Figure 5: Plas Power and Nant Mill Woods

Woodland change since 1840



Figure 6: Nant Mill and Plas Power
Location of Archaeological Features

1:10000



Site No 1 SJ29664955

Plas Power Track

Site Type Track *Period* Post Medieval

Trackway, possibly a tramway, running through Plas Power Wood. Probably joins Bersham to Coedpoeth area. Excavations failed to find evidence that it was a tramway (Grenter pers comm).

Still used as footpath. Revetted in places recently with timber. Now relatively stable.

Management Category B

Site No 2 SJ30154944

Bersham Lodge Wall

Site Type Wall *Period* Post Medieval

Wall, part of Plas Power Estate, as PRN 36,664.

Well constructed and stable structure. No immediate threat.

Management Category A

Site No 3 SJ28535026

Nant Mill Wood Mine Adit

Site Type Adit *Period* Post medieval

Mine adit, drainage adit from Minera. Stone built arched entrance. Water still running.

In good condition. Grill placed over entrance. No immediate threat.

Management Category C

Site No 4 SJ29194984

Plas Power Croft I

Site Type Building *Period* Post Medieval

Small croft marked on tithe map of 1840. Survives as a stone structure on side of river.

Walls survive to c. 1.6m. Overgrown but generally in good condition.

Management Category C

Site No 5 SJ29274983

Plas Power Croft II

Site Type Building **Period** Post Medieval

Small croft marked on OS map of 1880 and on tithe map. Surrounded by open fields on map. Low stone walls are the only indication of its presence today.

Covered in undergrowth, particularly rhododendron. No immediate threat.

Management Category C

Site No 6 SJ28835011

Nant Mill Millers House

Site Type Building **Period** Post Medieval

Millers house on opposite side of stream from mill. Marked on OS map of 1900. Survives as a series of stone structures.

House now demolished though structures still visible as ruins. Site is overgrown and some young trees are growing from the structure. Possible candidate for public presentation.

Management Category B

Site No 7 SJ28445006

Nant Mill Wood Coal Pit

Site Type Coal Pit **Period** Post Medieval

Coal pit identified during field visit. Pit visible with platform to SW. Coal on surface around site. Not located accurately because no mapped features visible from the site. Canopy of a fallen Scots Pine lies on site.

No immediate threat.

Management Category C

Site No 8 SJ29974948

Bersham Lodge Leat

Site Type Leat **Period** Post Medieval

Leat leading away from Bersham Western Weir. The leat is now dry but survives in good condition as an earthwork. Recently run over during timber extraction, though little damage incurred. No immediate threat.

Management Category B

Site No 9 SJ30464936

Caeau Leat

Site Type Leat **Period** Post Medieval

Leat running from Caeau weir towards Bersham. Perhaps has a medieval origin. Main water supply for Bersham ironworks.

Leat still contains water. In good condition. No immediate threat.

Management Category B

Site No 10 SJ28535005

Nant Mill Wood Boundary

Site Type Boundary feature **Period** Unknown

Boundary predominantly comprised of holly. Perhaps represents deliberate encouragement of species to act as a barrier to stock and for winter fodder.

No immediate threat.

Management Category C

Site No 36664 SJ29025008

Bersham, Wall to Plas Power Park

Site Type Wall **Period** Post Medieval

Listed structure which forms part of the western boundary to Plas Power Park. Rusticated rock-faced rubble with rustic projecting castellations. Varying in height. Integral to mid C19th landscaping of Plas Power Park in picturesque style. Cadw ref 16

Listed building in good condition. Any management advice should be sought from Cadw.

Management Category A

Site No 36683 SJ30424937

Bersham, Caeau Weir

Site Type Weir **Period** Post Medieval

Listed structure lying just outside Woodland Trust property. Origins may date back to medieval period. Present weir probably constructed during C18th. Stepped profile created between 1900 and 1911. Cadw Ref 16/G/13

Listed building in good condition. Any management advice should be sought from Cadw.

Management Category A

Site No 36684 SJ30214944

Bersham, Bersham Lodge

Site Type Lodge *Period* Post Medieval

Listed structure lying just outside Woodland Trust property. Lodge has datestone of 1833, but character more of c1860. Lodge probably remodelled in 1860 by Thomas Lloyd Fitzhugh. Cadw Ref 16/G/14

Listed building in good condition. Any management advice should be sought from Cadw.

Management Category A

Site No 36685 SJ30204945

Bersham, Bridge, Gates and Railings at Bersham Lodge

Site Type Bridge *Period* Post Medieval

Listed structures. The bridge and iron railings form part of the Woodland Trust property. The iron railings form its boundary in places. Decorative cast iron, part of re-modelling of Plas Power Park during 1860s. Cadw ref 16/G/15

Listed building in good condition, although bridge is unsafe. Any management advice should be sought from Cadw.

Management Category A

Site No 36686 SJ29844951

Bersham, Western Weir on the River Clywedog

Site Type Weir *Period* Post Medieval

Listed structure, probably constructed c1750 by Isaac Wilkinson as part of power system serving small mine in vicinity. High vertical weir on a slight curve. Roughly coursed. Cadw Ref 16/G/16

Listed building in good condition. Any management advice should be sought from Cadw.

Management Category A

Site No 36687 SJ29105000

Bersham, Nant Bridge

Site Type Bridge *Period* Post Medieval

Listed lying on boundary of Woodland Trust property. Linked stylistically to wall surrounding Plas Power Park, probably built for Thomas Lloyd Fitzhugh in 1860. Picturesque style probably chosen to enhance its romantic setting. Cadw Ref 16/G/17

Listed building in good condition. Any management advice should be sought from Cadw.

Management Category A

Management Category **A**