

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Cwmhir Abbey

A Preliminary Assessment of Archaeological Remains in its Vicinity.



CPAT Report No 278

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Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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INTRODUCTION

This report provides a preliminary rapid assessment of archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity of the remains of the Cistercian abbey at Cwmhir, Radnorshire. It was undertaken in 1997/98 (Project CPAT 698) in conjunction with recording of the re-survey of the standing ruins following restoration work (Jones 1997), with a view to identifying sites of possible monastic origin which may be considered worthy of preservation. It follows on from the recent archaeological survey on the Forest Enterprise estate around the abbey which had indicated the survival of a number of associated archaeological remains (Thomas and Earwood 1996).

The assessment has involved a review of information held on the Regional Sites and Monuments Record maintained by CPAT, a search of published sources, analysis and rectification of evidence from the tithe map and the earliest maps published by the Ordnance Survey and rectification of oblique air photographs in CPAT's collection. A gazetteer of sites considered by this survey is given at the back of the report.

The Cistercian abbey at Abbeycwmhir (PRN 245; SAM R12) lies at a height of about 250m on the north bank of the Clywedog at a point where the relatively flat valley bottom widens to about 150m. The steep-sided valley runs out to the east and within a kilometre the site is surrounded by uplands which rise to about 460m to the west, 430m to the north, and 460m to the south. Today the land-use is predominantly stock-rearing grassland with extensive conifer woodland planted by the Forestry Commission during the 1950s and 1960s. Even so, the impression of the landscape is not very different from that given to Jonathan Williams (1859, 230-1) when, around 1818, he wrote:

These townships are diversified with hills and valleys, and abound in woods and fertile inclosures in a more copious proportion than most of the adjoining districts; thus clearly evincing the superior industry of the monks, whose numerous groves of majestic oaks formed the grand and beautiful characteristic of their domain, while the gloomy recesses of a winding and watered valley inspired devotion.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are several accounts of the history of Cwmhir abbey, including Rees (1849), S.W Williams (1896), Radford (1982) and Remfry (1994). The original foundation is believed to have been in 1143, possibly by the Welsh ruler Maredudd ap Madog. Around 1144 the whole area came under Norman influence and without the support of its Welsh founder it is thought that the abbey was in abeyance (Radford 1982, 59). The Welsh regained control of the area in the 1160s and 70s and on 1 August 1176 the abbey was refounded, under the influence of Rhys ap Gruffydd, as a sister house of Whitland Abbey. In 1198 the Normans, led by Roger Mortimer, became dominant in Maelienydd and in 1200 Mortimer issued a grant of land to the abbey (Charles 1970).

During the late 1220s and the early 1230s Maelienydd came under the Welsh dominance of Llywelyn Fawr, although the abbey was still vulnerable to attacks by the English (Radford 1982, 69). After the death of Llywelyn in 1240 Maelienydd reverted to Norman dominance under the Mortimers. The 1267 Treaty of Montgomery recognized Llywelyn ap Gruffydd's claim to the area, but after his death and subsequent burial at Cwmhir in 1282 the area again passed into English hands. It was attacked and nearly destroyed by Owain Glyndwr, probably in 1402, and was dissolved in 1536.

After the Dissolution the lands of the abbey passed firstly to John Turner then to various other landowners until in 1565 it passed to the Fowler family which held the abbey and much of its land until the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In 1760 the Golon manor was alienated and in 1822 the Cefn Pawl part was purchased by Thomas Wilson. In 1837 it was sold to Francis Phillips who was still in possession at the time of the tithe survey.

THE ABBEY RUINS

The most authoritative account of the remains of the abbey building is that of Radford (1982) which draws upon the early nineteenth-century excavations of Thomas Wilson and the late nineteenth-century excavations of Stephen Williams. Few records were made of the extensive excavations by Thomas Wilson which began in 1824 other than the brief account included by Wilson in supplementary notes made on an 1822 survey of the estate by Layton Cooke (Cooke 1981, 54-5):

Some years ago I contracted to have the interior of the Ruins cleared to the floor. This was done and vast quantities of ornamental and other Free stone were dug up and preserved, and the bases and other portions of the pillars discovered. The stone Coffin of one of the Abbots was found - the lid of which I have preserved entire with this inscription carved on it . . .

The workmen turned up a great number of skulls & bones; iron work of the windows; painted glass; ornamental leadwork; 2 pennies of Edwd. 2; a leaden seal to a Bull of *Honorius the 4th*; pieces of bottles; spurs; Carved heads (one of a lady); carved capitals of pillars & scroll work; the keys of all the gates 94 in no.) and many other things -

I afterwards had the exterior of the ruins and the whole field in which they stand dug up & found the abbot's apartments; standing portions of two magnificent Pillars & Slaughterhouse, also a large separate Free stone oven - In the slaughterhouse was a carved Ram's head.

The unornamented Free stone I have used to build a good substantial dwellinghouse, introducing some of the ornamented pieces: The other stone (*many hundred tons*) I have had broken up and used for the roads -

Of the ruined building itself I have not disturbed a stone -

A later account survives in Rees's account published in the first volume of *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, who adds that (Rees 1849, 245):

the site of the abbot's apartments, and of the refectory, and dormitories . . . and also the slaughter-house . . . were on the south-east of the church, and extended to the brook Clewedock The cemetery was considered to have been on the south-west, but no coffin or inscription was found to identify the place.

The smaller excavations by Williams, described by the excavator as 'trifling', were reported in 1896 along with a re-assessment of those by Wilson (Williams 1896, 87-98).

Recently the abbey has been the subject of consolidation work by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments which has been preceded by and carried out in conjunction with detailed recording of the fabric of the surviving structure (Adams 1988; Jones 1997).

A detailed contour survey of the surrounding area was also carried out in 1988 which is reproduced for the first time in this report (fig. 2).

The earliest surviving remains on the site are believed to date to the late twelfth century but the majority of the visible remains date to the early part of the thirteenth century (Radford 1982, 61-7). The thirteenth-century church was conceived on a vast scale. The nave is 78m long and 24.5m wide and would have had fourteen arches on either side. As such it represents one of the largest ecclesiastical buildings of its time in Britain, but it has long been held that the church was never finished. Leland's *Itinerary* written in 1536-9 states that 'no chirche in Wales is seen of such lengtht, as the foundations of walls there began doth shew, but the third part of the work was never finished' (Smith (ed.) 1906-10, vol. 3, 52).

This opinion has been echoed by later commentators (Rees 1849, 245; S.W. Williams 1896, 90; Radford 1982, 70) who have failed to find evidence for the completion of the transepts or any evidence of a choir. It has been suggested that a low wall crossing the nave was constructed to create a temporary choir in the eastern end (Rees 1849, 245-6). Williams's description of his excavations in the 1890s gives an account of his attempt to locate remains of the eastern end of the church (S.W. Williams 1896, 90):

The North Wall of the Transepts ends abruptly, and there is not a trace of foundation further than is shown on the plan. The South Wall does not appear to have been built much further than on the north side, but there are traces of foundations extending eastwards, and also southwards.

The extent of the foundations recorded by Williams are shown on figure 2. Williams implies therefore that he has located the end of the foundation trench of the northern transept wall, but

his account of the southern wall is ambiguous and may suggest an extension of the foundation trench eastwards beyond the excavated area. Unfortunately, there is no record of the extent of his excavations. There is also a possibility that what he was describing were the remains of a later robber trench.

There are several traditions relating to the movement of architectural fragments from Cwmhir Abbey. Rees (1849, 255) records that a gilt and painted screen was removed to the old church in Newtown and Williams (Davies 1905, 136) states that the churches of Llananno and Llanbister were built of stone from the ruined abbey. The most convincing tradition concerns the movement of part of the arcade to Llanidloes church around 1542 where measurements of the arches, spans and pier bases conform to those recorded at the abbey (Davies 1905, 136; Rees 1849, 251-4; S.W. Williams 1896, 88-9; Haslam 1979, 140-1; Radford 1982, 72-3). Other stone was undoubtedly taken from the abbey and used in farmhouses in the locality and during and following Wilson's excavations when 'several hundred tons of broken stone were taken away, and used in improving the roads in the neighbourhood' (Rees 1849, 255). Stephen Williams (1896, 95) records several fragments of dressed and carved stones, including the sculpted human head and a ram's head built into the terrace wall at Abbey Cwmhir Hall which are evidently those noted as those having been found during Wilson's (Cooke 1981, 54-5).

The earliest description of conventual buildings on the site was written by Jonathan Williams in 1818 (Davies 1905, 135), who recorded that the cells of the monks lay on the north-east side of the abbey while the refectory lay to the north. Given the topography of the site it seems unlikely that the location of these buildings is accurate. All later commentators record buildings to the south.

Rees also states that 'a considerable length of time before the removal of the rubbish by Mr Wilson, there were at the westernmost end of the nave, the remains of two apartments' (*ibid.*, 248). Williams excavations to the south of the church were intended to establish the position of the cloister and conventual buildings described by Rees. The limited excavations identified wall-lines and surfaces but the published plan of the location of the cloisters and claustral buildings is largely conjectural (S.W. Williams 1896, Plan 1).

The contour survey undertaken in 1988 within the church and over the area of the cloisters (fig. 2) provides little additional detail; it gives little indication of the presence of the cloister or conventual buildings apart from indicating that the central area of the cloisters is slightly lowered, probably as a result of the excavations by Thomas Wilson. Indeed, the ground rises up to the edge of the later boating lake, constructed by Thomas Wilson during the 1830s.

The evidence for the location of archaeological remains around the church is inconclusive. The poorly recorded excavations of Thomas Wilson may have removed a great deal of archaeological evidence, particularly in the area of the cloister and conventual buildings, but the later, limited, excavations of Williams did record the presence of walls to the south of the abbey.

If, as seems likely, there has been little disturbance of the ground during the present century it is probable that Williams's statement that 'it is probable that further excavations, at a depth of some two to three feet, would reveal much of the plan of the monastic buildings surrounding the cloister garth' (S.W. Williams 1896, 87) remains true. The original extent of buildings associated with the abbey is uncertain but it seems probable that these extend outside the area currently scheduled.

There is no evidence of other buildings such as stables, barns, byres which are usually found in the precinct, but they could lie beneath the present Home Farm as could the original gatehouse.

A brief study of the building materials used in the construction of the surviving walls of the abbey was made as part of the survey in 1988 (Adams 1988, 2). The principal stone is a hard, grey, fine-grained quartzite of a type common to the area (*not* the 'hard limestone' suggested by Radford 1982, 69). It has been suggested that an old quarry at Fowler's Cave on the summit of the hill to the north-east of the abbey may have been used as a source of building material (see below). In addition there are occasional blocks of conglomerate containing quartz clasts in a similar matrix, which were probably obtained from the same source. Minor quantities of slate were used as packing in the facing stones, and as string-courses in the core masonry. The surviving moulded stone at the site is composed of a yellowish-brown, fine-grained sandstone which is said to come from the Grinshill quarries near Shrewsbury (Radford 1982, 69). Blocks of similar dressed sandstone were also used to form the faces of the putlog holes through the core of the walls, which may represent waste material or reused material from the twelfth-century church.

THE MONASTIC PRECINCT

Precinct boundary

Jonathan Williams, in his *History of Radnorshire* (Williams 1859, 231) states that:

the whole monastic establishment has evidently been defended by a strong mound, or intrenchment, crossing the valley abruptly at equal distances above and below, extending through the village, and enclosing a space of around ten acres, which perhaps comprized the ancient and usual privilege of sanctuary.

Rees (1849, 245) states that a great oven (removed in 1831) was found at the south-west corner of this enclosure. The location of the boundaries referred to by Williams is uncertain. The eastern side may be an earthwork bank visible in the field to the east of the abbey church (fig. 3, PRN 21915), which is shown as a boundary on the tithe map of 1839. There is no indication today of a similar boundary to the west of the abbey church, but the area circumscribed by earthwork on the east, the present road on the north, the Cwmpoeth brook to the west (which flows through the modern village), and the Clywedog stream to the south measures approximately 9.8 acres

(3.9ha) and may thus be the 'space of around ten acres' referred to by Williams. The 3.9ha enclosed in this way is somewhat small for the precinct of a Cistercian monastery, which generally enclose areas of between 10-60ha, but would be a more appropriate size for an inner court. Radford (1982, 60) has suggested that the Cwmpoeth brook would have served as the domestic supply for the monastic community.

The outer precinct may be represented by boundaries visible as earthworks or shown on earlier maps. It seems likely that the northern boundary ran more or less along the line of the present road although Wilson (Cooke 1981, 55) noted that:

near the new Dwelling house' he had 'turned the high road to obtain more lawn, & have cut down the banks, filled in the hollow way in front of the public house [The Happy Union], and built a stone Bridge over the little stream which crossed it.

Part of the eastern boundary appears to be represented by a stretch of bank just to the south of the present road (fig. 3, PRN 32814). This appears to match a substantial bank and ditch (PRN 32811) to the south of the Clywedog stream, which turns to the east and enters a modern forestry plantation. Further to the east the line is taken up by a boundary (PRN 32813) shown on the tithe map and on earlier editions of the Ordnance Survey. The boundary then turns north to cut off the valley to the east of the abbey where the 1904 edition of the 6in Ordnance Survey map shows a boundary (PRN 32812) running across the valley to the south of the Clywedog stream. No feature can be identified to the north of the stream between it and the road. This suggested precinct boundary encloses an area of about 16.54ha spanning the full width of the valley at this point, stopping short of the rising ground to the north but encompassing some steeply sloping ground to the south. By way of comparison it can be noted that the precinct boundaries of the Cistercian monasteries at Byland, Rievaulx, Fountains and Tintern are estimated to enclose areas of 53ha, 48ha, 30ha and 11.5ha respectively. Recent transcription of air photographic evidence at Strata Marcella suggests that the precinct boundary there enclosed an area of about 9.6 ha.

Ridge and furrow

Areas of ridge and furrow cultivation (fig. 3, PRN 18264) have been recorded within the suggested precinct just to the east of Home Farm. Broad- and narrow-spaced furrows are evident in two areas totalling about 1.5ha, subdivided by a trackway. This evidence of cultivation is undated, but may well be of medieval origin.

Later garden features and boating lake

In the 1820s and early 1830s Thomas Wilson evidently created a number of garden features in the vicinity of the abbey ruins (Cooke 1981, 55).

Below the ruins to a considerable extent I have formed the river into a lake which much adds to its beauty I have inclosed about 30 acres of Land, including the Ruins and Old Orchard for private use and pleasure Ground.

The boating lake survives to the south of the abbey ruins (fig. 3, PRN 32807), but has evidently contracted in size, especially on the west, when compared with the outline shown on the Ordnance Survey 6in map of 1891. The new lake evidently cut across the line of the earlier leat which fed the mill downstream (see below). Wilson also built two other pools close to Abbey Cwmhir Hall (at SO05427142 and SO05197143) were also constructed by Wilson as 'store pools for angling and supplying fish' (Cooke 1981, 55).

Little appears to be known about the large circular mound just outside the south-west corner of the abbey church (fig 2). It is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 6in map of 1891 and seems likely to represent an ornamental garden feature created by Wilson, probably from the spoil excavated from inside the abbey church.

OTHER POSSIBLE SITES OF MONASTIC ORIGIN IN THE VICINITY

Mill and mill-leat

The former mill about 300m to the east of the abbey (PRN 16703), outside the suggested precinct boundary, is assumed to monastic in origin (Williams 1990, 40). The buildings (extensively repaired in 1829, see Cooke 1981, 49) have not been investigated as part of this project, but an initial study has been made of the course of the former leat from earlier cartographic evidence. No investigation of the current mill buildings has been conducted to check for medieval remains, but the leat which fed the mill is still partly visible. The junction of the leat with the Clywedog stream was disturbed by the construction of the boating lake noted above, but its junction with the stream is shown on the tithe map of 1839 (at approximately SO05267102).

Wenallt barn

A stone-built barn about 700m to the south-west of the abbey ruins (fig. 1, 32806) may possibly be on the site of farm buildings associated with the abbey, though no investigation of the buildings has been undertaken. It was known as the 'Wenallt Buildings' in 1832 (Cooke 1981, 46) and is shown on the tithe map of 1839.

Fishponds

There are several references to possible monastic fishponds in the area. Williams (1859, 233) records a local tradition that St Mary's church was constructed in 1680 on the former site of a fishpond, though this seems improbable. A further reference, again in Williams (*ibid.*), describes a 'remarkably large fish pond' in the township of Cefn Pawl. This was called 'the Monk's pool' which Thomas Wilson 'restored' in the 1820s, and which then covered an area of 3½ acres

(Cooke 1981, 55). No sign of the pool is visible today, but a large dam exists close to the site of Fishpools Farm shown on the tithe map, about 3.2km to the north-west of the abbey (fig. 1, PRN 32802). Due to the local topography, good cultivatable land is in relatively short supply in the immediate vicinity of the abbey. If the fishpool at Fishpools Farm were of monastic origin it is possible that it may have been sited on less productive land away from the abbey itself.

Parkland

Parkland has long been a feature of the landscape around Abbeycwmhir. Williams (1896, 85) relates a local rhyme;

Alas! alas! poor Radnorshire,
Never a park, nor ever a deer,
Nor ever a squire of five hundred a year,
Save Richard Fowler of Abbey Cwmhir

The Richard Fowler alluded to held the estate in the mid seventeenth century and served as High Sheriff in 1655. Documentary evidence for parkland associated with the area of the abbey begins in 1241 when Roger Mortimer, shortly after the erosion of Welsh power in the area following the death of Llywelyn Fawr, was granted by Phillip, the Abbot of Cwmhir, the right to enclose with hedges an area in the Convent's wood of Cwmhir for the purpose of hunting animals of the chase (Banks 1888, 215). It seems probable that this parkland corresponds with the area now known as the Great Park and Little Park (fig. 1, PRNs 3465, 21593). Ty Faenor Park (PRN 35925), to the east, is thought to have been a creation of the Fowlers at the end of the seventeenth century (Rees 1849, 243), although it is not clear on what basis this assumption is made.

The character of the Cwmhir parkland was reported by Jonathan Williams who wrote in about 1818 (Williams 1859, 162) that:

The oaks of immense size which grew in the parks of Abbey-cwm-hir within the recollection of many persons now living, and which were planted by the hands of the Monks, whose indolence is often unjustly condemned, afford honourable and gratifying specimens of the perfection which this noble and majestic species of trees is capable of obtaining on lands in the upper division of the county .

He goes on to state that the parkland was seven miles in circumference and was stocked with upwards of 200 deer, after which he adds 'one of the old gates and fragments of pales, together with the site of two deer-houses, remain still visible' (*ibid.*, 231). One of the old deer houses has possibly been identified as the Great Park Shed (see below) and parts of the northern side of the parkland boundary of the Great Park and the Little Park have been identified in the forest to the north, managed by Forest Enterprise.

Parkland boundaries

Parts of the northern boundaries of Little Park and Great Park can be traced within the modern forestry plantation (fig. 1, PRNs 21595, 21587). It survives in places as a low bank between 0.5-1.0m high and 1.5m across, parts of which (between SO05397234 and SO05887252) have evidently been destroyed by a recent forestry road. To the east of this disturbance a length of 621m can be traced while to the east a length of 948m can be traced. The eastern and western sides of the parkland appear to have been defined by streams. The southern boundary can no longer be clearly established but it seems likely to have extended to the foot of the steeper ground, just to the north of the abbey. The division between the Great Park and the Little Park is unclear but is likely to have been along the line of the Cwmpoeth brook. These suggested boundaries measure about 3.6 miles. This is well short of the seven miles quoted by Jonathan Williams although his measurement probably also included Ty Faenor Park, the boundaries of which are uncertain.

Great Park Shed

A low stone ruin described as the 'Great Park Shed' on the early editions of the Ordnance Survey 6in map of 1891 lies within Great Park (fig. 1, PRN 21585). Today it is known locally as the Deer Barn, and seems likely to be one of the 'two deer-houses' noted by Jonathan Williams. It is possible that this represents the site of a medieval hunting lodge as its position, near to the highest point in the park would be usual for a park lodge. A detailed survey of the ruins was carried out as part of the project (fig. 4) following clearance work undertaken by Forest Enterprise. This revealed that the ruined stone walls survive up to 1.2m high and are visible on the southern, western and northern sides. The southern wall is missing on the eastern end and there is no eastern wall. A small annex survives to the north. The building was probably used in some capacity until relatively recently. The debris around the site contains roof slates and on the second edition of the Ordnance Survey 6in map of 1904 it is shown as being roofed. The main fabric of the walls however appears to be the same stone used in the construction of the abbey.

Much of the eastern part of the Great Park had been enclosed by the end of the nineteenth century. Cooke's account of the estate, for example, states that an encroachment known as The Ventig (now presumably the property known as Fanteg at SO06647127) was built by one of the Fowlers for the huntsman Thomas Pugh, in the late eighteenth century (Cooke 1981, 52).

Stone quarries

Jonathan Williams describes the site known as Fowler's Cave as follows (Williams 1859, 231):

On the summit of a stupendous hill on the north-east side of the abbey is a large excavation, out of has been extracted the stone used in the construction of the old monastery.

The site is still visible as an outcrop of quarried rock to the north-east of the abbey (fig. 1, PRN 244), surveyed as part of the project (fig. 5). The type of rock on the site is the same as the predominant stone was used in the construction of the ruins of the abbey church (see above).

The quarried face is up to 7m high with overhangs in many places, explaining its description as a cave. No clear tool marks are visible on the exposed faces due to the nature of the stone itself. An inclined track (PRN 34359) runs up to the quarry from south-east and can be traced winding through the forestry and adjacent farmland from the direction of the abbey.

There appear to be no later records of working at the quarry, and indeed it is evident, as noted above, that from at least the early nineteenth century '*many hundred tons*' of stone from the abbey ruins were being reused for walls, buildings and roads. This would appear to substantiate the case for identifying Fowler's Cave as being medieval quarries worked for the construction of the monastery and its associated buildings and as such its present state may reflect its condition shortly after the major phases of building ceased, during the thirteenth century.

The association with the Fowler family is not of any necessary significance as far as dating is concerned. Two other local features carry the name: Fowler's Arm Chair, is a prehistoric stone circle (PRN 957) and Fowlers Horse Block a natural boulder at (PRN 1955). That the cave was an established feature of the park during the ownership of the Fowler family is suggested by the name association and it is perhaps significant that the site is referred to as a cave rather than as its original use as a quarry, perhaps suggesting that it was in use as a quarry before the middle of the sixteenth century when the property was acquired by the Fowlers. Indeed the present form of the site and its picturesque location may have led to it being used by the Fowlers as a resting place when using the park.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The present survey, intended largely as a preliminary study, has suggested the survival of a wide range of monuments relating to Cwmhir Abbey. The following recommendations are made for further work from both academic and conservation viewpoints.

- 1 Geophysical survey in order to help to define the extent of the building remains within the monastic precinct including the following: the extent of conventual buildings, particularly to the south of the abbey church; the extent of the east end of the abbey church; the extent of a cemetery attached to the monastery.
- 2 Field survey to confirm the suggested monastic precinct boundaries and various internal features including evidence of cultivation, as a follow up to interpretations largely based on the evidence of aerial photography and cartographic evidence.
- 3 Field survey of other features in the environs of Abbeycwmhir identified as part of this survey, such as the fishponds, the mill and leat to the east of the abbey, and Wenallt Barn.
- 4 A survey of surviving architectural fragments from Cwmhir Abbey and the history of their dispersal within the region.
- 5 A broader rapid survey of the estates held by Cwmhir Abbey.

- 6 Interpretation and publication of the results of the above, together with the publication of the results of the recent re-survey of the abbey ruins.

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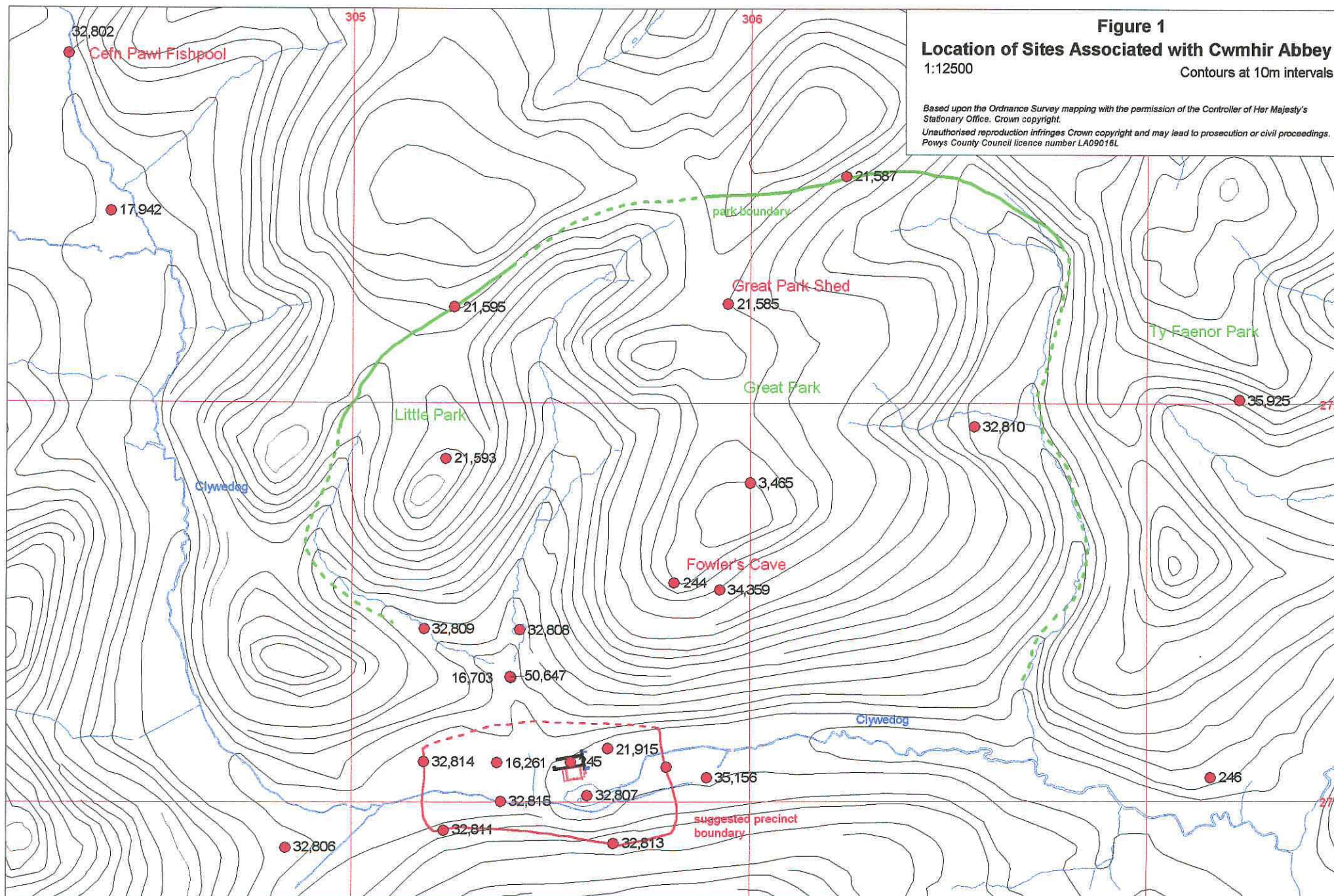
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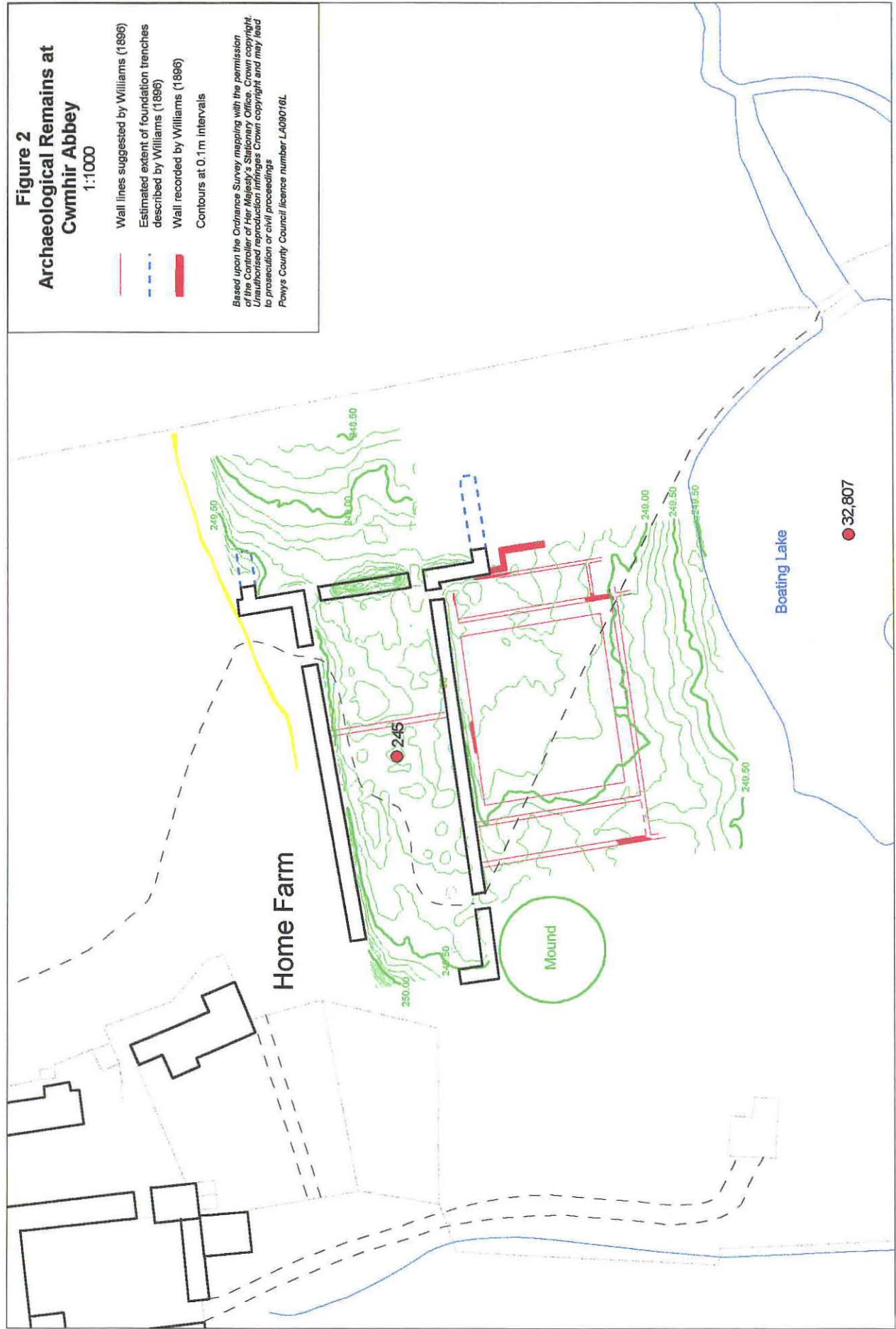
CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- Tithe Map of the townships of Golon and Cefn-pawl in the Parish of Llanbister (1839), National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth
- Ordnance Survey 1891 1st edition of the 6in series. Radnorshire VIII SE, IX SW, XV NE, XV NW
- Ordnance Survey 1904 2nd edition of the 6in series. Radnorshire VIII SE, IX SW, XV NE, XV NW



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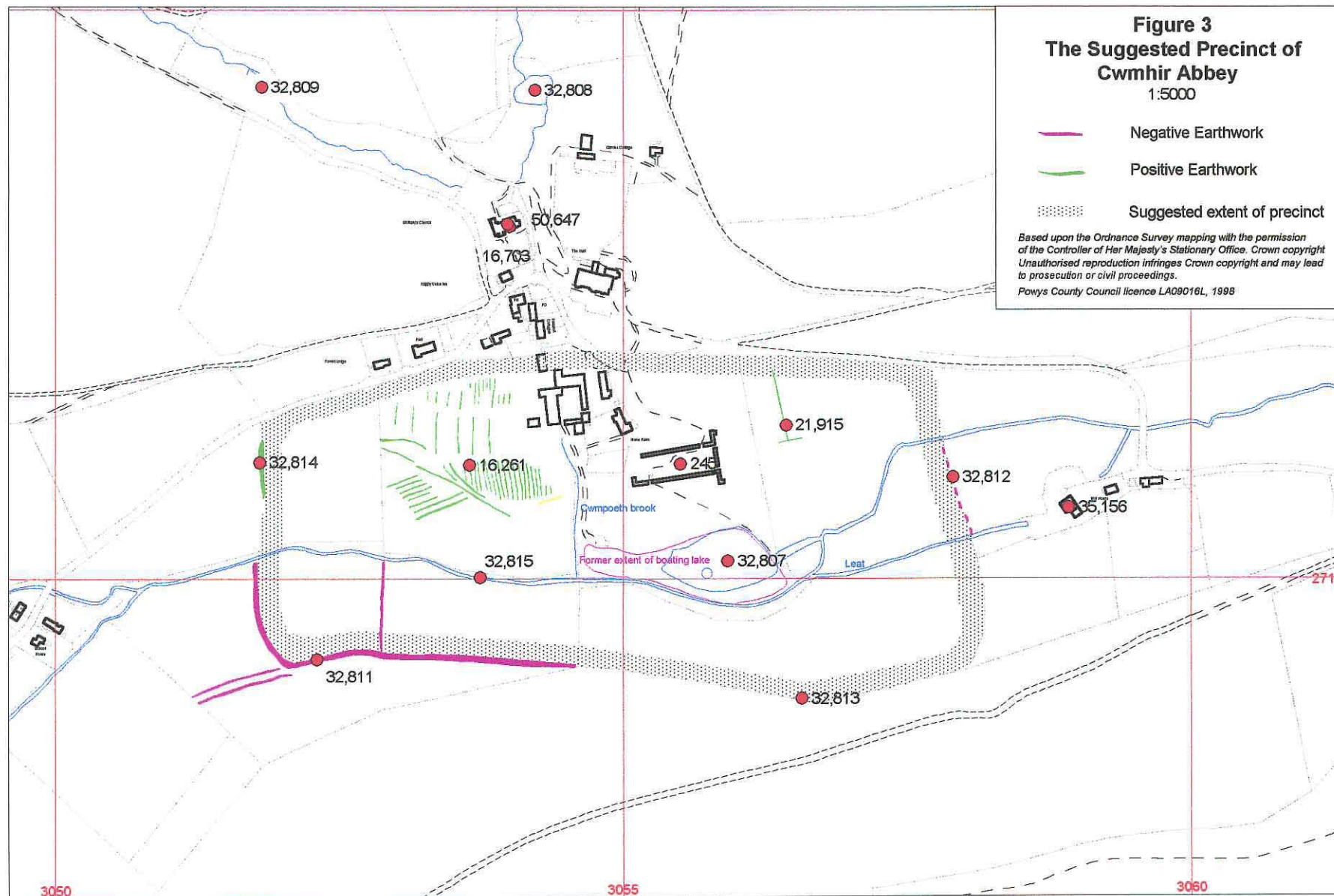


Figure 4
Great Park Shed

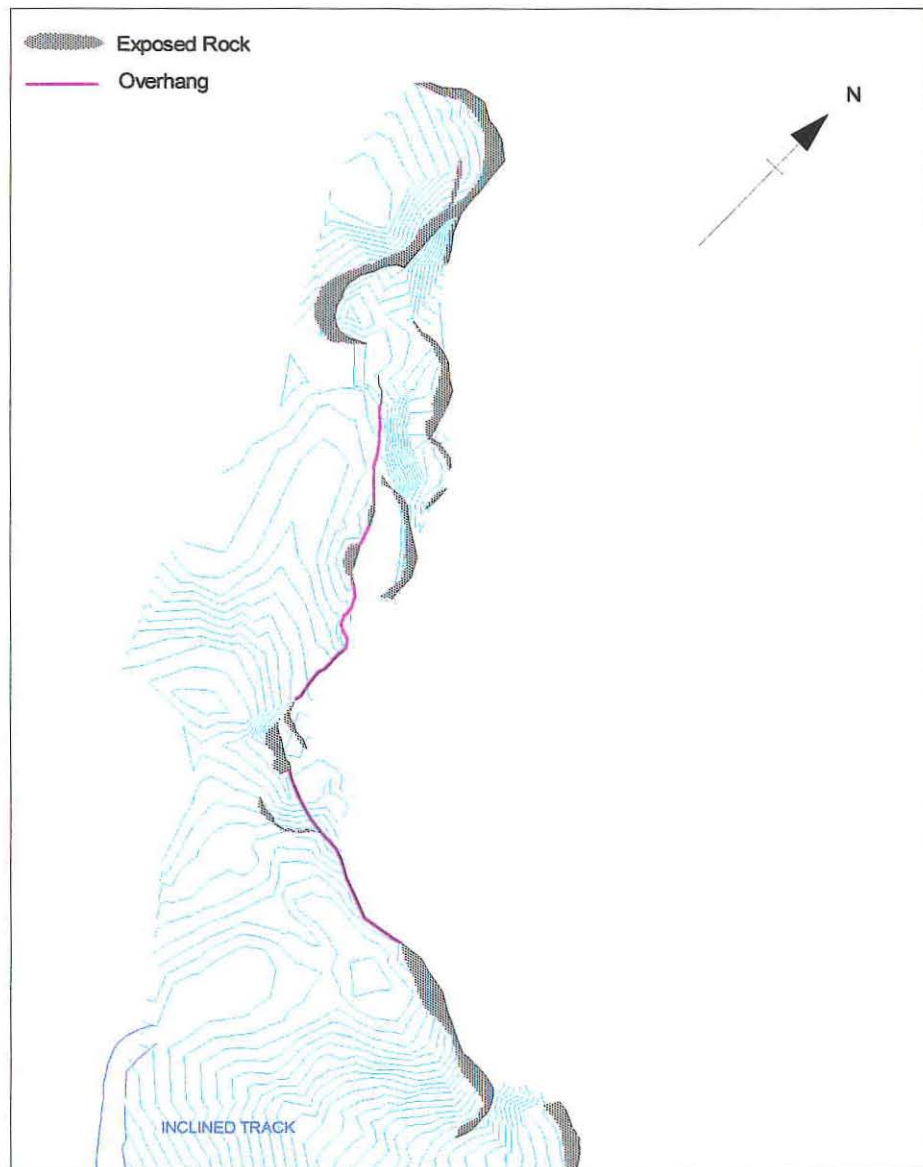
1:250; Contours at 0.25m intervals

Centered on SO0594372251



Figure 5
Fowler's Cave

*1:500; Contours at 0.25m intervals
Centered on SO0580971550*



Gazetteer of Sites Associated with Cwmhir Abbey

PRN	244	Fowler's Cave	NGR SO0580971550
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Tradition suggests it was the source of the stone for the construction of the Cwmhir Abbey (Williams 1859, 231).

<i>Form:</i> Earthwork	<i>Type:</i> Quarry	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
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PRN	245	Cwmhir Abbey	NGR SO0555071100
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Cistercian monastery, first foundation in 1143. Refounded in 1176.

<i>Form:</i> Building	<i>Type:</i> Monastery	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
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PRN	246	Ty Faenor Abbey	NGR SO0716071060
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Suggested site of Cistercian forerunner of Cwmhir Abbey (PRN 245) (e.g. Cooper 1992, 51). Alternatively site to which rubbish brought from Cwmhir Abbey following the dissolution (e.g. Brooksby 1970, 132-3). Present house on site built in 1656.

<i>Form:</i> Building	<i>Type:</i> Monastery	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
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PRN	3465	Abbeycwmhir, Great Park	NGR SO0600071800
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Park associated with Abbey Cwmhir Hall, but once with the Little Park and Ty Faenor Park part of a medieval park established in 1241 by Edmund Mortimer (Banks 1888, 215)

<i>Form:</i> Documents	<i>Type:</i> Park	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
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PRN	16261	Abbeycwmhir Ridge and Furrow	NGR SO0536571099
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Ridge and furrow visible on APs (CPAT AP 86-MB-180) west of Home Farm (Silvester, R J 1994, 11).

<i>Form:</i> Earthwork	<i>Type:</i> Ridge and furrow	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
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PRN	16703	Abbeycwmhir Church	NGR SO0539971309
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Church, dedicated to St Mary, founded in 1680. Local tradition suggests on the site of monastic fishpond (Williams 1859, 233). Present church built in 1866.

<i>Form:</i> Building	<i>Type:</i> Church	<i>Period:</i> Post medieval
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PRN	17942	Fishpool Farm (Abbey Cwmhir fishery)	NGR SO0438972478
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Fishery of Abbey Cwmhir 'Fishpool Farm' (Williams, D H 1990, 40, 97; Williams 1859, 233; Cooke 1981, 55). A large dam exists at this location visible, from the road.

<i>Form:</i> Documents	<i>Type:</i> Fishery	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
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Remains of the Great Park Shed. Possibly a medieval hunting lodge. Walls survive up to 1.2m high. Presence of roof slate suggests more recent use. Shown on OS 6in of 1891 and 1904. Probably one of 'two deer houses' noted in 1818 (Williams 1859, 62)

Form: Structure *Type:* Building *Period:* Medieval

PRN 21587 Abbeycwmhir Great Park Boundary**NGR SO0650672569**

Part of boundary bank of Great Park. Visible as a low bank c.0.9m wide and 0.5m high.

Form: Earthwork *Type:* Park boundary *Period:* Medieval

PRN 21593 Abbeycwmhir, Little Park**NGR SO0523471859**

Parkland associated with Abbey Cwmhir Hall, but once, with the Great Park and Ty Faenor Park, part of a medieval parkland founded in 1241 (Banks 1888, 215)

Form: Documents *Type:* Park *Period:* Medieval

PRN 21595 Little Park Boundary**NGR SO0525572243**

Abbey Cwmhir parkland boundary. Survives up to 0.8m high and is c. 0.9m broad.

Form: Earthwork *Type:* Park boundary *Period:* Medieval

PRN 21915 Cwmhir Abbey Banks**NGR SO0567271135**

Situated to the east of the abbey are two banks one running approximately north-south, the other at right-angles forming a T. Perhaps related to the abbey? (CPAT 1997).

Form: Earthwork *Type:* Bank *Period:* Medieval ?

PRN 32802 Fishpools Dam**NGR SO0428172876**

Large dam across river, possibly part of medieval fishpond. Documentary evidence (Cooke 1981, 55; Williams 1859, 233) suggests landscaping of the pool in the 1830s. See also PRN 17942

Form: Earthwork *Type:* Fishery *Period:* Medieval

PRN 32806 Wenallt Barn**NGR SO0483270885**

Farmstead comprising large stone buildings. Possible association with Cwmhir Abbey. Known as 'Wenalt Buildings' in 1832 (Cooke 1981, 46) and is shown on the tithe map of 1839.

Form: Structure *Type:* Barn *Period:* Medieval

PRN 32807	Abbey Cwmhir Hall Boating Lake	NGR SO0559171016
Boating lake to the south of Cwmhir abbey. Constructed by Thomas Wilson in the 1820s or 1830s (Cooke 1981, 55). The original lake extended further to the west.		
<i>Form:</i> Earthwork	<i>Type:</i> Boating Lake	<i>Period:</i> Post medieval
PRN 32808	Abbey Cwmhir Hall Fishpond I	NGR SO0542271429
Fishpond built by Thomas Wilson in the 1820s or 1830s (Cooke 1981, 55).		
<i>Form:</i> Earthwork	<i>Type:</i> Fishery	<i>Period:</i> Post medieval
PRN 32809	Abbey Cwmhir Hall Fishpond II	NGR SO0518271432
Fishpond built by Thomas Wilson in the 1820s or 1830s (Cooke 1981, 55).		
<i>Form:</i> Earthwork	<i>Type:</i> Fishery	<i>Period:</i> Post medieval
PRN 32810	Abbeycwmhir Parkland	NGR SO0656571940
Parkland established by Edmund Mortimer in 1241 (Banks 1988, 215). Now consists of three parks: Tyfaenor Park (PRN 35925), Great Park (PRN 3465) and Little Park (PRN 21593). Boundary survives on northern side (PRN 21007: 21595).		
<i>Form:</i> Documentary	<i>Type:</i> Parkland	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
PRN 32811	Cwmhir Abbey Precinct Boundary Earthworks I	NGR SO0523070928
Earthworks visible on aerial photograph (CPAT AP 86-MB-179) which may form the southwestern part of the precinct boundary.		
<i>Form:</i> Earthwork	<i>Type:</i> Precinct boundary	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
PRN 32812	Cwmhir Abbey Precinct Boundary	NGR SO0579071088
Boundary marked on 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey (1904) 6" series. Possibly on the alignment of the abbey precinct.		
<i>Form:</i> Documentary	<i>Type:</i> Precinct Boundary	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
PRN 32813	Cwmhir Abbey Precinct Boundary	NGR SO0565770894
Boundary marked on 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey (1904) 6" series. Possibly on the alignment of the abbey precinct. Now in forestry.		
<i>Form:</i> Documentary	<i>Type:</i> Precinct Boundary	<i>Period:</i> Medieval

PRN 32814	Cwmhir Abbey Precinct Boundary Earthworks II	NGR SO0518071101
Earthwork bank, perhaps part of the Cwmhir abbey precinct boundary.		
<i>Form:</i> Earthwork	<i>Type:</i> Precinct boundary	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
PRN 32815	Abbeycwmhir Leat	NGR SO0537471001
Leat marked on tithe map of 1839 to supply water to Abbeycwmhir Mill.		
<i>Form:</i> Documentary	<i>Type:</i> Leat	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
PRN 34359	Fowler's Cave Inclined Track	NGR SO0582371544
A trackway running from the quarry at Fowler's Cave to the east to the boundary of the forest where it disappears in the field due to ploughing. Probably extraction route from quarry.		
<i>Form:</i> Earthwork	<i>Type:</i> Trackway	<i>Period:</i> Medieval ?
PRN 35156	Cwmhir Abbey watermill	NGR SO0560071000
Site of former mill of Cwmhir Abbey (Williams, D H 1990, 40). Building extensively repaired in 1829 (Cooke 1981, 49)		
<i>Form:</i> Building	<i>Type:</i> Mill	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
PRN 35925	Abbey Cwmhir, Ty Faenor Park	NGR SO0723172009
Park associated with Abbey Cwmhir Hall, but once, with the Great Park and Litte Park part of a medieval park established in 1241 by Edmund Mortimer (Banks 1888, 215)		
<i>Form:</i> Documents	<i>Type:</i> Park	<i>Period:</i> Medieval
PRN 50647	Abbey Cwmhir Coffin Lid	NGR SO0538971311
Fourteenth-century coffin lid of Abbot Mabli from abbey church now in modern church of St Mary's at Abbeycwmhir (Radford 1982, 61, n.28: Silvester, R J 1994, 10).		
<i>Form:</i> Structure	<i>Type:</i> Find	<i>Period:</i> Medieval