

CPAT Report No. 1406

North-east Wales Community Archaeology Programme 2015-16



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Bryniau Clwyd a
Dyffryn Dyfrdwy
Clwydian Range
and Dee Valley
Ardal o Barddoniaeth Eiddorod
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty



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Summary

The North-east Wales Community Archaeology project, initiated in 2013-14 with grant aid from Cadw, undertakes volunteer and education-oriented, archaeology-based tasks in the former Clwyd region, ranging from conservation to archaeological fieldwork and educational events. The project has continued in 2015-16 with further community-based activities centred on two sites; Tomen y Rhodwydd (SAM De 018; PRN 100932) and Llys Edwin (SAM Fl 023; PRN 100289). This year, volunteer working groups also included students from Coleg Cambria (Llysfasi), Chester University, Liverpool University and Glyndŵr University.

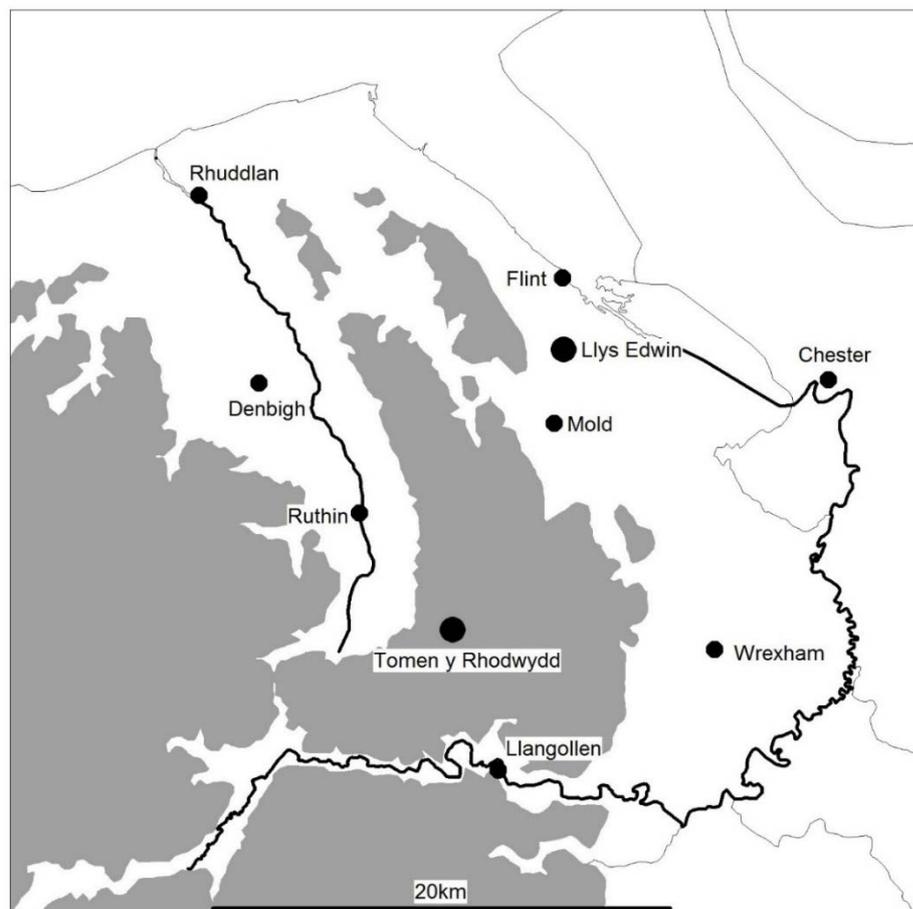
The conservation work at Tomen y Rhodwydd has seen extensive removal of vegetation cover allowing clear and impressive views of the entire motte and bailey. However the extent of the erosion issues associated with the badger colony sited on the western face of the motte are now apparent, and this will require a more informed and professional programme of management if the integrity of the earthwork is to be maintained.

The project has also benefited from the support of the Clwydian Range (AONB) Sustainability Fund. A grant aid from the AONB has allowed a geophysical survey of the site to be undertaken as part of one of the field workshop training days. The results of the survey, which have added to our understanding of the monument, are currently being used to help with the design of interpretation panels which it is hoped will further enhance the visitor experience.

At Llys Edwin the on-going archaeological survey has provided important baseline data which has allowed us for the first time to compare plans of Glenn's 1931 excavation with the complex of earthworks and rubble visible on site today. Coleg Cambria, Glyndŵr University and Chester University are all in agreement that Llys Edwin, as an academic resource, has great potential. To this end, therefore, the survey will also inform and help develop further management and research activities.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The North-east Wales Community Archaeology project was initiated in 2013-14 with grant aid from Cadw with the aim of undertaking volunteer and education-oriented, archaeology-based tasks in the former Clwyd region, ranging from conservation to fieldwork and educational events. These tasks have been identified through a process of consultation with Cadw and Denbighshire County Council which considers both conservation needs, educational opportunities and potential additional resources available for each. The programme of work during the first year concentrated on survey, conservation and outreach activities at Tomen y Rhodwydd (Castell yr Adwy) near Llandegla, Denbighshire (SAM De 018; PRN 100932), and continued in 2014-15 with further work at this site, as well as Llys Edwin, near Northop Flintshire (SAM Fl 023; PRN 100289) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2. The project continued in 2015-16 with further community-based activities such as geophysical and topographical field survey workshops and vegetation management conservation days, involving students from Coleg Cambria (Llysfasi), Chester University, Liverpool University and Glyndŵr University. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Flintshire Archives as part of the Llys Edwin project. We were, as ever, also supported by volunteers and visitors from numerous local interest groups (see Appendix 1 for list of participants).



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Fig. 1 The location of Tomen y Rhodwydd and Llys Edwin in North-east Wales

2 Tomen y Rhodwydd

- 2.1. Tomen y Rhodwydd is a motte and bailey castle located at the head of the Nant y Garth Pass, south-west of the village of Llandegla, Denbighshire at SJ 176 516, in an area of carboniferous limestone outcrops (Figs. 2 and 3). It was formerly part of the township of Buddugre'r within the parish of Llanarmon yn Iâl.
- 2.2. The castle consists of an earthen mound (the motte) standing at one end of an oval enclosure (the bailey) protected by a strong bank and ditch. The site has not been excavated; nevertheless it seems likely that the motte carried a palisade round its edge and inside this was a strong wooden tower. The morphology of the earthworks suggests that the whole structure is essentially of one period; the motte had not been superimposed on an earlier earthwork as far as can be established from surface evidence. The site is unusual in having a substantial counterscarp bank round the outside of the motte ditch and extending a short distance outside the bailey also. This bank, however, is not neatly finished, but rather resembles a series of spoil dumps. Also uncommon is the relatively low elevation of the broad motte summit above the embanked bailey, a contrast to the massive scale of the defences.



Fig. 2 Tomen y Rhodwydd from the air. Photo CPAT 84-c-0278

- 2.3. There are two mottes; Tomen y Rhodwydd and Tomen Y Faerdre, in the ancient *cwmwd* (commote) of Iâl (Yale) in Powys. The latter is located in Llanarmon 3 miles to the north. Opinion is divided as to the origins of Tomen y Rhodwydd with most historians attributing its construction to Owain ap Gruffydd ap Cynan (Owain Gwynedd). The evidence however, presents a lot of paradoxes and both mottes can be seen as either Norman, Welsh or both. In addition to its location in Llanarmon, (presumably at or near the *maerdref* or bond settlement and its church), Tomen y Faerdre is more Welsh in character and akin to the Gwynedd outcrop 'mottes' at

Crogen, Tomen Castell (Dolwydellan mark I), Castell Prysor etc none of which had conventional baileys although Prysor at least had unenclosed buildings at its base which may be functionally related. All or some of the latter will have been associated with Owain Gwynedd, who after becoming king (later prince) of Gwynedd in 1137, continued the expansionist policies of his house at the expense of the Norman earl Ranulf of Chester and another Welsh prince Madog ap Maredudd of Powys. He annexed Mold and Ystrad Alun in 1146 and Tegeingl in 1149. In order to secure these acquisitions he subsequently annexed the *cwmwd* (commote) of Iâl (Yale) in Powys, and constructed either Tomen y Rhodwydd or Tomen Y Faerdre in order to control access into Dyffryn Clwyd and the passage of the upper valley towards Mold. This occupation was short-lived, however. In 1157 Iorwerth Goch ap Maredudd, Madog ap Maredudd's brother, took 'the castle' and burnt it, restoring the authority of Powys over Iâl. It is not known whether the motte in question was rebuilt after its destruction in 1157.

- 2.4. Some of the more unusual elements of the earthworks at Tomen y Rhodwydd could be taken as indication of Welsh origin. Conversely the more typical motte and bailey plan (especially now that an internal motte ditch has been identified) is indicative of what would be expected of an Angevin (Anglo-Norman) royal castle. The reference in the Pipe Rolls for 1212-13 (which has often been attributed to Tomen y Faerdre) records 'iron mallets for breaking the rocks in the ditch of the castle of Yale', (*ibid*). This could equally refer to the excavation of Tomen y Rhodwydd's formidable but relatively narrow ditches being undertaken, perhaps, in a single campaign; English Crown intervention would explain their impressive scale and coherence (they recall those at Pennlle'r Castell in Glamorgan, interpreted by the RCAHMW as a short lived marcher frontier castle overlooking the border of upland Gower). It's location overlooking the pass, away from known settlement and the *maerdref* would also favour interpretation as an intensively built English royal invasion castle of the early 1200s, although the same could be said in support of aggressive Welsh expansion under Owain Gwynedd or equally the Princes of Powys Fadog as a response to the internal border struggles with Gwynedd.
- 2.5. An alternative argument can be made for the Anglo-Normans stamping their authority on an existing Welsh seat of power at or near the *maerdref* either by building a new castle or refurbishing an existing site. As such the apparent limitation of Tomen y Faerdre's defended area to its outcrop/motte summit could be viewed as reflecting the short burst of expenditure recorded in the Pipe Rolls. We also need to consider the potential for the focus of power to have shifted around the area from one site to the other - could the two Tomens of Iâl represent successive Welsh castles or even short-lived contemporaries and if either of the mottes are of Anglo-Norman build, did the English Crown rebuild or start afresh?



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Fig. 3. The location of Tomen y Rhodwydd.

- 2.6. It has been argued that Tomen y Rhodwydd is probably one of the best known of Welsh-built timber castles and it is therefore surprising that prior to the current project, the castle had not been subject to an archaeological survey, other than by the Ordnance Survey in 1963. The objectives of this project have therefore been to provide an accurate topographical plan which outlines the extent of the site and notes its present condition, the scale of erosion, vegetation coverage and other issues. In addition, a longitudinal profile across the monument has been mapped (Appendix - see Fig. 19) together with the location of what has been considered to be a previous archaeological excavation test pit (of which there is no known record within the regional Historic Environment Record).

Conservation

- 2.7. Following on from the successful programme of vegetation clearance conducted during 2013-15 there remained a substantial amount of brash that had been stacked awaiting removal for burning. Over a period of two working days volunteers helped to remove the material whilst students from Coleg Cambria (Llysfasi) removed the remaining mature trees from the bailey and (with the appropriate NRW-issued licence in place - Appendix 2) cleared hawthorn, gorse, ash and other vegetation from the motte, isolating the badger setts with minimal cover still in place (see Fig. 19). As in previous seasons, all of the removed vegetation was burnt on raised platforms, within the scheduled area.



Fig. 4 Coleg Cambria (Llysfasi) student undertaking vegetation clearance at Tomen y Rhodwydd in 2016. Photo CPAT 4122-0120

- 2.8. The previous seasons' clearance work has revealed the full extent of the bailey defences together with a limited view of the profile of the motte. Over the next month volunteer parties will continue to work with the author to clear the remainder of the vegetation removed from the motte and by the end of April 2016 the public will be able to appreciate the profile of Tomen y Rhodwydd and its setting fully for the first time.



Fig. 5 Treating root material to prevent re-growth. Photo CPAT 4122-0123

- 2.9. The effect of the vegetation clearance is demonstrated in Figs 6-7. From an archaeological perspective the work continues to help to re-define the various phases and evolution of the monument as well as facilitating the topographical survey, whilst the conservation work has identified important management issues with the site, specifically animal erosion.
- 2.10. Over a number of years the extensive vegetation cover on the west face of the motte has possibly encouraged the spread of the resident badger colony, causing extensive damage and considerable erosion to the stability and integrity of the earthwork. The partial removal of the gorse and bracken from the crest of the motte and around the badger sett, has highlighted the extent of the damage (see Fig. 7). The exposed ground surface was found to be extremely soft and unstable underfoot, and it seems likely that the removal of the remaining vegetation would accelerate the erosion process, exposing the west face of the motte to the prevailing weather.



Fig. 6 Vegetation clearance on the motte during 2016. Photo CPAT 4122-0090



Fig. 7 The corresponding view of the motte after vegetation clearance. The extent of erosion due to the badger setts can be clearly seen. Photo CPAT 4122-0171

Day-school Field Workshop

Geophysics By Richard Hankinson

- 2.11. In January 2016, a limited programme of geophysics was undertaken at Tomen y Rhodwydd, with the assistance of students from Chester and Liverpool Universities as part of a 'Day-school Field Workshop' (funded by the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Sustainability Fund). The geophysical survey provided an opportunity to gather additional data about the site in a non-intrusive manner and was successful in identifying sub-surface features that had not previously been recognised. The workshop also afforded the opportunity to instruct the students in the use of total station digital surveying.
- 2.12. Each of the geophysical survey areas was based on a series of 20m by 20m grids and employed a Bartington 601 fluxgate gradiometer with two sensors. The readings in each grid were taken along traverses 0.5m apart and the speed of each traverse was carefully controlled such that readings were taken every 0.25m, giving a total of 3200 readings per 400m² grid. The grids were laid out by taped measurement and then located in relation to local field boundaries by total station survey. The survey areas could then be related to modern Ordnance Survey mapping, thereby enabling the co-ordinates of any significant anomalies to be determined and the results compared to evidence obtained from other sources. The readings from each area were combined and processed using Archeosurveyor software to provide greyscale and trace images of the results. The only processing functions used were *Destripe* to remove variations in the readings between opposing traverses and *Clip*, to remove the effects of very high and very low readings on the results, thereby allowing anomalies of potential archaeological interest to be observed.
- 2.13. Three separate survey areas were covered by the geophysics, respectively in the Bailey, on the crest of the motte and in a field immediately to the north of the site. A trace plot has been produced for each (Figs 8-10) while the greyscale plot (see Fig. 20) of the results is provided as a composite which allows an overall view of the sub-surface anomalies to be compared with the surface features. The sub-surface anomalies are identified and numbered on Fig. 21 and described below.
- 2.14. The geophysics carried out in the area of the bailey revealed a total of eight separate anomalies. Anomaly 1 was the most pronounced and identifies the position of a substantial ditch, approximately 4m wide, separating the motte from the bailey. This clearly represents the in-filled medieval ditch surrounding the motte. Surrounding the ditch is a faint anomaly (8) which might provide evidence for a levelled embankment retaining traces of post-holes that could have formed a palisade.
- 2.15. The survey identified a number of anomalies which might relate to activity within the bailey. Anomaly 2 seems to represent a narrow linear gully or drain, c.1m wide and 18m long, running generally north-south and sited within the bailey; a low bank, visible on the surface, lies close to the anomaly and could be related. Near the southern end of anomaly 2 is what seems to be an elongated pit (3), measuring 5.4m north-west/south-east by 1.4m wide; its function is unknown.
- 2.16. Perhaps of more interest in providing clues for occupation within the bailey are anomaly 4, which is irregular and measures 9.4m north/south by up to 3.3m wide, and anomaly 5, which has an irregular meandering course, measuring 22m

north/south by up to 5m wide; both are possibly indicative of places where the ground was originally terraced but has been subsequently levelled. Whereas anomaly 5 could equally be geology, anomaly 4 appears to be visible on the surface as a low lying earthwork.

- 2.17. The remaining evidence in the bailey relates to the defensive bank which surrounds it. Anomaly 6, at least 12.5m long, shows that this section of the bank is somewhat different in character to the remainder, which shows elsewhere as an area of relatively even response (anomaly 7). It may be that this difference provides evidence of a filled-in access route into the bailey or perhaps even signifies the presence of burnt material.

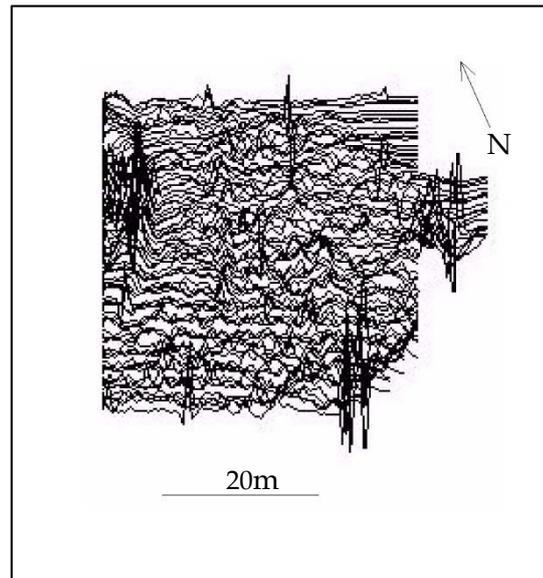


Fig. 8: Trace plot of the geophysics in the bailey
(original scale 16nT/cm, clipped to 30nT)

- 2.18. A small area, falling within a single 20m by 20m grid, was examined by geophysics on the relatively level summit of the motte and this provided evidence for a group of possible post-holes, all of which are potentially related to the wooden tower which it may be presumed once stood atop the mound. These were respectively 1.4m diameter (9), 1.4m in diameter (10), 1.5m in diameter (11), 1.5m in diameter (12), part of a possible post-hole (13), 1.8m in diameter, and part of another possible post-hole (14), 2.0m in diameter. A possible irregular pit (15), measuring 3.4m north-north-east/south-south-west by 1.8m wide, was also identified, but its function is unknown.

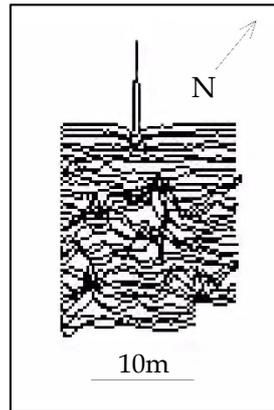


Fig. 9: Trace plot of the geophysics on the top of the motte
(original scale 16nT/cm, clipped to ± 30 nT)

- 2.19. To the north of the motte and bailey a survey area was surveyed in a field where the topography would have been suitable for settlement, if any exists in close proximity to the site. No evidence of settlement was found, but there were traces of broadly spaced ridge and furrow (16), averaging about 6m in width, between adjoining furrows.

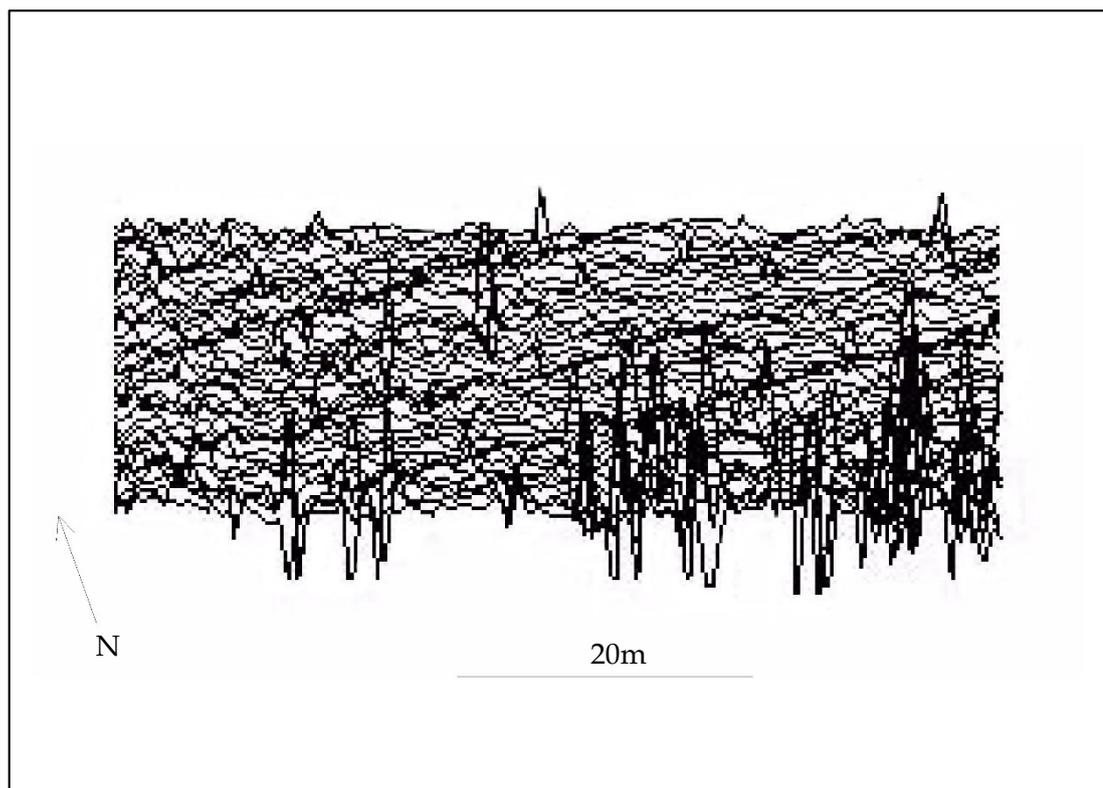


Fig. 10: Trace plot of the geophysics in the field to the north of the site
(original scale 40nT/cm, clipped to ± 30 nT)



Fig. 11 University of Chester students assisting with the geophysics survey 2016.
Photo CPAT 4122-0029

Geophysics – Additional Discussion

- 2.20. The geophysics survey was commissioned by the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB Sustainability Fund as part of the ongoing 'Interpretation Plan' for the site. To that end the project encourages any further discussion that can aid the interpretation process. The following points are included in order to enhance the debate;

The Motte

- 2.21. The nature of the low motte, when compared with other mottes of similar status across Wales and the borders, is unusual and although there is substantial erosion to the earthwork along the north eastern face (probably the result of later post medieval 'access improvement' to the summit), there is little to suggest that the motte has been significantly reduced in height. The survey located a number of possible large post-holes, each in excess of 1.4m in diameter, suggesting a tower of timber construction surmounting the motte. The nature of the defences surrounding such a structure, are purely speculative, but may have included a timber platform and palisade surrounding the summit, which would be typical of a 12th-century motte. There is no evidence to suggest the nature of the access to the motte, although this is likely to have been formed by a timber bridge which would probably have been located on the eastern side, with access from the bailey.

The Motte Ditch

- 2.22. The substantial ditch (1) separating the motte and bailey has been almost entirely infilled, perhaps during the post-medieval period. This deliberate act, together with

the construction of the causeway across the ditch on the northern side of the site which now forms the modern access to the site, may date from as early as the mid-16th century when John Leland noted that the site (then referred to as Castell Cefn Du) was in use as a sheepfold. The ditch may well be rock cut, through the underlying limestone with near vertical sides. The survey suggests that there would have been a counterscarp bank (8) running parallel along the outer, eastern side of the ditch. One would assume that the bank would have been surmounted with a timber palisade.

The Bailey

- 2.23. The survey revealed no conclusive evidence to suggest buildings within the bailey, where one might expect to find a hall, smithy, stables etc, although there must have been some form of shelter within this area. Anomalies 2 and 4 suggest a narrow linear gully and associated terrace with a possible break or entrance between the two. On the surface, a parallel low lying bank is visible. Whether or not these features are associated with medieval buildings is a matter of conjecture and this could only be resolved through excavation. As has been previously stated, the castle was in use as a sheepfold during the post-medieval period and this slight earthwork, together with the gully, could indicate the existence of some form of later partitioning within the bailey.

The defensive earthworks enclosing the bailey are of substantial height along the north and north-eastern side and yet the southern perimeter is much reduced, probably owing to a combination of erosion and modifications in the later post-medieval period). Where the crest of the bank was surveyed there was no evidence for post-holes associated with a timber palisade, although in the south-eastern quadrant a large positive anomaly (6), at least 12.5m long, is suggestive of burning, or burnt material against the inner edge of the bank. Given its position, next to the presumed original entrance to the bailey, it is tempting to associate this with a gatehouse although the anomaly could also be the result of burnt material thrown against the bank in the post medieval period. Comparison with other Welsh motte and bailey sites has revealed a number of circuitous approaches around and through ditches and also at angles, suggesting an alternative location for the gatehouse as per the present causewayed access at Tomen y Rhodwydd.

Outlying Fields

- 2.24. There has been some debate amongst all involved with the project as to whether or not there was an external settlement adjacent to the castle during the medieval period. In response to this, the geophysics survey included a small sample area (60m x 20m) of the field located to the north-north-east of Tomen y Rhodwydd. In low-light it is possible to see the slight remains of linear embankments orientated east to west across the field. The survey identified this as ridge and furrow ploughing, possibly of medieval origin. Unfortunately there was no additional evidence of settlement (although this should not discount other outlying areas).

3 Llys Edwin

- 3.1. The site (SJ 2370 6933) lies less than a mile to the north-west of Northop, and back from the coast by just over 3km. Rising ground to the south-west is broken only by the sharp defile of the small watercourse known as Afon Conwy while flattish ground

to the north-east constitutes one of the natural shelves in the landscape above the Dee Estuary. The following text is based on research undertaken by Bob Silvester as part of the Cadw-funded study of Llysoedd and Maerdrefi (Silvester 2015).

- 3.2. In name it is associated with an 11th-century historical figure, Eadwine (or Edwin) of Tegeingl who appears in Domesday Book (1086). The entry for *Castretone* was assumed by T. A. Glenn to be synonymous with Llys Edwin and that appears to have been accepted without question by more recent authorities (e.g. Rumble and Morgan). Ellis Davies referred to a nearby plantation as Coed Llys, and further north, about 500m to the north-east of Llys Edwin is Llŷs Farm, but it is entirely unclear how far back in time these *llys* names can be taken.



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Fig. 12 The location of Llys Edwin, adjacent to Glyndŵr University and Coleg Cambria, Northop



Fig. 13 Aerial view of Llys Edwin in 1987. Photo CPAT 87-MB-872

- 3.3. A succinct description was provided originally in the Royal Commission's *Inventory for Flintshire* in 1912 which described a near-square enclosure with an inner ditch and outer bank, a mound in the north-east corner of the enclosure which had a separate bank and ditch around its west and south sides. For the Royal Commission this was a small Motte and Bailey, but one that was not positioned in a strong natural location. Further earthworks lay to the west.
- 3.4. In 1931 T. A. Glenn excavated Llys Edwin on behalf of Lady Daresbury, publishing his results three years later in a privately published volume entitled *The Family of Griffith of Garn and Plasnewydd*, though it was also re-printed as a separate publication. Glenn exposed the remains of a stone hall, probably of the first half of the 13th century, but with timber predecessors. From the excavation report of three years later it can be gathered that Glenn identified at least four phases, as well as activity, indicative presumably of robbing and disturbance, and artefacts from Tudor times onwards. The excavation revealed a gate flanked by square projecting towers and opposite on the far side of the moat, a stone bridge abutment. South-east of this were a hall, kitchen and pantry, and a further square tower occupied the north angle of the moat. North-west of the yard were further rooms. While subsidiary buildings were found inside the moat on the south-east and south-west sides and were said to include a forge and stables, the latter apparently large enough to accommodate twenty or more horses, with a 'detached tower of great strength' close to the stables.
- 3.5. All these remains were of stone. Glenn considered that the hall complex had been partially rebuilt probably in the earlier 13th century, that the first stone phase replaced a half-timbered predecessor, and that this had in turn succeeded a timber building defined by post-holes.

- 3.6. On the south-west side of the site was a second moat (or ditch), this one wider, and, as shown on the Ordnance Survey plan, extending further to the north-west than the moated enclosure, other than its south-western side which also runs on, following a parallel course. Early commentators saw these as outworks but the Ordnance Survey in 1962 were inclined to the more prosaic view that they were fishponds. The Ordnance Survey field investigator also recorded a further anomaly in that the north-eastern ditch of the enclosure continued towards the south-east, halting abruptly at the edge of the field, but suggesting more complexity to the earthworks than acknowledged by Glenn.

Earthwork Survey

- 3.7. The earthwork survey commenced in 2014-15, covering a small area on the north-western side of Llys Edwin. In 2015-16 this was extended to cover the whole of the scheduled site currently under the management of Glyndŵr University (see Fig. 22). As before, the survey afforded an opportunity for students from the nearby Glyndŵr University and Chester University to gain experience in digital surveying and the interpretation of earthwork monuments. Over a period of five days the students assisted in the production of an extensive, detailed topographical survey which included a transect profile across the monument.



Fig. 14 Students from Glyndŵr University (Northop) surveying the earthworks at Llys Edwin 2016. Photo CPAT 4122-0052

- 3.8. As well as mapping the earthworks (Fig. 22), the students were encouraged to discuss the numerous management issues associated with the up-keep of a scheduled monument. This particular exercise generated a rather interesting degree of lively debate with Glyndŵr University (Biodiversity) students raising opposing conservation concerns to those of the Chester University (Archaeology) students. Both the professional CPAT staff and students benefitted from this broader view of

site management. The initial result was the production of a management plan (see Fig. 23) highlighting the principal active erosion issues at Llys Edwin. Of considerable concern was the extensive nature and size of the rabbit warrens, the locations of which, ironically, appeared to favour areas of significant archaeology containing buried in situ medieval masonry and deposits rich in palaeoenvironmental and artefactual potential. Two fragments of pottery, a strap handle and a body sherd from a fine example of a 13th-century jug, and the corroded remains of an iron riding spur were recovered from the warren spoil. In addition to this there was considerable surface evidence of medieval masonry crumbling as a consequence of animal turbation.

- 3.9. The results of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 surveys of Llys Edwin have allowed the production of a composite plan combining the topographical survey with Glenn's plan of the 1931 excavations, published in 1934 (see Fig. 24). From this it is now possible to ascertain a more accurate interpretation of Glenn's excavation results, compared with what is visible today, as a series of low lying earthworks, possible spoil heaps and denuded tower masonry.

Archives Workshop

- 3.10. As part of the Llys Edwin project a number of Chester University Archaeology students also had the opportunity to visit the Flintshire Archives repository (Deeside) where, under the supervision of CPAT and Flintshire Museums staff, they were instructed in current archiving, cataloguing and storage guidelines for all artefacts under the care of the Flintshire Museum Services (Fig. 15). This included a rare opportunity to handle artefacts from the 1931 Llys Edwin excavations (see Figs 16 - 17).



Fig. 15 Chester University archaeology students visiting the Flintshire Archives 2016. Photo CPAT 4122-0067



Fig. 16 Metalwork recovered during the 1931 Llys Edwin excavations. Flintshire Archives. Photo CPAT 4122-0047



Fig. 17 Medieval weaponry recovered from the 1931 Llys Edwin excavations. Flintshire Archives. Photo CPAT 4122-0049

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. The project has continued to build on the success of the first two years of work between 2013-15, and once again has combined archaeological survey, analysis, heritage conservation and community outreach. Many of the positive aspects of the project, cited below, have already been noted in previous reports. However this years' work has perhaps seen a consolidation of those results, bringing together both conservation and heritage management to a wider public audience as a result of financial support from Cadw and the Clwydian Range (AONB). Visitations to Tomen y Rhodwydd by groups such as the *Castle Studies Group* and the raised academic value of Llys Edwin have helped generate heightened interest in the volunteers work.
- 4.2. The conservation work at Tomen y Rhodwydd continues at a pace and the work in 2015-16 has seen extensive removal of the vegetation cover allowing clear views of both the motte and bailey for the first time in recent decades. Enclosure and hedgeline clearance, to be undertaken with grant aid from the Clwydian Range (AONB) Sustainability Fund, will improve the overall view and setting of the monument. The visitor experience will be further enhanced through a series of on-site interpretation panels with informative reconstruction drawings of the castle.
- 4.3. The 2016 vegetation clearance at Tomen y Rhodwydd has highlighted the serious nature and advancement of the erosion issues associated with the badger colony sited on the western face of the motte. Previous areas of vegetation clearance around sheep scrapes and satellite badger setts located across the site are already benefitting from the reduced cover and are beginning to stabilise and recover. However, the erosion on the motte will require a far more intensive programme of management from suitably qualified professionals if the integrity of the earthwork is to be maintained.
- 4.4. At Llys Edwin the archaeological survey has provided important baseline data which will inform future research and heritage management strategies for the site. Permission has already been granted by Coleg Cambria (the adjacent site tenants) to continue and complete the topographical study of the monument if the project should continue into 2016-17. In helping to collate this data, the students from both Glyndŵr and Chester Universities have engaged positively with the site, being visibly impressed with the wealth of the archaeological resource, demonstrated through their understanding and interpretation of the earthworks. The presence of surface finds and impressive metalwork held in the Flintshire Archives has also underlined the importance of developing further management and research activities at the site. Coleg Cambria, Glyndŵr University and Chester University have all acknowledged the academic value of the site, seeing potential training opportunities for biology, ecology, history and archaeology students alike.
- 4.5. The majority of Welsh Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie on agricultural land, the communities that own, work on and around these monuments being vital partners in the management of the archaeological resource. The project has continued to maintain the links with the local agricultural and academic community, whether through the very efficient workforce of Llysfasi, Glyndŵr, Chester and Liverpool students or the support of volunteers from several regional heritage and conservation interest groups.

- 4.6. The community outreach element of the project has enabled many people to access the sites and participate in archaeological and conservation work. With the project expanding across multiple sites located at opposite ends of the North-east Wales region, participants were drawn from a wide demographic range, and the level of interest generated suggests that further community-based archaeological projects will be sustainable in future years.

5 Acknowledgements

- 5.1. The survey and conservation fieldwork was coordinated by Ian Grant with assistance from Richard Hankinson (Geophysics) and Viviana Culshaw (additional community engagement). Post-excavation assessment and reporting has been undertaken by Ian Grant and Richard Hankinson. Nigel Jones and Will Logan assisted with the survey illustrations. CPAT would like to thank Will Davies, Fiona Grant and Kate Roberts (Cadw); Fiona Gale (Denbighshire County Archaeologist); Kathleen Carroll and Sian Laws (Natural Environment and Agriculture Team); Ceri Lloyd, AONB Sustainable Development Officer; Sarah Pevely, Flintshire Archives and David Shiel, Denbighshire Countryside Services.



Fig. 18 Coleg Cambria (Llysfasi) vegetation management team, Tomen Y Rhodwydd 2016. Photo CPAT 4122-0148

- 5.2. The author would also like to thank the following for their assistance with coordinating the numerous students who took part in the fieldwork: Andy White and Tim Jenner, Coleg Cambria, Llysfasi; Dr David Skydmore, Richard Lewis, Derek Powell and Kathryn Ellis, Glyndŵr University; Dr Caroline Pudney and Professor Howard Williams, Chester University. Thanks are also due to our core team of field volunteers from numerous local interest groups. Finally, I would like to thank the landowners and tenants; Mr Ieuan Williams (Tomen y Rhodwydd) and Glyndŵr

University and Coleg Cambria (Llys Edwin), for their continuing support and interest in the project and permission to undertake the site work.

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Appendix 1: Summary of Community Participation Tomen y Rhodwydd and Llys Edwin

GROUP	Participated in Fieldwork
CPAT	3
Cwmwd Ial Re-enactment Society (conservation/fieldwork)	10
Clwydian Range Archaeology Group	3
Caer Alyn Archaeology History Project	3
Conservation Society, Llanarmon (fieldwork)	4
Conservation Society, Llanarmon (presentation 23/02/16)	15
Corwen and Dee Valley Archaeological Society	2
Coleg Cambria Llysfasi	7
Glyndwr University	7
Liverpool University	2
Chester University	12
Castle Studies Group (day visit)	45+
Clwydian Range AONB annual forum (presentation to - 20/11/15)	30+
Denbighshire Countryside Services volunteers	3
University of Third Age (Flint Branch) (site tour -13/03/16)	11
Other volunteers	4

Appendix 2 Badger Licence 2016

Yr Adran Cyfoeth Naturiol
Department for Natural Resources



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mr I Grant
Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
41 Broad Street
Welshpool
Powys SY21 7RR

Our Ref/Your Ref: NAW 04-16
Date: 29 January 2016

Dear Mr Grant

PROTECTION OF BADGERS ACT 1992 – LICENCE TO PERMIT INTERFERENCE WITH A BADGER SETT

Further to the report received from our wildlife adviser, please see attached licence, number NAW 04-16, authorising you to interfere with a badger sett at Tomen y Rhodwydd Motte & Bailey Castle, Llandegla, Nr Wrexham, Denbighshire (Grid ref: SJ176516).

This licence authorises you to interfere with badger setts for the purpose of undertaking forestry operations

Please note carefully the conditions which apply and the action you are required to take.

This licence is valid between **1 February 2016** and **30 November 2016**

If you have not already done so, I would be grateful if you could notify the names of any additional persons involved in the operation as soon as possible.

If you have any queries about this licence please contact Kathleen Carroll of Natural Environment and Agriculture Team on 0300 062 2290. If technical queries or practical problems arise during the operation please contact Sian Laws or Lynda Makepeace, Welsh Government Wildlife Management Advisers on 0300 062 2297 / 01597 828271.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Carroll
Natural Environment & Agriculture Team



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Agriculture Team
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Fig. 19 The results of the 2014 - 2016 surveys of Tomen y Rhodwydd showing also the areas of vegetation clearance undertaken in 2015-16

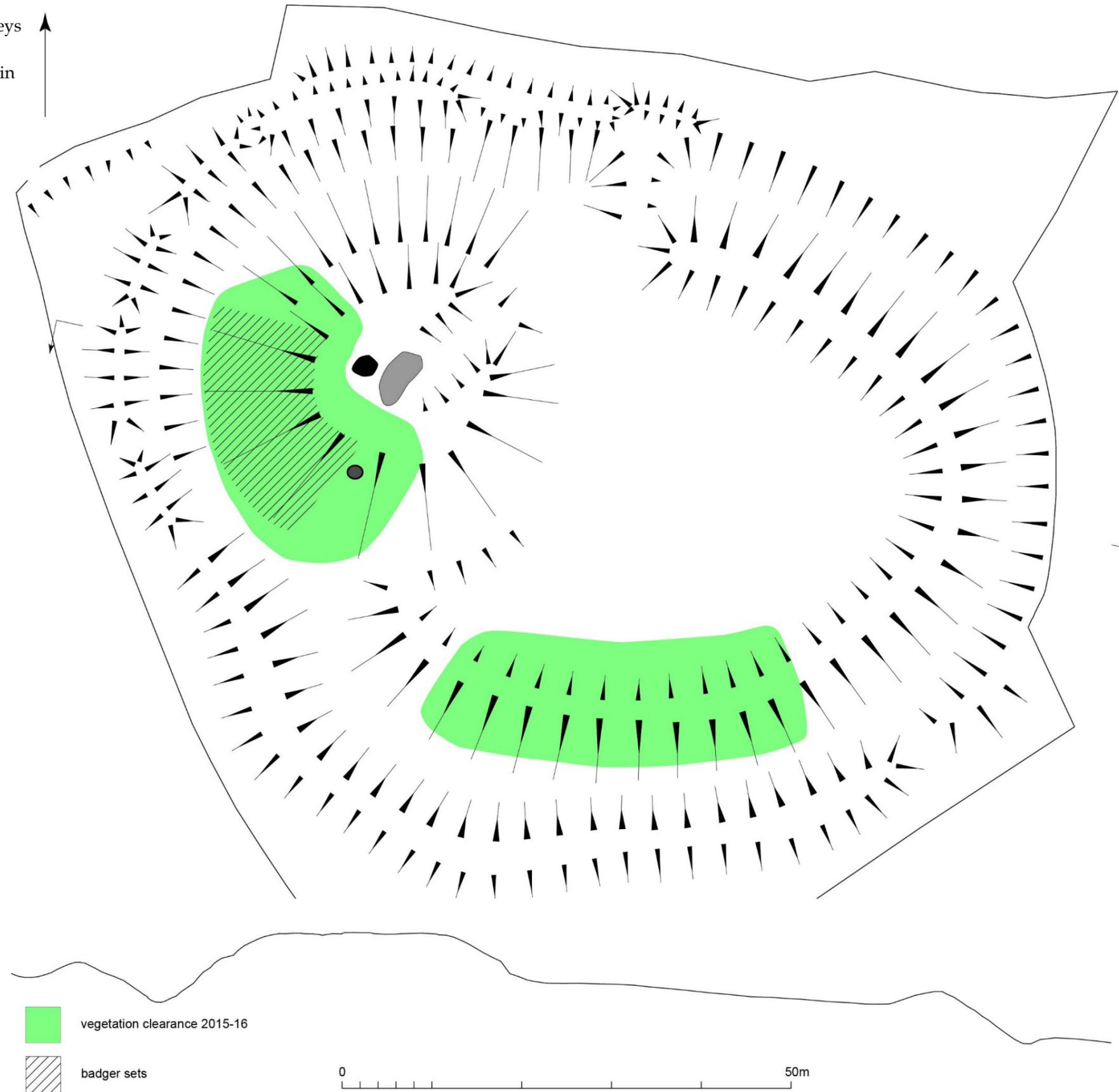


Fig. 20 The results of the 2015-16 geophysical survey

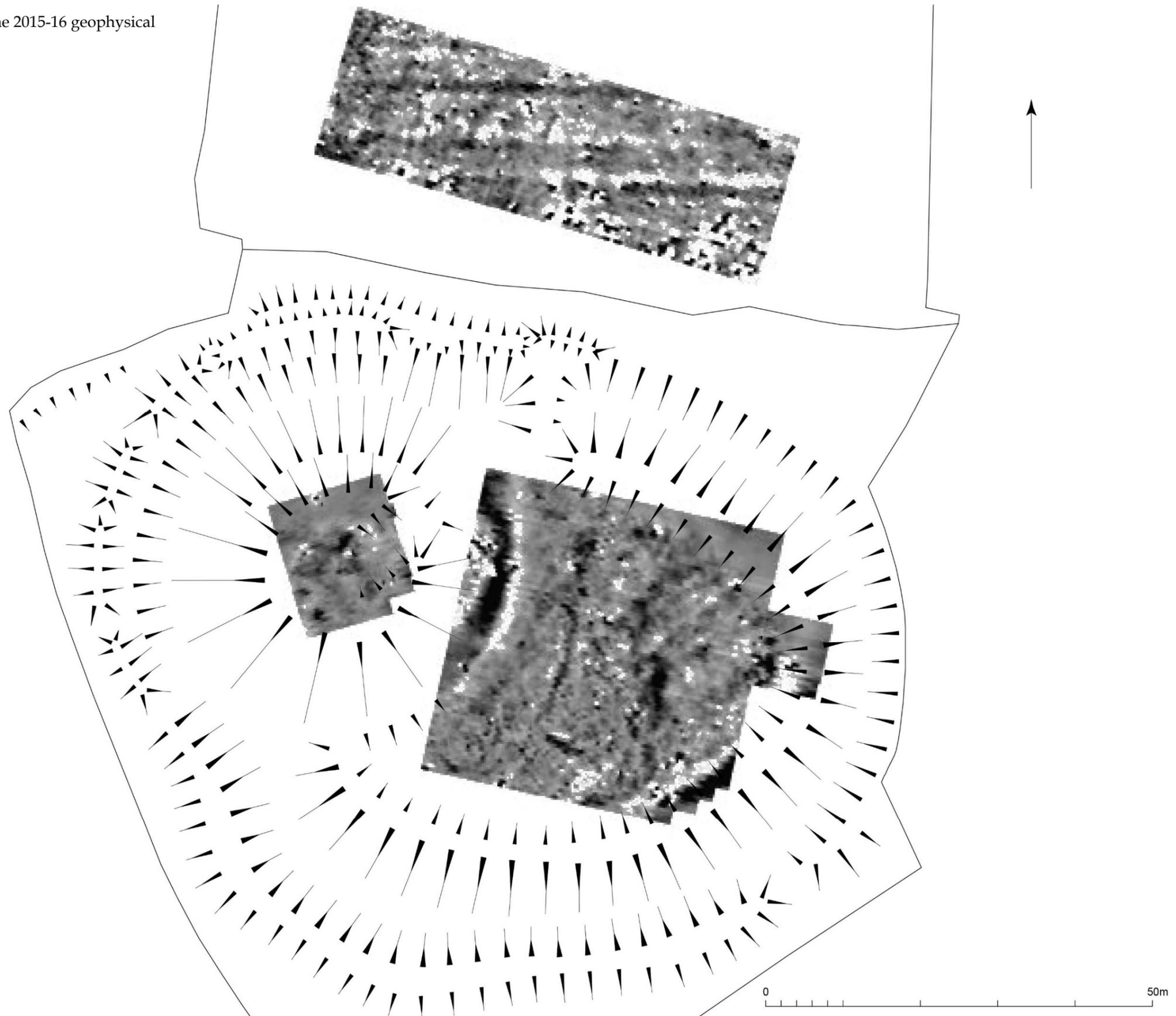


Fig. 21 Interpretation of the results of the
2015-16 geophysical survey

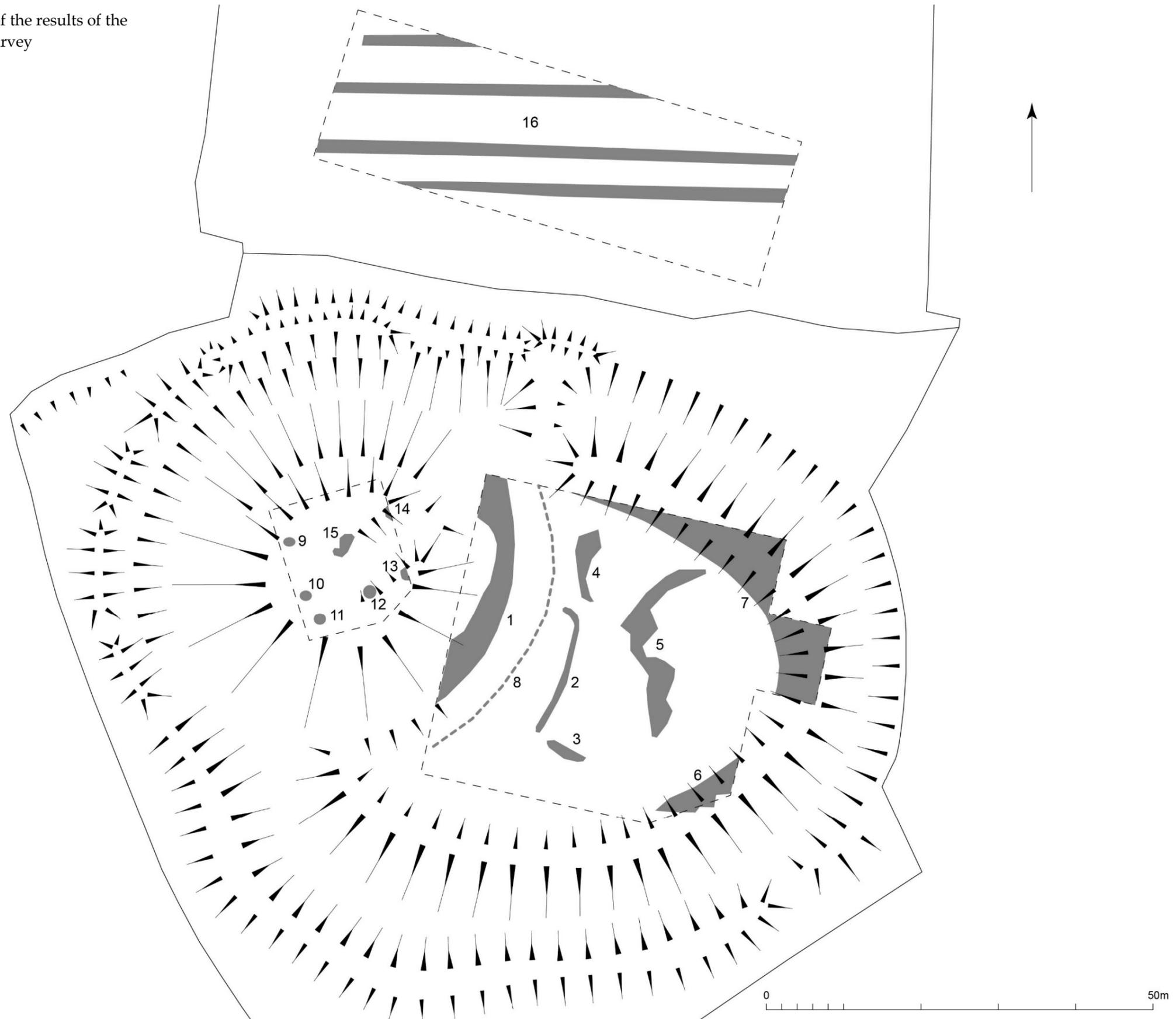


Fig. 22 The results of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 surveys of Llys Edwin

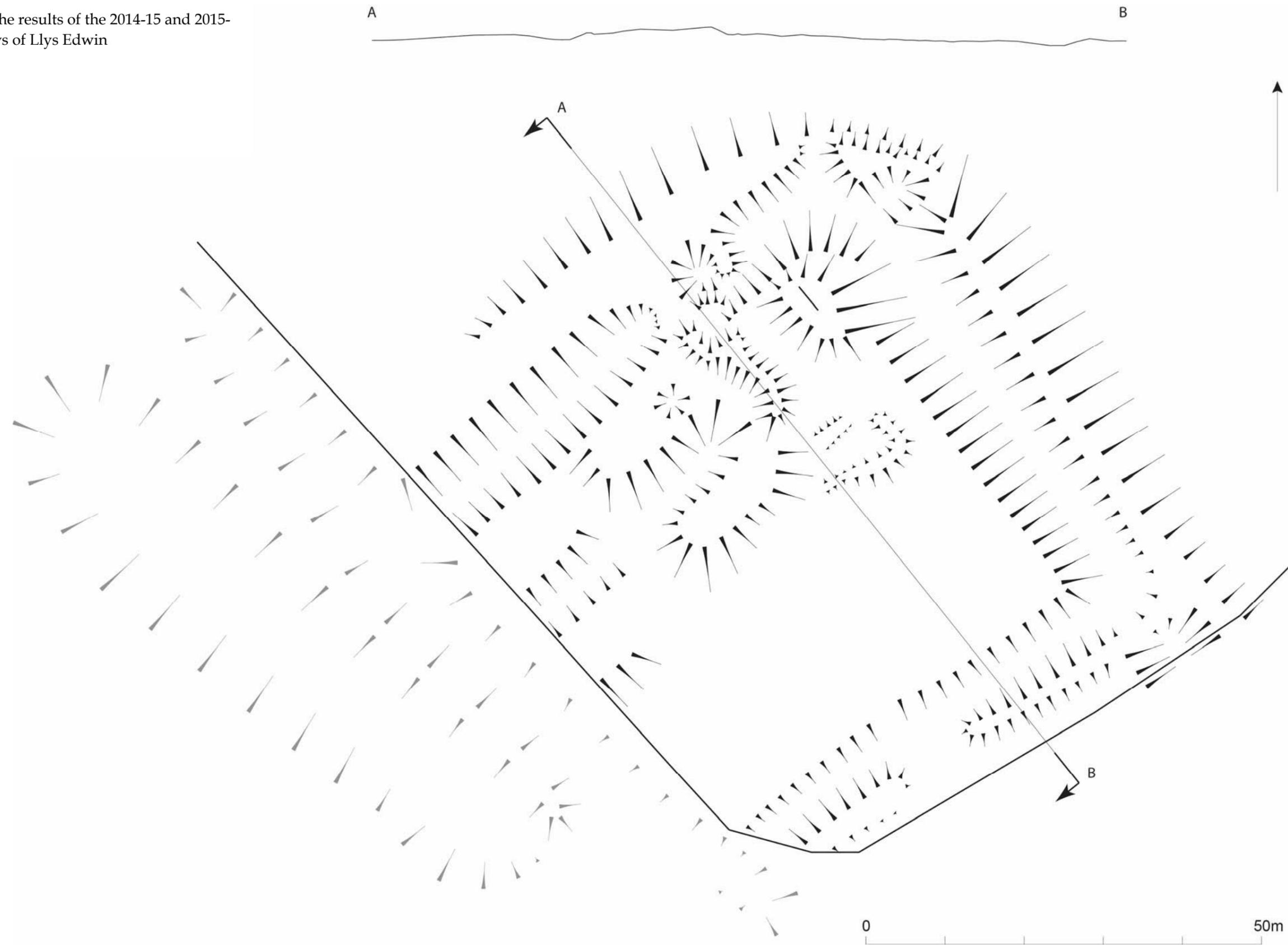


Fig. 23 The results of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 surveys of Llys Edwin, showing erosion and managent issues

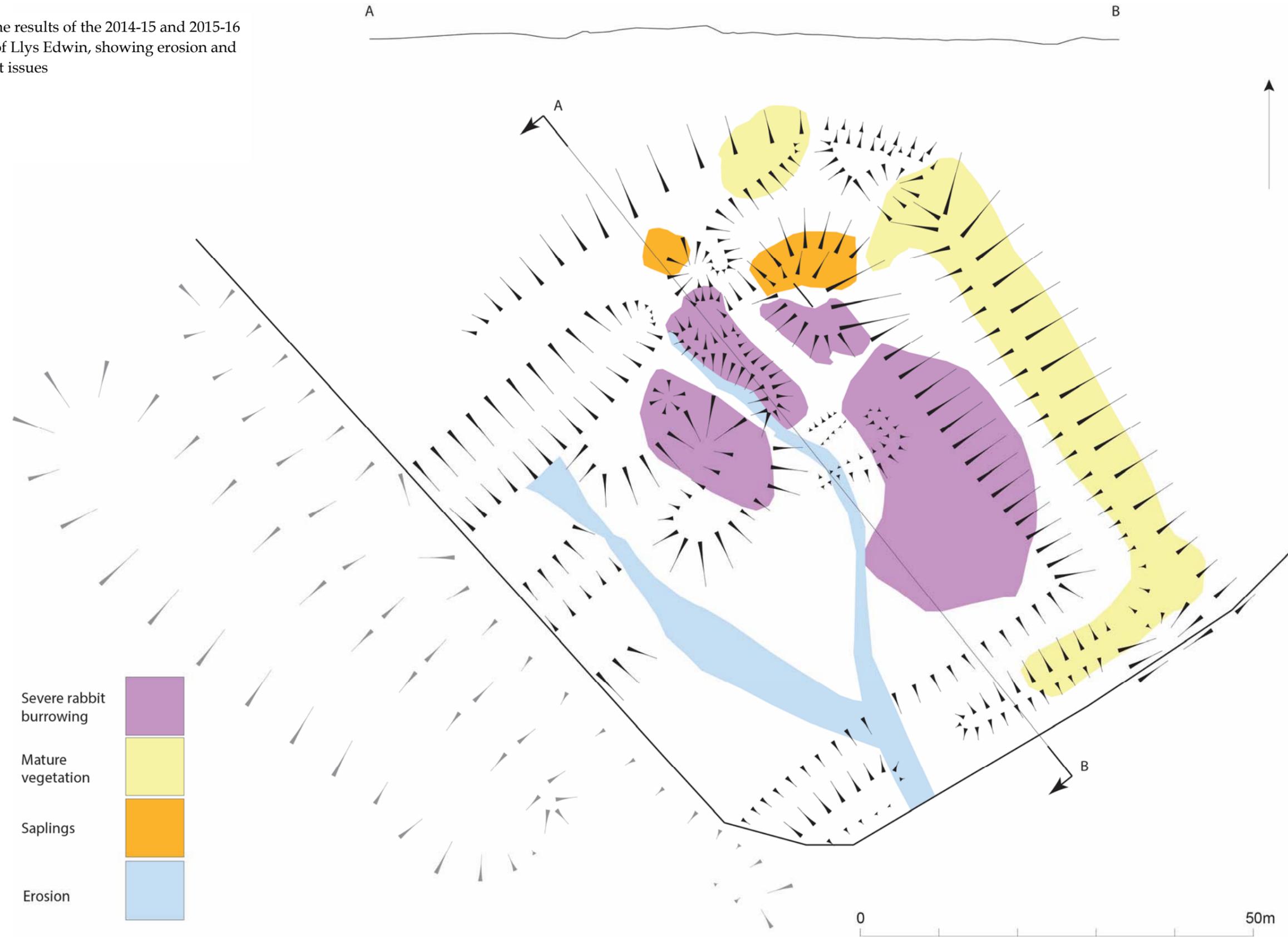


Fig. 24 The results of the 2014-15 and 2015-16 surveys of Llys Edwin, showing an interpretation of the results from the 1931 excavations

