“Y Cestill Byrion ar (G)lan y Gors”: A Multimethod study of a possible late prehistoric to Romano British lowland defended settlement site, along with other unrecorded archaeological features, in Llangwyllog parish, Anglesey.

A P OWEN

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the Requirements of Manchester Metropolitan University for the degree of Master of Arts (by Research)

Department of History, Politics and Philosophy

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Declaration

I declare that this dissertation is an original report of my research which has been written by me and was not submitted for any previous degree. The research and practical work is entirely my own and I have clearly and acknowledged any and all collaborative contributions in this piece. Due references have been provided on all supporting literatures and resources used as part of this dissertation.

Signed: 

Date: 21/4/23

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Abstract

In May of 2020 a series of raised earthworks were observed on LIDAR data at *Glan Gors*, an abandoned farmstead within the parish of Llangwyllog. The site, recorded in the 18th century as 'Cestyll Byrion'**,** consists of a series of pronounced, raised earthworks erected on a monumental scale. These were discovered to sit within a previously unrecorded archaeological landscape consisting of defensive, domestic, and ritual/funerary sites of prehistoric date onwards.

Geophysical survey of the earthworks conducted between September 2021 and early 2022 revealed a complex series of anomalies indicative of a significant settlement of late prehistoric to early Roman date. Its function is currently unknown, but it is theorized to either be a large, late prehistoric defended settlement, a late prehistoric 'marsh fort' or a Romano British settlement.

This paper intends to transform the known archaeological character of this part of Anglesey, an area which is shown to have an increasing archaeological presence following new findspot and archaeological discoveries in the region since 2018. The use of multiple resources and data collection methods including archival research, landscape analysis (via map regression analysis, aerial photography and LiDAR) along with practical fieldwork (including fieldwalking, site visits and geophysical survey) have highlighted the complex archaeological and historical character of this landscape.

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

The island of Anglesey, North Wales, is rich in archaeology spanning 10,000 years. From Mesolithic hunting camps to WW2 defensive arrays, the compact, wholly rural nature of the island has managed to preserve most of its heritage intact. In later prehistory, the island would be regarded as an important religious and political center for both its inhabitants and refugees, culminating in the Roman invasion of Anglesey in 60AD (Woods, 2021, p. 302).

Anglesey's Iron Age history is well attested in the archaeological record; from isolated roundhouses to massive hillforts, religious and funerary monuments, and even internationally significant hoard finds, Iron Age peoples have worked, worshipped, and been buried here over centuries.

LiDAR studies over Llangwyllog, Anglesey revealed the presence of a previously unrecorded archaeological landscape of assumed late prehistoric to Romano British origin. Of these features was the discovery of a substantial earthwork monument northeast of Glan Gors farm, the trigger towards the research and writing of this paper.

Regarding aims and objectives for this paper, the first is to broaden understanding of Iron Age and Roman/Romano British Archaeology in central Anglesey; an area which has received little study over the past several decades. The paper will also examine how multi method approaches such as LiDAR, aerial imagery, archival research, and geophysical survey can be used to record previously unknown archaeological landscapes. Finally, the paper will attempt to analyze the data presented within the context of late prehistoric settlement within Northwest Wales as a whole.

However, before we discuss the subject of this study, it is important to address the history of Anglesey and Northwest Wales, in particular its development from the late Bronze Age to the Iron Age, culminating in the Roman invasion and occupation of the area until the late fourth century.

1.1 - Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age transitional period

The extant archaeological record of Wales suggests that people appeared to focus primarily on upland areas for settlement. Few of these sites are known in North Wales, but

examples include Castell Odo (Smith & Hopewell, 2007, p. 4) and Mellteyrn Uchaf, Llyn Peninsula (Hopewell, et al., 2007, p. 29) of which the latter has evidence of occupation from at least the 2nd millennium BC (Davidson, 2012, p. 252). Generally, population numbers in Wales at this period is shown to have increased from the middle of the 1st millennium onwards (Davies & Lynch, 2000, p. 142), although by the 1st millennium BC apparent changes in settlement distribution become visible in the landscape.

By the 1st millennium BC the existing archaeological record suggests that the previously occupied upland areas become increasingly abandoned, preferences shifting towards lowland areas in terms of settlement (Davies & Lynch, 2000, p. 142). A definitive reason for this change remains unclear, although a dampening and worsening climate may have played a large role in this decision – a theory proposed by C. Burgess's in his article *Population, Climate and Upland Settlement*' in *Upland settlement in Britain: the second millennium BC* (Burgess, 1985)**.** Burgess' findings have been criticised however, with some arguing that the abandonment of upland areas has more to do with over exploitation of upland soils rather than any climate 'disaster' (Lynch, 1986, p. 28), or even transient changes due to localised social pressures which led to subsequent abandonment (Davies & Lynch, 2000, p. 151).

Despite this change in settlement patterns, upland settlement would become more desirable as time progressed, no doubt in part due to a growing monumentality of settlement and social change at this time (Waddington, 2013, p. 17). Prior to this change it was the dead, entombed in megalithic monuments and large funerary mounds or barrows, that had precedence. By this point however the living is seen as deserving a permanent, monumental place within the landscape as well.

1.1.2 - Bronze Age settlement in Northwest Wales

There are few recorded examples of Bronze Age settlement in North Wales. One of the few excavated examples is Castell Odo, a circular bivallate hillfort located atop Mynydd Ystlum near Aberdaron (Llyn). The site consists of twin defensive banks arranged in a concentric fashion, with several roundhouses, evidence of a rectilinear structure at its centre, and a sub-rectangular enclosure of a later date. At 100m in diameter (Smith & Hopewell, 2007, p. 24) it is still much smaller than the Llangwyllog earthwork, but is comparable in terms of

structural arrangement (i.e. twin concentric curvilinear earthwork banks). Other Late Bronze Age settlement on the Llyn peninsula include Mellteyrn Uchaf, Llŷn, where dating evidence suggests that the site was occupied between 1200 and 800 cal. BC (Smith, 1999, p. 27).

Castell Odo (see Figure 1) was first excavated by C. E Breese in 1929 following grant funding by the Archaeologia Cambrensis Journal (Breese, 1932), with later excavation carried out by Leslie Alcock between 1958 to 1959. Excavation of the site identified that the banks were constructed of earth and stone, with a combination of large and smaller stones used as revetment to prevent bank slippage. The site appears to have had at least six phases of use (Alcock, 1960) – initially starting as an undefended settlement of Late Bronze Age date which later develops into a bivallate defended hillfort by the late Iron Age (1960, pp. 84-102). Subsequent radiocarbon dates confirm the earliest phase of occupation for the site as between the 6th and 3rd centuries BC (Smith, 2018).

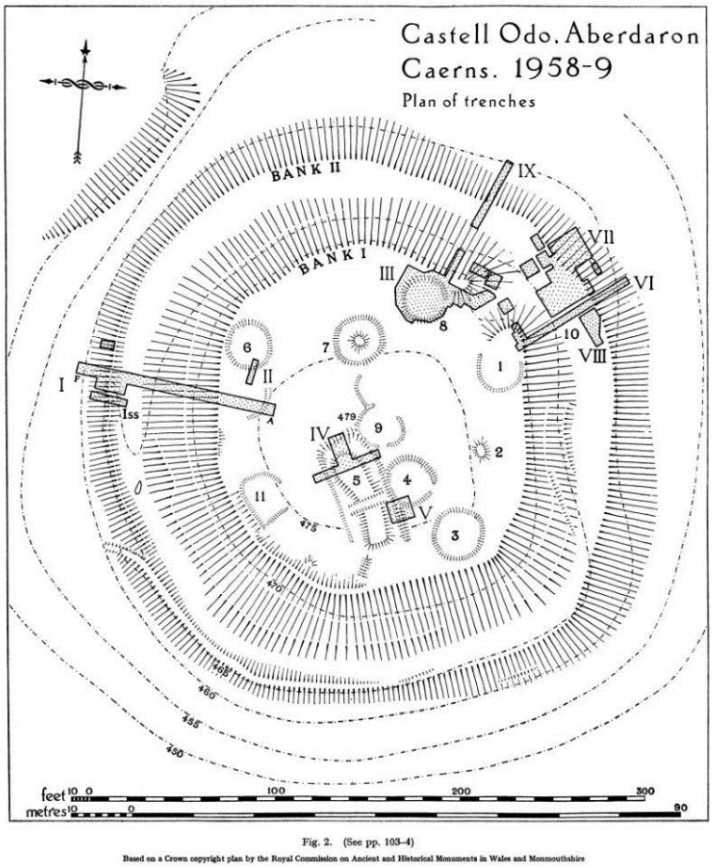


Fig. 2. (See pp. 103–4)

Based on a Crown copyright plan by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire

Figure 1: Measured drawing of Castell Odo, with recorded features and placement of 1958-9 trenches (Alcock 1960, Fig 2).

Although there had previously been little recorded evidence of Bronze Age settlement on Anglesey, recent discoveries at Carrog near Llanfechell (Smith, et al., 2013), Arfryn near Bodedern (Hedges, 2016), a possible site near Rhos Isaf farm, Cemaes (Wessex Archaeology, 2014, p. 11) and the Parc Cybi site near Holyhead (Kenney, 2020) strongly indicate that it is more widespread than what was previously thought. By this point space wouldn't have been much of an issue for settlement – pollen analysis on Anglesey suggests that most of the island was extensively open, with cereal pollens indicative of widespread arable farming at this time (Davies & Lynch, 2000, p. 140; 142) Of interest is the fact that most evidence of settlement are recorded on upland areas on the island – with all recorded sites situated on the higher northern part of the island rather than the south. Furthermore, it is possible that many existing sites on the island are buried under later features –the reported discovery of a Bronze Age hoard near the roundhouses at Ty Mawr on Holyhead Mountain in 1832 may suggest an earlier origin for the site (Lynch, 1991, p. 249).

The reasons for settlement on Anglesey may be twofold. While arable land was key to settlement, the presence of valuable metals for metalworking was also an economical driving factor. The copper mines at Mynydd Parys, Amlwch are known to have been mined in antiquity - evidenced by discoveries of hammerstones and mauls near its summit, as well as radiocarbon dates indicative of activity on the site from at least 1800 BC (Lynch, 1991, pp. 360-2).

This industry was important in the creation of ceremonial and functional bronze objects, useful in trade. Hoard discoveries such as those at Menai Bridge (1991, p. 219), Holyhead Mountain and Llangwyllog (Way, 1866) hint at connections both across the Irish Sea as well as in Central and Southern England (Waddington, 2013, p. 11), connections which continue well into the Iron Age period (see next section).

1.2 - Iron Age period

By the early Iron Age period Wales, much like Britain as a whole, underwent a series of complex social, cultural, and religious changes. However, the archaeological record of Iron Age North Wales, much like Northern Britain, appears to differ greatly from its southern counterpart in a variety of ways.

One key difference is a complete absence of native pottery production across most of Wales - particularly Anglesey, Gwynedd, and Conwy (Waddington, 2013, p. 18). This lack of pottery evidence is not limited to Northwest Wales however, but rather the Northwest of Britain as a whole, showing a clear disconnect of material culture between the two regions (Cunliffe, 2002, p. 117). On Anglesey the dearth of pottery from this period is well attested in the archaeological record. Excavations carried out at Pant y Saer by C. W. Philips between 1932 and 1933 recovered fragments of 'native pottery' (Philips, 1934, pp. 22-7), of which some were identified as being late Iron Age briquetage (Ghey, et al., 2008, p. 17). However, there are some sites in North West Wales which defy this trend – excavations at Castell Odo, Llyn, recorded large quantities of prehistoric pottery recorded from the site, with shards of domestic wares dating from the late Bronze Age onwards, totalling 214 in total and possibly of Irish influence (Alcock, 1960, p. 121; 125). This however may have more to do with the increased Irish influence on the Llyn peninsula at this time: Ptolemy's second volume of Geography references the presence of a possible territorial promontory by the Irish Gangani expanding eastwards across the Irish Sea (Hogg, 1965, p. 128; 160).

Another feature not visible within the archaeological record of Northwest Wales is coinage – to date no Iron Age coins or minting sites have been identified in the region. Those examples of coinage identified, of which only two are known (see Image 1, p. 19) are few and far between, with both originating from outside the region. To date only two examples have ever been recorded: a Gaulish coin, possibly from the Carnute tribe at Llanfaes, Anglesey (Besley, 1995, p. 47); and a gold Corieltauvi (Dorset) stater, found near Llandudno, Conwy (Woods, 2021, p. 295).

Instead, it is assumed that a complex bartering system was employed, trading a variety of goods and metals, with one such metal proving a dominant, and defining, element of this period. It is known that trade was conducted between communities on Anglesey and those from further afield, as fragments of briquetage vessels recovered from the aforementioned Pant y Saer enclosed settlement as well as the unenclosed hut group at Cefn Cwmwd near Rhostrehwfa had originally come from Cheshire (Davidson, 2012, p. 254). Connections to the northwest of Britain are further strengthened with the discovery of a decorated spindle whorl at a multiperiod site in Irby near the Wirral. The stone spindle, decorated with embossed La Téne patterning, is suggested to have originally come from Anglesey, although

possibly manufactured on site (Foster, 2010). While it is unclear what other commodities were traded from Anglesey it is likely given its arable nature that agricultural produce would have been a staple of trade at this period.

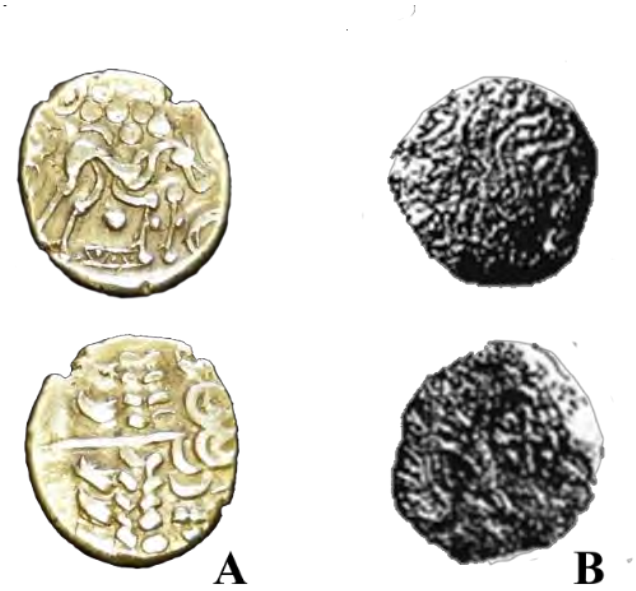


Image 1: Celtic Coinage found in North Wales, both of which originate from outside the geographic area (Woods, 2021, p. 293).

The defining characteristic of this period is what gave it its name – the use and proliferation of iron within the landscape. The earliest evidence of ironworking in Britain is from a late Bronze Age site at Hartshill Copse, West Berskhire, with metallurgical analysis suggesting that ironworking could have started as early as the 10th century BC in parts of Southern England at least (Collard, et al., 2014). Bronze working would only resume from the Middle Iron Age onwards, with evidence of new copper mines being created in parts of Wales such as Llanmynech Hill, Montgomeryshire; and Llwyn Bryn-Dinas near Llangedwyn, Powys. Traces of these newly mined metals are traceable in a small number of objects from Iron Age hoard deposits from across Wales, including those on Anglesey (Davies & Lynch, 2000, p. 208). Unusually, there is no evidence of the copper mines at Mynydd Parys having been reworked, although ironworking is suggested to have taken place at Penrhoslligwy near Moelfre (Lynch, 1991, p. 281).

The Iron Age period on Anglesey is well attested in the archaeological record, both in terms of domestic and ritual activity. Evidence of settlement is recorded across the island, ranging

from small, isolated roundhouses only several m in diameter, to large univallate hillforts measuring over 6 hectares in area. The form of enclosed settlements also varied across the island, from curvilinear enclosed hillforts such as at y Werthyr near Bryngwran , rectilinear enclosures such as Bryn Eryr near Llansadwrn (Longley, et al., 1998) and polygonal enclosures such as Hendrefor (RCHAMW, 1937) and Y Werthyr near Burwen (Wessex Archaeology, 2007) The metal was likely a traded commodity on the island, with the discovery of six 'currency bars' at Llyn Cerrig Bach, all of equal weight, likely to ensure a consistent value when traded (Lynch, 1991, p. 309).

The assembly of objects, 141 in total, from Llyn Cerrig Bach near Valley, is one of the largest and most impressive late iron Age assemblages recorded in Western Britain. First reported by C. Fox following its initial discovery in 1942, the collection comprises of a mix of objects including weaponry, equestrian, domestic, cultural, and industrial depositions (Fox, 1946). Study by Fox and others in subsequent years have revealed the distance these objects have travelled (see Figure 2), displaying contacts with tribes in the eastern and southern parts of Britain over a long period (Lynch, 1991, p. 312).

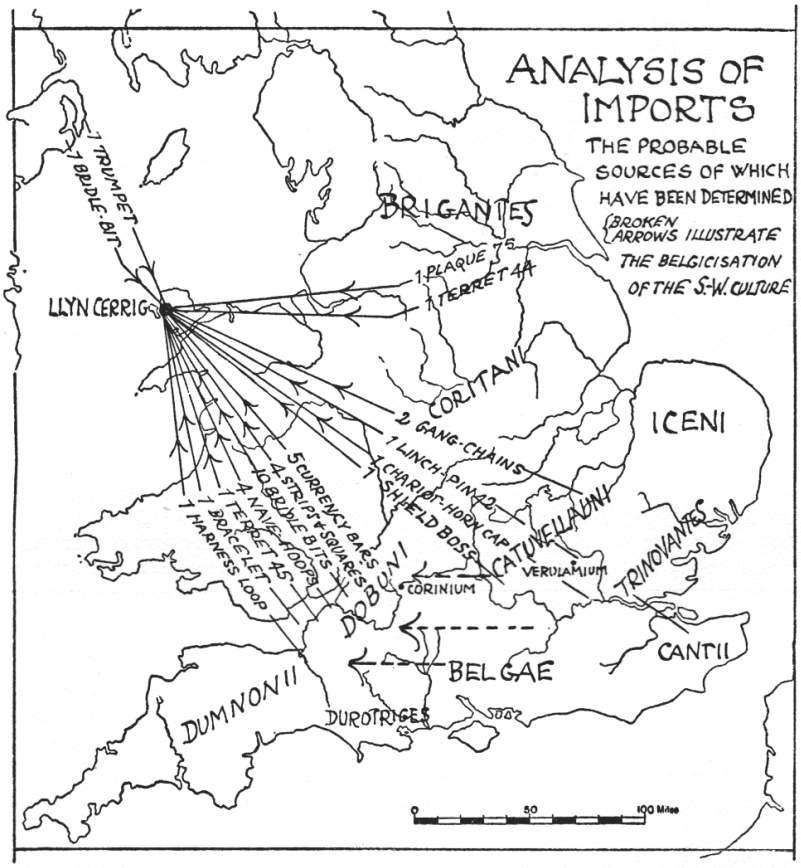


Figure 2: Distribution map of objects recorded from Llyn Cerrig Bach (Fox, 1946, pp. 62, Fig. 34).

Llyn Cerrig Bach ties into a wider landscape of, albeit limited, ritual and funerary monuments of this period across Anglesey. Evidence of Iron Age ritual has been recorded in the centre of the island (see 3.5.4, p. 60), whereas funerary monuments are confined to only one known example at Gelliniog Wen – consisting of a cist lined grave of a male accompanied with an iron sword of La Téne (either Group II or V) style (1991, pp. 282-284).

1.2.2 Iron Age defended settlement

The archaeology of this period is dominated by the presence of large, defended settlements known in the archaeological record as 'hillforts'. A significant number of these sites are recorded in Northwest Wales, with a number recorded on Anglesey itself. At least 12 examples are recorded on Anglesey (Smith, 2005), including univallate and multivallate defended examples, as well as promontory and coastal sites. In the Northwest hillfort sites vary in both scale and construction, measuring from 0.04ha up to over 10 hectares (Waddington, 2013, p. 52). Despite their name the topographic location of these sites may vary – On Anglesey at least two are recorded on low lying upland rather than definite 'hills' – y Werthyr near Llantrisant and another similarly named site near Bryngwran. A number of enclosed settlement sites are also recorded on the island, located in both upland and lowland areas of the island (see Figure 3 below)

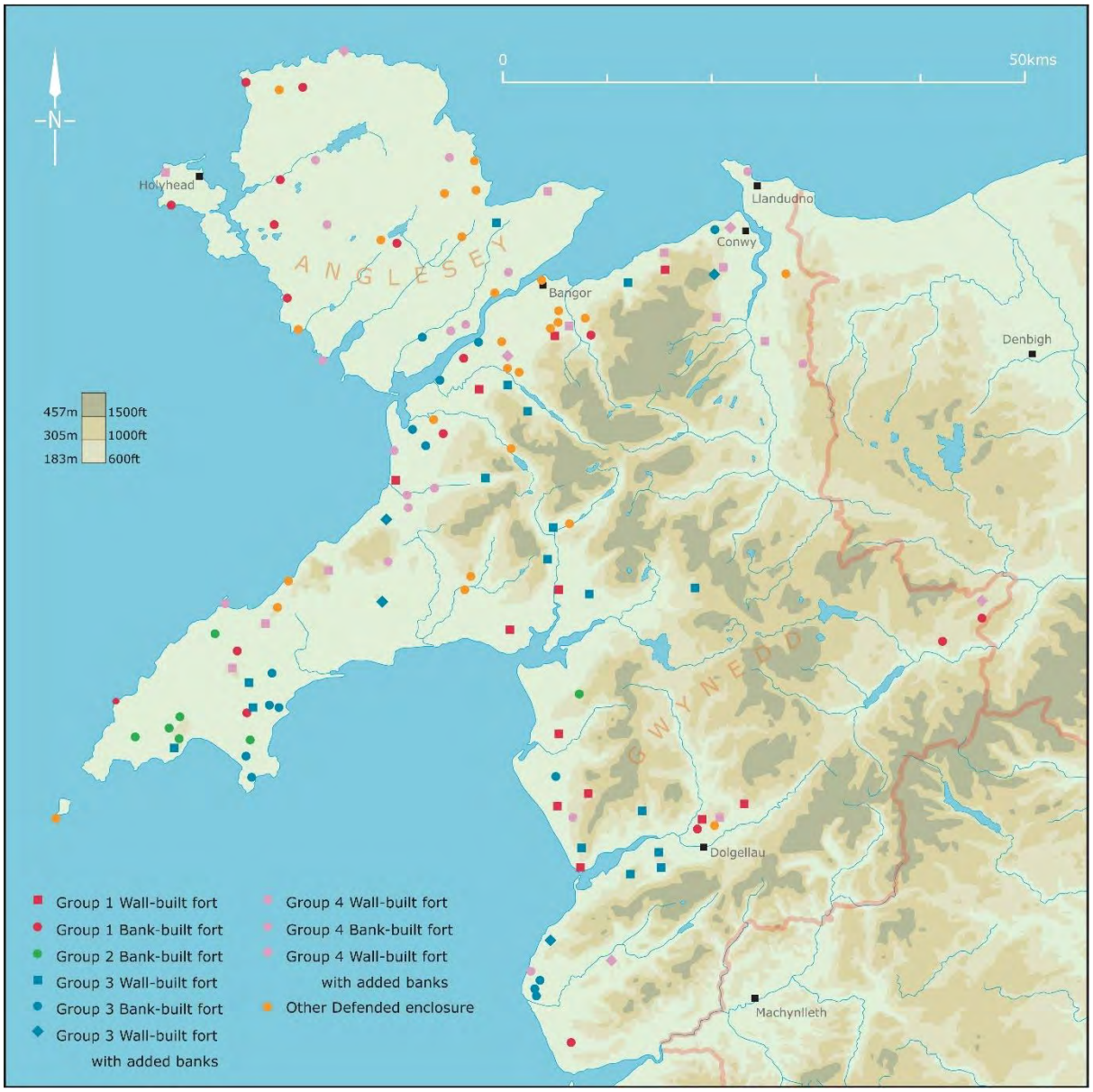


Figure 3: Distribution of hillforts and defended enclosures in Northwest Wales (Smith, 2018).

Few of these sites have been excavated on Anglesey in recent times, many of which were excavated during the 19th and early 20th centuries, with some being unexcavated up to the present day. Those which are known to have been excavated have almost all exclusively provided material of a later, Roman date, such as Parciau, Llaneugrad (Lynch, 1991, pp. 273-6), which leads to these sites being dated to the late Prehistoric based on their architectural characteristics alone. The reuse of hillforts in the Roman period is well attested across Britain (Harding, 2012) – this, given the aceramic nature of Iron Age peoples in Northwest Wales and the North West of Britain as a whole (Cunliffe, 2002, p. 117), adds further complications when interpreting the history of occupation for these sites. By contrast, it

seems more likely to find late prehistoric artefactual material on lowland enclosed settlement sites such as Pant y Saer (Philips, 1934) and Bryn Eryr near Llansadwrn (Longley, et al., 1998), along with more recently discovered unenclosed settlement sites such as Cefn Cwmwd near Rhostrehwfa (Roberts, et al., 2012).

In terms of architecture and layout, the nature of hillfort construction varies from place to place. In some parts of the island the ramparts are stone built, as seen at Parciau (Waddington, 2013, p. 139), Din Silwy near Llangoed (Lynch, 1991, p. 258) and Caer y Twr near Holyhead (Lynch, 1991, p. 263-4), with most examples of a univallate (single defensive perimeter) construction. However, the defenses of other sites such as both 'Y Werthyr' examples are entirely earthern bank (Lynch, 1991, p. 268), with evidence of multivallate (multiple defensive perimeter) construction based on geophysical results of both sites (Smith, 2005, pp. 18-23). The materials that were used to construct these defences are primarily dictated by what is naturally available nearby *sans* quarrying as apart from the occasional glacial erractic, much of the material used has not travelled far. The interior occupied spaces of enclosed settlements on Anglesey vary in density – the small hillfort at Parciau is densely packed with roundhouses and ancillary structures whereas, by contrast, there appears to be no direct evidence of settlement within the enclosed walls of Caer y Twr, Holyhead at all, suggesting it functioned more as an emergency refuge than as a site of permanent settled activity. (Lynch, 1991, pp. 263-4).

1.3 - Roman period

One of the earliest historical records of the island dates to the middle of the 1st century AD. A notable Roman historian, politician and chronicler by the name of Tacitus provides much of our written record of the invasion of Wales during this time. In these writings, he records an invasion by the general Suetonius Paulinus, aimed in subjugating the island and its elite priest sect (the druids) in order to quell the various uprisings by the natives of Britain at this time. Although brief, the description suggests that a sizeable legion arrived near Anglesey via both sea and land, crossing the straits and engaging in battle with the people of the island, before violently subduing them (Tacitus Annals 14.30).

Following the invasion, both the social and cultural identity of the island would see a mix of both gradual change and 'stoic' continuation of earlier practice. Although the Roman

presence in north west Wales was described as being purely militaristic and administrative in nature (Lloyd, 1967), recent archaeological discoveries at Tai Cochion, near Llanidan, Anglesey (Hopewell, 2016), as well as near Porthmadog on the mainland (Waddington, 2013) hint at a landscape becoming increasingly Romanised from the invasion period onwards.

Given its mineral and arable wealth, Anglesey would have been an invaluable asset to the Roman Empire, allowing access to resources and trade lines from the Irish Sea, whilst simultaneously providing resources necessary for maintaining manpower at the numerous Roman fortifications across the area. At least three of these sites are known on Anglesey, with the earliest of these sites being a possible Flavian fortlet near Cemlyn (Hopewell, 2014). The principle Roman fort is suggested to have existed at Aberffraw, although debate has risen about its archaeological authenticity in recent years (Hopewell, 2010). It is likely however that the auxiliary fortress at Segontium played a large role in administration of the island during its entire occupation - the true nature of Roman administrative and military governance of the island remaining, as of the time of writing, unclear.

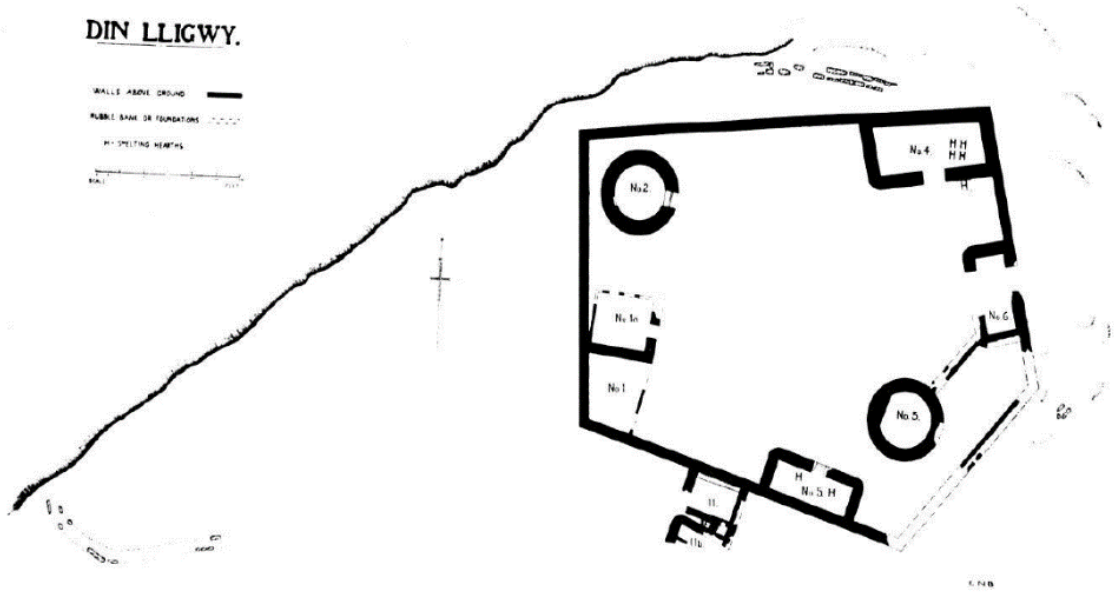


Figure 4: Plan of Din Lligwy enclosed hut settlement (Baynes

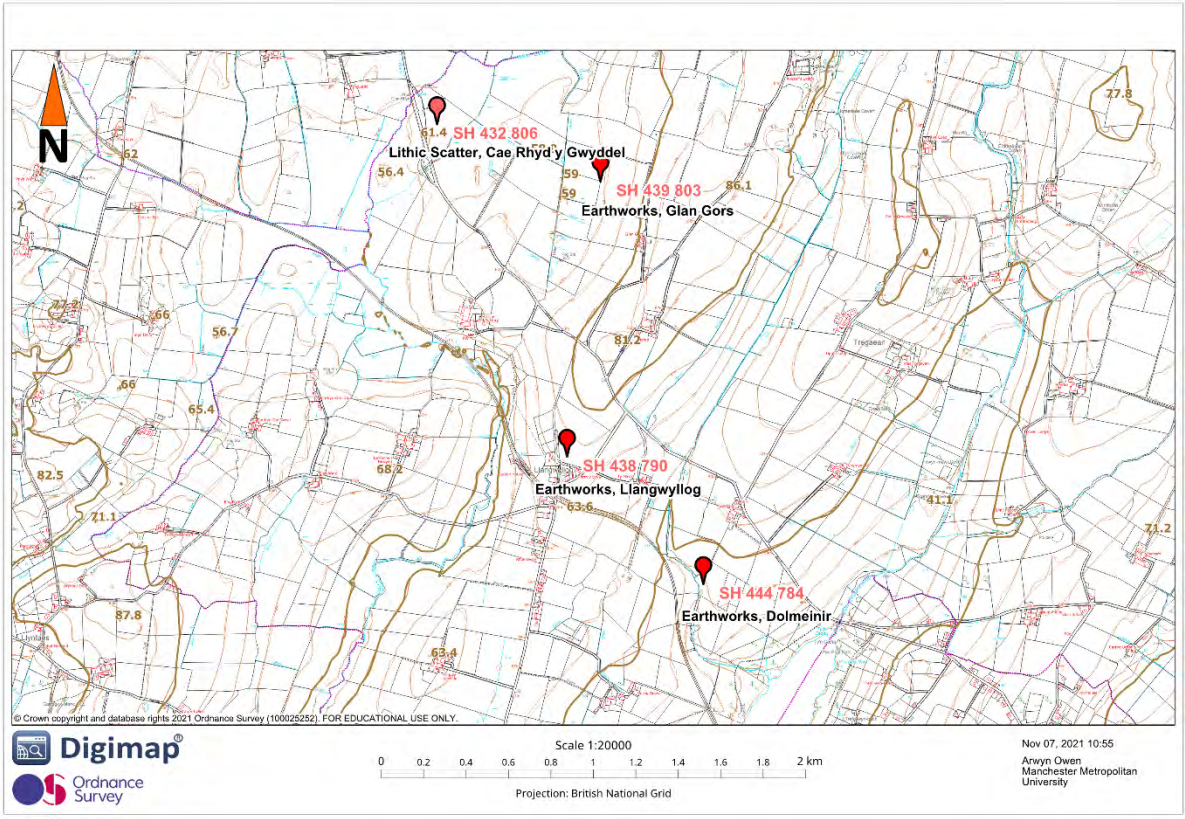
For the remainder of both Anglesey (and Northwest Wales), the archaeological evidence implies that native styles and customs continued to exist in the landscape, although changes in material culture helped elevate those of higher status within their locality. High status settlement sites such as Din Lligwy, a polygonal walled stone-built courtyard settlement near Moelfre, are characteristic of this period on the island (see Figure 4). Excavations carried out by Baynes in the early twentieth century recovered a plethora of imported goods such as glass, ceramics, and coinage from the site (Baynes, 1908). The unusual polygonal enclosure of the site is seen elsewhere at sites such as Mynydd Bodafon (Waddington, 2013, p. 142) and may be the result of Roman influences at this period (Ghey, et al., 2008, p. 2; 4). Yet in many of these sites despite the increased construction of rectangular structures during this period, it appears that roundhouses were the preferred stye of home for many on the island.

Increased instability following Irish raiding during the third century would see the addition of later fortification on Anglesey. These included a series of Roman signal stations at Holyhead (Crew, 2010), Mynydd y Garn and possibly near Gaerwen (White & Smith, 1999). The creation of the coastal fortlet at Holyhead (RCHAMW, 1937, pp. 31-34), adds to the network of late Roman defences on the island.

By the Roman withdrawal period (late 4th century), it seems that many of these settlement sites, both Romanised and Romano British, are subsequently abandoned, presumably in response to a rapidly changing political and economic current (Waddington, 2013, p. 108). Excavation suggests sites such as Din Lligwy and Bryn Eryr all appear to show signs of abandonment around this time. However, it appears from artefactual evidence that certain settlement sites such as Cefn Cwmwd (Roberts, et al., 2012) and Pant y Saer (Philips, 1934) continue to be occupied up to the early Medieval period.

With an archaeological background firmly established, attention can now be turned to the study area at Llangwyllog.

1.4 - Topography



Map 1: Topographical map showing landscape around Glan Gors and Cae Rhyd y Gwyddel survey areas.

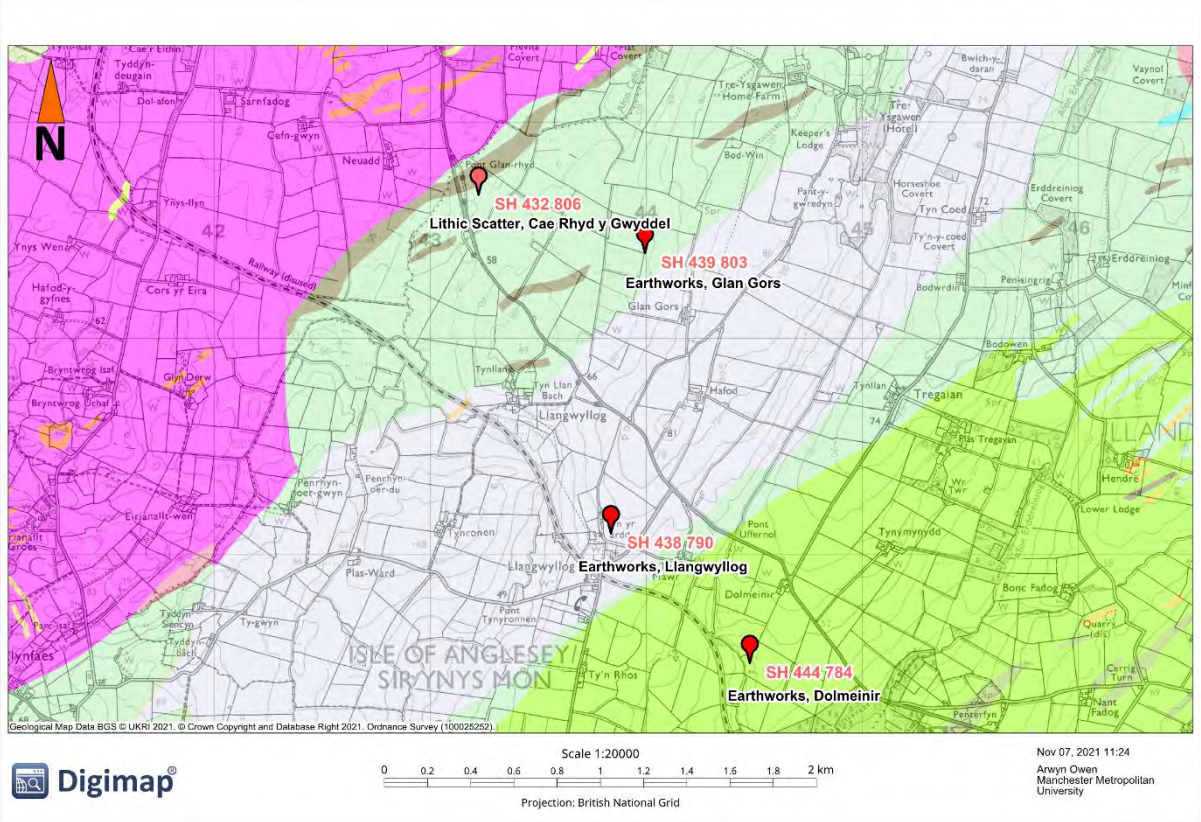
The study area (see Map 1) measures 2.5km and is situated within the centre of the island of Anglesey, North Wales. The area can be described as 'undulating lowland', with all sites located at a height between 45m and 55m OD (Ordnance Datum). Its highest point can be located 744m to the northeast of the farmstead Hafod, measuring 86.1m OD (Digimap). Its shape, a lowland valley running northeast to southwest, was formed by the last glaciation period as melting glacial water eroded the landscape.

Several watercourses can be seen to run across the landscape, all of which running towards the south towards the Cefni reservoir and towards Llangefni, emptying out into Malltraeth marsh. The largest of these watercourses is the Cefni River, which runs across western side of the survey area, its shape largely unchanged despite recent drainage practices. A series of smaller streams and drainage ditches can also be seen, the largest of these streams running east of Hafod farm towards the Cefni reservoir, an artificial lake created to supply island locals with fresh water. Despite drainage, there are still visible areas of wetland and marshland near the Cefni River, the largest area of which runs west of Glan Gors farm.

The four sites in this thesis can all be found near sources of water within the landscape. The earthworks at Glan Gors are situated neatly on the side of a small hillock immediately east, which runs in a north-eastern to southwestern direction, its shape defined by a small river or stream running on its eastern side. Its western side consists entirely of wet, boggy ground or marshland, being fed from water by a nearby spring further east as well as the Cefni River during periods of intense flooding. 813m west of the earthworks is a small field, Cae Rhyd y Gwyddel, which slopes upwards towards the south and at a height of over 55m OD. The earthworks at Llangwyllog are located on the southern brow of a large hill at a height between 65 and 70m OD, overlooking parts of the Cefni River valley to the west and a clear view of the mountainous mainland. The final site, the earthworks at Dolmeinir, are located in an area of wetland near the small bend of a stream which leads to the south, at a height between 40 and 45m OD.

The fields are predominantly used for pastoral farming, with areas of arable farming towards the east. The small hamlet of Llangwyllog near all sites is the largest population centre locally.

1.5 - Geology



Map 2: Geological map of Glan Gors survey area (BGS)

The superficial geology of the surrounding area appears to comprise mainly of Devenisian Diamaticon and Glaciofluvial till, which includes pieces of granite, quartz, and mudstone from nearby bedrocks. The soil consistency appears to be a of a clayish mud or orangy/brown colour. Patches of grey, silty clay can be seen at the base of most ditches in the survey area, which is a sticky, gritty consistency when touched. Areas of alluvium soil, consisting of a mixture of silt and clays, can be found underneath the main rivers and streams, along with a sizeable area to the west of Glan Gors farm in an area of boggy wetland.

The bedrock geology of the four sites (see Map 2) consists of a complex mix of sedimentary, metamorphic, and igneous rocks which form a part of the geology of Central Anglesey. To the north outside the survey area is Coedana Granite, a volcanic rock formed 541 to 635 million years ago, with inclusions of volcanic felsite (of unknown date) within its matrix. At both the Cae Cyrch Gwyddel and Glan Gors sites the bedrock changes into mica schist, part of the Central Anglesey Shear Zone and Berw Shear Zone, which was formed between 635 and 508 million years ago during the Ediacaran and Cambrian periods. Bands of hornblende schist, of similar date, can also be found running across this rock. Underneath the Llangwyllog site and to the east Glan Gors the geology again changes to a mudstone/sandstone mix of Ordovician date to the east. This rock is a type of sedimentary bedrock formed between 485.4 and 443.8 million years ago during the Ordovician period. Finally, the Dolmeinir site is located within a large area of Gwna schist, a metamorphic bedrock which was formed between 508 to 635 million years ago in the region. (https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/).

Chapter 2 - Methodology

Given the scale of the survey area studied, at least several techniques were utilised as part of the research. These consisted of desk-based research such as map regression analysis and archival studies, as well as multiple landscape archaeological methods such as LiDAR mapping, aerial photography (personal and historic) as well as non-invasive archaeological methods and techniques. This consisted of two methods of geophysical survey - magnetometry and Ground Penetrating Radar or GPS techniques. Furthermore, the use of

free 3D modelling software, coupled with LiDAR data, has proven fruitful in identifying previously unrecorded archaeological features within the landscape.

2.1 - Archival Studies

Archival materials form a key part of Desk Based research prior to any archaeological investigation. Place name records, field boundaries and estate maps can often be found in various public archives across the British Isles. Although there have been gaps in coverage in Wales, this may be in part because archival records relating to a certain place have become spread out across the British Isles.

In this instance the Anglesey Archives and Bangor University Archives were both visited to determine the quality and nature of the records kept, as well as their relevance to the study area in question. Documents sought were primarily relating to properties within the survey area – including tenancy agreements, herediment documents, estate maps, wills, photographs, and any personal letters which may contain interesting anecdotes to discoveries within the area.

Given restrictions due to the COVID19 outbreak during the initial part of this research project, the use of digital resources was crucial during site research. These sources include the use of the Welsh Journal Archive hosted by the National Library of Wales -this web resource contains 450 journals spanning the years between 1735 and 2006, which include early copies of *Archaeologia Cambrensis*.

2.2. - Aerial Photography

Aerial photography of the area studied has been conducted since at least the end of the Second World War and have continued until the present day, thanks in part to satellite imagery. As a prospective archaeological tool, aerial photography is useful in identifying earthworks, crop marks, soil marks and scorch marks. as buried remains and soil disturbances can often suggest the presence of archaeological remains within the landscape (Riley, 1996). A combination of both personal drone photography and digital resources (including digitised archival images) was used for this study.

Digital resources used in this paper consisted of Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography or CUCAP (Cambridge Unviersity, 2021) , the Welsh Government's Central

Registers of Aerial Photographs available freely online (Welsh Government, 2013), as well as Google Earth. For the latter resource Google Maps' timeline feature proved useful in identifying further cropmarks within the landscape.

Personal aerial imagery was taken with the DJI Mavic Pro Platinum, a consumer drone released in 2017. The unit has a mounted camera with a 26mm lens (35mm equivalent) and small (1/2.3") sensor, with effective megapixel range of 12.35MP. Images taken are saved onto an interchangeable MicroSD (Sandisk) and the unit has been set to save in both lossless .TIFF format as well as standard .JPEG.

The author has also completed a A2 Certificate of Competency (A2CofC) to ensure safe flying, as well as asked permission for landowners to allow for safe flight. As access to the site(s) discussed are restricted due to the Mona Airfield Flight Restriction Zone (FRZ), all flights were conducted within the legal framework of drone flying issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) in CAP 722. Given these restrictions the author was only permitted to fly near Glan Gors farm.

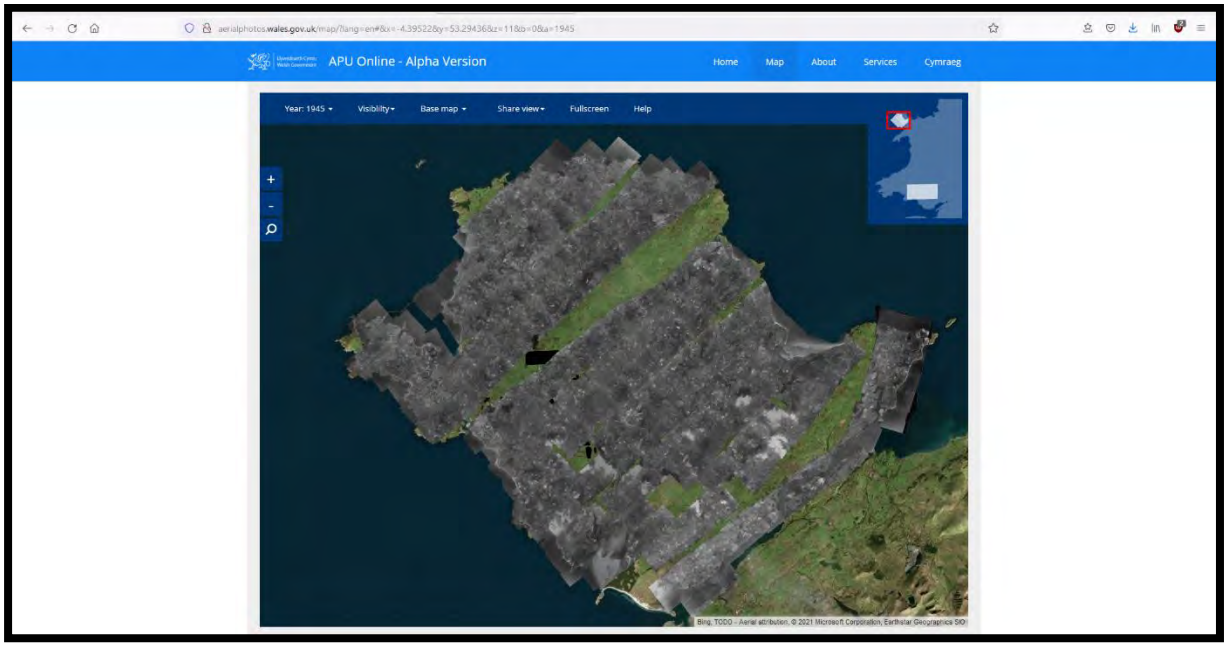


Image 2: APU map viewer, showing aerial images (c.1945) overlayed onto modern satellite imagery.

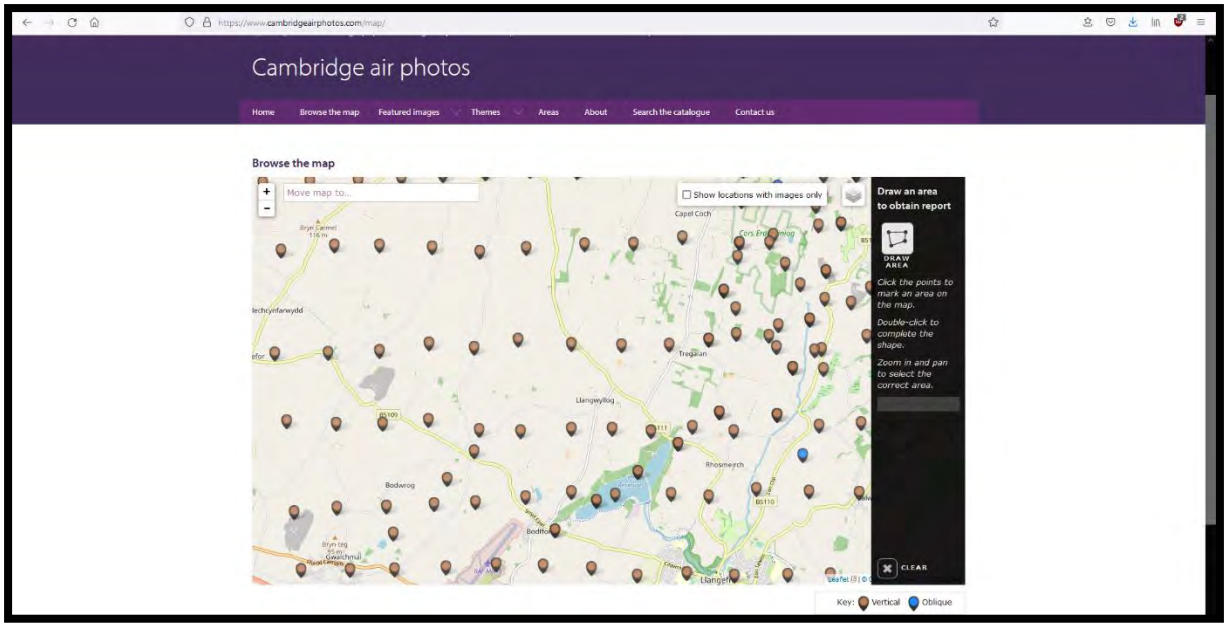


Image 3: Map browser of Cambridge Air Photo archive.

2.3 - Standard photography

Standard photography was also used to record or note archaeological features present within the study areas. A Nikon D7200 (released 2015) was used, with both an AF-S DX NIKKOR 18-300mm F/3.5-5.6 EG VR Wide Angle and Telephoto lens as well as a Nikon AF-S DX Zoom-NIKKOR 18-55mm 1:3.5-5.6G ED II Lens. Images were saved as both lossless .TIFF format as well as .JPEG format on a removable SD card (Sandisk). When it was not possible to bring a camera personal phone camera were used by both the author and volunteers assisting in this project.

Images would be taken of the extant earthworks where possible, as well as records of the geophysical process as it occurred for use in this paper. This would include site visits of the earthworks at Glan Gors and north of Llangwyllog, taken at various times of the day, to highlight various features within the landscape.

2.4 - LiDAR

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a method of landscape surveying which has seen increased use in archaeology in recent years. The technique consists of a series of laser pulses which can measure height differences on ground surfaces which are then plotted via Global Positioning Satellites (GPS) in real time. These data points are later compiled into a

'data cloud', consisting of millions of individual measurements, which can then be rendered to produce 3D images of the landscape, these can vary between Digital Terrain Maps (DTM) which only look on the ground surface (removing trees, houses etc); or Digital Surface Maps (DSM) which include all features visible on the surface. The technology has proven successful in identifying sites of archaeological interest across the globe (Chase, et al., 2017). In Wales the method was used to great success in recording the extant surface archaeology visible on Stockholm Island, Gateholm Islet and the Marloes Peninsular in Pembrokeshire, revealing multiple phases of settlement and previously unrecorded archaeological features in the survey areas (Davis, 2011).

For this paper 1m DSM data was used to help identify the extant archaeology visible at both the initial survey area and immediate surrounding area. By identifying other potential archaeological features nearby, this would help give a chronology of the use of the landscape in the past and provide much needed context for the development of the site(s) discussed in this paper. Interpretation of these features were done using paint/drawing software – in this instance paint.net, given the author's familiarity with the software.

LiDAR data will also be modelled in Blender, a free to use 3D open-source graphics software toolset used for a variety of media methods. LiDAR data will be imported into the software using a script developed by forum user 'zeffii' (McArdle, D.) on a thread at the Blenderartists.org forums, dated from December 2014[1]. This script converts ESCRI ASC data into a format recognisable by Blender, allowing for visual rendering on the platform. As an interpretation tool, this allowed the placement of as light sources in unnatural areas, which greatly assisted in archaeological interpretation.

2.5 - Geophysical Survey

A geophysical survey was conducted with a Bartington 601 gradiometer. Magnetometry is a popular method of archaeological prospection, which uses electro-magnetic waves to detect microscopic iron particles which make up about 6% of the soil. If a hole is dug and the material from the hole distributed elsewhere, the magnetometer can sense this distribution and these readings are then downloaded into the laptop using Grad601 software and

[1] https://blenderartists.org/t/esri-asc-data-into-blender-help-please/629477

processed using Geoplot. The data points are given a shade across a grey scale according to the number of the reading and the data is processed as a visual image. Ditches, banks, pits, and metal artefacts can be found using the magnetometer, but the sensitivity of the probes require the operator to wear no ferrous metal items whilst conducting the survey and the results can be affected by metal both in the landscape and beneath the ground such as underground utilities and metal rich geology.

A total of 153 30m by 30m grids were run in both October 2021 and April 2022 over 14 days (see Figure 29, p. 130) The aim was targeting the fields where the earthworks were most present – these were numbered between 1 and 5 (shown as F1-5 on Figure 28, p. 129), with allowances to target other fields within the vicinity. Most of the features on the LiDAR were covered at this time – parts of Field 3 and 4 were inaccessible due to waist high stinging nettles and reeds, whereas Field 2 and Field 5 were only partially due to lack of time constraints.

In terms of interpretation the results of each of the survey areas will be represented individually using a methodology that was developed for geophysical survey work at Llanfechell (Owen and Woods 2022). This will culminate in a full map of the survey area showing the study area in its entirety. A colour coded key is provided to aid in interpreting all discussed findings, with anomalies discussed numbered and highlighted within the text.

Interpretation was drawn on paint.net before uploading the finished results onto Grid Map. As all geophysical points were recorded using tapes and a handheld GPS, this allowed for maximum accuracy for siting the location of grids within the study area(s).

For further aid in interpretation, all imagery of geophysical data was superimposed onto 3D models (LiDAR and a mix of Google Satellite and LiDAR data) in Blender allowing for further interpretation. This was done thanks to guidance by Viktoria Hartzig., a proficient 3D modeler from Estonia (pers. comms.).

2.6 - Field Walking and Metal Detecting Surveys

Given that there is currently no opportunity to excavate the site at present, other methods of collecting artefactual evidence were employed. One of these methods consisted of field

walking survey. The study areas targeted, ‘Cae Rhyd y Gwyddel’ and ‘Cae Lon Lundain’ were surveyed by being walked over in a zig-zag pattern following visual landmarks.

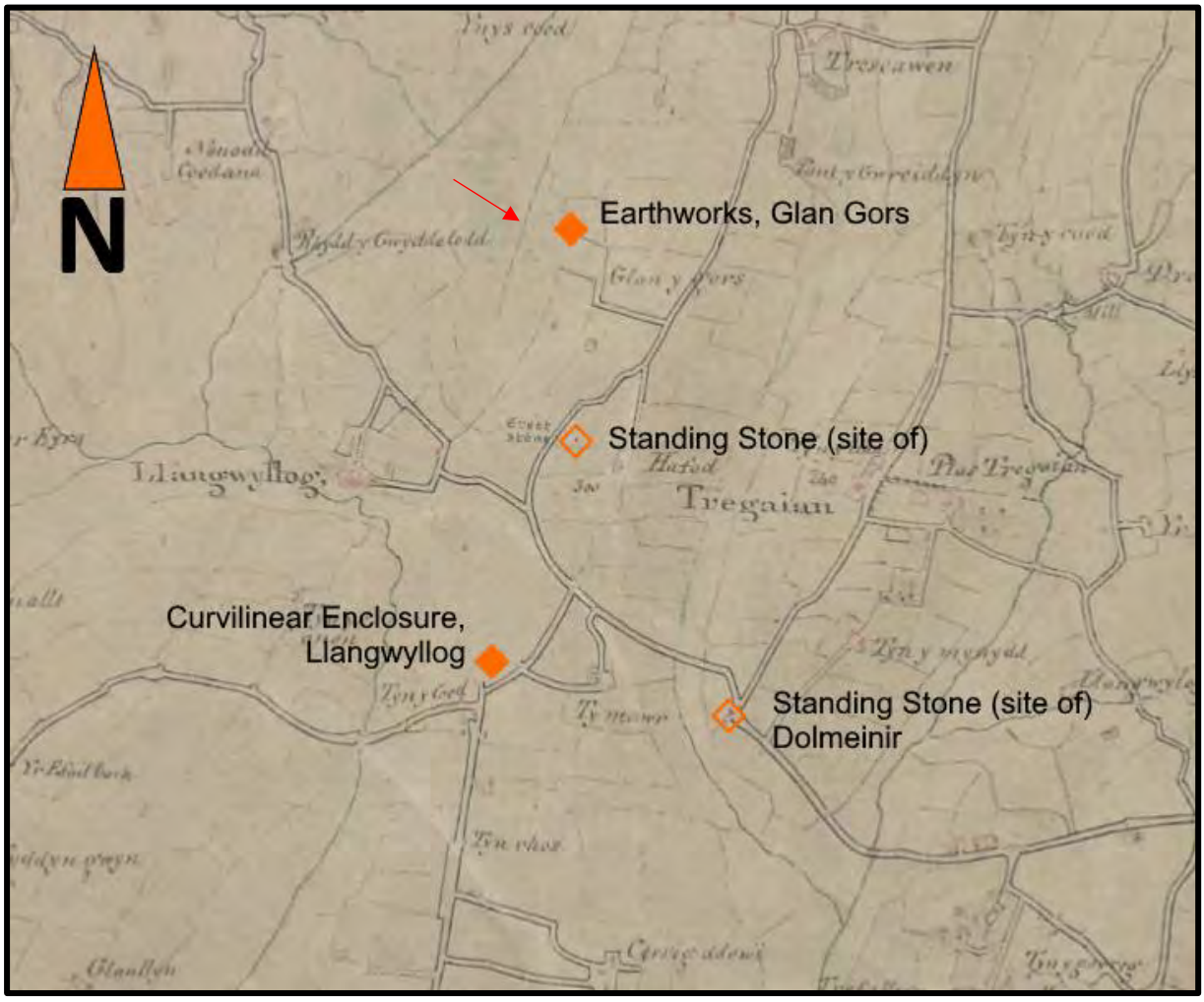
A similar approach was used for the metal detecting surveys – these would target both Glan Gors as well as ‘Lon Lundain’ given its proximity to the earthworks. A Goldmaxx Power metal detector was used following the sampling strategy used in the field walking surveys. The device was set to discriminate against non-ferrous objects as it was believed that these would prove easier to both identify and date.

Following this a handheld GPS was used to record their approximate location within the landscape – this consisted of a Garmin handheld GPS, accurate to within 3m of their initial place of discovery. This would allow for quick coverage of the site, as setting up tapes and canes would be difficult for solo work.

Chapter 3 - Site History

Prior to any work commencing on site, it is important that a full historical overview of the site is carried out beforehand. By doing so we allow ourselves an opportunity to identify what is already recorded in the landscape, with said information useful for further interpretation of all data collected.

3.1 - Map Regression Analysis



Map 3: Section of map drawn by Robert Dawson, c. 1818, of Llangwyllog area (Dawson, 1818).

3.1.1 - Robert Dawson's Holyhead Map, c. 1818

Robert Dawson (1771 to 1860) was an English born surveyor and cartographer commissioned to produce a series of maps in North Wales as part of a large-scale Ordinance Survey of the British Isles (one of the earliest works known). As a young man Dawson worked on maps of his homeland of Kent and England before travelling across the British Isles. A notable feature of his maps includes references to archaeological features in the landscape, marked and highlighted in Gothic text, as well as names of properties and extant field boundaries at this time, some of which now since lost.

With this in mind Robert's map proves a crucial starting point at this stage of the map regression analysis in identifying lost sites within the landscape. Immediately apparent is a

reference to an ‘erect stone’ in a field west of Hafod farm (see Map 3, p. 36). No trace of this monument is visible today, assumed to have been removed at some point in the late 19th century (see 3.2.3, p. 46-51). Also, several earlier field boundaries can also be seen in the landscape – these include a curvilinear boundary which runs to the east of Glan Gors (see Map 3, marked with red arrow). Some of the field boundaries at Hafod appear to have changed little since this period; the convert to the south of Trescawen appears smaller at this time as well, only seen to the south of the property. The lower section of this boundary has since been lost, but traces of it have been identified in the landscape using other data sources (see LiDAR section). Furthermore, records of several placenames nearby such as Rhydd y Gwyddelodd (Rhyd y Gwyddelod/Gwyddel) and Pant y Gwreiddyn are also recorded, with the latter known today as Pant y Gwredyn.

Despite this care must be taken in interpreting these features, as these drawings are clearly not wholly accurate -the map does not show the farm buildings at Glan Gors, despite its name appearing on the map. Furthermore, the glaring omission of the extant earthworks on this map is strange given their scale and presence in the landscape. What makes this most peculiar is the fact that Dawson refers to another defended site near Gwyndy Quarry (‘Ancient Camp’– see Image 4). The track pictured on this map still exists and may possibly be located between the properties of Tan y Allt and Pen y Bonc (SH 39727 79854), having been preserved as a public footpath. A site visit conducted in February 2021 failed to identify any archaeological features, and it is likely that the site has been destroyed

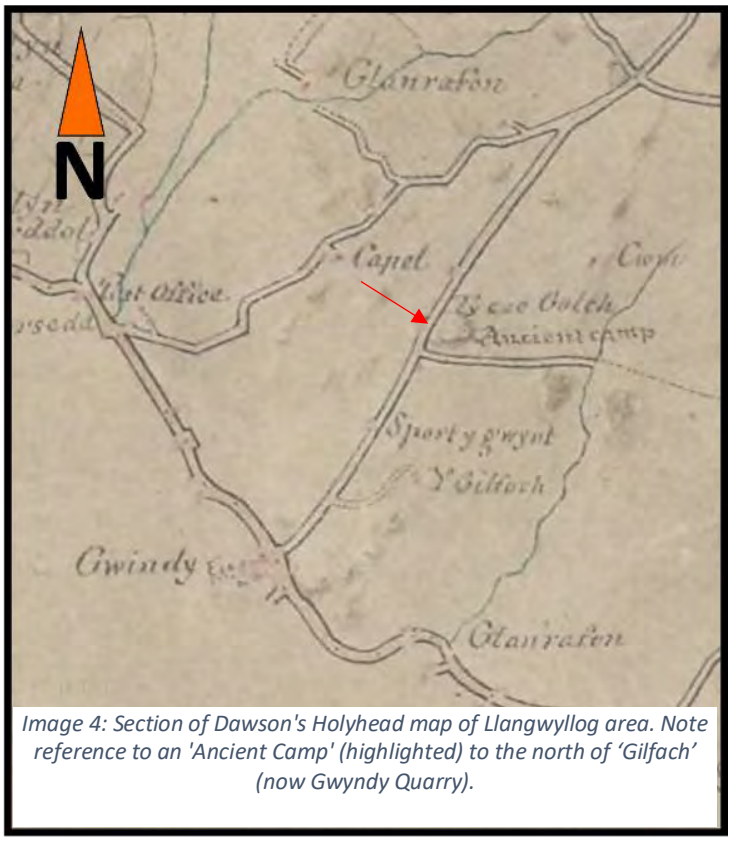


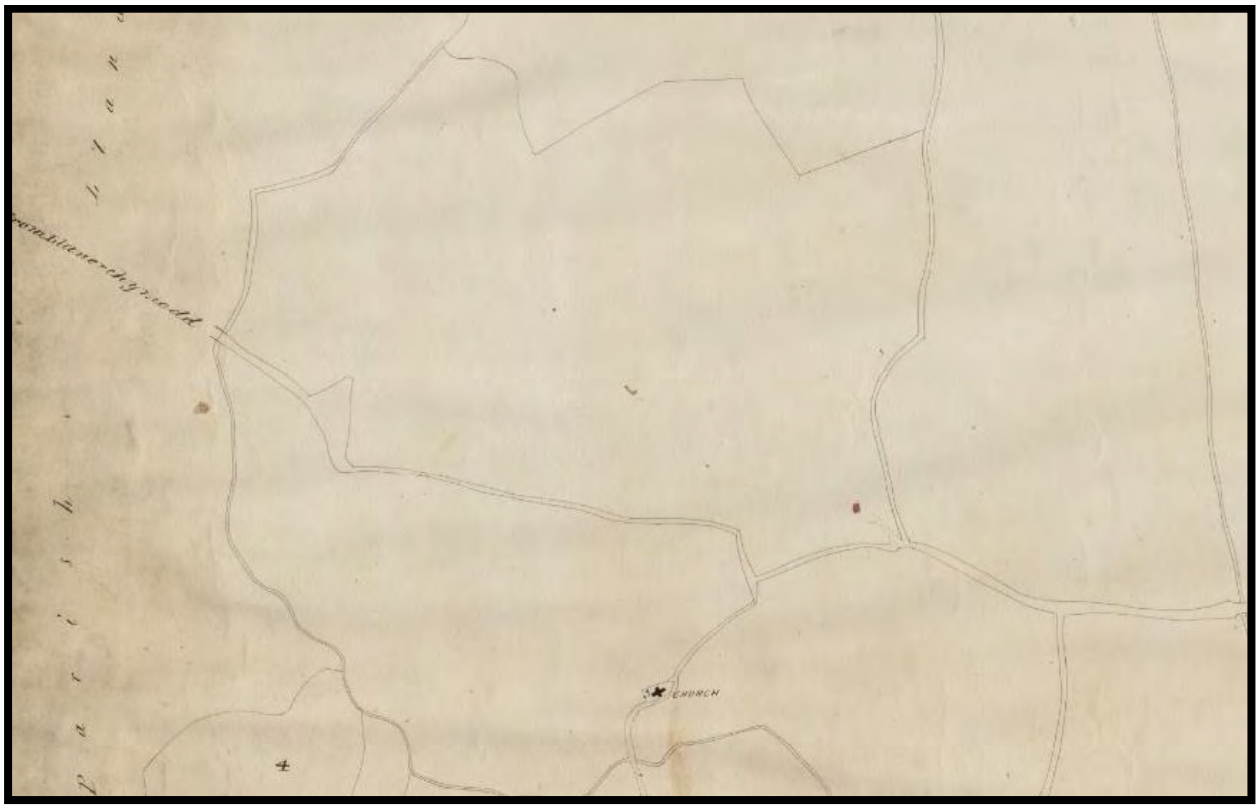
Image 4: Section of Dawson's Holyhead map of Llangwyllog area. Note reference to an 'Ancient Camp' (highlighted) to the north of ‘Gilfach’ (now Gwyndy Quarry).

by quarrying and/or the looting of stones to make field boundaries, of which several encircle the site (see Image 5 below).

Given the proximity of these archaeological features near the road it is likely therefore that Dawson only recorded monuments within his visible line of site. The earthworks at Glan Gors are barely visible from the main road, and it is likely therefore that this is simply an oversight by Dawson and his team when mapping the area.

Image 5: Assumed site of 'Ancient Camp' near Gwyndy Quarry, as seen from the roadside gate.

3.1.2 - Llangwyllog Tithe Map; c. 1837



Map 4: Map of survey area - Llangwyllog Tithe Map; c. 1837 (NLW Digital Collections)

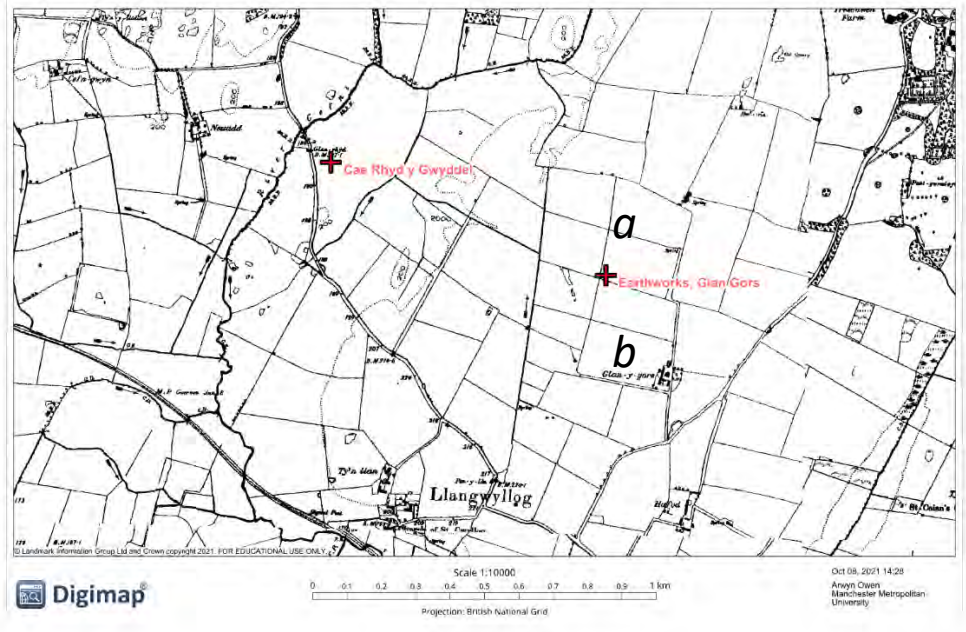
During the mid-19th century a series of tithe maps were drawn on Anglesey as a means of recording the status of individuals, where they lived, the properties owned and their valuation. These documents are useful in showing the relationship between sites and the changing nature of property ownership in a specific area over time.

Curiously, there is no record of the tenant/owner of one section of land on this map (see Map 4). The outline on the map still survives in the landscape and encloses both Glan Gors and Hafod farm and the other sites mentioned in this report. A small red rectilinear feature, indicating the site of a (now lost) dwelling or household, can be seen near the main road, yet there is no associated record within the documents. It is certainly not Hafod nor Glan Gors as these are further inside the enclosed plot. This could therefore be an oversight by Mr John Boggie of Trefarthen tasked with the work, comparable to the lack of tithe records for the core of Llanerchymedd village, which appears unusually blank (Owen, 2021, p. 53).

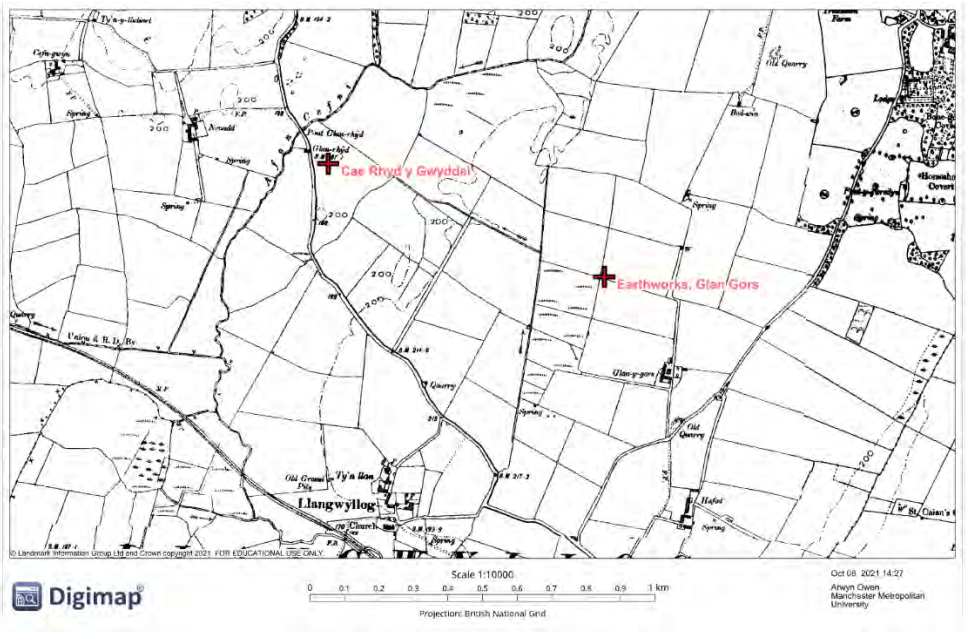
3.1.3 OS Six Inch Maps (1889-1949)

The most comprehensive mapping data we have of the site is the Six-Inch Maps produced by the Ordnance Survey (OS) from the late 19th century onwards. Compared to the earlier maps by Robert Dawson, these maps are clearer, more accurate and with greater detail - showing the placement of building, woodland and other natural/manmade features within the landscape.

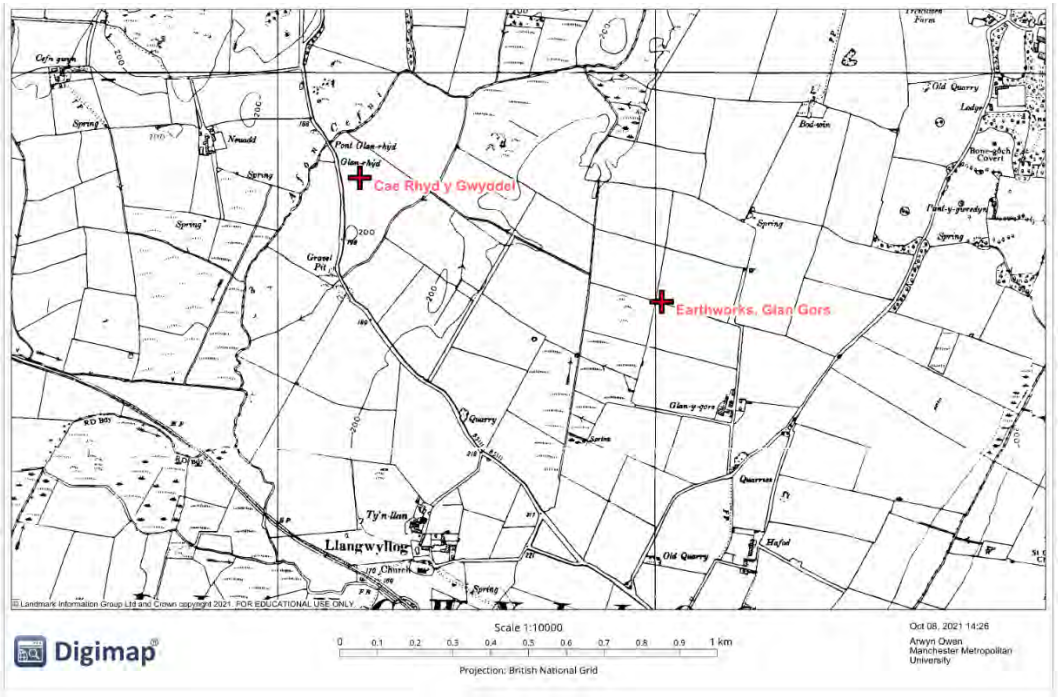
A study of the Six-Inch survey maps of the site highlights how the main field boundaries of the site have changed little from the late 19th century onwards. A field boundary in the northern part of the survey area had existed from 1889 at least, showing up on an aerial photograph c. 1945 (see 4.4.1, p. 73; Appendix 6, p. 166) but was removed by the 1970's (compare Map 5, p. 42 and Map 8, p. 43 - a). None of the recent OS maps make any reference to archaeological material in the vicinity of the study area. Given their detail it is likely they would have visited these areas in person initially. However, a series of irregular enclosed shapes, possibly a depression, can be seen in one of the fields which may be archaeological in origin (see Map 5 – b) which do not appear on later maps. It is notable that subsequent maps appear to show an area of marshland to the west of the farm – this is first recorded in 1915 where it is limited to only five fields. By 1949 it appears that the marshland has spread to the neighbouring fields to the west.



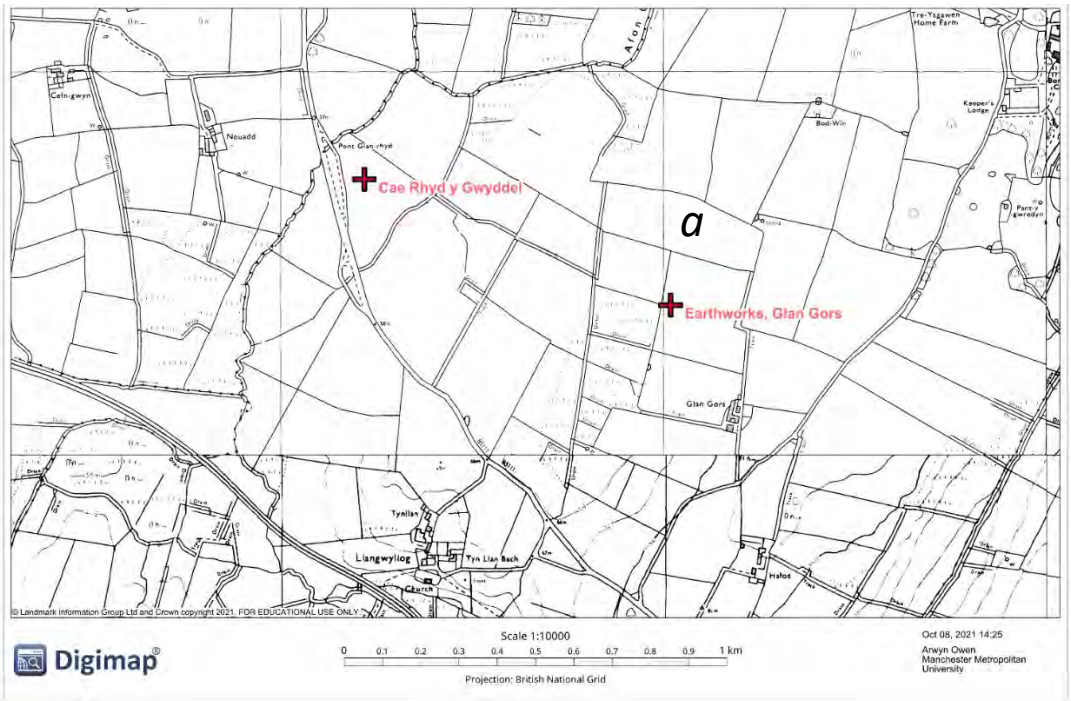
Map 5: map of survey area - Anglesey XIII NW Six-inch Map; c. 1889 (second edition).



Map 6: Map of survey area - Anglesey XIII NW Six-inch Map; c. 1915 (second edition).



Map 7: Map of survey area - Anglesey XIII NW Six-inch Map; c. 1949 (second edition).



Map 8: Map of Llangwyllog survey area, circa 1970s.

3.2 - Archival Sources

3.2.1 - Land Tax Assessments of Llangwyllog Parish, 1746-1845. WQT 55/1-59 (Anglesey Archives)

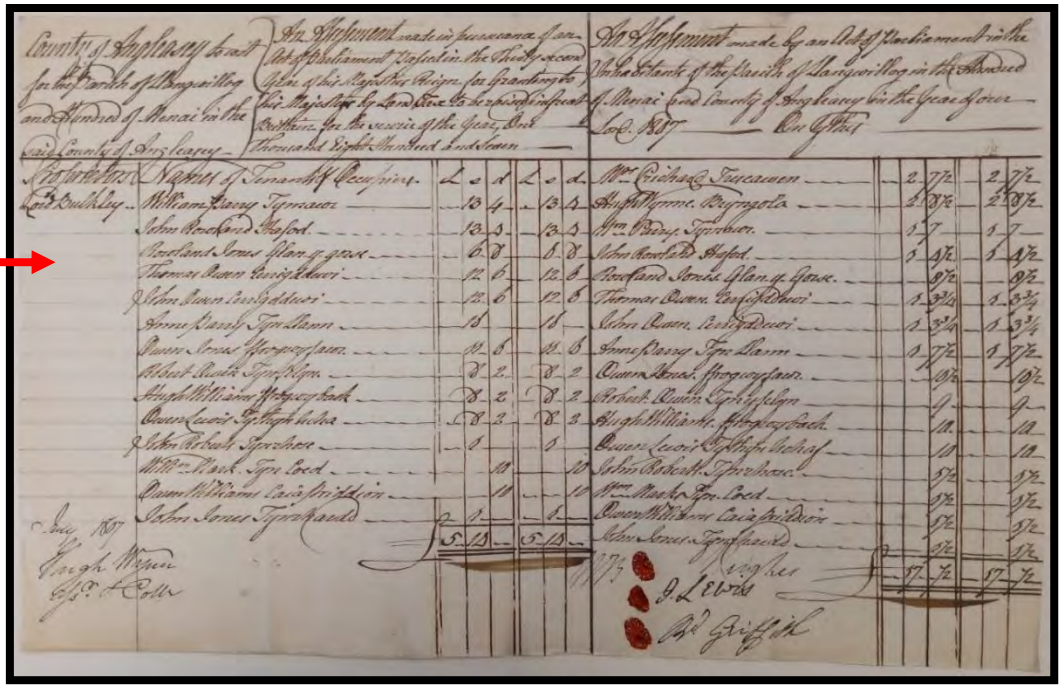


Image 6:Land Tax Assessment of Llangwyllog, with the earliest recorded reference to Glan Gors, known at this time as Glan y Gorse (highlighted – WQT/55/23: Anglesey Archive Collection)

To better understand the site in context, a study of existing archival material was conducted. Initially the focus was discovering any references to lands and fields owned by the farm where the earthworks are sited – that is Glan Gors farm. However, this site has been abandoned for some time, and although the farmhouse is still intact, its interior is heavily dilapidated. Sadly, field names in Wales are not well recorded and have fallen out of public memory in recent times. However, extant field names within the landscape may help in locating these names within the landscape.

Placename evidence – 'Glan Gors / Glan y Gors'

The earliest reference to 'Glan Gors' ("by the marshy shore") is found in 19th century Land Tax Assessment of the parish. Land Tax Assessments consisted of names, properties and valuations of property value which would be reported to the Crown. On occasion these Land Tax Assessments may also contain field names which are useful clues for locating archaeological sites.

Among a list of names of properties can be seen the name 'Glan y Gorse'; a tenancy farm which has Rowland Jones listed as an occupier at this time (WQT/55/23 – see Image 6, p. 43). The name of the farm is seen to change over the coming decades – by 1827 it was known as 'Glan y Gors' (WQT/55/40). It isn't until 1845 that Glan Gors is known by its present name, which as of this piece, remains unchanged (WQT/55/59).

Regrettably, these documents failed to shed any idea of the lands owned by the tenant farm at this period. It is entirely possible that any further documents have since been lost, as some documents observed at the Anglesey Archives have suffered damage from damp following improper storage prior to deposition at the archives themselves. No maps for the property are known about, suggesting that may have been subsequently lost.

3.2.2 - Documentary sources relating to **Bryn Golau** tenancy, Llangwyllog- WD6/1/17; WD6/1/19 & WD6/1/22 (Anglesey Archives); LLE/239 (Bangor Archives)

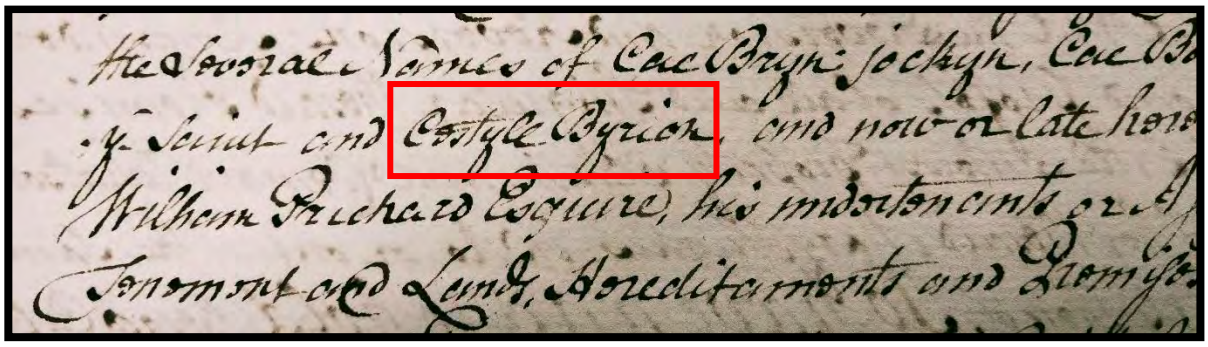


*Image 7: Section of tenancy agreement between William Hughes of Bryn Golau and William Pritchard of Trescawen, dated, c. 1790s. Of the names listed these include the name **Cestyll Byrion** (highlighted - WD6/1/22, Anglesey Archive collection).*

It became apparent that, given these shortcomings, a wider focus must be undertaken in order to secure any further information on Glan Gors' archaeological potential. Fortunately, several examples of tenancy agreements from various farms and farmsteads were identified, with some proving invaluable in determining the archaeological authenticity of the earthworks at Glan Gors themselves.

At least four 18th century archival documents relating to the tenant farm at Bryn Golau have helped shed further light on the history of this area. All documents were produced between the years 1763 and 1794, and all refer to a selection of fields and enclosed areas under the care of the tenant farmer, William Hughes, who lived and worked at Bryn Golau/Bryn Gola farm at this time. The property, now known as Bryn Goleu, is located approximately 542m NNE of Tre-Yscawen Hotel (the original residence for the Pritchard family of Trescawen) and is sited within Llangwyllog parish. A study of all documents studied recorded several field names and territories which were relevant to this study (highlighted in bold below):

1. Cae Bryn Yokyn (WD6/119)/ Cae Bryn Jockyn (WD/6/122) – its location is shown on a property map as being directly west of Trescawen house (WD/6/2 – see Map 9, p. 48);
2. Cae Bod-ween (WD6/119)/ Cae Bodwin (WD/6/122);
3. Pymtheg rhyd at afon / (WD6/119); Pymtheg rhodd y afon; Pymtheg rhod at y afon (LLE/239)

4. The field in Cestyll Byrion (WD6/119); Cestyll Byrion (WD/6/122 – see Image 7, p. 44).

Placename evidence – 'Cestyll (cestill) Byrion' and 'Llomiau yn y Cestyll'

Of particular interest are references to the fieldnames Cestyll Byrion and Llomiau yn y cestyll. 'Cestyll Byrion' also appears on a settlement agreement between William Hughes of Bryngola and Mary Griffith of Lligwy, written on the 6th of July 1763 and part of the Llwydiarth Escob papers at the Archive and Special Collections at Bangor, albeit misspelled as 'cestill byrion' (LLE239, see Image 8). The earliest reference to 'Llomiau yn y cestyll' is from 1774 (WD/6/117 – see Image 9, p. 47). The name is loosely translated as meaning 'small castles' in Welsh ('Cestyll' – castles or fortifications and 'Byrion' – a connected byr meaning 'small' or minor': Charles Gunther, pers. comm.).

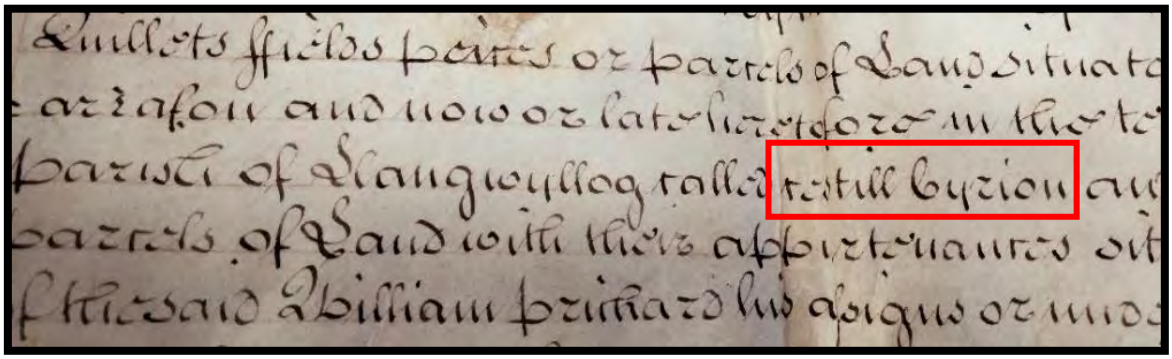


Image 8: Section of settlement agreement between William Hughes of Bryngola (Llangwyllog) and Mary Griffith of Lligwy (Moelfre), dated 6th of July 1763. Reference to the placename "cestill byrion" is highlighted in the image (Archive and Special Collections Bangor University, LLE/239).

The meaning of 'Llomia' however is contentious, as there is no such word within the Welsh language. As the Welsh language was not formalised in writing until the late 19th century, variations of spelling would occur in many placenames. For instance, the name of Llanerchymedd has seen considerable change over the centuries with the earliest reference to its present name dated to the mid-sixteenth century (Owen, 2021, p. 58). As such the following explanations may be offered (alternative Welsh words boldened for differentiation):

- A corruption of 'Lleiniau', a plural of 'llain' relating to a quillet or strip of land (Jones, 2002, p. 29)

- A corruption of ‘Llaniau’, meaning enclosed areas or spaces (Rob Pearson, pers. comm.). The prefix ‘Llan’ may also mean an enclosed holy ground/space, and therefore could have a religious element associated with it. A recorded fieldname Braich y saint (‘field of the saintly enclosure’) nearby the earthworks may suggest an early religious element to part of the site.
- A corruption of Llamau – ‘stepping-stones’ (Adrian Price, pers. comm.)
- A mispelling of Llamiau – ‘ridges of an earthwork’ (Michael Whan, pers. comm.)
- A misspelling of Llamia – ‘long strides’ (Anglesey Archives, pers. comm.)

By matching topographic locations and existing placenames to those recorded centuries prior, their proximity to the site suggests that the names ‘Cestyll Byrion’ and ‘Llamiau y Cestyll’ (interpreted in this instance as ‘the earthwork ridges of the castles’) may be referring to the extant earthworks visible north of Glan Gors.

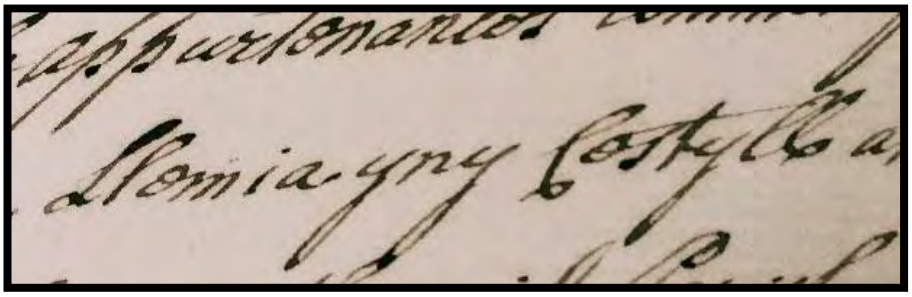


Image 9: Section of tenancy agreement between William Hughes of Bryn Golau and William Pritchard of Trescawen, dated 1774 – concerning fields and parcels of land now under the Bryn Golau tenature. Of the names listed these include the name Llamia yn y Cestyll (WD6/117, Anglesey Archive collection).

Although a map does not exist of the location of these possible fields/territories, it is possible to roughly locate them in the landscape given their names and descriptive nature. The name ‘Cae Bodwin’ / ‘Cae Bod-ween’ undoubtedly refers a field near the (now derelict) smallholding of Bodwin 605m NNE of the earthworks. Furthermore, the name ‘pymtheg rhyd at afon’ appears to imply fields nearest the Cefni River. From these names it is possible therefore to extrapolate the location of the fields discussed as somewhere nearby the

earthworks at Glan Gors, with the name 'Cestyll Byrion' undoubtedly referring to the archaeology visible on the site.

3.2.3 - Herediments of freehold '*Hafod*' situatied in the parish of Llangwyllog, dated sixteenth of May 1889 – WD/6/1/27 & Plan of lands of Trescawen and Tyn y Coed, 19th century – WD/6/2 (Anglesey Archives).

Further research into the study area proved fruitful following careful study of a document relating to Hafod farm. The property, having existed since at least 1780 (WDT/55/6), was recorded as a tenant farm owned by Trescawen Hall during the 18th century. By the late 19th century, the farm had secured its rights as a freeholding, as evidenced by a document of Herediments drafted in 1889, through negotiations with Sir Charles F Smyth (Acton Burnwell), Richard Henry Williams Bulkeley of Baron Hill, Henry Duke of Wellington, and Thomas Lewis Hampton of Henllys (WD/6/127 – see Appendix 26, p. 188). Around this period, another map was produced showing the lands of both Trescawen and Ty'n y Coed properties naming each field individually as well as their boundaries (WD/6/2 – see Appendix 27, p. 195). While there is no definitive date for the map, Glan Gors is referenced on one edge of the map, which places its date of creation at some point after 1845 (see 3.2.1, p. 41).

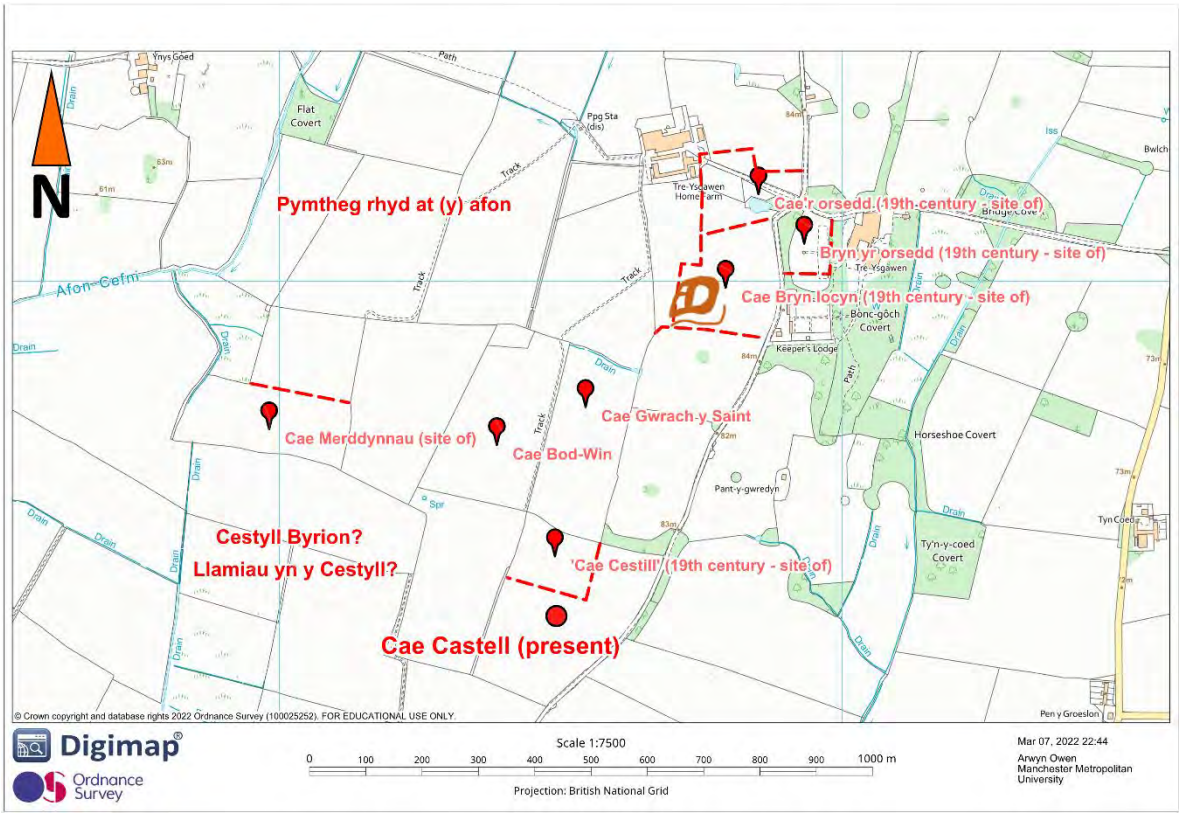
With both maps it is possible to identify further areas of potential archaeological interest within the landscape, as well as identify areas mentioned in the Bryn Golau tenancy documents (see 3.2.2, p. 44-7). The Hafod map added further context to the standing stone identified in Dawson's map (see 3.1.1, p. 35-8), given that the field is named as 'Cae'r Carreg' ('Field of the stone'), undoubtedly referring to the monument (see Map 3, p. 35). Given that there is no reference to a standing stone on the 1899 Six-Inch Ordnance Survey map, nor on the aforementioned herediments map, it may suggest that the stone was lost or destroyed between 1818 and 1889.

Immediately east of the earthworks near Glan Gors, to which we will now refer to as Cestyll Byrion was another small field by the name 'Cae Cestill' ('field of castles' - WD/6/2). The field may be referring to the earthworks seen at Glan Gors (or another settlement site), alongside another field named 'Cae Merddynnau' ('ruins field' – Adrian Price, per comms.), previously recorded as a long strip field directly north (WD/6/7). Of the two, only 'Cae

Castell' remains, having been consolidated as part of a larger field at some point in the early 20th century.

Furthermore, between Trescawen Farm and Trescawen Hall were two fields which are no longer visible within the landscape – 'Cae'r orsedd' (east of the farm) and 'Bryn yr Orsedd' (west of the hall – see Map 9, p. 50). The name 'orsedd' has two meanings – a 'throne' or a small mound. Regarding the latter interpretation this may be significant as it possibly references a lost prehistoric burial mound near the property. The use of 'orsedd' when describing prehistoric burial sites is seen at sites such as Pen-yr-Orsedd ('the mound on the hill'), a Bronze Age cairn located atop a hill directly east of Llanfechell (RCHAMW, 1937). Comparatively, both field names represented here are also found atop an upland crest, with a raised area identified on LiDAR near both fields (see Map 9 – orange; Map 13 – E3, p. 80).

Other interesting names recorded on WD/6/127 include 'Cae felin Eithin', translated as 'Field of the gorse mill'. The field is located near a small stream or river, which suggests that it may have once held a water mill for producing animal feed and may be an unrecorded watermill of assumed medieval or early-to-middle post medieval date (Davidson, 2001).



Map 9: Selection of names from 18th and 19th century documents relating to fields and lands to north-east of Glan Gors earthworks (WD/6/2; WD/6/7; WD6/117, WD6/119 and WD6/122– Anglesey Archives; LLE/239 – Archive and Special Collections Bangor and Owenna, pers. comm.) with approximate locations within the landscape.

3.3 - Newspaper sources

3.3.1 - Newspaper article: The North Wales Chronicler and Adviser for the Principality; 30th December 1865

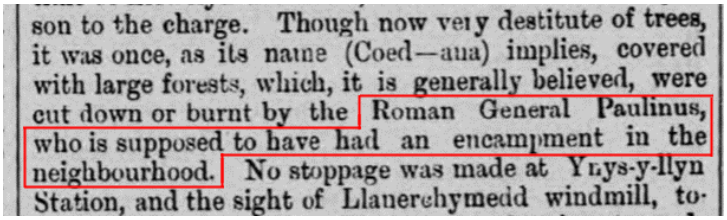

son to the charge. Though now very destitute of trees, it was once, as its name (Coed—ana) implies, covered with large forests, which, it is generally believed, were cut down or burnt by the Roman General Paulinus, who is supposed to have had an encampment in the neighbourhood. No stoppage was made at Ynys-y-llyn Station, and the sight of Llanerchymedd windmill, to-

Image 10: Extract from North Wales Chronicler and Advertiser for the Principality, 30th of December 1865 - reference to encampment highlighted (NLW)

The North Wales Chronicler and Adviser for the Principality was a weekly regional newspaper produced in the 19th century for conservative audiences and published between 1850 and 1949 (NLW, 1850-1949). It was following research into this paper that attention was promptly given to a small article detailing the inaugural train journey from Llangefni to Llanerchymedd on the twentieth of December 1865 by the Directors of the (soon to be) Anglesey Central Railway. The author of the article detailed the journey,

drawing attention to local history. Of particular interest is a reference to a defensive encampment, raised by Suetonius Paulinus 'in the neighbourhood' (NLW, 1865). The meaning of 'neighbourhood' in this instance is unclear – it could either suggest that a fortification was erected within Coedana parish itself or somewhere within its immediate vicinity. This may be relevant when interpreting the extant features visible at Glan Gors at this present stage.

3.4 - Literary sources

3.4.1 – Angharad Llwyd's *'A History of the Island of Mona'*; 1832 Beaumaris Eisteddfod

During Queen Victoria's visit to Anglesey in 1832, an Eisteddfod (a type of Welsh cultural and musical event) was held at Beaumaris to celebrate the occasion, its theme focusing on Welsh (local and national) history. A keen and well-educated antiquarian, Angharad Llwyd submitted an essay detailing the histories and archaeological curiosities across the island, an account which was later reprinted in 2007 by Magma Books (Llwyd, 2007).

In this work an entry is made about Llangwyllog parish and its history. Here Llwyd discussed the history and character of the parish church, referencing an early medieval battle which took place within the parish and, most relevant, a site by the name 'Castell', said to have been 'a short distance' from the battle site. Although little is known about its history, Llwyd describes the discovery of numerous Roman coins by Vespasian, Nero and Constantine (2007, p. 140), suggesting that this 'Castell' site can be dated from the 1st to third centuries AD.

The location of 'Castell' is uncertain. While there are no properties or places by the name of 'Castell' recorded in Llangwyllog, the placename can be found in the surrounding parishes – these include 'Castell' in Llandrygarn (SH 39823 80037) and 'Castell' in Bodwrog (SH 41479 78399). It's possible that it was the latter Angharad was referring to, as its location is nearest to the parish boundary of Llangwyllog (Kain & Oliver, 2001). It is possible that the parish boundaries may have extended as far as here at some point, or perhaps this was a simple regional geographic error on Angharad's part.

3.4.2 - Albert Way's *'Notice of Ancient Relics Found at Llangwyllog, Anglesey'*; 1866.

If the site was indeed in Llangwyllog parish, then it is possible that 'Castell' may be referring to the earthworks at Glan Gors, especially given that Llwyd's description of a church, battle site and ancient monument are indicative of a close group of monuments within the parish. This may be further supported by a later account which suggested that the battle site was located half a mile south of Llangwyllog church (Way, 1866, pp. 98-9). If this is correct, this would place the battle site approximately 1.4km southeast of the earthworks.

A nearby placename, 'Pont Uffernol' (The infernal/hellish bridge), recorded on the 1889 OS map, may also support this theory. We must be careful here however, as another 'Castell' placename is recorded approximately 3.1km southwest in the same parish, located near a potential defended site of prehistoric date (see 3.1.1., pp. 35-38)

3.5 - Archaeological Record of Llangwyllog study area

By cataloguing the archaeological record of both the Cestyll Byrion site, and a 3km radius, the author records that the earliest history of this area spans back thousands of years. The Historical Environmental Record contains references to 75 sites within 3km of the study area. Additionally, research undertaken as part of this dissertation identified a further 13 sites (predominantly toponymic evidence and local testimonials). As a result, the total of sites, both suspected and known, amount to 87.

3.5.1 - Mesolithic

The recent discovery of a lithic scatter site on ploughed fields near Maen Gwyn, Coedana (Owen, 2018) and a ploughed field 800m west of Cestyll Byrion (see 4.3, pp. 89-6), have provided the earliest evidence of human activity in the region. Evidence of microliths, scrapers and cores at both sites, both located near wetland areas, show transient activity within the region dating from the late Mesolithic (c.8,000BC) onwards.

Image 11: Lithic assemblage from Maen Gwyn, Coedana (Owen 2018).

3.5.2 - Neolithic

By the Neolithic period the archaeological record of the region appears less prominent, with only findspots identified within 3km of the study area. The discovery of a Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age disk scraper (GAT-F6BF60) at Plas Medd (Derby, 2021), as well as a heavily worn flint scraper near Meillion, Coedana (Carol White, pers. comm.) suggesting only transient activity over a large area 2.8km north of the study area.

Several stone axe head discoveries are also reported in the study area. These consist of two stone axe heads found near 'Cerrig Dewi' (presumably Cerrig Ddewi, Llangwyllog). The stone axes have been polished, although there is evidence of chipping on some of their edges (Lynch, 1991, p. 122; Fig. 30). As these objects may have been found within the context of a destroyed barrow cemetery (see 3.5.3.5, p.59), it has been suggested that these objects may have been curated before being deposited as votive offerings (Cooper, et al., 2020).

However, the recent discovery of rock art and a megalithic tomb at Pen y Foel near Llanerchymedd (visible from the site), may suggest far more established activity within this region (Woods, 2021).

Image 12: Prehistoric disk scraper recovered from field south of Plas Medd.

3.5.3 - Bronze Age

The study area is rich in archaeology of this period. These vary in type -several findspots are recorded but evidence of domestic and ritual activity is also known in the area. These vary from 'burnt mounds' to areas of possible ritual or funerary significance within the landscape, many of which are now subsequently lost (as seen with the standing stones at Hafod and Dolmeinir – see 3.2.3, pp. 46-49).

3.5.3.1 - Llangwyllog hoard

One of the most significant finds from this period within the study area is a Bronze Age assemblage recorded as the 'Llangwyllog hoard' The hoard (see Image 13), consists of worked stone, amber and metal objects (BM1865,1013.1-30), and was discovered in 1854 when digging within an area of wetland within the parish (Way, 1866).

The assumed provenance of the objects suggests multiple regional contacts across both the British Isles and beyond – amber beads from Ireland, possibly from a large, graduated necklace (Beck & Shennan, 1991, p. 103); jet beads from (assumedly) northern England; a 'razor' possibly from south-eastern England; tweezers from Western France and horse

fittings comparable to examples from Reach Fen (Cambs.) and Kensington, London, along with bronze rings possibly associated with said harness (Lynch, 1991, pp. 242-246).

The collection, representing a range of valuable items, suggest that an individual of high status buried these in panic, with the intention of retrieving them later – an occurrence seen at other hoard sites of this period (1991, p. 242).

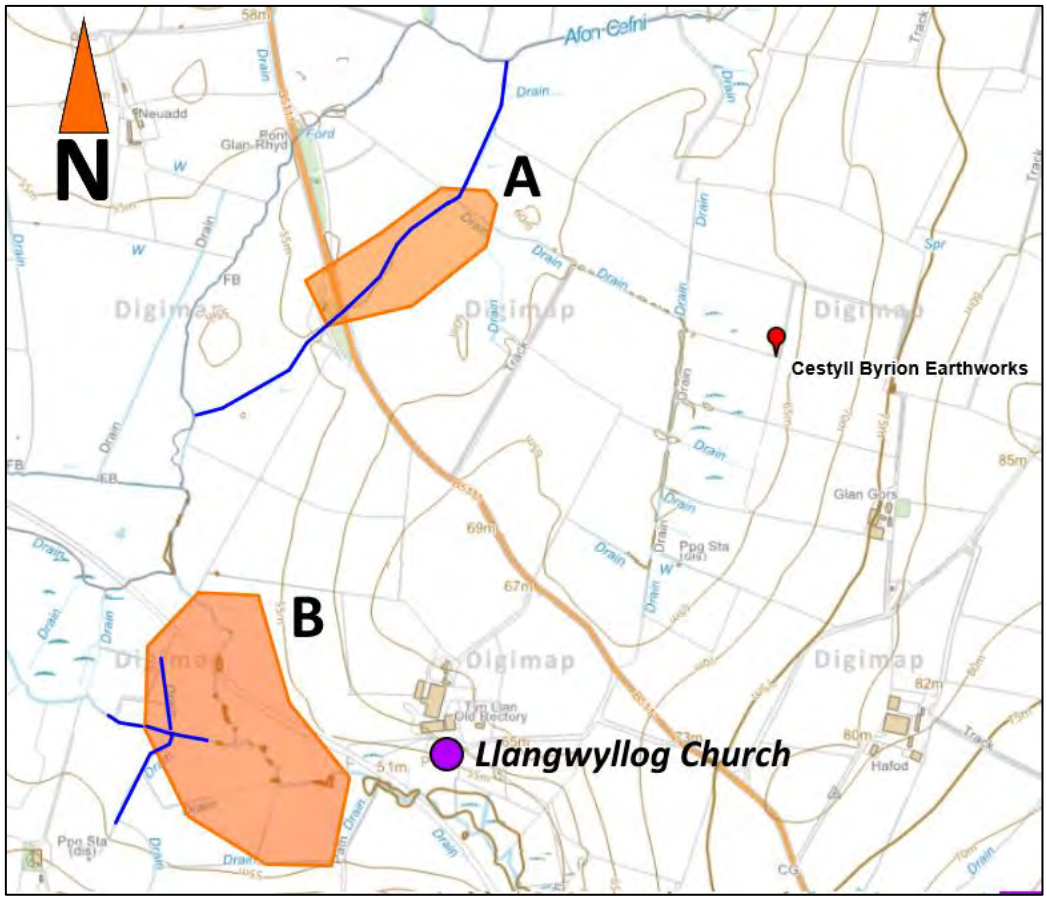
Their wetland location however may alternatively suggest a votive offering – a practice which becomes more prolific on both Anglesey and across the British Isles by the Iron Age period. Its exact location becomes confusing when reading the account of the discovery antiquarian accounts reference two possible locations for its discovery: '…at the bottom of a little stream which flows by Llangwyllog Church…' and '…in a little stream 400 yards above Llangwyllog Church.' (Way, 1866, p. 98). Llangwyllog church itself is located approximately 940m southwest of the earthworks.

Image 13: Selection of artefacts from the Llangwyllog hoard (British Museum collection, with kind permission).

This description is difficult to interpret as it gives two possible locations: were the objects found in the river valley near the church? Or by 'above' does the author actually mean north of the church?

In terms of a 'north' stream there are none 365.76m (approximately 400 yards when converted) to the north of the church. The nearest example, that is also raised above Llangwyllog church (in terms of OD height), is approximately 915m to the north, nearly three times the distance (see Map 10: A). Here a small tributary can be seen to branch off from the Cefni River towards the north before re-joining it further west.

Regarding distance the only stream(s) within 367.76m of the church are found in the river valley to the west of the site, an area considerably lower topographically than Llangwyllog church (see Map 10: B).



Map 10:Map showing possible discovery locations of Llangwyllog hoard (left) in relation to Cestyll Byrion (right).

In any case, the descriptions are of note given that the hoard was supposedly found quite close to the church and would therefore have been within short distance of the Cestyll

Byrion site. While the suggested area, based on the quoted distance (see Map 10: B), would place the findspot approximately 1.2km southwest of the site. By contrast the northern suggested site is sited much closer at approximately 730m north-west-west (see Map 10: A).

3.5.3.2 - Maen Gwyn 'battle axes'

Image 14: Bronze Age 'battle axe': Maen Gwyn, Coedana (National Museum of Wales collection, reproduced with kind permission).

Several decades later, another Bronze Age findspot would come to light near Maen Gwyn farm, Coedana, located approximately 2.4km to the northeast.

Found during ditch digging in the late 19th century the surviving axe (NMW 39.579/8 – see Image 14), once part of a pair, is of an enlarged type usually found in regions of Scotland and Northern Ireland. Based on their archaeological context, objects of this type have been

dated to the middle Bronze Age – around 1500-1400bc (Lynch, 1991, pp. 140-141), although it may be of an earlier date (Adam Gwilt, pers. comm.).

The object, made of a type of dolerite, is quite heavy, with its blunt cutting edge suggesting it may have served a ceremonial rather than functional purpose. The granular nature of the stone would have made holding an edge impossible, and the phallic nature of the 'hammer' side may suggest possible use as some form of ceremonial object (Mike Woods, pers. comm.). It is hoped that further XRF studies will help identify the source of the stone used in its creation given the broad geological area the stone of this object may have originated from.

Although the exact location of its discovery was not recorded, the area to the southwest and west of Maen Gwyn has yielded many lithic artefacts, along with the discovery of a burnt mound (see Section 3.5.1, p. 50; Section 3.5.3.4, p. 58) in a field directly east of the property, in 2020 (Owen, 2021). This concentration of prehistoric activity may suggest that the axes were found nearer the farm, especially given the presence of deeply cut drainage ditches immediately around the property.

3.5.3.3 – Other findspots

Image 15: Palstave axe heads from study area, Llangwyllog (British Museum and National Museum of Wales, with kind permission).

While these two findspots dominate the archaeological record of this area, several bronze palstaves have also been reported here, both of which are stylistically different (see Image 14). One of these, of south-eastern Welsh type, was reported to have been discovered

around Cerrig Ddewi, Llangwyllog, (Lynch, 1991, p. 227; 230), possibly within a destroyed barrow (see 3.5.3.5, p. 59) and may have been interred at a later date (Cooper, et al., 2020). By comparison there appeared to be little evidence of use on this axe head, suggesting it may have been originally deposited as a grave good or possible offering.

Additionally, earlier accounts recall the discovery of a palstave axe near Tregaian church at some point in the early Twentieth century - its rough location of discovery approximately '1 mile', or 1.6km west, of Maen Eryr (Baynes, 1923, p. 27). It is possible that an axe held by the National Museum of Wales collection may be the same object, as it bears the same name of the donor as that reported in the journal – a Col. Lawrence Williams (Adam Gwilt, pers. comm.). The object (NMW 39.569), although slightly corroded, shows evidence of use – a chipped edge and lateral scratches on both sides of the blade. Stylistically the axe is different to the example at Cerrig Ddewi, possibly Early Bronze Age in date (Savory, 1980, p. 44; Fig 5) and may have originated from Ireland. Intriguingly, its approximate location would place it near Bryn Cyrph covert (see Appendix 8, p. 168) – might this object perhaps be originally from a disturbed grave deposit in this area?

Palstave axes are a type of bronze axe head dating from the Middle to Late Bronze Age period in Wales, between 1450 and 700 B.C. (Savory, 1980, pp. 45-8). Several examples of this type of axe head, both isolated findspots and hoards, are reported to have been discovered across Anglesey, including a later example from somewhere in, or around, Llangefni (Lynch, 1991, p. 227; 234).

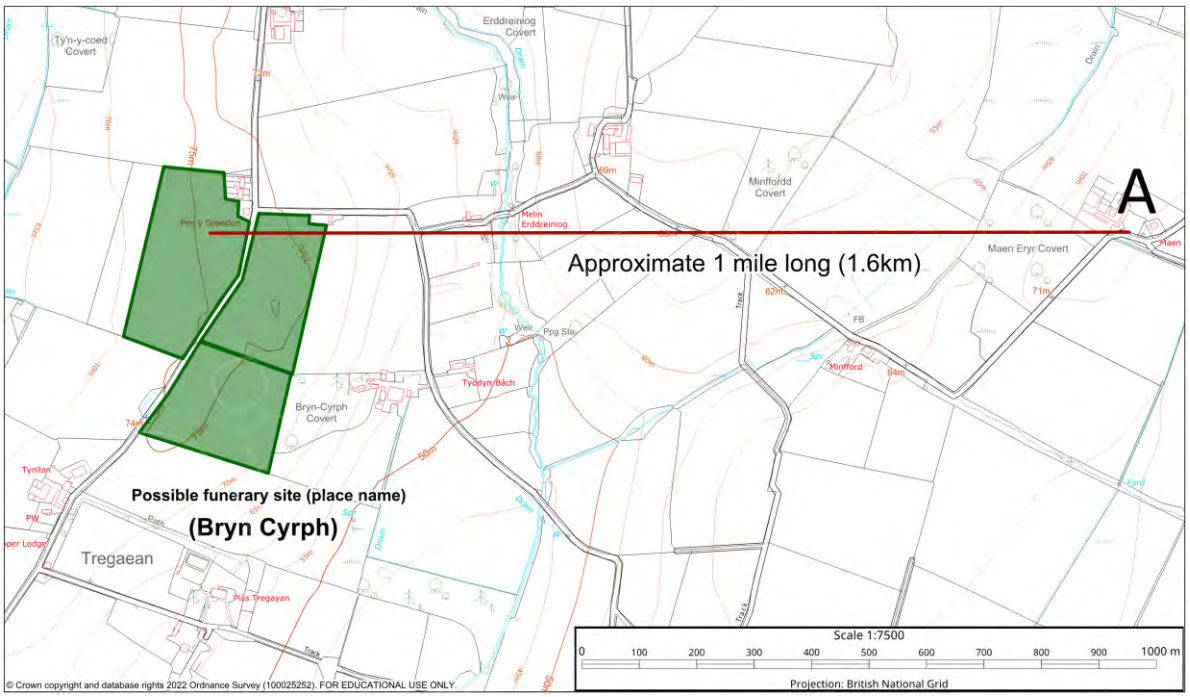


Figure 5: Approximate findspot location of Bronze Age palstave NMW 39.569, according to HER, in relation to Maen Eryr (A). Possible area of funerary activity/monuments outlined in green.

3.5.3.4 - Burnt Mounds

Burnt mounds are a common occurrence on Anglesey, at least 83 sites are recorded across the island (Archwilio). Their exact use remains unknown, although the process of their creation involves heating up large quantities of stone. However, the discovery of wooden troughs and clay lined pits near sites such as Bryn Cefni, Llangefni (Smith, 2002) and Bangor (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, 1997) suggests that water boiling formed part of their original function.

Although unexcavated, the author has recorded the presence of a possible burnt mound near Maen Gwyn, approximately 2.4km northwest (See Appendix 12, p. 172). Despite being unexcavated its location near a wetland area suggests a prehistoric origin (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, 1999, p. 4), and could have been erected near or between areas of Late Bronze Age settlement (Bradley, 2007, p. 216), as suggested by the discovery of the 'battle axes' and lithic scatters nearby (see 3.5.3.2, p. 55). Another burnt mound is reported to exist south of Ty Hen Newydd, Coedana, its exact location at present unknown (Owenna Orme, pers. comm.).

3.5.3.5 - Ritual/Funerary

While evidence of prehistoric standing stones near Glan Gors has already been covered in this paper (see 3.1 – 3.1.1 to 3.1.3, pp.35-41), other ritual and funerary monuments are also recorded within the study area. At Cerrig Ddewi farm, approximately 2.4km south of Glan Gors, local historical accounts reference several Bronze Age burial mounds (cairns) near the farm, since destroyed. When cleared the mounds were found to contain prehistoric grave goods (Lynch, 1991, p. 156), of which only two earthenware vessels are known to have survived (see Image 16 below). These consist of a (restored) food vessel, used as a cremation urn (BM1870, 0706.1) and a small, perforated vessel, of unknown function (BM1870, 0706.2).

Barrow cemeteries are rarely recorded on the island, although there are comparisons to this site and another example at Llanddyfnan, located approximately 6.7km west of Cerrig Ddewi (Baynes, 1909), as well as another funerary site near Carrog farm, Llanfechell (Smith & Hopewell, 2010).

Image 16: Surviving pottery vessels from Cerrig Ddewi funerary site (British Museum, with kind permission).

3.5.3.6 Toponymic evidence

The study of place names (toponyms) has proven a useful tool in identifying sites of potential archaeological interest within a studied landscape. A study of toponyms can provide valuable clues to the history of a site, although care must be taken when attempting to interpret their meaning, especially relevant with Welsh placenames on Anglesey (Jones, 1991). As we have seen with Glan Gors the name of a place will change over time, being corrupted, or even replaced by another name.

Of these names at least one is of interest, 'Dolmeinir', which is approximately 1.66km southeast of the study area. The name, translated as 'the meadow of the long stone', is suggestive of a possible prehistoric standing stone. The name can be traced as far back as 1889 via the Six-inch OS map of the area. A variation of 'Maen hir' is also seen at another site approximately 6.28km northwest near Llanerchymedd, with the farm name Meinir having presumably derived its name from a (now lost) standing stone (Smith, 2003, p. 33). Another site, Maen Eryr ('the eagle's stone), is also suggested to be the site of a lost standing stone, located approximately 3km east of Glan Gors (Smith 2003, p. 33).

3.5.4 - Iron Age

Comparatively less evidence of Iron Age activity is recorded in the study area, with only one site identified. The site, located near Trefollwyn, Rhosmeirch – approximately 3km southeast of Glan Gors, appears to have been a ritually significant site. Two 'phallic' shaped stone pillars were discovered (Davidson, et al., 2002, pp. 41-2) consisting of a rounded shape, a cone top and traces of La Téne decoration underneath a carved band which runs across its diameter (see Image 17). This is the only known example of this monument on the island, although this type of monument is far more common in Ireland (O'Sullivan & Downey, 2020, pp. 27-28)

Image 17: Photogrammetric model of 'phallic pillar' stone recovered from Trefollwyn (Woods, with kind permission).

Outside of the survey area only one example of potential settlement of this period is known to exist. At Cors Bodwrog, approximately 4.3km southwest of Glan Gors, a sub circular enclosure was identified on a raised area nearest the marsh. Although the site has proven difficult to classify Smith argues that the features are archaeological in nature and could represent an enclosed settlement of some kind (Smith, 2005, p. 22).

3.5.5 – Roman

An abundance of findspots in the 3km radius of Glan Gors is suggestive of Roman activity within the area. Most records relate to findspots in the area, which are indicative of transient activity within the region – objects such as coinage and trading goods which may have become subsequently lost due to a myriad of factors (hoarding or accidental loss).

Coinage from the area is suggestive of activity from at least the Roman invasion of Anglesey, an example being the 'Castell' site of which its true location remains uncertain (see 3.4.1, p. 49). Other Roman coinage findspots such as a Flavian example (40 - 80AD) reported near Ynys Bach (HER), as well as a copper alloy coin dedicated to Carausius (286-293AD), found in 'Coed-Anna' and now at the British Museum, indicate activity on the site spanning most of the Roman occupation period on Anglesey.

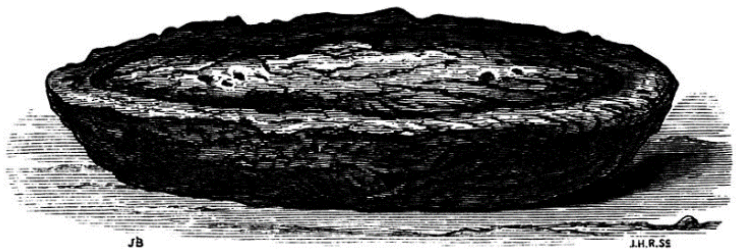


Figure 6: Illustration of copper 'cake' found at Castellior, Llanfaelog (Pritchard 1871).

Other Roman findspots include the reported discovery of a 'copper cake' near Cerrig Ddewi farm, Llangwyllog in the 19th century. Although no image of the object is given, it is directly compared to copper cakes found near Castellior (see Figure 6), a Romano-British settlement near Llanfaelog (Pritchard, 1871, p. 60). Copper cakes such as these have been found across the island – it was likely that these were produced from copper mining at Mynydd Parys during the Roman occupation of Anglesey.

Recently the author has also discovered Roman artefactual evidence in ploughed fields to the east and south of Maen Gwyn, Coedana, in 2020. These consist of two objects – a roman 'melon' bead of 1st to 3rd century date (GAT-F6083E) and the rim shard of a red earthenware mortarium (unrecorded on PAS). Melon beads, dated to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, have been reported elsewhere on the island such as at the Parc Cybi site in Holyhead – as an exotic import the bead would have been seen as a status symbol to be coveted, given the lack of wear on the object, and may have come from a military context (Cool in Batt et al. 2011, ps. 58-9). Despite the truncated nature of the Maen Gwyn example, its complete glaze may also suggest a similar reverence for the object. This, along with the possible ceramic evidence suggests the presence of a Roman period settlement nearby.

Image 18: Assortment of Roman objects from Maen Gwyn, Coedana – 'melon' bead (left) and rim shard of mortarium (right - Derby 2021).

As part of a threat related assessment, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust conducted a geophysical survey at a field near Ynys Bach in 2006, which identified a possible 'courtyard settlement' of late prehistoric to Romano British date (Hopewell, et al., 2007, pp. 20-22). It is possible that a settlement site similar to Ynys Bach may have once existed at Maen Gwyn, although its exact location is unknown.

3.5.5.1 - Roman Roads

Roman road networks on Anglesey have been poorly understood until quite recently. It is likely, given the historical and archaeological evidence available that a series of roads would

have had to be created to allow the initial strong military presence the ability to secure the region.

In 2013, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust conducted a study of known and suspected Roman routeways and roads within Anglesey and northwest Wales. While a great number of Roman routeways is known about in Gwynedd, there are comparatively fewer examples recorded on Anglesey that are known about. However, a proposed north-eastern road following an ancient trackway known as 'Lon y Bwbach', traceable from Llechgynfarwy towards Menai Bridge, can be seen travelling east to west approximately 970m north of the Cestyll Byrion site (Hopewell 2013, Maps 99 and 100). This routeway may have extended further to the northwest however (Owenna Orme, pers. comm.).

3.5.6 - Early Medieval and Medieval

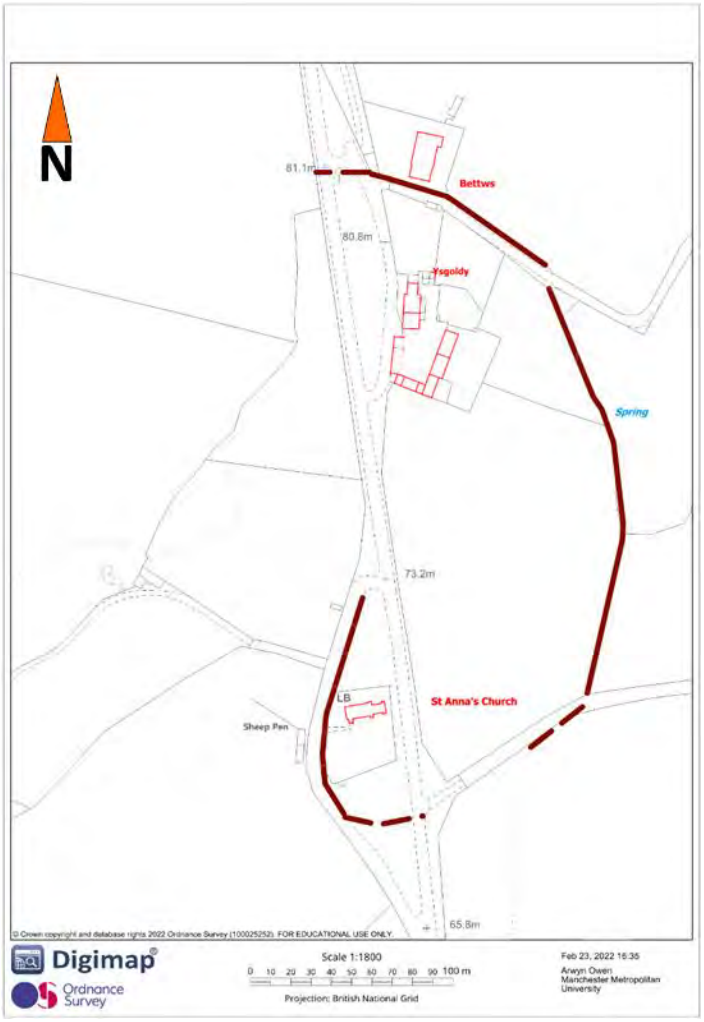
In terms of early medieval archaeology, existing historical and archaeological evidence suggests a landscape of religious and political significance.

The archaeological record, by comparison, is more founded due to excavations carried out in recent decades. This includes excavation work conducted at Trefollwyn, already discussed. An early Christian presence is known about in the area following the subsequent excavation of a cemetery on a raised area overlooking the Cefni reservoir, once an area of bogland. At least six graves were identified following excavation, with three located within a rectilinear ditched feature, interpreted as a mortuary enclosure (Davidson, et al., 2002, pp. 73-77). Mortuary enclosures have been reported on sites on Anglesey such as Capel Eithin near Gaerwen (White & Smith, 1999, pp. 136-138) as well as at Llanbeblig near Caernarfon, on the mainland (Kenney & Parry, 2012) with contention as to whether these were simple ditches or purpose built timber mausoleums (Davidson, et al., 2002, p. 76). The site itself would be abandoned later, never fully developing into a permanent religious site within the landscape.

In terms of permanent religious sites however, at least three can be identified within the survey area. These include the churches of St Aneu at Coedana, St Cwyllog at Llangwyllog, and St Caian at Tregaian. All three church sites are recorded to have existed since at least the early medieval period, although the present structures of the two latter churches are only traceable to at least the 14th century (RCHAMW, 1937, p. 98; 149); the previous church

building at Coedana was demolished and rebuilt near the original site in 1894 (p. 21). It is possible that the church at Coedana may have been part of a larger complex, as only 286m to the north is a property by the name of Bettws Coedana (now named Bettws) – suggesting the presence of a 'bead house' or monastic church within the area (Owen, 2018, p. 19). The name is traceable to at least the sixteenth century, with its name recorded as 'Bettws y Coydane' (Leland, 1720), and is referenced as a medieval hamlet in earlier sources (Longely, 1998).

There are no visible traces of a monastic site here, but its perimeter may be traceable in the surrounding field boundaries – presumably located either under Ysgoldy or somewhere nearby. However, traces of a curvilinear boundary enclosing the eastern part of Ysgoldy may be the fossilized remains of the 'llan' (or enclosure) associated with the site (see Map 11).



Map 11: Possible enclosure boundaries of 'Bettws Coedana' monastic site.

These churches would have been undoubtedly in the service of the local medieval townships, of which seven are recorded. These include the 'free' hamlets of Bettws Coedana (aforementioned), Trescawen and Tregaian, along with smaller populations center's such as Cerrig Ddewi and Trefollwyn (Longely, 1998).

Despite its settled nature, historical accounts and chronicles suggest that the landscape of the study area was heavily contested, given that at least three battle sites are recorded here. The earliest of these battles, 'Maes Rhos Rhyfel' is said to have been led by Owain Gwynedd and a mixed Viking contingent in 1143. The site of this battle is contested however, one source mentions it being located near the unlocatable 'Castell' (Llwyd, 2007, p. 140), a later source describes it as being located 'half a mile', or approximately 600 m, south of Llangwyllog Church (Way, 1866, pp. 98-9). This would place it northwest of Ty Mawr, Llangwyllog (SH 439- 791-). This contrasts with local knowledge suggesting it was located either near Penrhyn Oer Gwyn (and Penrhyn Oer Du) farms (Lodwig Parry Jones, pers. comm.) or land near Plas Llandrygan, as a field once owned by the property is said to be named 'Cae Maes Rhyfel' (Huw Hughes, per. comms.).

Similar debate has arisen to the location of a latter battle site at Coedana, led by Llywelyn ap Iorwerth (1175-1240), against a Manx/Cymric contingent led by his uncle Rhodri ab Owain Gwynedd (d. 1194/5), Prince of Anglesey, in 1194. Place name evidence suggests at least two locations for this battle: a field, named 'Cae Cyrch Gwyddel', located just outside the study area near Pen Cefn Bach (Jones, 2003, p. 101); and a possible location near the Coedana/Llangwyllog border, evidenced by placenames such as Rhyd Goch (Red/Bloodied Ford) and Rhyd y Gwyddel (Irish/Manxman's Ford).

A final battle site is recorded at Rhosmeirch approximately 3.2km southeast and outside the study area. A 19th century pamphlet records a battle between loyalists to Owain Glyndwr and an Irish contingent at 'Rhos-y-meirch' in June of 1405 (Owen, 1833, p. 31). Although Owen's work is referenced as a legitimate source in later historical research (Carr, 2011, p. 252), the inability to trace the original source of this information (Carr, 1995, p. 7) does lead to speculation about its supposed authenticity.

3.5.7 - Post Medieval and Modern

The area around the study area is as rich in archaeological and historical sites postdating the 1500s, with most records relating to extant buildings and properties within the landscape. These include large estates such as Plas Trescawen and Plas Tregaian, with the latter having features dating to at least the late seventeenth century (RCHAMW, 1937, p. 149). Parts of the renovated farmhouse at Ty Mawr are said to be of similar date (Lodwig Parry-Jones, pers. comm.), with another property near Llangwyllog Church, Ty'n Llan, partially datable to at least the 18th century.

Documentary evidence suggests that several existing trackways appear to have changed course from the 18th century until the present day – these include a lost trackway north of Sarn Fadog, as well as a section of the B5111 nearest Coedana Church (BBMS/42). Sections of a new routeway appear to have been created near Trescawen Hall sometime after 1845 (WD6/2), with plans to straighten a routeway west of the property, although this never came to fruition (WD6/2).

Several properties in the area have changed their names over time. For instance, the property known as Sarn Fadog in Coedana, approximately 2km northwest of the survey area, was known as Trefadog Bach between the 1720s and 1730s (BBMS/42), its site approximately where the present house currently stands. Other names have however remained consistent, including the smallholding of Cefn Gwyn nearby, its name having remained consistent from at least the 18th century onwards (WD6/2).

The late 19th and early 20th centuries would see the creation of a new state house at Trescawen Hall. Interestingly, this property would later become a convalescent home for soldiers during the First World War. A postcard photo (see Image 19) show military personnel and nurses situated at the stately home during the course of the war (Kenney, 2017, p. 16).

Image 19: Image of soldiers and staff stationed at Plas Trescawen during the First World War (People's Collection of Wales, 2011).

It is likely that many of the extant field boundaries, particularly the 'cloddiau' in the area, belong to this period. The enclosure movement in Anglesey between 1788 to 1866 saw much of the common land enclosed, a practice which no doubt continued earlier efforts in the sixteenth century (Jones, 2002, p. 23). Many of the ditches in the landscape would have been dug at this time to increase drainage. It is known that drain excavation work has been taking place at the Cestyll Byrion site since at least the 1970s (Kevin Owen, pers. comm.).

By the mid-19th century another feature would be seen running across the landscape – the railway. Llangwyllog railway station opened in 1866 (see newspaper), part of the Anglesey Central Railway line, and still retains a number of features from when it was still in operational use (the line closed in 1995), including signals, a signal box, station building and platform (Rear 1994; 8; 45-6).

While finds such as pottery of this period are to be found all over the study area, of particular interest is the recent discovery of a pewter syringe near Meillion, Coedana (PAS 2020). The syringe (GAT-CF7A86), of assumed 18th century date, is initialled 'D / L' (Derby 2020). It remains unclear whether this was a veterinary or medicinal syringe, but the fact that the property was listed as a tenancy under the Plas Newydd estate in the Tithe Maps of this area may prove useful in determining its owner, thereby securing its date.

Image 20: Pewter syringe recorded in a field near Meillion, Coedana. (Portable Antiquities Scheme, 2020)

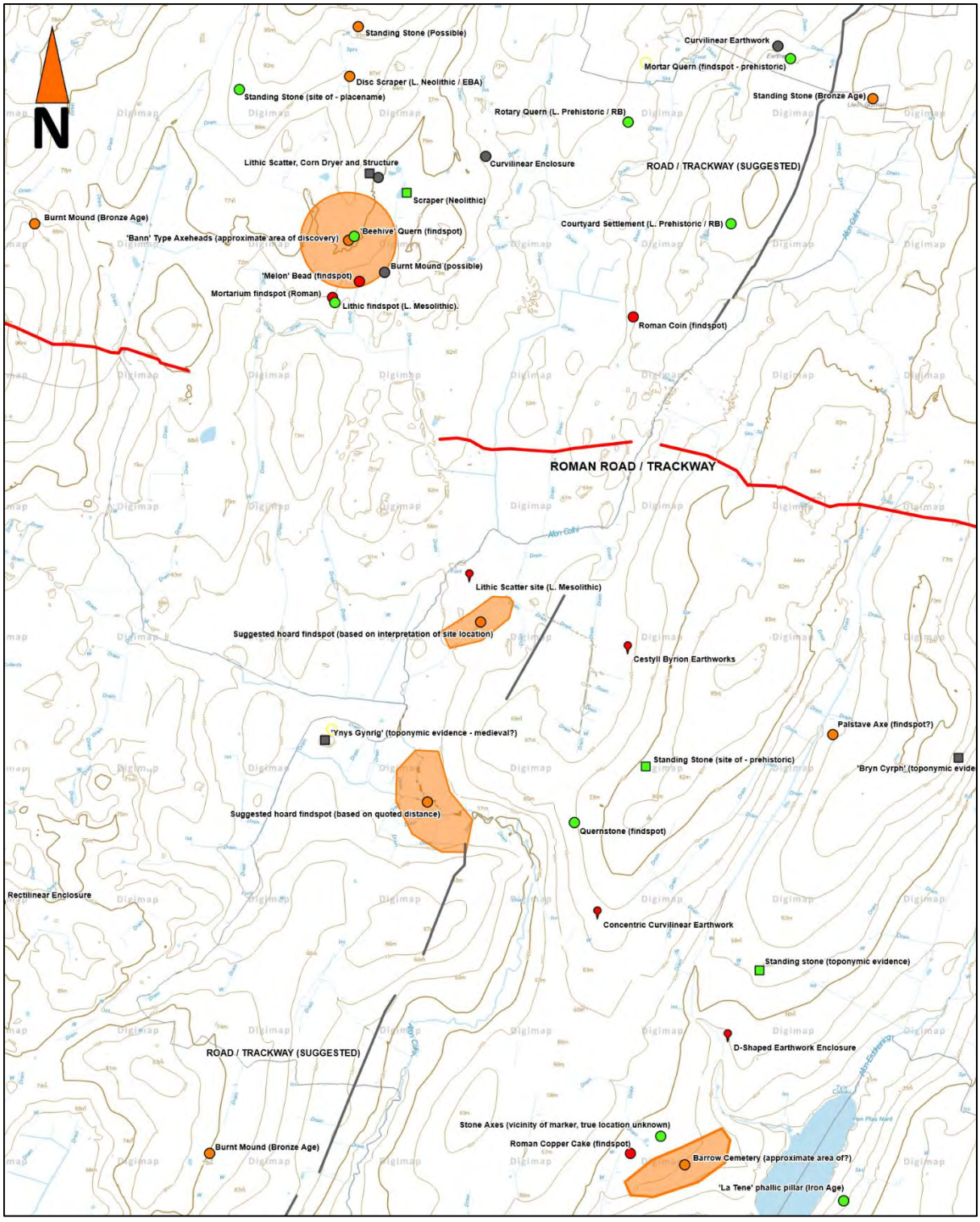
Chapter 3 – Conclusion

This study has shown that the landscape around the study area is rich in archaeological material, spanning from the early periods of human activity on Anglesey right up to the present day. Despite appearances, the landscape around Cestyll Byrion is rich in early archaeology, predominantly from the Middle Bronze Age right up to the Roman period (see Map 12, p. 70). Visible concentrations can be seen in the north-western and south-eastern areas highlighted in Map 12, but this is predominantly due to these areas having been more critically studied than others. A sizable gap in the south-western area appears out of place, and it is likely that there is more undisturbed early archaeology in this area.

It seems that, given the context of both the Llangwyllog hoard (see 3.5.3.1, pp. 52-6) and Coedana 'battle-axes' (see 3.5.3.2, pp. 56-7), there is a high likelihood of high-status prehistoric settlement in the area. Furthermore, many of these sites are located near areas of running or still water, suggesting a possible ritual element to their deposition.

Toponyms identifed in both archival, archaeological and literature sources hint at several areas of potential archaeological interest within the landscape. A quote by Philip Stephens

sums it best ‘ ‘Place names are more than links to the past: they are the sound of history and a sequential record of the name givers’ (2021, p. 1). The number of religious place names within the surrounding fields of Cestyll Byrion (see 3.2.2 and 3.2.3, pp. 43-48) may suggest the presence of an Early Christian community in this area (see Appendix 8, p. 168). Furthermore, references to earlier ritual monuments, such as standing stones and burial mounds, are a useful tool in archaeological prospection and identifying new areas of potential study within an underinvestigated landscape.



Map 12: Map showing locations of Late Mesolithic to Roman period sites in relation to areas studied (HER – circles and new sites - squares).

At least one settlement site is confirmed to exist nearby, which is the courtyard settlement at Ynys Bach, Coedana. However, reported discoveries of substantial quantities of lithic and Roman period artefacts, combined with potential prehistoric structural evidence, hints at another unrecorded settlement site at Maen Gwyn, Coedana. This suggestion is strengthened following discussion with the present owner, John Smith, who mentioned the discovery of the top stone of a 'rotary quern' in a dry-stone wall in the garden, now since removed. Smith suggests it could not have travelled far from its original place of discovery and produced a sketch of the object (see Figure 7). This drawing suggests it could have been a 'beehive quern' - a type of quern notably found in Romanised contexts (i.e., Romano-British) on Anglesey. The quern was deposited within Oriel Môn and, with the aid of this research, identified within the collection (see Appendix 9, p. 169) with thanks to John Smith and Ian Jones, curator at Oriel Môn (pers. comm.)

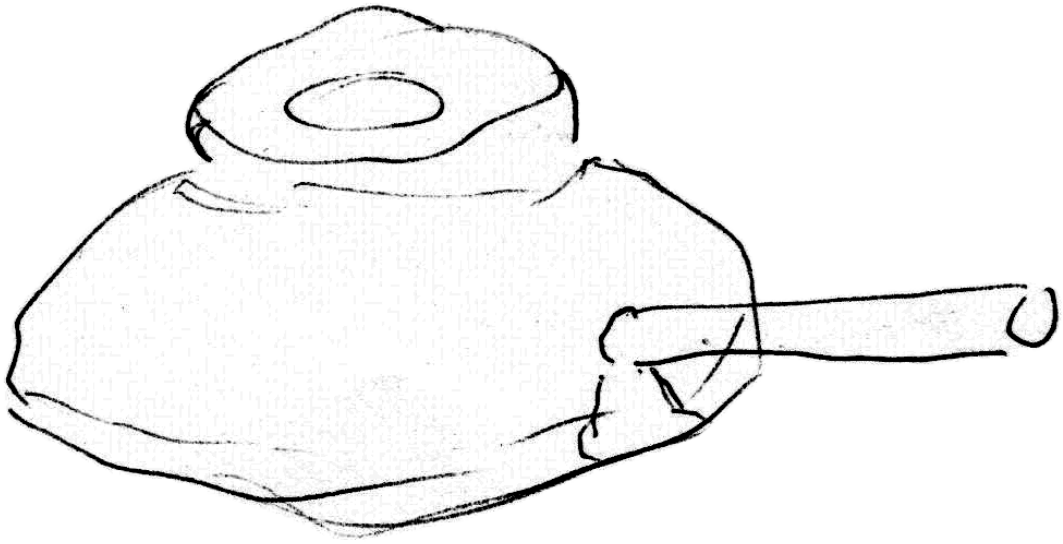
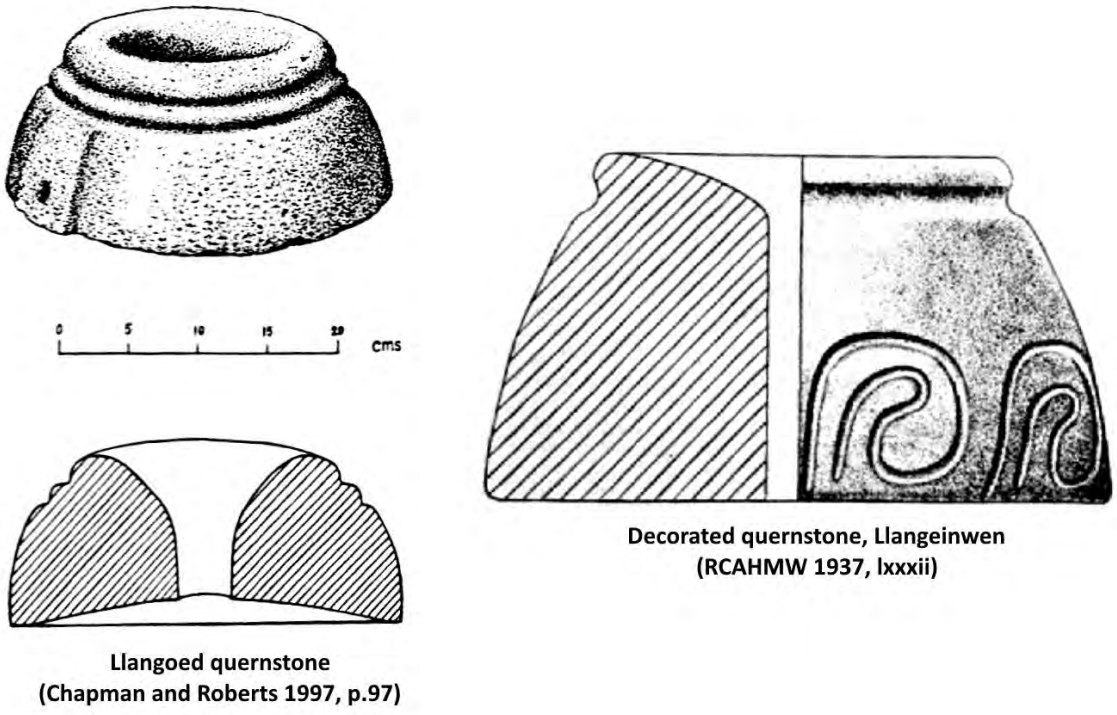


Figure 7: Sketch of top of 'rotary quern' found at Maen Gwyn farm, Coedana (Smith, pers. comm.).

'Beehive' querns have been reported elsewhere on the island (see Figure 10), including decorated examples from Llangeinwen (RCAHMW 1937, p. lxxxii) and Llangoed (Chapman & Roberts, 1997). Other, nearer examples were also reported to have been found near the property of Isfron Ceidio, north of Llanerchymedd in the early 20th century (Hughes, 2001, pp. 17-19). However, it is possible that 'beehive querns' may be a later imported style brought over from Ireland, given stylistic similarities between beehive querns observed in

both geographical areas, suggesting a late Roman to early medieval date for this type of quern (Griffiths, 1951). If so, then the Maen Gwyn landscape may have seen near continuously settlement since at least the late Mesolithic period onwards.

While late prehistoric activity is underrepresented, it is likely that, given what has previously been discussed, that there is high likelihood of Iron Age activity taking place here. Indeed, as we will discover, the sites at Cestyll Byrion and Llangwyllog suggests there may be further evidence for this undocumented period in the areas' history.



Llangoed quernstone
(Chapman and Roberts 1997, p.97)

Decorated quernstone, Llangeinwen
(RCAHMW 1937, lxxxii)

Figure 8: Examples of rotary querns (plain and decorated) found on Anglesey, various sources (cited).

Chapter 4 - Results and discussion

Any subsequent gaps within extant knowledge of this study area will be addressed using a mix of digital and practical archaeological investigative techniques This will consist of aerial photography, interpretation of visual data (LiDAR) to identify potential surface archaeology; field walking and metal detecting surveys to gather any potential artefactual evidence, and the use of non-invasive archaeological techniques. Give the scale of the Cestyll Byrion site it has been determined that geophysical survey was the best method in interpreting the site on a large scale without excavation.

4.1 - Aerial Photography

4.1.1 - APU online records, c. 1945

Aerial photography (see Appendixes 5 and 6, pp. 172-3) of the study area, taken in 1945, suggests that the earthworks have existed for at least several decades. Several features are visible, including traces of a raised bank on its eastern side, as well as a curvilinear cropmark within said bank on its northern side. Given the grainy nature of the photograph no other features could be positively identified.

It is clear however that the survey area and surrounding fields appear to have been heavily ploughed in the past, evident from the raised plough marks visible from aerial photography of the site to the north-west.

4.1.2 - Cambridge University's Aerial Photo Archive: RC8ET072

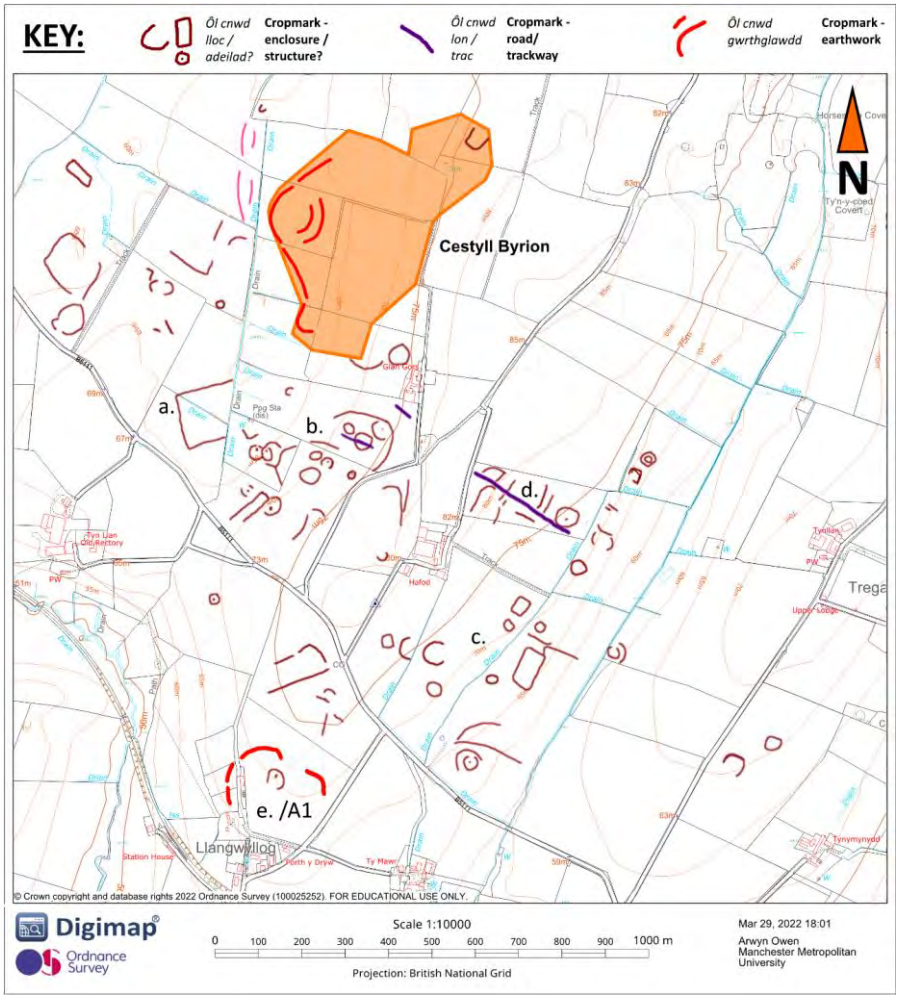


Figure 9: Interpretation of features identified from RC8ET072 (Cambridge University Aerial Photo Archive)

The Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photography consists of over 500,000 aerial photographs of sites, landscapes and monuments across Britain and parts of Western Europe. Parts of the collection have been digitised for viewing online, with a number of images consisting of top-down views of the Anglesey landscape taken during the 1980s.

Of particular interest is a top-down view over Glan Gors, Hafod and the northern part of Llangwyllog hamlet. A significant number of scorch marks are clearly visible in the fields surrounding Glan Gors on its western, eastern and southern sides. These features include a rectilinear feature running NNE to SWW which may be an earlier field boundary, as it does not align with any present field boundaries in the landscape (a.). Immediately west can be seen a series of curvilinear, rectilinear, and linear features (b. and c.) tentatively identified as being associated with other unrecorded enclosures and potential settlement within the immediate landscape. These features continue further east, with a prominent linear feature (d.) which runs towards the south of the earthworks and may be the remains of a trackway.

This particular image hints at further prehistoric activity within the region, especially to the north of Llangwyllog, where traces of an ovoid enclosure can be seen (e./A1 – see section 4.2.2, pp. 84-8). Although no cropmarks/scorch marks are observed within the earthworks, its western bank and corner are clearly visible in the photograph.

4.1.3 - Personal Drone footage/imagery

Following this, additional photos of the site were taken using a personal drone. These photos were taken in the late evening, as to allow the shadows to cast and highlight features within the landscape.

Although views of the site were restricted given its proximity to the runway exclusion zone immediately east, it was still possible to record and observe from both the west and northwest. These images clearly highlight the shape of the Cestyll Byrion earthworks and their substantial scale. A large visible bank could be seen on its western side, with traces of earthworks on its eastern side forming what appears to be a rectilinear enclosure. Evidence of what appears to be a mound with a large dividing ditch can be seen to the west, with traces of a large bank curving around it and leading towards the north (see Appendix 12, p. 170). The earthworks appear to continue northwards covering at least five of Glan Gors'

fields. While initially interpreted as a series of natural features, their clearly defined edges and shapes are likely archaeological rather than natural in origin.

4.1.4 – Google Satellite/Earth

It was observed by the author's father, Kevin Owen, of potential archaeological features, visible as cropmarks, atop the Cestyll Byrion site. Of particular note is the presence of a large rectangular enclosure with a rounded enclosure on its western side – a smaller subcircular feature within the rounded enclosure the possible remains of a structure i.e., a roundhouse. A total of seven circular features are visible, with a group of at least five at the NNE corner of the site. Traces of a large feature, possibly a defensive ditch, can be seen to the western side nearest the large earthwork marked B.

Further cropmarks can be identified east and north of the Cestyll Byrion earthworks. These include two small enclosures, a polygonal, much denuded earth bank enclosure to the north as well as traces of a large rectilinear ditched enclosure, of regular size and measuring 50m across (east-west) to 53m long (north-south) immediately east (see Images 20 and 21, pp. 78-9). The enclosures are far smaller than the earthworks at Cestyll Byrion and may represent separate phases of settlement activity.

Image 21: Goole Satellite Image of Cestyll Byrion, taken December 2006.

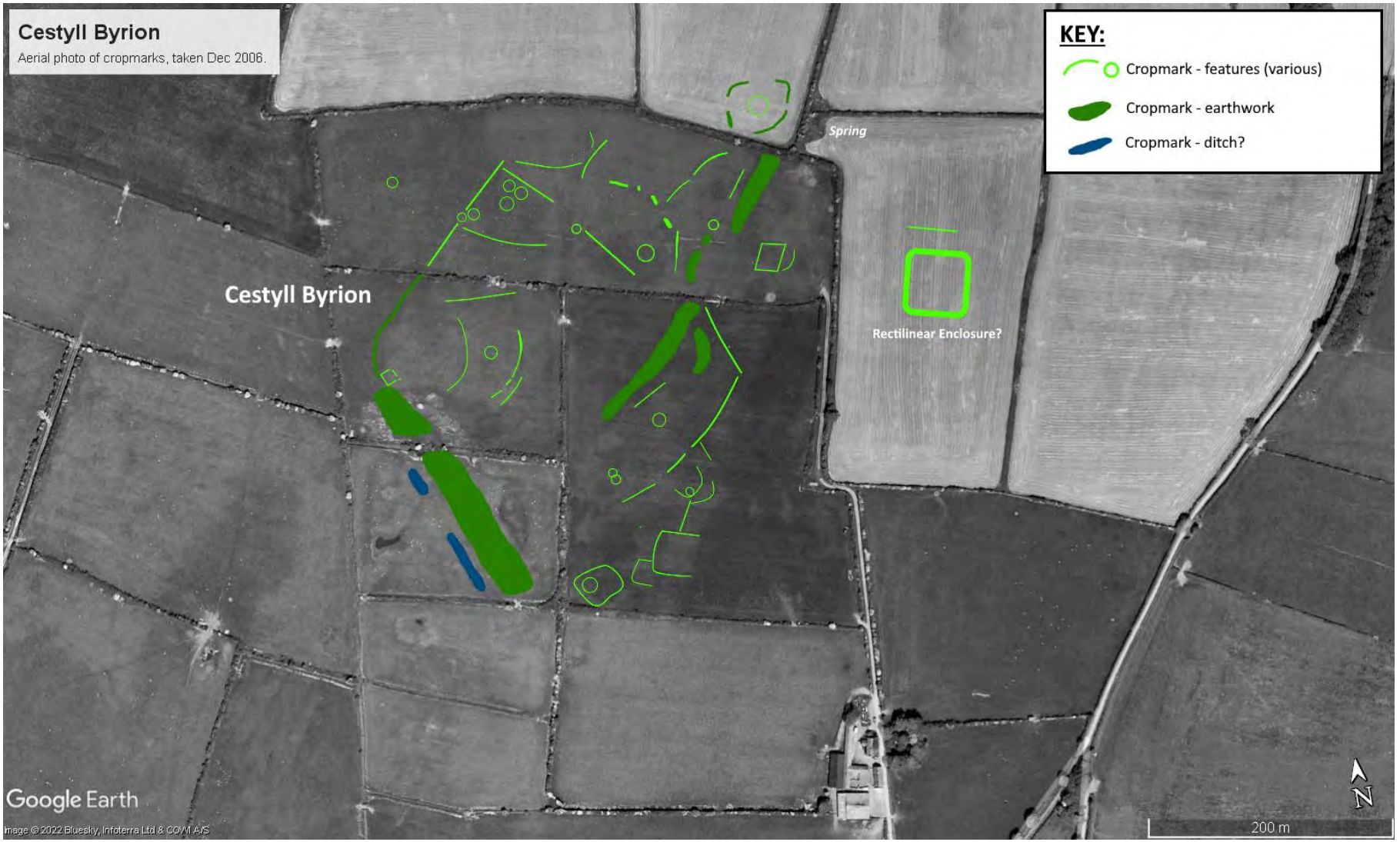
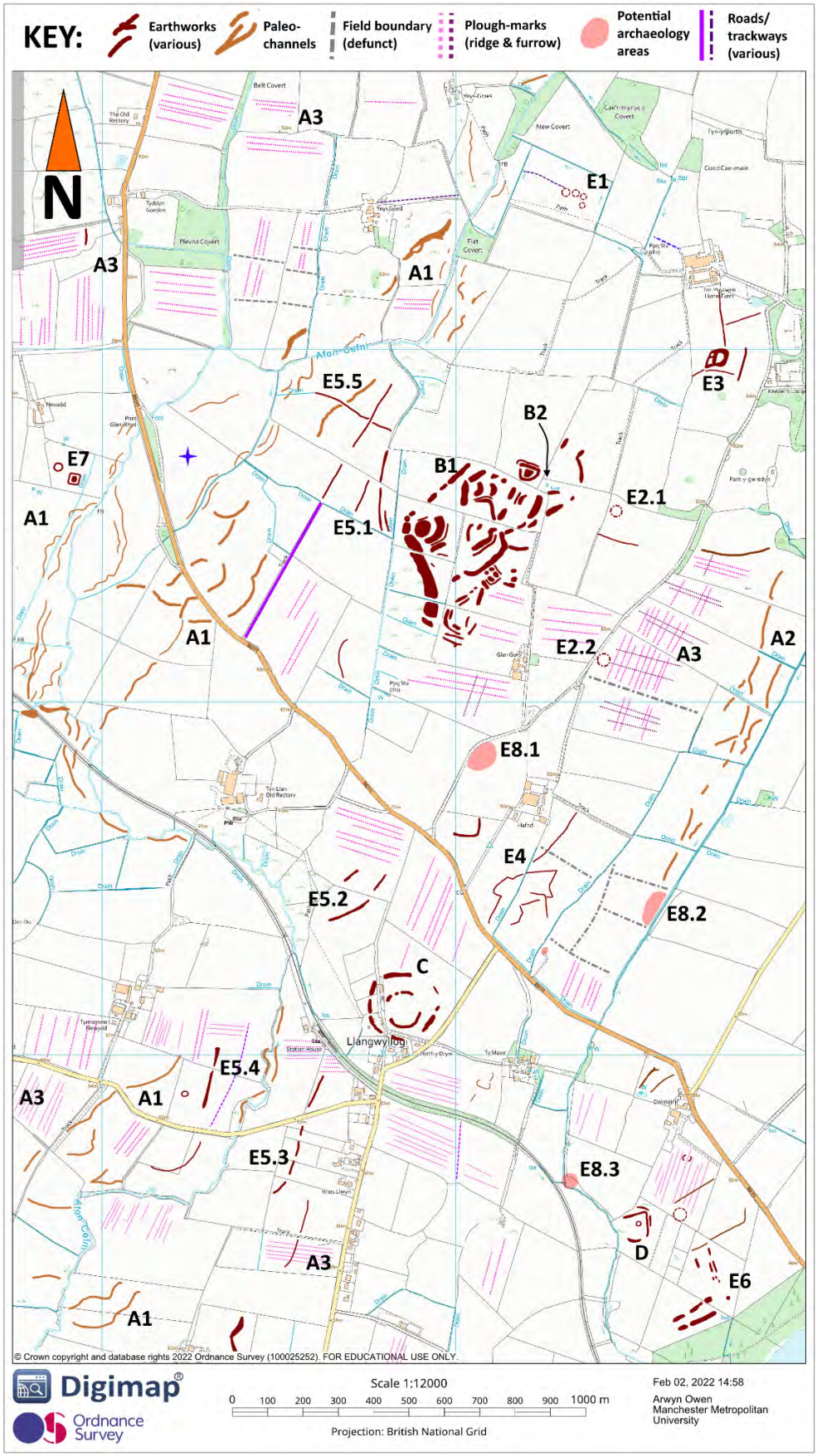


Image 22: Interpretation of Google satellite image of Cestyll Byrion.

4.2 - Interpretation of Glan Gors study area: LiDAR analysis

As we have seen, the landscape around the study area is rich with evidence of multi-phase activity. However, LiDAR studies will help further research into the area through the identification of previously unrecorded sites. Although parts of Anglesey are not yet fully mapped, we are fortunate that most of the study area is well mapped and immediately showing evidence of potential archaeology within the landscape (see Image 23, p. 79). A number of natural features were identified in the LiDAR data. Most notable is the line of both the Cefni River and a small stream to the east of the Cestyll Byrion site showing their deviations over the millennia, moving between approximately 100 to over 300m from their present course (see Map 13; annotated A1). The landscape has also been heavily cultivated, with evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing visible across the study area (Map 13; A3). In terms of archaeological features, three potential sites are the most prominent – Cestyll Byrion, the feature north of Llangwyllog and another south of Dolmeinir.

Image 23: LiDAR image (DSM) of Glan Gors study area.



Map 13: Lidar Interpretation of Glan Gors study area.

4.2.1 - Earthworks at *Cestyll Byrion, Glan Gors*

The largest, and most apparent, feature identified within the landscape are the earthworks near Glan Gors, identified as being the site of Cestyll Byrion within the landscape (Map 13, B1). As the aerial photography suggested, the earthworks at Glan Gors are clearly visible in the landscape from the air, with LiDAR giving further detail to the unusual shapes of the ground surface. Of interest is how close the features are to a spring within the landscape, known locally as 'Ffynon gwrach y saint' – 'Well of the saintly enclosure' (Adrian Price, pers. comm.).

Interpretation of this feature indicates a complicated array of earthworks which may be indicative of multiperiod activity at this site (see Figure 12, p. 87). Immediately apparent from the dataset is the presence of a raised, long and thick linear feature on its western side (B) running in a NNW to SSE direction and measuring approximately 320m in length. This linear feature, visible on all forms of aerial imagery of this site, appears to curve at its northern end, straightening out and then continuing in an NNE direction for approximately 237m before terminating abruptly. At this point the linear appears narrower with a series of pronounced breaks on its western side. This may be a large defensive bank of some kind, its broad western side formed as the result of slippage and wear following years of agricultural use. A pronounced break on its corner may be a recent feature, although it may possibly be an entrance. Its scale appears to be far too monumental to suggest it is simply a field boundary like those seen nearby and must have been a monumental task to erect.

Within the rounded corner of the long raised linear feature a raised ovoid feature can also be seen (A3), measuring approximately 49m in diameter. This feature is surrounded on its eastern side by another broad linear feature which appears to curve around its circumference from the east towards the south. No further traces of this broad linear feature can be seen running northwards. This has been identified as a possible defended mound placed within the confines of a larger banked enclosure, of assumed later date.

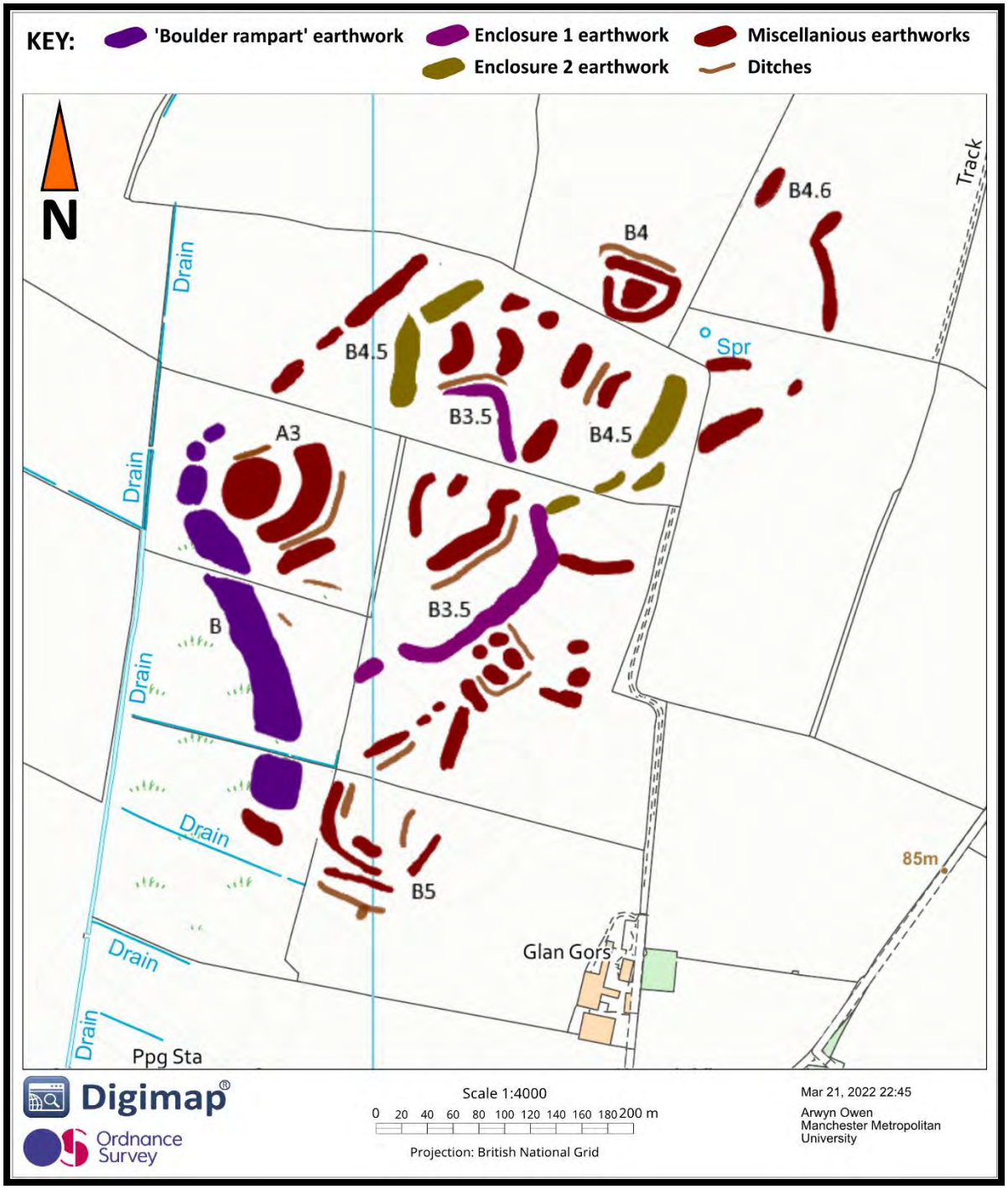


*Figure 10: Interpretation of features identified at the **Cestyll Byrion** site, near Glan Gors. Measured, with key on right hand side.*

To the east of B and A3 can be seen another linear running cross two fields (B3.5) The feature, measuring 183m NNW to SSE and 200m NNE to SSW, appears roughly rectilinear in shape, with a distinct break in its line on its western side, as the feature curves in on itself. Traces of the remaining linear can be seen following the break. Within this linear can be seen a series of smaller, raised features arranged in a rectilinear fashion, although not

appearing as a complete circuit. A depression can be seen running along its northern edge – this may have once been a ditch. It is possible that, once complete, that the linear would have continued from its northern curve towards A3, which may explain why the broad linear feature identified terminates suddenly, as if stopped by an existing boundary.

In an adjacent field owned by Trescawen Farm another potential archaeological feature can be identified. Measuring 68m NE-SW by 58m W-E, the feature (B4) appears polygonal in shape, a solid linear with a raised interior along with a depression along its northern edge, possibly a ditch. This feature is largely complete, although visibly much worn following years of deep ploughing.

Between B3.5 and B4 traces of further raised features can be seen. These features appear to be enclosed within another linear feature (B4.5) on the eastern side of the site. The linear features appear to originate from the eastern boundaries of B3.5 and enclose an area filled with raised linear features of various shapes and sizes. A linear depression can also be seen running within this enclosure. Part of the circuit on its northern side appear to run towards B4, whereas the circuit on its eastern side appears to vanish upon approaching the spring to its north.

Nearest the farm buildings at Glan Gors are further features, consisting of linear features of varying sizes and thicknesses (B5), arranged within a triangular fashion, and directly abutting the circuit of B3.5 on its southern side. Measuring 267m Northeast to Southwest and 104m at its widest, southern end these appear different in character to the other features discussed and were initially interpreted to be an annexe of some kind, added at a later period.

It is possible that the features identified at Cestyll Byrion may have continued further north, as traces of a linear feature, possibly another bank, can be seen to the north of B4 (B4.6), along with a linear which runs eastward from the south-eastern corner of B3.5

The immediate termination of the large bank (B) as it travelled northwards is puzzling given its thickness and size. Given the size of the western bank (B) it would be assumed that it would have continued further north and covered an area larger than what is visible on the data (Ben Edwards, pers. comm.). However, possible traces of further earthworks may be found to the northwest of the polygonal enclosure (B4.6).

The LiDAR data of the Cestyll Byrion site indicate the presence of a large-scale lowland defensive site of possible multi-period date. At least two distinct phases of development can be seen within the data – A large rectilinear enclosure was erected near an area of wetland, with possible annexes constructed on its eastern and southern sides as the settlement expanded.

4.2.2 - Earthworks north of Llangwyllog

A second site of archaeological potential was identified 1159m south of Glan Gors (Map 13, p. 80- C). The field measures at approximately 5.45 hectares and is located a short distance to the north of Capel Gosen, a 19th century Presbyterian chapel. This field is currently owned by Mr Lodwig Parry-Jones of Ty Mawr farm and has been held by the farm for at least several generations (Lodwig Parry Jones, pers. comm.). Currently, the field serves as grazing land for cattle and sheep. Although most of this feature is within the field, the earthworks appear to encroach into the gardens of several properties to the west and southwest (see Image 21, p. 76 and Map 13, p. 80).

The data (see above) suggests the presence a concentric, twin curvilinear feature in the southwest corner of the field Its external ring measures approximately 290m in diameter whereas its internal ring measuring approximately 125m in diameter. A site visit identified parts of this bank as a shallow, raised feature on the western side of the field. Although traces of the bank can be seen to the east, only scant traces remain towards its north-eastern side – presumably as a result of plough damage over the centuries.

Little is known about the history of this field – Mr Lodwig Parry-Jones recalls collecting a possible artefact in one of the fields to the northwest after it had been ploughed. The object consisted of a shaped stone, round in profile, with a prominent hole on one side. It was relocated to the farm, though its present whereabouts are currently unknown. His description suggests it may have been the runner stone of a rotary quern, a form of hand milling device used from late prehistory onwards. Given that the site slopes on its western side, it is entirely possible that the quern travelled to this area via later subsequent agricultural activity i.e., ploughing or land tilling. Alternatively, it is possible that the stone may have been a deliberate deposit of some kind. The placement of the site appears to deliberately consider the river Cefni to the west, which has formed a shallow valley within

the landscape. The eastern view of the site is obstructed by the summit of the hill and has no visible line of sight with the Cestyll Byrion site to the northeast. It may, however, have been able to partially see another possible enclosure to the south of Dolmeinir (see next section).

In terms of plan the earthworks at Llangwyllog may be comparable to ring forts seen on the mainland which are of mid to late prehistoric date. 'Ringforts' are a type of late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age defended settlement consisting of several roundhouses grouped around an interior courtyard, with at least one curvilinear bank around its perimeter. This site type has been identified in Pembrokeshire in south-eastern Wales, examples include Woodside and Drws y Coed in Pembrokeshire (Davies & Lynch, 2000, p. 161), although examples have also been recorded across western England. One of the larger examples of this site type is at Thwing, Yorkshire, where a 105m concentric circular defended enclosure, complete with 25m diameter roundhouse and producing a rich assemblage of domestic and high-end wares when excavated (Cunliffe, 2002, pp. 41-2). In Northwest Wales similar examples of this type of defended settlement include Llwyn Du Bach near Llanllyfni and a lowland example at Mellteyrn Uchaf, Llŷn.

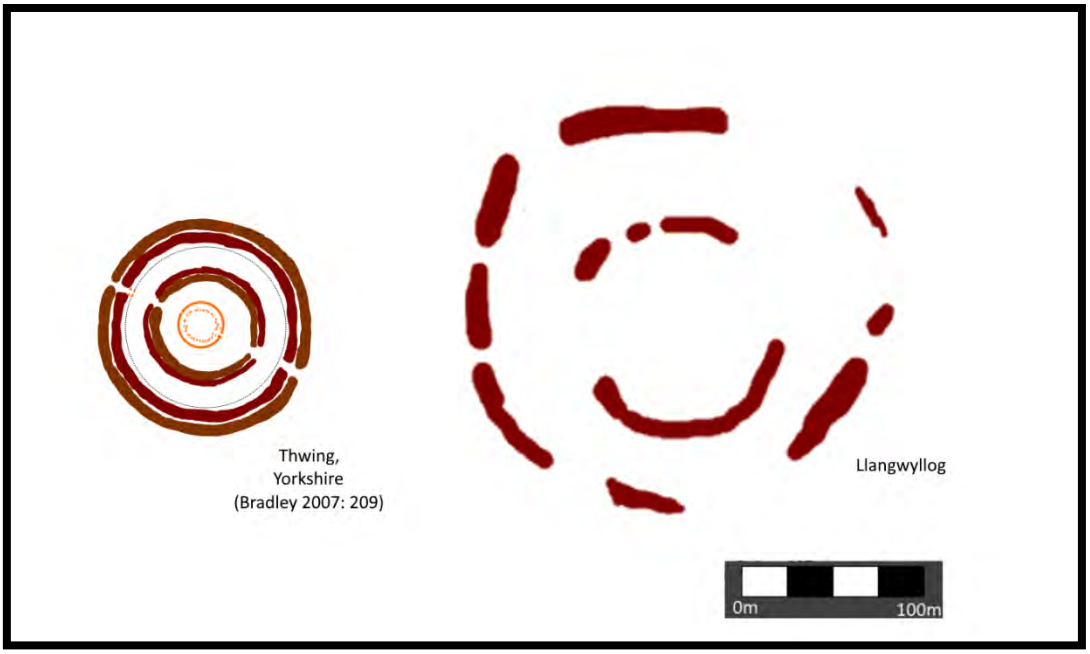


Figure 11: Scale comparison between Late Bronze Age curvilinear enclosure at Thwing (left) with LiDAR interpretation of Llangwyllog enclosure (right).

The closest comparison to the features identified north of Llangwyllog is Castell Odo (see section 1.1.2, p. 17), although again the earthworks present near Llangwyllog are much larger in scale. It is possible that this feature, given its segmented nature, may be hengiform in nature (Adam Gwilt, pers. comm.), or entirely natural, rather than archaeological, in origin.

4.2.3 - Earthworks south of *Dolmeinir*

The third site identified on the LiDAR data can be found 1843m southeast of Glan Gors. The feature, consisting of multivallate enclosed ditches arranged in a polygonal fashion, is located 560m to the southwest of Dolmeinir farm (Map 13, p. 80- D). It measures 126.6m north to south and 105m east to west. The inner enclosure appears roughly D-shaped in appearance, with its longest dimension orientated as a north-south alignment. Traces of another external ditch can be seen on its southern and south-eastern sides, with a possible break in the southern side. This may be an entrance into the feature. Although there appears to be little visible within its interior, a circular feature, possibly a hut platform, is visible in its north-western corner. The western side of this feature remains unenclosed with a visible, yet shallow, drop on this side. It is possible that the boundary terminated on this ridge.

Immediately east of this polygonal 'enclosure' can be seen a circular feature, measuring approximately 44m in diameter. The curvilinear feature appears as a complete ditch circuit, with traces of a potential raised bank on its north-western side. Its location is particularly relevant given that it is a short distance away from 'Dolmeinir' (see background section), a placename indicative of a now lost prehistoric ritual or funerary monument. It is possible that this feature may also be archaeological in nature.

The form of the polygonal enclosure near Dolmeinir is comparable to another late prehistoric defended enclosure on Anglesey. The site, known as Caer Leb is located near Brynsiencyn. Henry Rowland's *Mona Antiqua Restaurata* describes the site as a 'doubly entrenched' structure located near the river Braint and interpreted by Rowlands as being one of many examples of 'Druid palaces' on the island (Rowlands, 1723, pp. 87-8). Reverend T Skinner describes the presence of a circular hut foundation within its centre, along with

evidence of stone buildings in its south-eastern corner (Skinner, 1908, p. 14). When the site was excavated in 1860 it confirmed the presence of a circular structure at its centre, constructed of 'crude masonry'. A number of artefacts were recorded including samian ware; coinage; a 'stone disk (possibly a stone weight); a fibula brooch; glass counter; animal bones and fragments of a quern/mortar (Williams & Pritchard, 1866). At its centre a square building was also recorded and has been suggested to be the remains of a Romano-Celtic shrine (Waddington, 2013, p. 147). Religious sites of this type are very rare on Anglesey – another possible shrine structure was recorded at Capel Eithin near Gaerwen (White & Smith, 1999, pp. 116-123). Although no votive offerings were found a small metalworking site nearby may have produced small objects as offerings to the shrine - as indicated by the discovery of a phallic pendant nearby (White & Smith, 1999, pp. 123; 124-7).

Figure 12: Comparison between features identified at Dolmeinir to other late prehistoric/Romano British enclosures on Anglesey.

Further comparisons to the site can be made elsewhere (see Figure 14). LiDAR and geophysical surveys conducted by Mike Woods over the landscape around Bryn Celli Ddu, Llanddaniel Fab (Woods, 2021) reported the presence of a multivallate enclosure, measuring 102m northwest to southeast and 78m southwest to northeast The presence of a possible roundhouse as well as its location near the river has been suggested by Woods as indicative of a possible smithy or metalworking site (Woods, 2021, pp. 298-9), comparable to Bryn y Castell, Caernarfonshire (Cunliffe, 2002, p. 300), of late prehistoric date.

4.2.4 - Other features in landscape

In addition to the main features identified within the LiDAR survey, it became apparent that the landscape was potentially rich in unrecorded archaeology, with a number of additional archaeological features observed.

A series of mounds were identified approximately 910m to the north of Cestyll Byrion (Map 13, p. 80- E1). At least four small round mounds are visible in the data: these appear to be arranged in a linear fashion running east-west across the field. While it is possible that these may be land clearance cairns, their placement in the middle of the field, rather than at its edges, is unusual and may suggest these are of archaeological origin. Their location near the site of a Roman road or trackway may be relevant and could be evidence of funerary or ritual activity.

East of Cestyll Byrion are two faint curvilinear anomalies (E.21 and E2.2), each measuring approximately 21m in diameter. Their placement, on the brow of a large hill, may be significant as these would have been made prominent in the landscape as a result. Comparisons can be made between these features and a known barrow cemetery on the island near Llanddyfnan. At least two barrows were identified following excavation work in 1909 (Baynes), with a further three suggested to exist to the west (Hemp, 1941), bringing the total to five. The placement of E2.2, located near trackway, is comparable to the barrows at Llanddyfnan, located near the main road. Located near rivers and freshwater makes the sites also comparable to Bedd Branwen and Treiorwerth, a pair of multiple burial kerbed cairns of Bronze Age date re-excavated in the Llantrisant area, between the years 1967-8 (Lynch, 1971).

The remains of a small earthwork feature can be seen immediately south of Trescawen Farm (E3). This feature has been interpreted to be the remains of a possible house platform (Ian Jones, per. comms.), with a possible structure on its western side. Two linear features can be seen around it, with the smallest curving around its eastern and southern sides. While the form of parts of the earthwork may be attributable to lost field boundaries (see Map 9, p. 48), the shape of the mound extends beyond these boundaries, measuring approximately 58m north west to south east.

Another earthwork feature was identified adjacent to the D-shaped enclosure at Dolmeinir, consisting of a series of linear features which appear to be arranged in a reverse-L shape (E6). It is unclear whether these are archaeological or natural in origin, as it is possible that these are simply the remains of river terracing (Mike Woods, pers. comm.). Another earthwork feature, consisting of two enclosed features, can also be seen south of Neuadd in Coedana (E7).

Immediately south of Hafod farm at a distance of 213m a series of linear features were identified, measuring approximately 200m east-west and 180m north-south and consisting of intersecting lines (E4). A total of at least eight linear features are visible, with all arranged in a haphazard fashion. It is possible that these may be the remains of earlier field boundaries, as they do not appear on Dawson's 1818 map nor the herediment map of Hafod in 1889. As some of these linears run under an existing hedgerow to the west this further support the notion that these are earlier in origin. Several other linear features are visible within the landscape (E5.1 to E5.5). One of these (E5.1) can be seen to continue the line of an extant field boundary further north.

4.3 - Field walking survey – *Cae Cyrch Gwyddel* site

The ploughing of a field 824m northwest of Cestyll Byrion proved an invaluable opportunity to gather artefactual evidence without the need of excavation. To this end, a fieldwalking exercise was conducted over several days across the length of the field in order to recover and record any artefactual material from the site. As no previous work has been undertaken in this field this exercise would add much needed additional data to the historical and archaeological character of the study area in question

A fieldwalking survey conducted at the site yielded a total of 38 artefacts, with 36 (94.74%) of artefacts of stone material, and all lithic in classification (see Images 24, 25 and 26). Only 14 of the lithic artefacts recorded appear to show further processing, whereas the remainder (26) are assumed to be either manufacturing waste or natural in origin (Elizabeth Walker, pers. comm.).

The finished pieces consisted of four blades, a double ended scraper, two flint awls, a chert piece – possibly another awl, a microlith and a piece of debitage possibly reworked into a

'piercer'. The remaining flint artefacts mainly consisted of struck flints (i.e., cores) or pieces of debitage, with at least one of these pieces showing evidence of having been burnt (see Image 20). A fragment of red earthenware pottery, of uncertain date, as well as a modern plastic bead were also recorded from the site.

In terms of artefactual evidence, the lithic scatter is strong evidence for prehistoric activity taking place near the study are at Cestyll Byrion. A distribution map of the lithic finds shows a concentration on a raised area in the south-eastern corner of the field, nearest the road. As the river forms the north-western border of the field, it is possible that limited activity took place on an area of dry upland than the potential floodplains below. It is entirely possible however that these finds have been carried via ploughing over the years.

The discovery of a potential microlith and small, notched blade (see Image 24, p. 94; no. 9), possibly the result of microlith manufacture, may be indicative of plausible late Mesolithic activity at the site, whereas other blades (nos. 1 and 2) may be suggestive of possibly later Early Neolithic activity (Elizabeth Walker, pers. comm.). Scant Mesolithic evidence such as this correlates with existing archaeological evidence from inland sites across the island (Owen, 2018), with larger settlement sites such as Trwyn Du near Aberffraw (White, 1978), located near the mouth of the Alaw estuary nearest the coast. Intriguingly, several of the pieces recovered also appear to have been slightly burnt, although the nature and presumed function of this burning remains unclear (Elizabeth Walker, pers. comm.). Given the limited number of lithic finds from the site, it can only be deduced at present that this was likely a transitory site rather than a full camp or settlement site, although it is entirely possible that further lithic material may lie under the surface.

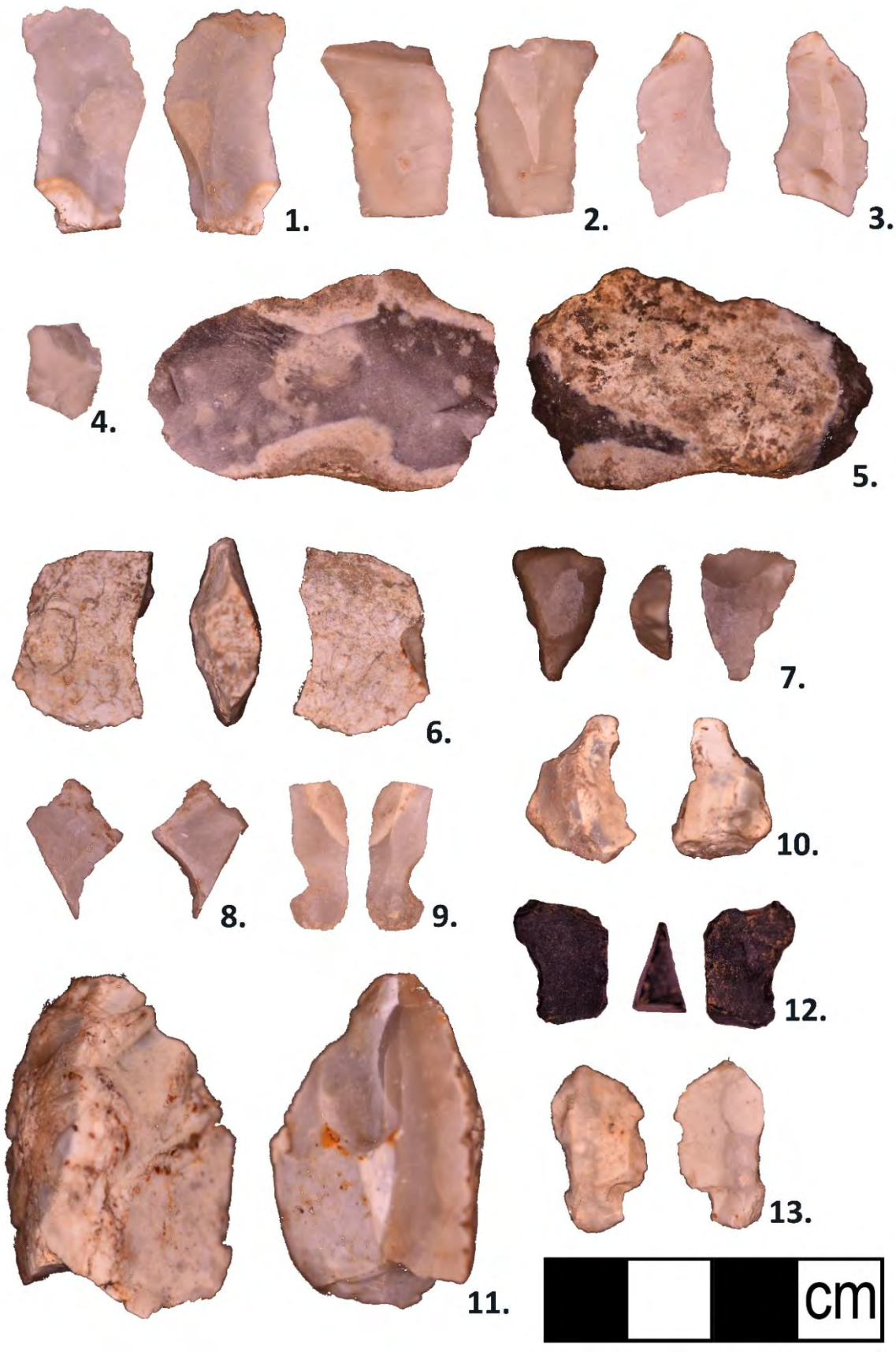


Image 24: Selection of lithic artefacts recorded from Cae Rhyd y Gwyddel site.

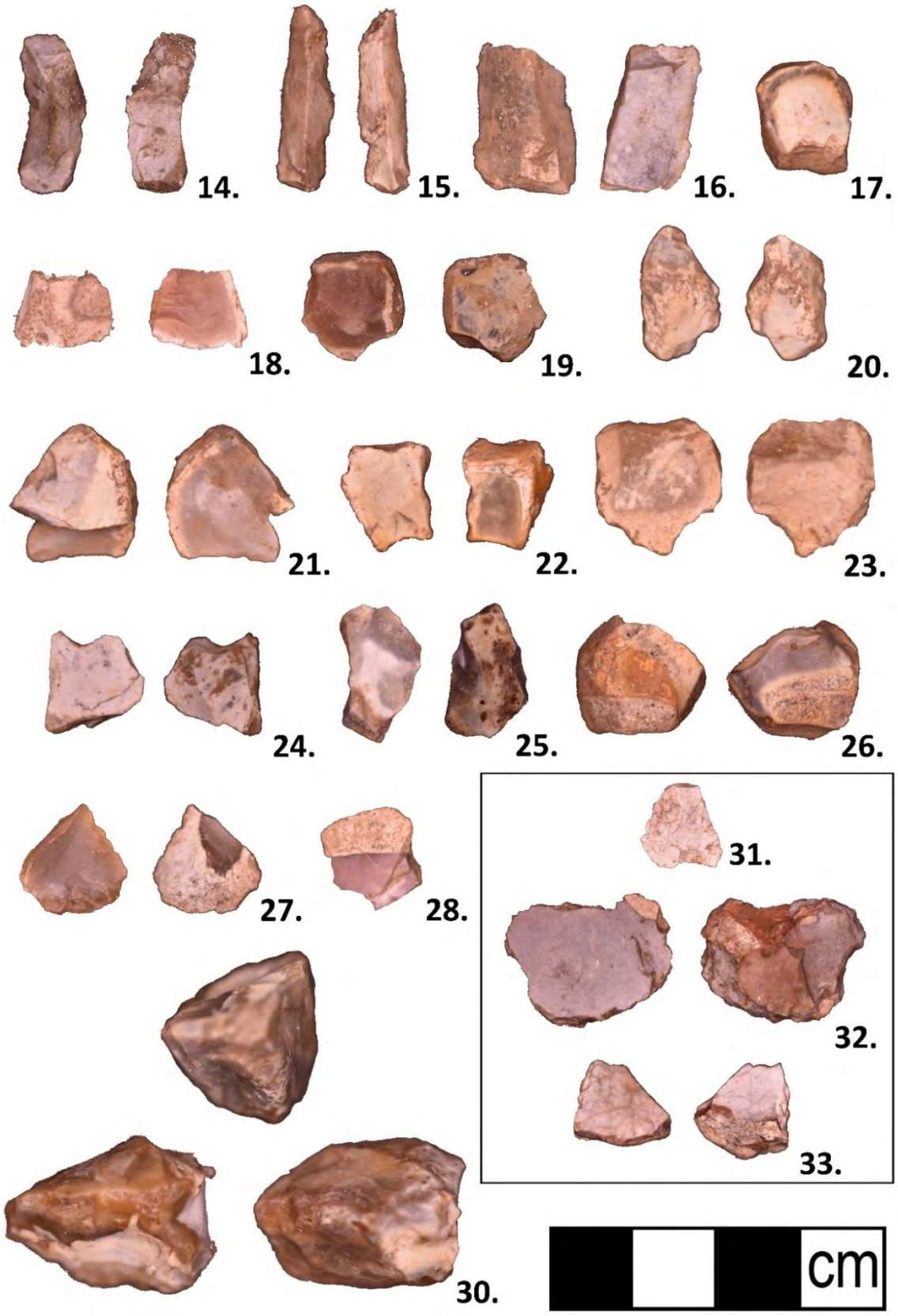


Image 25: Selection of lithic artefacts recorded from Cae Rhyd y Gwyddel site.

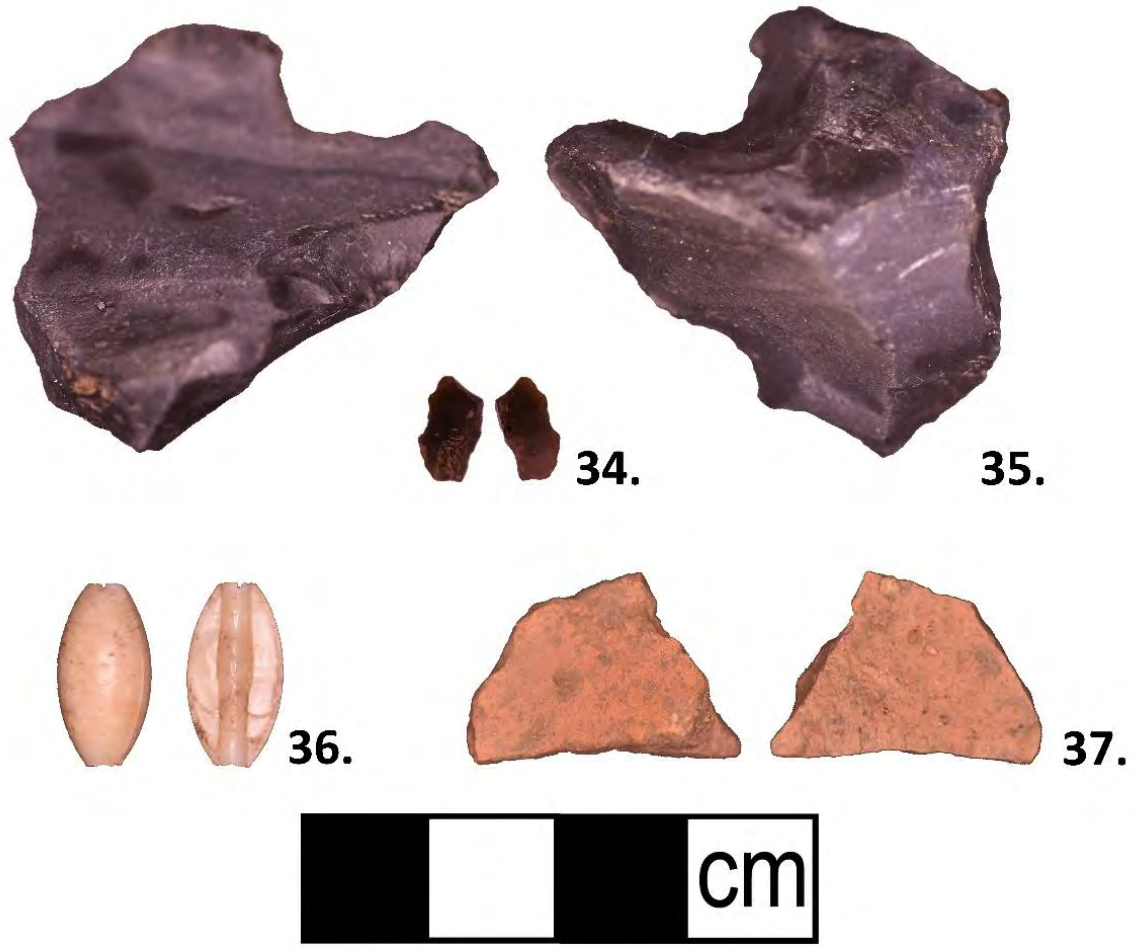


Image 26: Selection of lithic artefacts recorded from Cae Rhyd y Gwyddel site.

4.4 Metal detecting survey – field north of *Lon Lundain* and *Cestyll Byrion* site

For further dating evidence, metal detecting surveys were conducted at both the Cestyll Byrion earthworks as well as a field to the west, with said field possibly containing the remains of a lost road or trackway (see 4.5, p. 99).

A total of 25 objects were recovered during the survey, consisting of ten nonferrous objects, five ferrous objects, two ceramic objects and four stone objects (all flint). Regarding the ferrous objects these included an iron spike; an iron clip; an iron hook and the blade and tang of a flat edged knife. The objects were badly corroded and difficult to date, although the knife is assumed to be at least of post-medieval date.

The nonferrous objects consisted of objects which also predominantly dated from the post medieval to early modern periods. These included four tinned buttons; a ‘Dandy Boy’ button

of assumed 18th century date; a copper alloy and silver penny of George III (both dating between 1817 and 1818 – see Image 27) and a copper riveted leather piece, presumably from a piece of equestrian agricultural equipment. Other objects of this type included a copper shoulder badge belonging to the Southern Staffordshire regiment (of early modern date – see Image 27, p. 95 – 10) as well as a hammered copper ingot of unknown date (9).

Most of the non-metallic objects recorded were lithic, with two pebble cores, a naturally perforated flint pebble piece and a possible flint awl (see Image 30, p. 98). The ceramics recovered consisted of two pieces of red/orange earthenware of unknown date.

While a small number of objects were of distinctly early date, their discovery within an unstratified context makes it impossible to establish their relationship with any surface features. It is entirely possible that these are residual material brought in from elsewhere and have certainly been moved from their original location. The majority of finds being of at least post medieval date was to be expected given the extant historical character of the landscape (see 3.5.7 – pp. 66-69), although the hammered copper ingot may be of an earlier date.

Image 27: Selection of objects recorded during metal detecting surveys of both Cestyll Byrion and road/trackway field.

Image 28: Selection of objects recorded during metal detecting surveys of both Cestyll Byrion and road/trackway survey areas.

Image 29: Selection of objects recorded during metal detecting surveys of both Cestyll Byrion and road/trackway survey areas.

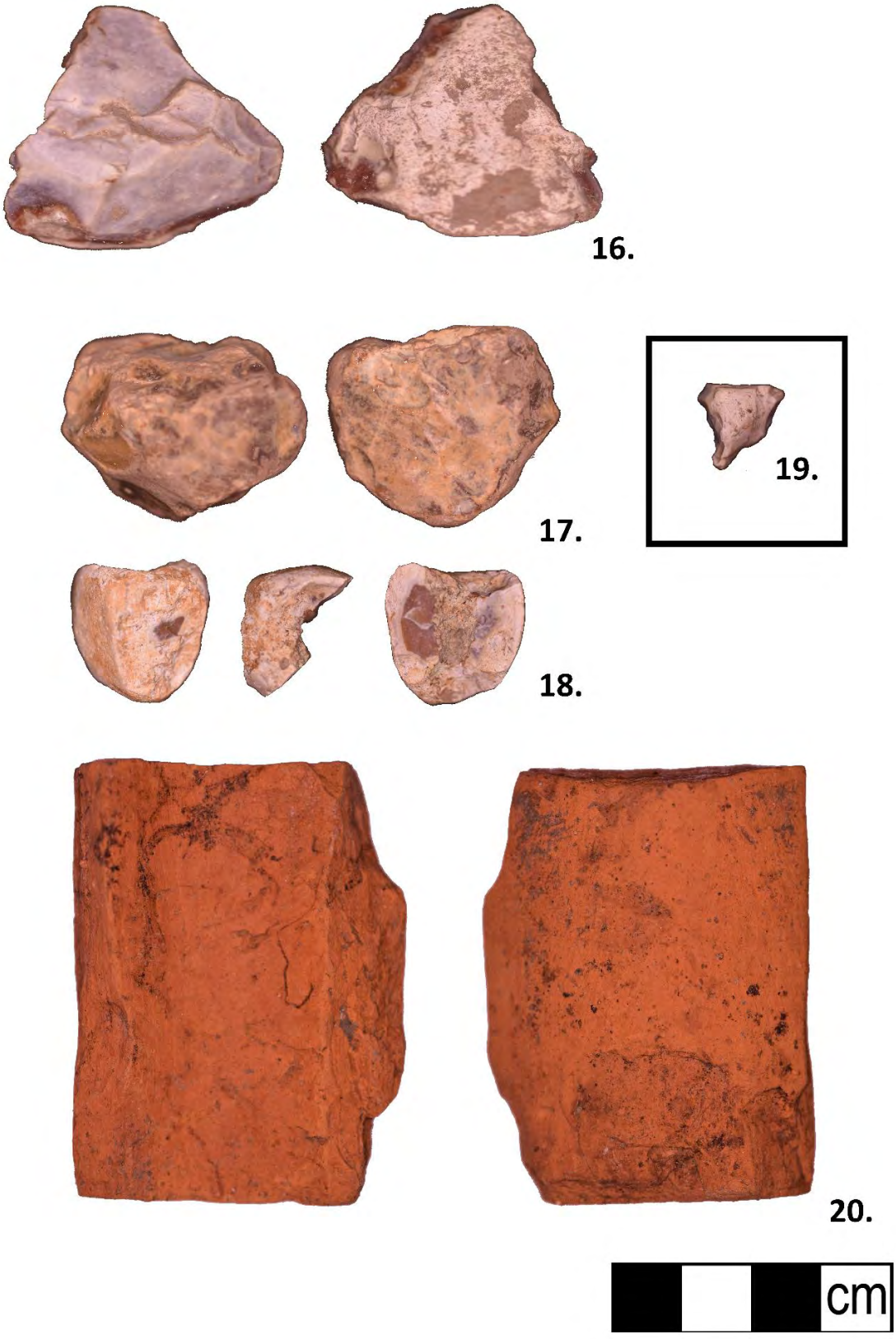


Image 30: Selection of non-ferrous objects recorded during metal detecting surveys of both Cestyll Byrion and road/trackway survey areas.

Image 31: Selection of objects recorded during metal detecting surveys of both Cestyll Byrion and road/trackway survey areas.

4.5 – Route or trackway west of Cestyll Byrion – 'Lon Lundain'

Image 32: Southern end of metalled trackway, looking towards the north.

During research into the Cestyll Byrion site, a study of a section of metalled road or trackway approximately 468m west of the study area was also undertaken. This track, known to locals as 'Lon Lundain' (London Road – Owenna Orme, pers. comm.) runs for 445m in a northeast to southwest direction, and is 4.5m wide (see Image 31; Image 32, p.99). The track is named after local knowledge of drovers stopping here to rest at night – this may possibly explain the rectangular enclosure, which is seen halfway down the track, although this could also be a post medieval hay croft.

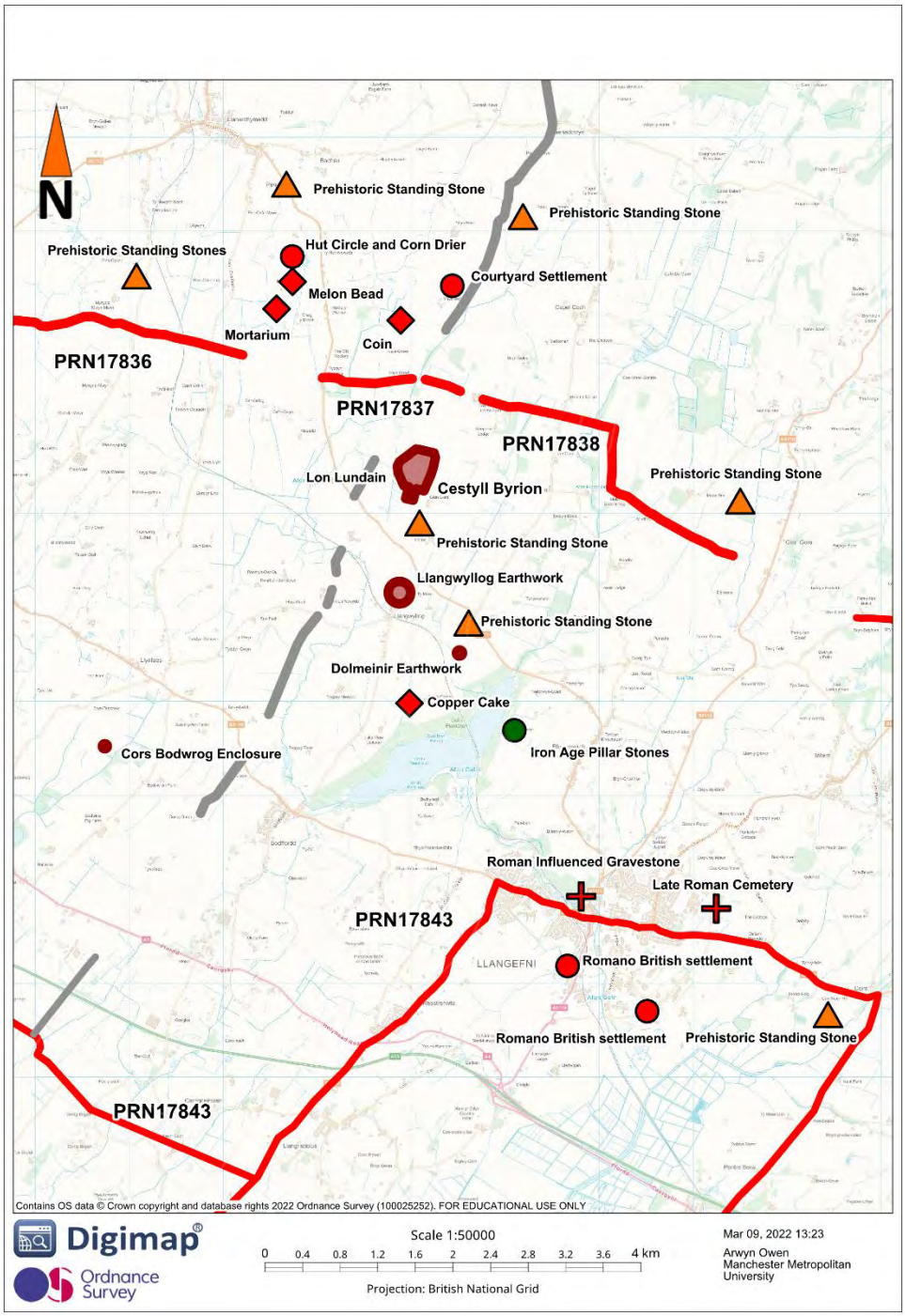
Intriguingly, sections of the track show clear traces of a metalled road surface, along with kerb stones at its northern end. Shallow, broad ditches can be seen at either end, although these are far more prominent towards the northern side. It is possible that this trackway may have continued further north as a visible land of stones appear on the surface of the northern field once ploughed.

Approximately 1.5km northeast another trackway measures approximately 2.4km long, can be seen running northwards towards Maenaddwyn, passing several farms including Ynys Bach, Ynys Fawr and Parc y Ynys before being lost at Ynys Groes. Its alignment is particularly interesting given that both appear to match, suggesting that these may have once been connected in the landscape (see Map 14, p. 101).

Interestingly, passing Ty'n Llan it is possible that this potential routeway may have continued further south, as a number of farm tracks and field boundaries appear to align with it. With this information it is possible that we may be looking at the remains of a lost route or trackway, running northeast to southwest and traceable for nearly 9.8km (see Map 14).

Without excavation we cannot establish its true age and function. It is interesting to note however that the routeway appears to be surrounded with Roman period findspots, including a copper cake recorded to have been found at Cerrig Ddewi (Pritchard, 1877, p. 60) only 1.4km east of the nearest section of routeway. Additionally, the line of the road appears to connect to another proposed Roman routeway 6.9km southwest of 'Lon Lundain' (Hopewell, 2013, p. Map). The routeway may have also interacted further north near Ynys Groes – its name potentially indicative of a crossroad rather than a religious connotation.

With these points in mind, it is entirely possible that this trackway could well have been used in the Roman period, or possibly even earlier in prehistory.



Map 14: Proposed Roman routeways running within surrounding area. Purple line is newly proposed route.

Image 33: Section of exposed road at Lon Lundain, a suspected Roman road west of ***Cestyll Byrion,*** *with stone paving and kerb visible (top left corner).*

4.6 - Geophysical Survey at *Cestyll Byrion*

Despite initial investigations, several questions remained as to the nature of this site. The site is almost paradoxical in nature – substantial defenses along its perimeter yet located within an area of limited visibility within the landscape. Given the preservation of the earthworks on site, it was likely that there may have been archaeology underneath the soil which would be identified through non-invasive techniques – in this instance the use of geophysical survey.

Following permission by the landowners (Mr Henry Pritchard Rayner and Mr Dorian Hughes) and tenant farmers (Mr Richard Daniel, Mr Dewi Jones and Mr Arthur Davies)

actions were set in place regarding full scale geophysical survey of the surviving earthworks. Given the scope, location and scale of the site, surveys were conducted over two periods – October 2021 and April 2022, with surveys taking two weeks to complete.

4.6.1 - Field 1

The first field surveyed was immediately south of Field 2 and the closest to Glan Gors farm, located approximately 230m to the southeast (see Figure 31, p. 130). A total of 12 grids were surveyed.

The results identified several defined magnetic anomalies within the centre of the survey area (see Figures 14 and 15, pp. 104-9). These primarily consisted of twin magnetic linear anomalies: a western linear anomaly measuring 46m in length, and an eastern linear anomaly measuring 44m (1, Figure 15). A break is visible between the linears, with neither linear aligned to one another. The alignment of a ditch on its eastern side suggests this may be for drainage, possibly a large ferrous or concrete pipe of some kind. It remains unclear however why there is a break in the middle as, if this was a pipe, it would have been expected to run in a straight line. It is suggested therefore that this may be some kind of ditch, possibly a relict field boundary which was lost when the farm was consolidated at a much later period.

Immediately north of the eastern linear can be seen an area of strong magnetic disturbance, measuring 29m north-south by 24m east-west (2). Its core comprises of irregular shaped anomalies which appear arranged in a rectilinear fashion. These may be indicative of a structure of some kind, possibly of industrial function. Surrounding both features are a large number of curvilinear and rectilinear anomalies, with two observed (no. 3). The dimensions of these anomalies range from 12m to 15m in size.

Another linear anomaly is visible within the southernmost half of the survey area. The anomaly appears to be three sided and may have been a polygonal enclosure of some kind (4). Within and to the western side of this linear anomaly are a series of wavey linear anomalies (5). These have been interpreted as ridge and furrow plough marks, as it is known from aerial photography and toponymic evidence that the fields in this area have been ploughed over a long period of time.

Figure 13: Geophysical data from Field 1.

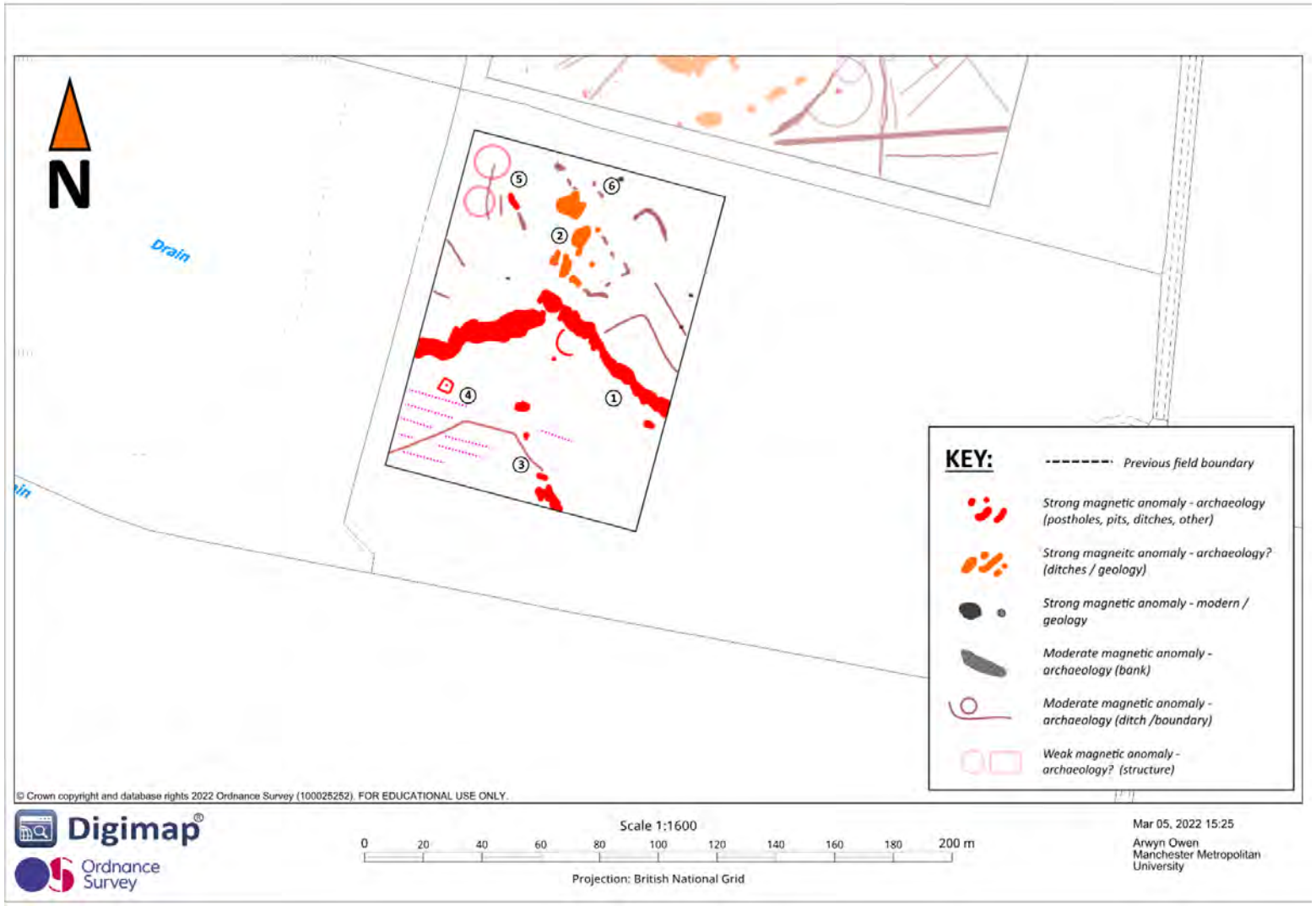


Figure 14: Interpretation of Field 1 results.

4.6.2 - Field 2

As the second largest area surveyed, totalling 42 grids, Field 2 (Grids GI and GM) was run on an intermittent schedule, given unexpected and considerable delays adding to the length of time it took for completion (Figure 31).

While certain comparisons can be made between anomalies seen here and other areas surveyed, the quality of the results varied in parts of the study area. The results (see Figure 16) in GI are visually poor within the centre of the survey area, which may be attributed to a potential mix of both environmental and technical factors (see section 4.6.8, p. 127). By contrast, the results of both GM and GR survey areas are clearer, making it easier to identify potential archaeological anomalies within the field (see Figure 18, p. 112).

Immediately apparent are the two large, strong magnetic anomalies visible at the centre of Grid GI and east of GR. These, when grouped together, measure approximately 235m in length northeast to southwest and 45m at its widest (southern) point (no. 7, see Figure 18). The anomalies are seen to visible curve towards the northeast, with a linear feature (8) curving alongside most of its interior edge. Intriguingly, the cluster of anomalies appears to be placed outside the earthworks on site (see Image 32, below) and given their magnetic nature may be assumed to be a series of deep, parallel ditches of some sort. A break near the south could have been an entrance, possibly a 'horn work entrance'.

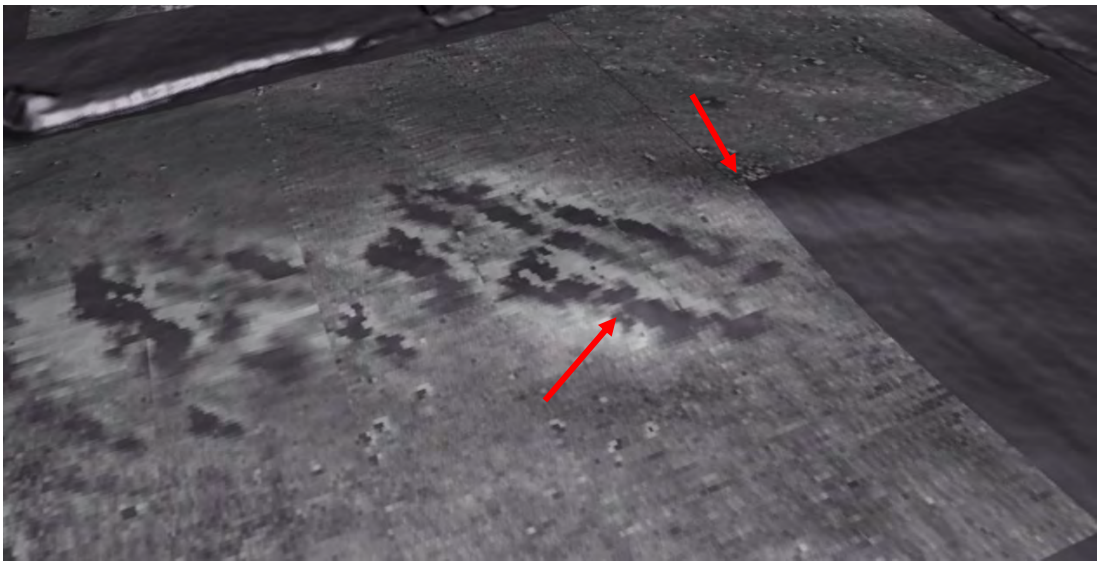


Image 34 Geophysical results superimposed onto LiDAR data via Blender, showing large anomalies in GI survey area (pre GR survey) in relation to the earthworks visible on site (arrowed). Model shared with kind permission by Viktoria Hartzig.

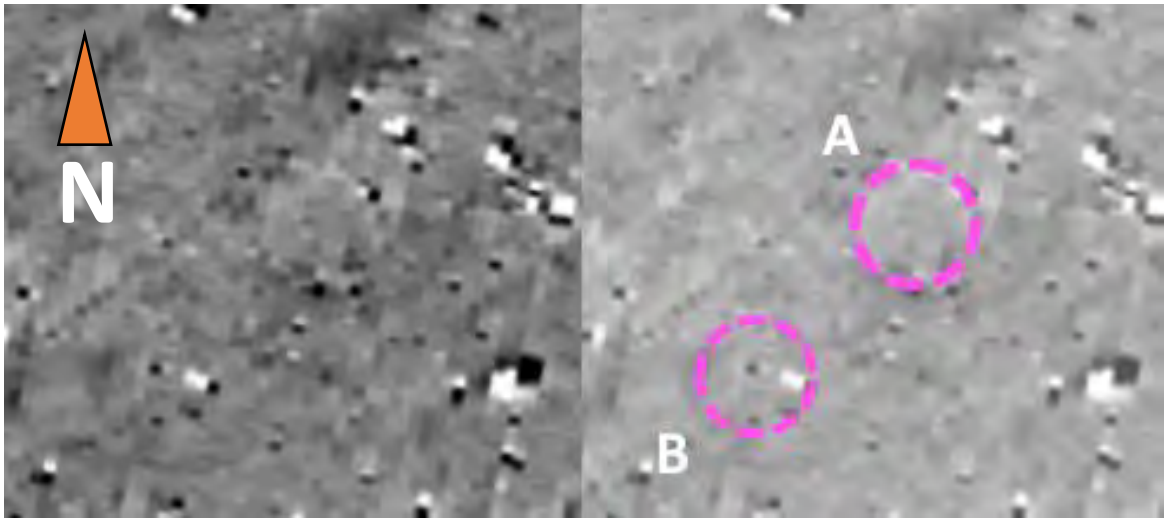


Figure 15: Section of geophysical data from GI (left), with curvilinear anomalies highlighted (right).

The majority of the survey area contains evidence of strong and weak magnetic signals consistent with curvilinear anomalies, with 15 strong anomalies and at least 23 weak anomalies, totalling 38. The majority of these anomalies are within the earthworks, measuring between 3m and 16m in diameter and may be structural – i.e., roundhouses. The clearest of these anomalies can be found in GI (9), measuring approximately 11m in diameter (see Figure 15, A), along with a fainter curvilinear anomaly to the southwest see Figure 15, B). Other anomalies include a possible rectilinear enclosure measuring approximately 36m by 44m (10), with at least one curvilinear anomaly inside, along with a group of anomalies to the southwest of the survey area (12), including an arrangement of strong magnetic anomalies which may be stake holes. Twin parallel anomalies are seen running towards the earthworks from the southeast, measuring approximately 74m in length and may be the remains of a trackway (13).

A field boundary seen running in the centre of this field in 1889, before being removed by 1915 (compare Map 5 and Map 6, p. 40) was not identified in the data. This may have been due to its construction, presumably more of a fence rather than a 'clawdd', although traces of a modern pipe can be seen in the south-eastern corner of the site (14), cutting across a series of earlier linear anomalies.

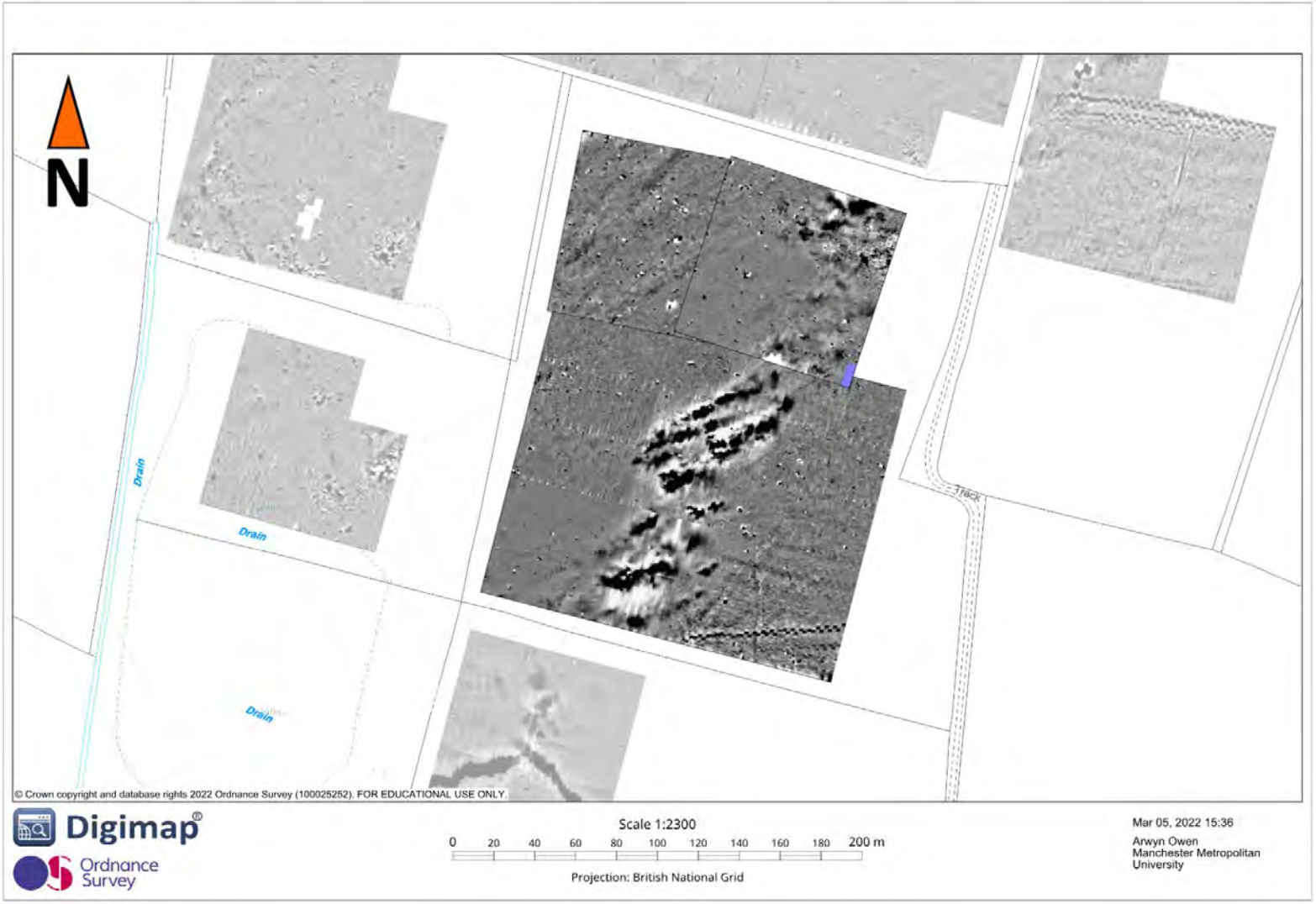


Figure 16: Geophysical data from Field 2.

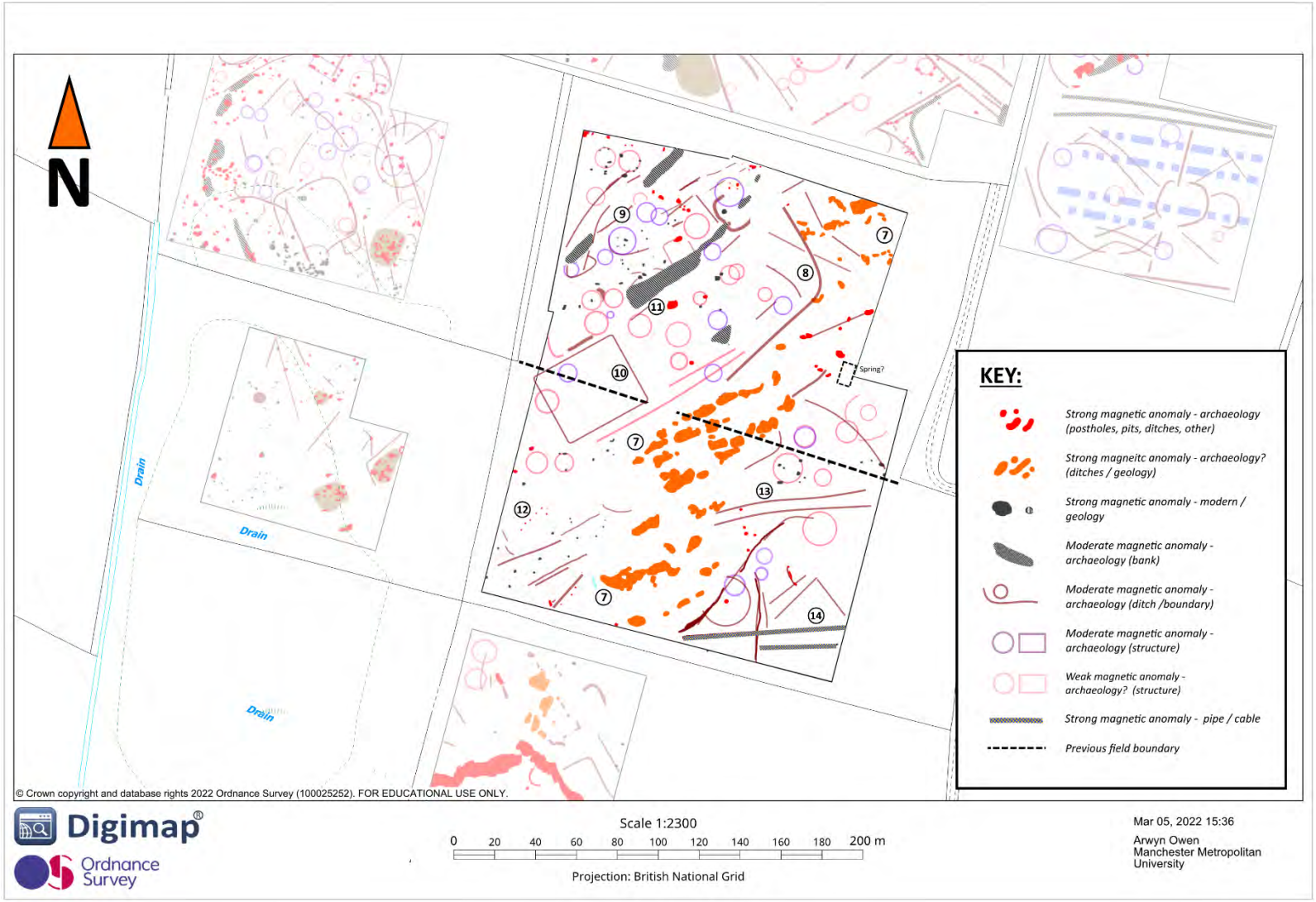


Figure 17: Interpretation of geophysical results from Field 2.

4.6.3 - Field 3

The southwestern field of the survey area, Field 3 (GJ) was the third area surveyed, consisting of 8 grids total (see Figure 29, p. 16). The final grid was not surveyed due to tall compact rush and stringing nettles (up to chest height) prohibiting safe access and obstructing movement in this area.

Given its proximity to the marsh, with the exception of ferrous material, a lack of anomalies further west was expected. The majority of anomalies are in the northern and eastern sections of the survey area, with the largest being a 41m linear running along the external face of the bank (15, see Figure 21, p. 119). Traces of pit anomalies can be seen to the northeast (16).

An area of high magnetic disturbance can be seen within the centre of the survey area, located atop the large western bank (no. 17). It is unclear as to what its relation is with the bank but given the magnetic disturbance it may have been a defensive structure.

Within the south-eastern section of the survey area are a series of larger magnetic disturbances (nos. 18 and 19), with said anomalies terminating on a straight line running north easterly to south westerly in direction. It is unclear as to what these anomalies might be, but they appear to be structural, and possibly aligned to raised earthworks seen in Field 2 (see Figure 18, p. 92 = 11).

Intriguingly, the geophysical data does not identify strong negative magnetic anomalies, suggestive of a stone rampart. It is possible therefore that the boulders observed in the cut ditch section (see were possibly a ‘base’ for an earthen rampart, with said boulders having been piled to the side during ditch digging work in the 1970s.

4.6.4 - Field 4

The north-western field, Field 4 (GK), consists of 12 grids. Similar to Field 3 thick compact rush and nettle coverage in areas to the north and across the first row of grids restricted movement and access. This was also compounded with recent ditch clearing in the eastern side, rendering the area inaccessible.

The complexity of the anomalies identified in this corner (see Figure 21) shows how little this field has been damaged by modern agriculture. A complex array of curvilinear,

rectilinear, linear and pit anomalies, of varying magnetic strength, are seen across all areas. The corner bank of the earthworks appears clearly visible within the geophysical data (21, Figure 22, p.114), aligning perfectly with the LiDAR data of the earthworks (see Image 34). The series of strong negative magnetic anomalies along the exterior of the bank faces suggest it may have been partially timber faced - a distinct curve within a break in the earthworks (20, see Figure 22) may have possibly served as an entrance. Furthermore, overlaying the data atop a LiDAR model may also suggest a possible second defensive bank within Field 5 (see Image 34), possibly the remains of a multivallate defence (B).

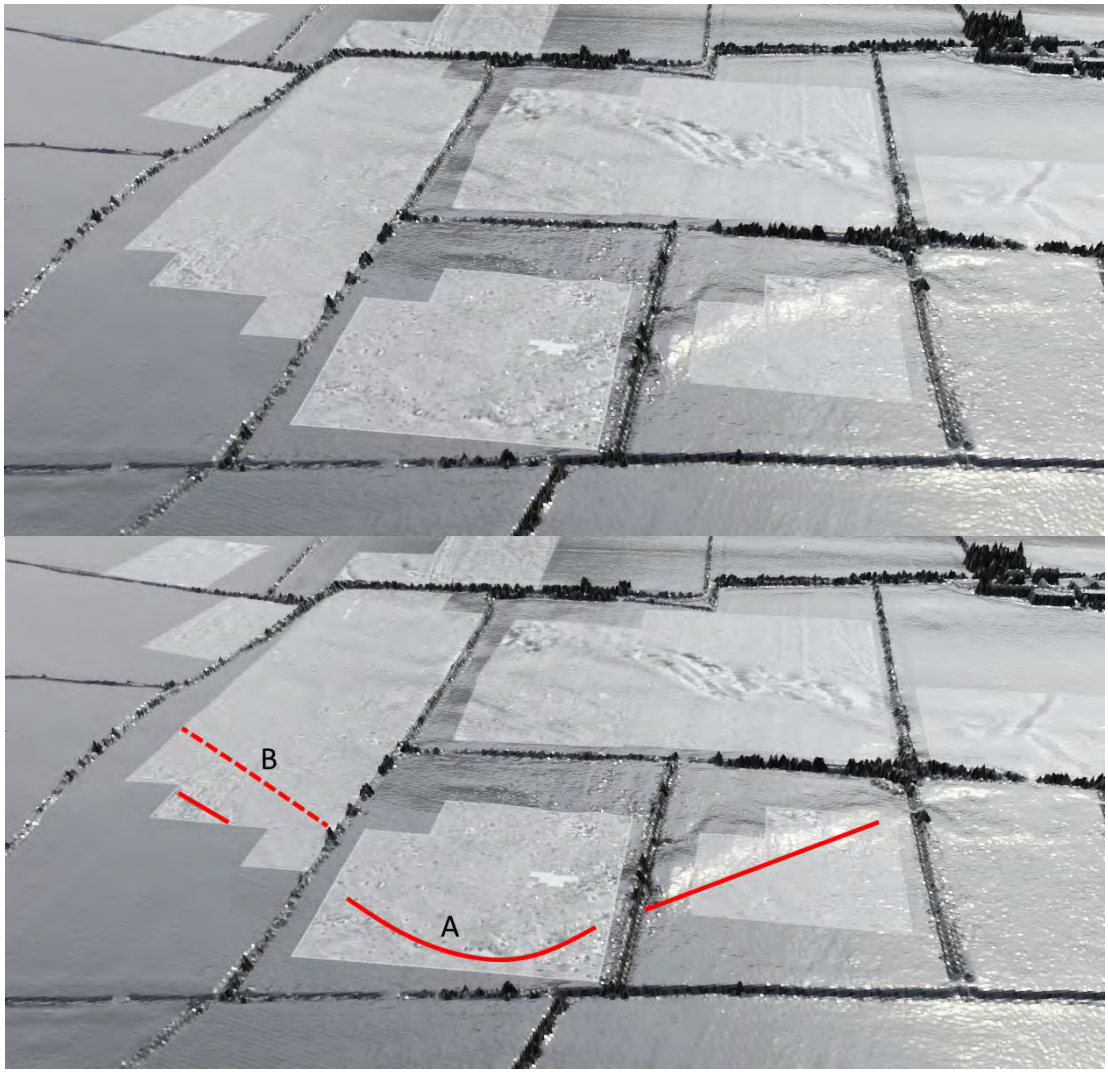


Image 35: Geophysical results superimposed onto LiDAR and satellite imagery of site (above), showing relation of strong magnetic linear anomaly with bank (A), indicative of a possible timber facing. Dashed line (B) suggestive of secondary bank (multivallate). Model shared with kind permission by Viktoria Hartzig.

A significant number of linear anomalies can be seen towards the eastern half of the survey area. The longest of these measuring approximately 60m in length and seen to curve.

Curvilinear (22) and rectilinear (23) anomalies, measuring approximately 32m each respectively, may have functioned as enclosures. Another curvilinear anomaly can be seen outside the earthworks, with a number of strong magnetic anomalies around its circumference (24), 18 in total. Measuring 24m long and 17m wide, the larger curvilinear anomaly appears to enclose a smaller anomaly approximately 11m in diameter (see Figure 20).

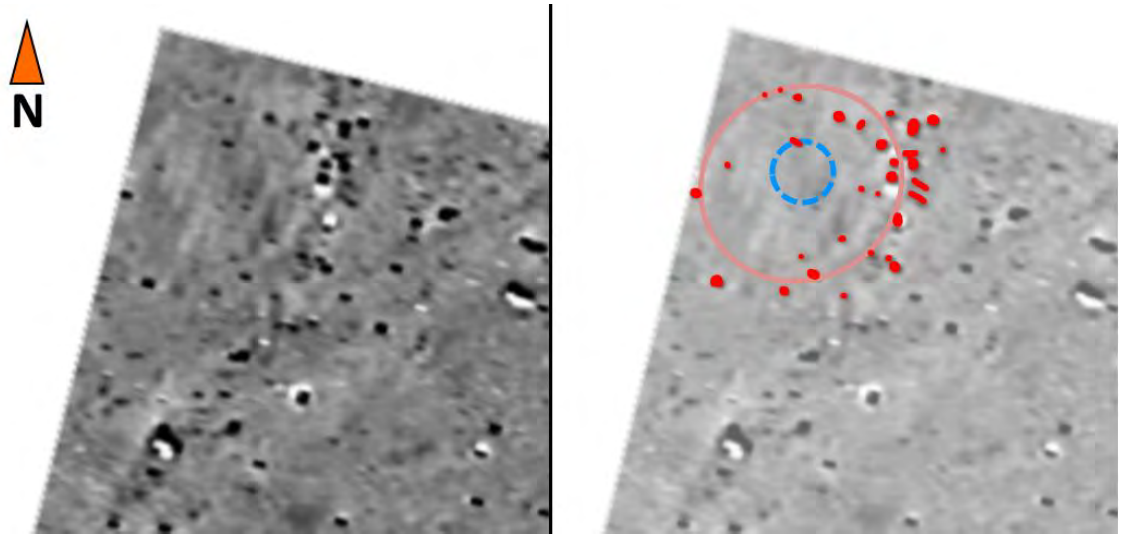


Figure 18: Section of geophysical data from GK (left), with curvilinear and associated pit anomalies highlighted (right).

The interior of the earthworks contain a significant number of curvilinear anomalies similar to Field 2, along with several rectilinear anomalies. Of the 21 curvilinear anomalies, 14 were moderately strong magnetic anomalies, with a further seven weaker anomalies, measuring between 6m and 12m in diameter. Of these anomalies the one within the curvilinear enclosure (22) is the strongest, measuring 10m in diameter and consiting of a series of strong magnetic anomalies possibly indicative of postholes.

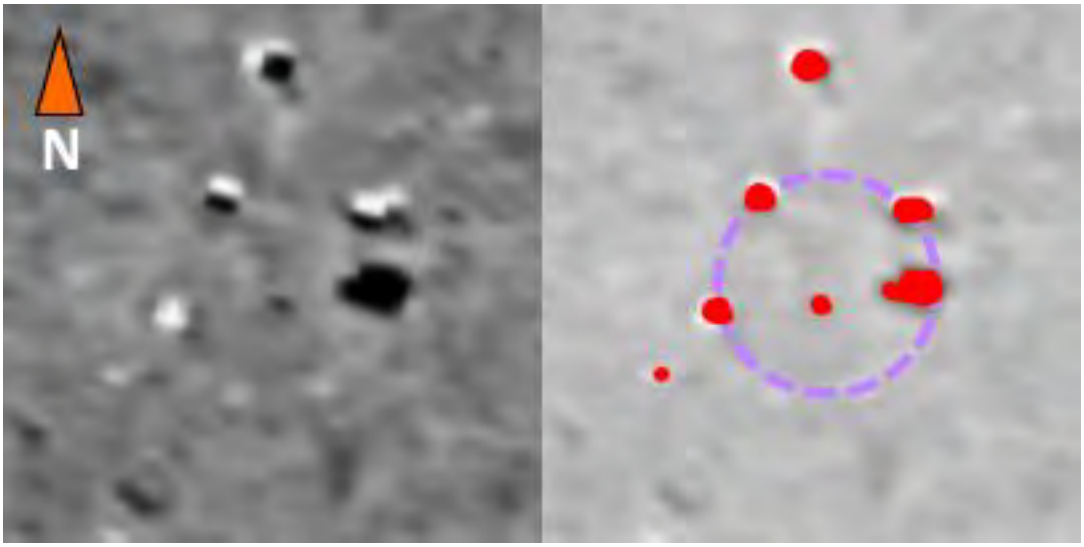


Figure 19: Section of geophysical data from GK (left), with curvilinear and associated pit anomalies highlighted (right).

Similar to Field 3, another area of high magnetic disturbance (no. 28) could also be observed in the south-eastern corner of the survey area. The anomaly has defined edges, appearing rectilinear in shape, and measures approximately 18m long by 16m wide, and orientated in a north-south direction. The anomaly may be the remains of some kind of stone structure. While a series of strong magnetic anomalies to the south of the survey area may be archaeological (27), it is currently believed that these may be the remnants of material disturbed during ditch digging, as these appear on a rise near the recent ditch.

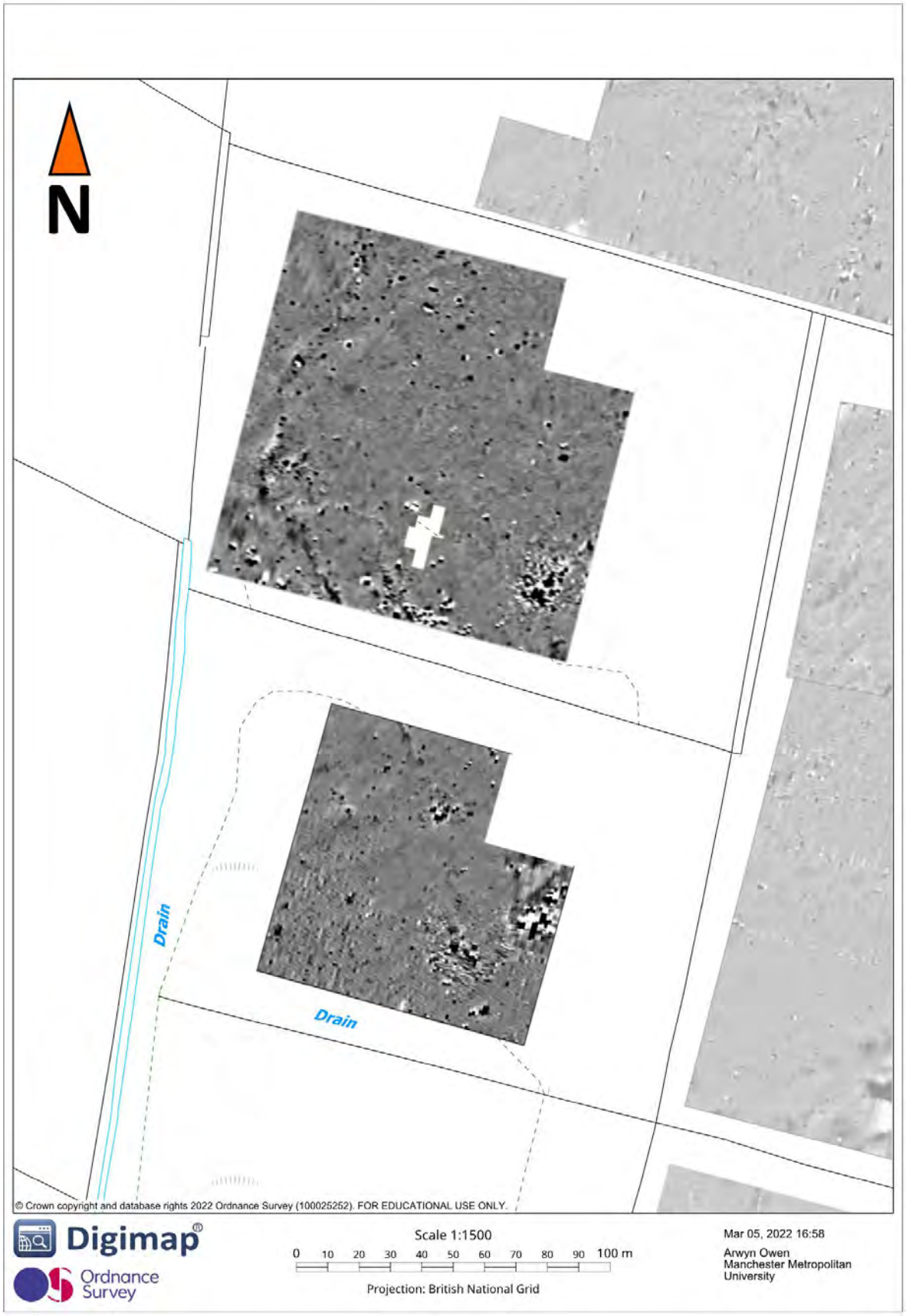


Figure 20: Geophysical data from Fields 3 and 4.

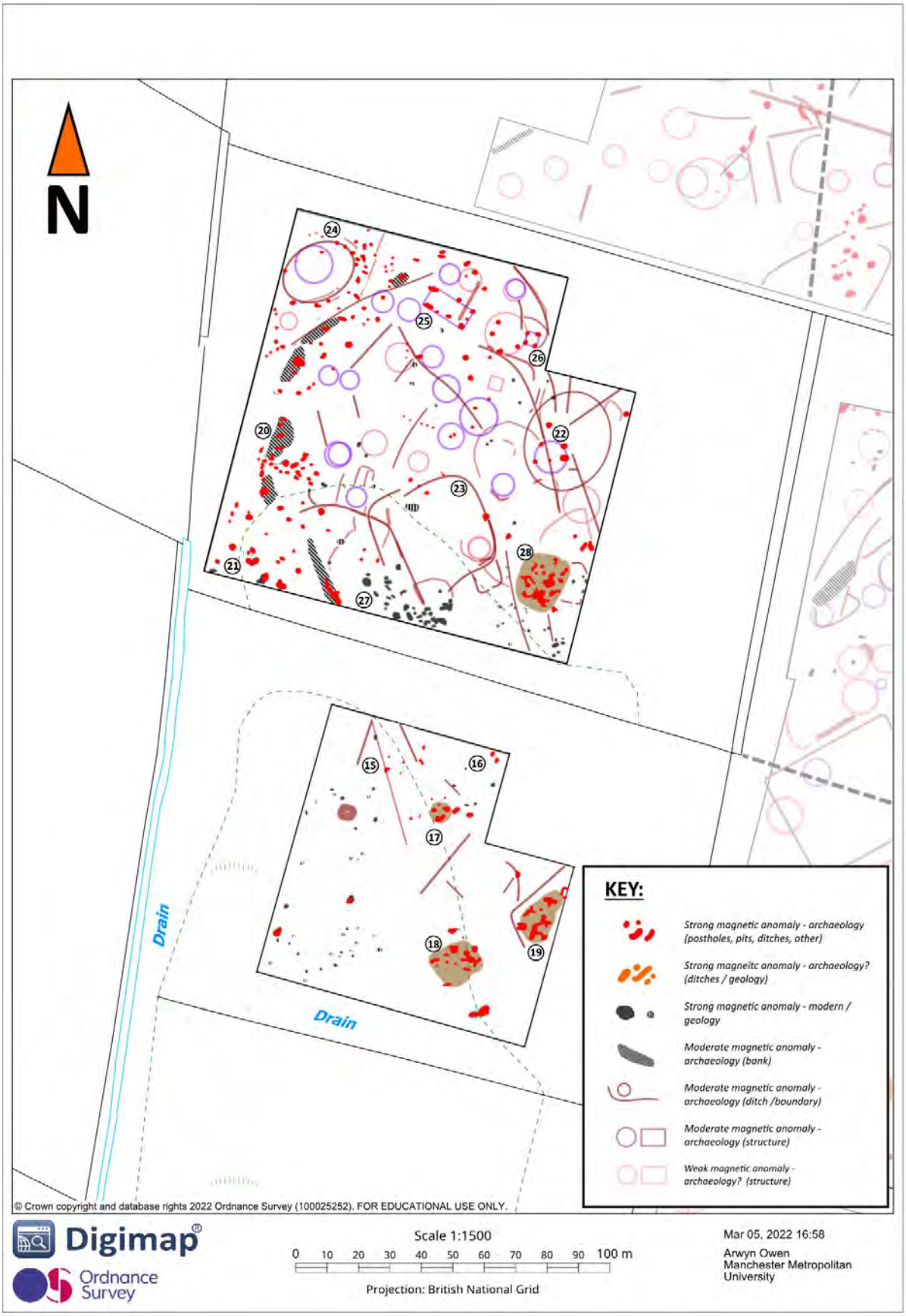


Figure 21: Interpretation of results of Fields 3 and 4.

4.6.5 - Field 5

Work on Field 5 was affected due to the presence of a series of hay bales on the field. Despite this, the good condition of the soil and lack of tall grasses and weeds allowed for coverage of the majority of the site, with a focus on the earthworks and interior in particular. A total of 39 grids were surveyed, two of which were partial (see Figure 29, p. 130).

The curvilinear earthwork visible in Field 4 (20, see Figures 24 and 25, pp. 122-3) was traceable in this field (29 and 30) for most of its length, measuring approximately 100m long and running towards the northeast. A large section of the earthwork (30) shows a series of linear anomalies consistent with plough damage, with ploughing seen at other areas of the site (31). Again, a series of strong magnetic anomalies on its exterior face may be associated with the earthwork, possibly ditches of further evidence of timber facing.

To the east of the survey area are a pair of twin linear anomalies which appear to run parallel with each other (32). The longest of these, measuring approximately 112m, appears to interact with anomalies visible in Field 6 (see Figure 24, p. 122). It remains unclear whether this is part of the ditch of a larger enclosure further east, or possibly the remnants of an earlier trackway, which potential traces of said track visible in Field 8 (see Figure 28, p. 131). It is interesting to note however that these anomalies appear to intersect a curvilinear anomaly, measuring 42m wide by 36m long, with twin protruding linear features running towards the southwest from said anomaly (33).

Traces of a small, raised bank are visible in the south-eastern corner of the survey area (34), with a series of linear and globular magnetic anomalies, the latter of which may be either the remains of pits or modern farming waste. A secondary large linear, measuring approximately 145m in length, is seen to curve towards the earthworks to the west of the survey area (35), intersecting with a series of other linear anomalies (36), the longest of which seen to curve towards the southeast.

As seen in other survey areas, a number of curvilinear anomalies are visible in this field, although most are faint, with others presumably lost due to subsequent deep ploughing in this field in recent years. These measure between 4m and 25m in diameter, with the best preserved nearest the earthwork (37).

Two areas of magnetic disturbance are seen in the survey area. The southern anomaly (38), measuring 25m long and 19m wide, may be the disturbed remains of an earthwork, as one is seen here in the LiDAR data. The northern anomaly (39), measuring approximately 13m long by 10m wide, contains a number of small magnetic anomalies which may have been structural, with their curvilinear shape suggestive of postholes for a possible roundhouse. Another series of positive magnetic anomalies is visible south (40), these however may be modern given their association with a small mound near the now lost field boundary identified in the 1945 aerial photo of the site (see Appendix 6, p. 166 - A.)

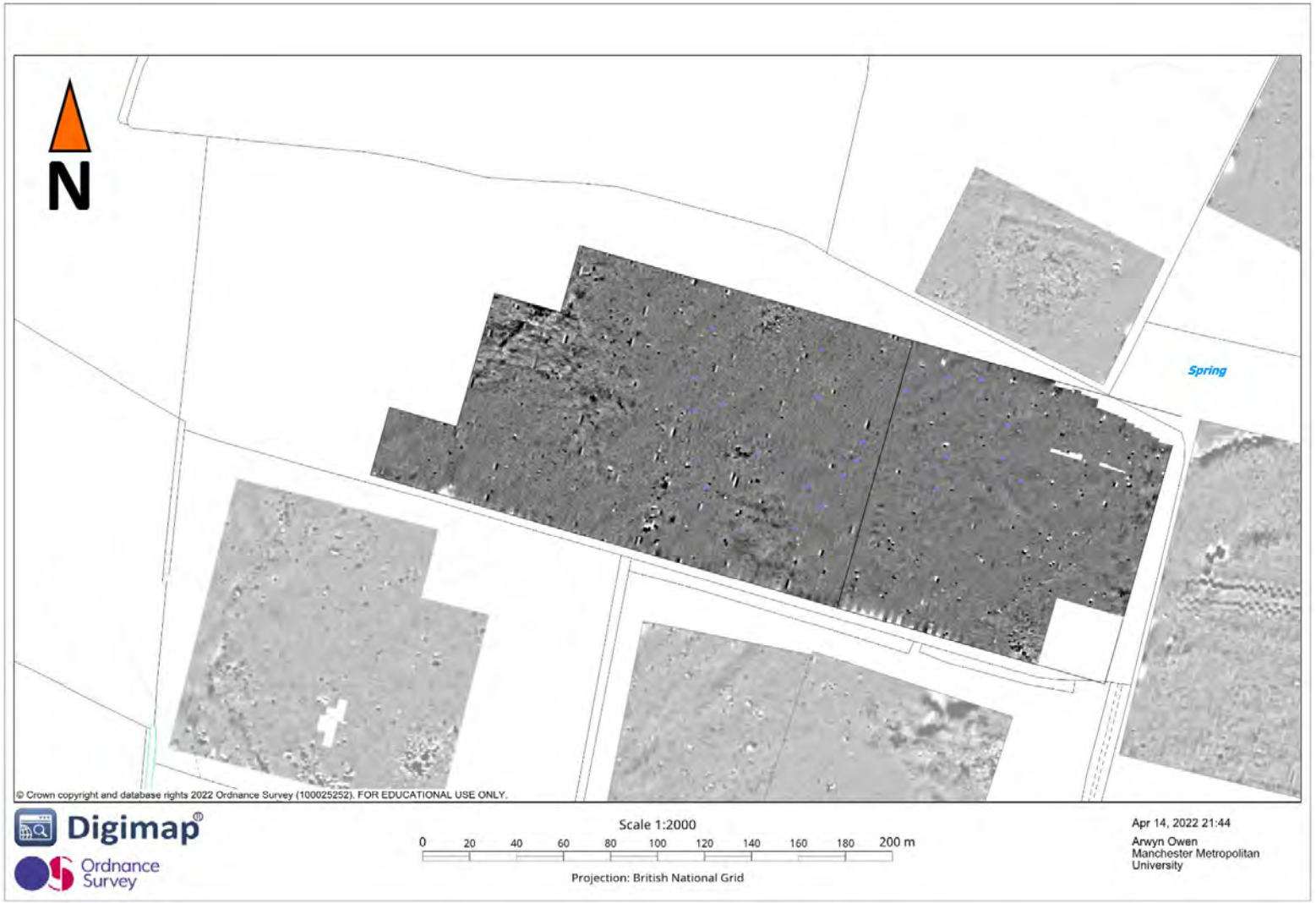


Figure 22: Geophysical results from Field 5.

Figure 23:Interpretation of Field 5 results.

4.6.6 - Fields 6 and 7

Following kind permission by both Mr Dorian Hughes (landowner) and Mr Arthur Davies (tenant farmer), the next series of fields surveyed studied the possible earthworks outside of Glan Gors (see Figures 24 and 25). Ground condition was good, with dry weather allowing for a quick survey. Both Fields 6 and 7 were completed in one day, with the grids in Field 6 positioned over earthworks visible within the LiDAR data (see Figure 12, p. 82 – B.4).

Regarding Field 6, the results were amongst the clearest surveyed (see Figures 25 and 26, pp. 128-9), with anomalies aligning to most features visible on the surface. The extent of the earthworks, measuring approximately 66m long by 52m wide, was apparent through the concentric bank and ditch system visible on the geophysical data (41), measuring at least 7m thick. Traces of another possible bank and ditch were visible towards the north-western corner of the survey area, with ran for approximately 24m in an east to west direction (42).

The interior of the earthworks consisted of an area of magnetic disturbance which ran west, with a protruding area suggestive of a possible entrance. Within the magnetic area are the visible remains of a curvilinear anomaly measuring 27m in diameter (43). This anomaly is placed directly atop a raised mound within the centre of the earthworks. It is unclear as to whether this is a structure or possibly the remains of another enclosure which may pre or post-date the earthworks. Traces of smaller curvilinear anomalies were identified within the enclosure, measuring 6m in diameter, one of which surrounded by strong magnetic anomalies, possibly indicative of pits or postholes (44). A linear anomaly running west of the earthworks south may be the termination point of the linear visible in Field 5 (see 4.6.5, p. 116).

By contrast, the anomalies in Field 7 are less defined, yet a series of linear anomalies (no. 47) may represent earthworks. Above these anomalies are what appear to be traces of a rectilinear enclosed anomaly, aligned north-east to southwest, measuring approximately 18m long by 14m wide. Despite evidence of ploughing (46) and an intruding pipe in the southern half of the survey are (49), at least six curvilinear anomalies were identified. The presence of twin parallel linear anomalies to the north is of interest, given that they bear similarities to a possible trackway identified via geophysical survey at Carrog farm near Llanfechell (Owen & Woods, 2022). It is possible therefore that this could be another

trackway, presumably entering into the earthworks from the north, although it's possible that this may be the remains of a curvilinear ditched boundary (see 5.2.2 - Figure 40, p. 148).

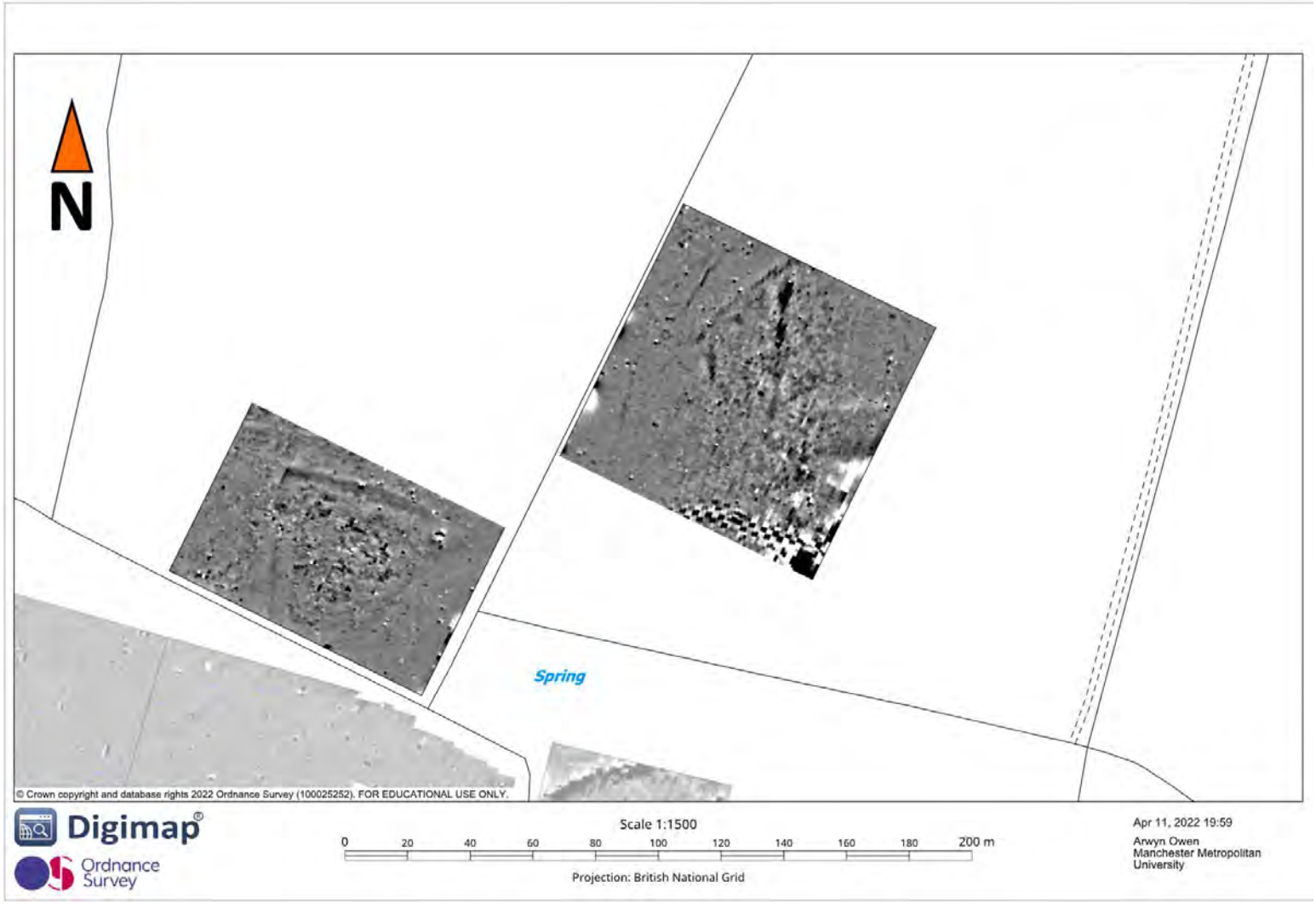


Figure 24: Geophysical data from Fields 6 and 7.

Figure 25: Interpretation of results of Fields 6 and 7.

4.6.7 – Field 8

The discovery of the rectilinear cropmark in this field resulted in the decision to survey this area in order to develop an understanding of this potential archaeological feature. The results from this survey failed to identify the enclosure seen in the Google image – it is possible that the site has been subsequently destroyed due to deep ploughing (see Figure 26, p. 125– compare with 3.4.4, - Image 21, p. 76). Despite this, there does appear to be surviving evidence of previously unrecorded archaeology in the landscape – these include a series of staggered strong magnetic anomalies (52, see Figure 28) which are suggestive of a twin parallel ditch system – possibly a trackway or boundary of some kind. Immediately south the large, moderately magnetic linear anomalies (53) may be interpreted as being evidence of ridge and furrow ploughing of earlier date. Parts of these are interrupted with a series of linear anomalies including a possible small oval enclosure (54) and linear anomaly running atop it (55).

In order to take in the protruding earthworks visible on LiDAR (see Figure 12, p. 82) the survey was extended by four grids to the north in order to overlay this feature. A strong magnetic anomaly was identified in the north-western corner of this survey area (55) which, along with suspected bank shaped anomalies, appear to form a small rectilinear enclosure measuring approximately 39m wide by at least 60m long. Within this enclosed area are a series of smaller anomalies (56), consisting of at least five curvilinear anomalies with one rectilinear anomaly, reassuring approximately 5.5m long by 5.7m wide, with a globular strong magnetic reading at its centre. Its shape and size are quite unusual, being comparable in some sense to broad ditch square shaped barrows as seen at Boysack Mills, Angus (Murray & Ralston, 1997), which could suggest an Iron Age date. If it is a grave that it is likely to be of a later date, as square enclosed ‘shrine’ graves are recorded nearby such as those discovered on fields nearby Trefollwyn, Rhosmeirch (Davidson, et al., 2002)

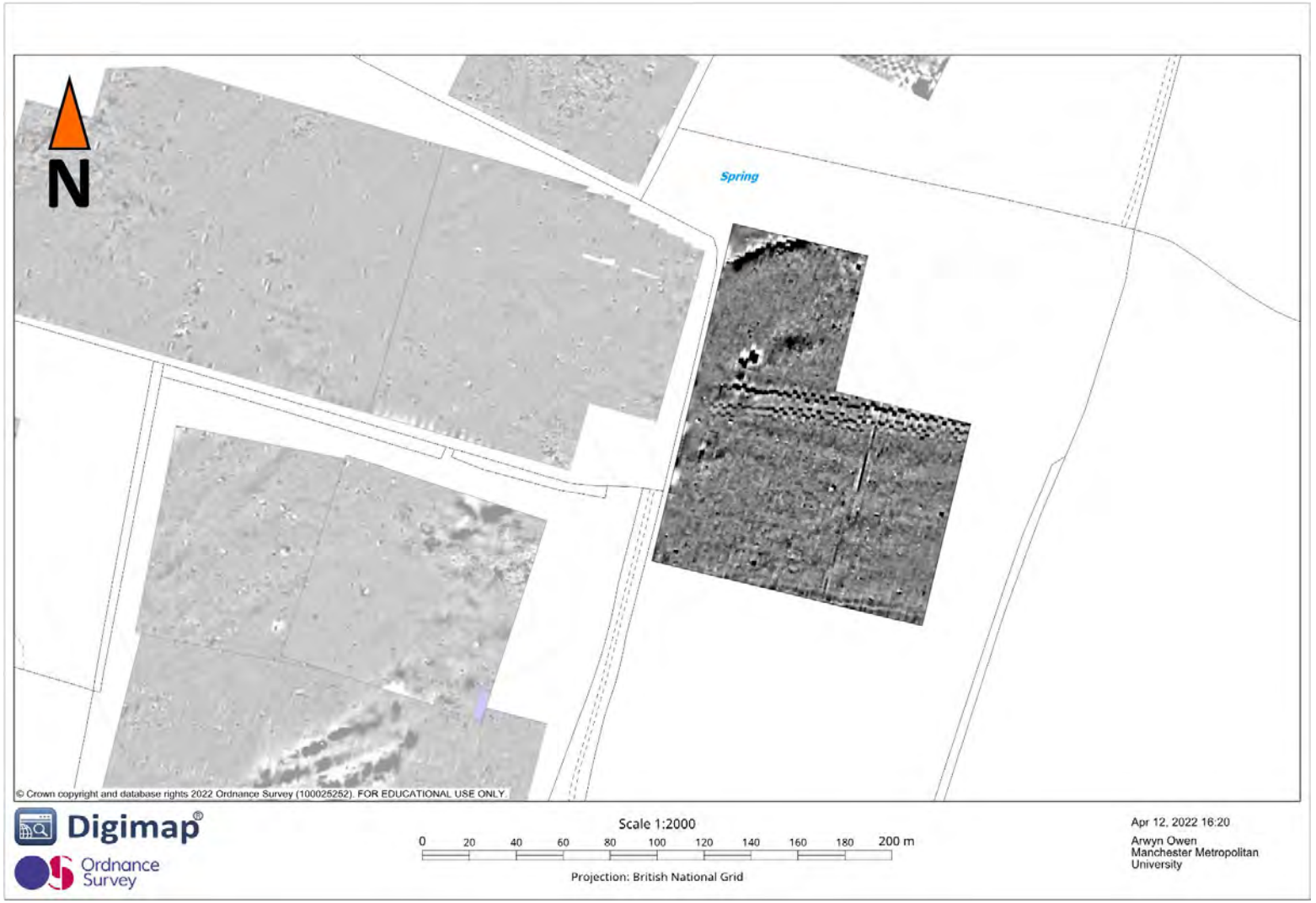


Figure 26: Geophysical results from Field 8.

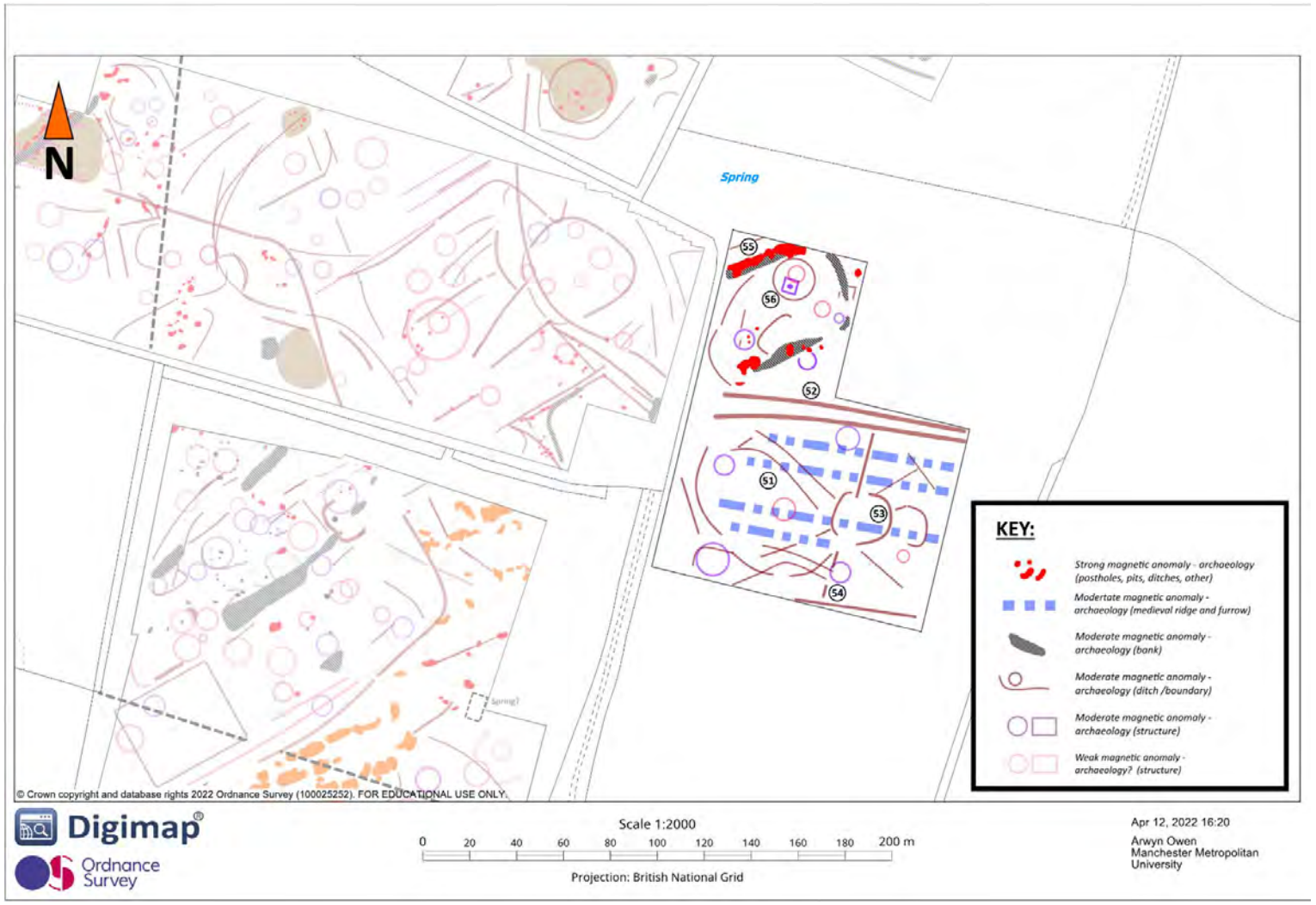


Figure 27: Interpretation of Field 8 results.

4.6.8 - Geophysical Survey results conclusion

The use of geophysical survey in identifying potential archaeology at this site has proven to be mostly successful, with most areas surveyed identifying potential archaeology within the study area.

However, the second field provided the most mixed results when using magnetometry survey techniques. Currently, it is believed that a myriad of factors may have played into this, including technical faults, magnetic disturbance, and possibly poor geological conditions. These are discussed as follows:

Faulty equipment - At three gradiometers were used on the first series of grids in this field (GI), with the first two devices developing hardware issues on the second and fourth day of work. This may have been an ongoing issue with the third magnetometer as well and may have developed as a result of a poor calibration point, possibly the result of metal underground (i.e., an undiscovered iron pipe) which may have mis calibrated the device over time.

Metallic ground / surveyor - It is unclear whether this is due to the geology of the area (as the ground water in the eastern ditch was seen to be rich in iron based on iron oxides on its sides), or whether the author's body, registering as highly magnetic, may have interfered with the probes. Either explanation may explain the poor quality of the results further north, an issue which seems to improve further east – possibly due to a change in underlying geology. The issue appeared to have been largely fixed by the second series of grids (GM). It is possible that an environmental factor in the authors area of upbringing (an area rich in granite) may have also played a contributing factor.

Poor soil conditions – A comparison for the quality of results can be made between this site and Ynys Fawr, located approximately 3.1km to the north. The site, believed to be early Christian or possibly even prehistoric in date, consists of a curvilinear bank encompassing a low mound, with evidence of suggested early Christian activity based on the discovery of burials on the site, although Romano-British querns have also been found nearby. Apart from an area of magnetic disturbance on the mound itself, the gradiometer survey failed to identify any further features – with reasons being either unfavourable weather conditions during the time of survey or nonconductive features due to poor soil quality in this region

(Davidson, et al., 2002, pp. 44-45; Appendix 8: 109-110). Another point to consider as well may be high iron oxide contents in the soil as a result of 'bog iron', which can be seen in some of the nearby ditches of Field 2.

Despite these issues other parts of the survey area provided clearer results - Fields 4 and 6 for instance provided strong indications of potential structures within and outside the Cestyll Byrion earthworks. Furthermore, any potential archaeology underneath may be in good condition, despite subsequent ploughing in recent years.

While only archaeological excavation can definitively prove all postulated findings, the methods employed here will no doubt prove beneficial in targeting specific areas of high archaeological potential within this vast site.

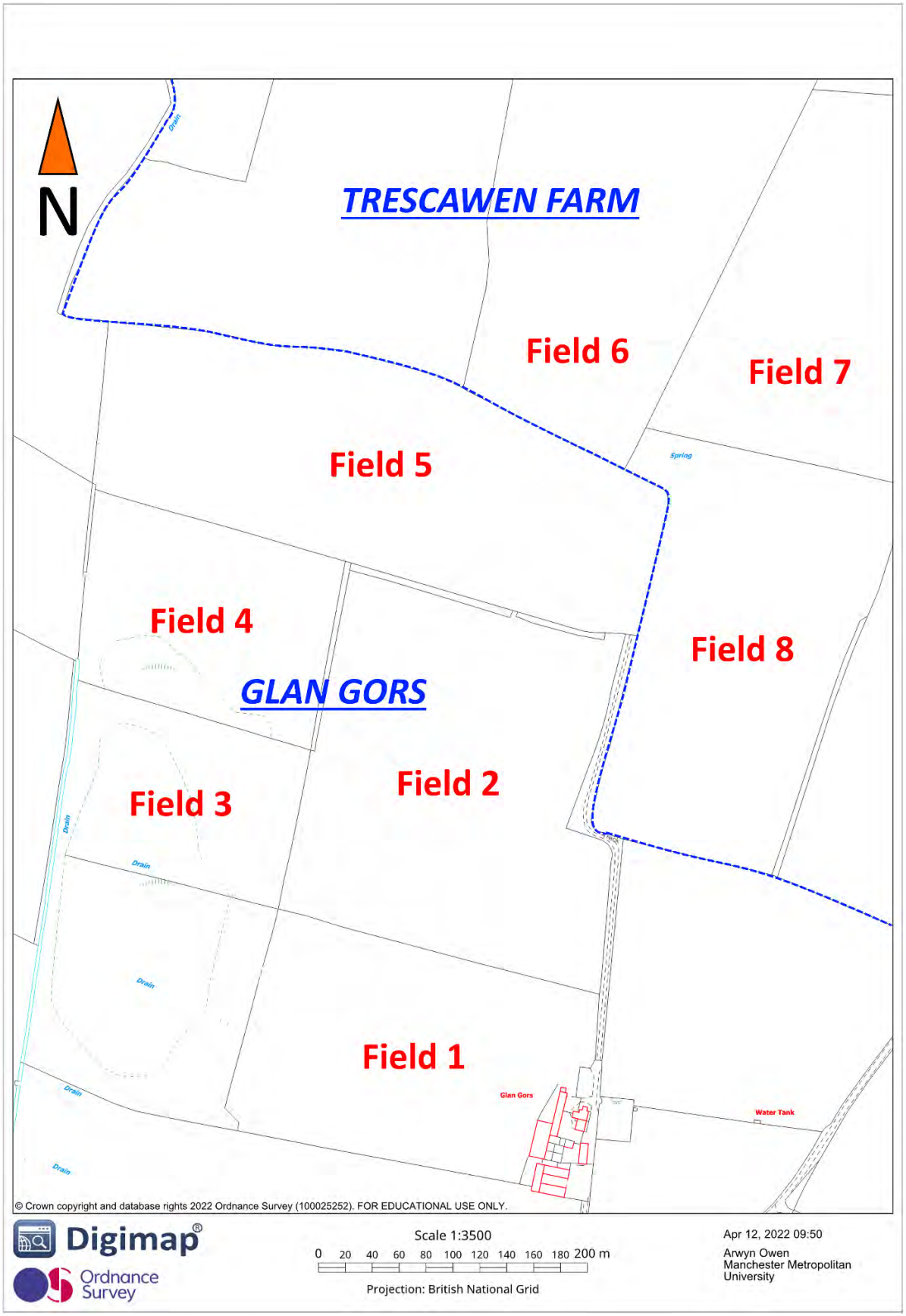


Figure 28: Fields surveyed, with boundary marked between Trescawen and Glan Gors farms.

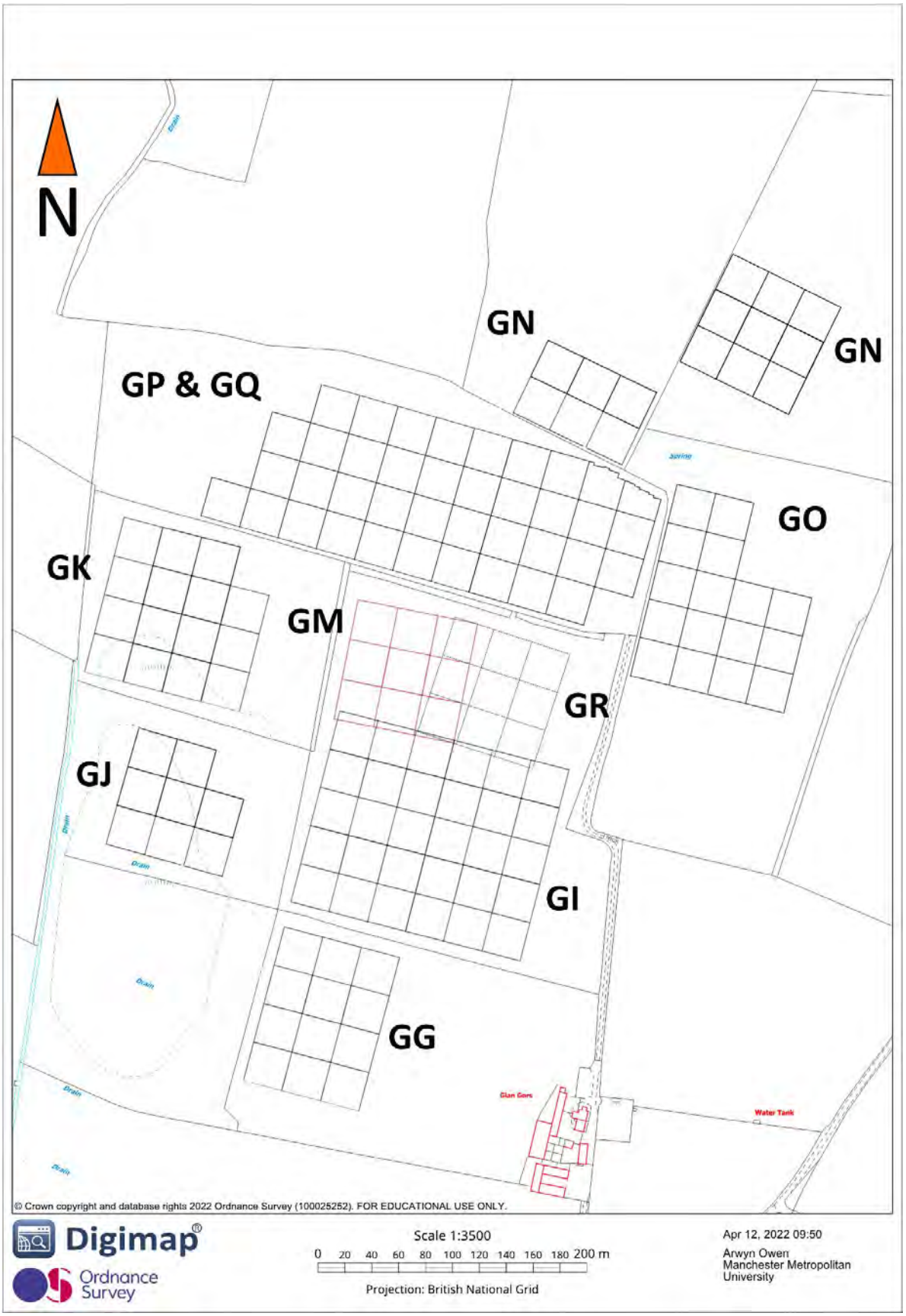


Figure 29: Outline of areas surveyed at Cestyll Byrion near Glan Gors, Llangwyllog.

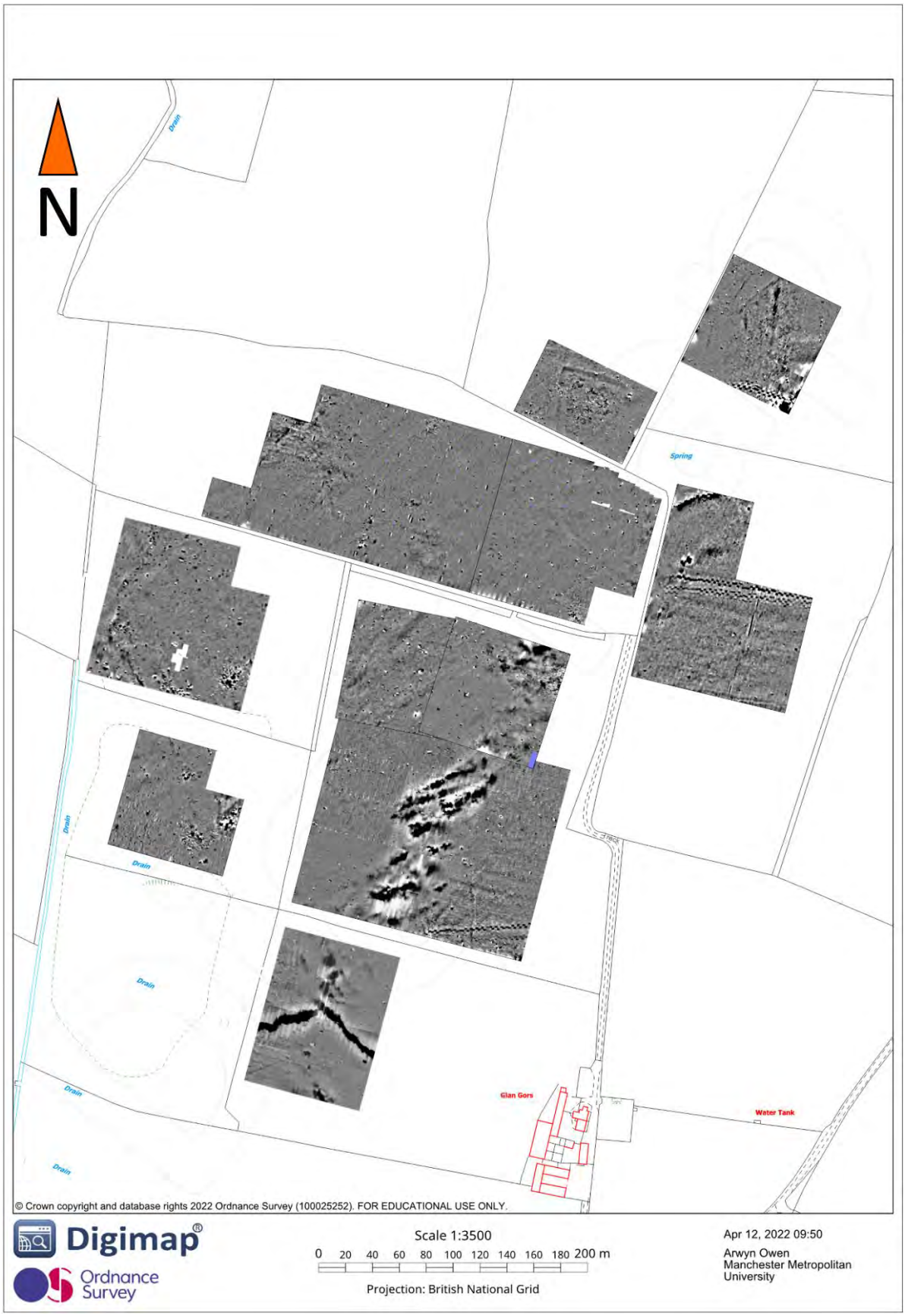


Figure 30:Geophysical survey results of Cestyll Byrion near Glan Gors, Llangwyllog

Figure 31: Interpretation of anomalies identified via geophysical survey of Cestyll Byrion near Glan Gors, Llangwyllog.

Chapter 5 - Discussion

5.1 – Discussion of multi-modal results.

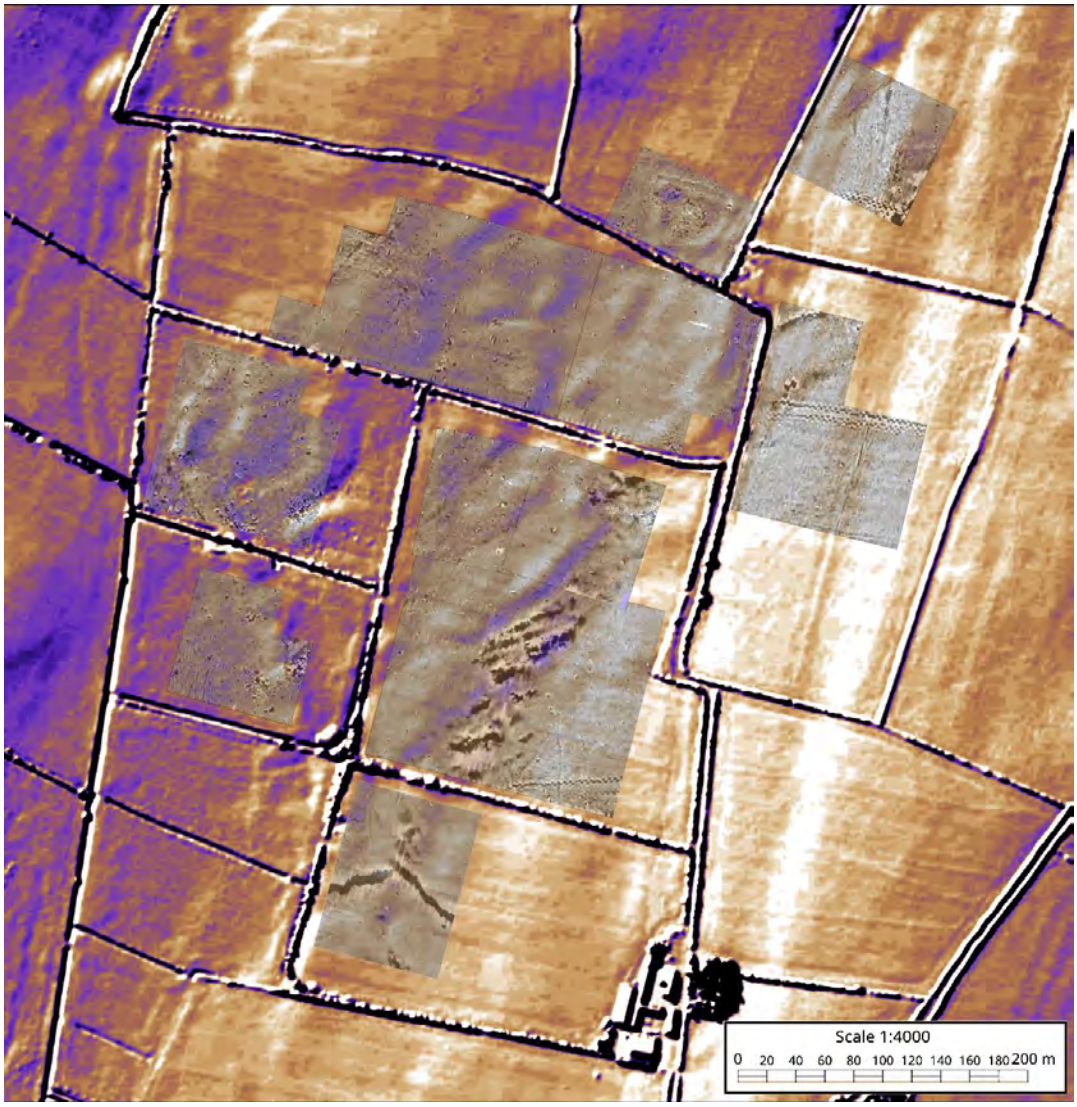


Figure 32: Overlay of geophysical results atop of LiDAR data.

When combining all modes of enquiry, the potential scale of the Cestyll Byrion site becomes ever increasingly apparent. While the geophysical data from the site shows potential evidence of occupation, historic aerial photography suggests the presence of further material within the immediate landscape.

The geophysical data of the site illustrates how complex a large site such as this can be, with several anomalies both appearing to align and mis-align with what's visible on the surface (see Figure 32). While it was initially expected that most of the earthworks would be

detectable, only a fraction was, particularly in the western areas of the survey area. The quantity of possible habitation places, identified as small curvilinear anomalies, is significant – in total at least 145 of these are observed – although it is important to stress that not all of these are potentially archaeological in nature. Of these the vast majority are concentrated within the earthworks, which is to be expected of a site of this scale, with few others located on its outer extremities.

If any of the curvilinear anomalies identified are indeed roundhouses, the readings imply a local variance of construction style unusual for Anglesey. Given the magnetic strength of the readings, this may possibly suggest that these potential structures at Cestyll Byrion are predominantly either timber, stake, or plank construction. While several examples of these methods of construction are recorded on the mainland (Waddington, 2013, pp. 56-60), the archaeological record of Anglesey suggests that stone or 'clay cob' was the preferred method.

Furthermore, the readings for stone-built roundhouses comparison are more distinct anomalies on geophysical survey- appearing as highly magnetic curvilinear anomalies. At Dinas Dinlle, Caernarfonshire, geophysical survey of the interior of a large multivallate hillfort (Hopewell, 2018), followed by subsequent excavation (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, 2021), uncovered large stone-built roundhouses (see Figure 33). Notable examples of this type of construction can be found all over the island including Holyhead Mountain (RCHAMW, 1937); Din Lligwy near Moelfre (Baynes, 1908); Pant y Saer near Lligwy (Philips, 1934) and Parc Dinmor near Penmon (Philips, 1932). A nearby example may also exist on the author's family farm at Meillion, Coedana – excavations carried out in 2010 recovered worked flint pieces as well as possible 'pot boilers' – pebbles which appear to have been exposed to extreme heat for cooking (unpublished).

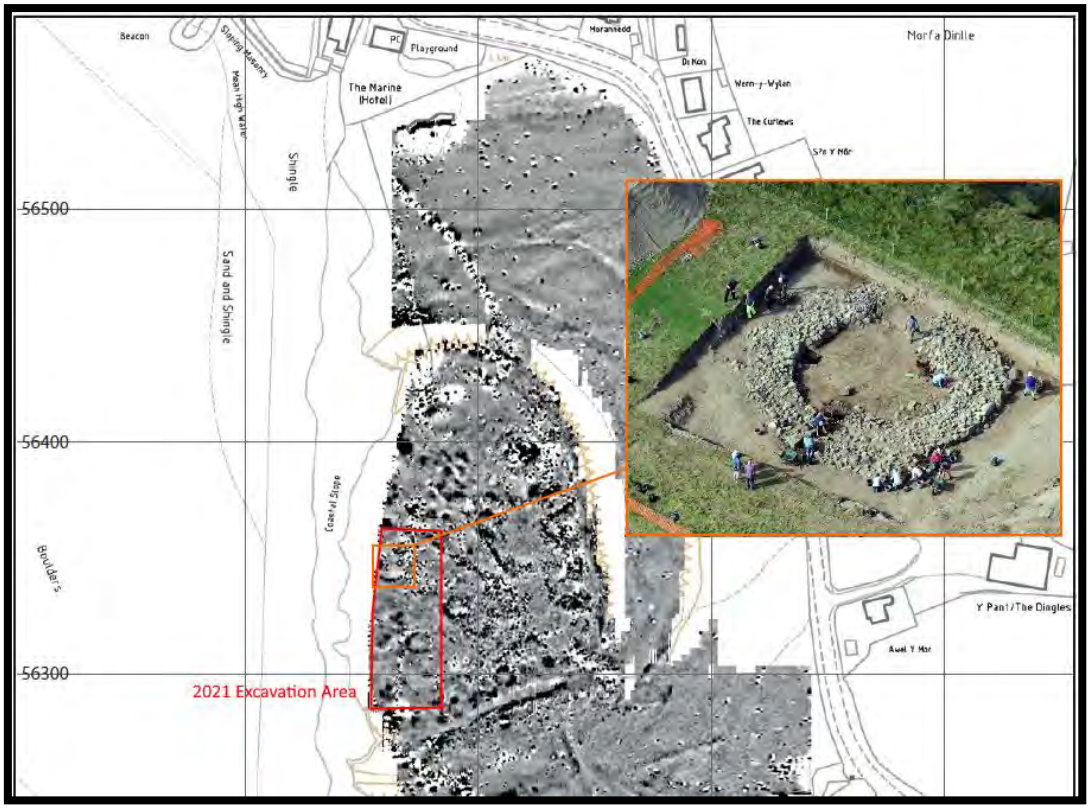


Figure 33: Gradiometer results of Dinas Dinlle, Caern. showing excavated roundhouse (CHERISH 2021).

However, hybrid examples of construction, mixing wood, stone, and clay, have been recorded at one roundhouse (S4) in a late prehistoric settlement site at Cefn Cwmwd near Llangefni (Roberts, et al., 2012). The roundhouses at Bryn Eryr, Llansadwrn, were also of a hybrid timber and clay cob construction (Longley, et al., 1998, pp. 188-9), indicating that there may have been regional variances in roundhouse construction on Anglesey during the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods (for reconstruction see Figure 34). It is possible that, given the name of the nearby parish 'Coedana' ('Aneu's woods'), that timber would have been a more plentiful, and presumably more convenient, building material.

It is clear that there wasn't a shortage of stone in the area – site visits have confirmed the presence of large quantities of easily accessible stone both at the site as well as within the various hedgerows and 'cloddiau' surrounding it. It is entirely possible that any stone structures that were extant above the surface may have been subsequently robbed over the centuries: both for clearing land for agriculture as well as utilising any stone for the erection of dry-stone walls or 'cloddiau' nearby.

Figure 34: Reconstructions of stone and 'clay cob' built roundhouses found at Bryn Eryr, Anglesey, now at St Fagan's Museum, Cardiff (https://museum.wales/stfagans /buildings/bryneryr/)

Although the author is confident for an early origin date for the site, its scale and complexity, given the extant geophysical and LiDAR data of the site, implies that Cestyll Byrion has been used over a long period of time, and it is entirely possible that multiple periods of activity may be represented in the data. Comparisons may be made with the landscape surrounding Bryn Celli Ddu near Llanddaniel Fab, which, when studied with geophysical and LiDAR techniques, have shown a complex ritual and domestic landscape occupied for thousands of years (Woods, 2021, pp. 109-131).

What is most remarkable is the clarity of many of these identified anomalies, suggesting areas of excellent preservation which may benefit from future investigations. The small enclosure visible in Field 6 for instance is immediately comparable to the 'courtyard settlement' identified at nearby Ynys Bach (Hopewell et. al. 2007). It is possible that both sites may be contemporary, although how this relates to the anomalies and features visible at Cestyll Byrion is unclear.

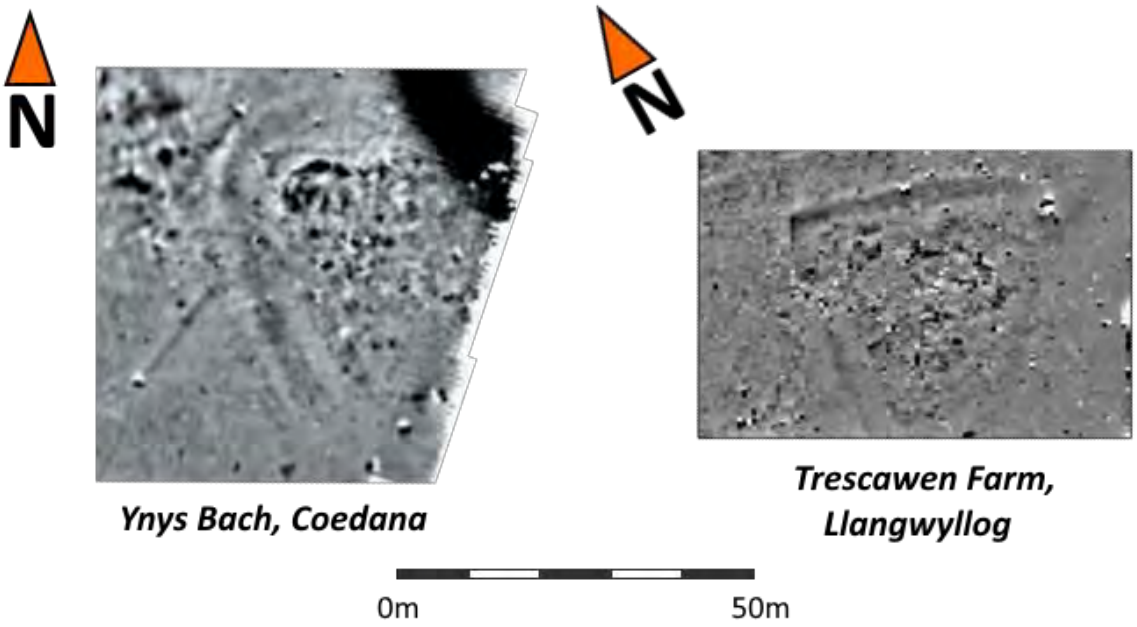


Figure 35: Comparison between anomalies at Ynys Bach (left - Hopewell et. al. 2007) and Trescawen Farm (right).

5.2 - Comparison of *Glan Gors* earthworks to other sites on Anglesey

The sheer size, scale, and shape of the Cestyll Byrion earthworks alone raises the potential significance of this site on both locally and regionally. A comparison to other enclosed sites on the island perfectly illustrates the vast nature of Glan Gors as an archaeological monument within the landscape (see Figure 36, p. 141).

Two of the largest hillforts on the island, Din Silwy and Caer y Twr, have comparably smaller interiors for occupation. This is assuming that sites such as Caer y Twr, which despite its large defensive stone wall, has provided little evidence of occupation within its interior, although it may have been intended at one stage (RCHAMW, 1937, p. 24). By comparison, antiquarian accounts report the presence of structures abutting the interior of the defensive walled rampart of Din Silwy (Williams, 1869, pp. 58-60). LiDAR data of these sites also suggest the presence of unrecorded archaeological remains in its interior - including interior enclosure boundaries and the presence of at least three possible roundhouses within the western side of the enclosure itself (see Figure 38).

Although a visual scale is useful indicator in terms of scale, measurement data also supports the comparative scale of Cestyll Byrion to other enclosed late prehistoric to Romano British date sites on Anglesey. A table produced using data from various sources (see Table 1 below) indicates that the scale of the earthworks at Glan Gors is incomparable

to both recorded and known defended sites on Anglesey. Despite its sheer size, the interior occupiable space of Dinas Gynfor was suggested by Lynch as only being 9.71 hectares (1991, pp. 270-1), smaller than the estimated 15.8 hectares at Cestyll Byrion.

Whereas defended enclosures are recorded near Cestyll Byrion, such as the courtyard type settlement at Ynys Bach, its scale is minute. Similarly, other rectilinear/polygonal enclosures such as Llifad, Caer Leb, Burwen, Bryn Eryr and Hendrefor are also miniscule when compared to the extant earthworks and geophysical survey results at Llangwyllog, as all listed examples measure less than 3 hectares individually.

The lack of multivallate bank defences at Cestyll Byrion is similar to other examples of larger hillfort sites on Anglesey. This feature however contrasts greatly to some of the smaller hillforts of the island, which notably have for more extensive defensive elements enclosing their respective settlements. At both Y Werthyr sites as well as the promontory forts such as Dinas Gynfor, Twyn y Parc, Parciau and possibly Bryn y Croes archaeological works have identified the presence of a series of bank and ditch defences, a feature which is clearly not as apparent at Glan Gors itself.

Nevertheless, this existing information will be studied and compared to what can be seen from the data recorded at Cestyll Byrion, in order to better understand and possibly categorise this potentially significant site.

No.	*SITE NAME (italicised for clarity)*	SITE LOCATION	GRID REFERENCE	SITE TYPE (AS CLASSIFIED)	AREA ENCLOSED (INCLUDING DEFENCES)
1	*Glan Gors / Cestyll Byrion*	Llangwyllog	SH 4403- 8045-	RECTANGULAR / POLYGONAL ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT -DEFENSIVE (MARSH FORT / *ROMANO BRITISH SETTLEMENT*?)	15.8 ha (approx. -Digimap)
2	*Dinas Gynfor*	Llanbadrig	SH 3906- 9507-	HILLFORT, UNIVALLATE (PROMONTARY)	9.71 ha (Coflein)*
3	*Din Silwy / Bwrdd Arthur*	Llangoed	SH 5863- 8146-	HILLFORT; *OPPIDUM*? (Smith, 2005, p. 94)	7.7 ha (Digimap)

4	*Mynydd y Twr*	Holyhead	SH 218-- 830--	HILLFORT	6.78 ha (Lynch, 1991, p. 263)**
5	*Twyn y Parc*	Bodorgan	SH 3681- 6492-	BIVALLATE PROMONTARY FORT	4 ha (Waddington 2013; p. 139)
6	*Bryn Croes*	Llanddyfnan	SH 4993- 7841-	HILLFORT (POSSIBLE) – MULTIVALLATE EMBANKMENT (PROMONTARY)	3.81 ha (Digimap)
7	*Y Werthyr*	Bryngwran	SH 3745- 7820-	DOUBLE RINGWORK (Waddington 2013; p. 140)	2.63ha (Waddington 2013; p. 140)
8	*Y Werthyr*	Llantrisant	SH 3633- 8431-	DOUBLE RINGWORK (Waddington, 2013, p. 141)	2.54ha (Waddington, 2013, p. 141)
9	*(Unnamed)*	Bwlch	SH 3505- 9145-	ENCLOSURE, POSSIBLE – MULITVALLATE? (Smith, 2005)	2.06 ha (DIgimap)
10	*Bryn Gwyn* Enclosure	Dwyran	SH 4600- 6655-	ENCLOSURE – MULTIVALLATE? (Thompson 1994)	1.49 ha (Digimap)
11	*Mynydd Llwydiarth*	Pentraeth	SH 5377- 7849-	HILLFORT - PROMONTARY (HER)	1-1.5 ha (approx.)
12	*Dinas*	Nr Benllech	SH 5174 8445	HILLFORT, (PROMONTARY)	0.68 ha (Digimap)
13	*Parciau*	Llaneugrad	SH 4945- 8467-	HILLFORT - SMALL MULTIVALLATE EMBANKMENTS (Waddington, 2013, p. 158)	0.64ha (Waddington, 2013, p. 158)
14	*Castell Bryn Gwyn*	Llanidan	SH 4649- 6706	PREHISTORIC HENGE; CIRCULAR DEFENDED SETTLEMENT (Waddington, 2013, p. 148)	0.46 ha (DIgimap)
15	*Hendrefor*	Llansadwrn	SH 5454- 7652-	RECTANGULAR / POLYGONAL ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT	0.35 ha (DIgimap)

16	*Bryn Eryr*	Llansadwrn	SH 5405- 7565-	RECTANGULAR / POLYGONAL ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT (Waddington, 2013, p. 144)	0.3ha (Waddington, 2013, p. 144)
17	*Caer Idris*	Llanidan	SH 4945- 6797-	MULTIVALLATE RECTANGULAR / POLYGONAL PROMONTARY FORT	0.28 ha (HER)***
18	*Caer Leb*	Llanidan	SH 4728 - 6742	RECTANGULAR / POLYGONAL ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT, BIVALLATE (Waddington, 2013, p. 147)	0.24 ha (Waddington, 2013, p. 147)
19	*Llifad*	Llanfechell	SH 3849- 9106-	RECTANGULAR / POLYGONAL ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT	0.3ha
20	*Y Werthyr*	Burwen	SH 4086- 9253-	RECTANGULAR / POLYGONAL ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT	0.2ha
21	*Llanllibio Fawr*	Bodedern	SH 327-- 821--	CURVILINEAR ENCLOSURE? (Smith, 2005)	0.2ha
22	*Ynys Bach*	Coedana	SH 4450 8250	DEFENDED HOMESTEAD (Hopewell, et al., 2007, pp. 20-2)	0.21ha (approx., Digimap)

*Conversion based on estimate of 24 acres as quoted by Lynch.

**Conversion based on estimate of 17 acres as quoted by Lynch.

***Based on conversion of dimensions of enclosed area – 80m by 36m; converted into a m2 area, acreage and hectarage respectively.

Table 1: Total area covered by recorded and suspected enclosed, defensive and settlement sites on Anglesey. All sites are late Iron Age to Romano British in date. Glan Gors highlighted with bold text.

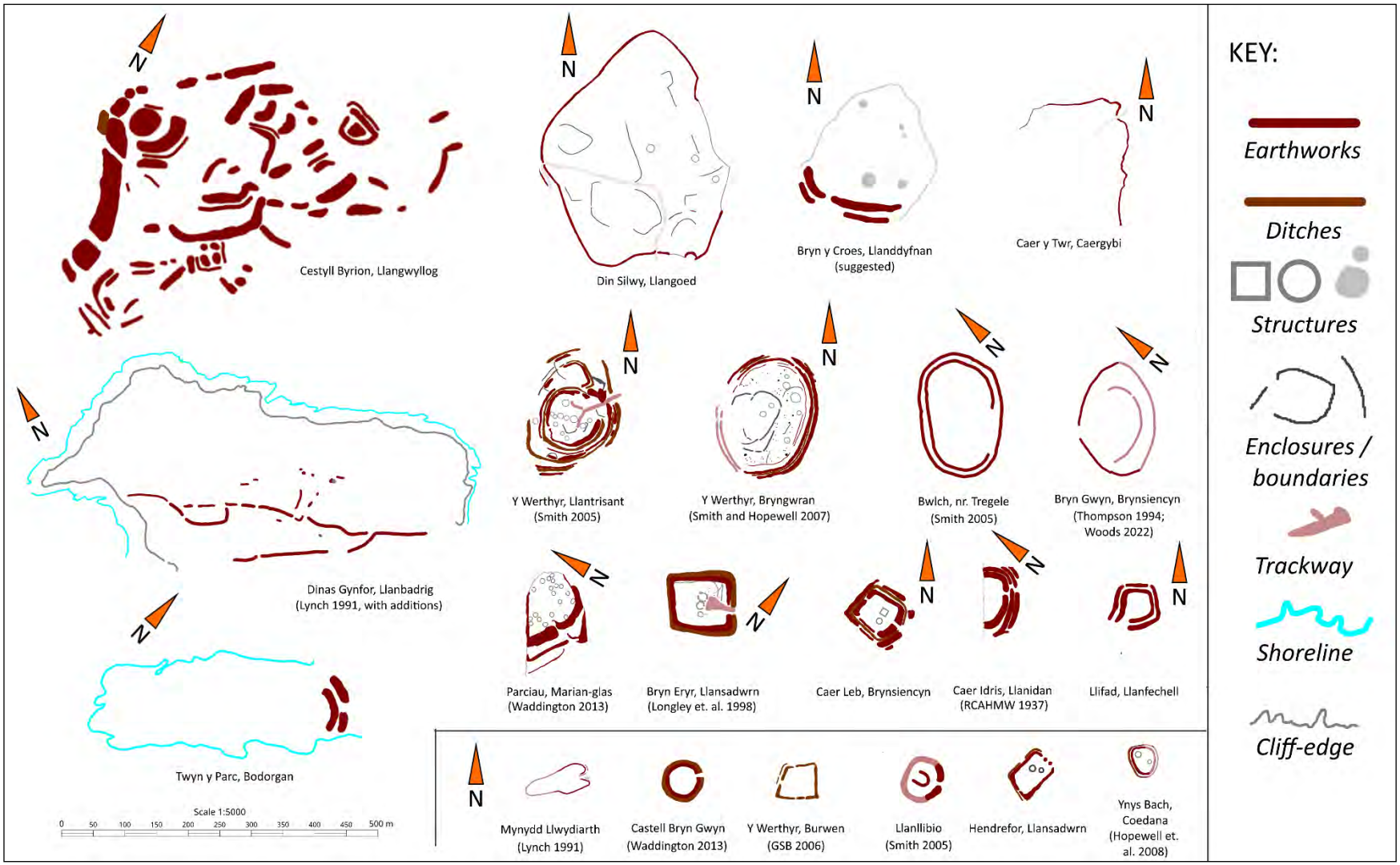


Figure 36: Scale comparison between Cestyll Byrion and other defended/enclosed sites on Anglesey (various sources).

5.2.1 - Large, late prehistoric defended settlement

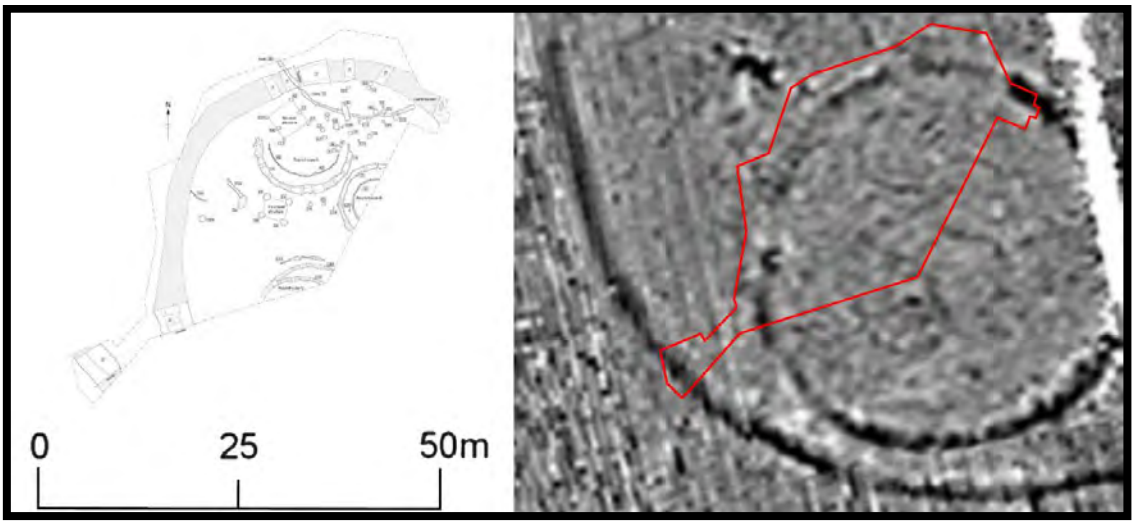


Figure 37: Gradiometer results of Ffynonwen and trench outline (right) with surface plan of excavated area (left).

The densely occupied interior of Cestyll Byrion is comparable to late prehistoric settlement sites seen both locally as well as further afield. Examples include large, defended hilltop enclosures such as Bulbury Hillfort near Poole Harbour, Dorset. Gradiometric survey work, conducted in 2009 by Bournemouth University as part of the Durotriges project, identified an interior occupied with curvilinear and linear anomalies, representing possible oval enclosures, trackways, and roundhouses (Stewart & Russel, 2017, pp. 40-3). These are all features broadly comparable to those seen at the Cestyll Byrion site (Compare Figure 27, p. 132 and Figure 38, p. 143). In terms of possible structures least 90 curvilinear anomalies and 19 rectilinear anomalies have been observed within the survey area, with evidence suggesting that there may be more extending outside the survey area towards the north, east, and south. If these are all indeed structures, then this implies a heavily settled site.

Evidence of potential roundhouse anomalies within the survey results are comparable to other examples recorded at other Anglesey sites. These include the multivallate Iron Age defended site at Y Werthyr, a near Llantrisant, Anglesey (Smith & Hopewell, 2007, pp. 18-20; Fig. 26); the late prehistoric settlement at Tai Cochion (Hopewell, 2016) as well as the Late Iron Age to Romano British rectangular and polygonal enclosure at Penbwliad 1, Blaenffyman, Ffynoncyff and Blaensaith in Glamorganshire (Murphy, et al., 2004). Without excavation however it is impossible to determine whether they are archaeological or not. Yet it may be possible to make comparisons to sites investigated elsewhere in Wales.

Following geophysical survey of a late prehistoric oval enclosure at Ffynonwen near Penbarc, Ceredigion in 2005 (Murphy, et al., 2006), excavations a year later confirmed the presence of Iron Age structures within the survey area (see Figure 37): including roundhouses, a granary, and a section of a large enclosure ditch (Murphy & Mytum, 2006).

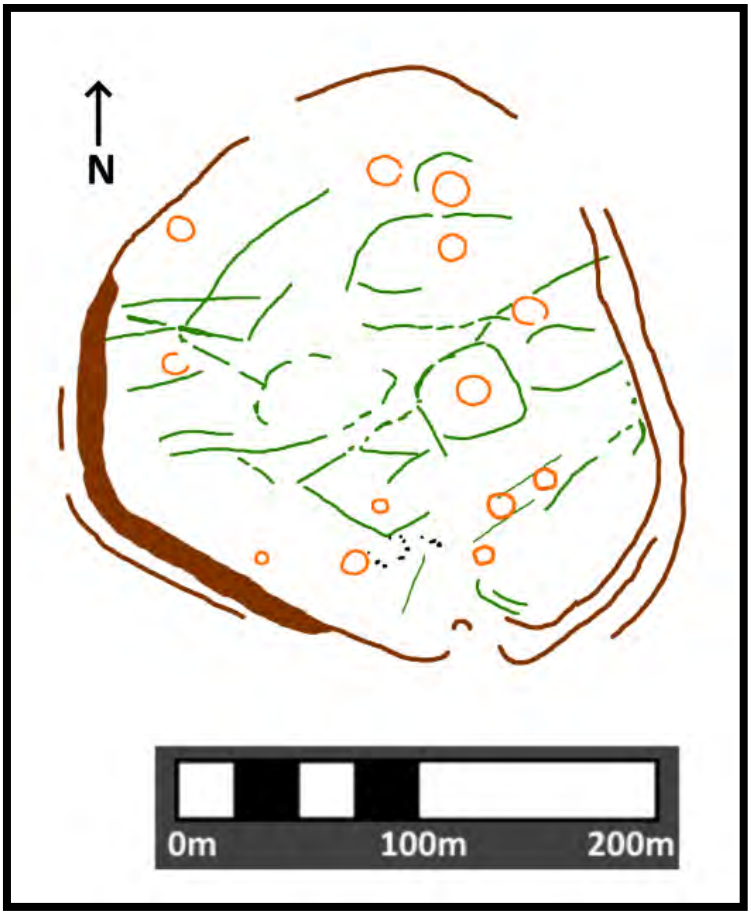


Figure 38: Interpretation of gradiometer results of Bulbury Camp, Poole Harbour (Stewart & Russel, 2017).

One particular puzzling element is the lack of artefactual evidence from this site - metal detecting surveys conducted by the author prior to researching this site in May 2021 only succeeded in recovering later, post medieval dating evidence from the soil. It is likely, however, that any artefactual material may lie deeper in the soil, and that the magnetic interference visible on the gradiometer results may also be masking non-ferrous signals in the field. If it is indeed late prehistoric then this may also explain the lack of artefacts – given the aceramic, non-currency using populace in this area during this period, with a lack of artefactual material represented at other large-scale sites of this period.

Although confidence can be given towards the notion that the site is of least an early date, its monstrous scale undoubtedly suggests use over a long period of time, with multiple periods of activity likely represented in the amassed data.

5.2.2 - Marsh fort (Iron Age)

Marsh forts are defined as large enclosed, presumably defended, sites located within areas of bog, marsh, and wetland (as the name suggests). These sites are determined to be wholly ritual in function and are reported to exist across the British Isles (Norton, 2019). These sites can vary in size and the intensity of ritual activity on these sites may have varied on an individual basis (Norton, 2019).

The example of Sutton Common has been extensively written about (Van de Noort, et al., 2007) and provides the most comprehensive source of information about this type of site, given that it is the only definitive example of its kind on the British Isles. Excavations of the site from 1990s up to 2003 revealed a complex monument – the earliest evidence from the site consists of a small Bronze Age mortuary enclosure (Van de Noort, et al., 2007, p. 54), later superseded by the construction of two large, roughly triangular multivallate earthworks on the site during the Mid Iron Age (Van de Noort, et al., 2007, pp. 68-95). The largest, when excavated, was found to be filled with postholes, numbering 2000 in total, most of which erected to support four and six post structures, of which an estimated 145 buildings could be identified (Van de Noort, et al., 2007, pp. 115-116). Although all have been interpreted as granary structures based on artefactual and paleoenvironmental evidence, these structures appear to never have been used, suggesting a symbolic use, rather than functional (Van de Noort, et al., 2007, p. 135).

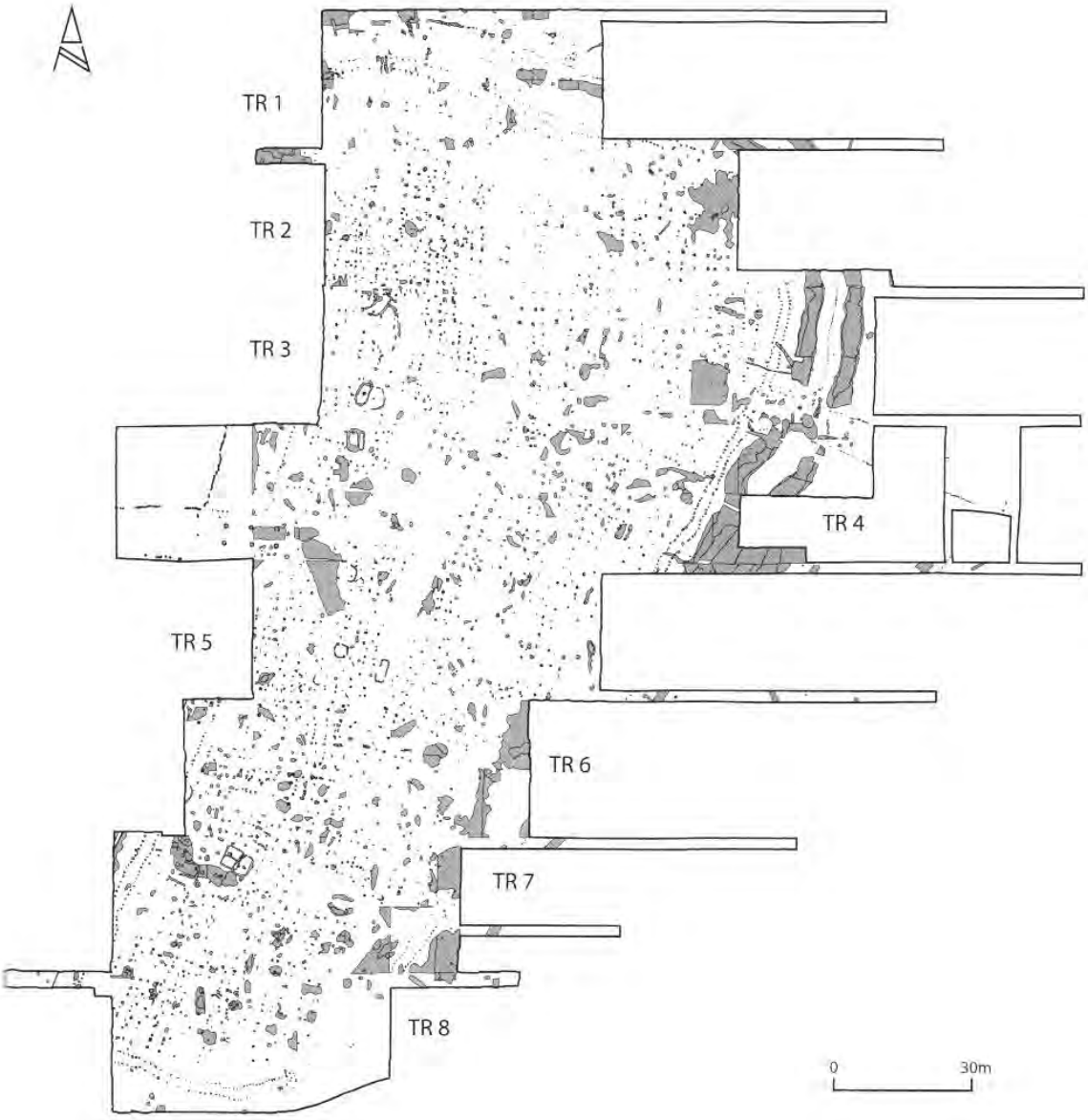


Figure 39: Plan of excavated features at Sutton Common, Askern (Chapman & Fletcher, 2007)

All excavated features were identified to have a degree of both planning and spatial awareness - the vast majority of features were orientated to face the northeast, although a section to the north appeared to have an east-west orientation (See Figure 39).It is the western side which is most intriguing – at least twelve circular, oval and square ditched enclosures, interpreted as mortuary enclosures, erected during the second phase of activity

on the site (Van de Noort, et al., 2007, p. 151). No later activity is recorded on the site during the late Iron Age period onwards, suggesting abandonment (2007, p. 175).

Image 36: Aerial photo of Y Werthyr hillfort, Bryngwran.

Following this, Norton later attempted to identify and classify various marsh-sites in late prehistoric Britain (Norton, 2019). Although sites such as Dinas Dinlle were already mentioned as possible 'marsh forts' in Northwest Wales (Fletcher, 2007), another possible example may exist on Anglesey – that is the multivallate hillfort Y Werthyr (see Image 36) near Bryngwran (Norton, 2019). Although unexcavated, geophysical survey work conducted on the site identified multi-period features within its interior, including possible evidence of a later Romano British or Medieval period enclosure (Smith & Hopewell, 2007, pp. 20-23). Its location near a marshy area (Norton, 2019, pp. 100-102), combined with limited evidence of late prehistoric domestic activity, may suggest a possible 'marsh fort' definition for the site.

While comparisons in terms of location and scale can be made with the features identified at Glan Gors, the anomalies observed within Cestyll Byrion are far different to those excavated at Sutton Common. Apart from small mortuary enclosures, no large curvilinear or rectilinear enclosures were observed in Sutton Common's interior when excavated. Although a limited number of rectilinear anomalies were observed at the Cestyll Byrion site,

these pale in comparison to the sheer number present at Sutton Common, although it is possible that 'marsh fort' sites differ greatly in form based on their geographical location.

There are several arguments which can be made to suggest a ritual purpose to its placement as well as a functional, defensive reason. For instance, traces of ritual activity a short distance to the south (see 3.5.4, p. 60), and the discovery of Bronze Age artefacts within wetland context nearby (see 3.5.3, pp. 52-60) suggest the presence of a ritualised landscape The use of water sources, including rivers and lakes, for ritual deposition is well attested in the archaeological record – the Llyn Cerrig Bach hoard the strongest indication that these practices were indeed carried out on Anglesey at this time (Fox, 1946). While there is little evidence of late prehistoric artefacts deposited in rivers on Anglesey, the names of some may be indicative of late prehistoric worship. For instance, the river Afon Braint has been suggested by some historians to refer to the Celtic Goddess 'Brigantia' (Carr, 2015, p. 235), whereas a section of the river Alaw, near Bedd Branwen, is referred to as the Afon Hafren, a Welsh iteration of the Celtic goddess name 'Sabrina'. Additionally, the area immediately west of the Cestyll Byrion site appears as a flood risk on environmental data, suggestive of possible expansive marshland nearby (see Appendix 15, p. 175).

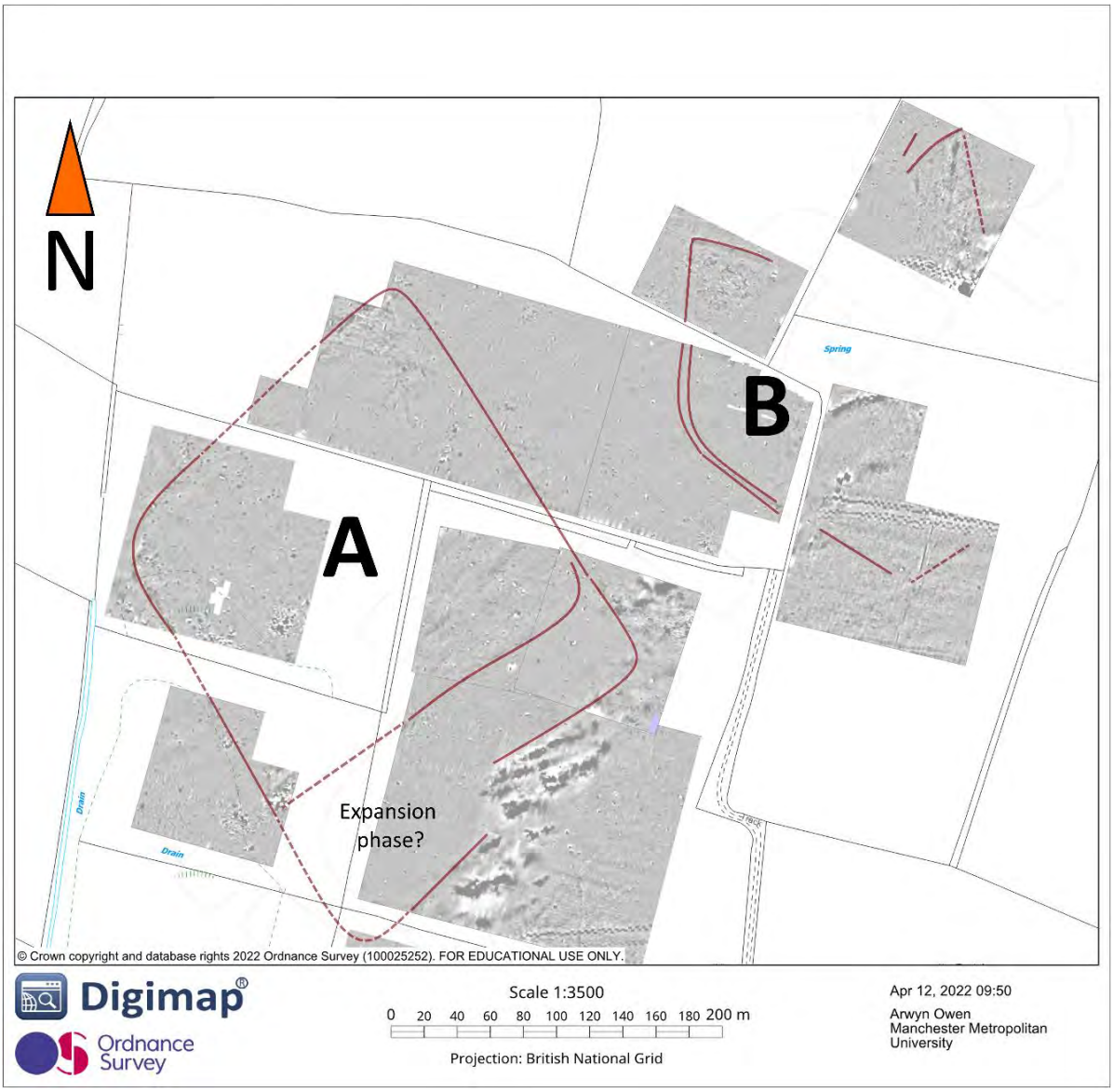


Figure 40: Assumed 'twin compound' hypothesis of geophysical data.

While direct comparison to Sutton Common is not possible, the geophysical data may imply the presence of two separate compounds, assuming that the long linear anomaly observed in Field 5 does indeed continue from Field 6 (see Figure 40), then we may be looking at two enclosed areas rather than a single enlarged one. The potential form of both enclosures are radically different - while enclosure A is a distinct rhomboid shape, enclosure B may have been polygonal in form. Furthermore, the series of earthworks visible within the north-western corner of Field 2 may also suggest expansion of enclosure A at some point.

Without subsequent excavation however this remains tentative, as this could be subject to misinterpretation of the visual data as, instead of an enclosure, the linear running towards Field 6 might be a trackway of some kind.

5.2.3 - Cestyll Byrion – Romano British town?

Following correspondence with Andrew Davidson and Gwynedd Archaeological Trust it was suggested that the site may be of prehistoric to Romano British date based on what was visible above the surface. If we were to assume that it was of a later date, then the scale of the site may be comparable to other Romano British towns recorded in Britain, including Rochester (Payne, 1895) and Durobrivae near Portsmouth (Nene Valley Archaeological Trust, 2019). Examples of this period of settlement have recently been discovered on Anglesey, such as the heavily investigated settlement site at Tai Cochion, Brynsiencyn. Following the discovery of numerous Roman era objects in the area, geophysical survey and excavation confirmed the presence of a large, Roman period settlement in the study area (Hopewell, 2016). The artefactual material recovered from the site provided the first evidence of a Romanised settlement of this type on Anglesey – to date no other sites of this comparable type have been recorded elsewhere on the island.

While it is tempting to suggest that it may have been a Roman period settlement, given the presence of Romanised wares within the immediate landscape (see 1.3, pp 23-6), as well as historical accounts of a Roman fortification within the area (see 3.3.1, pp.48-50), a number of issues present themselves when comparing both sites. One of the most apparent is the differences in the geophysical anomalies presented between both sites. While the surveyed area at Tai Cochion can be seen to consist of rectilinear field boundaries and structures, any potential structural evidence at Cestyll Byrion appear to be a predominantly comprising of curvilinear structures, arranged in a haphazard fashion. This implies native settlement, comparable instead to the late Iron Age defended enclosure, including possible interior roundhouses, that were also identified within the survey results at Tai Cochion. Furthermore, the network of roads and trackways, characteristic of Romanised settlement, are not visible at the Cestyll Byrion site.

Furthermore, a definitive lack of Roman artefactual evidence from the Cestyll Byrion site places contrasts greatly with other Roman period settlements on Anglesey, including native

sites. Given the nature of the site at Tai Cochion, the significant quantities of Roman era artefactual evidence recovered (Hopewell, 2016, pp. 47-74) were wholly expected. However, significant quantities of Roman period artefactual evidence have also been recorded at Romano British settlements on the island, including Din Lligwy (Baynes, 1908); Bryn Eryr (Longley, et al., 1998); and Cefn Cwmwd (Roberts, et al., 2012). This dearth of artefactual material may suggest therefore that the site is of an earlier, presumably late prehistoric date. It is hoped that field ploughing may uncover further artefactual evidence to aid in dating this complex site.

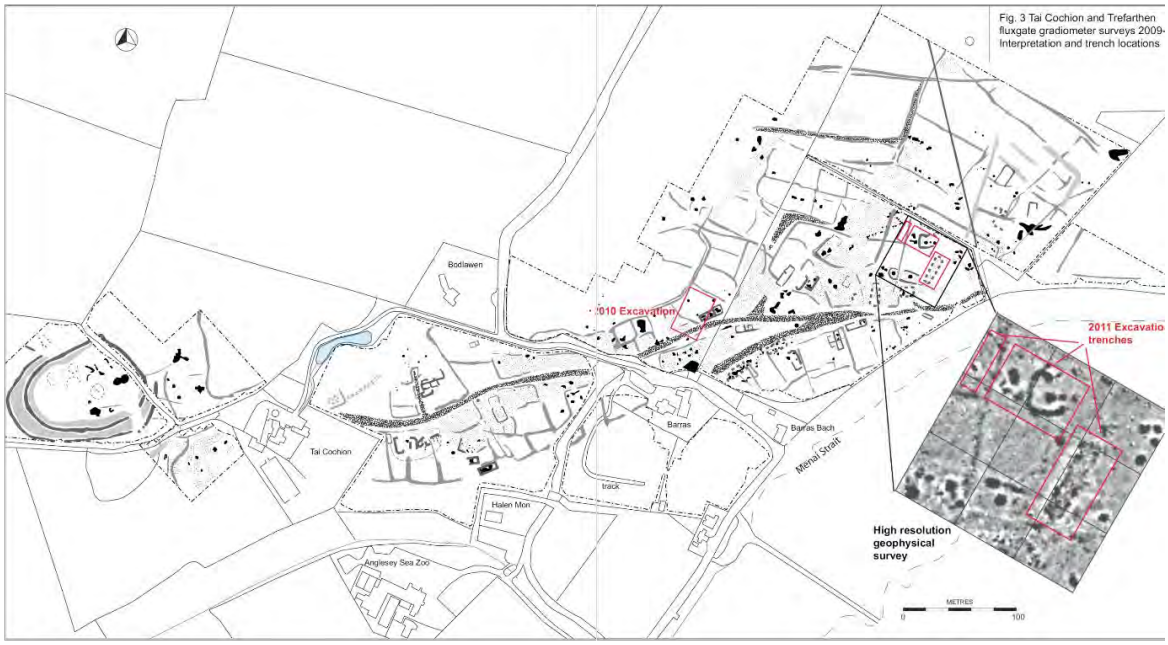


Figure 41:Interpretation of geophysical survey results at Tai Cochion, with excavated areas highlighted (GAT).

Chapter 6 - Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper concludes with the notion that all targets initially set out in the introduction have been met. The use of multi-method studies has greatly increased the historical and archaeological scope of this part of Anglesey, showing that the area studied has far more archaeology than what was previously recorded. The discovery of one definitive late prehistoric site along with two possible others, as well as evidence of other Prehistoric, Roman, and Medieval sites nearby will undoubtedly be of interest to those studying the history of Anglesey's heartlands – an area which has seen diminished study compared to other parts of the island. However, the study has also shown gaps in

archaeological coverage, with certain areas, such as those west and northeast of the Cestyll Byrion site, benefitting from further groundwork at a future date. Given the discovery of a possible late Mesolithic transient camp near the river Cefni, it is possible that there may be further sites following the river down towards Llangefni and along Malltraeth marsh.

The archaeology of the Cestyll Byrion site has proven to be most fascinating given its scale and perceived importance following researching this paper. Geophysical survey, LiDAR and studies of parallel sites strongly suggest that the site is of great importance. While three theories have been suggested, it is currently believed that, given its placement and evidence of water-based ritual within the surrounding area, that this is most likely some kind of 'marsh fort' site – whether its function was wholly or partly ritual remains uncertain.

Furthermore, the work has highlighted the archaeological potential of this area regarding future study. At least 8,000 years of history may be recorded here, including two late Mesolithic sites, at least two unrecorded standing stones of assumed prehistoric date, evidence of possible burnt mounds of Bronze Age date further north, and at least two later prehistoric settlement sites, with evidence suggestive of two further unexplored sites.

Yet many questions remain to be answered – exactly when and for how long was Cestyll Byrion occupied for? Is there more yet further unrecorded archaeology within the immediate vicinity? Is there any plausible connection with the Bronze Age hoard discovered nearby, suggesting earlier occupation of this site? Are there any more sites such as these which remain undiscovered? For this last question attention must be drawn southwest, where possible evidence of Roman occupation is suggested to be around Llynfaes, with placenames such as 'Castell' as well as reported findings of tesserae in a farm within the locality (Julie Roberts, pers. comm.).

Returning to the Cestyll Byrion site its incredible scale and siting near a river leaves another potential definition for the site - that is it may possibly be an 'oppidum' settlement of late Iron Age date. Sites such as Llyn Cerrig Bach as well as foreign/imported wares from across the continent show the power and prestige Anglesey would have had in late prehistory, no doubt in part due to the wide-spread influence of the druids on the island (Woods, 2021, pp. 302-306). However, there is no evidence of any 'oppida' sites in Western Britain and, although Din Silwy is claimed to be such a site (Smith, 2005, p. 24) its small scale compared

to other known examples, despite its character, makes such an assertion unlikely. Regardless without excavation, as well as the difficulties of identifying 'oppidum' sites outside of eastern Britain, any hypothesis that this site may have been this significant remains as yet currently unfounded.

Although these initial studies have been prospective, it is hoped that future work carried out at this site will undoubtedly form an important part of understanding not only the late prehistoric archaeology of Anglesey, but of both Britain and Western Europe as a whole.

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WD/6/127 – HEREDIMENTS of freeholding of Hafod, situated in the Parish of Llangwyllog, sixteenth of May 1889, Anglesey Archives, Llangefni, accessed 10th of October 2021.

WD/6/129 – INDENTURE AGREEMENT between Robert Williams of *Bodwina* and John Griffith of *Llanddyfnan*, 1739. Anglesey Archives, Llangefni, accessed 10th of October 2021.

WD/6/130 – AGREEMENT of mortgage between John Griffith of Llanddyfnan and Grace Wynn of Llanrwst, 1741. Anglesey Archives, Llangefni, accessed 10th of October 2021.

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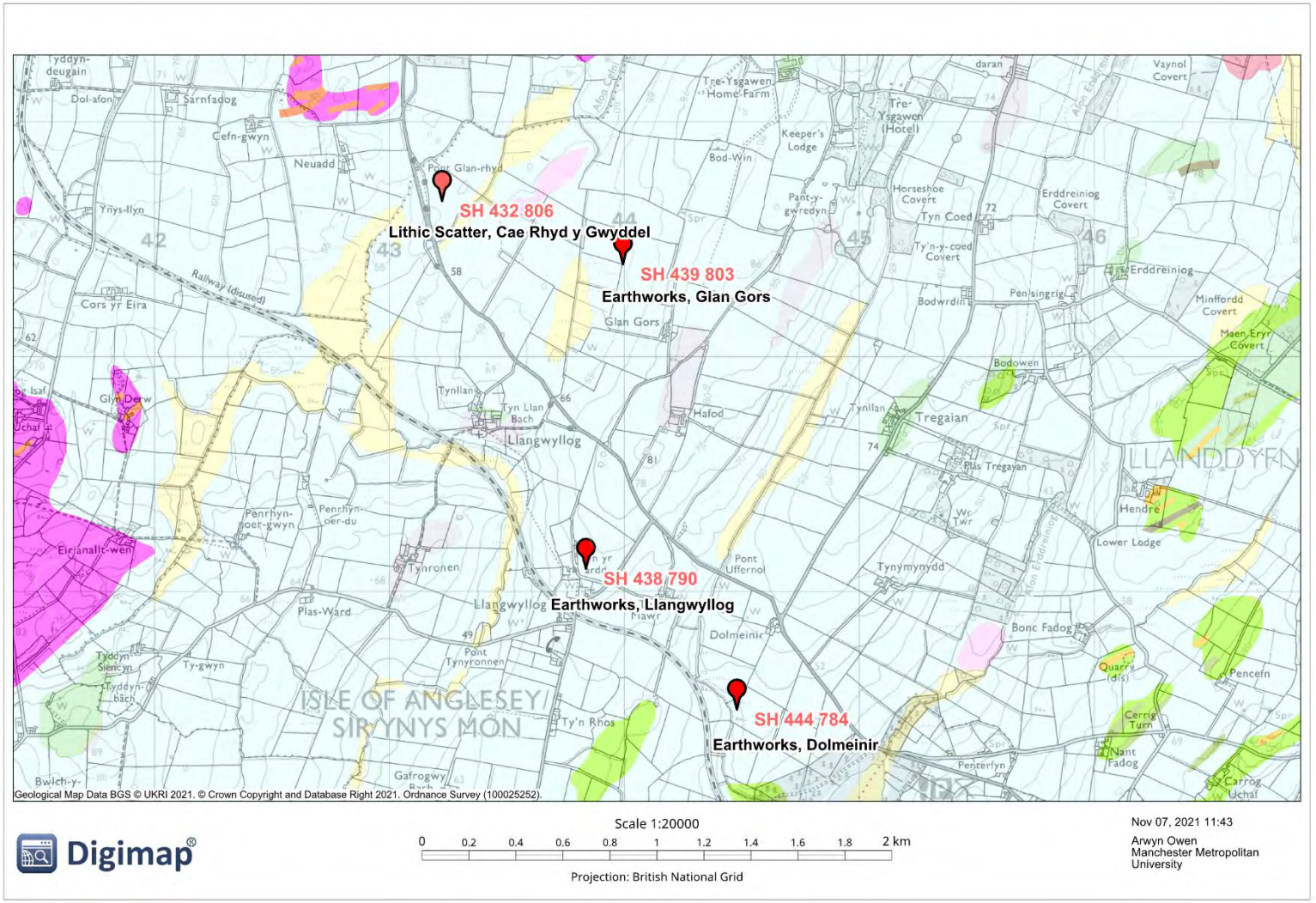
WQT 55/1-59 – LAND TAX ASSESSMENTS: Parish of Llangwyllog, 1746-1845, Anglesey Archives, Llangefni, accessed 25th of May 2021.

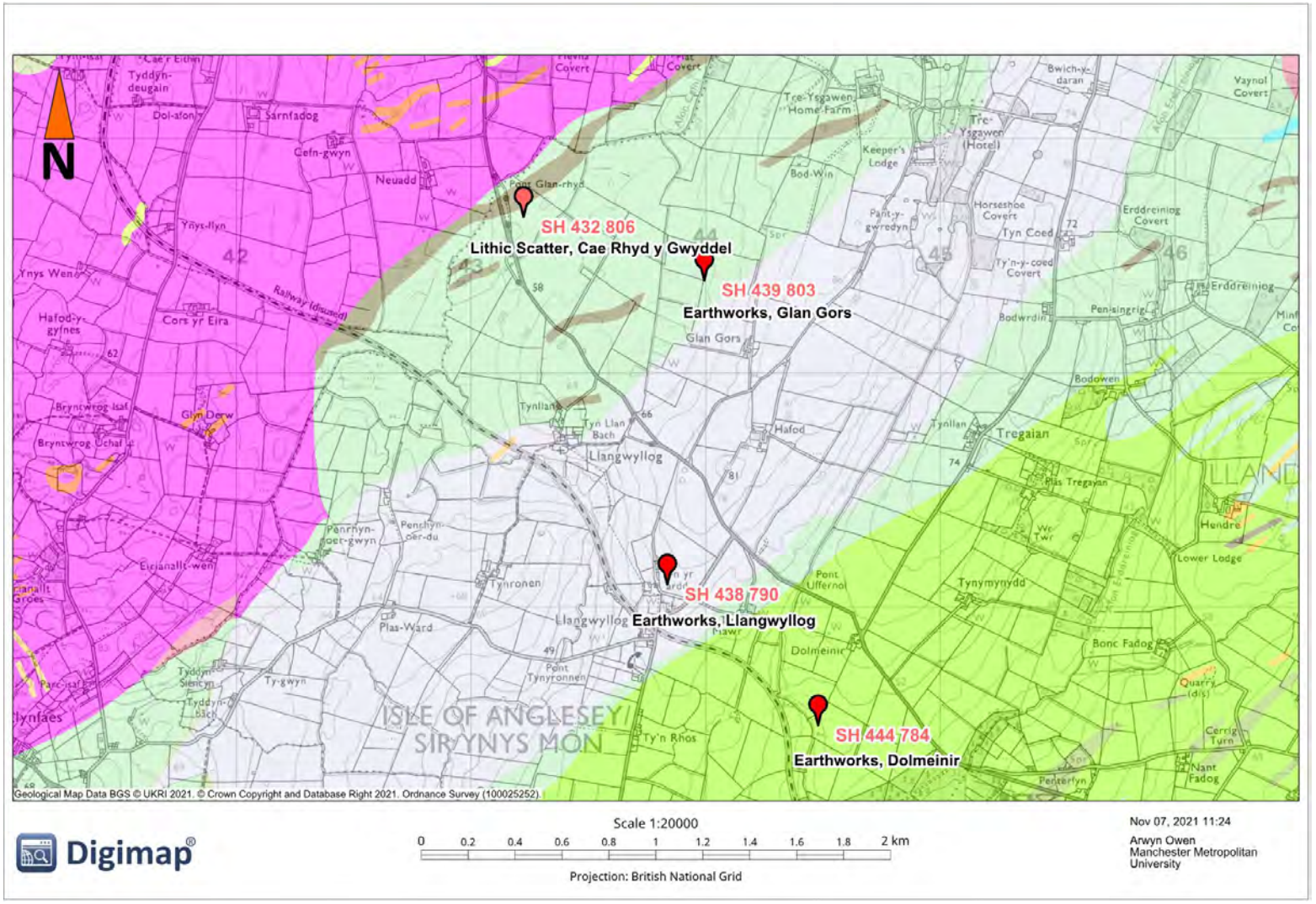
8.0 Appendix

```
# source: https://blenderartists.org/t/esri-asc-data-into-blender-help-please/629477/5

import bpy
import time
import csv

A = time.time()


dfile = r"replace_this_with_your_path" FOR AN EXAMPLE (DELETE THIS FROM FOR... TO ...ASC"): dfile = r"D:\Users\ther3\Documents\Archaeology\LIDAR\Map Data\ASCII\SH47\DSM\sh4070_dsm_1m.asc"

getval = lambda i: int(next(i).split()[1])

with open(dfile) as ofile:
    ncols = getval(ofile)
    nrows = getval(ofile)
    xllcorner = getval(ofile)
    yllcorner = getval(ofile)
    cellsize = getval(ofile)
    NODATA_value = getval(ofile)

    print(ncols, nrows, xllcorner, yllcorner, cellsize, NODATA_value)

    # this will read the rest
    verts = []
    add_vert = verts.append
    asc_reader = csv.reader(ofile, delimiter=' ')

    # ni = nrows #? +1 -1
    # nj = ncols #? +1 -1
    ni = 1000
    nj = 1000

    for i, row in enumerate(asc_reader):
        if i >= ni:
            break
        for j in range(int(ncols)):
            if j >= nj:
                break
            z = (float(row[j]) / 60)
            x = j * 0.01   #   cell x width
            y = i * 0.01   #   cell y width
            add_vert((x,y,z))

    print('done')
    print('last vertex:', verts[-1])

B = time.time()

total_time = B-A
print('total_time:', total_time)

faces = []
add_face = faces.append

# generate_edges, i = verts y, j = verts x
total_range = ((ni-1) * (nj))
indices = []
for i in range(total_range):
    if not ((i+1) % nj == 0):
        add_face([i, i+nj, i+nj+1, i+1])

# do your own error handling
mesh_data = bpy.data.meshes.new("LIDAR_mesh_data3")
mesh_data.from_pydata(verts, [], faces)
mesh_data.update()

LIDAR_object = bpy.data.objects.new("LIDAR_Object3", mesh_data)

#scene = bpy.context.scene
#scene.objects.link(LIDAR_object)
bpy.context.collection.objects.link(LIDAR_object)
LIDAR_object.select = True
```

Appendix 1: Script used to convert ESCRI ASC data to Blender readable format – source quoted in top right of image.



Appendix 2: Map of superficial deposits of survey area, with key sites highlighted (Digimap, with data from the British Geological Society)



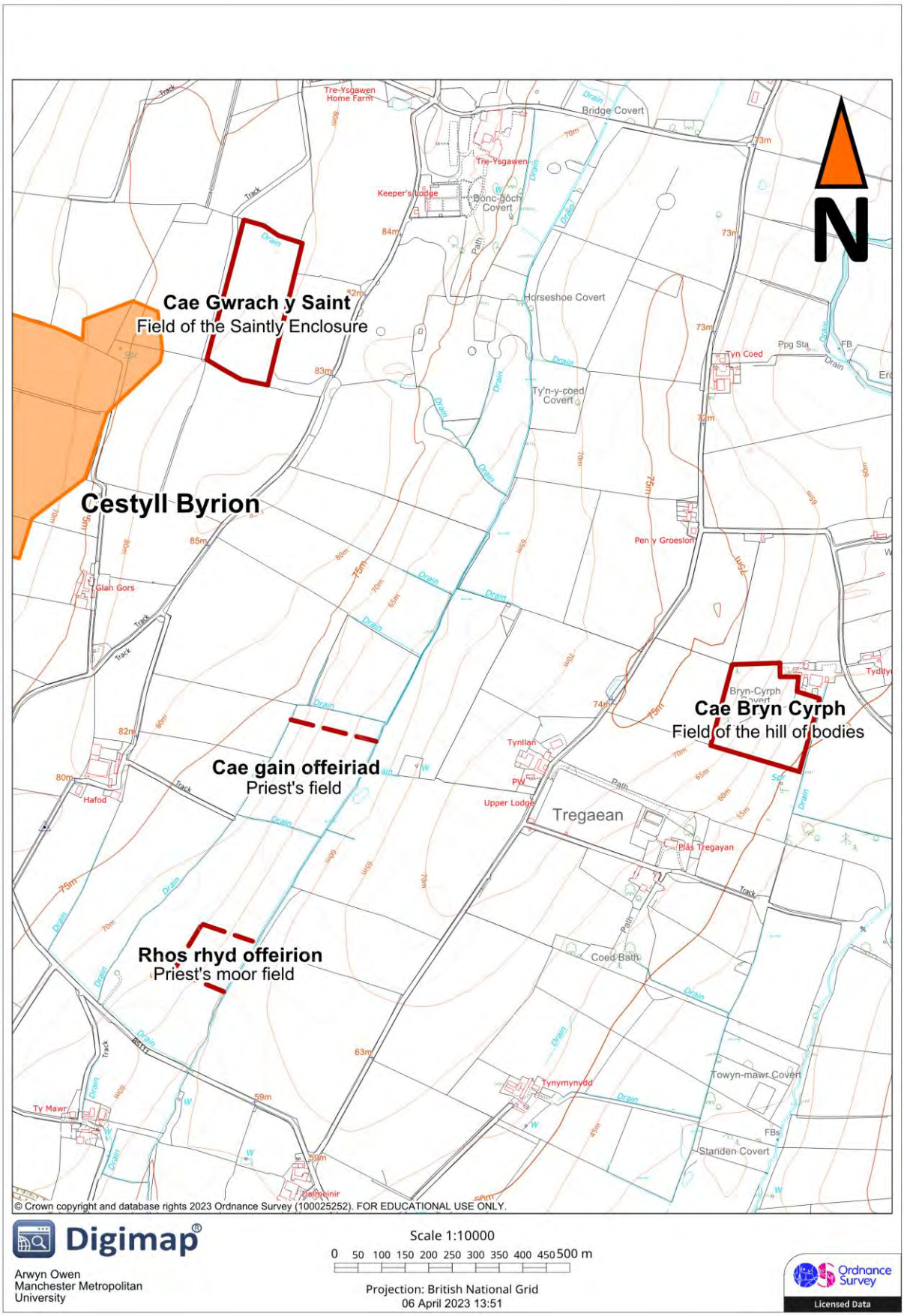
Appendix 3: Map of bedrock of survey area, with key sites highlighted (Digimap, with data from the British Geological Society)

Appendix 4: Plan of lands owned by Hafod farm. Numbers note to field names recorded in same document (WD6/127 - Anglesey Archives). Numbers of fields discussed are highlighted with red squares.

Appendix 5: Appendix photo of enclosure north of Llangwyllog hamlet, c. 1945. APU records online.

Appendix 6: Aerial photograph of Cestyll Byrion site, c. 1945. APU records online.

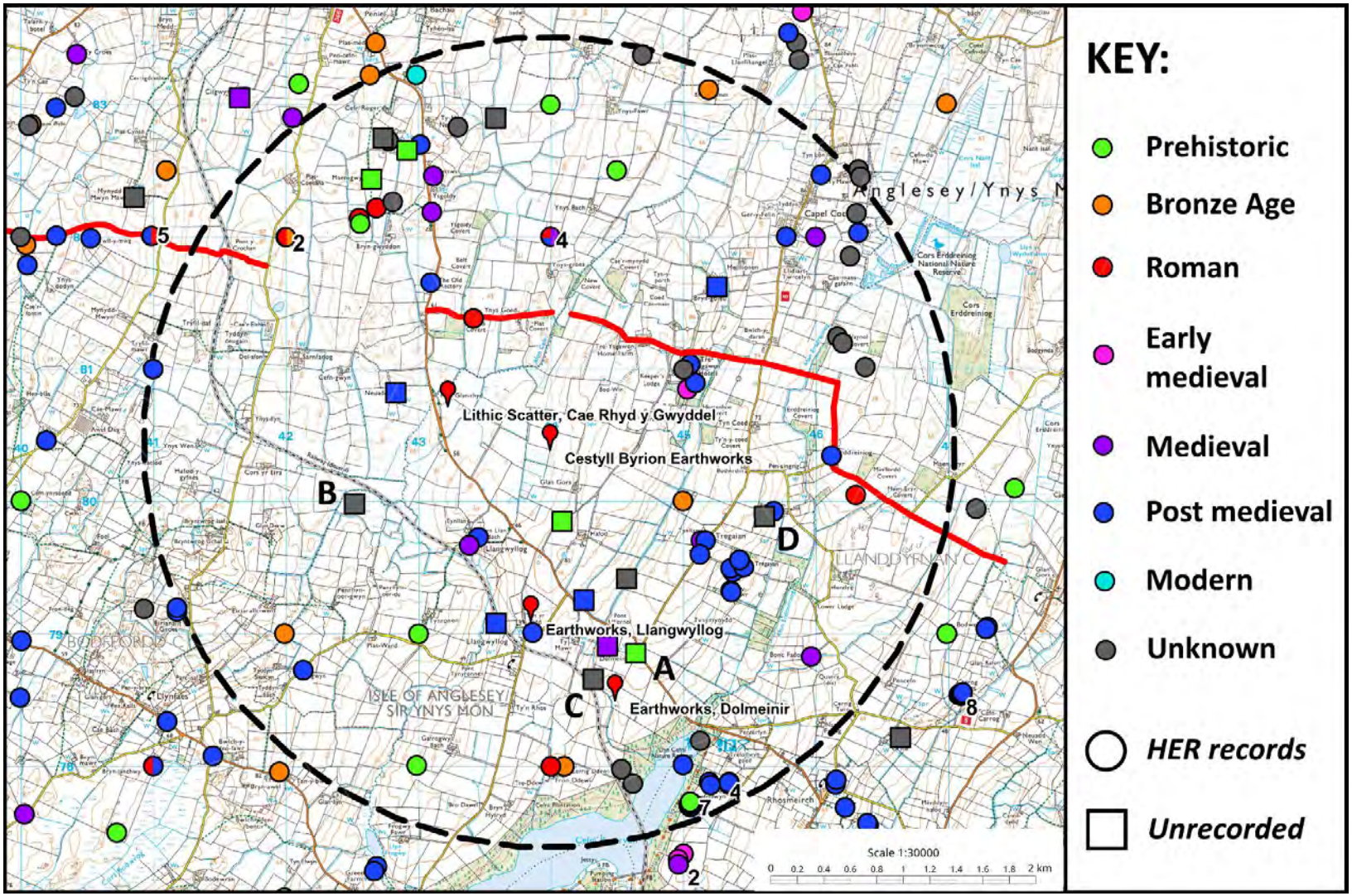
Appendix 7: Area Survey – RC8ET072, Anglesey, 1982-08-10; showing Cestyll Byrion (top left), Glan Gors and Hafod farms (centre) and part of northern Llangwyllog hamlet (bottom left). Image obtained from University of Cambridge digital aerial photo archive.



Appendix 8: Religious and funerary placenames within the Cestyll Byrion landscape (WD/6/2 and WD/6/127).

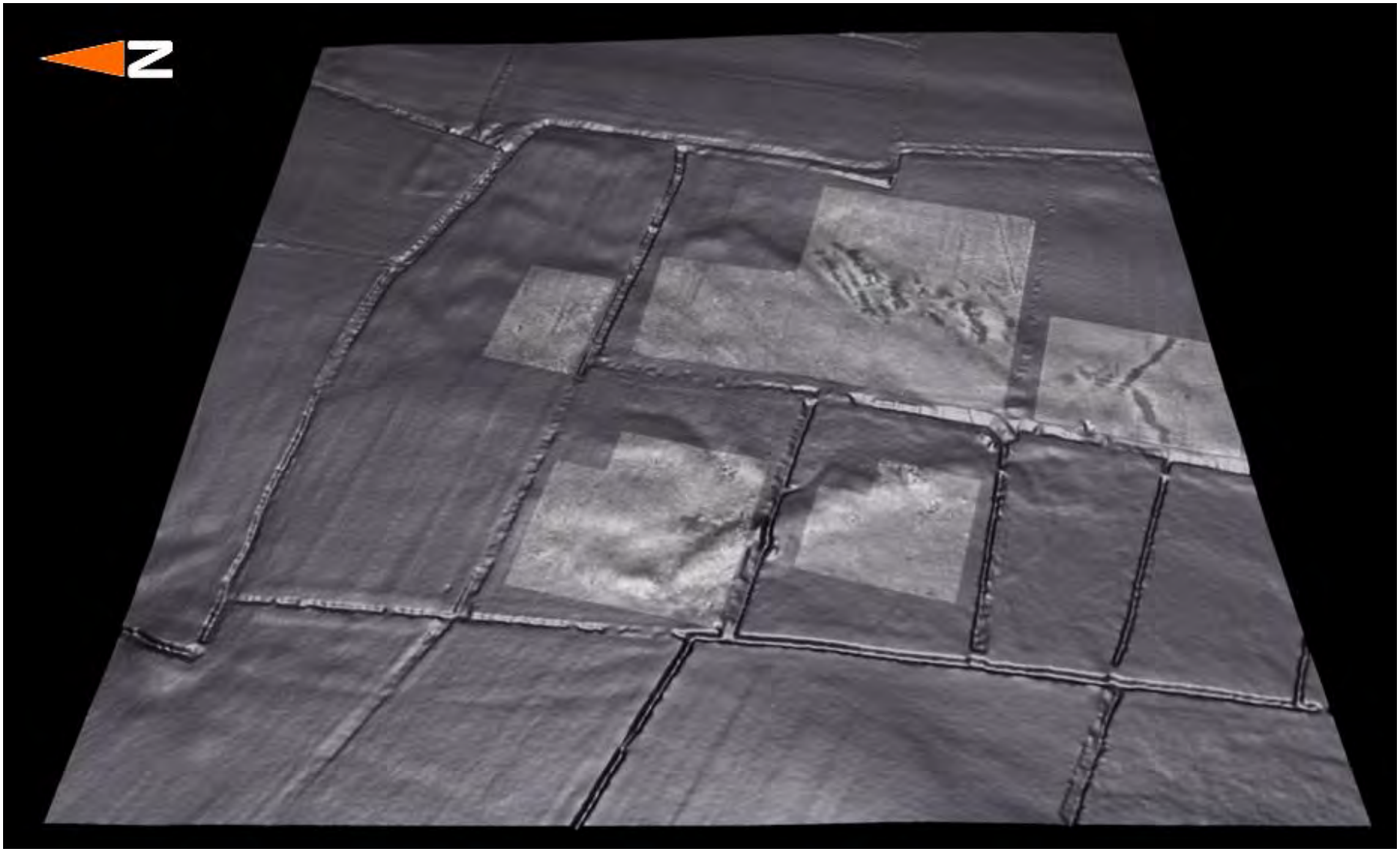
Appendix 9: Measured photo of top stone of 'beehive quern' recorded at Maen Gwyn, Coedana (with kind permission by Oriel Môn).

Appendix 10: Aerial view of the Cestell Byrion site, as seen from the north.

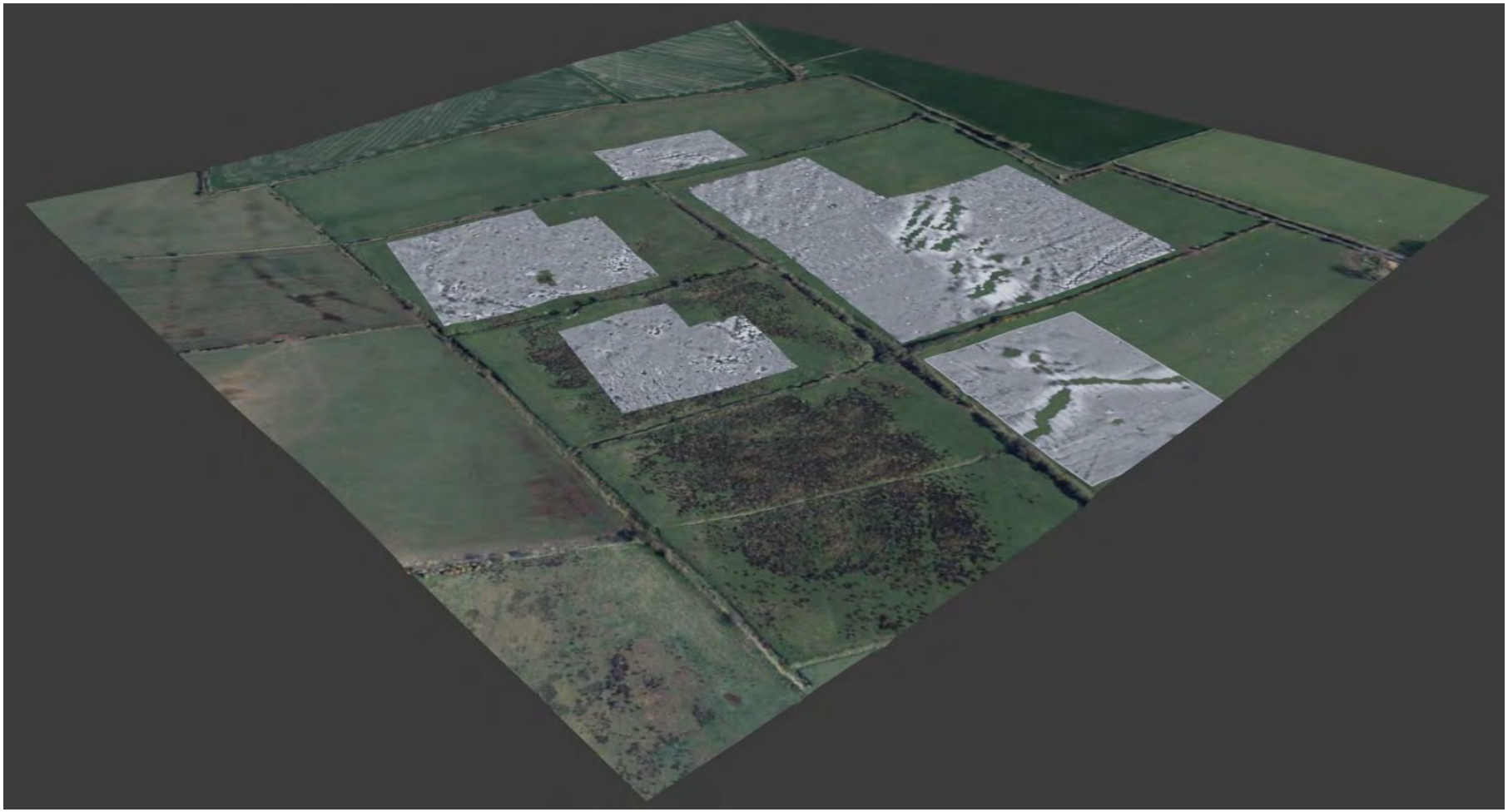


Appendix 11: Map of suspected and known sites within 3km of the study area (highlighted, black circle).

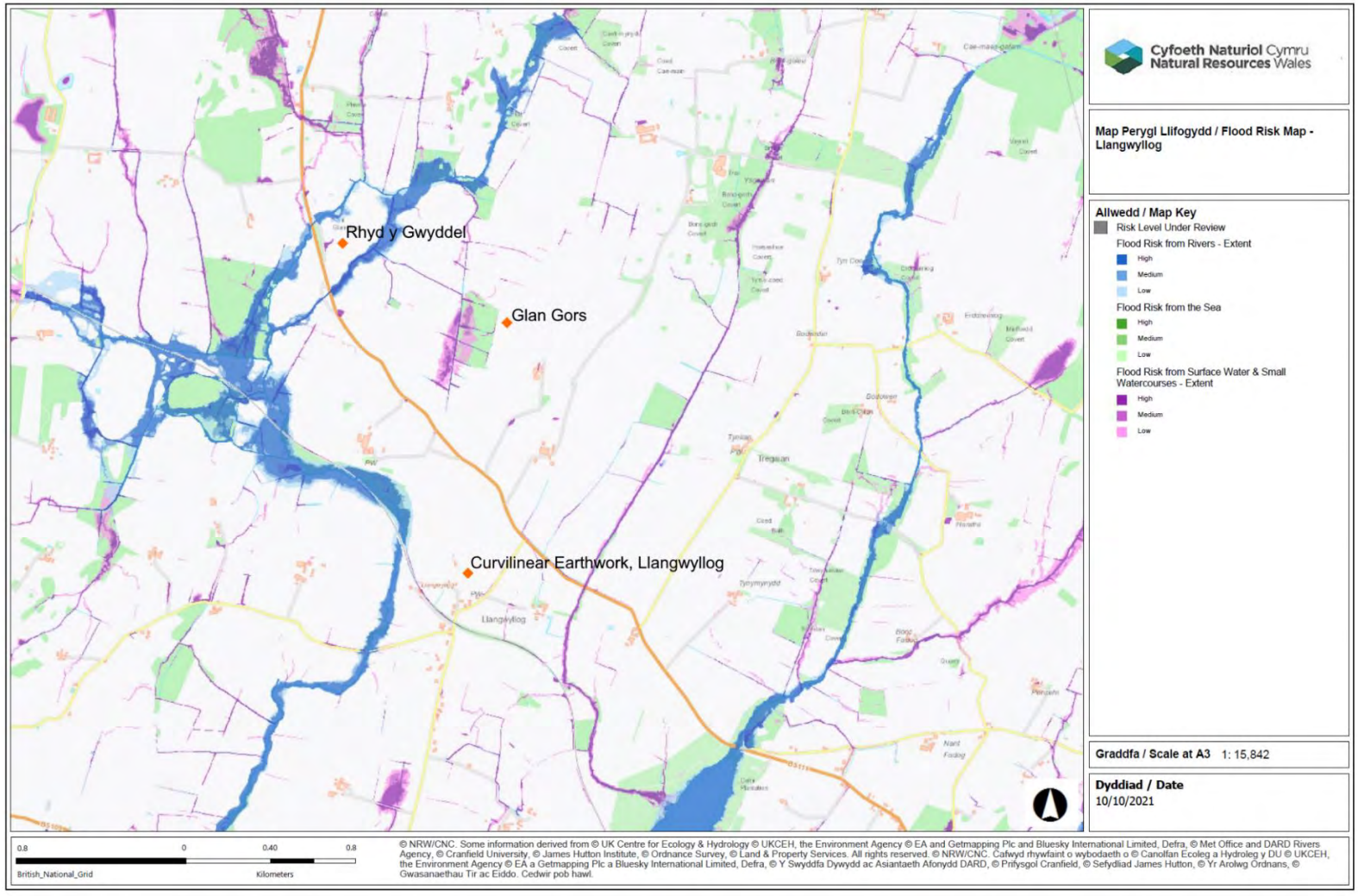
Appendix 12: Images of possible burnt mound near Maen Gwyn, Coedana.



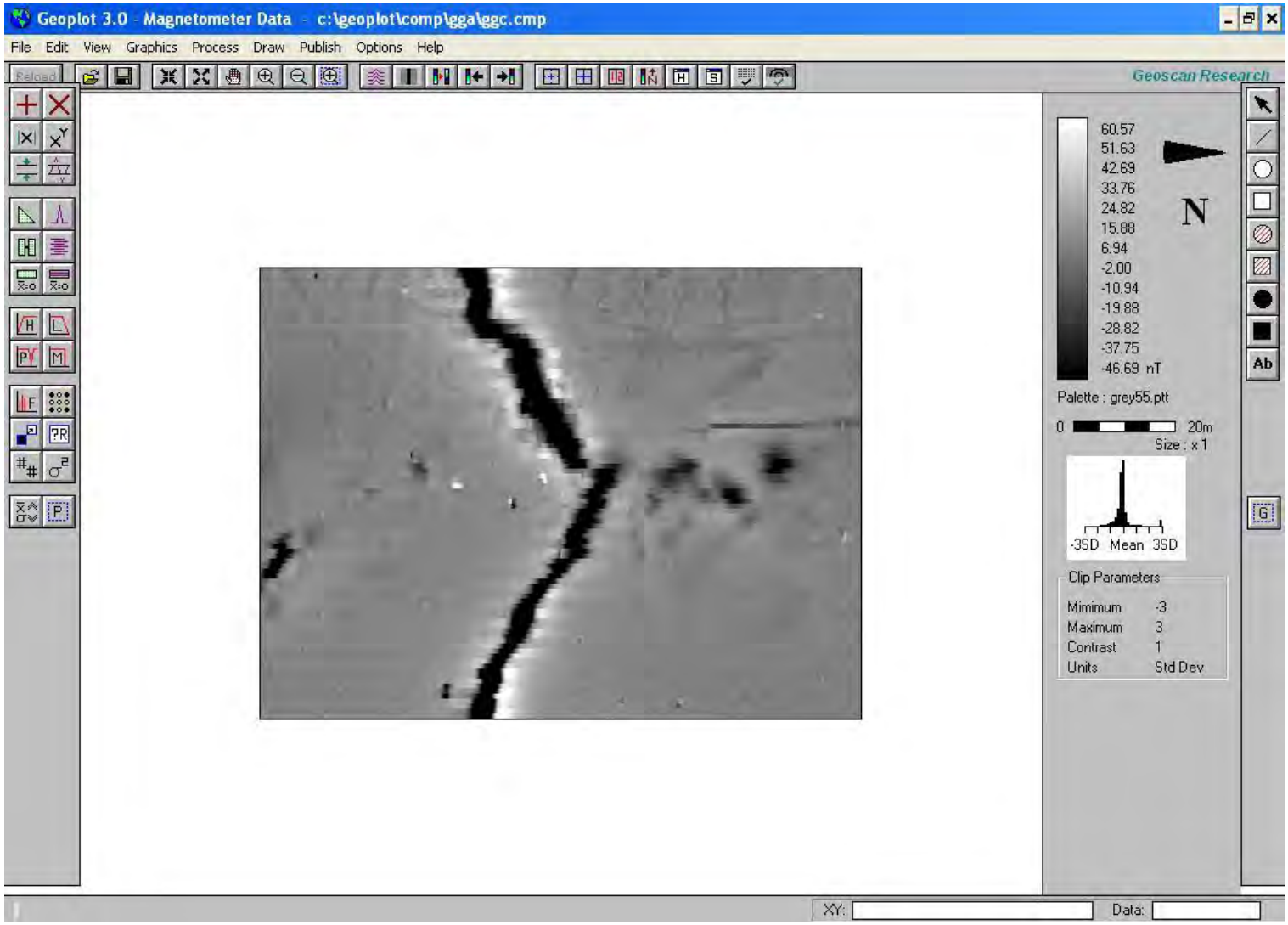
Appendix 13: Partial geophysical data superimposed onto LiDAR model of Cestyll Byrion earthworks, viewing east. With kind permission by Viktoria Hartzig.



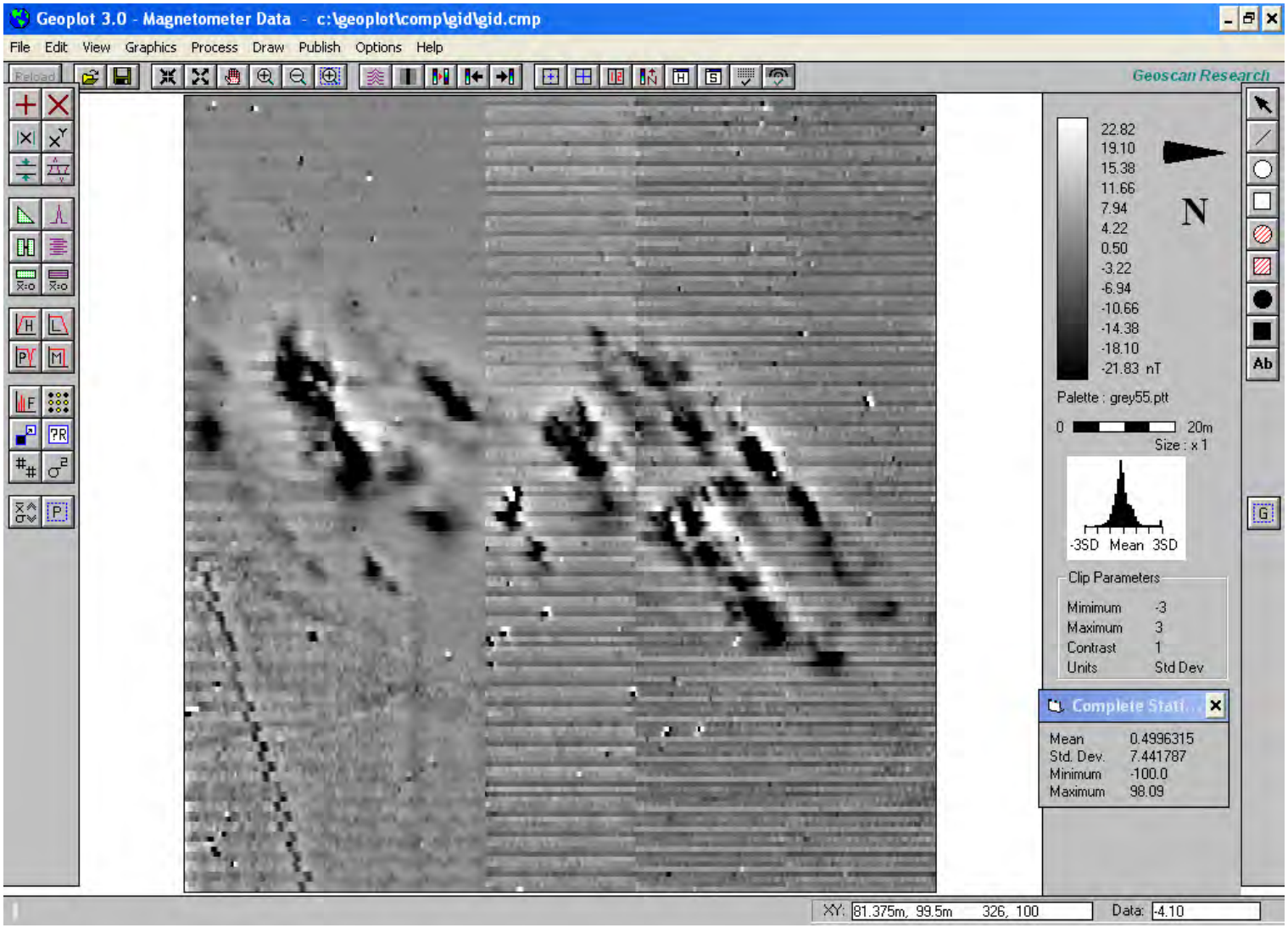
Appendix 14: Partial geophysical data superimposed onto composite Google satellite and LiDAR model of Cestyll Byrion earthworks, viewing northeast. With kind permission by Viktoria Hartzig.



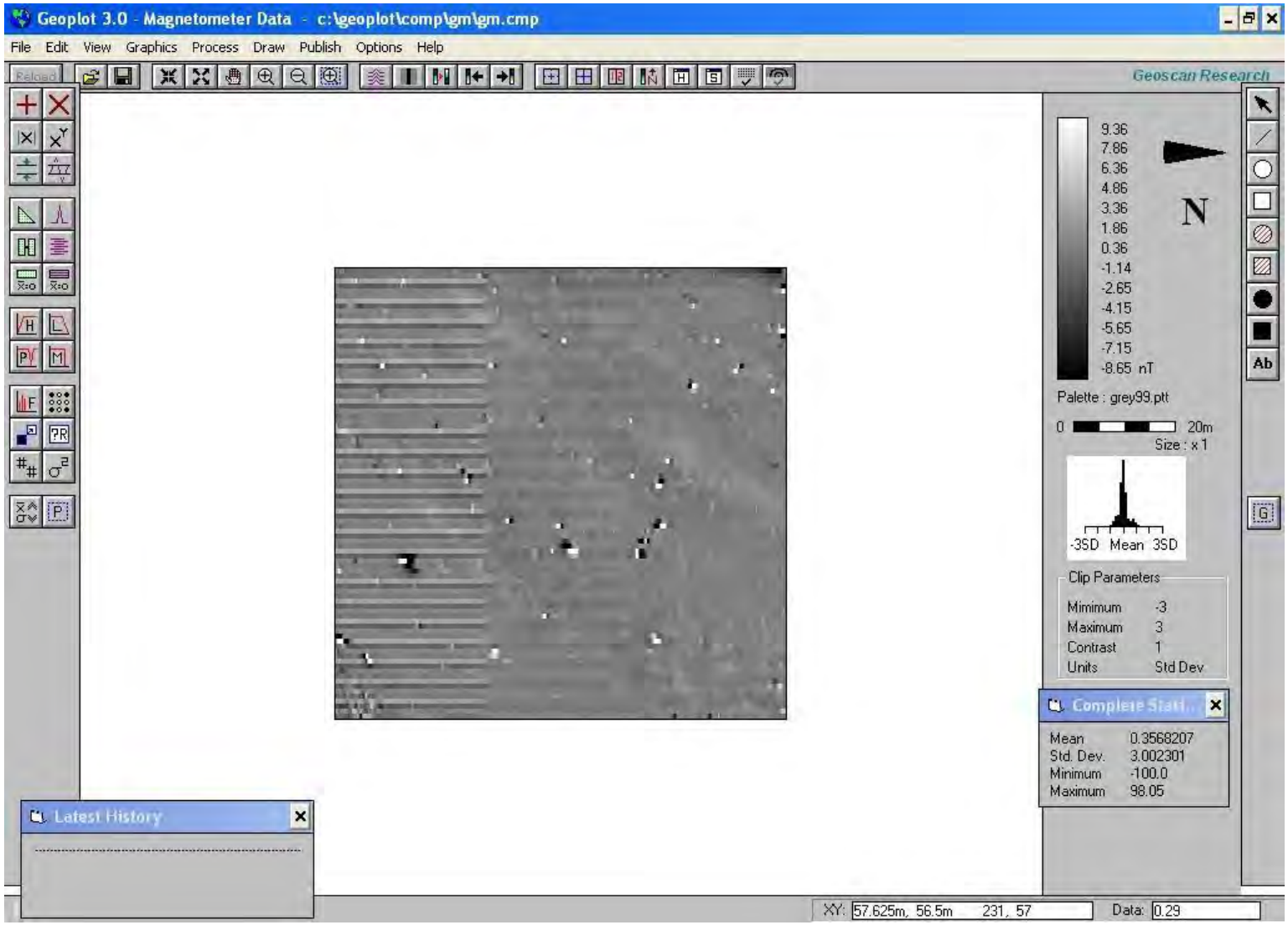
Appendix 15: Environmental data showing flood plains and flooded areas in study area, with sites highlighted (NRW).



Appendix 16: .RAW gradiometer data from Field 1 (GG)



Appendix 17: .RAW gradiometer data from Field 2 (GH)



Appendix 18: .RAW gradiometer data from Field 2 (GM – north western section).

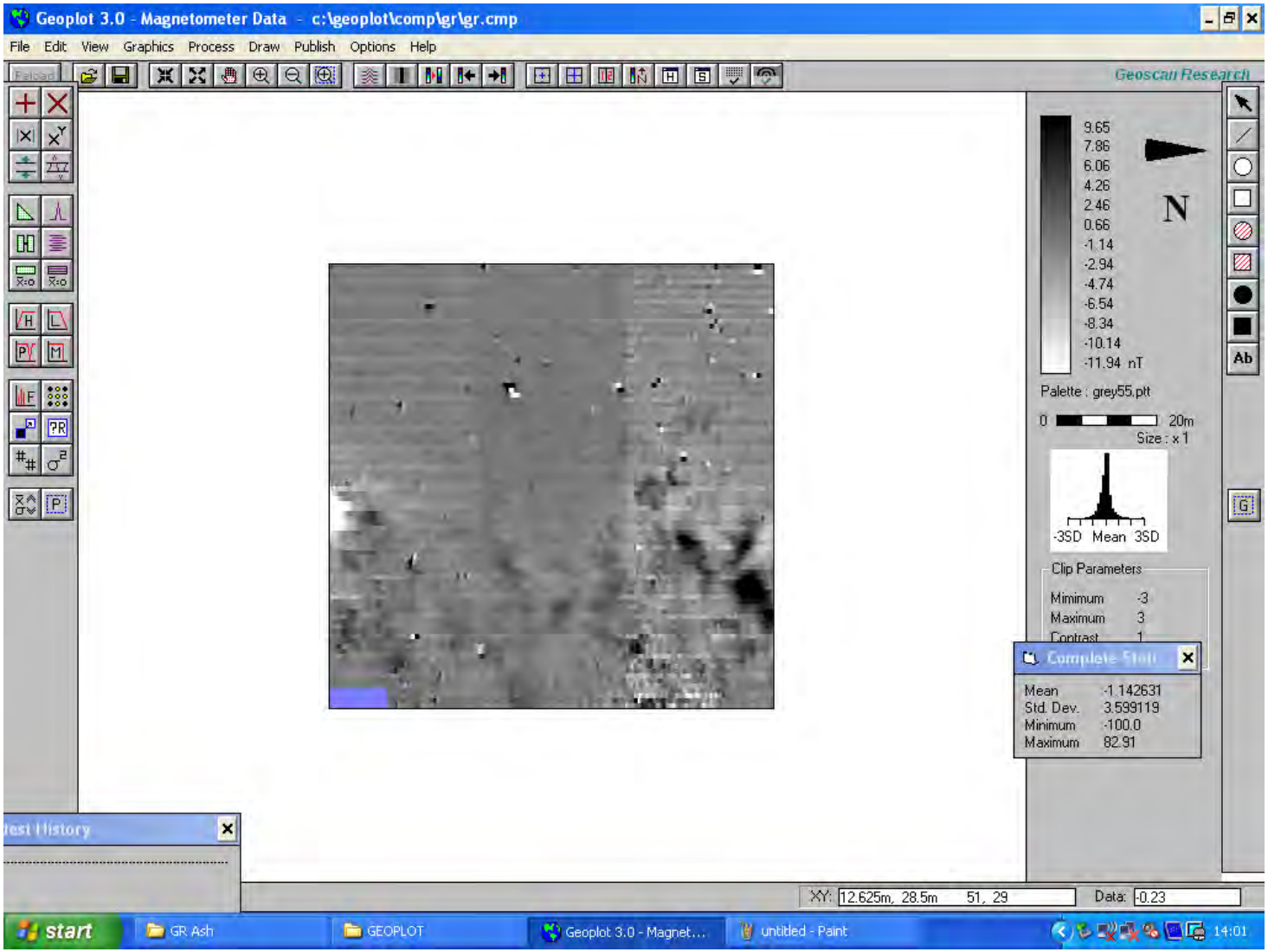
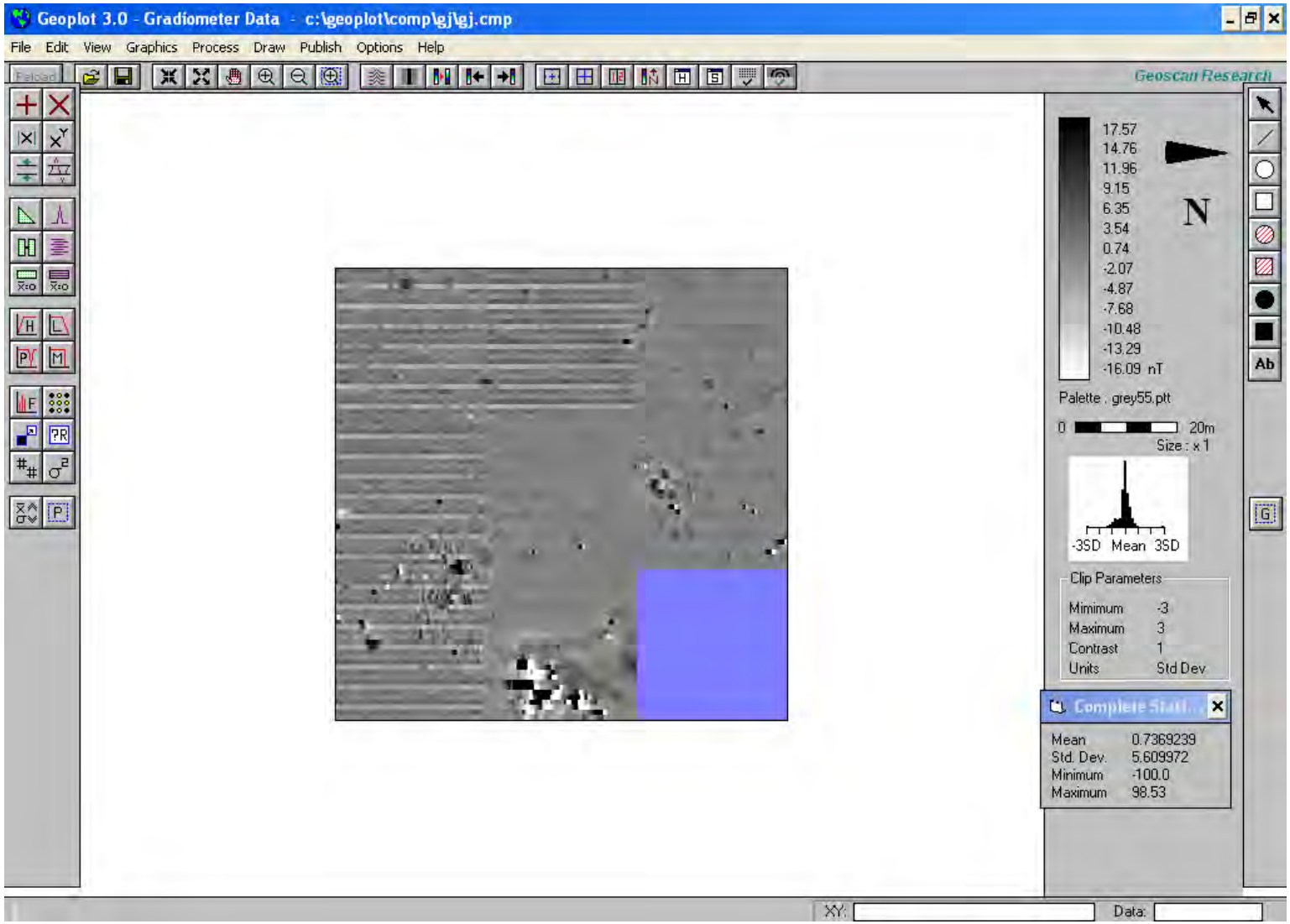
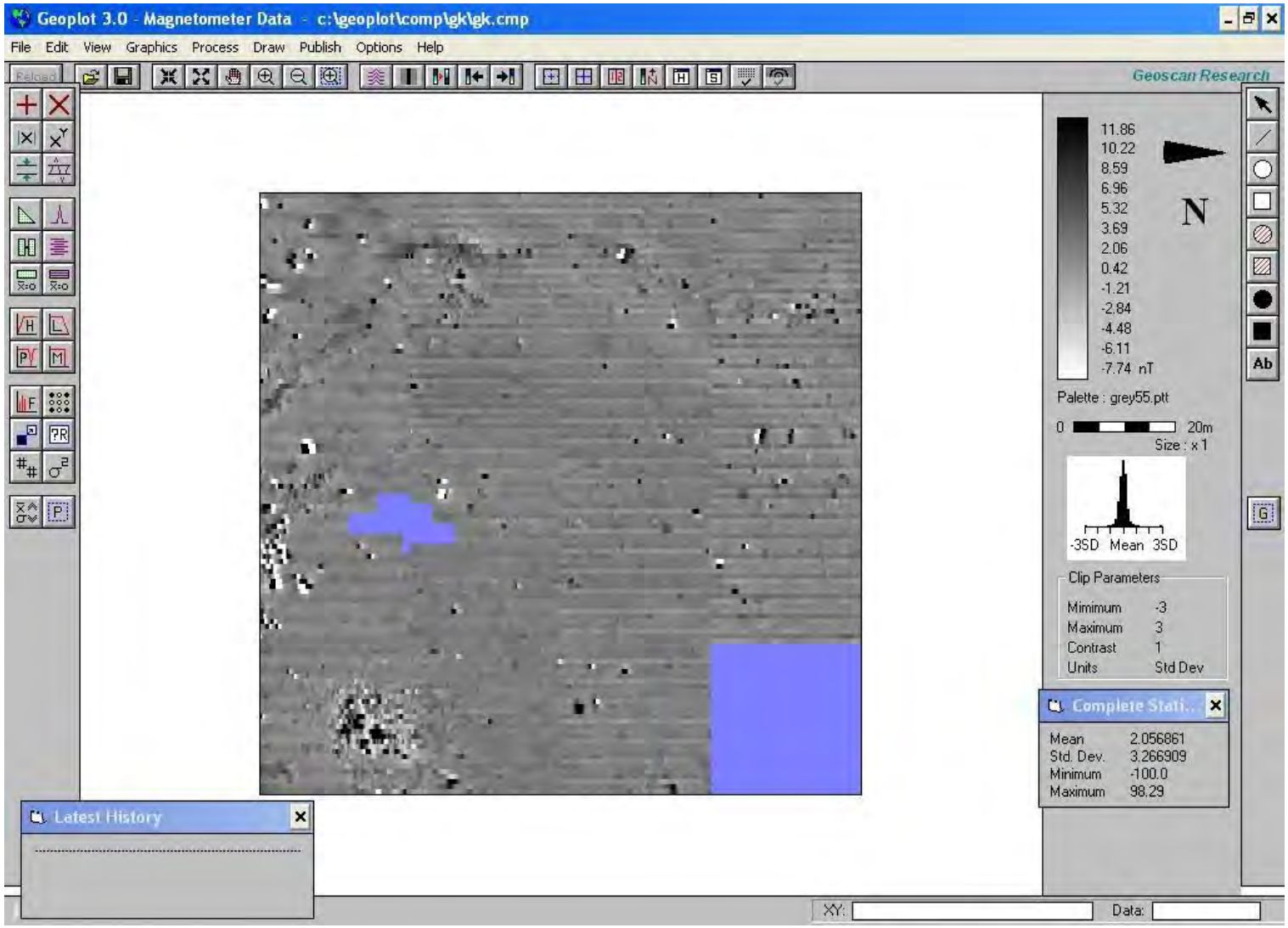


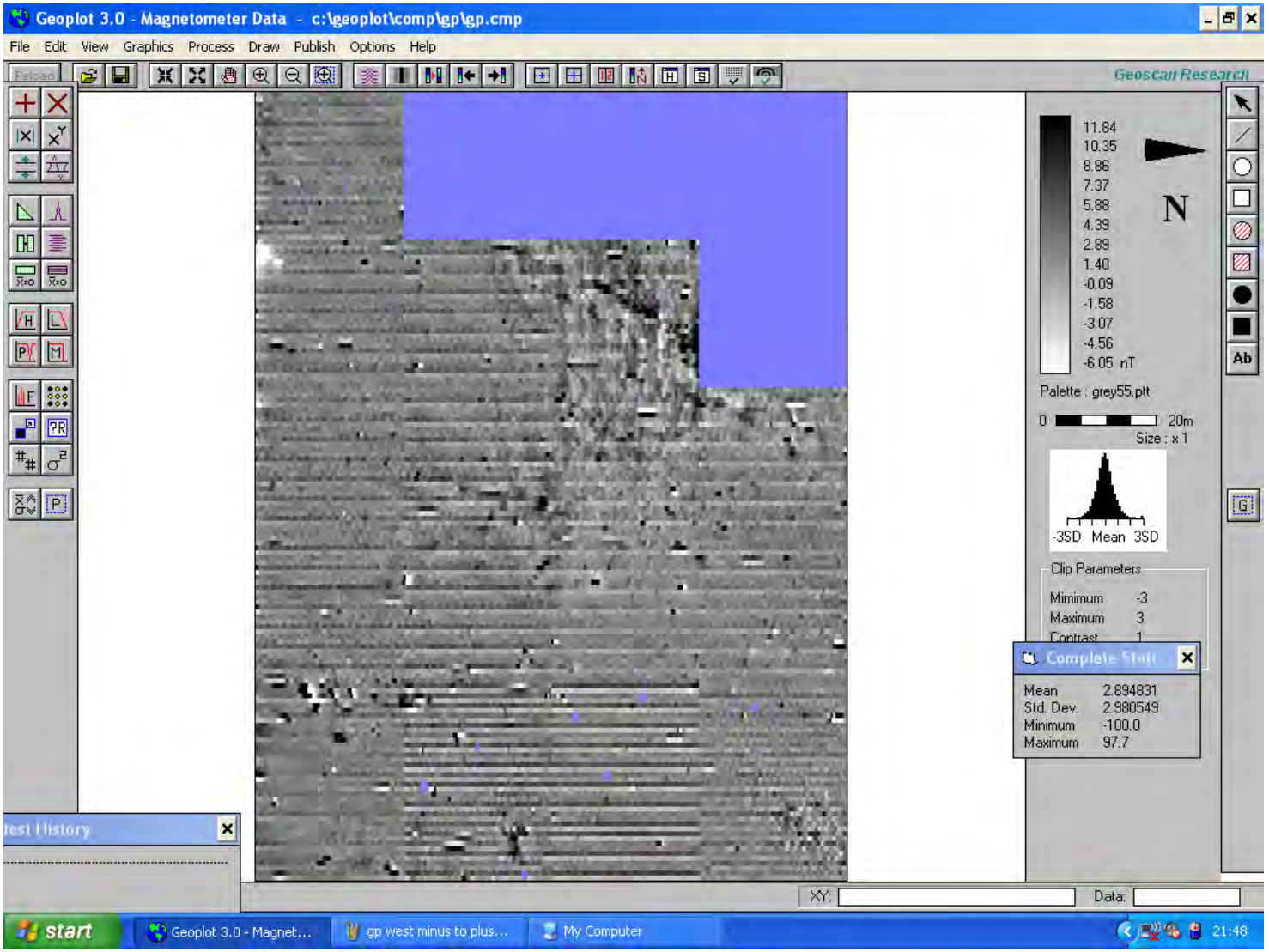
Figure 42: .RAW data of Field 2 (GR – north eastern section).



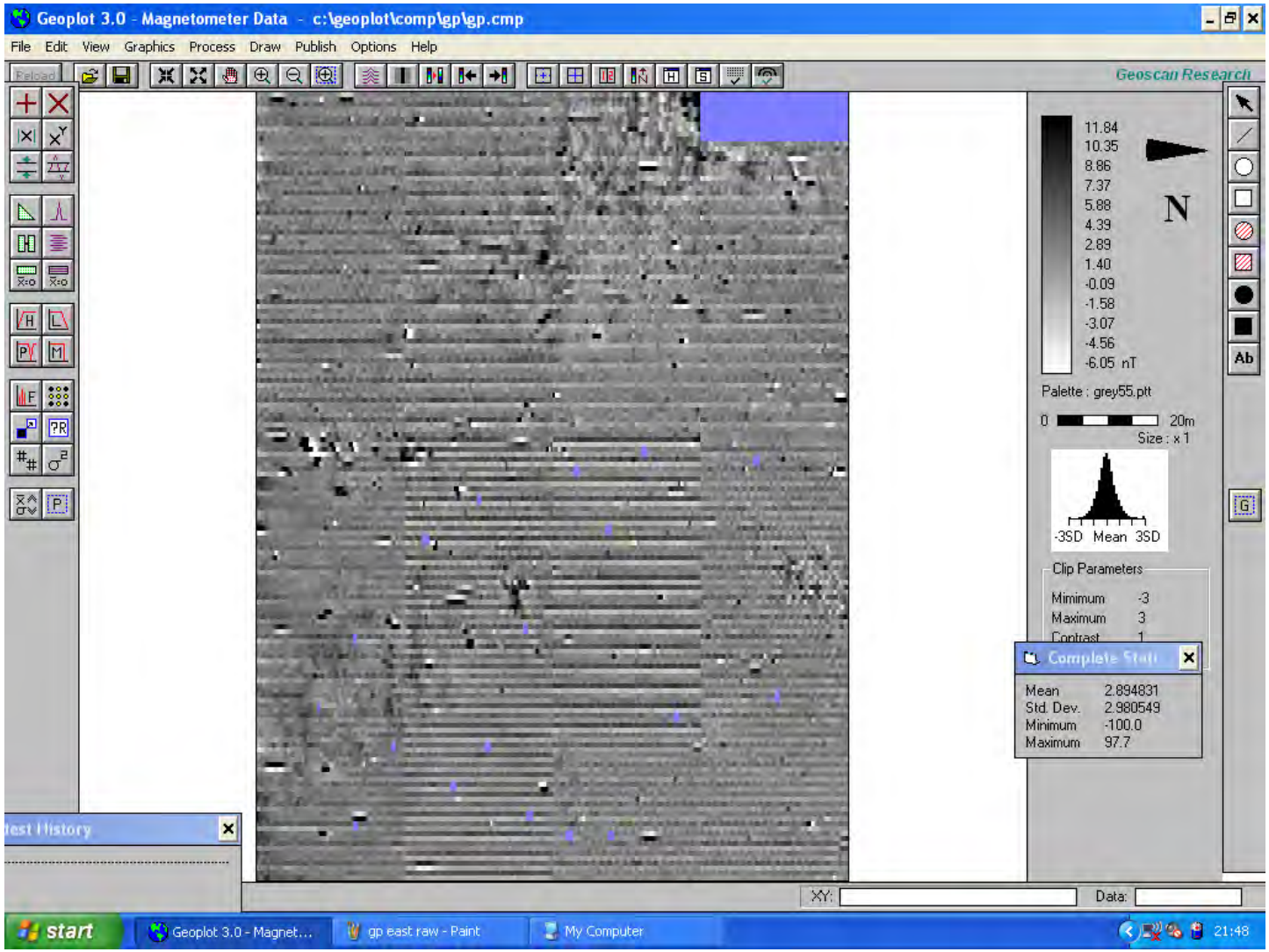
Appendix 19: .RAW gradiometer data from Field 3 (GI).



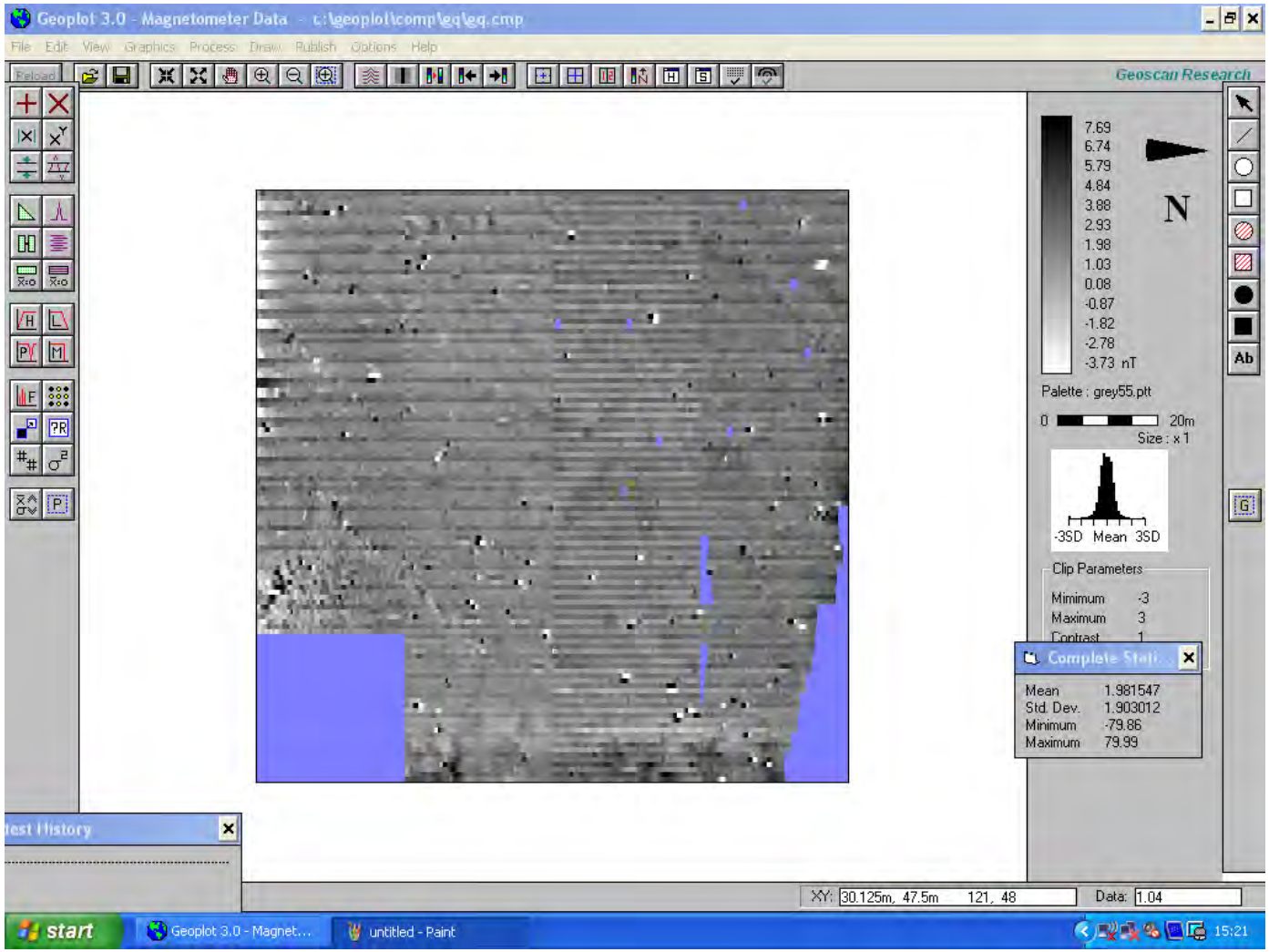
Appendix 20: .RAW gradiometer data from Field 4 (GJ).



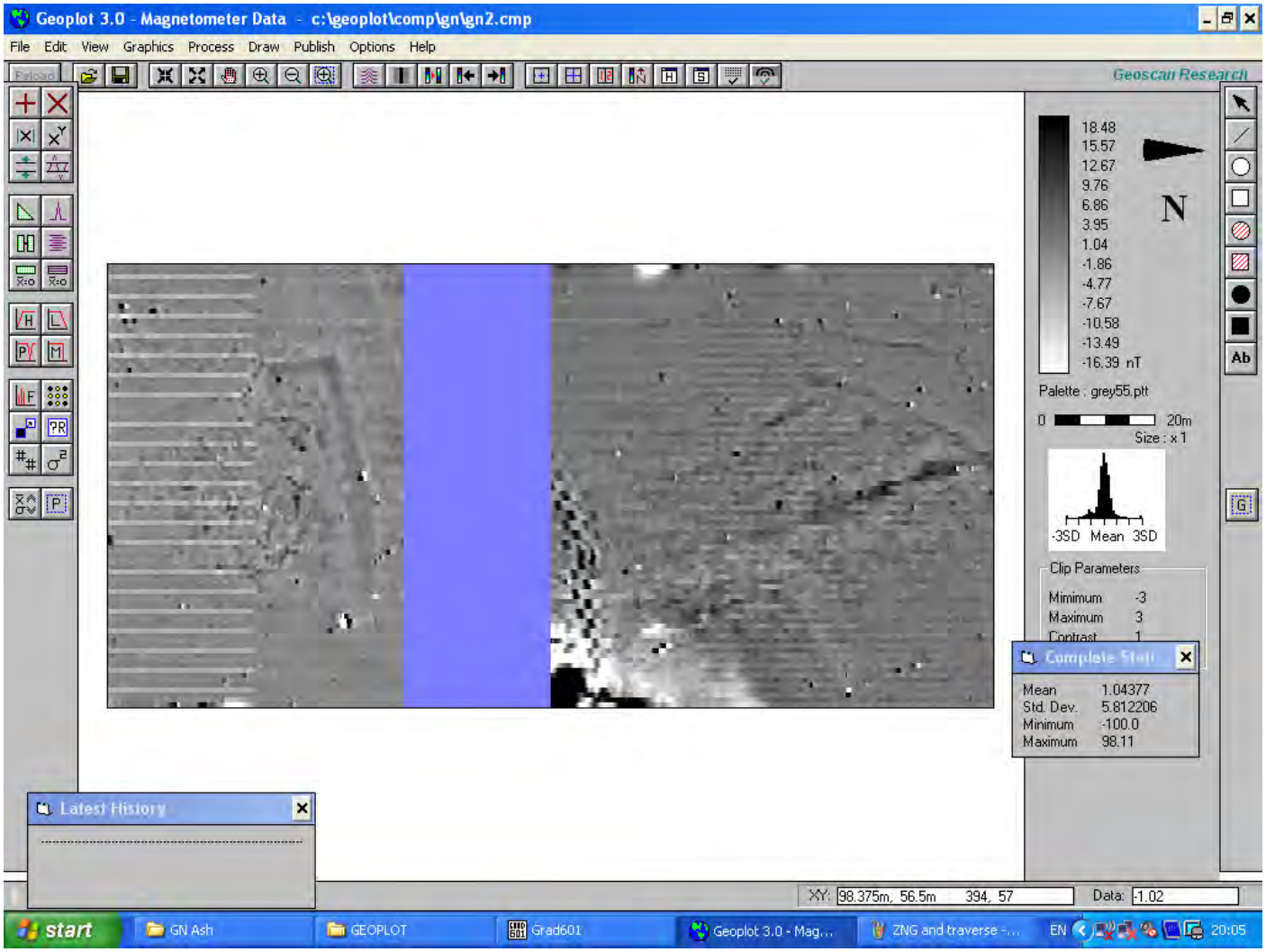
Appendix 21:.RAW gradiometer data from Field 5 (GP – western section).



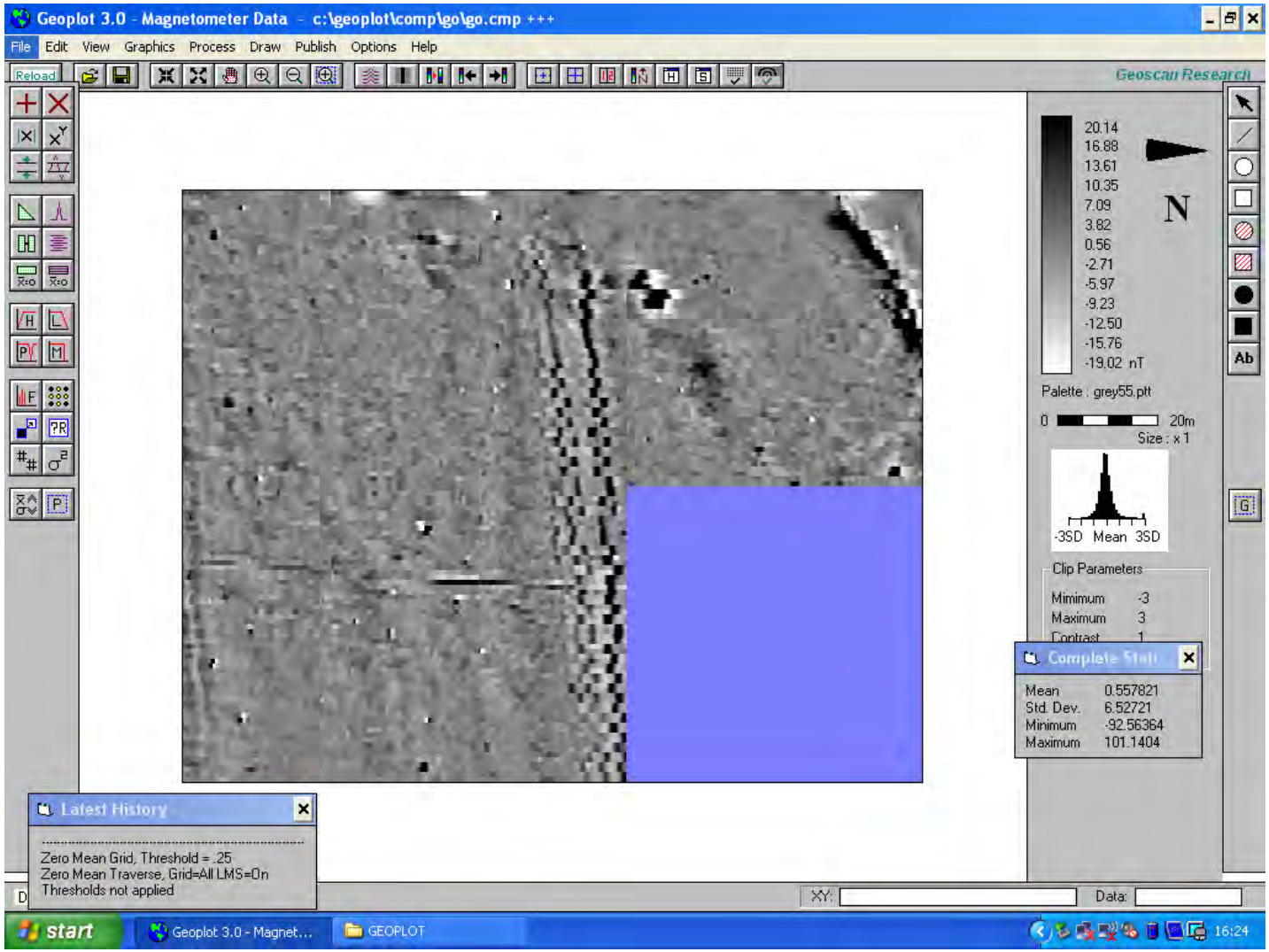
Appendix 22: RAW gradiometer data of Field 5 (GP, central section).



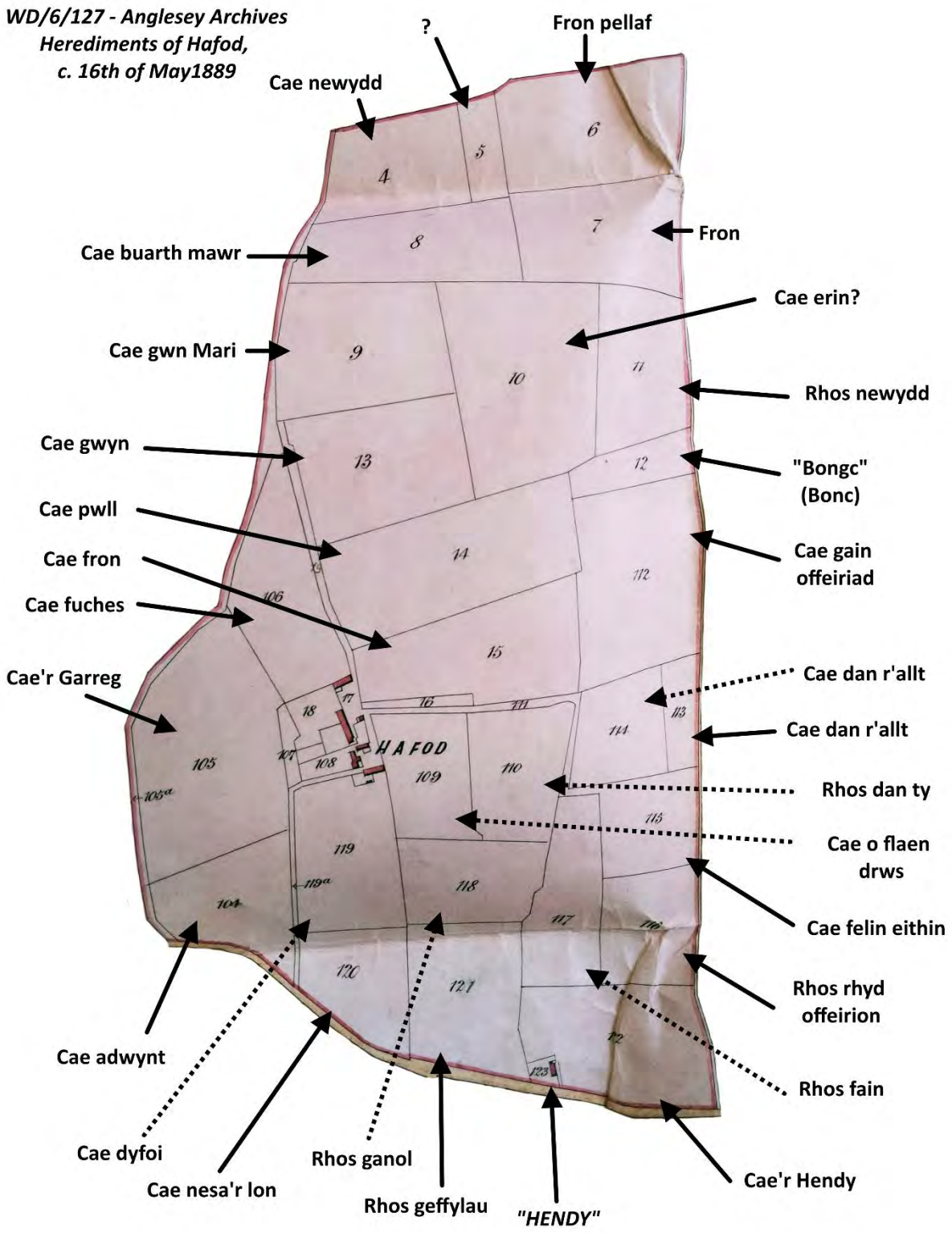
Appendix 23: .RAW gradiometer data of Field 5 (GQ, eastern side).



Appendix 24: .RAW gradiometer data of Fields 6 and 7 (GN).



Appendix 25: .RAW gradiometer data from Field 8 (GO).



Appendix 26: WD.6.127 - map of Hafod farm showing location of field names (Anglesey Archives, with kind permission).

Appendix 27: WD/6/2 - map of Trescawen estate showing location of fields and their names (Anglesey Archives, with kind permission).