

A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN PEMBROKESHIRE, 2006-07: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARES SM72 AND SM82



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A SURVEY OF DEFENDED ENCLOSURES IN PEMBROEKSHIRE, 2006-07: GAZETTEER OF ORDNANCE SURVEY GRID SQUARES SM72 AND SM82

Gan / By

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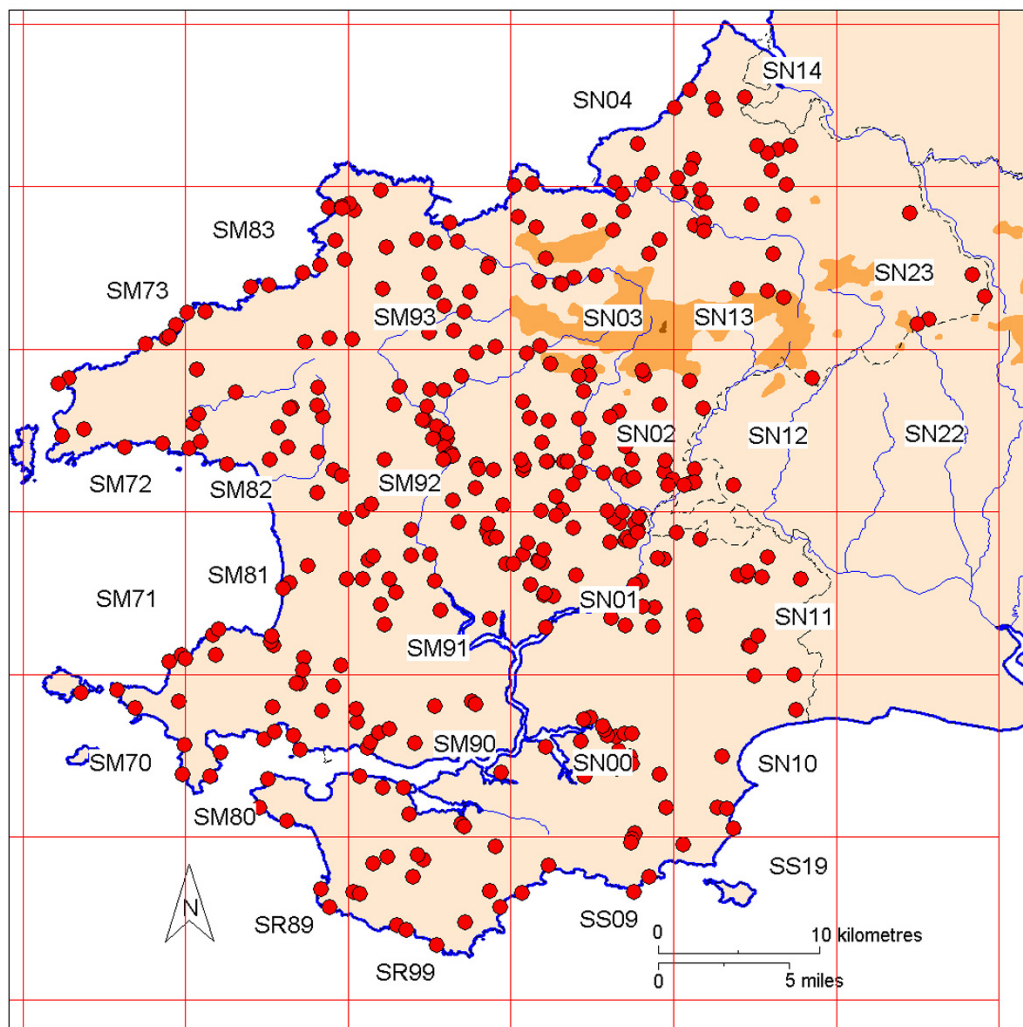
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Cover: Aerial photograph of Clegyr Boia defended enclosure 2655. RCAHMW Crown Copyright ©
reference DI2006_0584.

SITE GAZETTEER OF 10KM GRID SQUARES SM72 and SM82

For ease of handling the site gazetteers have been arranged into Ordnance Survey 10km grid squares. Each gazetteer consists of one or more 1:50,000 maps showing the overall location of each site followed by the individual entries for each site. Each entry comprises: a printout from the Historic Environment Record, including a site description; a 1:500 map; and where available a ground photograph and an aerial photograph.

Many of the 1:500 maps show details of the site plotted from cropmarks shown on aerial photographs. These plots are supplied by RCAHMW Crown Copyright ©.



*Index to the gazetteers of defended enclosures and related sites.
Gazetteers are arranged by 10km grid squares.*



1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SM72.

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1:50,000 Distribution map of sites in 10km grid square SM82.

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2206 ST DAVID'S HEAD

PRN 2206 NGR SM72822822

SITE NAME ST DAVID'S HEAD

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age?;Roman? CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

DESCRIPTION

This is an unusual site and although it has been classified as a promontory fort its exact character and date are uncertain. Essentially it consists of a dry-stone wall running along the western crest of a low valley side from Porth Melgan in the south to Porth Llong in the north enclosing an area of c. 24 ha including Clawdd y Milwyr promontory fort (PRN 2624) and Coetan Arthur chambered tomb. Approximately 8ha of the enclosed area consists of bare rock and 7ha of coastal slope. The remaining 9 ha comprises a rounded ridge and plateau covered with thin soils, bare rock, boulder spreads and a small peat bog. The predominant vegetation type is heath. There are no traces of field boundaries or habitation sites apart from those associated with Clawdd y Milwyr fort. The course of the wall was carefully chosen to take advantage of natural defences afforded by the topography. At the southern and northern ends the wall runs out into a very steep coastal slope; most of its course lies on the crest of an east-facing slope. A rock outcrop with a low east-facing cliff incorporated into the course of the wall towards its northern end provides a good natural barrier - the wall stops short on either side of the highest point of the outcrop.

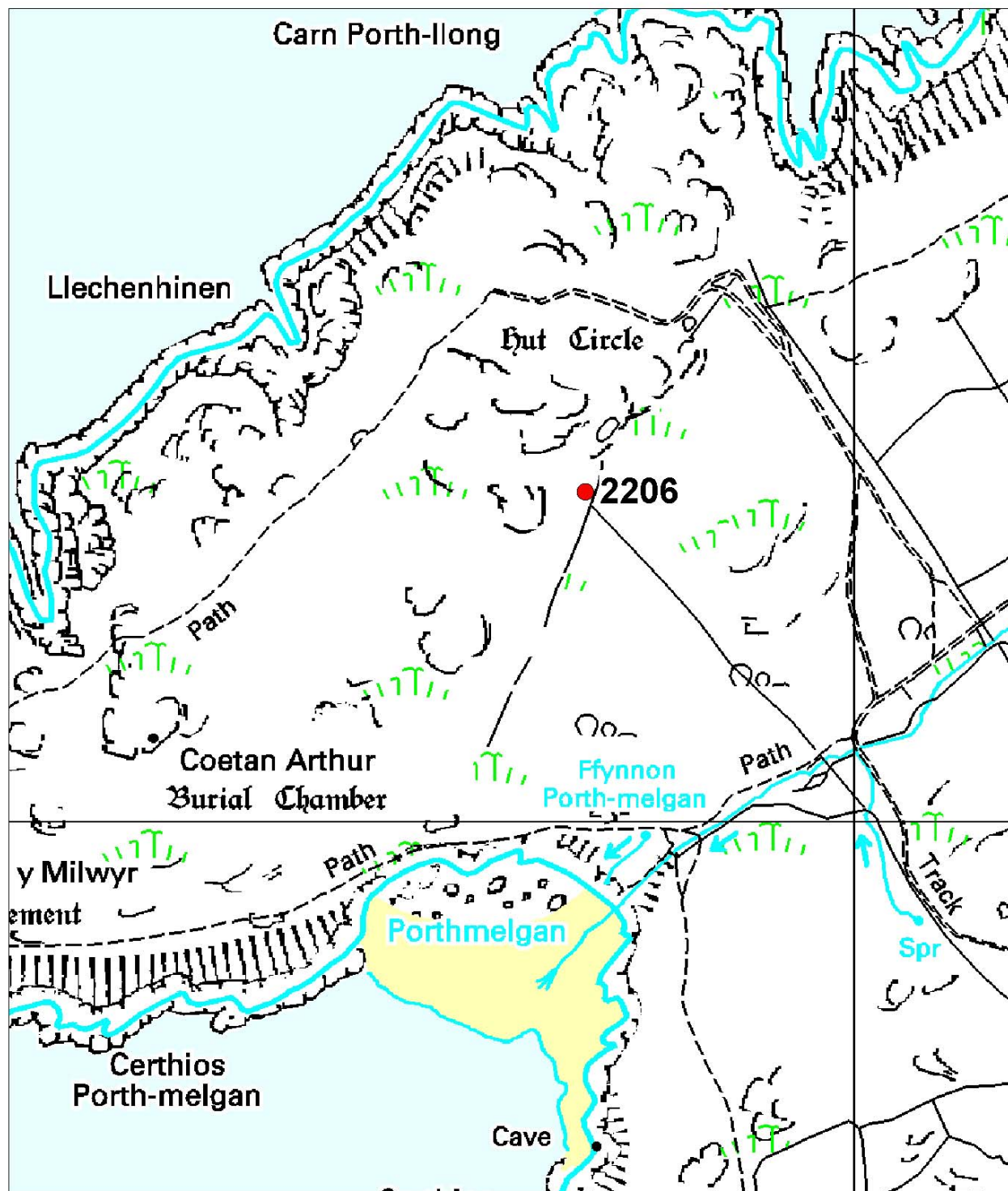
The wall is ruinous and nowhere stands to more than a few courses in height. Structural elements do, however, survive. Sufficient of the inner and outer wall faces remain to indicate that the wall was between 2.3m and 2.7m wide. Stone fallen from the wall now forms a spread of rubble on the steep slope to the east. Several breaches have been made through the wall, most of which appear to be modern. An original entrance is evidenced by terminals revetted by dry-stone walling, with a passageway 1.7m wide. A relict, straight boundary meets the wall adjacent to the north side of the entrance. It is possible that a second entrance lay towards the northern end where a second straight boundary meets it, but here a modern track has been driven through, which was later replaced by a second track several metres to the south, obscuring the evidence. There is no surface evidence for a ditch.

Two enclosures lie over or close to the wall. Both are marked 'hut circle' on the 1889 OS 1:2500 1st Ed map. The southern enclosure is clearly not a hut circle. It is located on a shelf on the rock outcrop, and is constructed of loose, randomly laid rubble. It uses part of the rock outcrop in its circuit, and measures 15m by 8m. It has clearly been built over the levelled remains of the defensive wall. Baring Gould's excavation of this enclosure revealed 'much charcoal evidently the fireplace', and two artefacts, a blue glass bead and a perforated stone, both of which might be of late prehistoric or Romano-British date. Slight traces of a possible pen lie on the ground below this enclosure. The northern enclosure is a possible candidate for a hut. Again the construction technique is of loose, randomly laid rubble, this time producing an enclosure 9m by 5m internally, built against the eastern face of the defensive wall. There are slight traces of a gap through the wall at this point, so this enclosure may have guarded a postern. A similar enclosure had been built over the collapsed remains of the wall immediately to the east. Baring Gould stated that this was a hide constructed for shooting sea birds in the mid 19th century.

K Murphy 15 June 2006



Ground photograph looking SW, distant view of the defensive wall 2206.



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Scale 1:5000

2624 CLAWDD Y MILWYR

PRN 2624 NGR SM72202790

SITE NAME CLAWDD Y MILWYR;ST DAVID'S HEAD;WARRIOR'S DYKE

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION A

SITE STATUS SAM

DESCRIPTION

Located at approximately 35m above sea level, Clawdd y Milwyr, on the tip of St David's Head is a classic promontory fort. It is defended by a multivallate defensive system, which lies on the western side of a shallow saddle, from which land to the north and south falls away steeply in narrow gullies to cliff-tops and the sea. Immediately within the defences on the west side is an extensive outcrop of bare rock, while to the east the land rises steadily and gently. The main component of the defensive system is in inner rubble bank, now mostly covered with vegetation, but with bare stone exposed on the eastern flank and around the entrance. The bank survives to a maximum of 2.2m high and c. 10m wide. Wall-faces of three to four courses of dry-stone masonry can be seen towards the northern end of the bank exterior and in the entrance passageway, indicating a passageway width of 2.1m. There is not surface evidence to indicate anything other than a simple entrance. A ditch c. 0.5m deep and 4m wide lies outside the main bank, then a earth stone bank up to 1m high and 4m wide. It is uncertain whether this is a counterscarp, or some other component of the defences. It has no ditch outside it, but 4m -5m from it is a third bank. This has the appearance of a boulder-faced hedge-bank. However, it does seem to be a defensive component as at the entrance the boulders curve in to flank an entrance track-way. A spread of boulders 25m - 30m east of the defences may be a chevaux-de-frise, although none are placed upright and they seem to be a natural spread of stones left by the fort's builders.

The area enclosed by the defences is c. 3.4ha, but very little of this is suitable for occupation; most is bare rock and the western end is washed by the sea. A sloping grassy shelf 50m by 30m provides the only suitable location for dwellings. Seven, possibly eight, stone-built roundhouses lie here. Each house lies on a terrace cut into the slope and is defined by numerous earth-fast boulders. The houses are circular or sub-circular and measure from 8.0m to 9.8m diameter. Six houses were excavated by Baring Gould in 1898. He recognised floors and hearths in the houses and found pottery, blue glass beads, spindle whorls and stone artefacts – all consistent with a Romano-British date.

K Murphy 15 June 2006



Ground photograph looking SW towards St David's Head promontory fort 2624.



Ground photograph looking E at houses within St David's Head promontory fort 2624.



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Scale 1:5000

2655 CLEGYR BOIA

PRN 2655 NGR SM73732509

SITE NAME CLEGYR BOIA

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age;Early Medieval? CONDITION C

SITE STATUS SAM

DESCRIPTION

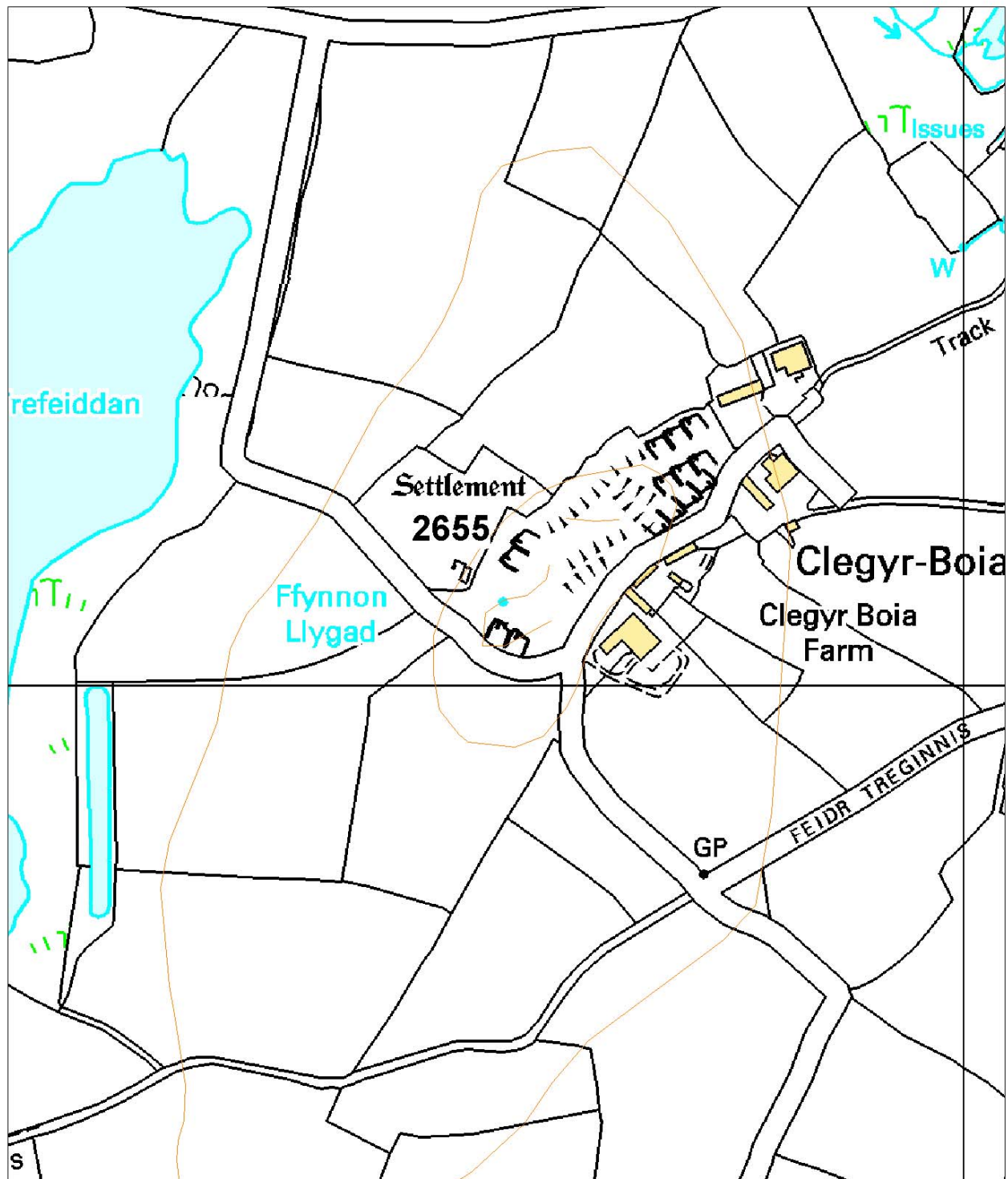
Clegyr Boia is a small defended enclosure occupying the summit of a rocky outcrop that rises 10m-20m above the surrounding plateau of the St David's Peninsula. The outcrop summit has a slightly dished interior around which lies the rampart. The rampart itself rises c. 0.6m above the interior and varies in width between 2.7m and 4.6m. It is made up of stone rubble and earth revetted with stone blocks. It encloses a roughly rectangular area approximately 85m SW-NE and 22m SE-NW. Excavation in 1952 by Williams showed the entrance at the easily approachable southwest end to consist of a pair of flanking walls 6.1m long leading to a pair of opposed elliptical embrasures (guard chambers?) each of which has a post-hole at each end. Charcoal associated with the entrance returned calibrated radiocarbon dates of 760-380 BC and 350BC-AD400. Williams' excavations and those of Baring Gould in 1903 revealed artefacts of Neolithic date as well as circular and rectangular structures - it is these remains that Clegyr Boia is most celebrated, rather than the later prehistoric enclosure.

The whole site is now under tussocky grass and is difficult to make out. It survives in good condition. Old quarry pits around the periphery of the site do not seem to have damaged the enclosure itself.

K Murphy 1 September 2006 - compiled from several sources.



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Scale 1:5000

2714 CASTELL MEINIF/CASTELL HEINIF

PRN 2714 NGR SM72382466

SITE NAME CASTELL MEINIF;CASTELL HEINIF

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

DESCRIPTION

Castell Heinif is a coastal promontory fort. It is naturally well defended on the north, west and southwest sides by 25m high sea cliffs. A curving, bivallate rampart, c.115m long protects the landward side. The inner banks stand about 2.5m above the interior and 2.3m above the bottom of the ditch. The outer bank is a similar size. A c.30m long curving slight bank lies between the two main banks on the southeast side. The purpose of this feature is unclear, but it seems to have been to protect the entrance, which must have lain in this area. However, field banks built over the bank and landslips in the area have obscured the entrance.

Small pockets of erosion noted by S Rees in 1981 revealed the earth and stone make up of the banks and sections of dry-stone revetment. These erosion pockets have been repaired.

The internal area is an irregularly shaped promontory about 90m SE-NW and 40m SW-NE. It is covered with tussocky grass. There are no signs of hut platforms or other evidence for occupation.

K Murphy 1 September 2006 - compiled from several sources



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2721 PORTH Y RHAW

PRN 2721 NGR SM786242

SITE NAME PORTH Y RHAW CAMP

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

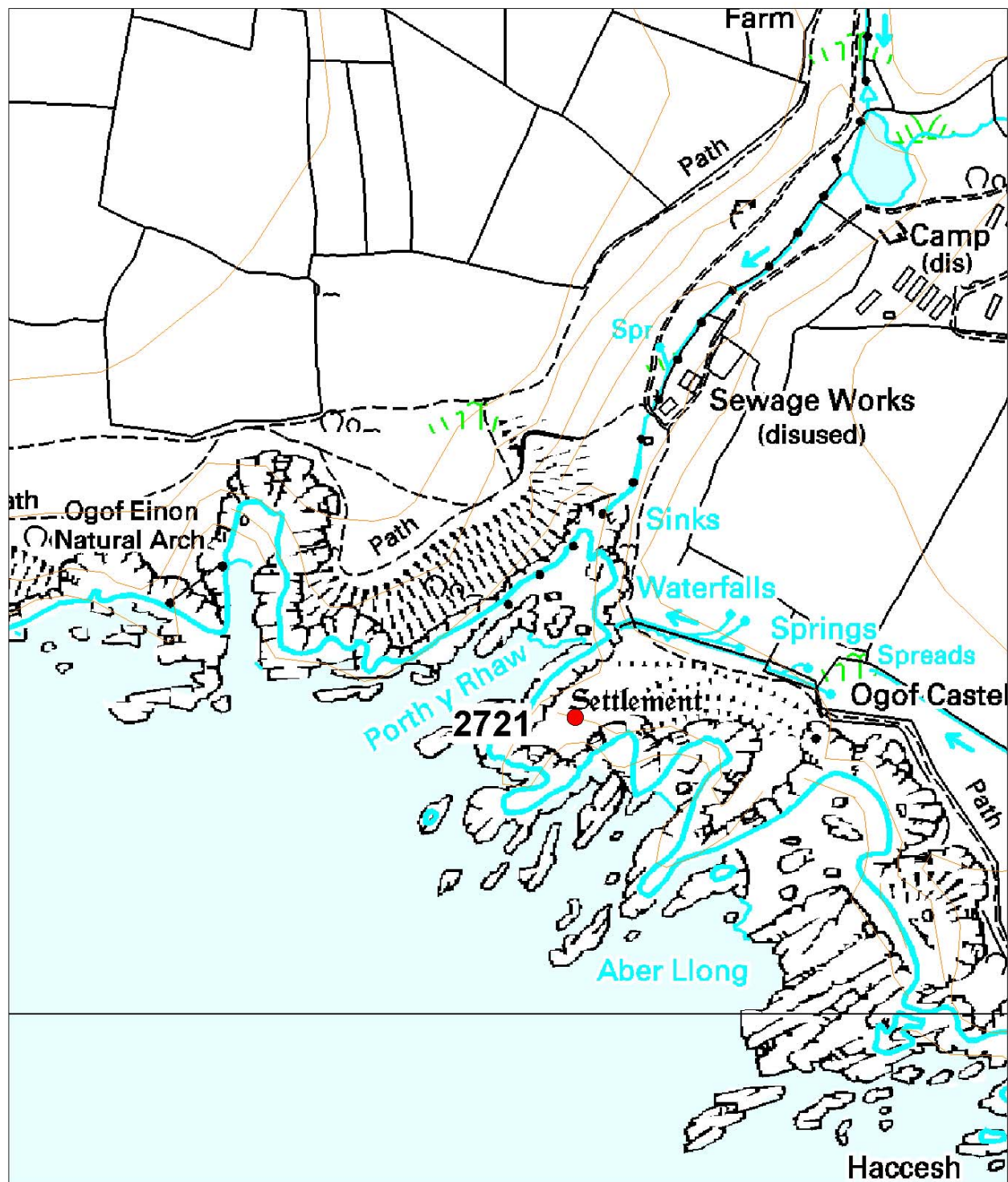
DESCRIPTION

Porth y Rhaw is a multivallate coastal promontory fort much reduced by coastal erosion. The c. 30m high sea cliffs have suffered erosion, so much so that the interior of the fort is now reduced to two small promontories, the eastern one 70m N-S and 25m E-W and the western one 70m SW-NE and 30m NW-SE. These two reduced promontories were undoubtedly once much larger, and probably formed a single block of unknown dimensions. The remains of the interior are relatively level, but immediately to the north of the interior land falls away quite steeply into a shallow valley. The defences make use of this slope, with the inner bank occupying the crest of the valley side, lending a monumental aspect to the whole site. There are four lines of bank and ditch in total. The three inner curving inner ones are close-set and parallel, and c. 120m long. The inner bank rises 4m above the ditch, the second bank is less substantial and rises just 1m above the ditch and the third 1m-2m above the ditch. The outer, fourth, bank is straighter than the others and its course diverges from them at its west end, perhaps indicating a separate phase of construction. Because of the slope the outer bank is almost 20m lower than the inner bank. The entrance has suffered from erosion, but a gap through the inner bank towards its eastern end close to the cliff edge marks its position. Terminals of the second and third banks stop short of the cliff edge - any continuation of these banks, if there were any, has been lost to the sea.

Excavations in 1995-98 revealed the remains of at least eight timber roundhouses, some of which had been rebuilt several times, including one in stone. Radiocarbon dates indicate that occupation started in the early-to-mid Iron Age, and pottery indicates it continued into the 4th century AD.

The site is under rough grass. Apart from the landward side, the whole site is suffering from severe cliff erosion.

K Murphy 4 September 2006 - compiled from several sources



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Scale 1:5000

2728 CAERFAI CAMP

PRN 2728 NGR SM76282396

SITE NAME CAERFAI CAMP;PENPLEIDIAU CAMP

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

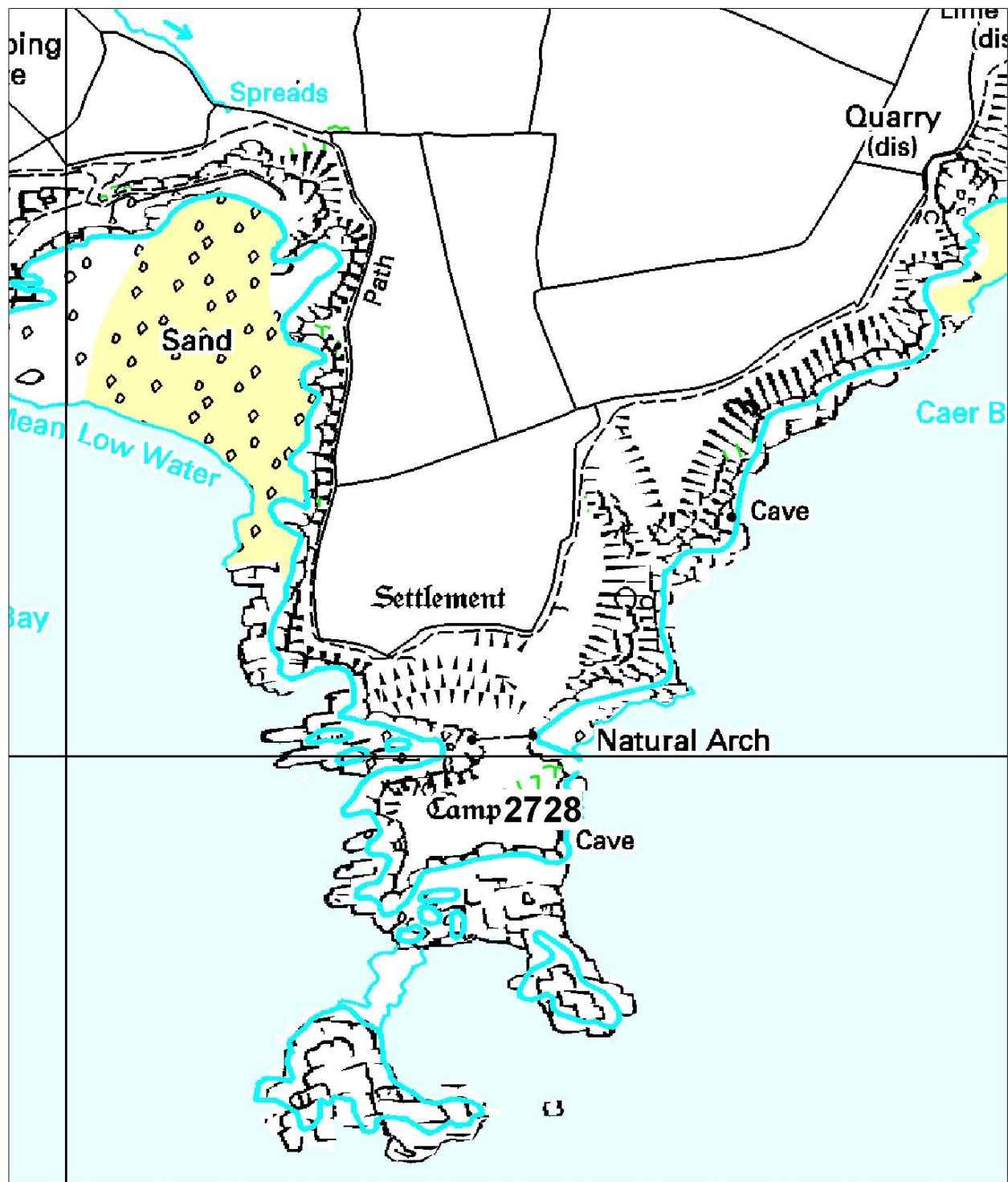
DESCRIPTION

Caerfai is a strongly defended coastal promontory fort. It is naturally well defended by 30m high sea cliffs to the west, south and east and by a 140m long, curving, multivallate defence to the north. The inner, southernmost, bank stands up to 2m above the interior and 3m above the ditch on its north side. To the north of this is a slighter bank, 1.5m high above the ditch, to the north of which is another ditch. A third bank stands over 4m above the ditch. To the north of this bank is a further ditch, followed by a fourth bank which rises 2.2m above the ditch, followed by a final outer ditch. All in all there are four lines of close-set bank and ditch. The two outer banks stop about 30m short of the cliff edge on the east side of the site. There is a gap in the two inner banks of this side, representing a simple entrance, and then the banks continue in a reduced form to the cliff edge. Overall the defences appear to be of two phases, with the inner two banks the earlier. The roughly square shaped interior measures approximately 110m across. It is clear that some of the interior has been lost to the sea. There is a massive gully eroding its way into the fort from the west directly behind (South) of the ramparts - it is only a matter of time before this reaches the east side of the fort, severing the interior from the mainland. Apart from coastal erosion the site is in good condition.

K Murphy 24 August 2006



Ground photograph of 2728. General view of defences.



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Scale 1:5000

2741 FELIN WEN

PRN 2741 NGR SM83072733

SITE NAME FELIN WEN

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

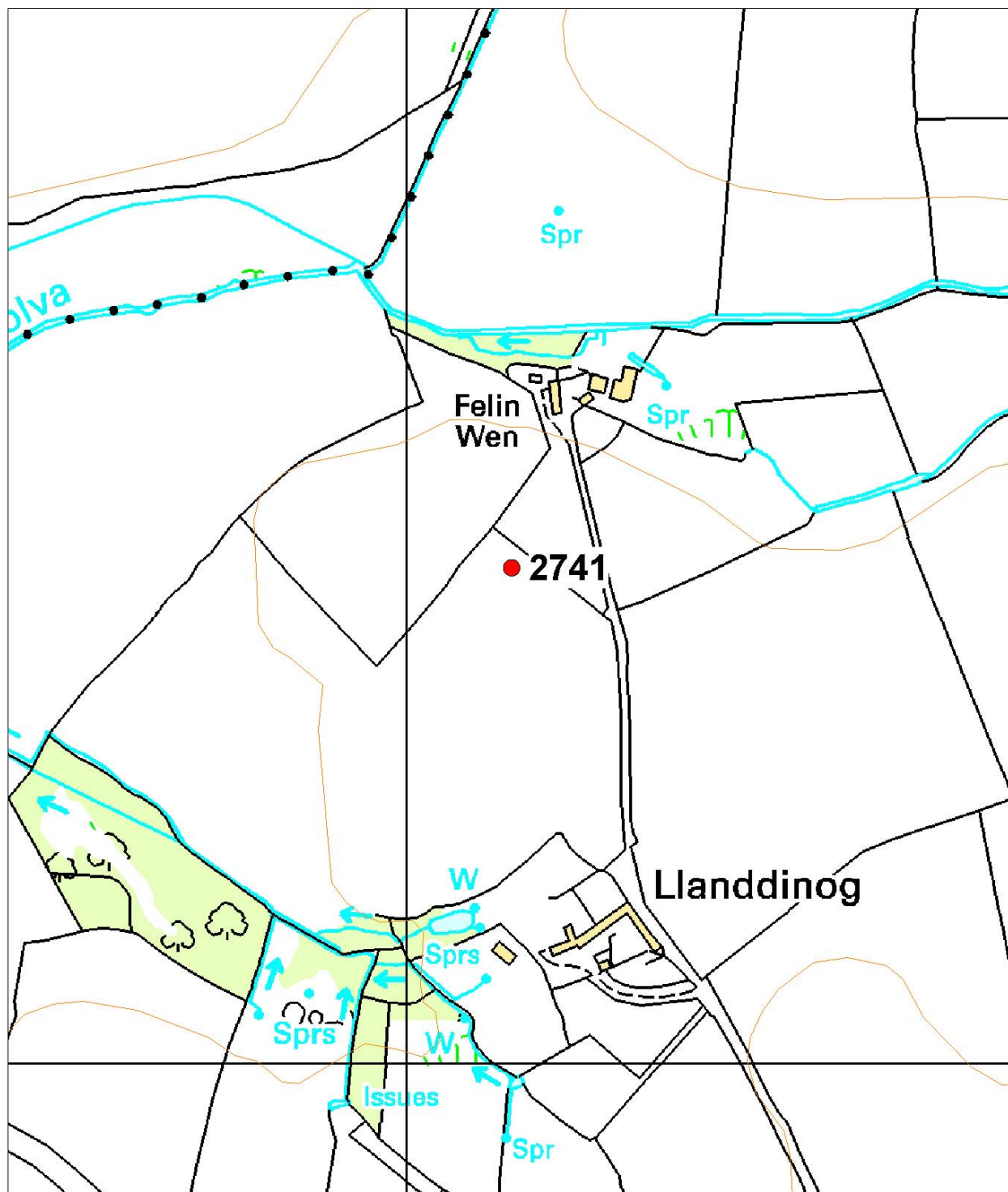
A possible earthwork defended enclosure was identified by Crossley on vertical aerial photographs. However, the Ordnance Survey concluded that the marks on the photographs were vague and almost certainly fortuitous. A field visit by the OS in 1964 failed to find any trace of a monument. Similarly in 2006, nothing was visible on the ground at the location of the cropmark as recorded by Crossley using a six-figure grid reference (SM830273).

However, at SM83072733 (50m from Crossley's reference) there is a circular depression c.30m diameter. This is most likely to be the reduced remains of an enclosure. This lies on level ground at 70m above sea level in a field of improved pasture.

K Murphy and Richard Ramsey 18 December 2006



Ground photograph looking SE over slight earthwork hollow of 2741.



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2756 Y CASTELL

PRN 2756 NGR SM80452545

SITE NAME CASTELL Y

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Y Castell is a poorly defined inland promontory fort much disturbed by later activity. It is located on a narrow, rocky promontory, c.120m SW-NE and 30m SE-NW, that slopes down from 70m above sea level at its SW end to 50m at its NE end. The promontory is naturally well-protected by steep slopes on its northern, eastern and southern sides. The SW end of the promontory is approached across a fairly narrow neck. A 1m high bank runs across this neck incorporating within it a 2.5m high, probably natural, mound. Part of the steep, natural slope to the NW seems to have been scarped to provide extra protection. The entrance presumably faced SW. Numerous small hollows along the promontory seem to be the remains of old quarries and there are several relatively modern field boundaries in the area. The RCAHM in 1925 recorded that a ruined cottage and gardens obscured the site.

In 2006 the site was under pasture with a little scrub on the earthworks. Parts of the earthworks are eroding caused by cattle trampling.

W Rees on his 1932 map 'S Wales & the Border in the 14th century' records the site as a minor fortification abandoned by the 14th century.

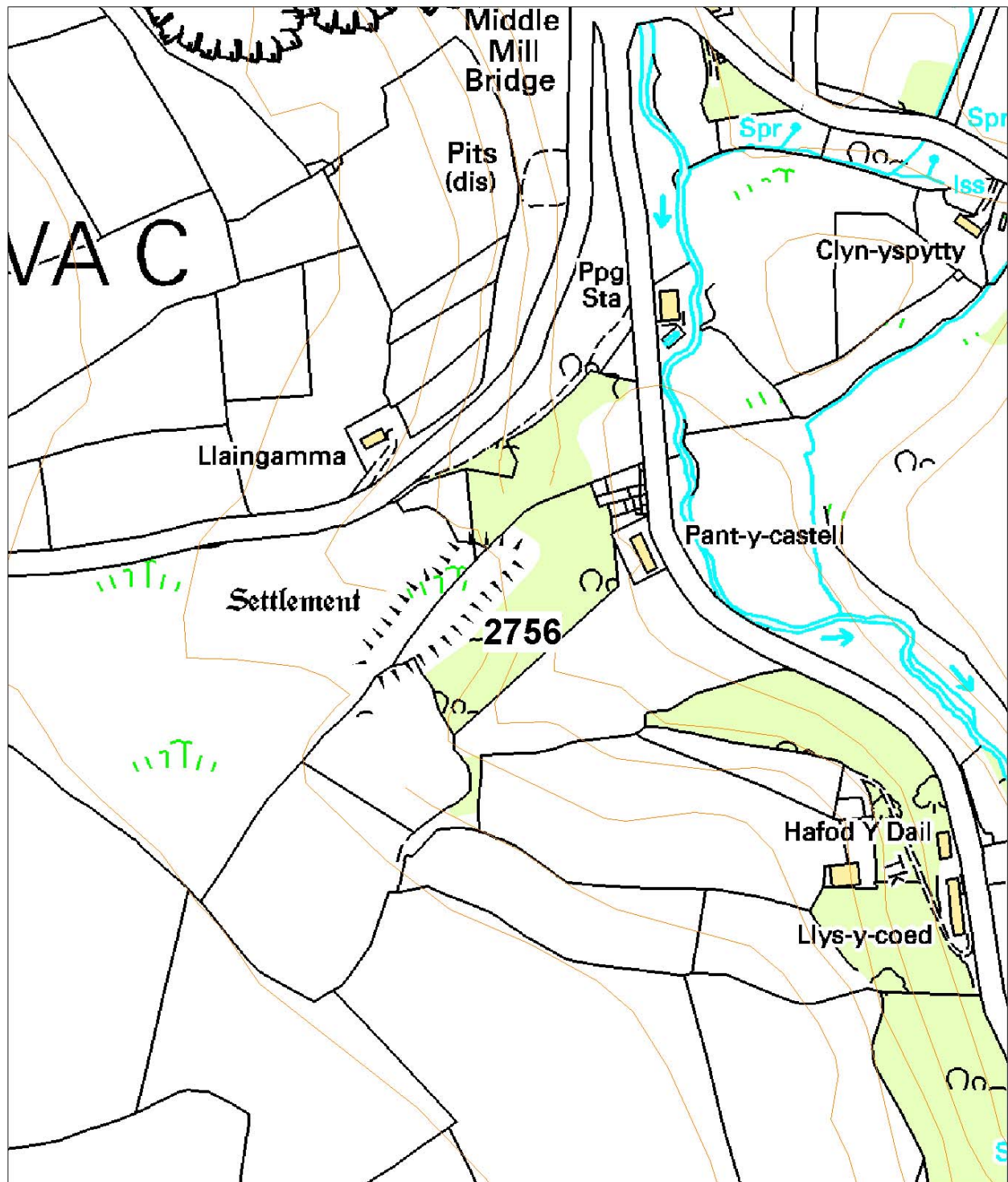
K Murphy and R Ramsey 19 December 2006



Ground photograph looking E at natural mound at SW end of promontory fort 2756.



Ground photograph looking S at quarries on N side of promontory fort 2756.



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Scale 1:5000

2760 SPITE MOOR

PRN 2760 NGR SM80672877

SITE NAME SPITE MOOR

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE? FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

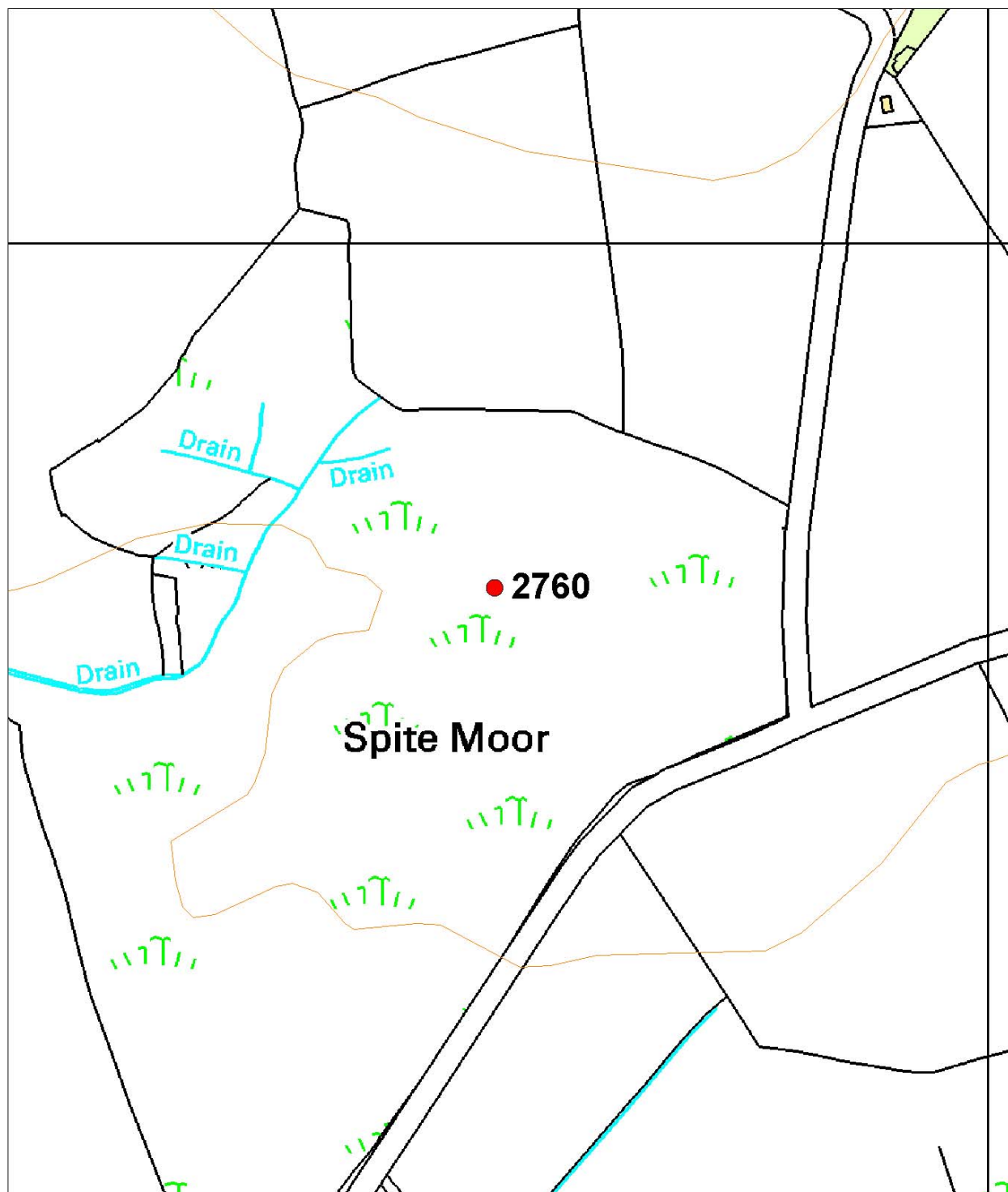
DESCRIPTION

A curving bank lying on a pocket of wet moor may be the remains of an earthwork enclosure. Crossley identified the site from aerial photographs. On the ground the bank is up to 0.6m high and 8m wide and runs for c.80m, defining the SE half of an enclosure. It is covered with brambles and gorse. There are slight indications that the bank runs around to the NE to form a complete circuit of a sub-rectangular defended enclosure. A 4m wide boggy area outside, SE, of the bank is probably the remains of a ditch. There are many other undulations, hollows and banks in the vicinity. The site lies on fairly level ground at c.92m above sea level.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 19 December 2006



Ground photograph looking NE at bank of 2760.



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Scale 1:5000

2762 CASTLE HILL

PRN 2762 NGR SM88422585

SITE NAME CASTLE HILL

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

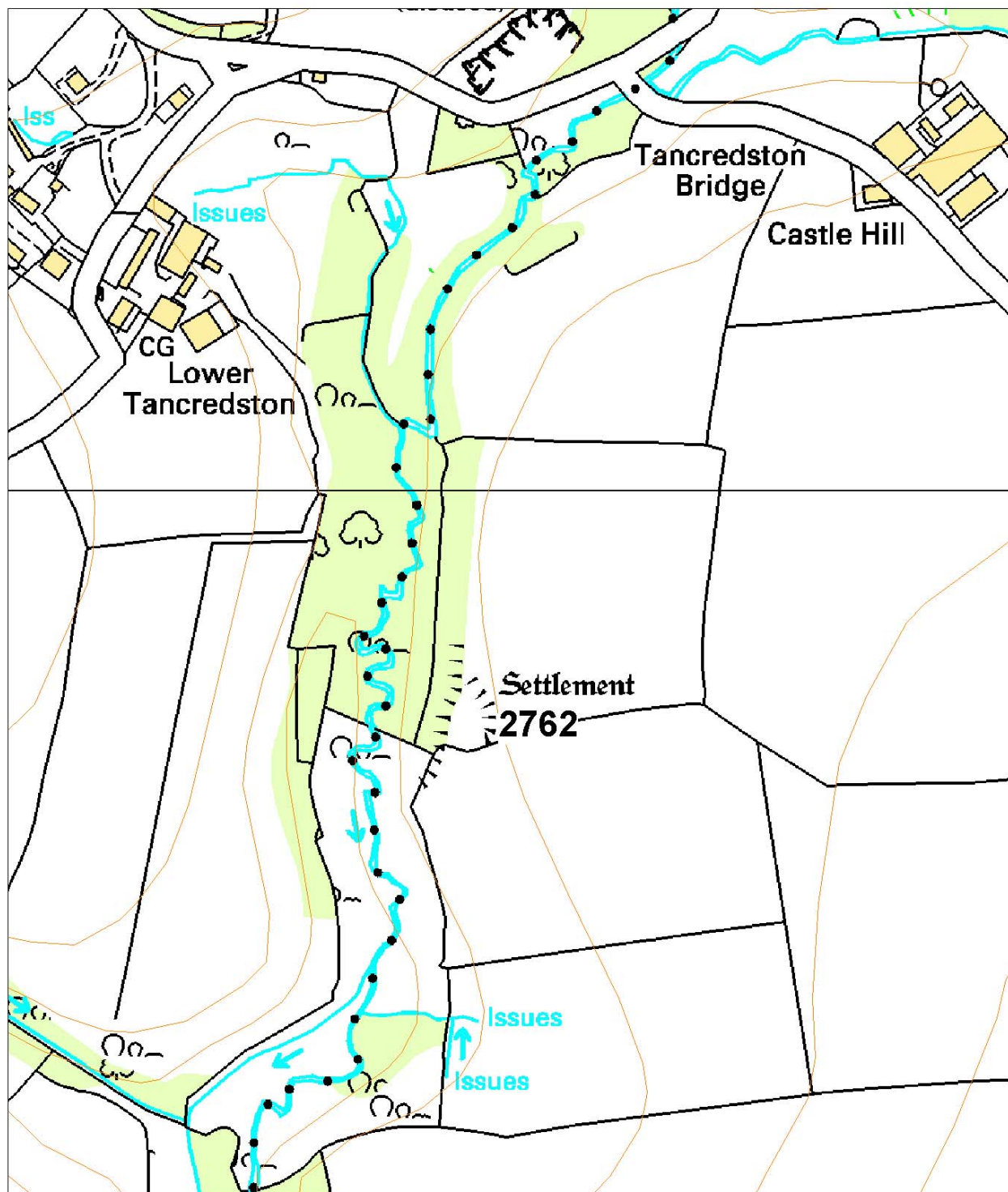
DESCRIPTION

Castle Hill is a small promontory fort occupying a gentle west-facing slope at c.85m above sea level. A steep natural slope that falls away to a stream 20m below provides the defence on the western side. The eastern side is protected by a curving, spread bank of earth and small stones with traces of an outer ditch, protecting an oval area c. 47m E-W and 32m N-S. The rampart on the south side is overlain by a hedge-bank. There is no obvious entrance. In 2006, the site was under improved pasture.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 10 January 2007



Ground photograph looking SW over earthwork enclosure 2762.



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Scale 1:5000

2767 CAS WILIA

PRN 2767 NGR SM88142767

SITE NAME CAS WILIA I;CASTLE VILLA

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS SAM

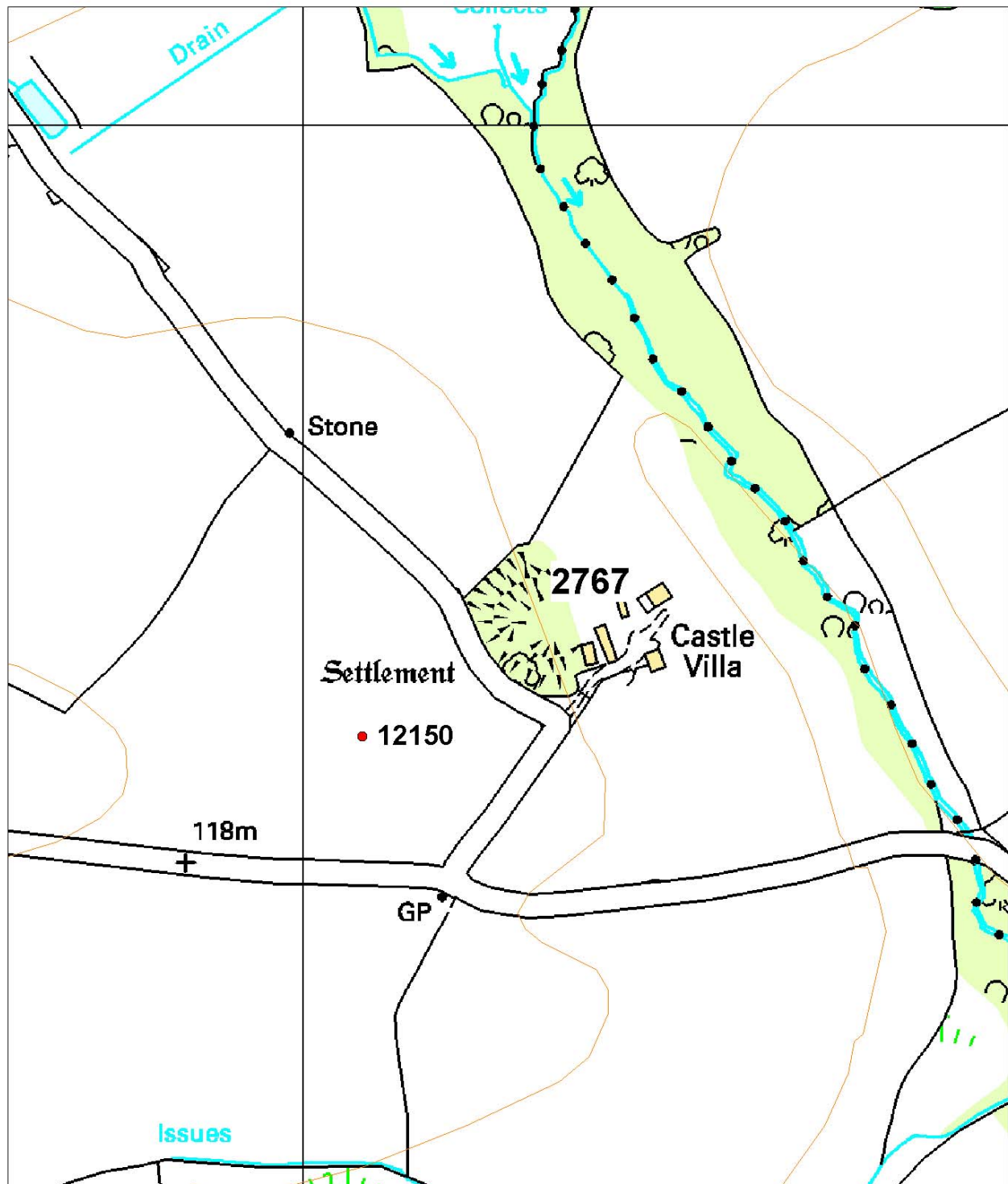
DESCRIPTION

Cas Wilia is a sub-circular, multivallate (3 banks) defended enclosure with close-set ramparts lying at 110m above sea level on a gentle northeast-facing slope. Internally the enclosure measures c. 45m across. The ramparts are substantial, but levelled on the east side. The outer bank is now masked by a hedge-bank.

K Murphy 7 June 2006



Aerial photograph of 2767.Cambria Archaeology reference AP91-72.3.



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2772 WHITE HOUSE

PRN 2772 NGR SM85682522

SITE NAME WHITE HOUSE

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

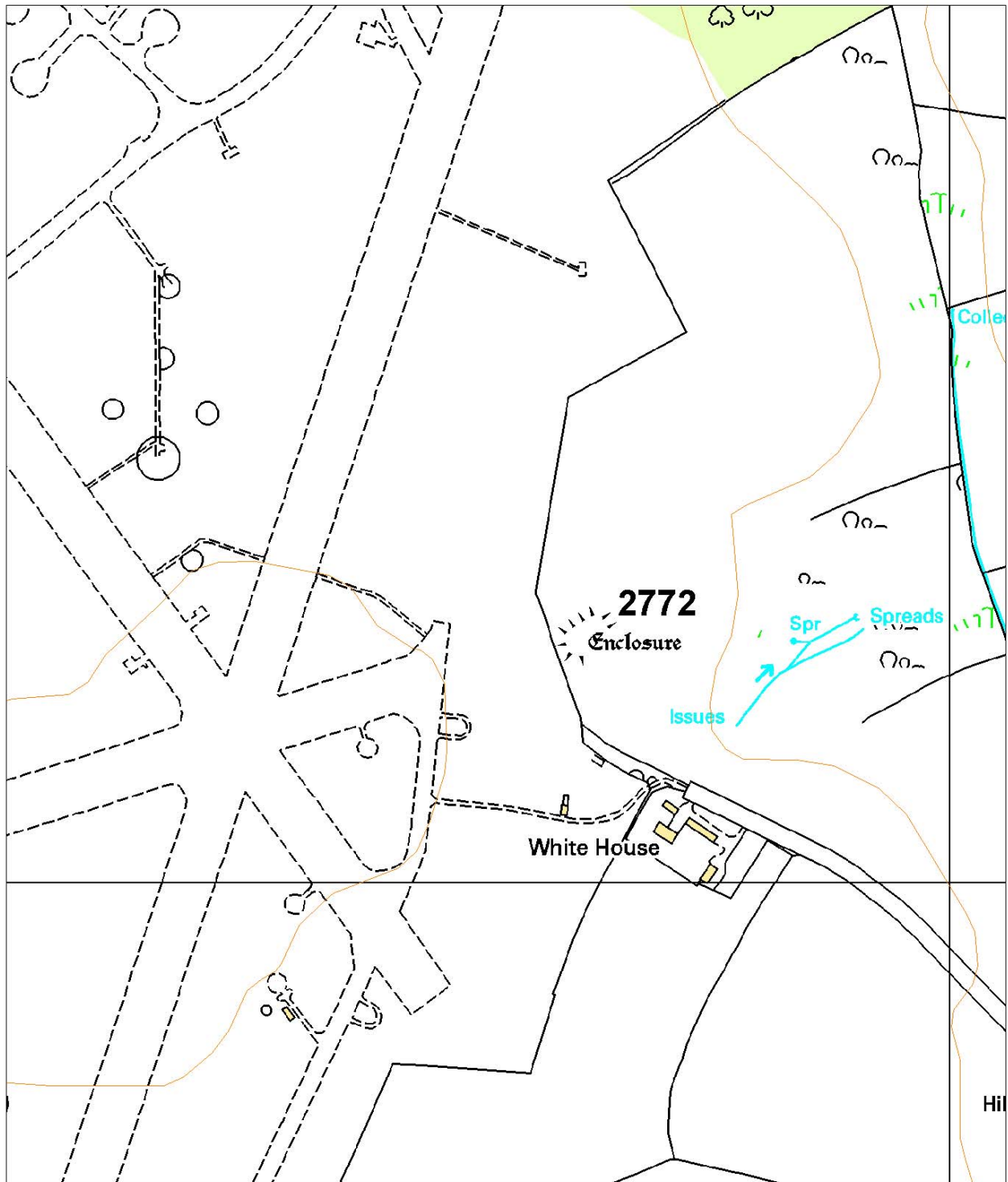
This site lies on a gentle east-facing slope at approximately 105m above sea level. In 1966, the Ordnance Survey inspector described it as a univallate, sub-rectangular enclosure, 42m southwest to northeast and 34m southeast to northwest. It was defined by a bank up to 0.5m high on three sides with traces of an external ditch. The southeast side was under a hedge-bank. It was almost destroyed by ploughing.

In early 2006 the site was under wheat, and was only viewed from the edge of the field, approximately 70m away. It was clear from this distance that no surface evidence for the site survives. Indeed, by 1973, when visited by members of the Ordnance Survey, the site had been reduced to a stony soil mark in a recently ploughed field, and the hedge that formerly ran along the southeast side of the enclosure had been removed.

K Murphy 25 May 2006 - compiled mainly from the Ordnance Survey descriptions.



Ground photograph looking N over site of defended enclosure 2772.



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Scale 1:5000

2776 VANLEY ENCLOSURE

PRN 2776 NGR SM86512640

SITE NAME VANLEY ENCLOSURE

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

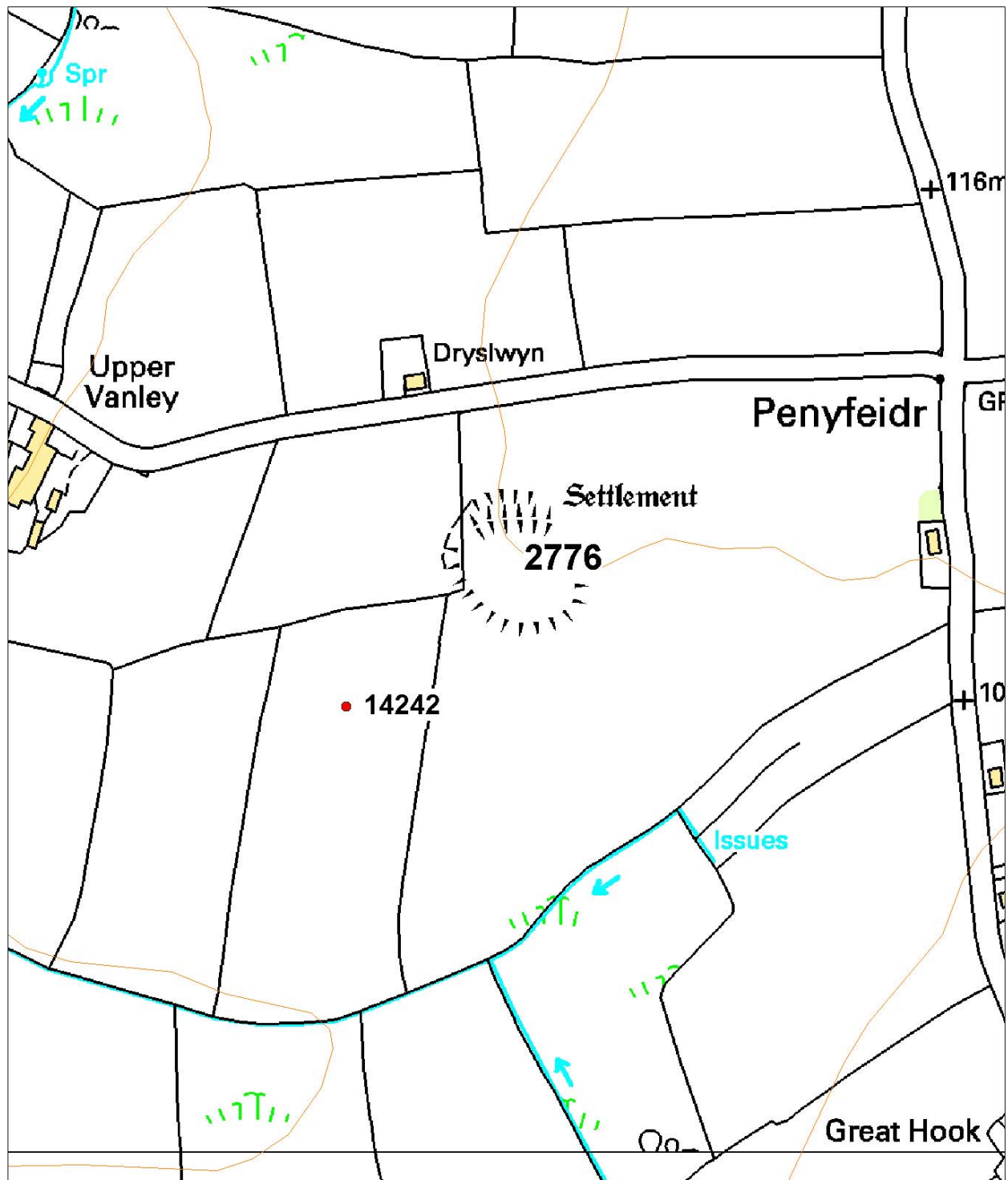
DESCRIPTION

Vanley is a univallate, sub-circular earthwork enclosure occupying a gentle southwest-facing slope at 110m above sea level. The enclosure is approximately 70m diameter internally. The site is plough-levelled. A slight bank and ditch is visible on the uphill, north, side, and on the west side where the defences are incorporated into a hedge-bank. Elsewhere a scarp represents the defensive circuit. The location of the entrance is uncertain, but possibly faces NE. The site is under improved pasture and has not been ploughed since 1989. Before then it was regularly ploughed for arable.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 18 December 2006



Aerial photograph of 2776. Cambria Archaeology reference AP89-W1.



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Scale 1:5000

2777 UPPER TANCREDSTON

PRN 2777 NGR SM88112652

SITE NAME UPPER TANCREDSTON

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

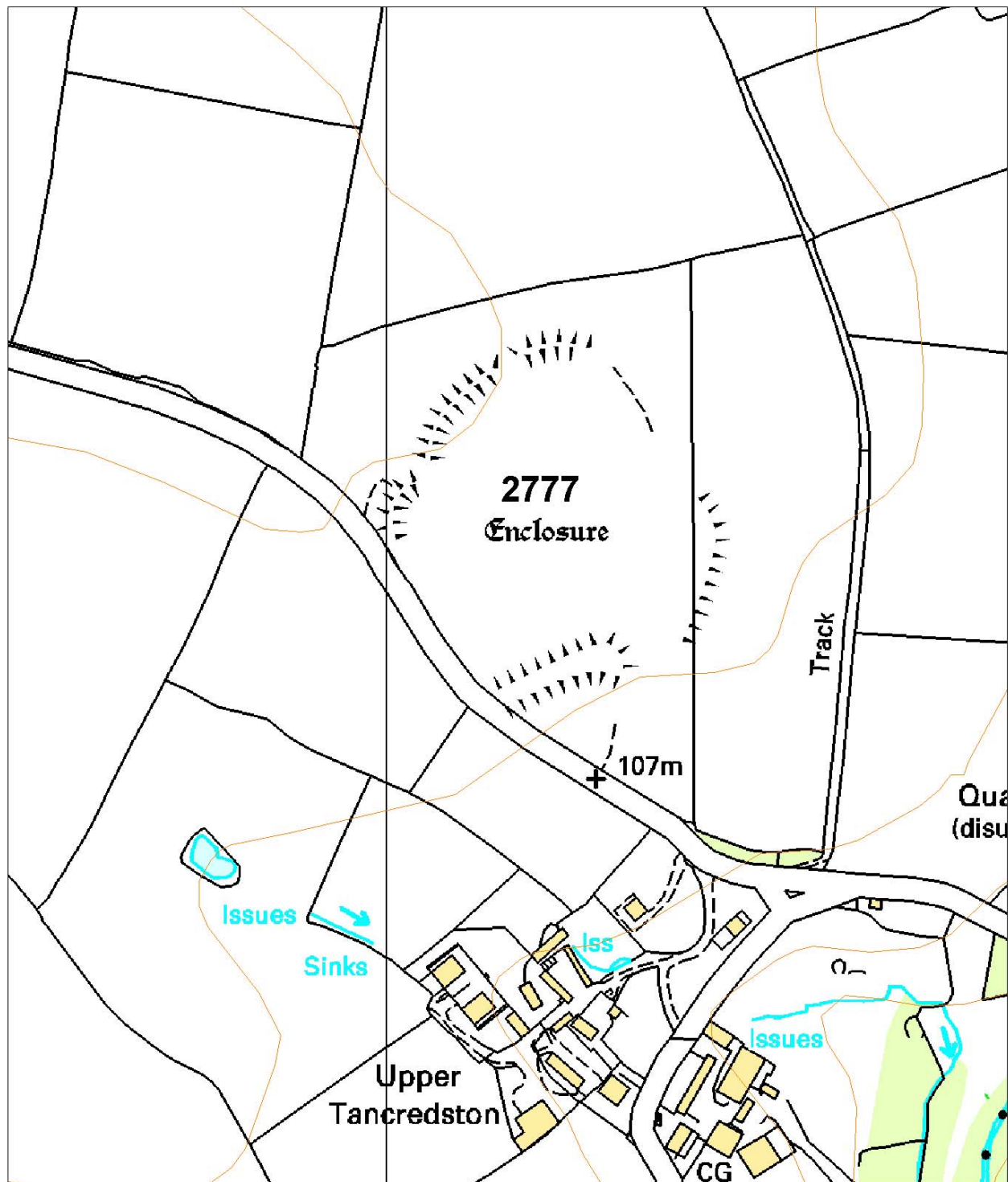
DESCRIPTION

The remains of a sub-rectangular defended enclosure c.175m NW-SE and 190m SW-NE occupy a southeast-facing slope between 110m and 120m above sea level, with the northwest side on the brow of a hill. The northwest side of the defensive circuit is the best preserved and consists of a spread bank up to 0.8m wide and 13m wide, with traces of a faint external ditch at its western end. There is an in-turned entrance on this side, with a second, simple gap possibly a second entrance. The western side of the enclosure lies under a road and the defences on the eastern side have gone. There are only slight indications of the defences on the south side. The site is under improved pasture.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 18 December 2006



Ground photograph looking S at earthwork enclosure 2777.



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Scale 1:5000

2780 GRIBIN

PRN 2780 NGR SM80202390

SITE NAME GRIBIN

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

DESCRIPTION

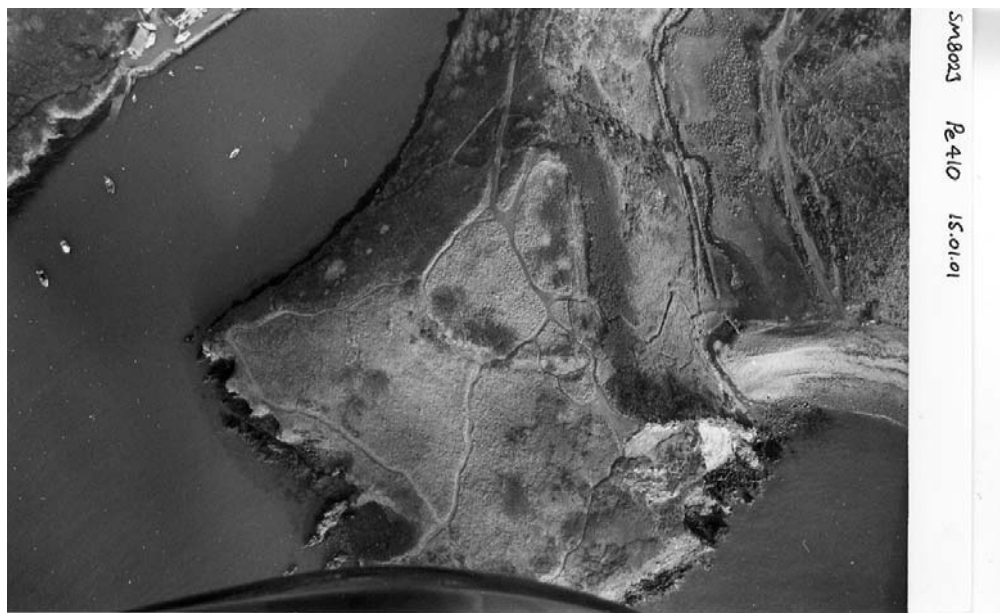
Griben is a small, univallate defended enclosure occupying the end of a ridge or promontory overlooking Solva harbour in a strong naturally well-defended location at 40m above sea level. To the north and south the land falls away steeply to the sea; to the southwest the ridge continues 50m before terminating in coastal cliffs; to the northeast the ridge-top narrows to an arête rising gently in elevation.

The polygonal enclosure measures approximately 75m SW - NE and 40m SE - NW and is defined by a spread, stony bank, probably the remains of a wall. On the north and south sides this bank runs along the crest of the steep slope and rises to a maximum of 0.5m above the fort's interior. There is no trace of a ditch here. On the northeast side, where the fort can be approached along the arête, the site is defended by a rock-cut ditch c. 4m wide and 1.5m deep with a stony bank up to 1m high and 6m wide. The southwest corner of the fort is defended by a c.15 length of grass covered bank up to 2m high and 6m wide with an external ditch 5m wide and 0.5m deep.

However, only a low stony bank defends the remainder of the western side. The entrance is on the northeast corner (and is used by the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, which crosses the interior and the fort and the defences on the south side). Here the bank on the north side of the enclosure runs down the slope for 10m - 15m forming an overlapping entrance, or entrance passage-way.

The Ordnance Survey recorded two circular house platforms on the southwest side of the enclosure and at least one rectangular platform towards the northwest corner when the site was under pasture. In 2006, much of the interior and defences, particularly on the south and east sides, were under dense blackthorn scrub and the platforms recorded by the OS were not visible.

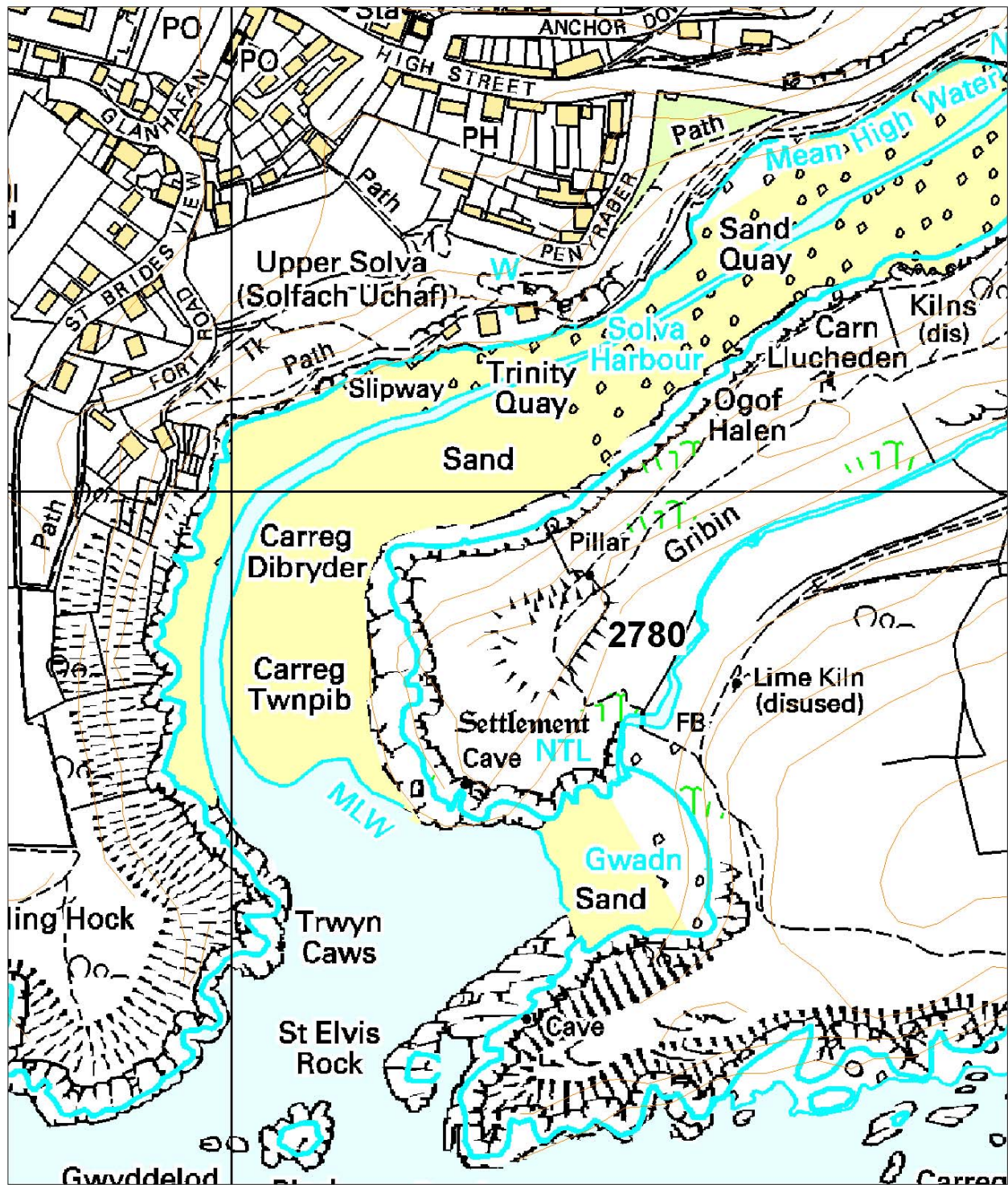
K Murphy 25 June 2006



Aerial photograph of 2780. RCAHMW Crown Copyright © reference 2001-351-08.



Ground photograph of 2780. Distant view from S of defended enclosure.



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Scale 1:5000

2784 DINAS FACH

PRN 2784 NGR SM82572293

SITE NAME DINAS FACH;DINASOEDD

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Dinas Fach, as the name indicates, is a small fort located on a low rocky promontory. The promontory is only 10m to 20m above sea level, but is bounded to the west, south and east by cliffs, and is attached to the mainland to the north by a neck of land c. 25m wide. To the north of this neck the land rises steeply up to the coastal plateau at 70m - 80m above sea level. The fort is overlooked from the north. A single bank and ditch run across the narrowest part of the neck, defending the promontory from the mainland. The ditch is up to 6m wide and 2m deep, and the bank c. 4m wide and 0.5m high internally. A causeway of unexcavated material crosses the centre of the ditch and runs through a simple corresponding gap in the bank. The grassy interior of the fort inside the defences slopes steeply down from west of east. There are approximately 7 to 8 circular platforms cut into this slope each about 8m diameter - presumably house platforms. South of these platforms the promontory becomes a rocky headland unsuitable for habitation.

This is a classic, small, coastal-promontory fort. Overall it is likely that not a great deal of the interior or defences has been lost to the sea, but this is impossible to verify.

K Murphy 25 June 2006



Ground photograph looking S over promontory fort 2784.
Defensive bank and ditch in middle ground and house platforms
on sloping grass beyond.



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Scale 1:5000

2789 PORTH Y BWCH

PRN 2789 NGR SM81193233

SITE NAME PORTH Y BWCH;PEN DINAS FACH

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Pen Dinas Fach, or Porth y Bwch, is a small coastal promontory fort that has almost entirely been lost to the sea. However, some important elements of the fort survive.

The promontory is bounded by high sea cliffs, up to 60m high, to the north, west and south and is joined to the mainland to the east by a steeply sloping neck of land just 2m to 3m wide and 30m long. East of this neck the land rises onto the coastal plateau at c. 80m above sea level. The fort is overlooked from this side. The defences are now virtually unrecognisable, and would be if it were not for earlier descriptions, and consist of low a bank, 0.3m high, running across the landward end of the neck, with traces of an outer ditch. Only a c. 2m length of the defences survive. There is no evidence for an entrance. On the seaward, interior, end of the neck the promontory opens out into an area approximately 30m by 30m. This is level at the eastern end, but slopes down steeply from this point to the north, west and south. An annular bank 6m -7m diameter and up to 1m high occupies the level area. This seems to be the remains of a stone-built round-house. A circular platform/hollow of similar diameter immediately to the south is probably another house site. In 1966, the Ordnance Survey recorded another circular platform to the north of the annular bank, but in May 2006 the interior of the fort was overgrown with dwarf blackthorn, and this together with the dangerous location meant that this feature could not be confidently identified.

It is assumed that a large percentage of this fort has been lost to the sea. However, the annular bank is a remarkable survivor. If its interpretation as a round-house is correct, and that seems the only reasonable interpretation, then it must be one of the best preserved such structures in southern Britain.

K Murphy 25 June 2006



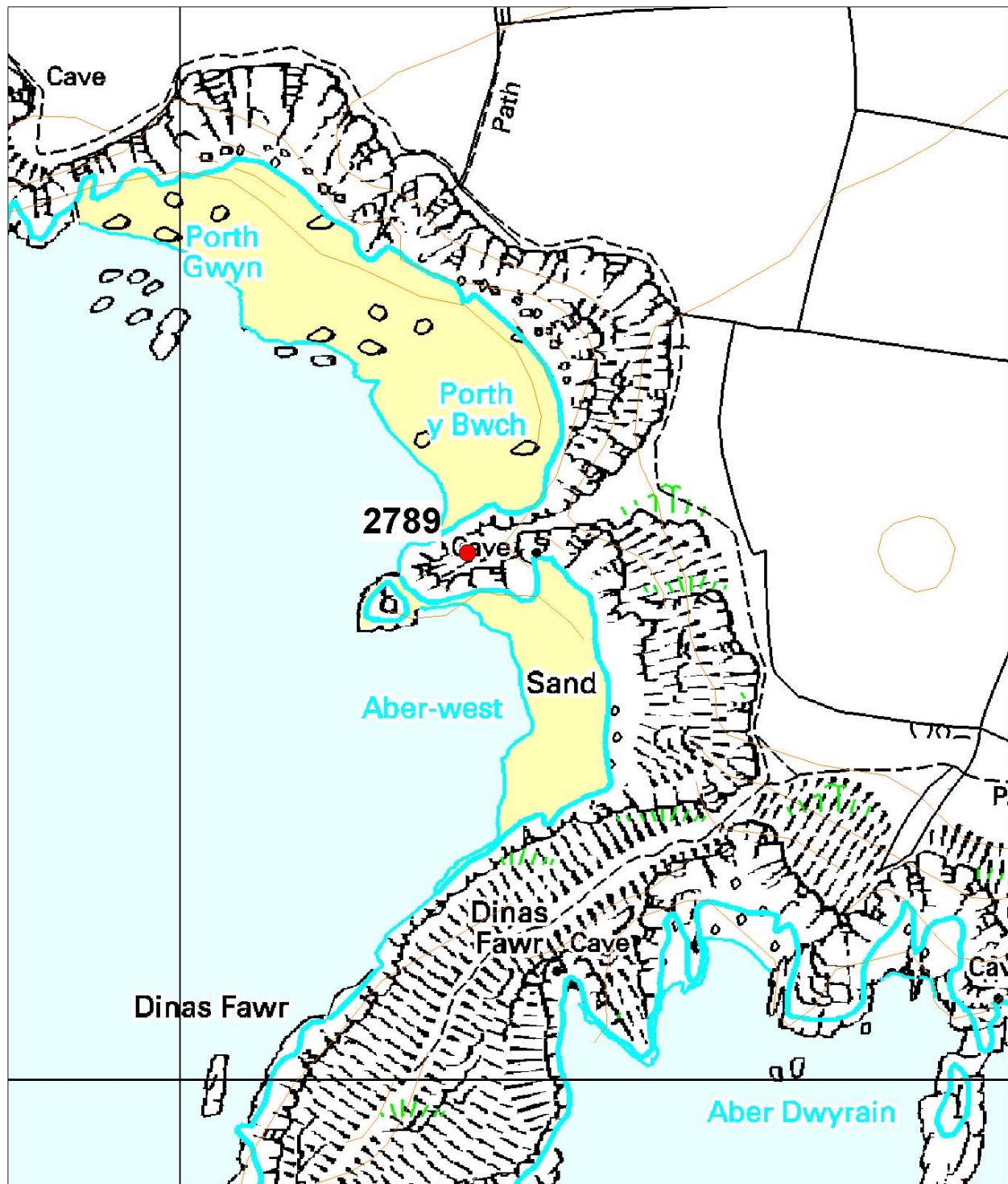
Aerial photograph of 2789. RCAHMW Crown Copyright ©
reference DI2006_0527.



Ground photograph of 2789. Distant view of promontory fort, looking S.



Ground photograph looking W over promontory fort 2789 with house circle visible.



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Scale 1:5000

2798 SOLVA

PRN 2798 NGR SM80902435

SITE NAME SOLVA

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

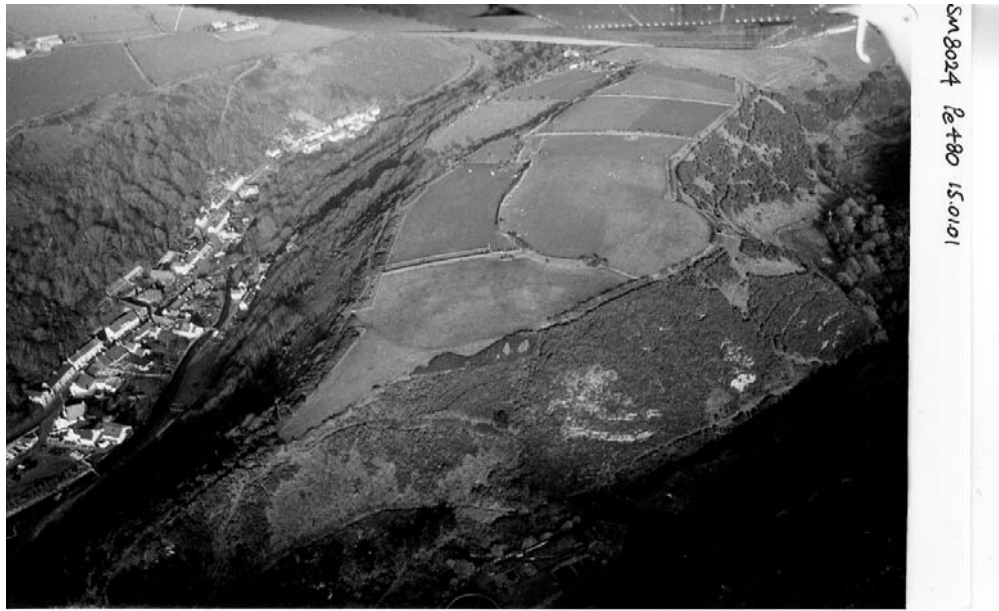
PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS SAM

DESCRIPTION

Solva is a small, quite lightly defended enclosure with concentric annexe lying on a ridge crest at 60m above sea level. It occupies a strong naturally defensive position, with very steep slopes to the north and south. To the southwest the ridge-top falls away slightly and narrows to an arête. The most easily approachable side is the northeast where the flat ridge-top widens out into the coastal plateau. The main enclosure is sub-rectangular in shape approximately 100m SW - NE and 85m SE - NW internally. The defences are best preserved beneath a hedge-bank on the southwest side where a single earth bank (stonework here seems to be associated with the hedge-bank rather than the defences) rises to over 2m externally, with no trace of a ditch. On the north and south sides the bank survives as a scarp, up to 1.5m - 1m high externally at the western ends, but fading to nothing to the east. The northeast end is defended by a spread bank up to 6m wide and 0.5m high, but this fades to nothing towards the southeast corner of the enclosure. There is a trace of a ditch towards the northeast corner, and here a simple gap marks the entrance. The defence of the outer enclosure or annexe is best preserved to the southwest of the main or inner enclosure. Here a simple spread bank 1m high externally lies 100m from the inner enclosure, cutting off the approach along the arête. This bank curves round to the northeast and southeast where it fades into a scarp running along the sharp breaks of slope that define the ridge-top. Effectively this bank forms a concentric outer enclosure, but not a complete circuit as the easily approachable northeast side is left undefended by it. In 2006, the site was under improved pasture.

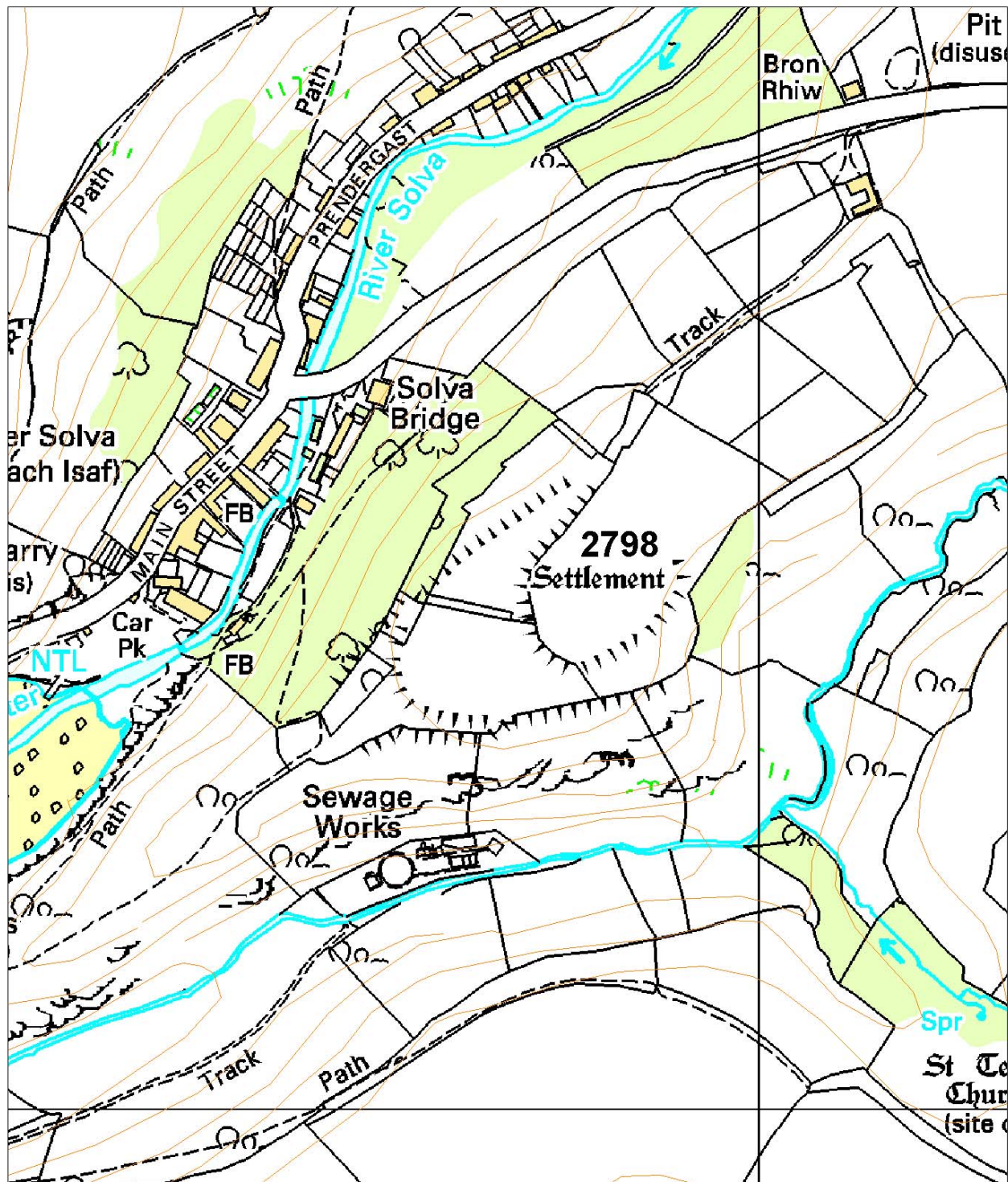
K Murphy 25 May 2006



Aerial photograph of 2798. Cambria Archaeology reference 2001-3511-06.



Ground photograph looking NE towards enclosure 2798, with outer bank in foreground and inner bank in background.



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Scale 1:5000

2801 EWESTON CAMP

PRN 2801 NGR SM88132366

SITE NAME EWESTON CAMP; BRANDY BROOK CAMP

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork; Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS SAM

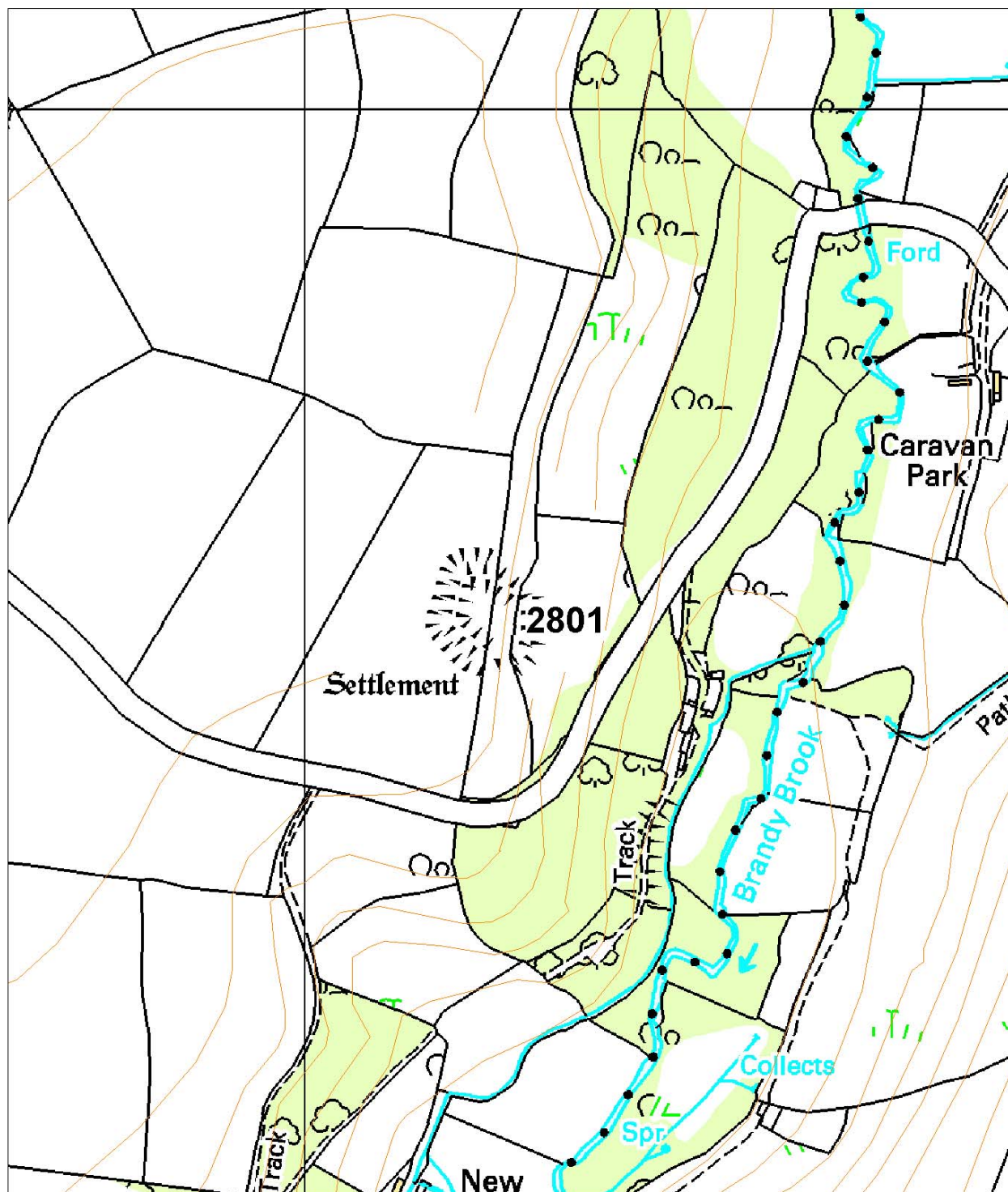
DESCRIPTION

Eweston Camp or Brandy Brook Camp occupies the upper west valley side of the Brandy Brook at 80m above seal level. The east-facing slope on which it is located is quite steep, and steepens to the east as it falls away to the valley floor 50m below. The site is defended by a single bank and ditch, with traces of a counterscarp on the east side. The enclosure is sub-circular and approximately 50m across. The entrance, a simple gap on the south side, was recorded by the Ordnance Survey, but is now hardly recognisable. A North-South boundary divides the site into two unequal portions. The western side has been ploughed over the past 25 years and the defences reduced to an orange-brown soil mark against a brown soil background. The eastern side has also been ploughed and reduced and is reverted to gorse and brambles. The defences on the extreme eastern side are under scrub moor and are better preserved. There is no trace of house sites within the enclosure. Aerial photographs show what may be a ditched track-way (antennae entrance) approaching the enclosure from the south parallel to the valley side, but this is not certain. The site was not visited during the Pembrokeshire defended enclosures project in 2006.

K Murphy 16 July 2006 - compiled from several sources



Aerial photograph of 2801. RCAHMW Crown Copyright ©
reference DI2006_0593.



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Scale 1:5000

2816 BICKNEY

PRN 2816 NGR SM85152320

SITE NAME BICKNEY;BIGNEY

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

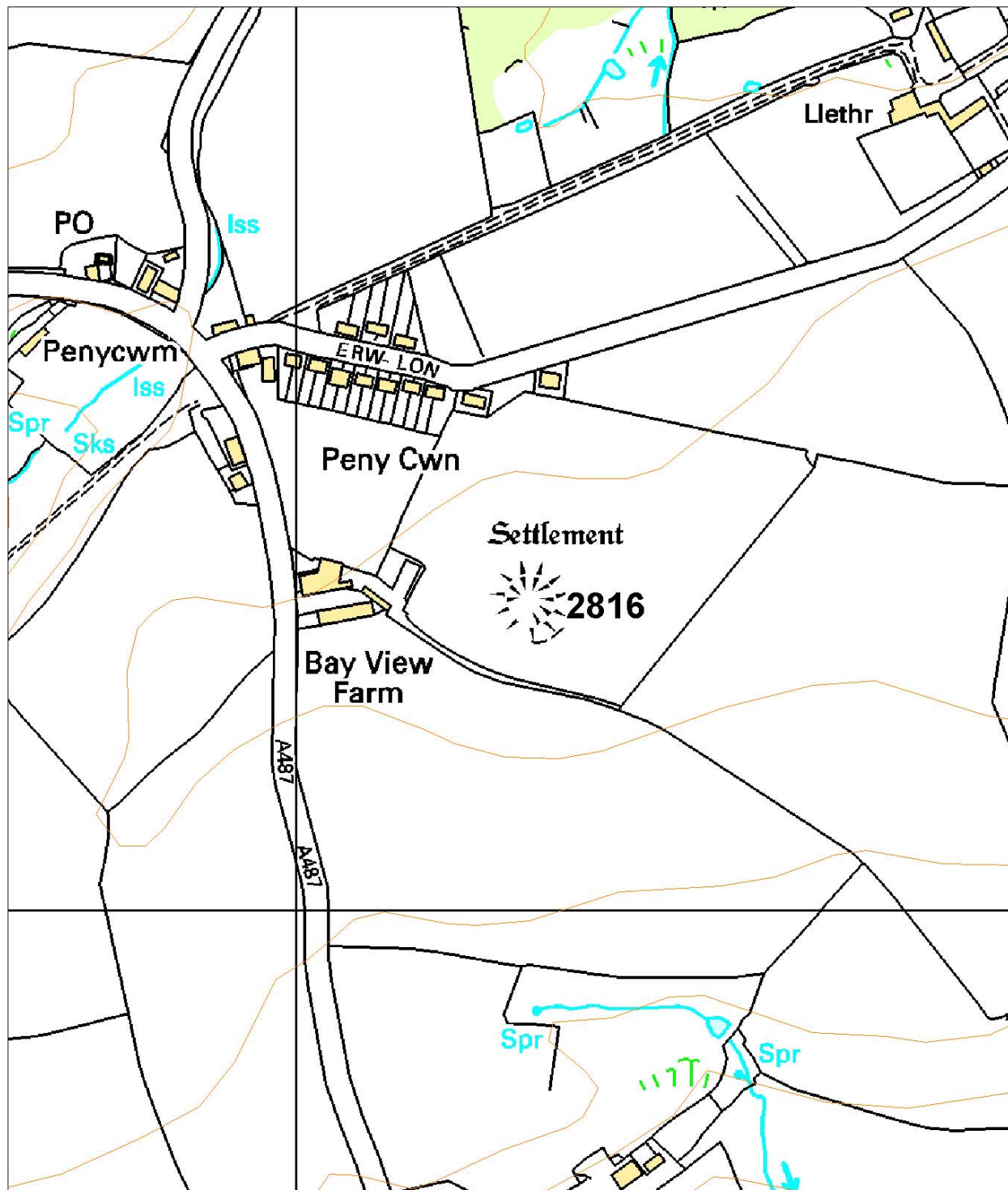
Bickney or Bigney is a circular, earthwork, defended enclosure occupying a gentle south-facing slope at c.95m above sea level. The enclosure is c.35m diameter internally and is defined by a spread earthwork bank that rises to a maximum of 0.6m, with slight traces of an external ditch. The bank forms a complete circuit but is best preserved on the north side and weakest on the east side. The entrance seems to be on the east side. The site is under improved pasture.

The Ordnance Survey noted that traces of outworks are visible on vertical aerial photographs. Nothing of these is visible on the ground.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 18 December 2006



Ground photograph looking NW over earthwork enclosure 2816.



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2820 BRAWDY CASTLE

PRN 2820 NGR SM86282395

SITE NAME BRAWDY CASTLE

SITE TYPE PROMONTORY FORT FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION A

SITE STATUS SAM

DESCRIPTION

Brawdy Castle is a multivallate inland promontory fort lying at 80m above sea level. The sloping small triangular internal area, measuring c. 45m E - W and 55m N - S, is naturally well-defended by steep valley sides to the northeast, east and south. The defences protect the easily approachable west side. The inner bank and ditch is the largest of the three ramparts, with the earth and stone bank rising to over 3m. Its external ditch is rock-cut. On plan this seems to be one phase of defence, with the two outer banks and ditches forming a separate phase, as they are not concentric with the inner bank and ditch. There is gap of c.17m between the outer edge of the inner ditch and the middle bank. This bank is approximately 1.5m high with a shallow external ditch. The outer bank runs close to the middle bank at their northern ends, but diverges towards the south providing an intra-bank space of 12m. The outer bank is 1.3m high with no trace of a ditch. Overall the defences run in an arc for about 110m and are in total 50m wide. The west-facing entrance lies between the end of the defensive system, where it stops short of the steep valley side at its southern end. The site is overgrown with scrub, brambles etc. The valley sides are under deciduous woodland.

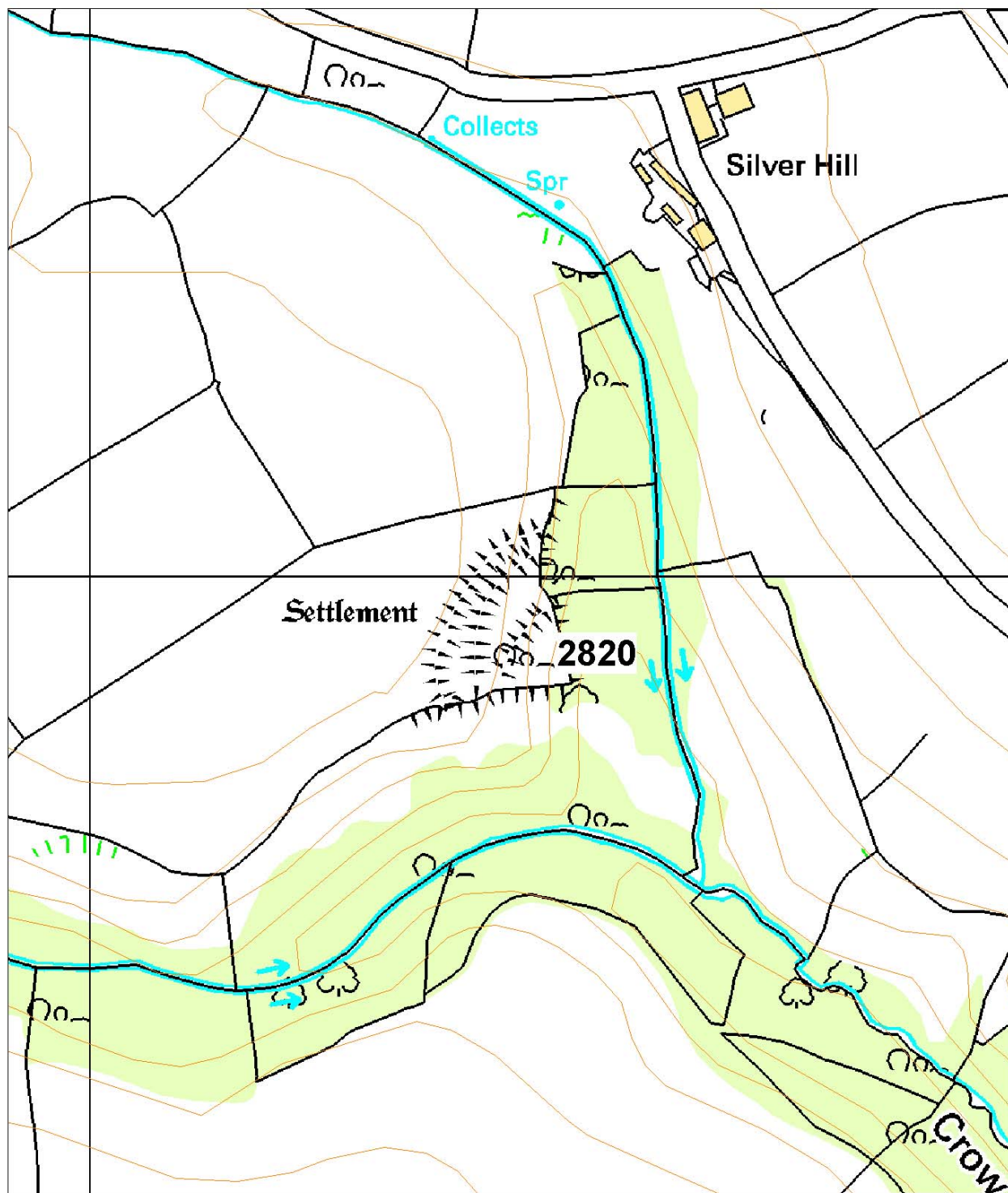
Excavations from 1985-1990 revealed a complex sequence of occupation, starting with pre-defensive Bronze Age use of the site, the Iron Age hillfort, Roman and Early Medieval occupation and medieval and post-medieval use. Several interim reports have been produced, but the final report is still awaited.

K Murphy 15 July 2006 - compiled from several sources



SM 8623 Re-422 15.01.01

Aerial photograph of 2820. Cambria Archaeology reference 2001-3511-03.



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Scale 1:5000

4299 CUERN MOUNTAIN

PRN 4299 NGR SM891226

SITE NAME CUERN MOUNTAIN;SLADE CAMP

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Earthwork

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION B

SITE STATUS SAM

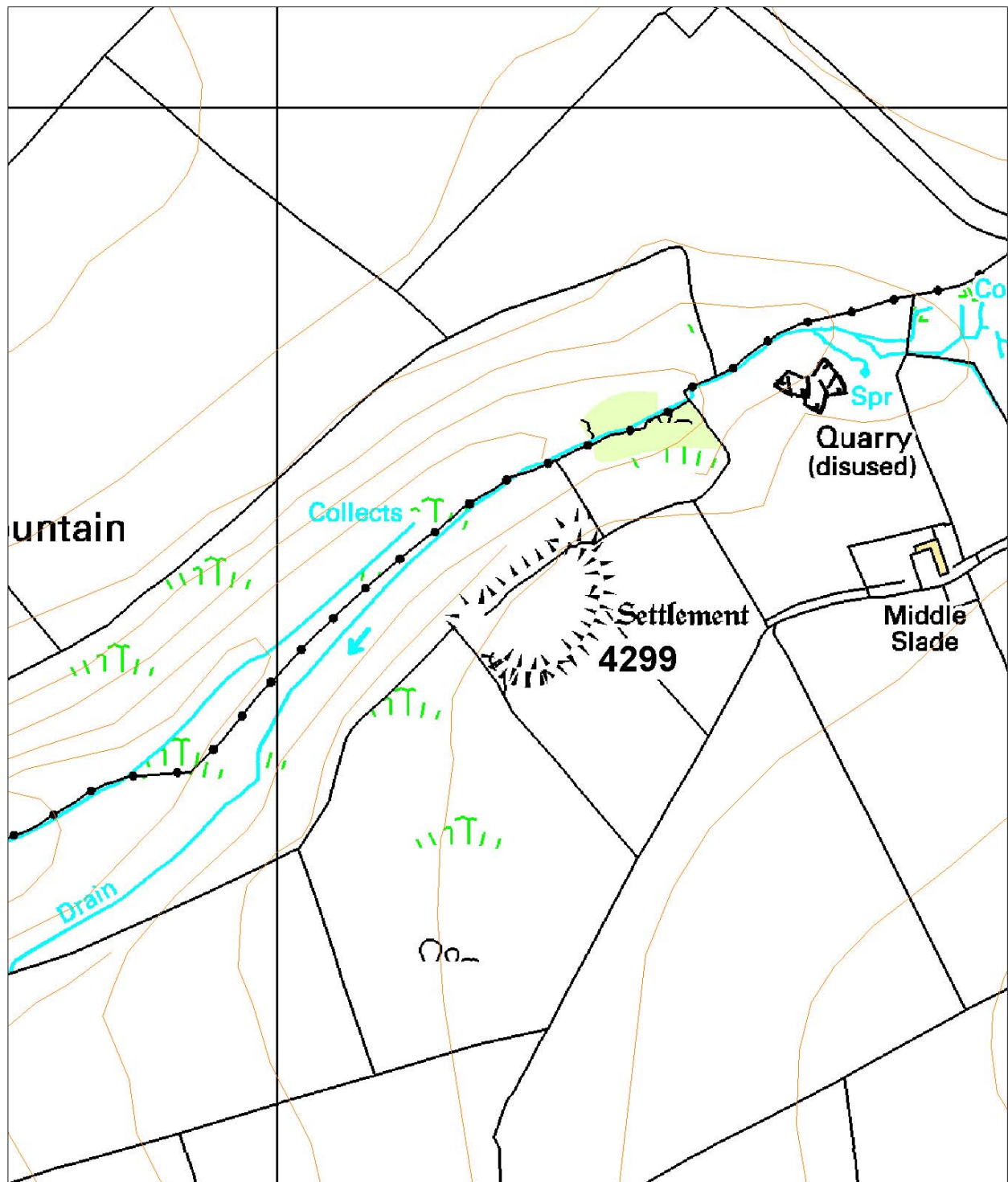
DESCRIPTION

Cuern Mountain, or Slade Camp, is a scarp edge enclosure lying at 100m, above sea level. It is naturally well-defended on its northwest side by the scarp edge, a steep valley side which falls away by 30m to a small stream. A horseshoe-shaped single bank and ditch, the bank standing up to 2m high internally protects the other sides. The ditch is now only visible on the southwest side. The bank continues in a much reduced form along the top of the scarp on the northwest side as a low earthwork, up to 0.3 - 0.5m high, forming a complete defensive circuit of an oval-shaped enclosure 85m SW-NE and 70m SE-NW internally. The bank has several modern breaks in it - E, SSE and SSW - for vehicular access. The gap on the SSW side also seems to have been the original entrance. There is no trace of houses or of other features within the interior. The interior is under pasture and the banks are under grass, bracken and gorse. The site was not visited in 2006.

K Murphy 15 July 2006 - compiled from several sources



Aerial photograph of 4299. Cambria Archaeology reference AP89-V14.



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Scale 1:5000

4300 CUFFERN ROCK

PRN 4300 NGR SM89592220

SITE NAME CUFFERN ROCK

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

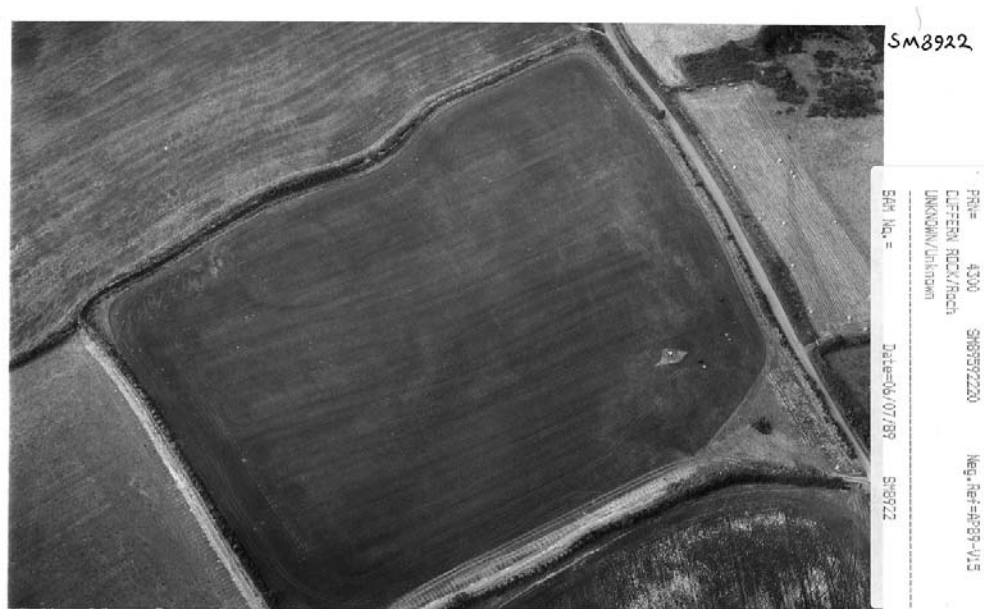
PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Aerial photographs show a sub-circular cropmark enclosure approximately 45m diameter lying on a southwest-facing slope at 125m above sea level. Wide-ranging views to the southeast, south and southwest are obtained from the site. To the northeast the land rises gently but steadily onto Cuffern/Dudwell Mountain at 170m above sea level, some 1200m away. The aerial photographs show a cropmark ditch enclosing a roughly circular area. There is no trace of any internal features or bank. An entrance may lie on the southeast side of the enclosure, but this is not certain. The site is under improved pasture. The site was viewed from the field edge in June 2006, but as the grass was long and just about to be cut for silage the exact location of the enclosure was not examined in detail. However, it was clear that no earthworks for this enclosure survive.

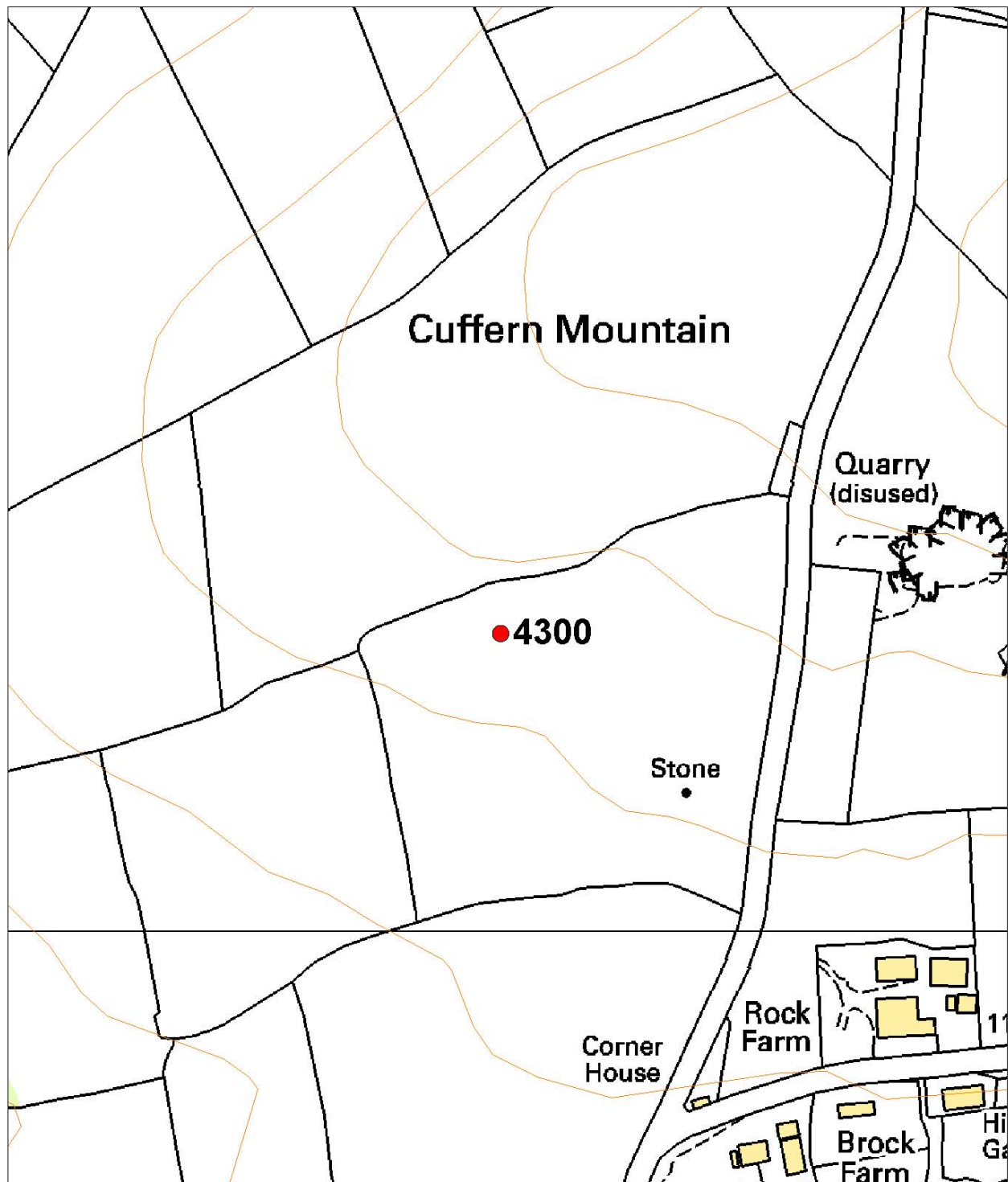
K Murphy 15 June 2006



Aerial photograph of 4300. Cambria Archaeology reference AP89-V15.



Ground photograph looking W over site of cropmark 4300.



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Scale 1:5000

7565 ROCH PARISH CHURCH

PRN 7565 NGR SM88112116

SITE NAME ROCH PARISH CHURCH;ST MARY'S

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE?;CHURCHYARD FORM Documents

PERIOD Iron Age?;Early Medieval CONDITION U

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Early medieval C site, ie. low-probability early medieval origins. Raised, sub-oval churchyard occupied by the medieval Roch parish church (PRN 2804), which is possibly a re-used iron age defended enclosure. It adjoins a post-Conquest masonry castle (PRN 2803). NDL 2003

RCAHM in 1925 tentatively suggested that the church is constructed within an iron age defended enclosure. There was little to support this apart from the slightly raised nature of the churchyard on the west, north and east sides. In 2006, there is no evidence to suggest whether the site is an early enclosure or not.

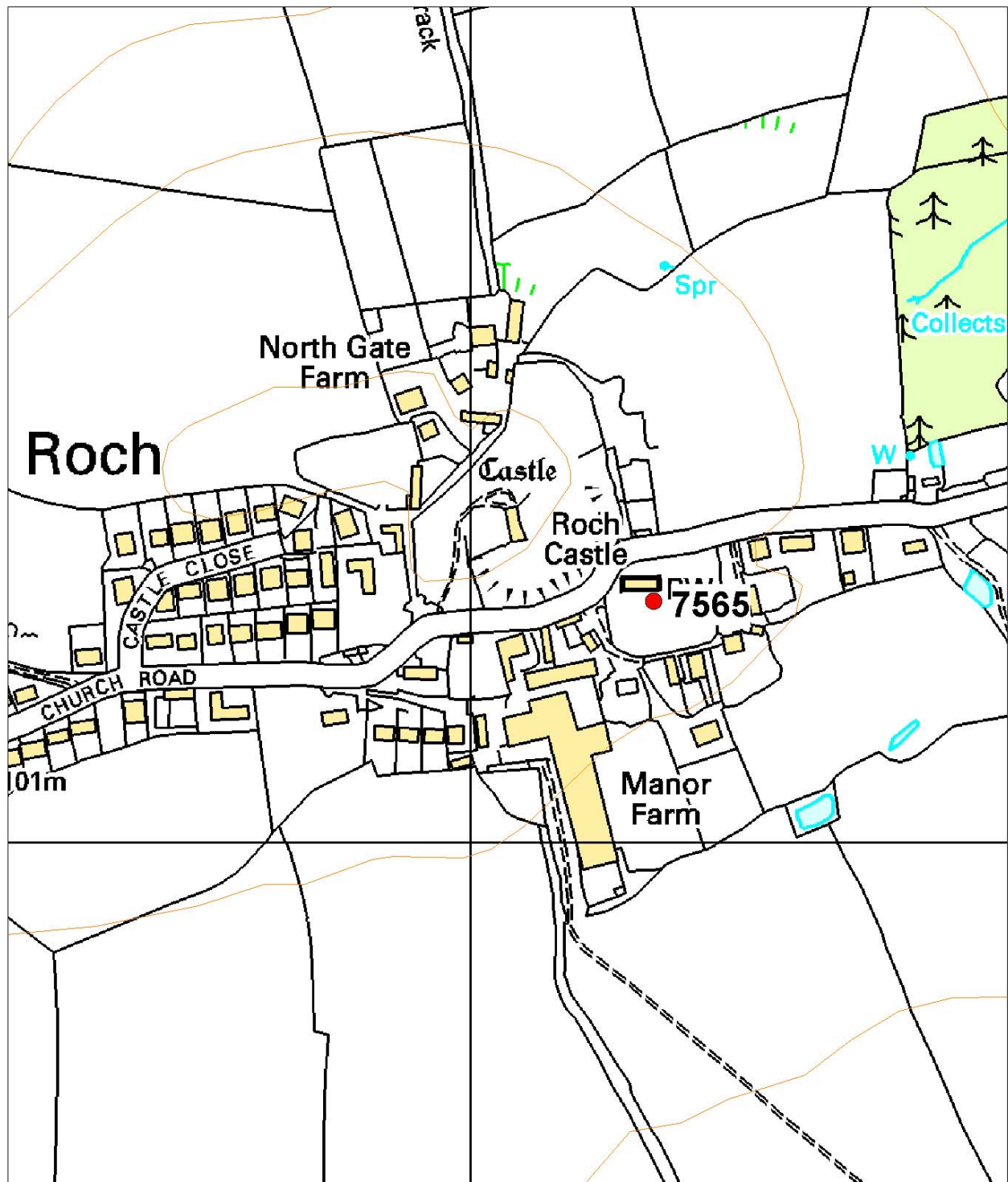
K Murphy 25 May 2006



Aerial photograph of 7565. Cambria Archaeology reference AP88-88.29.



Ground photograph of 7565, looking NW within Roch churchyard.



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Scale 1:5000

10414 MIDDLE MILL

PRN 10414 NGR SM80802602

SITE NAME MIDDLE MILL

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE? FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age? CONDITION D

SITE STATUS

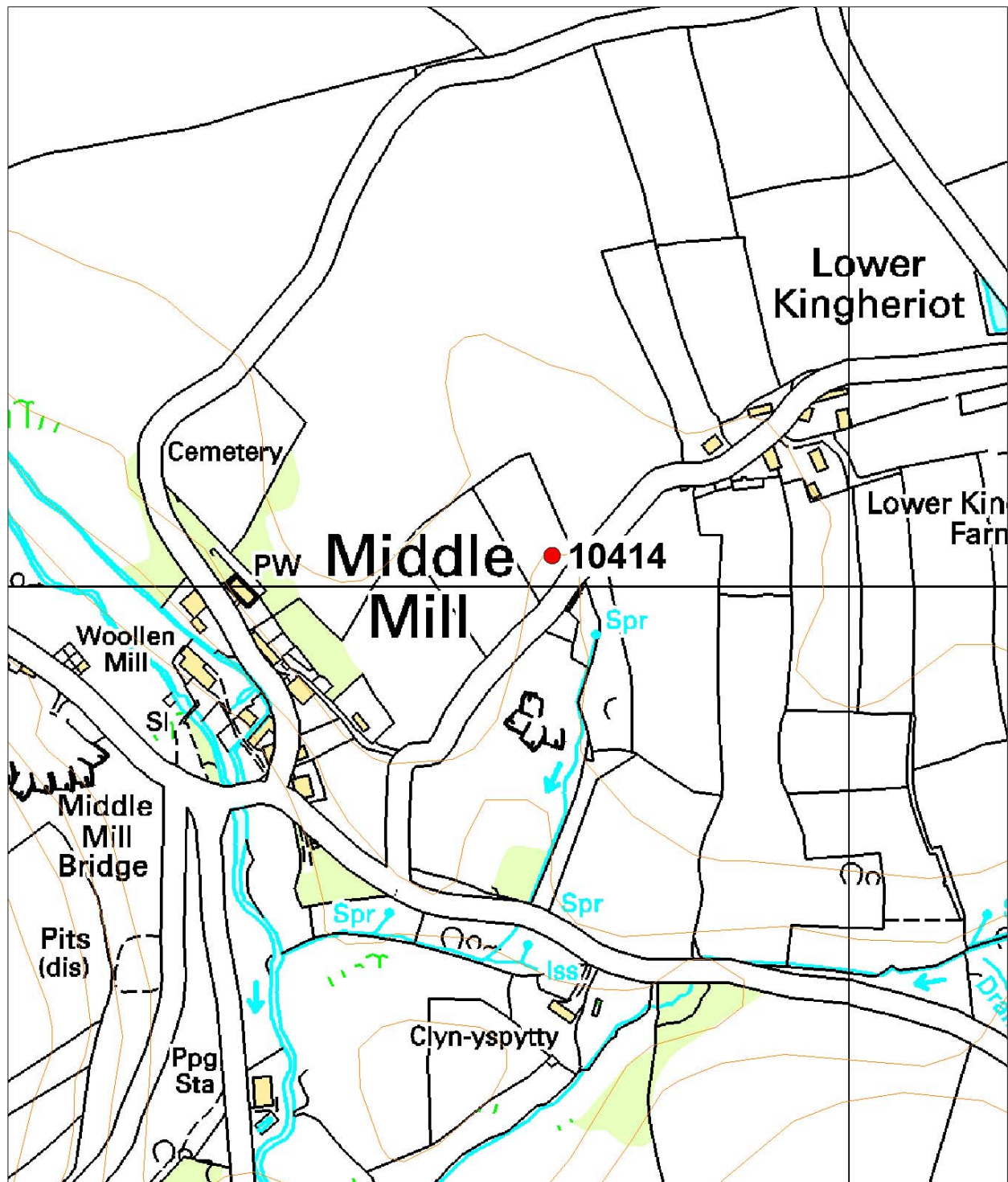
DESCRIPTION

Vertical aerial photographs taken in 1983 show parchmarks of what seems to be a defended enclosure c.20m in diameter surrounded by a 5m wide cropmark ditch. The enclosure lies on a gentle southwest-facing slope at 50m above sea level. On the ground there is no surface evidence for the enclosure. The site is under improved pasture.

K Murphy and R Ramsey 19 December 2006



Ground photograph looking SE over site of cropmark enclosure 10414.



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Scale 1:5000

14242 VANLEY

PRN 14242 NGR SM86422634

SITE NAME VANLEY

SITE TYPE DEFENDED ENCLOSURE FORM Cropmark

PERIOD Iron Age CONDITION C

SITE STATUS

DESCRIPTION

Aerial photographs show the crop-marked ditch of a circular enclosure approximately 50m in diameter. The enclosure lies just 50m southwest of the larger, earthwork enclosure PRN 2776. On the ground the site is visible as a low earthwork bank, no more than 0.1m high. This bank presumably runs around the inside of the ditch visible on the aerial photographs. There is no trace of the ditch on the ground, or of an entrance, although the aerial photographs indicate an entrance on the east side. The site lies on a very gentle southwest-facing slope at 107m above sea level in a field of improved pasture. The field has not been ploughed since 1989, but before this it was regularly ploughed.

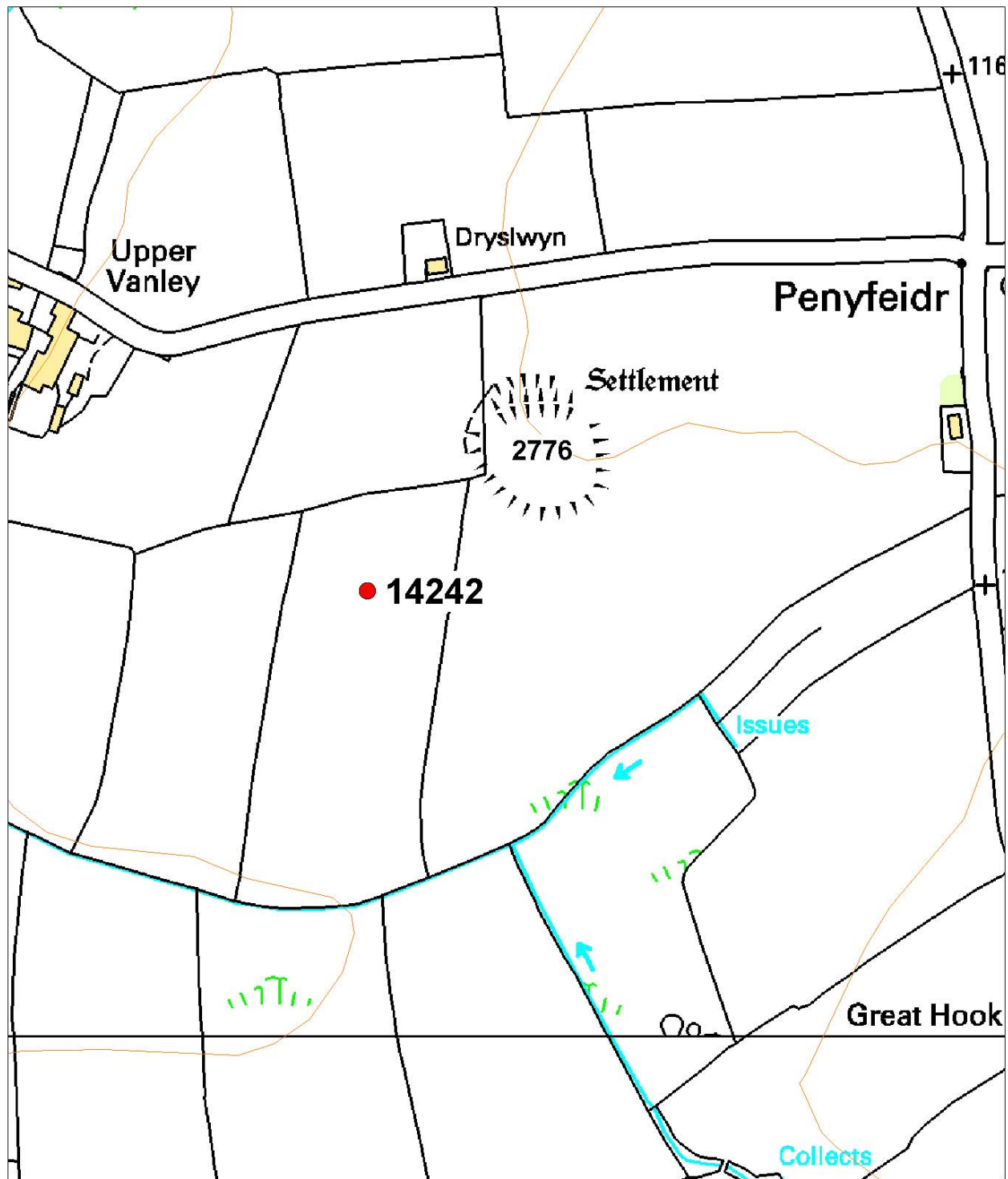
K Murphy and R Ramsey 18 December 2006



SM 8626

PROJ = 2776 SM 862640 NGR Ref AP89-W1
VALLEY ENCLOSURE / Sandy
HILLFORT / Iron Age
SMA No. =
Date = 05/07/89 SM 8626

Aerial photograph of 14242 and 2776. Cambria Archaeology reference AP89-W1.



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REJECTED SITES

Five sites originally recorded as defended enclosures or similar on the Historic Environment Record were rejected:

2790 recorded as a possible hillfort, a site visit was unable to identify any features to confirm this and the site was down graded to a place-name.

5676 recorded as a possible defended enclosures identified from aerial photographs and the field name. A site visit identified the features visible on aerial photographs were of natural origin.

12150 recorded as a possible hillfort identified from aerial photographs, a cropmark ditch is visible forming an enclosure, but its form does not suggest a defended enclosure or hillfort.

12154 recorded as a possible hillfort identified by the field name and recorded by the RCAHMW in 1925. A site visit failed to reveal any features within the field.

13097 recorded as a hillfort, nothing is visible at this grid reference however, it would appear to be a mis-location of Brawdy Castle 2820 to the south.