

# Tirlun Mynydd Dinas Landscape Project

## Archaeological Appraisal

Prepared for

**Rich History Group and  
YMCA Port Talbot**

Report No. BMA/2022/264

14<sup>th</sup> November 2022



Gwnaed ym bosibl gan

**Cronfa  
Treftadaeth**

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- BLACK MOUNTAINS ARCHAEOLOGY -  
- ARCHAEOLEG MYNYDD DU -

## Summary

*Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd | Archaeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf was commissioned by YMCA Port Talbot, in partnership with Rich History community heritage group, to undertake an archaeological appraisal for the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) funded Tirlun Mynydd Dinas Landscape Project.*

*The aim of this project is to improve the public profile of Cwmafan and the surrounding area by enhancing the heritage and natural environment of Mynydd Dinas, and by establishing a public trail and a programme of public engagement. The archaeological appraisal forms a baseline survey of the archaeology and cultural heritage of Mynydd Dinas to inform future work in the study area.*

*The archaeological appraisal identified all heritage assets within the Mynydd Dinas study area and produced a gazetteer of sites that includes a rapid condition survey and recommendations for future conservation, enhancement, public access and engagement. The present report conforms to the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for a Desk-based Assessment (2014, revised 2020).*

## Acknowledgements and Copyright

The project was managed by Richard Lewis BA MCIfA. The report and illustrations were prepared by Libby Langlands MA and the Welsh translation was provided by Dr Rhys Morgan. The author would like to thank Eirwen Hopkins and Tim Rees of Rich History for their knowledge, help and support for the duration of the project. Thanks also go to Calli Rouse at GGAT HER and Lynne Moore at RCHAMW NMR for providing historic environment data and Andrew Dulley at West Glamorgan Archives and Derek Elliot at Air Photography Wales for their expertise regarding cartographic and historic aerial photographic archives. The project was made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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## Reference:

*Langlands, L, 2022, Tirlun Mynydd Dinas Landscape Project Archaeological Appraisal, BMA Report No. 264*

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd | Archaeoleg Mynydd Du Cyf was commissioned by YMCA Port Talbot in partnership with Rich History community heritage group to undertake an archaeological appraisal for the Tirlun Mynydd Dinas Landscape Project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF). This project aims to produce a baseline survey of the archaeology and biodiversity of Mynydd Dinas, Neath Port Talbot. The archaeological appraisal will inform the project objectives to improve the public profile of Cwmafan and the surrounding area by enhancing the heritage and natural environment of Mynydd Dinas, and by establishing a public trail and a programme of public engagement.
- 1.1.2 Mynydd Dinas is a prominent mountain overlooking Aberafan and Sandfields to the southwest, the Cwmafan and the Afan valley to the east and Baglan to the northwest, whilst the landscape to the north opens up to the Glamorgan uplands. The mountain forms a key element of *Afan Wallia*, the lands of the medieval Welsh Lords of Afan. It features archaeological sites from all periods from Prehistoric to Industrial and offers wide reaching viewsheds in all directions.
- 1.1.3 In addition, Mynydd Dinas is within easy reach of the communities of Cwmafan, Aberafan, Port Talbot and Baglan, and as such is an exciting project study area for heritage activities centred on wellbeing and outreach, education and engagement.

### 1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 The objective of the archaeological appraisal is to identify all heritage assets and historic landscape character elements within the Mynydd Dinas study area and assess them for their value, significance and present condition, together with their potential for future conservation, enhancement, public access and engagement. This will provide a baseline to inform future project objectives.
- 1.2.2 The archaeological appraisal follows the guidance for desk-based assessment as set out by the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014, revised 2020<sup>1</sup>)*, where it is stated that the objective is to gain an understanding of the historic environment resource in order to formulate as required:
- an assessment of the potential for heritage assets to survive within the Area of Study.
  - an assessment of the significance of the known or predicted heritage assets considering, their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests.
  - strategies for further evaluation whether or not intrusive, where the nature, extent or significance of the resource is not sufficiently well defined.
  - an assessment of the impact of any proposed development or other land use changes on the significance of the heritage assets and their settings.
  - strategies to conserve the significance of heritage assets, and their settings.

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<sup>1</sup>Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, revised 2020, *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment* [CIfAS&GDBA\\_4.pdf \(archaeologists.net\)](#)

- strategies to ensure a new development makes a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment and local place-shaping.
- proposals for further archaeological investigation within a programme of research, whether undertaken in response to a threat or not.

1.2.3 To this we can further add that the objectives of desk-based assessment are:

- an assessment of available information to determine the extent and character of heritage assets, in local, regional and national contexts.
- an assessment of the significance of heritage assets considering all of the cultural heritage values that people associate with it, or which prompt them to respond to it.
- an assessment of impact (physical or visual) on heritage assets and their setting.
- the careful consideration and presentation of mitigation recommendations aimed at reducing the impact of any development on heritage assets and their setting.
- Finally, the presentation of this information in a written report and the preparation and deposition of an archive of data generated by the assessment in line with professional standards.

### 1.3 Legislative Framework

1.3.1 Any works affecting an ancient monument and its setting are protected through implementation of *the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*<sup>2</sup>. In Wales the 1979 Act has been strengthened by *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016*<sup>3</sup>. The 2016 Act makes important improvements for the protection and management of the Welsh historic environment. It also stands at the centre of an integrated package of secondary legislation (Annexes 1-6), new and updated planning policy and advice, and best-practice guidance on a wide range of topics (*TAN 24 Historic Environment*<sup>4</sup>). Taken together, these will support and promote the careful management of change in the historic environment in accordance with current conservation philosophy and practice.

1.3.2 The *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 sets out a presumption in favour of preservation in-situ concerning sites and monuments of national importance (scheduled/listed), and there exists in the current *Planning Policy Wales, Chapter 6 (2021)*<sup>5</sup> a presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ* of all types of heritage assets.

1.3.3 Cadw is the Welsh Government body responsible for determining applications for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) and is a statutory consultee for certain types of developments affecting Scheduled Monuments, World Heritage Sites and Registered Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes, Strategic Environmental Assessments and scoping opinions for Environmental Impact Assessments (PPW 2021). Cadw's

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<sup>2</sup> [Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/10)

<sup>3</sup> [Historic Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/16)

<sup>4</sup> [Planning Policy Wales TAN 24 Historic Environment May 2017 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/tan-24-historic-environment)

<sup>5</sup> [Planning Policy Wales - Edition 11 2021 \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/planning-policy-wales-edition-11-2021)

*Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales* (2011<sup>6</sup>) provide the basis upon which Cadw discharges its statutory duties, makes decisions or offers advice about changes to historic assets. Cadw advises that the *Conservation Principles* should also be used by others (including owners, developers and other public bodies) to assess the potential impacts of a development proposal on the significance of any historic asset/assets and to assist in decision-making where the historic environment is affected by the planning process (PPW 2021).

- 1.3.4 Important or historic hedgerows (and boundaries) are protected under *The Environment Act 1995* (section 95). *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997*<sup>7</sup> (under the 1995 Act) provides protection and guidance for those development/agricultural activities outside of planning. The regulations permit the removal of any hedgerow (including any length of hedgerow) for ‘carrying out development for which planning permission has been granted’ provided the loss of the hedgerow has been properly assessed against the benefits of the proposed development.
- 1.3.5 Following review in 1998, a simplified set of assessment criteria was proposed where all substantially complete boundaries (hedgerows) that predate 1845 were to be afforded consideration/protection. The Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee’s Report ‘*The Protection of Field Boundaries*’ (1999) was acknowledged by Government, but no amendments were made to the 1997 regulations. Judicial Review of the application in 2002 of the regulations (Flintshire County Council v NAW and Mr J T Morris) has clarified the interpretation of some of the criteria (see *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997, Schedule 1, Part 2 Archaeology and History* and Section 1.6 below).

#### **1.4 Research Framework for Wales**

- 1.4.1 The Research Framework for Wales<sup>8</sup> sets out the knowledge base of past research and sets out a rationale for future studies. Whilst it is beyond the scope of this appraisal to consider the Framework in relation to the study area at this stage, it is recommended that any future archaeological investigations are carried out with a consideration of the relevant research themes therein.

#### **1.5 Community Archaeology**

- 1.5.1 Community archaeology has always been a strong focus for Black Mountains Archaeology Ltd and we have successfully delivered community projects in south Wales. Our experience and energy make our community projects both rewarding and fun, whilst at the same time delivering important academic results.
- 1.5.2 Community archaeology volunteers and work experience placements gain many transferable skills for the workplace, as well as increased confidence, self esteem and sense of community.
- 1.5.3 Archaeological practice is increasingly becoming recognised as an important platform for wellbeing and social prescribing. As such, excellent community archaeology

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<sup>6</sup> Cadw, 2011, *Conservation Principles Doc ENG* ([gov.wales](http://gov.wales))

<sup>7</sup> *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997* ([legislation.gov.uk](http://legislation.gov.uk))

<sup>8</sup> Archaeoleg – Research Framework for Wales <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/index.html>

projects should be designed in accordance with the aims set out in the *Wellbeing and Future Generations (Wales) Act Wales 2015*<sup>9</sup>, Historic England's *Wellbeing and the Historic Environment* (2018<sup>10</sup>) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Professional Practice Paper, Delivering Public Benefit* (2021<sup>11</sup>).

- 1.5.4 It is of note that the revised *Planning Policy Wales* (2021) has a distinct emphasis on place-making and wellbeing, meaning that community archaeology has the potential to make a meaningful contribution to local planning policy and practice, particularly in the context of post-industrial towns.
- 1.5.5 A community archaeology project might aim to bring archaeological practice and historic environment engagement to local communities, with an emphasis on reaching a wide and diverse audience. Specific project objectives might include:
- To provide all participants with a positive experience of archaeology, allowing them to take ownership of their own heritage.
  - To engage a broad range of intergenerational community groups such as vulnerable adults and schoolchildren with the project, promoting the importance and value of heritage in the local area.
  - To increase access to employable skills in the field of archaeology for groups outside of the university education system, providing the novice archaeologist with an entry-level skillset of archaeological techniques from which they can build.
  - To maximise public engagement with both the archaeology and the programme of activities taking place through a digital social media campaign and live engagement events.
- 1.5.6 Community archaeology can take many forms including the publication of archaeological findings in leaflets, books or online, local talks and tours, interpretation panels or apps, or a more 'hands on' experience of archive research, surveying, and of course, 'digging'.
- 1.5.7 Legacy
- 1.5.8 Whilst a community archaeology project may cite the above social objectives, it will also result in an important contribution to the historic environment record. Archaeological investigations undertaken by community members will enhance the knowledge and understanding of key sites, thereby increasing their heritage value. As a result of this, the outcomes of the community project have potential to inform future conservation management for these important sites, and for the Mynydd Dinas historic landscape as a whole.

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<sup>9</sup> [The Well-being of Future Generations | GOV.WALES; Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

<sup>10</sup> [Historic England, 2018, Wellbeing and the Historic Environment \(historicengland.org.uk\)](https://historicengland.org.uk)

<sup>11</sup> [CIfA, 2021, Practice Paper, Delivering Public Benefit \(archaeologists.net\)](https://archaeologists.net)

## 2 Methodology

- 2.1.1 The assessment of the historic environment includes the interrogation of a number of sources (but not limited to):
- Statutory designated monuments, buildings and landscapes (including Conservation Areas, Parks, Gardens and Battlefields).
  - Regional Historic Environment Record (HER).
  - National Monuments Record (NMR).
  - Aerial photographic archives.
  - Local and national archives.
  - Cartographic and documentary sources.
- 2.1.2 Information on statutory designated sites (World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Landscapes, Battlefields, Parks and Gardens) was obtained from Cadw and accessed through *Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales*<sup>12</sup> (a Welsh Government online mapping resource).
- 2.1.3 Information recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER enquiry no. 6750, Received 16/03/22) and National Monuments Record (NMR Enquiry no. RC22-0137 Received 16/03/22) were assessed. Collections of aerial photographs held by the Central Register of Air Photography for Wales (Received 05/09/22) and included in Plates 17-30. Cartographic Archives held by The National Library of Wales and the West Glamorgan Archives were also consulted and included in Plates 1-16.
- 2.1.4 The assessment reviewed the existing information pertaining to the historic environment based on a 250m radius round the Mynydd Dinas study area centred on NGR SS (2)76222 (1)91687 (Figure 1). Statutory designated sites within the wider landscape were considered for their potential intervisibility with key viewpoints within the study area.
- 2.1.5 The Assessment of Heritage Assets
- 2.1.6 Heritage assets area categorised according to the only values that are nationally agreed in the Department of Transport/ Welsh Office/ Scottish Office *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges LA 106 Cultural Heritage Revision 1* (January 2020; formerly *Vol. 11, Section 3, Part 2, HA208/07 Cultural Heritage 2007, amended 2009*). A cultural heritage asset is an individual archaeological site or building, a monument or group of monuments, an historic building or group of buildings, an historic landscape, etc., which, together with its setting, can be considered as a unit for assessment. Heritage assets are assessed according to the following criteria.

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<sup>12</sup> Cof Cymru – National Historic Assets of Wales Cadw ([gov.wales](http://gov.wales))

Value			Criteria
A*	Very High	International/National	World Heritage Sites (including nominated sites). Assets of acknowledged international importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged international research objectives.
A	High	National	Scheduled Monuments (including proposed sites). Undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance. Assets that can contribute significantly to acknowledged national research objectives.
B	Medium	Regional	Designated or undesignated assets that contribute to regional research objectives.
C	Low	Local	Designated and undesignated assets of local importance.  Assets compromised by poor preservation and/or poor survival of contextual associations. Assets of limited value, but with potential to contribute to local research objectives.
D	Negligible	Local	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest.
U	Unknown	Unknown	The importance of the resource has not been ascertained.

**Table 1. Factors for assessing the value of heritage assets (after table 5.1 DMRB 2009)**

2.1.7 Understanding value is subjective beyond any statutory or registered designation and is based on the professional experience and knowledge of the assessor. Other factors do contribute to the overall assessment of value (and significance) of heritage assets and the assessment criteria below contributes to an overall robust assessment framework. The criteria below are adapted from notes made in Annex 2 of the *DMRB Vol. 11 Section 3 Part 2 (HA 208/07 Cultural Heritage) 2007* that refer to the Scheduling Criteria as set out by the *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* and *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016* and finally Stage 4 Evaluating Relative Importance as set out in *ASIDOHL2, Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process (2nd*



*Edition 2007*)<sup>13</sup>.

- 2.1.8 While comprehensive, the criteria should not be regarded as definitive, rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the professional experience of the assessor and the circumstance and context of the assessment and heritage asset.

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<sup>13</sup> An ASIDOHL2 is a staged approach to assessing the significance of impact to historic landscapes (and constituent character Areas) as characterised in the *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales* (Pt 2.1, 1998) and *Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales* (Pt 2.2, 2001) to the method set out in the *Guide to Good Practice on Using the register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process* (revised 2nd Edition 2007).

Value	Description	Criteria
Rarity	There are some monument categories, which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which still retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. This should be assessed in relation to what survives today, since elements of a once common type may now be rare.	<p><b>Very high:</b> sole survivor of its type  <b>High:</b> very few sites of this type are known  <b>Medium:</b> the site is not unusual but cannot be considered common  <b>Low:</b> the site is quite common.</p>
Documentation and association	The significance of a heritage asset may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigations or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records. Furthermore, any important historical associations relating to the heritage asset, such as institutions, cultural figures, movements or events, will enhance value. The survival of documentation and/or historic association that increases our understanding of a heritage asset will raise its importance, though this is difficult to quantify owing to the extremely varied nature of documentary and historical material. Therefore, a professional judgment is given based on the actual amount or importance of evidence and its academic value.	<p><b>Very High:</b> a highly significant, authentic and nationally well-known association(s) and/or complete documentary record, or exceptionally important sources available;  <b>High:</b> a significant, authentic and regionally well-known association(s) and/or considerable quantity of relevant material, or highly important sources available;  <b>Moderate:</b> an authentic, but less significant, perhaps locally well-known association(s) and/or some relevant material, or moderately important sources available; and  <b>Low:</b> unauthenticated or a little-known association(s) and/or little relevant material, or only modestly important sources available.  <b>None:</b> no known associations and/or relevant material available.</p>
Group Value	Relates to the diversity (or similarity) of elements including their structural and functional coherence. The value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement and cemetery) or with monuments of different periods.	<p><b>Very high:</b> largely complete interconnected complex of heritage assets or landscapes (e.g., UNESCO World Heritage Site).  <b>High:</b> significant survival of an interconnected complex of heritage assets.  <b>Moderate:</b> some surviving elements of an interconnected complex of heritage assets; some disintegration has occurred.  <b>Low:</b> single or unconnected/unrelated groups of heritage assets.</p>
Survival/Condition	<p>The survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features. The Historic Environment Records (HERs) of the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts note the condition of sites according to the following criteria.</p> <p>To these criteria, we can add the following assessment:</p>	<p><b>Intact:</b> the site is intact  <b>Near intact:</b> the site is nearly intact  <b>Damaged:</b> the site has been moderately damaged  <b>Near destroyed:</b> the site has nearly been destroyed  <b>Destroyed:</b> the site has been destroyed  <b>Restored:</b> the site has been restored  <b>Moved:</b> the site has been moved (usually finds)  <b>Not known:</b> the condition of the site is not known</p> <p><b>Very Good:</b> elements surviving in very good condition for their class  <b>Good:</b> elements surviving in good or above average condition for their class  <b>Moderate:</b> elements surviving in moderate or average condition for their class  <b>Fair:</b> elements surviving in fair or below average condition for their class  <b>Poor:</b> elements surviving in poor condition for their class</p>

**Table 2. Further criteria for assessing the value of heritage assets**

## 3 Baseline

### 3.1 Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1.1 Mynydd Dinas is a prominent mountain within the parish of Baglan, centred on NGR SS (2)76222 (1)91687 (Figure 1). It is primarily owned and managed by Natural Resources Wales as Mynydd Dinas Afan Forest Park. The remainder of the study area constitutes Blaen Baglan Farm. The mountain has a broad summit that has until recently been subject to forestry plantation, whilst other areas are laid to upland pasture. Steeply sloping sides plunge towards the ‘coastal corridor’ of Aberafan and Sandfields to the southwest and towards the Afan valley to the southeast-east. A more gradual slope predominantly laid to pasture and mixed woodland stretches to the northwest towards Baglan and Baglan Brook, whilst to the northeast-north the mountain falls to Nant Cwm-clais and the bowl-shaped Cwmafan, before rising again to form Mynydd y Gaer and Foel Fynyddau.
- 3.1.2 The natural soils of Mynydd Dinas are freely draining acid loamy soils that support steep acid upland pastures, dry heath and moor, bracken, gorse and oak woodland<sup>14</sup>. The underlying geology is predominantly a Brithdir Member sandstone bedrock, interbedded with coal seams, which formed between 309.5 and 308 million years ago during the Carboniferous period<sup>15</sup>. The more gradual northwest slopes towards Baglan feature slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils that support grassland, arable and forestry. Here the bedrock consists of the mudstone, siltstone and minor sandstone of the South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation formed between 319-318 million years ago, which is overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian Till.

### 3.2 Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens

- 3.2.1 Mynydd Dinas falls within the LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area of *Mynydd-Y-Gaer (NPTH032)* (HA1, Figure 3). This character area includes three distinct topographical areas of Mynydd-y-Gaer, Mynydd Dinas and Foel Fynyddau, and has been assessed as being of “outstanding value, representing an exceptionally rich, multi-period landscape with evidence of activity ranging from the Bronze Age up to the present day”. The landscape is characterised by “enclosed upland of a moderately late date featuring a regular fieldscape of large enclosures that is relatively undisturbed although it has been partially obscured by modern forestry”<sup>16</sup>.
- 3.2.2 The nearest Registered Historic Landscape is *Mynydd Margam (HLW(WGI/MGI)2)* situated 1.4 km to the northwest.
- 3.2.3 The nearest Registered Parks and Gardens are *Talbot Memorial Park, Port Talbot (PGW(Gm)45(NEP))* located 1.4km to the Southeast, *Jersey Park (PGW(Gm)62(NEP))* located 2.3km to the northwest, *The Gnoll (PGW(Gm)50(NEP))* located 3.5km to the north and *Margam Park (PGW(Gm)52(NEP))* located 5.2km to the northwest.

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<sup>14</sup> Soil Survey of England and Wales, 1983, *Soil Map of England and Wales, Sheet 2: Wales*

<sup>15</sup> British Geological Survey Geology Viewer, [BGS Geology Viewer \(BETA\)](#), Accessed 01/09/22

<sup>16</sup> LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area *Mynydd-Y-Gaer (NPTH032)*, [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=6052](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=6052). Accessed 30/08/22

### 3.3 Heritage Assets

#### 3.3.1 Neolithic/ 'Prehistoric'

3.3.2 A possible Prehistoric enclosure (HA3) has recently been identified on the north-facing slope of Mynydd Dinas using lidar digital terrain model data (Figure 2). The form and extent of this feature is difficult to determine by eye due to the presence of forestry plantation, however the lidar suggests a sub-circular enclosure measuring circa 100m across. It would not be surprising to find a prehistoric enclosure on the slopes of Mynydd Dinas since there are numerous such enclosures nearby, including three on Mynydd-y-Gaer to the north, and many examples on Mynydd Margam to the east.

#### 3.3.3 Bronze Age

3.3.4 *Twyn Dysgwylfa Bronze Age round barrow* (HA4, Plate 13-16 and 60) lies on the summit of Mynydd Dinas and survives as a roughly circular grass-covered mound with a flat top grass-covered mound and eroded sides measuring 7.4m x 7m in plan with a maximum height of 0.9m<sup>17</sup>. A modern *triangulation point* (GGAT04415w) is located on its summit. The round barrow was excavated by Wheeler in 1925 who recorded that it had been previously disturbed<sup>18</sup>, possibly by earlier antiquarian activity. The site was recorded by RCAHMW (1976<sup>19</sup>) as being situated within a forestry plantation which has since largely been felled and allowed to revert to scrub and mixed woodland.

3.3.5 The site has a limited viewshed today due to surrounding tree cover. However, during the Bronze Age the Glamorgan uplands were in the process of being cleared of their native woodland habitat to form the upland heath that predominates today<sup>20</sup>. This means that at the time of construction the barrow is likely to have been a prominent feature on the mountain, with a wide viewshed over the surrounding landscape. The presence of a round barrow on the summit of Mynydd Dinas is typical of the Glamorgan uplands, indeed there are similar barrows on the summits of neighbouring Mynydd-y-Gaer and Foel Fynyddau<sup>17</sup>.

#### 3.3.6 Iron Age

3.3.7 Whilst there are no recorded Iron Age sites on Mynydd Dinas, there are three Scheduled Monuments within the LANDMAP historic landscape area, all situated on the slopes of Mynydd-y-Gaer; *Craig Ty-Isaf Camp Hillfort* (SMGm263), *Buarth-y-Gaer Hillfort* (SMGm054) and *Mynydd-y-Gaer (Lower) Camp Hillfort* (SMGm055).

3.3.8 *Buarth-y-Gaer Hillfort* (SMGm054) is a large oval contour fort consisting of a single oval bank and external ditch that encloses an area of 135m x 107m or 1.1ha, with a western entrance. It is of note that the hillfort contains a single round barrow situated at its highest point<sup>21</sup>. Just 500m to the north of Buarth-y-Gaer lies Mynydd-y-Gaer

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<sup>17</sup>GGAT, 2002, *Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites: Neath Port Talbot and Swansea*, GGAT Report No. 2002/054

<sup>18</sup>Wheeler, R E M, 1923, 'Current work in Welsh Archaeology', *Bull Board Celtic Stud* 1, 339-52

<sup>19</sup>RCAHMW, 1976, 'The Stone & Bronze Ages'. Part 1 In: *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Glamorgan Vol 1*, H.M.S.O, Cardiff

<sup>20</sup>Crampton, C.B, 1967, 'Note on the pollen in a soil preserved below a Bronze Age cairn, Crug-yr-Avan, Rhondda, Glamorgan', *Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies Vol 22* pp 272-3

<sup>21</sup>Cadw, 2022, *Buarth-y-Gaer Hillfort Scheduled Monument - Full Report - HeritageBill Cadw Assets - Reports* ([cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net](http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net)) Accessed 01/11/22

(Lower) Camp Hillfort (SMGm055), situated on a shelf on the lower northern slopes of the mountain. The fort consists of a central oval enclosure comprising two banks and ditches that measure 55m x 30 m in plan and enclosing an area of 0.1ha. Outside the central enclosure are two concentric intermediate and outer bank which continue around to the western side where they seem to coalesce. Also on the western side, a pair of parallel E-W aligned banks form an entrance from the outer bank to the inner enclosure. A cairn field was recorded within the southern part of the hillfort in the 1950s, but has not since been located<sup>22</sup>. The final hillfort to occupy Mynydd-y-Gaer is Craig Ty-Isaf Camp Hillfort (SMGm263), which occupies a steep sided narrow spur that overlooks Baglan. Taking advantage of its naturally defensive position, the fort is enclosed on its eastern side by a rubble wall or bank and two further concentric outer ramparts to form an oval enclosure measuring 65m x 40m<sup>23</sup>.

3.3.9 On the opposite side of the River Afan lies Pen-y-Castell Hillfort (SMGm098), which occupies the summit of a small steep-sided hill of the same name and comprises a single bank enclosing an area measuring 65m x 30m or 0.2ha<sup>24</sup>. There are many additional examples at locations along the coastal ridge and into the uplands.

#### 3.3.10 Roman

Whilst there are no known Roman sites within the Mynydd Dinas study area, the mountain overlooks the Roman road RR60c from Cardiff to Neath<sup>25</sup>, which is conserved today as the A48 Dinas Baglan Road. This stretch of Roman road seen from parts of Mynydd Dinas would have been a strategic location since it comprised important crossings over the River Afan to the east and the River Nedd to the west. It also had to navigate the lowland salt marsh of Aberafan and Baglan moors. A Roman military stone (GGAT06999w) was recorded on historic Ordnance Survey maps in Baglan to the northwest of the study area, where it is marked as 'Roman military stone (Victorinus)(site of)'. A further Roman milestone is recorded in Port Talbot to the east and there are several Roman findspots in the local area.

3.3.11 The most significant Roman site in the local area is Nidum auxiliary fort (SMGm215), constructed in a strategic position on the western bank of the River Nedd, about 5km northwest of Mynydd Dinas, in order to control what was an important river crossing. The site is now buried beneath modern playing fields, roads and housing, however excavations revealed that the fort was constructed in several distinct phases, being initially constructed in timber in circa AD75-80, before being swiftly rebuilt (in AD80-90) on a smaller, square plan. This second fort was of more robust construction, featuring earth and clay rampart and ditch defences that were reconstructed in stone

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<sup>22</sup>Cadw, 2022, Mynydd-y-Gaer (Lower) Camp Hillfort [Scheduled Monument - Full Report - HeritageBill Cadw Assets - Reports \(cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net\)](#) Accessed 01/11/22

<sup>23</sup> Cadw, 2022, Craig Ty-Isaf Camp Hillfort [Scheduled Monument - Full Report - HeritageBill Cadw Assets - Reports \(cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net\)](#) Accessed 01/11/22

<sup>24</sup> Cadw, 2022, Pen-y-Castell Hillfort [Scheduled Monument - Full Report - HeritageBill Cadw Assets - Reports \(cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net\)](#) Accessed 01/11/22

<sup>25</sup> Burnham, B, C, and Davies, J, L, 2010, *Roman frontiers in Wales and the Marches*, RCAHMW: Aberystwyth

in AD 120-5<sup>26</sup>. The internal arrangements of the fort were also subject to periods of development and reorganisation during this time, which was followed by several subsequent phases of occupation prior to its final abandonment in the late 3<sup>rd</sup>/ early 4<sup>th</sup> century. The wider landscape features several smaller Roman marching camps including Blaen-Cwmbach Camp (SMGm258) 6km to the north of Mynydd Dinas, and Roman Camp (SmGm058) on Mynydd Margam 6.7km to the east, which both survive as earthen ramparts.

#### Early Medieval

- 3.3.12 The Early Medieval archaeology of the study area is characterised by ecclesiastical sites including holy wells, crosses and an early font. *Ffynnon Pant-yr-arian* (HA5, HA6) is understood to be an Early Christian well, which was assessed by F Jones in 1954 as a Class A well, bearing the name of a saint<sup>27</sup>. There are two recorded locations for the well, which may be the 'Baglan Well' marked near Baglan Hall on Emanuel Bowen's 1729 map of Glamorgan. Of the two records, the NMR entry (HA6) appears to mark the actual site of the well recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map whilst the HER site (HA5) appears conjectural. The well is not included in GGAT's Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites survey<sup>28</sup>. A further well, Wellfield Holy Well (GGAT00680w) is recorded on the southern slope of the mountain, however this has not been located.
- 3.3.13 Two Early Christian crosses are situated within the churchyard at St Catherine's Church, to the west of the Mynydd Dinas study area. The first, (HA7), can be found on the south side of the old St Baglan's Church and survives in the form of a shaped rectangular slab bearing an incised equal-arm cross and is dated to the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> century<sup>29</sup>. The second, (HA8), is reset in the internal vestry wall and survives as an incomplete slab with an equal arm ring cross formed of interlace carved in false relief and an incomplete Latin inscription reading + BRANCU:F which may translate to +Brancu (made this cross)<sup>30</sup>. This cross has been dated to the late 9<sup>th</sup>/ early 10<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of these Early Christian crosses provides strong evidence that the now ruined old *St Baglan's Church* (HA10) represents a pre-Norman foundation. This location is reported to have been the place where St Baglan, a 6<sup>th</sup> century *peregrini* or wandering saint from Brittany, came to build a monastic cell having been tasked by his teacher St Illtyd to found a cell where he discovered a tree that bore a litter of pigs, a bee hive and crows nest<sup>31</sup>. As well as the two early Christian crosses noted above, a medieval socketed cross base is located inside the entrance of St Catherine's Churchyard, and an early medieval tub-shaped font (HA9), which almost certainly originates from the old church, has survived and is now located in St

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<sup>26</sup> Cadw, 2022, Nedom Roman Fort Scheduled Monument Report <https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=2260>. Accessed 01/11/22

<sup>27</sup> Jones, F, 1954, The Holy wells of Wales; <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/420955> Accessed 01/09/22

<sup>28</sup> Evans, E. 2003, *Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites in southeast Wales: Desk-based Assessment*. GGAT Report No. 2003/030

<sup>29</sup> Redknap, M, and Lewis, J, M, 2007, *A Corpus of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture in Wales. Volume 1: South-East Wales and the English Border*, University of Wales Press, pp265-267

<sup>30</sup> *ibid*

<sup>31</sup> Leslie Evans, A, 1970, *The Story of Baglan (Port Talbot)*

Catherine's church.

### 3.3.14 Medieval

- 3.3.15 The Mynydd Dinas landscape is particularly rich in monuments dating to the Medieval period, all of which have an important historical association with the Welsh Lords of Afan. Following the initial conquest of lowland Glamorgan by the Normans at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the lordships of the Glamorgan uplands (*blaenau*) retained their Welsh rule, during which time the lordship of Afan, or Afan Wallia, was the only Welsh commote to have access to lowland and coastal territory. The defence of this land in response to Norman threat is evidenced by several castles including at Aberafan, Cwm Clais (Castle Bolan) and Plas Baglan. The Lordship of Afan was the only Welsh lordship to retain control of its land into the 13<sup>th</sup> century, by which time a borough had been founded at Aberafan by the then anglicised d'Avène family.
- 3.3.16 The most legible of these defensive sites is *Cwm Clais Castle Mound/ Castle Bolan* (HA16), which lies on the north facing slope of Mynydd Dinas. It consists of the remains of a Medieval motte and ditch, occupying a commanding position at the end of a spur above the Nant Cwm-Clais valley. Cadw state that "the motte measures approximately 4.5-5m high and 15m in diameter at the top. Surrounding the motte is a shallow ditch which is not very pronounced on the north-east and east sides"<sup>32</sup>. The RCAHMW raises the possibility that this site represents one of the three castles recorded in this vicinity by Edward Lhuyd as 'castell y wiryones, y Castell and 'ben y Castell', and whilst it is considered probable that it is a Welsh castle of the Lords of Afan, it has no historical record<sup>33</sup>. The monument is considered "of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive practices, with significant archaeological potential and a strong probability of the presence of both structural evidence and intact associated deposits.
- 3.3.17 The site of *Plas Baglan* (HA14, Plate 14-16, 50-51, Appendix V) is more complex. It is recorded as a medieval castle or fortified house towards the west of the Mynydd Dinas study area, and is a unique example of a Welsh-built masonry castle. The site was certainly in use by the 13<sup>th</sup> century but was probably founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century as a defensive castle from which the Welsh Lords of Afan administered their territory *Afan Wallia*. The site is described as *Bagelan* in 1262 and remained in the hands of a cadet branch of the Welsh lords of Afan even after the chief lordship was passed to Edward Despenser in the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. Branches of the family remained at Plas Baglan until its apparent abandonment in the 17<sup>th</sup> century<sup>34</sup>.
- 3.3.18 Plas Baglan is situated on "an artificially levelled rectangular piece of ground defended on the west and south by steep natural slopes. Across the north and part of the east sides a ditch has been constructed. On top are the remains of a rectangular building, orientated north-north-west by south-south-east with measurements of 14m by 12m. It has turf-covered walls 2m wide and 1m high, in the north, west and east, and

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<sup>32</sup> Cadw, 2022, Cwm Clais Castle Mound Scheduled Monument Report, <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=2273>, Accessed 09/05/22

<sup>33</sup> RCAHMW, 1991, *Glamorgan: Early Castles*, p143-145

<sup>34</sup> RCAHMW, 1991, *Glamorgan: Early Castles*, p149-152



features a projecting turret to the north, presumably serving as a latrine. Abutting the building on the east is a small courtyard. The entrance was on the south-east<sup>35</sup>. The RCAHMW observe that the ditch is infilled to the south, probably as a result of the robbing of stone for the construction of Ty Newydd farm which is located not far to the southeast and incorporates ashlar blocks with crude fan tooling that matches rubble found at Plas Baglan. This fan-tooled ashlar is confined to Plas Baglan and Ewenny Priory<sup>36</sup>. The monument is considered of national importance for its “potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive practices, being well-preserved and an important relic of the medieval landscape. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both structural evidence and intact associated deposits”<sup>37</sup>. Indeed the RCAHMW considers that Plas Baglan is one of the best preserved castles of its type in Wales, stating that being relatively undisturbed it “merits the most stringent protection [and]... presents a uniquely intact and comparatively undisturbed early Welsh masonry castle of quite individual plan, though the presence of 13<sup>th</sup> century mouldings suggests later additions which could only be identified by excavation”<sup>38</sup>.

3.3.19 The ruins of *St Baglan’s Church* (HA10, Plates 9-16, 43-45, 55-57), a Scheduled Monument and Grade II Listed building, are located within the churchyard of the present St Catherine’s Church. Once the principal church of the Cantref and later Lordship of Afan, it now survives as the ruined remains of a small church, believed to date to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, although its earliest diagnostic features date to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The building features a three light perpendicular window at its eastern end and square headed Tudor window to the southeast. It has also retained its double bell gablet at its western end<sup>39</sup>. Historic photographs indicate that the church had a ceiled wagon roof and box pews, which were installed in 1824<sup>40</sup>. Shortly after this, in 1882, St Baglan’s was replaced by the church of St Catherine. The church was gutted by fire in 1954. Cadw state that “St Baglan’s Church is a Scheduled Monument of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of the organisation and practice of medieval Christianity. The site forms an important element within the wider medieval landscape. The site is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, layout, building techniques and functional detail” (Cadw 2022<sup>41</sup>). The 19<sup>th</sup> century Church of St Catherine (LB14171)<sup>42</sup> and adjacent footbridge

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<sup>35</sup> Cadw, 2022, Plas Baglan Scheduled Monument Report, <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=318>, Accessed 09/05/22

<sup>36</sup> RCAHMW, 1991, *Glamorgan: Early Castles*, p149-152, p43

<sup>37</sup> Cadw, 2022, Plas Baglan Scheduled Monument Report, <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=318>, Accessed 09/05/22

<sup>38</sup> RCAHMW, 1991, *Glamorgan: Early Castles*, p38

<sup>39</sup> Newman, J, 1995, *The Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan*, Pevsner Series, Penguin Books: London

<sup>40</sup> Cadw 2022, St Baglan’s Church Listed Building Report, <https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=14146>, Accessed 09/05/22

<sup>41</sup> Cadw, 2022, St Baglan’s Church Scheduled Monument Report, <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=3120>, Accessed 09/05/22

<sup>42</sup> Cadw, 2022, St Catherine’s Church Listed Building Report <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=22810> Accessed 01/09/22

and walls of Baglan Brook (LB22810)<sup>43</sup> are also of historic interest in association with the earlier church. As well as being home to the Early Christian cross and font, the Grade I Listed church features exquisite stained glass by Edward Burne-Jones and Morris and Co<sup>44</sup> and is the most complete church designed by John Pritchard, the leading 19<sup>th</sup> century church architect in south Wales.

### 3.3.20 Post Medieval

3.3.21 The most significant Post-medieval site within the study area is *Blaen Baglan* (HA17, Plates 1-6, 9-16, 33-39, 46-49, Appendix VI); a substantial sub-medieval Glamorgan house, situated on the gently southwest sloping slopes of Mynydd Dinas. It is first mentioned in 1566 when it was occupied by William ap Jenkin, but the present house is based upon its rebuilding c1600 by his grandson William Williams when its form was sub-medieval in plan comprising a hall with parlour and a porch, and a staircase projection built around the laterally placed hall stack. A rear wing housing a kitchen was built soon after, as was an additional unit at the lower end of the hall. A single-storey projection set in the angle between the rear of the main range and the rear wing was added later<sup>45</sup>. A drawing in the Jersey estate archives (Plate 6), which is almost certainly of Blaen Baglan, depicts the house with its original square-headed windows, and details the presence of a dairy, well and brewhouse.

3.3.22 Blaen Baglan remained in the Williams family for most of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, followed by a period of uncertain ownership before it was acquired by the Jersey Estate by 1841. During the period of Jersey ownership, the fenestration was altered by introducing more fashionable sash windows. The house became a tenant farm, although a local Baptist minister lived there for a period. Historic photographs show the farmhouse in seemingly liveable condition in the 1950s, but it has suffered rapid physical decline since the construction of a bungalow immediately adjacent. The bungalow has also had an impact on the setting of the site, since it occupies a prominent position within its primary viewshed over the Baglan landscape. The house was included in RCAHMW's 1981 gazetteer of *Greater Houses*<sup>46</sup>, where the above-mentioned drawing appears to have been used as the source of the reconstructions diagrams (Appendix VI).

3.3.23 During this period, the Mynydd Dinas landscape remained predominantly rural in nature and featured numerous smaller farmsteads. *Ty Newydd Farm* (HA18, Plates 9-16, 40-42, 53-54) is a late 18<sup>th</sup>/ early 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead located in close proximity (<150m) to the east of the Plas Baglan site. The farm is first depicted on early 19<sup>th</sup> century estate maps, including the 1843 Tithe Map and Apportionment, which records that by this time the farm was occupied by one Lewis Lewis. At this time the landholding held a total of 33 acres, 1 rood and 34 perches that was predominantly

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<sup>43</sup>Cadw, 2022, Footbridge and Walls of Baglan Brook Listed Building Report <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=22810> Accessed 01/09/22

<sup>44</sup> Newman, J, 1995, *The Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan*, Pevsner Series, Penguin Books: London

<sup>45</sup> [Listed Buildings - Full Report - HeritageBill Cadw Assets - Reports \(cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net\)](http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net), RCAHMW, 1981, 'Glamorgan: The Greater Houses'. Part 1 In: *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan. Vol: 4 Domestic architecture from the Reformation to the Industrial Revolution*. HMSO: Cardiff

<sup>46</sup> *ibid*

laid to pasture, with a small amount of arable<sup>47</sup>. An associated reservoir (GGAT07749w) is also recorded on the HER located 181m to the south of Ty Newydd farm. Historic photographs offer some insight into its form which included a farmhouse and range of outbuildings. As described above, the walls of the farmyard have been noted to contain fan-tooled ashlar stone blocks originating from Plas Baglan making it a significant associated site. In addition, the walkover survey for this study identified two masonry bee bole or sheep creep niches constructed within a wall of distinctive herringbone construction.

- 3.3.24 Meanwhile, *Maes Glase Farm* (HA19, Plates 7-16, 61-62) is a now demolished upland farmstead situated close to the summit of Mynydd Dinas. The farmstead is recorded on an Earl of Jersey estate map dated to 1798 (Plates 7 and 8), where two buildings are depicted, but the site is marked as derelict on an 1825 map. The lands formed part of Blaen Baglan farm by the 1843 Tithe Map and Apportionment and remains so today. The landholding of pasture fields spread across the broad summit of the mountain has not changed in form or extent since those early maps, and they continue to form a distinct contrast to other areas of the mountain top dedicated to forestry and scrub. Today the Maes Glase site features a spring or well together with the remains of dry-stone boundary walls seen on both its northern and southern boundaries, whilst a series of further walls and ‘old ditches’ are marked on the Jersey estate maps. A prominent part of the Maes Glase landholding is situated in a promontory location overlooking the Afan estuary and is labelled *Dysgwylfa Fawr* (‘large lookout’). This enigmatic site has huge potential in terms of both archaeology and community engagement.
- 3.3.25 Historic maps illustrate in detail that the farmsteads within and around the study area held either land parcels or rights to pasture on Baglan Moor, presumably for marshland grazing. This could be a fascinating area for research in terms of understanding seasonal land use in the local area and for understanding change over time, with the marshland now reclaimed for housing and industry.
- 3.3.26 A further remnant of the Post-medieval agricultural landscape is the Grade II Listed *Cwm Clais Mill* (HA28, Plate 59); a 19<sup>th</sup> century water powered grist mill<sup>48</sup> located just to the northeast of the study area. The mill was used to process root vegetables for cattle and chaffing corn until c.1950. The mill wheel is dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however it is possible that the barn pre-dates the wheel. The site represents a rare survival, since many grist mills in the area were converted for industrial purposes.
- 3.3.27 The industrial heritage on Mynydd Dinas is predominantly related to extraction industries. *Baglan (Blaen Baglan) Colliery* (HA21, Plate 68) was situated on the northwest slope of the mountain and is recorded to have been in operation from 1842 until 1879 when it was owned and operated by Thomas and Williams<sup>49</sup>. There are numerous coal levels and air shafts marked on historic maps which stretch as far as Ty

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<sup>47</sup> [Welsh Tithe Maps - Home \(library.wales\)](#) Accessed 09/05/22

<sup>48</sup> Cadw, 2022, *Cwm Clais Mill Listed Building Report*, <https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=23023> Accessed 01/09/22

<sup>49</sup> [Blaen Baglan Colliery \(welshcoalmines.co.uk\)](#) Accessed 09/05/22

Newydd and Plas Baglan. and is represented today by a surviving coal tip. A short section of old tramway (HA20, Plate 68) preserved in the present access track (HA20, Plate 68); is related to this industrial activity. The site is labelled 'Old Tramway' on the 1964 Edition Ordnance Survey map (Sheet GLAM SS79SE), and being orientated NW-SE, it possibly continued over Mynydd Dinas to meet the main line D25 or River Afan. Further minor industrial sites on Mynydd Dinas include several quarries including *Wellfield Villas Quarries* (HA22), *Longdon Terrace Quarries* (HA24), *Moelfre Terrace Quarries* (HA23) and numerous others recorded on historic mapping that would benefit from archival research and survey.

- 3.3.28 The most significant industrial site in the local area is that of the Cwmavon works, which produced tin, copper, iron and steel. The copperworks was established in 1835 and operated by the English Copper Company before being taken over by the Copper Miners Tinsplate Company in 1852. Copper was produced at the works from 1835 until 1906. A relic of this industry survives in the form of the remains of a flue and chimney stack (SMGm566) located on the summit of Foel Fynyddau, which was constructed as part of a strategy to remove the harmful sulphurous gases that resulted from the smelting process. Whilst the Cwmavon works falls outside the Mynydd Dinas study area, it is within viewshed from the mountain, and as an important heritage theme for local communities there is potential for inclusion in the Mynydd Dinas trail interpretation.
- 3.3.29 Other Post-medieval sites within the study area include a shooting *target* (HA25, Plate 13) visible on the 1879 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (Glamorgan Sheet XXV), on the summit of Mynydd Dinas, overlooking Cwm Clais. Further targets are recorded further north, forming part of a 'Volunteer Rifle Range'. Also of note, the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century historic estate maps record a significant number of administrative boundary stones (HA26, Plate 10) that are not currently recorded on the HER and would benefit from workshops in archival research and survey. In addition the ancient footpaths and trackways of Mynydd Dinas and Blaen Baglan would benefit from research and survey, in particular the historic footpath running from Church Lane to Plas Baglan (HA15, Plate 13-14, 58) and another running from Smallwood Road to Ty Newydd (HA27, Plate 9-16, 52).

Gazetteer of Heritage Assets												
Fig ID	ID	Name	NGR	Period	Type	Designation	Designation ID	Value	Rarity	Documentation/ Association	Group Value	Survival/ Condition
1	LANDMAP HL (NPTHLO32)	Mynydd y Gaer LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area (Mynydd Dinas, Mynydd y Gaer and Foel Fynyddau)	SS(2)76222(1)91687	Multi-period	Historic Landscape	None	n/a	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Good
2	MD6	Key elements of regular enclosed fieldscape Dry stone walls	SS(2)75993(1)91371	Post medieval	Field Boundary	None	n/a	n/a	n/a	Moderate	Moderate	Damaged/ Moderate
3	MD1	Neolithic/ 'Prehistoric' Enclosure	SS(2)76089(1)91888	Prehistoric	Enclosure	None	n/a	Unknown	Unknown	None	Unknown	Unknown
4	GGAT00647w, GGAT04415w, NPRN 307227	Twyn Dysgwylfa	SS(2)7607(1)9154	Bronze Age	Barrow	None	n/a	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Damaged/ Good
5	GGAT05210w	Ffynnon Pant-yr-arian	SS(2)7554(1)9196	Post-Medieval	Well	None	n/a	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Unknown
6	NPRN420955	Ffynnon arian	SS(2)75410(1)91928	Early Medieval	Well	None	n/a	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Unknown
7	GGAT00672w	Early Christian Cross, St Baglan's Church	SS(2)275358(1)92286	Medieval	Cross	None	n/a	Moderate	High	Low	Moderate	Intact/ Very Good
8	GGAT00670w	Early Christian Cross, St Catherine's Church, Baglan	SS(2)7527(1)9223	Early Medieval	Cross	None	n/a	High	High	Low	Moderate	Intact/ Very Good
9	MD2	Early Medieval tub font, St Catherine's Church	SS(2)7527(1)9223	Early Medieval	Font	None	n/a	High	High	Low	Moderate	Intact/ Very Good
10	SMGm428, LB14146, NPRN174	St Baglan's Church	SS(2)75358(1)92286	Early Medieval	Church	SM LB Grade II	SMGm428 LB14146	High	Low	High	Moderate	Damaged/ Poor
11	LB14171, GGAT03253w, NPRN13664	St Catherine's Church, Baglan	SS(2)7527(1)9223	Post-medieval	Church	LB Grade I	LB14171	High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Intact/ Very Good
12	LB22810	Footbridge and Walls of Baglan Brook	SS(2)75269(1)92203	Post-medieval	Bridge	LB Grade II	LB22810	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Intact/ Good
13	GGAT00671w	Baglan Churchyard Cross base	SS(2)7527(1)9221	Medieval	Cross base	None	n/a	High	High	Low	Moderate	Near intact/ Good
14	SMGm358, GGAT00654w	Plas Baglan	SS(2)7561(1)9229	Medieval	Castle	SM	SMGm358	High	High	High	Moderate	Damaged/ Good
15	MD2	Ancient routeway from Chapel Lane	SS(2)75564(1)92257	Unknown	Routeway	None	n/a	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Near destroyed/ Poor
16	SMGm289, GGAT00673w	Cwm Clais Castle Mound/ Castle Bolan	SS(2)7679(1)9202	Medieval	Motte	SM	Gm289	Moderate	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Damaged/ Moderate
17	LB14147, GGAT00656w	Blaen Baglan House and Farmstead	SS(2)7601(1)9255	Post-medieval	House	LB Grade II	LB14147	High	High	Moderate	Moderate	Damaged/ Poor
18	GGAT07750w	Ty Newydd Farmstead	SS(2)75765(1)92234	Post-medieval	Farmstead	None	n/a	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Near destroyed/ poor

19	GGAT06420w	Maes Glase Farmstead	SS(2)76450 (1)91150	Post- medieval	Farmstead	None	n/a	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Destroyed / Poor
20	GGAT01797.0w	Afan Old Tramway	SS(2)7623( 1)9225	Post- medieval	Tramway	None	n/a	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Intact/ Moderate
21	MD3	Blaen Baglan Colliery	SS(2)7623( 1)9225	Post- medieval	Colliery	None	n/a	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Destroyed /Fair
22	GGAT03937w	Wellfield Villas Quarries	SS(2)76154 (1)90845	Post- medieval	Quarry	None	n/a	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Unknown
23	GGAT03936w	Moelfre Terrace Quarries	SS(2)76875 (1)90825	Post- medieval	Quarry	None	n/a	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Unknown
24	GGAT03935w	Longdon Terrace Quarries	SS(2)76730 (1)90495	Post- medieval	Quarry	None	n/a	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Unknown
25	GGAT06062w	Target, Cwm-Clais	SS(2)7660( 1)9187	Post- medieval	Target	None	n/a	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Unknown
26	MD4	Mynydd Dinas boundary stones	Unknown	Post- medieval	Boundary stone	None	n/a	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Unknown
27	MD5	Ancient routeway from Smallwood Road to Ty Newydd	SS(2)75624 (1)92213	Unknown	Routeway	None	n/a	Moderate	Low	Low	Moderate	Near intact/ Moderate
28	LB23023, GGAT06065w	Cwm Clais Mill	SS(2)76661 (1)92114	Post- medieval	Mill	LB Grade II	LB23023	Moderate	High	Low	Moderate	Restored/ Fair

## 4 Recommendations

4.1.1 The heritage assets within the Mynydd Dinas study area were identified and a walkover survey was carried out to undertake a rapid condition survey and to consider the potential for conservation, enhancement, public access and community engagement. Observations and recommendations for each heritage asset are outlined below.

### 4.2 Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens

4.2.1 In terms of archaeological potential, the LANDMAP assessment states that, “*Mynydd-Y-Gaer (NPTHLO32)* has not been covered by a detailed historic landscape characterisation and there is thus significant potential for further investigation. A sizeable number of Bronze Age cairn sites distributed throughout this historic landscape have been surveyed by RCAHMW and GGAT; however, there is potential for an up-to-date assessment of existing cairns and the identification of hitherto unknown sites (through study of aerial reconnaissance and field survey).

4.2.2 The relatively unusual location of cairn sites within hillfort enclosures, as at Gaer Fawr and Buarth y Gaer, are particularly worthy of detailed investigation. Further, the hillfort enclosures at Gaer Fawr, Buarth-y-Gaer and Craig Ty Isaf have been surveyed by RCAHMW; however, there is considerable potential for further detailed field investigation of these three sites (in terms of geophysical survey and targeted excavation) to clarify the construction phasing of the defences and to identify evidence for occupation within the defended enclosures.

4.2.3 The medieval house platforms at Foel Fynyddau have been surveyed by RCAHMW but there is again potential for more detailed field investigation of these features. The extensive and well-preserved remains of the Ynysmaerdy Railway Incline also merit detailed survey” (*LANDMAP*).

4.2.4 In addition, the research carried out for this appraisal indicated that the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) for this historic landscape could be greatly enhanced by additional cartographic research and ground survey or ‘ground truthing’ of potential and recorded heritage assets. There is huge potential for a community landscape survey of Mynydd Dinas, and the wider LANDMAP historic landscape, to include workshops in archival research (‘armchair archaeology’), field walking, condition survey and topographic survey. An ‘upland survey’, which involves a large team lining up side-by-side and walking in unison across a given landscape, would be particularly valuable.

4.2.5 For the purposes of historic landscape conservation and management, the ‘outstanding’ survival of the late 19<sup>th</sup>/ early 20<sup>th</sup> century enclosed fieldscape merits attention, especially since it has survived despite a significant amount of post-industrial forestry activities and suburban encroachment that has occurred locally. The fieldscape is characterised by hedgerows with trees, dry stone walls and post and wire fences. The walkover survey observed some well-preserved sections of drystone wall on the northern side of the mountain with a distinctive ‘herringbone’ construction, and further drystone boundary walls around Maes Glase farm. In order



to protect and enhance these important rural landscape character elements there is potential for carrying out a community programme of drystone wall building as an intangible heritage exercise.

### **4.3 Possible Prehistoric enclosure**

4.3.1 Access: The site is relatively easily accessible off the main forestry path.

4.3.2 Community Engagement: This potentially significant newly identified monument would benefit hugely from archaeological investigations in the form of field walking, topographic survey and targeted excavation to gain further understanding of its form and extent. If the results are positive the site can be included in the Mynydd Dinas trail and interpretation plan.

### **4.4 Twyn Dysgwylfa**

4.4.1 Condition: Twyn Dysgwylfa is in a good condition for its type situated in a small grassy opening within an area of young forestry. However, previous archaeological investigations and the insertion of the triangulation point mean that archaeological deposits are likely to be highly disturbed. It was noted that the triangulation point had some historic graffiti.

4.4.2 Access: The site is accessed via a minor sheep track off the main forestry path. At the time of the walkover survey the bracken was almost impenetrable making access very challenging. Historic forestry furrows also make it unstable underfoot. A collaboration with Natural Resources Wales with a view to improving this access would result in an immediate impact on public access to the site.

4.4.3 Community Engagement: There is potential for workshops in condition survey and topographic survey at this monument. The site would also benefit from targeted excavation that would enhance understanding of the site and result in an increased heritage value. For instance, analysis of deposits sealed beneath the mound could reveal information about the environment and habitats of prehistoric Mynydd Dinas. The site could be included in the interpretation plan of the Mynydd Dinas trail, which could include a website/ VR app, QR code badge and/ or physical interpretation panel.

### **4.5 Iron Age sites**

4.5.1 The three hillfort sites located on Mynydd-y-Gaer; *Craig Ty-Isaf Camp Hillfort* (SMGm263), *Buarth-y-Gaer Hillfort* (SMGm054) and *Mynydd-y-Gaer (Lower) Camp Hillfort* (SMGm055) have been identified as having outstanding potential for further archaeological investigations as outlined above (see 4.2.1).

### **4.6 Roman and Early Medieval sites**

4.6.1 There is potential for a Roman and Early Medieval Stones project to include community workshops in archival research to understand the survival (or not) of stones in and around the area, their provenance and their present location.

4.6.2 There is also potential for workshops in archival research to identify and record well sites in and around the study area, together with workshops in survey skills to locate known and newly identified sites. The Ffynnon Pant-yr-arian site well site could form part of the Mynydd Dinas trail and interpretation plan, although its location would need to be investigated further.

#### **4.7 St Baglan's Church**

- 4.7.1 Condition: The walkover survey noted that the site of St Baglan's Church has had some recent improvements in the form of soft landscaping, however significant bramble intrusion has since occurred. The church itself is in a poor structural condition, requiring urgent stabilisation. It is currently surrounded by security fencing, and it is understood that some stabilisation works are planned. The gravestones surrounding the old church are of interest and included one Early Christian stone (described above) and two slabs depicting the crest of the Afan lordship.
- 4.7.2 Access: The church itself is not currently accessible due to fencing but its setting is widely accessible, being in the churchyard of St Catherine's Church. Full public access would be possible following structural stabilisation.
- 4.7.3 Community Engagement: It is noted that the site has an active Friends group, and an interpretation panel, which could be included in the Mynydd Dinas trail. There is potential here for workshops in archival research, archaeological condition survey, topographic survey, building recording and targeted excavation (once the building is structurally stable). There may also be a possibility of workshops in building conservation in collaboration with the Friends group. Conserving and enhancing this monument, through building conservation and archaeological investigation, in order that it can be understood and enjoyed by present and future generations would be a fantastic legacy for the project.

#### **4.8 Plas Baglan**

- 4.8.1 Condition: Plas Baglan is in a ruined but stable condition having been encroached upon by mixed woodland, ivy and other vegetation. There are signs of erosion to some areas of masonry of the castle walls, possibly due to animal intrusion. The site also appears to be subject to gradual loss where it drops down into the river gorge. There is presently no public access to the monument and as a result it lacks common issues such as erosion caused by excessive footfall, mountain biking, litter and fly tipping that blights so many monuments. This fact has contributed to the excellent preservation noted by RCAHMW.
- 4.8.2 Access: Being situated on private land, access to Plas Baglan relies on the landowner's permission (Blaen Baglan Farm), and currently requires a walk through a field of cattle and a climb over a barbed wire fence. The landowner has installed a new access path along the boundary of the adjacent field to meet up with an ancient trackway at Ty Newydd. The site is not currently accessible to people with physical impairments.
- 4.8.3 For public access to the monument the new access path could be extended along the western boundary of the adjacent field to allow access to the east of the monument. Alternative access to the site could be made by reinstating a historic footpath marked on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map, which runs eastwards from Church Lane and up through the monument. The physical remains of this route are preserved as earthworks in the field above and to the east of Plas Baglan. It is almost certainly of considerable date and may be directly associated with the castle. The Church Lane end of the route now forms part of the garden and driveway of No1 Church Lane and reinstatement would therefore require landowner negotiation in collaboration with

the Local Authority Rights of Way Officer.

- 4.8.4 Community Engagement: As such a significant key site, there is significant potential for community workshops in archival research and the development of content for interpretation. This could be in the form of a website, VR app, QR code badges on gateposts on the Mynydd Dinas trail, or a physical interpretation panel. The benefit of digital interpretation is that it can be updated as new knowledge is produced. A physical interpretation panel may need to wait until any planned archaeological investigations are complete.
- 4.8.5 In the short term, access to Plas Baglan could be provided in the form of guided tours on a (e.g.) monthly basis. This would provide public access to the site whilst providing reassurance to the landowner and enabling the tour leader to explain its dangers. This also demonstrates to Cadw that the site is of public benefit, thereby opening the possibility of Cadw funding.
- 4.8.6 There is huge potential for community workshops in non-intrusive archaeological techniques such as condition survey. Any more intrusive archaeological investigation would require Scheduled Monument consent and, in consideration of the exceptional preservation of the site, a robust research framework would be essential as the findings from archaeological excavation would be expected to be significant. It is also likely that an archaeological topographic and/or building survey would be required in advance of archaeological or conservation works, in order to provide a baseline that updates the RCAHMW survey undertaken for its *Early Castles* gazetteer.
- 4.8.7 That said, with these measures in place, Plas Baglan poses an exciting opportunity for a community excavation, one that could enable local people to become aware of, and physically engage with, the important and unique story of the medieval Lords of Afan. Excavation would also be of huge benefit to the monument itself by increasing knowledge and understanding of the site, which would in turn enhance its heritage value. In the meantime, topographic and geophysical survey of the non-Scheduled field to the east of the monument, with landowner permission, would likely reveal areas of archaeological interest that could also be targeted for community excavation.
- 4.8.8 Conservation Management: As stated above, the site is relatively stable therefore physical intervention is not an urgent requirement, however it would benefit from localised masonry stabilisation. Any vegetation clearance on the site should be approached with caution as the vegetation may be providing structural reinforcement. Any volunteer works and/or stabilisation or enhancement conservation works on the site would require liaison and agreement in advance with Cadw<sup>50</sup>.
- 4.8.9 Safety Considerations: it is worth noting that whilst the monument itself is fairly stable, there is a precipitous vertical drop to the northwest of the site where the Baglan Brook has carved a deep gorge. Whilst this provided an impressive natural defence at the time of occupation, today it would represent a red flag on any public access risk assessment. It may therefore be necessary to consider a physical barrier,

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<sup>50</sup> Cadw, 2018, [Managing Scheduled Monuments in Wales \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales)

in consultation with the landowner and Cadw, should public open access be pursued.

#### **4.9 Cwm Clais Castle Mound/ Castle Bolan**

- 4.9.1 Condition and Access: The site is located on private land with no public access, a fact that will have contributed to its relatively good preservation as reported by RCAHMW and Cadw. There is currently on landowner permission for activities on this site.
- 4.9.2 Community Engagement: Whilst there is presently no possibility of a physical community engagement project here due to a lack of landowner permission, it remains a good candidate for archival research. The site is an important element of the Mynydd Dinas historic landscape and as such should be included in any interpretation plan for the study area. A website and/or VR app can include this as a key site, and there is potential for a QR code badge or interpretation panel to be placed on a nearby public footpath for the benefit of the Mynydd Dinas trail.
- 4.9.3 Should access be granted in the future, the castle mound and its environs would benefit from topographic and geophysical survey, and has great potential for targeted excavation that would increase knowledge and understanding of what is a hugely important element of the Mynydd Dinas historic environment.

#### **4.10 Blaen Baglan**

- 4.10.1 Condition: The house is in an increasingly derelict state having lost its roof and being completely covered in ivy growth. There is substantial tree, root and vegetation intrusion which has caused significant structural damage. Many of the exposed walls have lost their pointing and facing stones revealing a rubble core and structural cracks. The roll moulding of the porch doorway has been badly damaged with sections falling out. The house courtyard is used as a cattle paddock, and it is considered that the damage is likely to have been caused by cattle rubbing against the opening. Despite this, many important features remain including an intact bread oven and modern tap with running water in the dairy, occasional copper slag quoin stones and intact masonry voussoir relieving arches, including for a possible basement.
- 4.10.2 Access: Blaen Baglan is on private land immediately adjacent to the bungalow that now represents Blaen Baglan Farmhouse, therefore any future conservation work or public access would need to be agreed in consultation with the landowner. Public access to the site is not immediately possible due to severe structural instability.
- 4.10.3 Conservation and community engagement: Whilst physical access is not immediately possible, there is huge potential for workshops in archival research of this key site. In addition, guided tours on a (e.g.) monthly basis would provide public access to visit Blaen Baglan whilst providing reassurance to the landowner and enabling the guide to explain the dangers. This also demonstrates to Cadw that the site is of public benefit, thereby opening the possibility of Cadw funding.
- 4.10.4 Emergency stabilisation works of the building would be the first step in conserving the site, to make it safe for entry. Following this, an archaeological building survey could be undertaken to provide the baseline record prior to further investigations and/ or conservation. Community workshops in condition survey, building recording and archaeological excavation could all be undertaken at this stage. Archaeological

investigations here would not only increase understanding of the monument in general, but have potential to answer key questions about the pre-1600 phases of Blaen Baglan, which are not evident from the standing fabric. This would be a fantastic legacy of the Mynydd Dinas project.

- 4.10.5 An options appraisal would be required, in collaboration with the landowner, to agree upon further longer-term plans such as shell and core refurbishment and/ or public open access. Conserving and enhancing this monument, through building conservation and archaeological investigation, in order that it can be understood and enjoyed by present and future generations would be a fantastic legacy for the project.

#### **4.11 Ty Newydd Farm**

4.11.1 Condition: Ty Newydd is completely derelict with only circa 1m high footings remaining, which are surrounded with barbed wire fencing. The farmyard is presently used as a cattle paddock and has a modern hardstanding made of imported rubble. The site features reused fan-tooled ashlar blocks that originate from nearby Plas Baglan. This tooling is unique to this site and Ewenny Priory, making Ty Newydd an important associated site with potential to reveal new information about the construction of the medieval castle.

4.11.2 Access and Community Engagement: Ty Newydd is accessible via an ancient trackway in the form of an unsurfaced lane, making it more accessible than some others. It is also relatively safe, with no immediate public safety hazards. There is huge potential therefore, with landowner permission, for workshops in vegetation clearance, topographic survey and building survey as well as archaeological excavation to reveal the original footprint of the farmhouse and to identify surviving medieval masonry. There is also potential for workshops in archival research, particularly an archives visit to see the beautiful watercolour estate maps held by the West Glamorgan archives.

#### **4.12 Maes Glase Farm**

4.12.1 Access: Maes Glase Farm lies on private land and requires landowner permission to access. However, it could be accessible from the forestry track, with some adaptations in collaboration with Natural Resources Wales, the Local Authority and the landowner.

4.12.2 Community Engagement: The site has potential for workshops in archival research and topographical survey, as well as a fantastic opportunity for archaeological excavation to uncover the buried remains of this upland farmstead. The remains of drystone walls observed within the field boundaries present an opportunity for a traditional craft workshop in drystone wall building.

#### **4.13 Cwm Clais Mill**

4.13.1 Condition and Access: The mill building in a semi ruined state and features a concrete breeze block reinforcement wall. The site is visible from a public footpath, although it does sit within the farmyard of a private farm.

4.13.2 Community Engagement: There is currently no landowner permission to access the mill. Whilst there may be no possibility of a physical community engagement project here, it is a good candidate for archival research and could be included in the Mynydd Dinas trail and interpretation plan. Should landowner permission be gained in the

future, the mill would benefit from vegetation clearance and building survey.

- 4.13.3 The late 18<sup>th</sup>/ early 19<sup>th</sup> century historic estate maps record a significant number of administrative boundary stones (HA26, Plate 10) that are not currently recorded on the HER and would benefit from workshops in archival research and survey. In addition the ancient footpaths and trackways of Mynydd Dinas and Blaen Baglan would benefit from research and survey, in particular the historic footpath running from Church Lane to Plas Baglan (HA15, Plate 13-14, 58) and another running from Smallwood Road to Ty Newydd (HA27, Plate 9-16, 52).

#### **4.14 Mynydd Dinas Viewpoint Interpretation**

- 4.14.1 The walkover survey identified that the forestry track on Mynydd Dinas features many excellent viewpoints over the surrounding landscape including important heritage assets that may be too distant to include in the Mynydd Dinas walking trail. Viewpoints include views over St Catherine's Church and Baglan village, Views over Aberafan and Sandfields, which lie on reclaimed salt marsh, views over the historic borough of Aberafan and Port Talbot dock, views over Cwmafan an important site of early industry, views over Castle Bolan and Mynydd-y-Gaer and views over Plas Baglan, Blaen Baglan Farm and Baglan Colliery.
- 4.14.2 There are already viewing benches in some places and there is potential to augment these spots with heritage interpretation. Parts of the landscape have changed so drastically that many of these historic sites are not visible in the landscape today, however interpretation strategies such as reconstruction drawings or and/or a digital VR app from these viewpoints have potential to enhance public awareness of the rich historic landscape of the wider local area.

#### **4.15 Creative Legacy**

- 4.15.1 A creative strand to any community archaeology project is an effective medium for schools and/ or community group engagement. It can present a tangible 'project learning' opportunity that can be taken into classrooms and used to open up a dialogue about the more abstract concepts of archaeological sites and historic narratives, which can then be built on in the field. The results of creative engagement activities have potential to become a commemorative legacy of the project. Examples of creative projects might include:
- Drystone wall landscape sculpture with community landscape artist Owen Griffiths,
  - Tapestry and/ or flag making inspired by the Medieval Lords of Afan with community textile artist Menna Buss,
  - Award winning Swansea University crucible making project with ceramic artist Esther Ley.

Recommendations for Conservation, Enhancement, Access and Engagement				
Fig ID	Heritage Asset	Timescale	Activity	Cost £-£££
1	Mynydd-y-Gaer LANDMAP Historic Landscape (Mynydd Dinas, Mynydd y Gaer and Foel Fynyddau)  Assessed as 'outstanding' and worthy of more detailed landscape survey. Includes all Value C and D gazetteer sites	Phase 1	Community workshops in archival research, upland surveying and condition surveying. Website, walking trail with QR codes	£
		Phase 2	Community workshops in topographic surveying, GIS and technical skills	£
2	Fieldscape elements of regular enclosed fieldscape within LANDMAP Historic Landscape  Hedges, dry stone walls (including herringbone) and post and wire boundaries.	Phase 1	Community workshops in hedge laying, drystone walling - intangible heritage/ traditional craft practice. Potential collaboration with the Drystone Walling Association	£
14	Plas Baglan	Phase 1	Community workshops in archival research, condition survey, guided public visits. Website, walking trail with QR codes. Public access options appraisal including rights of way consultation.	£
		Phase 2	Community workshops in vegetation clearance, topographic survey and building survey. Level 3 Historic Building Survey. Research framework for future archaeological investigations.	££
		Phase 3	Stabilisation conservation works, if required. Targeted excavation and post-excavation analysis. Formalisation of public access. Physical interpretation panel, publication, potential for Virtual Reality (VR) resource	££
17	Blaen Baglan	Phase 1	Community workshops in archival research, condition survey, guided public visits Website, walking trail with QR codes Building conservation options appraisal Public access options appraisal including rights of way consultation.	£
		Phase 2	Emergency stabilisation building conservation works, Research framework for future archaeological investigations, Community workshops in vegetation clearance, topographic survey and building survey, Level 3 Historic Building Survey,	££
		Phase 3	Archaeological excavation and post-excavation analysis Shell and core building conservation works, Community workshops in traditional building conservation skills, Formalisation of public access, physical interpretation panel, publication, potential for Virtual Reality (VR) resource	£££
10	St Baglan's Church	Phase 1	Guided public visits Website, walking trail with QR codes Community workshops in archival research, condition survey and building survey (following scheduled stabilisation works), Targeted excavation and post-excavation analysis	££
		Phase 2	Collaboration with Friends of St Baglan's Church to offer community workshops in traditional	££



			building conservation skills	
18	Ty Newydd	Phase 1	Public access options appraisal including rights of way consultation, Community workshops in condition survey, topographic survey and building survey, Targeted archaeological excavation and post-excavation analysis Website, walking trail with QR codes.	££
		Phase 2	Community workshops in traditional building conservation skills.	££
		Phase 3	Formalisation of public access. Physical interpretation panel, publication, potential for Virtual Reality (VR) resource.	£
4	Twyn Dygwylfa	Phase 1	Community workshops in condition survey and topographic survey, Targeted archaeological excavation and post-excavation analysis Website, walking trail with QR codes	££
		Phase 3	Formalisation of public access, physical interpretation panel, publication, potential for Virtual Reality (VR) resource	£
19	Maes Glase	Phase 1	Community workshops in condition survey and topographic survey Website, walking trail with QR codes	£
		Phase 2	Community workshops in geophysical survey, targeted community excavation and post-excavation analysis	££
		Phase 3	Formalisation of public access, physical interpretation panel, publication, potential for Virtual Reality (VR) resource	£
3	Neolithic/ 'Prehistoric' Enclosure	Phase 1	Community workshops in archival research, condition survey and topographic survey	£
		Phase 2	Community workshops in geophysical survey and targeted community excavation	££
16	Cwm Clais Castle Mound/ Castle Bolan	Phase 1	No public access Website, walking trail with QR codes	£
		Phase 3	Physical interpretation panel on public footpath, publication, potential for Virtual Reality (VR) resource	£
28	Cwm Clais Mill	Phase 1	No public access Website, walking trail QR codes	£
		Phase 3	Physical interpretation panel on public footpath, publication, potential for Virtual Reality (VR) resource	£
n/a	Mynydd Dinas Viewsheds View over Baglan Moor and Roman Road, View over Baglan and Briton Ferry, View over Port Talbot and medieval borough of Aberafan, View over Cwmafan historic industrial town, View over Mynydd y Gaer and 'Afan Wallia'	Phase 1- Phase 2	Website, walking trail with QR codes. Interpretation plan and design	££
		Phase 3	Physical interpretation panels, potential for Virtual Reality (VR) resource	£

1	Bronze Age cairns within LANDMAP Historic Landscape Particularly those within later enclosures (Gaer Fawr and Buarth y Gaer)  (LANDMAP recommendation)	Phase 1	Community workshops in condition survey, and cartographic and aerial reconnaissance research to identify new sites. Website, walking trail with QR codes	£
1	Iron Age hillforts within LANDMAP Historic Landscape Investigations to clarify construction phasing of the defences and to identify evidence for occupation within the defended enclosures.  (LANDMAP recommendation)	Phase 1	Community workshops in archival research, condition survey, topographic survey. Website, walking trail with QR codes.	£
		Phase 2	Community workshops in geophysical survey. Research framework for archaeological investigations	££
		Phase 3	Targeted community excavation and post-excavation analysis. Publication	££
1	Medieval house platforms within LANDMAP Historic Landscape (Foel Fynyddau)  (LANDMAP recommendation)	Phase 1	Community workshops in archival research, condition survey and topographic survey. Website, walking trail with QR codes.	£
		Phase 2	Community workshops in geophysical survey. Research framework for archaeological investigations.  Targeted community excavation and post-excavation analysis. Publication	££
1	Industrial sites within LANDMAP Historic Landscape (Ynysmaerdy Incline)  (LANDMAP recommendation)	Phase 1	Community workshops in archival research, condition survey and topographic survey. Website, walking trail with QR codes.	£
n/a	Creative Legacy Artist in-school/ community workshops inspired by Mynydd Dinas sites  (Potential to access Art Fund grants)	Phase 1- Phase 3	Examples could include: Herringbone drystone wall landscape sculpture with community landscape artist Owen Griffiths,  Tapestry and/ or flag making inspired by the Medieval Lords of Afan with community textile artist Menna Buss,  Award winning Swansea University crucible making project with ceramic artist Esther Ley.	££

<b>Summary of Recommendations</b>	
Phase 1	<p>Community workshops in archival research, upland survey, condition survey and topographic survey initially at Mynydd Dinas key sites but potential to widen to encompass LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area 'Mynydd y Gaer'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Would ideally result in the formation of a working group to carry the project objectives forward using the toolkit provided in the workshops.</li> </ul> <p>Guided public access to key sites on private land (e.g. monthly)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increases public access to key sites whilst ensuring planning time and reassurance for landowner. Also demonstrates to Cadw that sites are of public benefit.</li> <li>- Would ideally result in the formation of a working group to carry the project objectives forward.</li> </ul> <p>Website, walking trail with QR codes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initially QR badges attached to gateposts along the trail route, with web content updated as project progresses.</li> </ul> <p>Public access options appraisal including rights of way consultation. Building conservation options appraisal for Blaen Baglan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both in consultation with landowner/s</li> <li>- To include consideration of potential impact of Local Development Plan (LDP) Candidate Site RLDP/PT/0011 Blaen Baglan Farm<sup>51</sup> on project objectives.</li> </ul> <p>Interpretation Plan for Mynydd Dinas trail Outreach plan</p>
Phase 2	<p>Community workshops in topographic surveying, GIS and technical skills (Non designated sites, including wider LANDMAP HL sites). Community workshops in vegetation clearance, topographic survey and building survey (Ty Newydd). Community workshops in geophysics and targeted community excavation at non-designated sites (Maes Glase Farm and possible prehistoric enclosure on Mynydd Dinas, Field east of Plas Baglan, wider non-designated LANDMAP HL sites).</p> <p>Community workshops in drystone walling (key historic fieldscape character elements). Community workshops in building conservation skills (Ty Newydd, St Baglan's Church). Creative Legacy project in-school and community workshops</p> <p>Emergency stabilisation building conservation works at Blaen Baglan (to provide safe access) Level 3 Historic Building Survey of Plas Baglan and Blaen Baglan Research framework for further investigations at Plas Baglan and Blaen Baglan Research Framework for further investigations at designated sites within LANDMAP HL (e.g Buarth y Gaer).</p>
Phase 3	<p>Plas Baglan: Stabilisation conservation works if required Targeted excavation and post-excavation analysis based on research framework</p> <p>Blaen Baglan: Targeted excavation and post-excavation analysis based on research framework Shell and core building renovation works Community workshops in traditional building conservation skills</p> <p>All sites: Formalisation of public access, physical interpretation panels, publication, potential for Virtual Reality (VR) resource</p>

<sup>51</sup> RLDP Candidate Sites Register – RLDP/PT/0011 Blaen Baglan Farm (July 2022) (npt.gov.uk)

## 5 Discussion and Conclusion

- 5.1.1 The archaeological appraisal was undertaken in order to identify heritage assets on Mynydd Dinas and Blaen Baglan Farm. A walkover survey was undertaken to provide a rapid condition survey, and recommendations regarding potential conservation, enhancement, public access and engagement.
- 5.1.2 The appraisal has concluded that there is huge potential for community archaeological engagement at a wide range of heritage sites across the study area. These activities could include workshops in archival research including a visit to the West Glamorgan Archives, workshops in archaeological upland survey and condition survey that would see participants finding and recording monuments in the landscape, topographic and building surveys that focus on recording specific sites in detail, and there are a large number of valuable opportunities for community excavation.
- 5.1.3 The appraisal has identified that Mynydd Dinas has excellent views over the surrounding landscape and there is huge potential, as part of the planned trail, to deliver heritage interpretation in key viewpoint locations. Heritage interpretation may include a website, digital app, VR app, QR code badge attached to gateposts around the trail, and/ or physical interpretation panels. It is recommended that an interpretation plan be developed to ensure quality and consistency in content and pedagogical style.
- 5.1.4 The appraisal has observed that a number of sites are in a critical structural condition, in particular St Baglan's Church and Blaen Baglan Farmhouse, and as such would require emergency stabilisation works prior to any archaeological or conservation work.
- 5.1.5 All future activities would require landowner permission, and it is recommended that an options appraisal is carried out to set out the benefits and limitations for the landowner and for heritage assets, of future archaeological and conservation work and/ or of future public access. In addition, it is advised that any works on Scheduled Monuments will require advance collaboration and consent from Cadw.
- 5.1.6 The archaeological investigations identified in this report have potential to be of significant benefit to the Mynydd Dinas historic landscape, both by increasing knowledge, understanding and value of key sites for the benefit of the historic record, and by providing a broad range of opportunities for members of the community to understand, experience and enjoy the heritage of their local area.

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[Planning Policy Wales TAN 24 Historic Environment May 2017 \(gov.wales\)](#)

[The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

[The Well-being of Future Generations | GOV.WALES; Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

#### West Glamorgan Record Office

Briton Ferry Estate: Vernon and Early of Jersey c 1798 WGRO D/D BF E/1

256 – Blaen Baglan in Baglan. Rough Sketch Map

260, 262 – Blaen Baglan in Baglan. Rough Sketch Map

264 – Part of Blaen Baglan enclosed and cultivated on Mynydd y Gaer [in Baglan]

266 – Mynydd y Dinas in Baglan

268 – Part of Blaen Baglan on Mynydd y Dinas

270 – Part of Mynydd y Dinas with the boundaries between Lord Vernon and the burgesses lands described, in Baglan

272 – Maes Glase in Baglan

D/D BF E/157A Plans of those parts of the Briton Ferry estate [in] Baglan....1815

D/D Gn E/125 Plans of estate belonging to Earl of Jersey in...Baglan 1826

D/D BF E/158 Plan of the Briton Ferry... 1853

D/D BF/E 905 Copy of the Tithe map of Baglan...1936

D/D LE/432 Copy of the Aberavon tithe map...1841

D/D LE/431 Copy of part of the Michaelstone-super-Avon tithe map...1841

Ordnance Survey Glamorgan Sheet XXV, Surveyed: 1875 to 1877, Published: 1884

Ordnance Survey Glamorgan Sheet XXV.SW, Revised: 1897, Published: 1900

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Ordnance Survey Glamorgan Sheet XXV.NW, Revised: 1913 to 1914, Published: 1921

Ordnance Survey Glamorgan Sheet XXV.SW, Revised: 1947, Published: 1952

## 7 Appendices



7.1 Appendix I – Figures

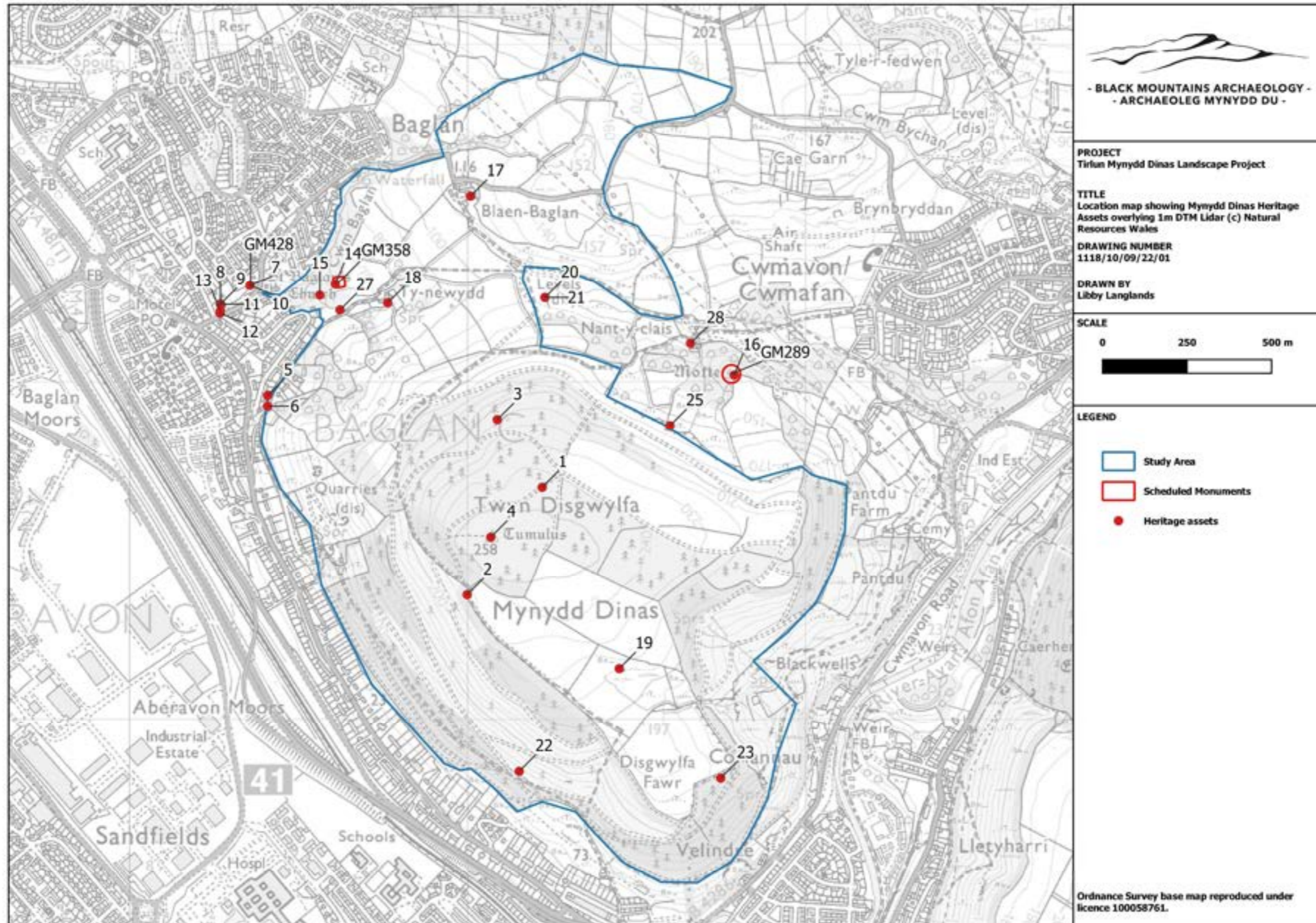


Figure 1. Location map showing heritage assets



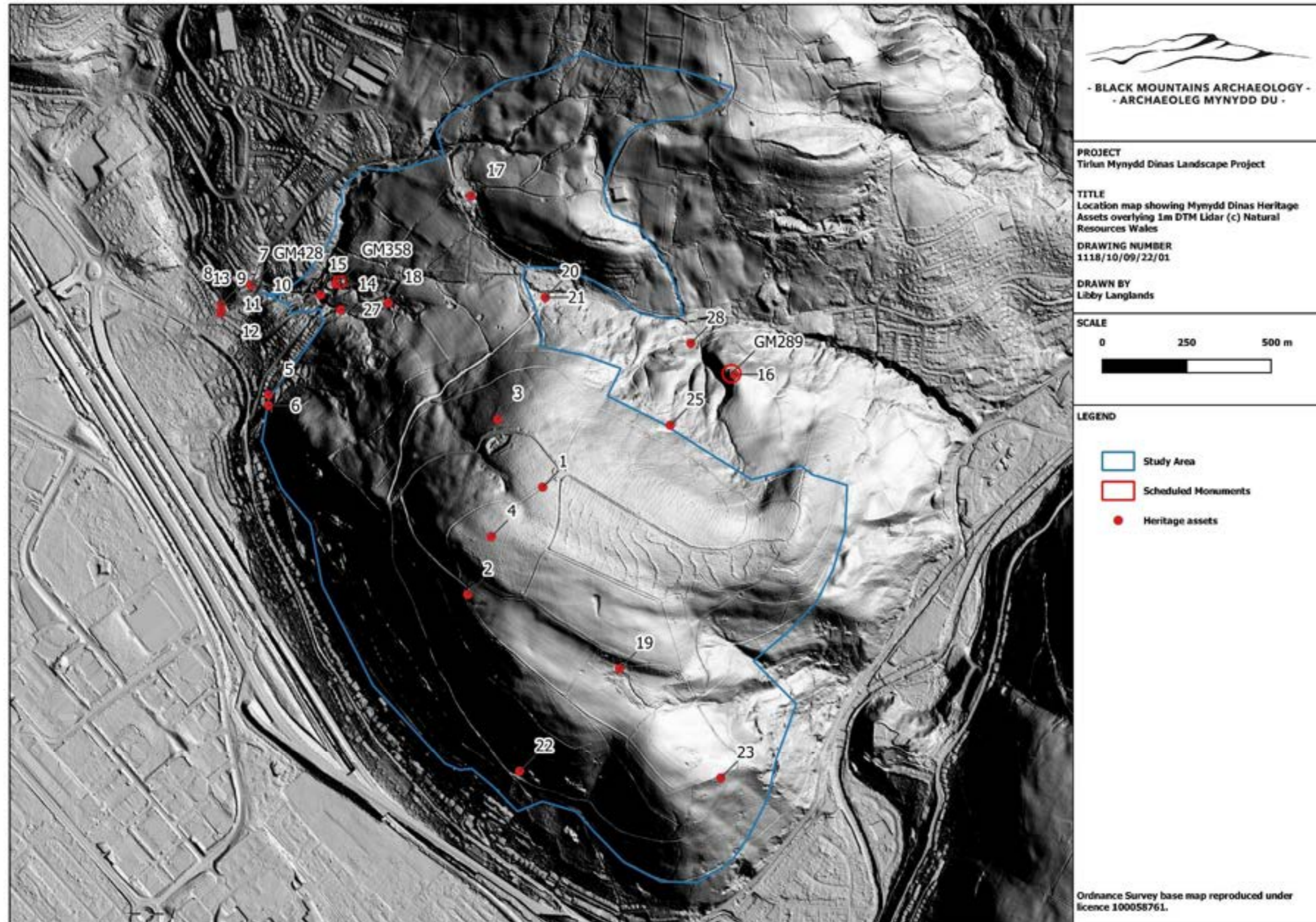


Figure 2. Location Map showing heritage assets over 1m DTM Lidar



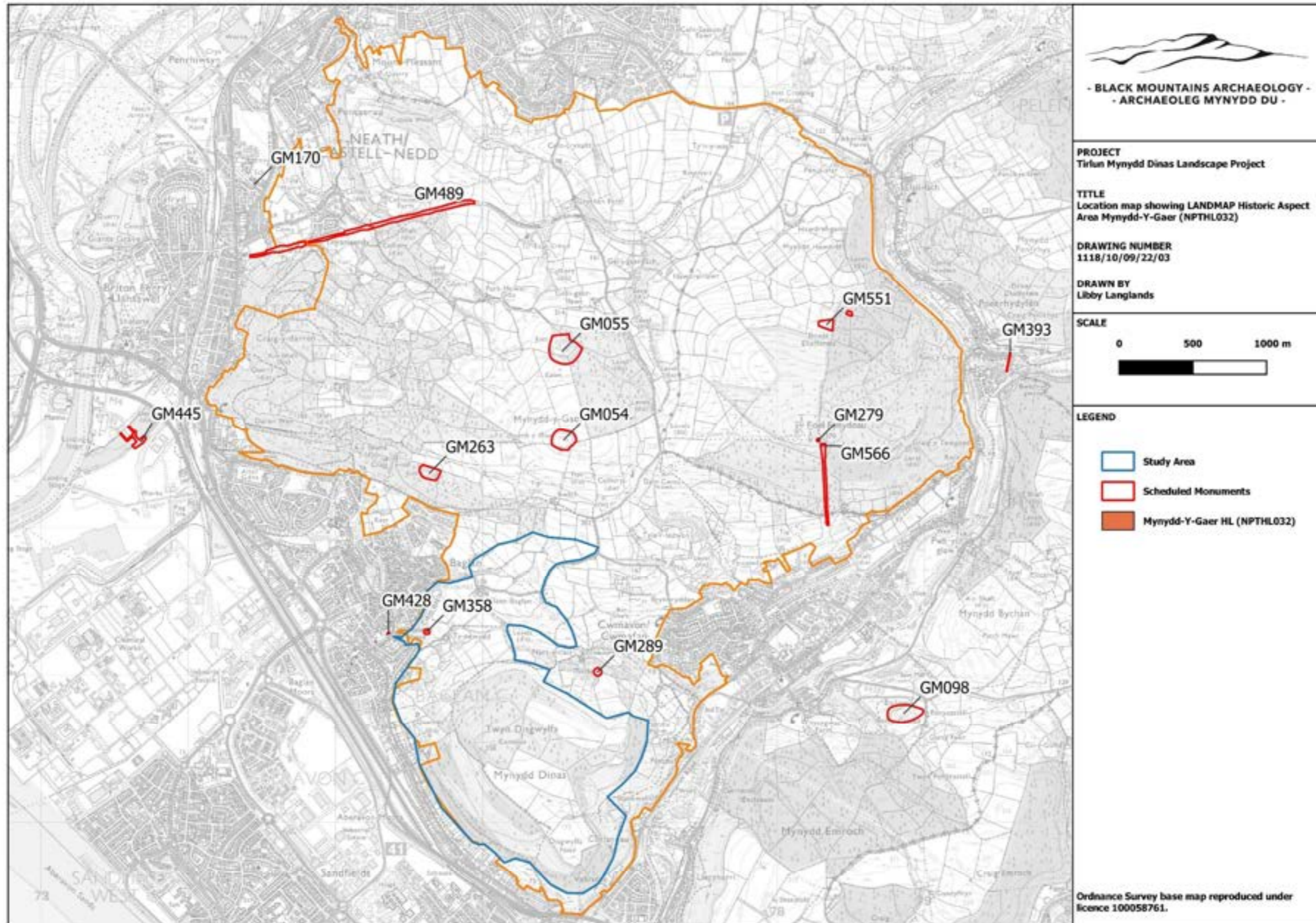


Figure 3. Location map showing the Mynydd Dinas study area in relation to LANDMAP Historic Aspect Area Mynydd-Y-Gaer (NPTH032)



7.2 Appendix II – Plates

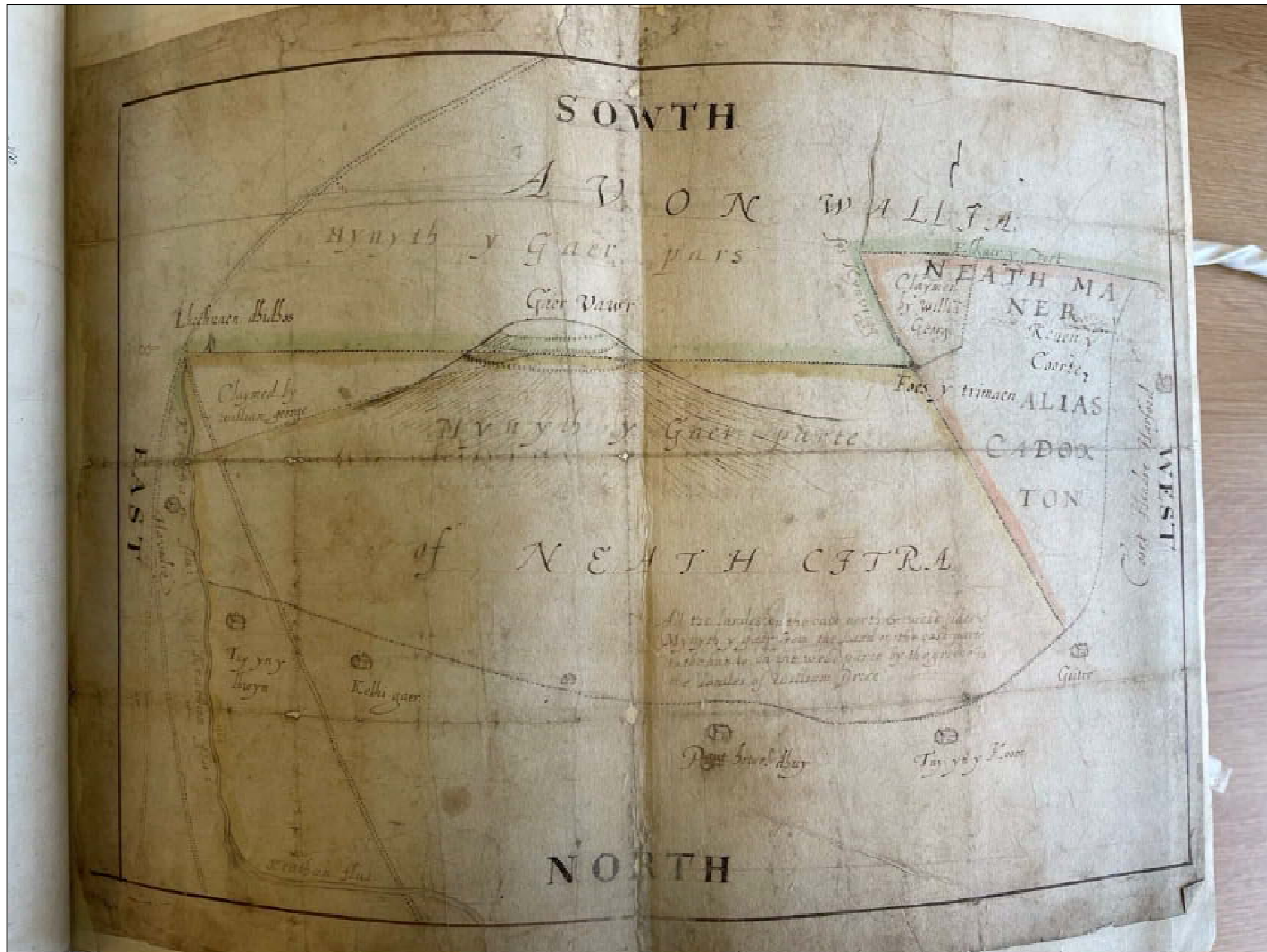


Plate 1. Extract from Briton Ferry Estate Maps: Vernon and Early of Jersey c 1798 (WGRO D/D BF E/1)

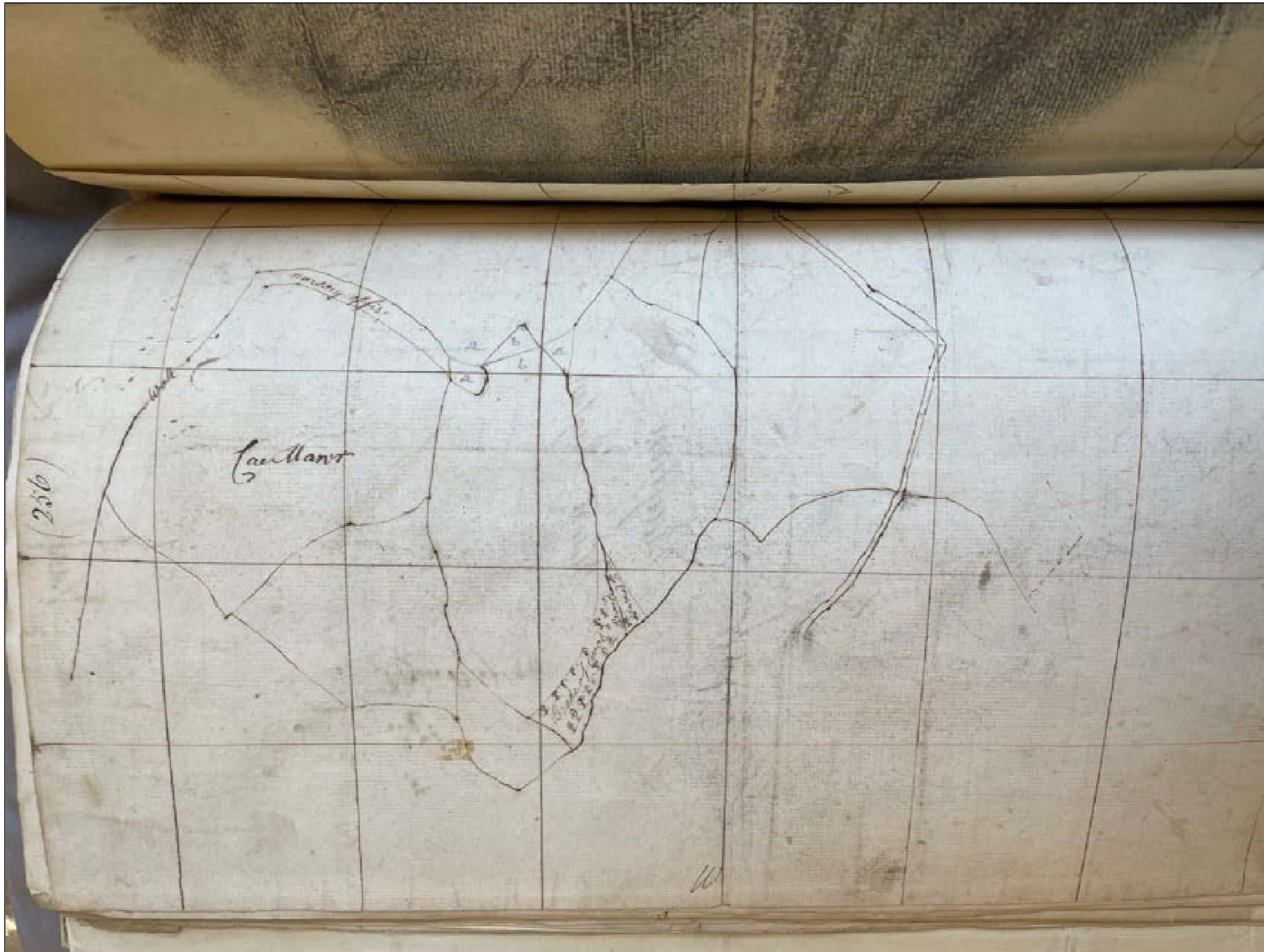


Plate 2. Extract showing Blaen Baglan from Briton Ferry Estate Maps: Vernon and Early of Jersey c 1798 (WGRO D/D BF E/1)







Plate 4. Extract showing Mynydd Dinas from Briton Ferry Estate Maps: Vernon and Early of Jersey c 1798 (WGRO D/D BF E/1)

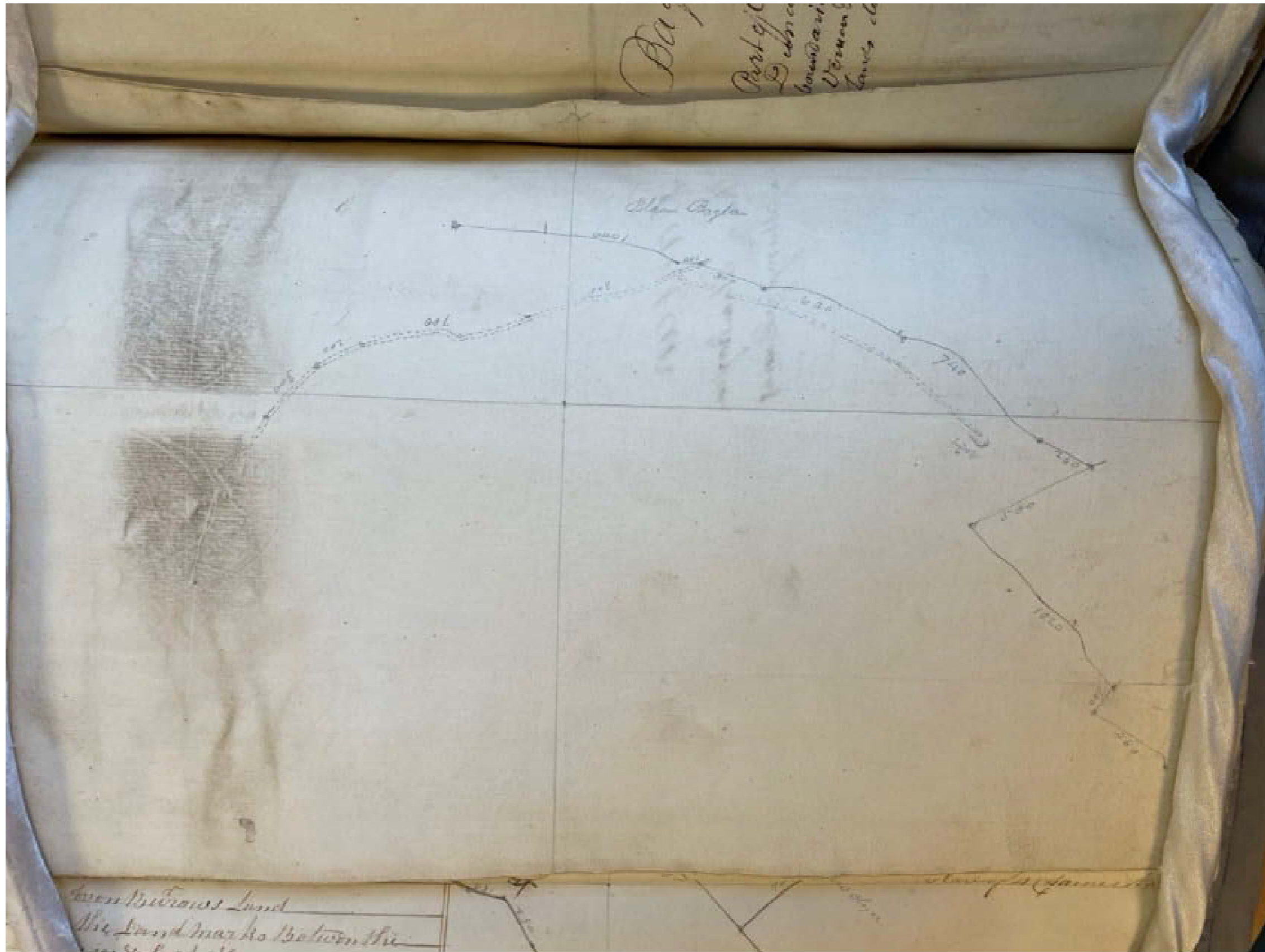


Plate 5. Extract showing Blaen Baglan from Briton Ferry Estate Maps: Vernon and Early of Jersey c 1798 (WGRO D/D BF E/1)



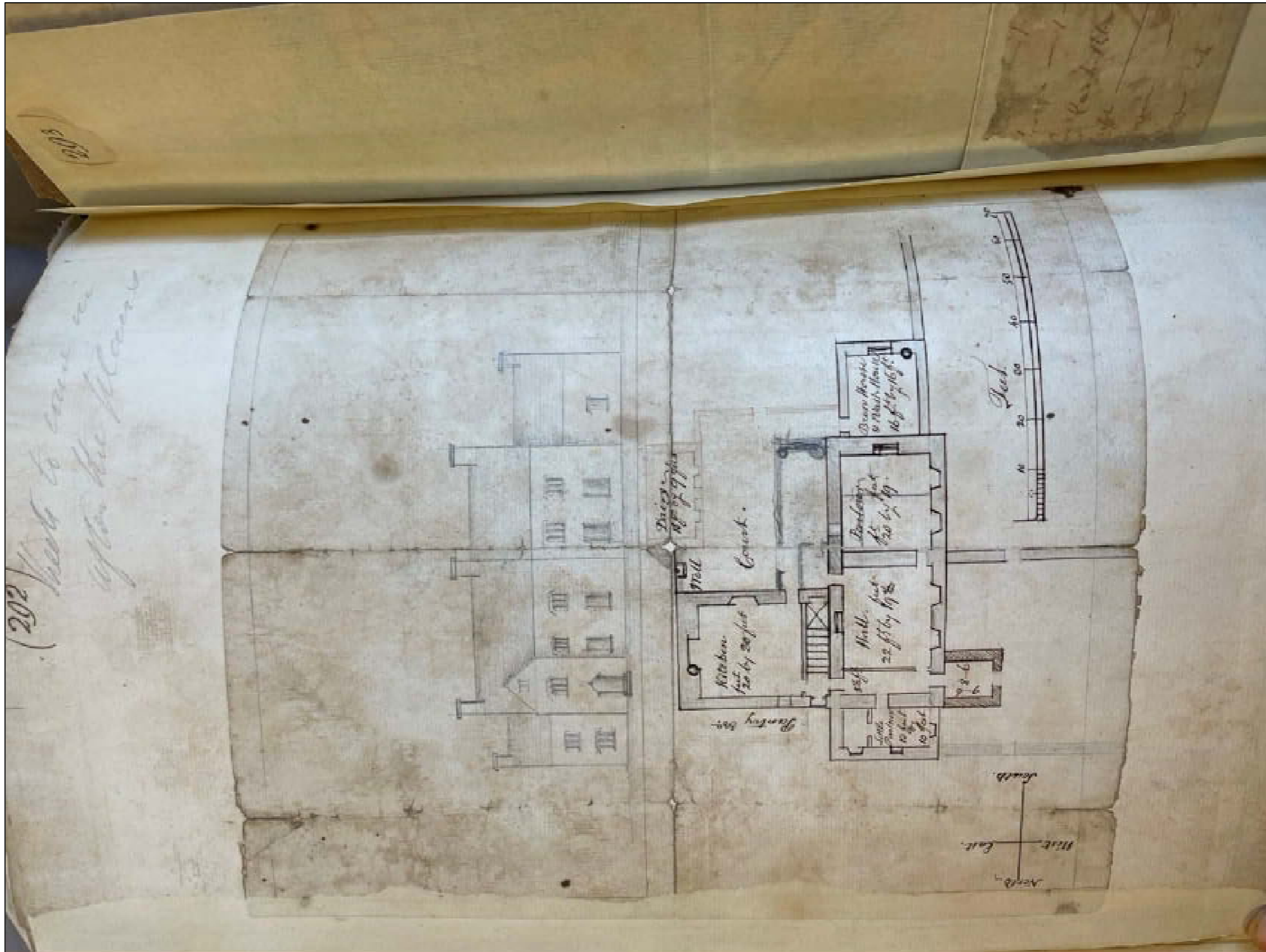


Plate 6. Extract showing Blaen Baglan House from Briton Ferry Estate Maps: Vernon and Early of Jersey c 1798 (WGRO D/D BF E/1)



Plate 7. Extract showing Maes Glase from Briton Ferry Estate Maps: Vernon and Early of Jersey c 1798 (WGRO D/D BF E/1)

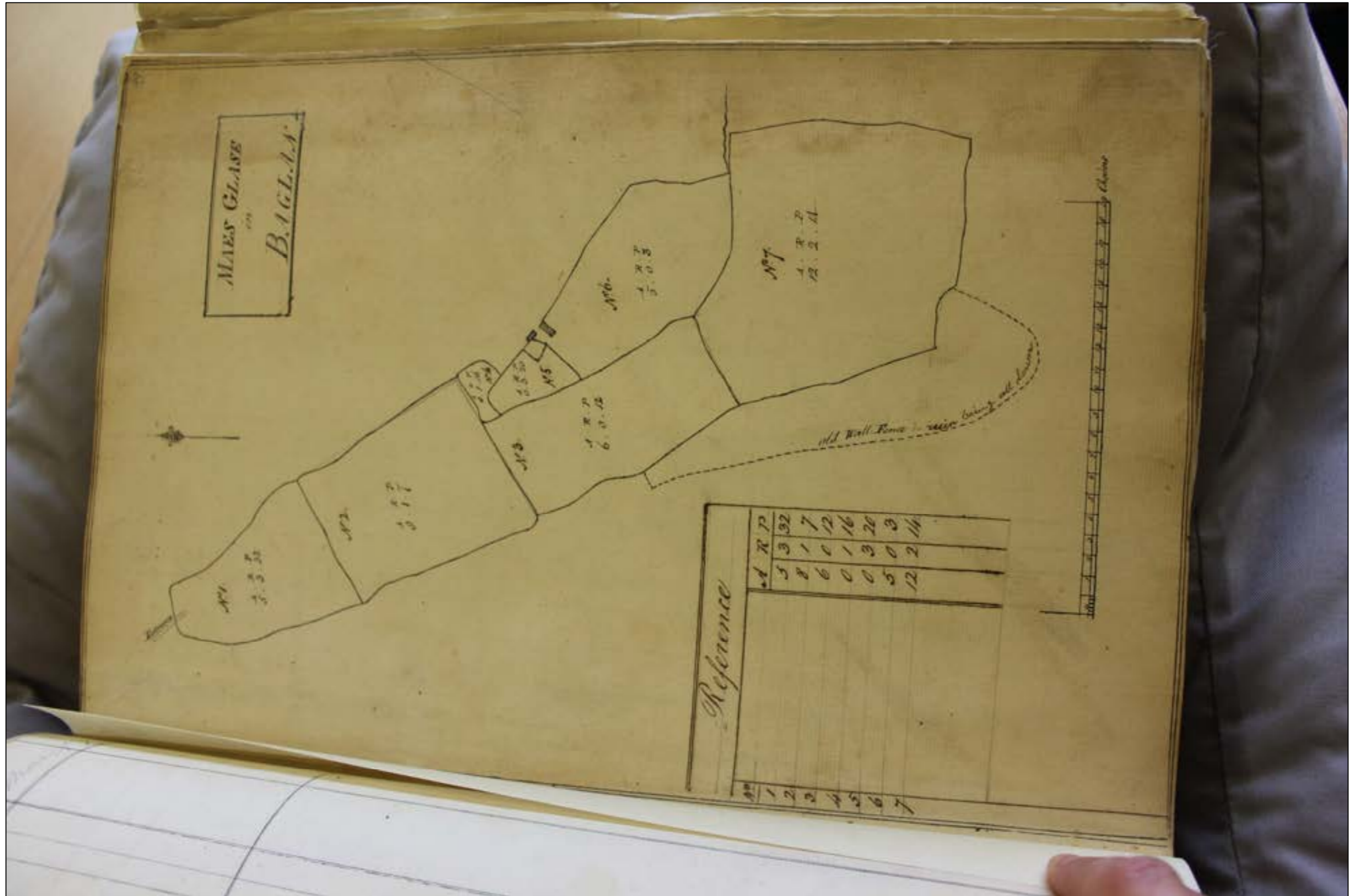


Plate 8. Extract showing Maes Glase from Briton Ferry Estate Maps: Vernon and Early of Jersey c 1798 (WGRO D/D BF E/1)





Plate 9. Plans of those parts of the Briton Ferry estate [inc]... Baglan (1815) (WGRO D/D BF E/157A)



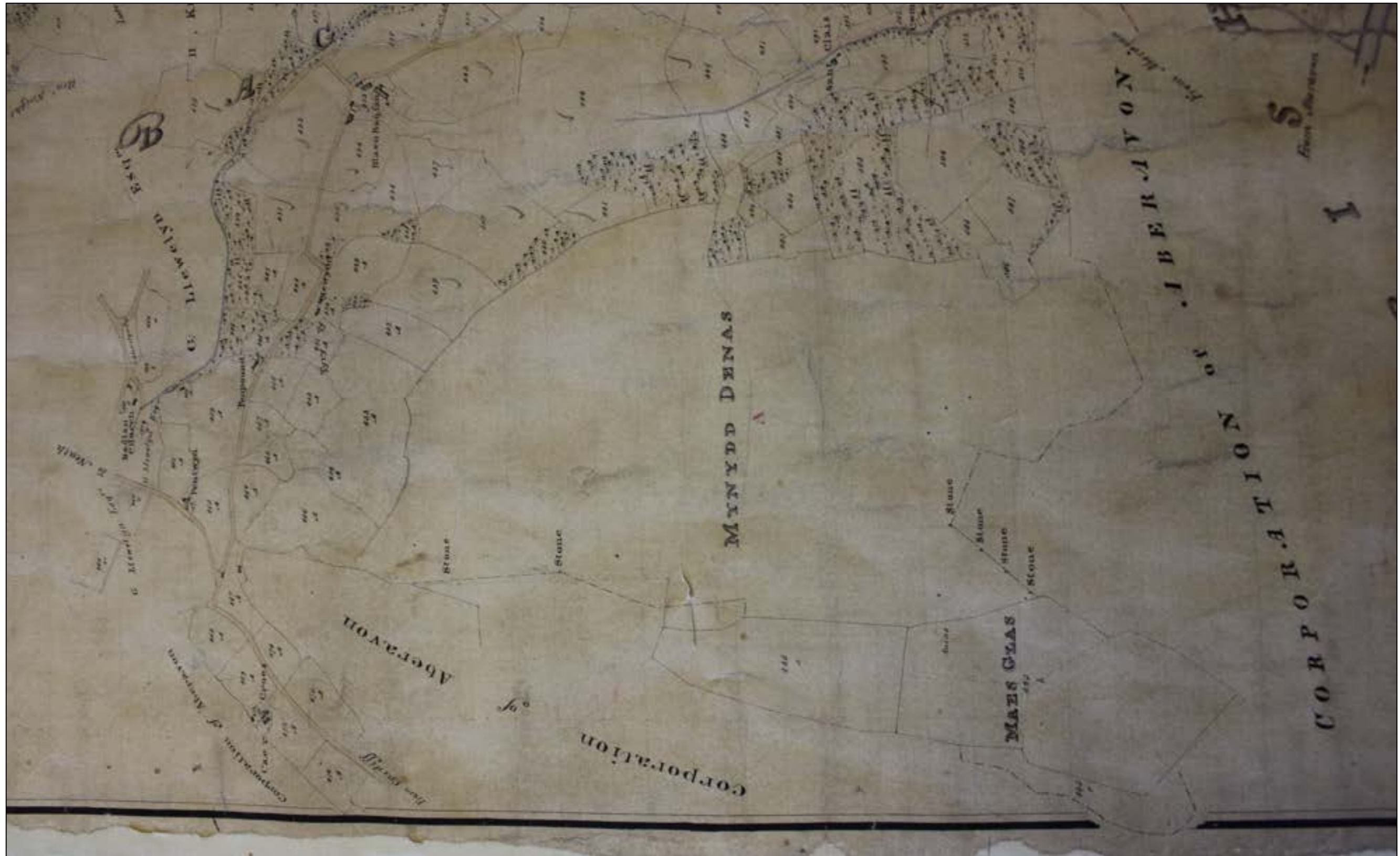


Plate 10. Plans of estate belonging to Earl of Jersey [inc]...Baglan 1826 (WGRO D/D Gn E/125)





Plate 11. 1853 Plan (WGRO D/D BF E/158)

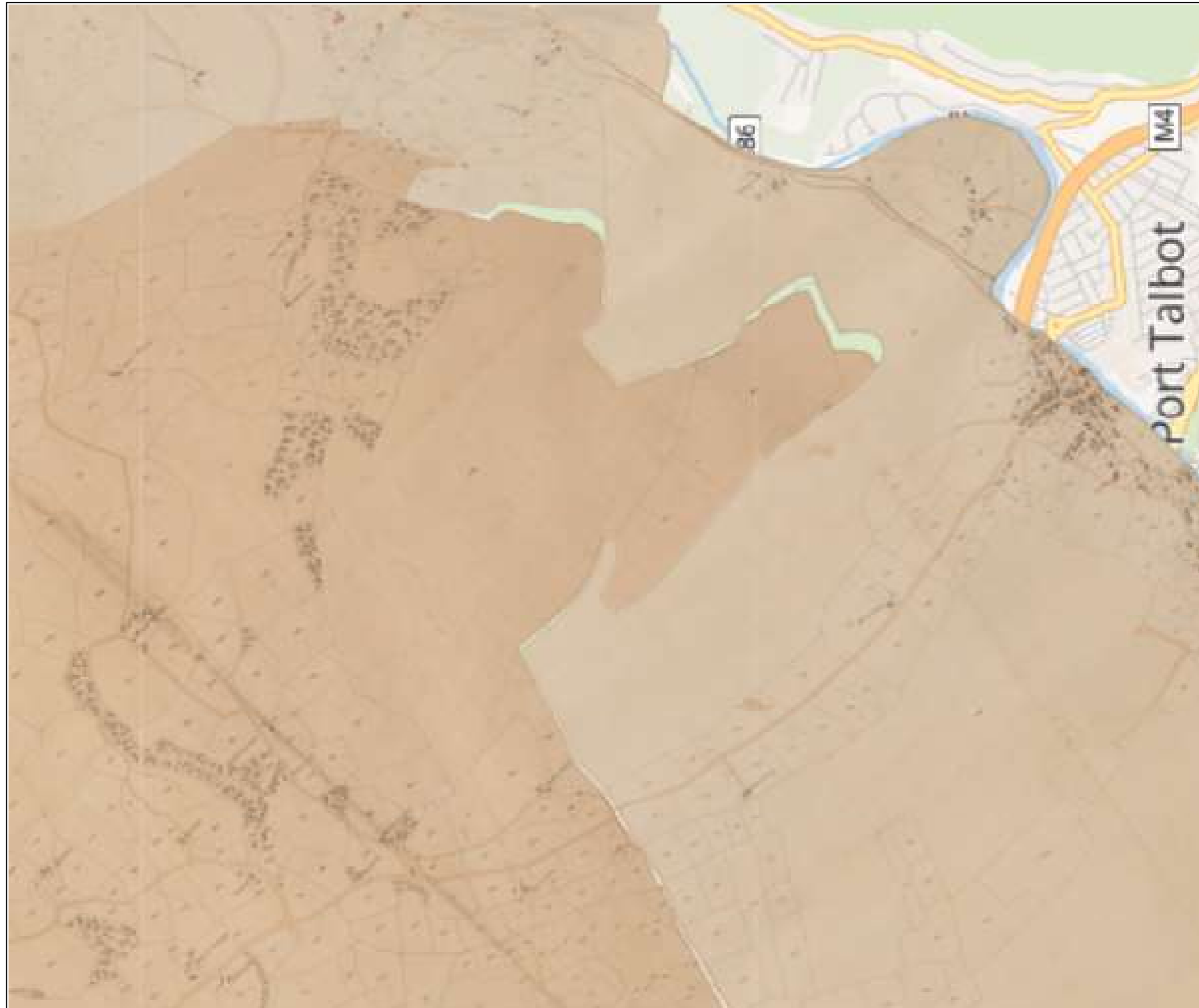


Plate 12. 1843 Tithe Map of the Parish of Baglan (© NLW)

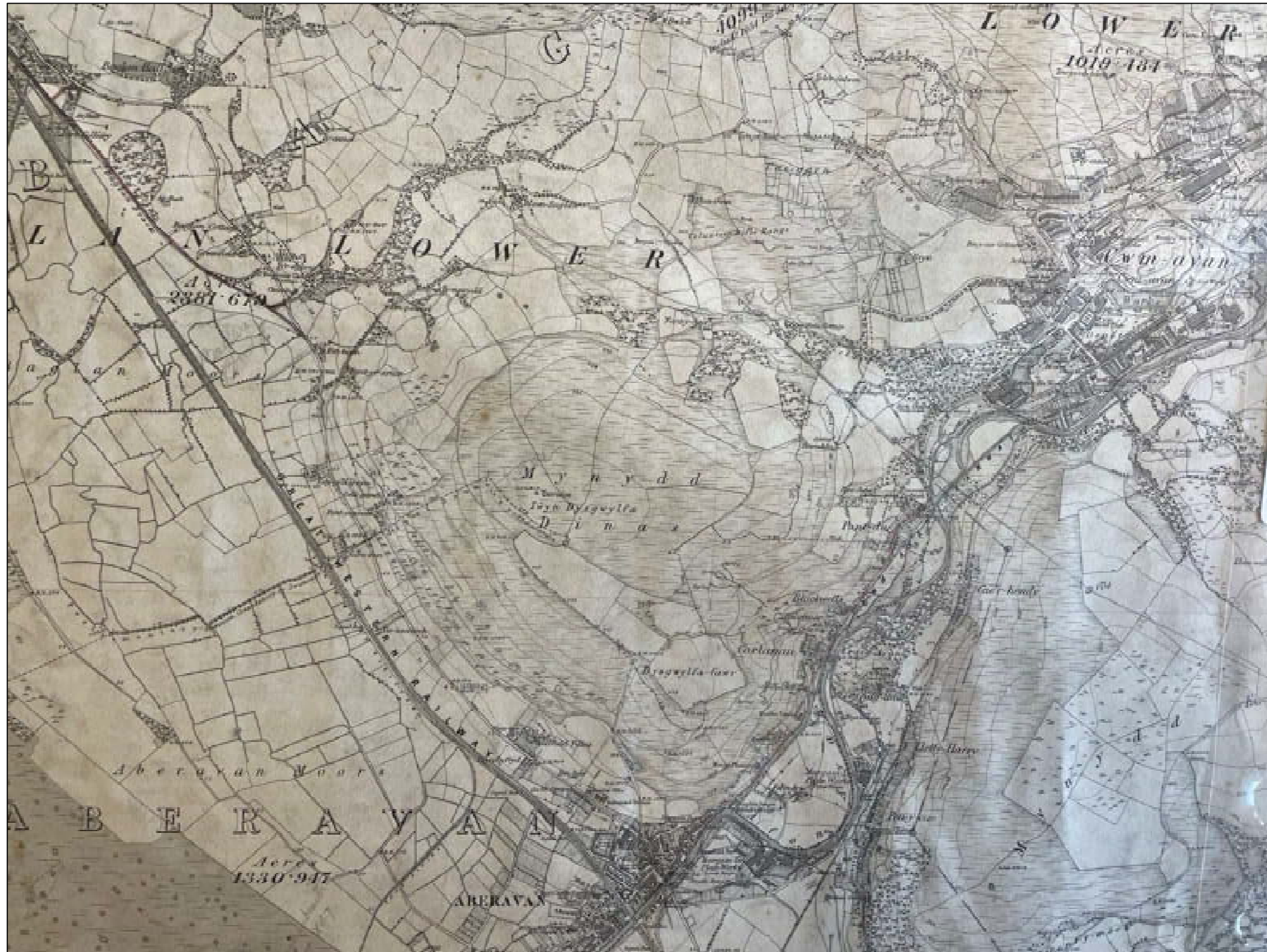


Plate 13. First Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map © WGRO





Plate 14. Detail of Second Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map, showing historic track from Church Lane to Plas Baglan (MD2) © NLS



Plate 15. Second Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map © WGRO



Plate 16 Third Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map © WGRO





Plate 17. Mynydd Dinas, 1946 © Air Photo Wales





Plate 18. Mynydd Dinas, 1946 © Air Photo Wales



Plate 19. Mynydd Dinas, 1947 © Air Photo Wales





Plate 20. Mynydd Dinas, 1949 © Air Photo Wales



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Plate 21. Mynydd Dinas, 1952 © Air Photo Wales





Plate 22. Mynydd Dinas, 1952 © Air Photo Wales

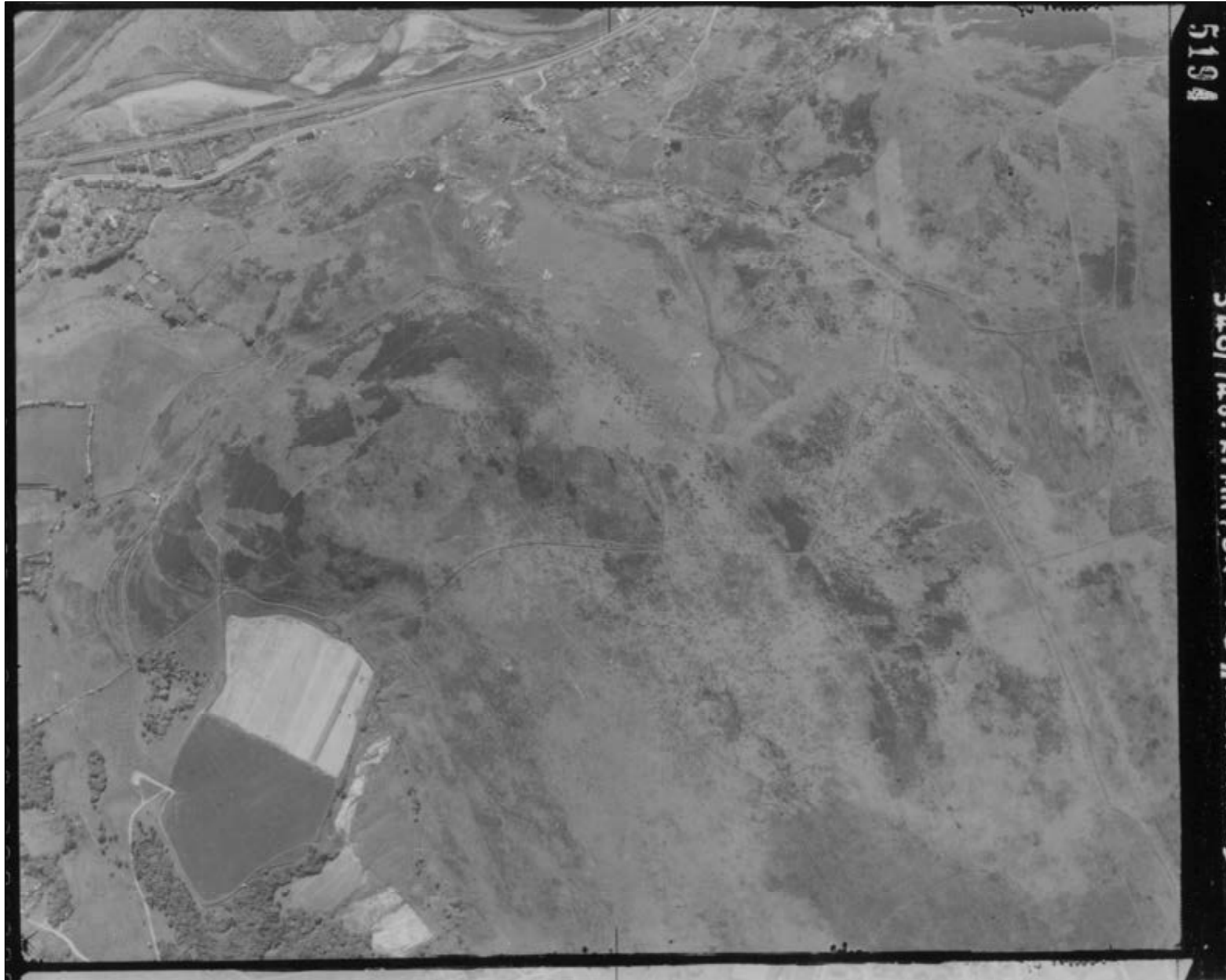


Plate 23. Mynydd Dinas, 1952 © Air Photo Wales



Plate 24. Mynydd Dinas, 1962 © Air Photo Wales





Plate 25. Mynydd Dinas, 1992 © Air Photo Wales





Plate 26. Mynydd Dinas, 1978 © Air Photo Wales



Plate 27. Mynydd Dinas, 1985 © Air Photo Wales



Plate 28. Mynydd Dinas, 1989 © Air Photo Wales



Plate 29. Mynydd Dinas, 1989 © Air Photo Wales





Plate 30. Mynydd Dinas, 1992 © Air Photo Wales





Plate 31. Mynydd Dinas, 2006





Plate 32. Mynydd Dinas, 2020





Plate 33. Blaen Baglan Farmhouse, 2013





Plate 34. Blaen Baglan Farm, 2020



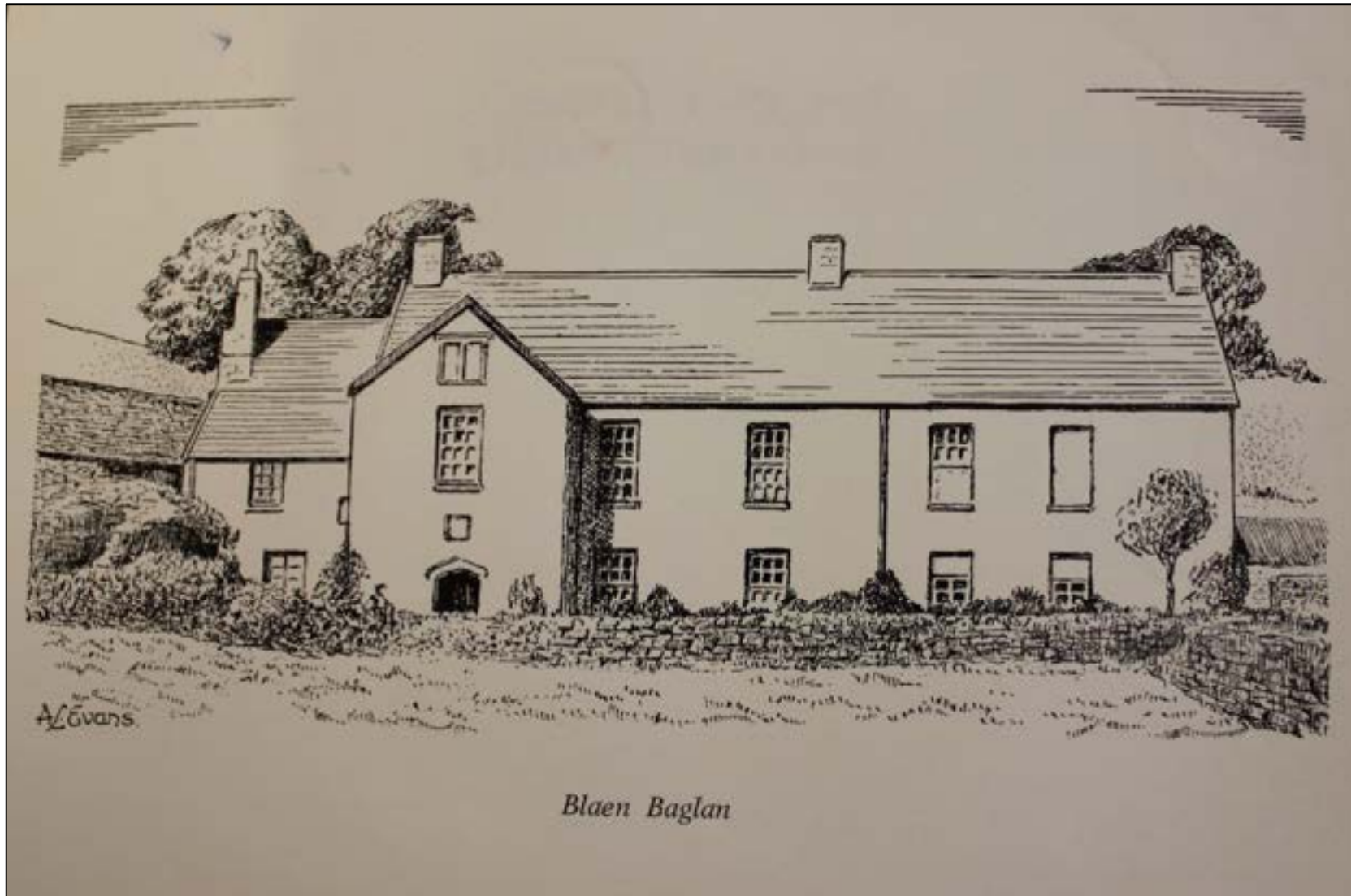


Plate 35. Blaen Baglan Farmhouse by A.L. Evans © WGRO



Plate 36. Blaen Baglan Farmhouse © WGRO





Plate 37. Blaen Baglan Farmhouse © WGRO



**Plate 38. Blaen Baglan House, from E. Jones' *Baglan Then and Now A Pictorial Record***



Plate 39. Blaen Baglan Farm, from E. Jones' *Baglan Then and Now A Pictorial Record*





Plate 40. Ty Newydd Farm, Baglan from E. Jones' *Baglan Then and Now A Pictorial Record*

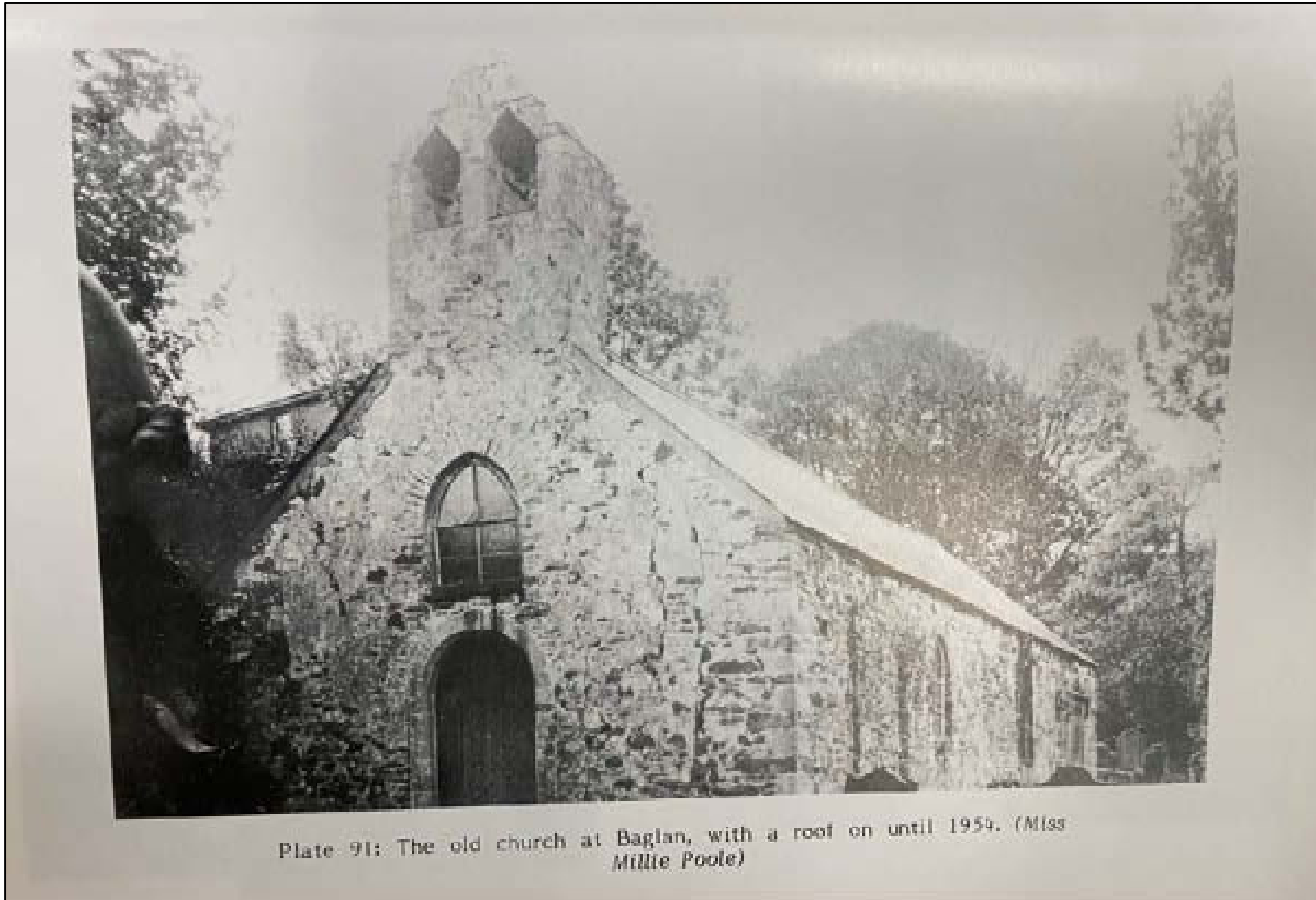


Plate 41. Ty Newydd Farm, Baglan © WGRO



Plate 42. Ty Newydd Farm, Baglan © WGRO





**Plate 43. St Baglan's Church from E. Jones' *Baglan Then and Now A Pictorial Record***



Plate 44. Interior of St Baglan's Church from E. Jones' *Baglan Then and Now A Pictorial Record*

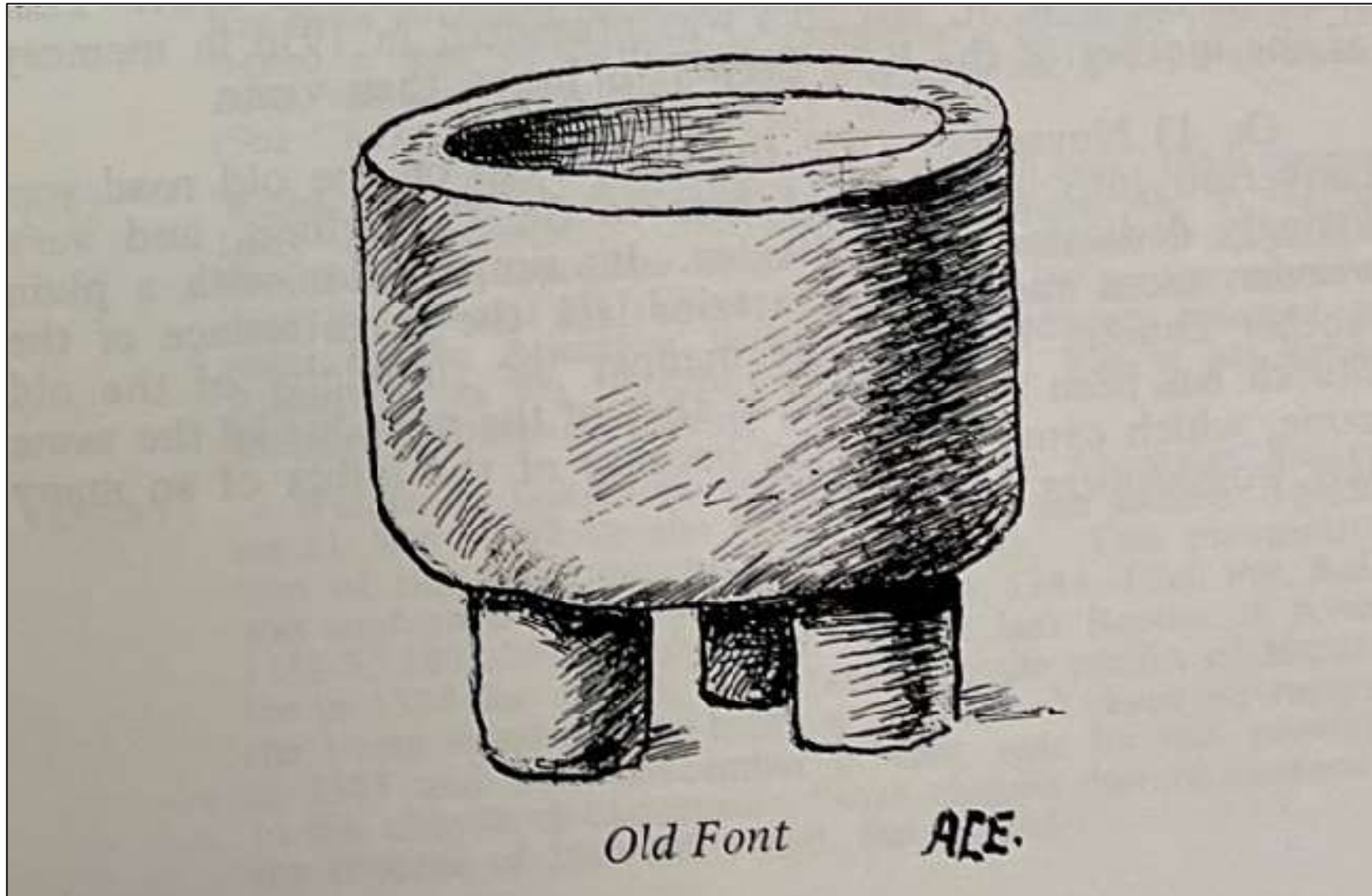


Plate 45. Old font now located in St Catherine's Church, Baglan, from A.L. Evans' *The Story of Baglan (Port Talbot)*





Plate 46. Blaen Baglan Farm today, frontage



**Plate 47. Blaen Baglan Farm today, frontage**





**Plate 48. Blaen Baglan Farm today, rear courtyard**





**Plate 49. Blaen Baglan Farm today, intact bread oven within dairy buildings**





**Plate 50. Plas Baglan motte**





**Plate 51. Plas Baglan bailey and ditch**





**Plate 52. Ancient trackway between Ty Newydd and Smallwood Road**





**Plate 53. Remains of Ty Newydd Farm**





**Plate 54. Ty Newydd Farm bee boles/ sheep creep niches**





Plate 55. St Baglan's Church





Plate 56. St Baglan's Church





**Plate 57. Early Christian Cross at St Baglan's Church**





**Plate 58. Historic footpath today, forming part of garden in Church Lane**





Plate 59. Cwm Clais Mill



**Plate 60. Twyn Dysgwylfa Round Barrow**





**Plate 61. Maes Glase Farmstead**



**Plate 62. Drystone boundary walls at Maes Glase**





**Plate 63. Maes Glase Farm and Dysgwylfa Fawr**





**Plate 64. Mountain view towards Baglan**



**Plate 65. Mountain view towards old Aberafan and Port Talbot**





**Plate 66. Mountain view towards Cwmafan**





**Plate 67. Mountain view towards Castle Bolan and Mynydd y Gaer**



**Plate 68. Mountain view towards Blaen Baglan Colliery**





**Plate 69. Mountain view towards Blaen Baglan Farm**



### 7.3 Appendix III – Tithe Apportionments

Apportionment relating to the Tithe Map of the Parish of Baglan, 1843 <sup>52</sup>													
Parcel Number	Landowners	Occupiers	Name and Description of Lands and Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure			Amount of Rent- charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and to whom payable					
					A.	P.	R.	Payable to Vicar £ S P			Payable to Appropriator £ S P		
<b>Blaen Baglan Farm</b>													
245	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Hendre Gasseg	Pasture	5		17		2	6			
275	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae Garnwen	Pasture	10		4		12	6			
276	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae gain	Arable	2	1	23		3	4			
277	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Waun y dydfryn	Pasture	24	2	7		10	2			
278	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Wood	Wood	5	3	26		1	6			
279	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture	2		38			8			
280	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Mynydd Dinas	Pasture	181		32	2	15				
281	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture	30	1	8	1		2			
282	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture	4	3	38		3	4			
283	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture	14	2	38		9	10			

<sup>52</sup> Map of the Parish of Baglan in the County of Glamorgan, 1843 © Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru | National Library of Wales

284	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Wood	Wood	1	2	27			2			
285	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Goytre	Pasture	8		15		8	2			
286	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Goytre	Arable	6	2	4		6	6			
288	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Waun fach	Meadow	3		20		1				
289	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Bwllfa	Meadow	5	1	25		2				
290	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae negar	Meadow	8		35		4	4			
291	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae dan y ty	Meadow	3	2	34		1	8			
292	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Waun genol	Meadow	2	3	18			8			
293	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Wood	Wood		2	30			2			
294	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture	3		29		2	6			
295	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Homestead		2	3	27		3	6			
296	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae berllan	Arable	9	1	5		15	6			
297	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Erw	Arable	1	2	36		2	2			
298	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae cenol	Pasture	6	2	38		4	4			
299	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae fur	Arable	6	1	11		10	6			

300	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Ferch	Pasture	9	3	1		5				
301	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae mawr	Pasture	12	2	14		8	4			
302	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Part of Mynydd y Gaer	Arable and pasture	50	1	7	1	1				
303	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture	14	2	2		6				
304	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture	8		37		3	4			
305	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae cwm bach	Pasture	4	1	16		2	2			
306	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture	5		33		2	6			
307	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae cwm	Pasture	4	1	16		2	2			
308	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae claw baglan	Pasture	11	3	35		8				
309	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Wood	Wood	2	1	6			6			
310	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Cae miller	Pasture	8	1	32		10	6			
501	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture		1	5						
502	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	House and pasture			1	3			1			
503	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Garden			1	8						
504	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Wood	Wood		3	30						



505	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pasture	Pasture		3	36		1	8			
546	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pimp erw isha	Meadow	7	2	17		9	4			
547	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pedwar erw	Meadow	6		16		7	6			
548	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Erw dysiog	Pasture	2		30		2	6			
549	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Dwy erw frwynog	Pasture	2		30		2	6			
550	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Pimp erw isha	Pasture	6	1	3		7	8			
552	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Park Lewis Griffydd	Meadow	9	2	30		16				
561	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Dwy erw fach	Meadow	2	3	14		2	6			
569	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Park lan Baglan	Meadow	6	3	11		8	4			
587	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Hang in clawdd coch ycha	Meadow	1		34		1	6			
606	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Hang in clawdd coch ycha	Meadow		2	23			8			
629	Lord Jersey	Joseph Price	Hang in pedwar erw cochen	Meadow	2	2	3		4	2			
<b>Total</b>					<b>533</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>			

Parcel Number	Landowners	Occupiers	Name and Description of Lands and Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure			Amount of Rent- charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and to whom payable					
					A.	P.	R.	Payable to Vicar £ S P			Payable to Appropriator £ S P		
<b>Ty'r y Ty Newydd Farm</b>													
287	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Cae erw	Pasture	2	1	23		3				
367	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Arable	Arable and meadow	3	3	6		4	2			
368	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Homestead			3			1				
369	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Cae main	Pasture	3	1	35		4	2			
370	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Cae cnap	Pasture	12	3	38		5	6			
371	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Cae pen plover	Pasture	2	2	9		2	2			
372	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Cae pen goforth	Pasture	1	3	22		1	6			
373	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Cae wrth ty	Pasture	1	3	34		1	8			
374	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Meadow	Meadow		2	30			3			
376	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Cae bach	Pasture	1	3	11		1				
557	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Hang in pwll	Meadow		1	10			6			

			gwyn										
601	Lord Jersey	Lewis Lewis	Hang in clawdd coch ycha	Meadow		3	26		1	1			
<b>Total</b>					<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>				

Parcel Number	Landowners	Occupiers	Name and Description of Lands and Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure			Amount of Rent- charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and to whom payable					
					A.	P.	R.	Payable to Vicar £ S P			Payable to Appropriator £ S P		
<b>Stycele and part of Pantyrarrian Farm</b>													
393	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Cae Dinas	Pasture	2	3	28		3	6			
394	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Cae uch lawr ty	Arable	5	2	38		3	4			
395	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Rough pasture	Pasture		2	14			2			
404	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Ton hir	Meadow	3		23		3				
405	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Yr erw owen	Meadow	1	2	12		1	8			
406	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Cae bach	Pasture	1	2	15		2	2			



410	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Cae gros	Arable	2	2	11		7	6			
411	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Erw fider	Arable	2		3		5	10			
412	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Homestead			3	25		2	6			
413	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Cae glas	Pasture	1	2	39		5				
414	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Cae shon	Arable	2	2	4		7	2			
431	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Clawdd Bychan	Pasture	5	1	39		9	2			
591	Lord Jersey	Howell Jones	Park	Pasture	2		35		3				
<b>Total</b>					<b>33</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>				

Parcel Number	Landowners	Occupiers	Name and Description of Lands and Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure			Amount of Rent- charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and to whom payable					
					A.	P.	R.	Payable to Vicar			Payable to Appropriator		
					£	S	P	£	S	P			
<b>Nant-y-Clais Farm</b>													
236	Lord Jersey	Thomas Hughes	Pasture	Meadow		3	8			5			
237	Lord Jersey	Thomas Hughes	Pasture House	Pasture	1	3	22			10			

238	Lord Jersey	Thomas Hughes	Pasture	Meadow	1	1	39			10			
239	Lord Jersey	Thomas Hughes	Cae bach	Pasture	2		14		1	3			
240	Lord Jersey	Thomas Hughes	Pasture	Pasture	3	3	11		1	8			
241	Lord Jersey	Thomas Hughes	Pasture	Pasture	1	2	14			8			
242	Lord Jersey	Thomas Hughes	Croft	Pasture		1	28			2			
243	Lord Jersey	Thomas Hughes	Cae bach	Pasture	1	1	34		1	5			
244	Lord Jersey	Thomas Hughes	Cae bach	Meadow	1	1	4			5			
<b>Total</b>					<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>			

Parcel Number	Landowners	Occupiers	Name and Description of Lands and Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure			Amount of Rent- charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and to whom payable					
					A.	P.	R.	Payable to Vicar			Payable to Appropriator		
					£	S	P	£	S	P			
<b>Lands in the parish of Baglan on and adjacent to Mynydd Dinas, occupied by the Governor and Company of the Copper Miners of England</b>													
210	Lord Jersey	Governor and Company of the Copper	Part of bina	Pasture	27		17		15	10			

		Miners of England											
211	Lord Jersey	Governor and Company of the Copper Miners of England	Part of clyn styfell	Pasture	1	3	33		2	6			
212	Lord Jersey	As above	Part of coed waun carter	Meadow		2	35			10			
221	Lord Jersey	As above	arable	Meadow		2	2			6			
222	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	1	2	32		1	6			
223	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	2	2	36		1				
224	Lord Jersey	As above	Caer lan	Pasture	3	3	35		3	4			
225	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	1	3	2			10			
226	Lord Jersey	As above	Cae lloy	Pasture	1					10			
227	Lord Jersey	As above	Crofty	Pasture	5	3	20		6				
228	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	5	3	13		3				
229	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture		3	33		1	3			
230	Lord Jersey	As above	Homestead	Pasture	1		3		1	10			



231	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	1	1	34			8			
232	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	10	1	32		10	6			
233	Lord Jersey	As above	Cae main	Pasture	1	1	35			10			
234	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	4		19		5				
235	Lord Jersey	As above	Waun y mynydd	Wood	13	3	20		5	10			
246	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	11	2	21		14	4			
247	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	5	2	33		7	2			
248	Lord Jersey	As above	Cae newydd	Pasture	7		38		6				
252	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	8	3	7		7	4			
253	Lord Jersey	As above	Homestead	Pasture		2	37		1	10			
254	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	6	2	30		8	4			
255	Lord Jersey	As above	Pasture	Pasture	6				10				
598	Lord Jersey	As above	Hang in clawdd coch ycha	Meadow	1				1	3			

Parcel Number	Landowners	Occupiers	Name and Description of Lands and Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure			Amount of Rent- charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and to whom payable					
					A.	P.	R.	Payable to Vicar £ S P			Payable to Appropriator £ S P		
<b>Lands in Baglan and Aberavon owned by the Burgesses of Aberavon</b>													
399	Burgesses of Aberavon	Burgesses of Aberavon	Part of Mountain	Pasture	7	1	14		2				
635	Burgesses of Aberavon	Burgesses of Aberavon	Part of moor	Pasture	440	3	28	11					
636	Burgesses of Aberavon	Burgesses of Aberavon	Part of burrows	Pasture and sand	1349		22		5	6			
402	Burgesses of Aberavon	Evan Thomas	House and Garden			2				10			
417	Burgesses of Aberavon	Evan Thomas	Piece on the marsh	Pasture	1	1	36		1	6			
418	Burgesses of Aberavon	Evan Thomas	Piece on the marsh	Pasture	1		8		1	2			
400	Burgesses of Aberavon	Evan Jones	Homestead			1	24			5			
401	Burgesses of Aberavon	Evan Jones	Cae dan y ty	Pasture	2		8		2	6			
419	Burgesses of Aberavon	Evan Jones	Piece on the marsh	Pasture	2		17		2	6			
420	Burgesses of	Evan Jones	Piece on the	Pasture	1	1	36		2	1			

	Aberavon		marsh										
396	Burgesses of Aberavon	Howell Jones	Pasture	Pasture	3	1	32		2	10			
397	Burgesses of Aberavon	Howell Jones	Arable and pasture	Arable and pasture	4	2	8		3	8			
398	Burgesses of Aberavon	Howell Jones	Pasture	Pasture	8	1	8		4	10			
421	Burgesses of Aberavon	Howell Jones	Piece on the marsh	Pasture	1	1	35		1	6			
422	Burgesses of Aberavon	Howell Jones	Piece on the marsh	Pasture	2	2	3		2	6			
423	Burgesses of Aberavon	Howell Jones	Piece on the marsh	Pasture	2		2		2	2			
33	Burgesses of Aberavon	Burgesses of Aberavon	Mountain	Pasture	143	1	6	4	6				
2	Burgesses of Aberavon	Rees Hopkins	Arable	Arable	1	2	18		1	6			
138	Burgesses of Aberavon	Emmanuel Griffith	Field	Pasture	2	3			3	2			
139	Burgesses of Aberavon	Emmanuel Griffith	Cottages and field	Pasture		2	8			7			
140	Burgesses of Aberavon	Burgesses of Aberavon	Part of Mynydd Dinas	Pasture	8	3	30		10	4			
141	Burgesses of Aberavon	William Hopkin	Part of Mynydd Dinas	Pasture	3	2	6		4	1			



142	Burgesses of Aberavon	William Hopkin	Part of Mynydd Dinas	Pasture	2	1	5		2	8			
149	Burgesses of Aberavon	Ann Thomas	Part of Mynydd Dinas	Pasture									

Parcel Number	Landowners	Occupiers	Name and Description of Lands and Premises	State of Cultivation	Quantities in Statute Measure			Amount of Rent- charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and to whom payable					
					A.	P.	R.	Payable to Vicar £ S P			Payable to Appropriator £ S P		
<b>Lands in Baglan and Aberavon owned by the Burgesses of Aberavon</b>													
399	Burgesses of Aberavon	Burgesses of Aberavon	Part of Mountain	Pasture	7	1	14		2				

#### 7.4 Appendix IV – Aerial Photograph Inventory

WO no	Sortie No	Date	Ph type
4256	4604 RAF106G/UK.1625	07/07/1946	B&W
4263	4604 RAF106G/UK.1625	07/07/1946	B&W
4123	4709 RAF CPE/UK/1997	13/04/1947	B&W
5044	4912 58RAF283 5044	09/07/1949	B&W
5175	5213 RAF540 748	21/05/1952	B&W
5176	5213 RAF540 748	21/05/1952	B&W
5194	5213 RAF540 748	21/05/1952	B&W
047	6202 OS 62 014	14/04/1962	B&W
009	6317 OS63 69 Infra red	24/05/1963	B&W
074	7878 OS 78 127 Infra red	18/08/1978	B&W
015	8521 OS85 081	31/05/1985	B&W
320	89 OS 085	21/04/1989	B&W
321	89 OS 085	21/04/1989	B&W
210	9203 Geonex 153 92	13/10/92	Colour
234	9203 Geonex 153 92	13/10/92	Colour
236	9203 Geonex 153 92	13/10/92	Colour

## **7.5 Appendix V –Extract from RCAHMW's *Glamorgan: Early Castles – Plas Baglan***



## **7.6 Appendix VI - Extract from RCAHMW's *Glamorgan: Greater Houses – Blaen Baglan***

unfinished bailey.<sup>2</sup> The scarped summit might represent a medieval Welsh attempt to create a motte-like fortress from this naturally strong position. Its form and compactness certainly have more affinity with medieval than with prehistoric fortification.

There is no medieval record of the site, but as 'Castell Nose' on its '...high stony creg...' it was noted by Leland, who also noted its vicinity as an area then producing barley, oats and a little wheat. The closest parallel for Castell Nos is Briton Ferry (UW 1), the late 12th-century castle of Morgan ap Caradog ab Iestyn, whose brother Maredudd then ruled Meisgyn. Maredudd seems the probable builder as it is unlikely that it would have been built on the

very western boundary of Meisgyn after 1229, when his successor, Hywel ap Maredudd, annexed Glynrhondda to the W. of the adjacent river, let alone after ca. 1247, when the chief lord, Earl Richard de Clare, annexed both commotes.<sup>3</sup>

King, p. 172 (Aberdare; possible castle).

Aberdâr  
SN 90 S.E. (9651-0016) 10.vi.80 XVIII N.W.

<sup>2</sup> N.M.W. Fox Notebook, II (1935), pp. 87-8; O.S. Record Card SN 90 S.E. 1.

<sup>3</sup> *Ann. Morgann, s.a. 1227; Glam. Co. Hist.* III, pp. 47, 50-1

## UW 5 Plas Baglan

Plas Baglan, despite its name, 'Palace', or 'Mansion of Baglan', and its genteel literary associations of the 15th and 16th centuries, is a strongly fortified site, a castle rather than a moated site. Its vestiges and location indicate a Welsh masonry castle that certainly existed by the 13th century, and was probably founded in the previous century. It lies secluded on the eastern edge of the precipitous ravine of Cwm Baglan, at 2.3km N.N.W. of Aberafan Castle (VE 1) and 1.2km W.N.W. of Castell Bolan (UW 3). The 16th-century house of Blaen Baglan (Vol. IV, Part 1, No. 23) is on higher ground near the head of the cwm and 430m to the N.E., while 300m to the W., across the ravine, is St Baglan's church for which two Early Christian sculptured stones suggest a pre-Norman foundation (Vol. I, Part 3, Nos. 886, 961).

The castle (Fig. 104) occupies a strong position at 53m above O.D. within the angle formed by Cwm Baglan to the W. and a deeply incised re-entrant dingle to the S.; to the N. and E., facing rising ground, it is protected by a right-angled ditch which defined a platform 21m square. Traces of a mortared wall survive around this platform, particularly to the N., where there are clear indications of a square projecting turret on the W. and a buttress or stepped plinth towards the centre. To the E. the wall is marked by a stoney bank, but stone-robbing and erosion have removed all traces to the S. Incorporated within the N.W. angle of this perimeter wall are the ruins of a rectangular tower or first-floor hall. Set N.-S. along the greater part of the W. side of the enclosure, this structure has walls 1.52m thick and measures externally 17.37m by 10.06m. There are the remains of

two splayed embrasures, one to the W., the other to the S. in the only surviving portion of that wall. The northern half of the building is defined by intermittent visible parts of the walls which must survive to a height of some 1.5m within the stoney banks which follow their lines. The projecting turret to the N. presumably served a latrine on the vanished first floor. This dominant structure occupied the greater part of the W. half of the platform. Remains of lesser buildings in the N.E. quarter may be marked by its slight elevation, isolated scarps and an isolated wall fragment. The entrance was probably at the gap between the S. end of the stoney E. bank and the dingle to the S.

The southern end of the eastern ditch is infilled, probably as a result of recent stone-robbing to provide material for the now abandoned Ty Newydd Farm. This farm of 18th- or early 19th-century date lies 110m S.E. of Plas Baglan. Its outbuildings and yard walls re-use much ashlar matching that which occurs in the rubble on the site. Mainly honey-coloured Oolitic Limestone, this ashlar also includes grey Pennant Sandstone. The Oolitic Limestone dressings include at least four jamb stones from doors or windows, all with a plain broad chamfer; one found on the scarp immediately below the W. wall of the tower, was internally rebated and grooved for a shutter. Five plain squared blocks of the same stone, re-used at the farm, are distinctly and crudely fan-tooled; small similarly tooled fragments are present at the site and might suggest a 12th-century date for some of the fabric, though later work is indicated by diagonally straight-tooled stones. Among the grey Pennant Sandstone is a roll-moulded door jamb.

SECTION UW: UNCLASSIFIED, PROBABLY WELSH CASTLES

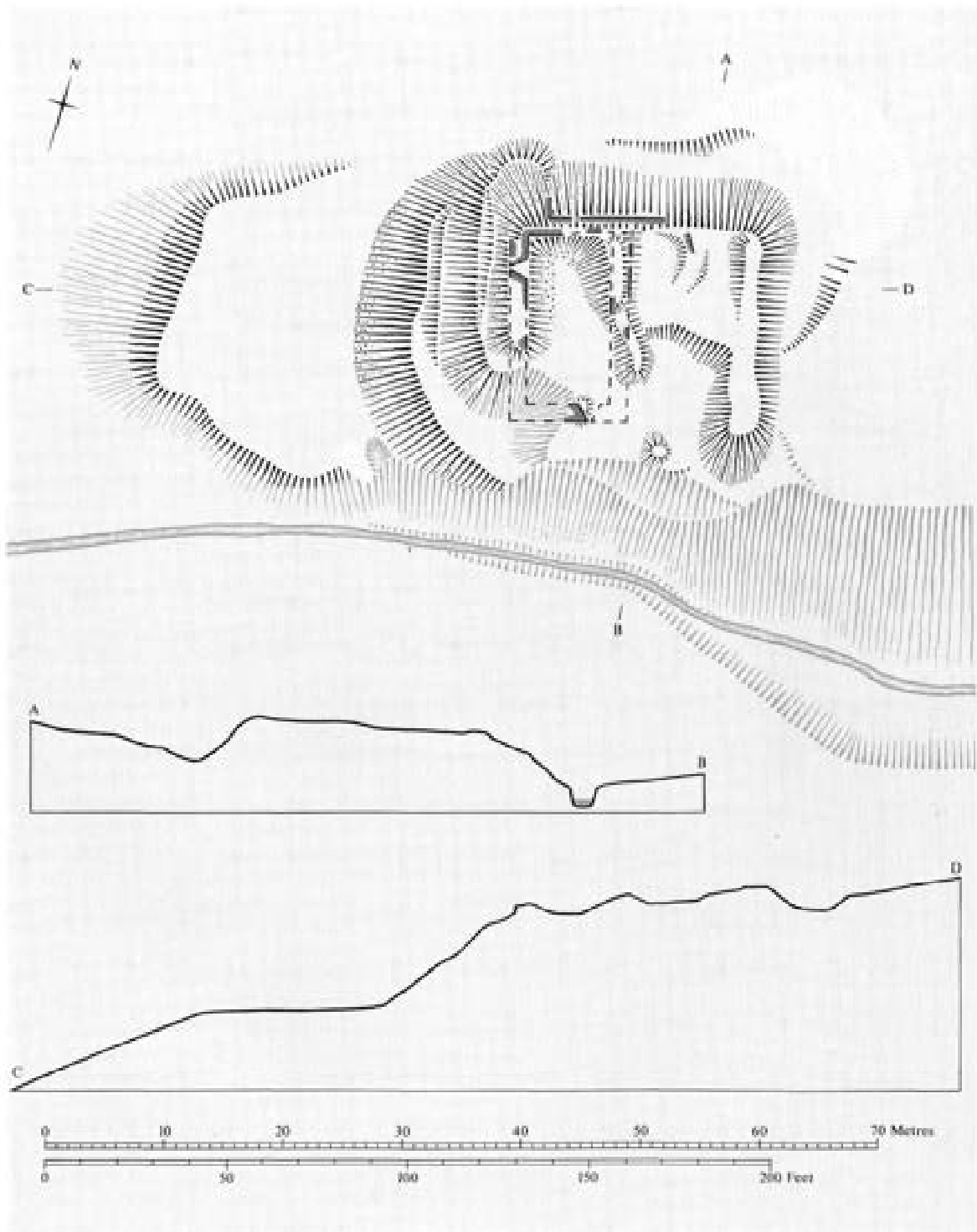


Fig. 104. Plas Baglan.





Fig. 105. Plas Baglan, viewed from the north-east.

To the W. side of the platform a steep rubble-strewn slope falls to a level shelf 9m below. Two parallel and more gently-sloping berms along this slope suggest



Fig. 106. Seal of Morgan Gam, lord of Afan (fl. 1217-41), drawn from a photograph provided by The British Library.

that it has been artificially scarped to strengthen the main upper platform. The irregular shelf below is a natural feature, roughly equal in area to the upper platform and ideally suited to accommodate a bailey, and it has possibly been scarped about its perimeter for this purpose, but there are no traces of structures upon it.

Documentary evidence for the castle of Plas Baglan is lacking, but its singular form and secluded location, close to the ancient church of St Baglan, suggest it was a stronghold of the Welsh lords of Afan. This probability raises the question of its status in relation to the two nearby castles of Aberafan and Castell Bolan (VE 1, UW 3 and map, Fig. 94, p. 136). It is usually assumed that the Welsh lord of Afan built the now vanished castle at Aberafan, 2.3km to the S.S.E., and that this was their *caput*. Both assumptions are questionable; although they may have held the coastal strip after the Norman castle of Aberafan was destroyed by Lord Rhys in 1153, they did not make that castle their *caput*, certainly not before the foundation of their borough there ca. 1304. Probably they administered the territory from Plas Baglan, as it is named *Bagelan* in the Extent of 1262, which states that Morgan Fychan (*ob.* 1288) owed no service except a heriot of a horse and arms at death.<sup>1</sup> Both Plas Baglan and the nearby Castell Bolan (UW 3) lie in Baglan

<sup>1</sup> Clark, *Coriav*, II (dcsv), p. 651 and n., p. 656.

parish; either might be considered as 'the castle that once belonged to Morgan Gam' (*fl.* 1217–41) near which Herbert Fitzmatthew was slain by the Welsh in 1245.<sup>2</sup> His death occurred on an adjacent slope, a topographical feature lacking at the low-lying Aberafan site. Plas Baglan would appear more significant than Castell Bolan, not only for its proximity to the church and its masonry, but also for its late-medieval association with the princely family. Two cadet branches of the Welsh lords of Afan survived at Baglan long after the lordship passed in exchange to the chief lord, Edward Despenser, at some time between 1359 and 1373.<sup>3</sup> Both branches descended from Rhys, younger brother of Lleisan ap Morgan Fychan, and



Fig. 107. Seal of Lleisan ap Morgan Fychan, styled *de Aveoe*, who founded Aberafan borough (ca 1304 (after *Arch. Camb.* 1867, p.27).

established important lineages at Blaen Baglan and Plas Baglan, the latter represented in the 15th century by the celebrated gentleman-bard Ieuan Gethin ab Ifan ap Lleisan ap Rhys (ca. 1400–80).<sup>4</sup> The Plas came by marriage to the Thomas family, and was no doubt the 'Courte Baglan' of 1570, which was seemingly

abandoned early in the 17th century.<sup>5</sup> The tower of Plas Baglan is perhaps alluded to in the farm-name of Ty'n-y-Twr, 200m N.W. across the cwm, and in the tenement of *Tir y Tŵr*, which was leased by the Crown in this locality in 1632.<sup>6</sup>

The primitive tooling of some of its ashlar, its dominant tower or hall and its lower platform vaguely reflecting a motte and bailey plan, might all favour a late-12th-century foundation, though a recent opinion favours a 13th-century date.<sup>7</sup> If it was founded before 1200, its builder may have been Morgan ap Caradog, lord of Afan ca. 1147–ca. 1207, founder of the castle at Briton Ferry (UW 1). Though less massively-walled, the tower at Plas Baglan is larger than the Norman keeps at Ogmere (MR 5) and Penllyn (EM 4), and only marginally smaller than others at Sully (EM 6) and Dinas Powys (EM 1). Threatened on his eastern flank by the Norman keeps of the chief lord at Kenfig (EM 2) and Newcastle (EM 3), Morgan could not have ignored the merits of such structures, particularly as he managed to obtain possession of the latter as a result of his leading role in the revolt of 1183–84, passing it on to his heirs who lost it before 1217. The eclipse of Plas Baglan, it may be surmised, began with the foundation of the Welsh borough at Aberafan, ca. 1304, and the rebuilding of the 12th-century castle there as a more convenient centre for administration, the more remote site being ceded to a cadet.

Plas Baglan might be the '*Castell y wiryones*' westernmost of the three castles noted in Baglan parish by Edward Lhuyd, but this name is not otherwise recorded.<sup>8</sup>

King, p. 160 (Baglan).

Baglan (E), Port Talbot (C).  
SS 79 S.E. (7562–9230) 6.ix.77 XXV N.W.

<sup>2</sup> *Ann. Camb.*, s.a. 1246.

<sup>3</sup> A. Leslie Evans, *Trans. Port Talbot Hist. Soc.*, No. 3, 11 (1974), pp. 37–9. See also G. T. Clark, *Arch. Camb.* 1867, p. 15 and Phillips, *Vale of Neath*, p. 363.

<sup>4</sup> *Glam. Co. Hist.*, III, pp. 497–9; Phillips, *Vale of Neath*, pp. 471–9.

<sup>5</sup> A. Leslie Evans, *Trans. Port Talbot Hist. Soc.*, No. 2, 1 (1965), pp. 56–7; Phillips, *Vale of Neath*, pp. 364, 374; Lhuyd, *Parochialia*, III, p. 122; Merrick, *Morg. Arch.*, p. 107.

<sup>6</sup> Clark, *Cornae*, VI (mdvii), pp. 2197–8; Phillips, *Vale of Neath*, p. 264.

<sup>7</sup> King, *Cast. Ang.*, I, p. 160.

<sup>8</sup> Lhuyd, *Parochialia*, III, p. 28. Lhuyd's 'y Castell' may be the nearby Castell Bolan (UW 33), and the third the hill-fort of Pen-y-castell.

foundations of the S. wall contain the splayed base of a window that was set centrally between the porch and a S. projecting bay. The bay was clearly additional to the central back-to-back chimney wall, which in the main was built with a sandy mortar as opposed to the lime mortar of the adjacent walls. The N. jambs of a ground-floor and a first-floor window are intact on the W. side of the projection. On the E. of the central wall of the block there is an opening for the ground-floor fireplace with robbed jambs. Only a short length of foundations of the N. wall remains, built over by a later field wall.

On the W. side of the central wall, against which the S. wall abuts in a straight joint, the backs of the flues to ground and first-floor fireplaces are faced with lime mortar and may be insertions. An opening to the N. of the ground-floor fireplace suggests a door communicating with the E. room. The S. wall terminates at the E. jamb of a window but the footings to the W. form the further but smaller S. projection. At the W. end of the main block, the gable survives almost intact, together with fragments of the S. and N. walls of the W. rooms. In the gable are relieving arches of voussoirs to fireplace openings at both floor levels, each with their jambs and bressummer removed; on the exterior the chimney shaft projects slightly from the wall for the full height of the gable. At the S. side of the first-floor fireplace is a square window opening which has a relieving arch of voussoirs under a crude external hood, but there is no rebate for a frame. In the S. wall there are the robbed W. jambs of windows to ground and first floors, while the N. wall possibly terminated on the E. with doorways.

In the W. rear wing, the W. wall and N. gable are almost complete but the S. and E. walls are partly ruined. The ground floor of the wing was lighted by

opposing windows in the E. and W. walls and had a fireplace with relieving arch of voussoirs over it in the N. gable; here also the fireplace surround is missing and the hearth is partly blocked on the E. by a later structure that is itself buried under debris. The room was entered from the main block in the S.E. corner and may have had a further doorway in the E. wall. The ceiling was supported on three cross-beams. At first-floor level windows remain in the N. and W. walls and there is a small fireplace towards the W. end of the N. gable. On the exterior the chimney shaft again projects slightly from the main face for the full height, while above the roof-line the stack was decorated with a central recess and terminated in projecting capstones. To the E. side of the chimney are the remains of an attic window. Of the E. rear wing only the foundations are visible, with the shaft of a chimney which is buried in a mound of debris on the N. side. Between the two wings, footings suggest there may have been a later narrow infilling room. On the N.E. corner of the mansion, ruined walls surround three sides of a rubble-filled hollow which may have been further accommodation.

Only the S.E. corner of the forecourt wall stands to full height and includes the large arch of voussoirs over the entrance. The remaining wall is either rebuilt to serve as a field wall or ruined.

<sup>1</sup> Clark, *Limbus*, pp. 89-90.

<sup>2</sup> Williams, *High Sheriffs*, p. 79; *Star Chamber Proc.*, pp. 181-2.

<sup>3</sup> Clark, *Limbus*, pp. 272-3.

Betws  
ss 9051 8669

34 N.E.

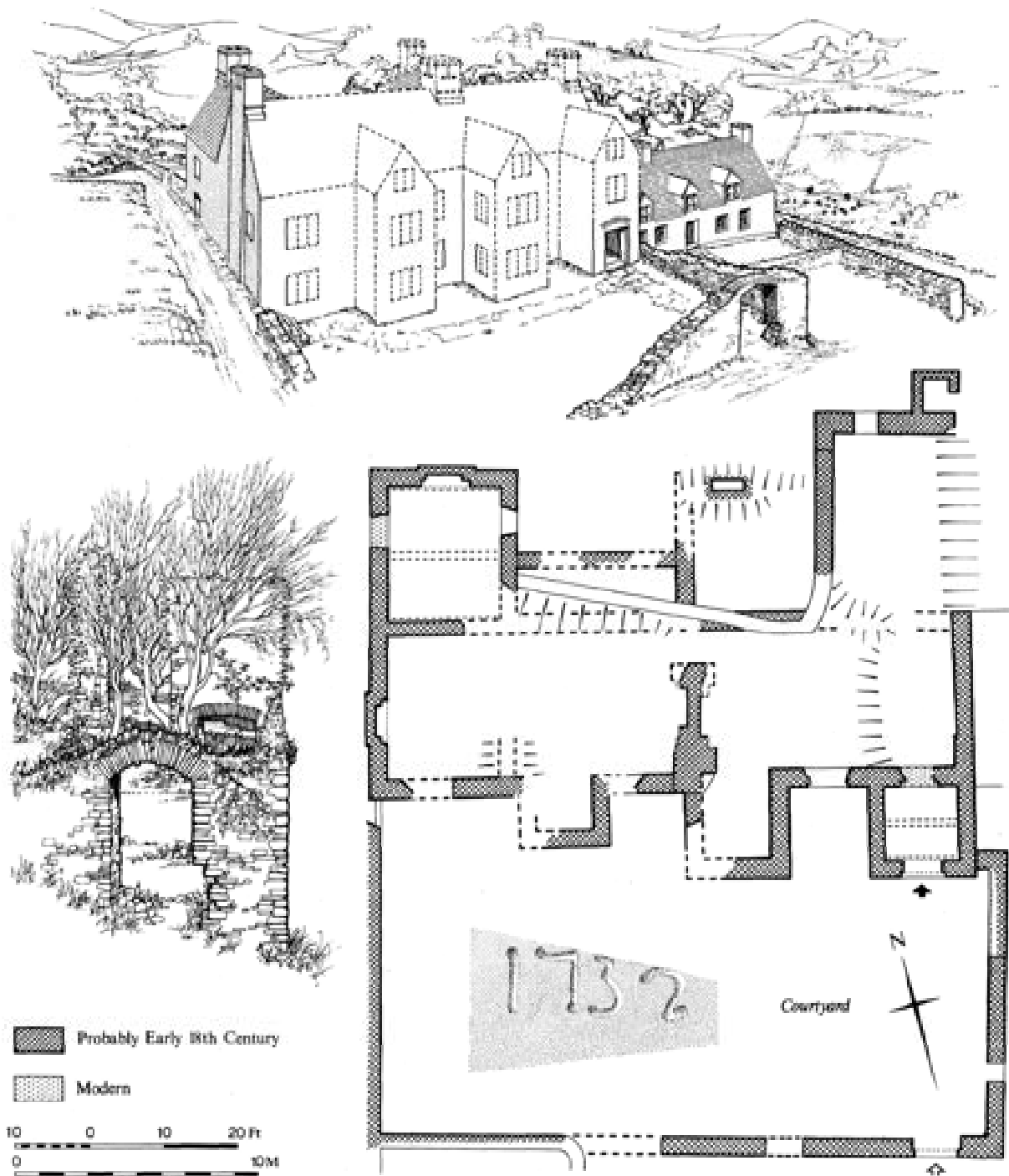
## 23 Blaen Baglan

Blaen Baglan has an isolated situation 2.5 km N. of Port Talbot, near the head of the west-facing valley that rises between Mynydd Dinas and Mynydd y Gaer, and is set on a platform at about 110 m above O.D., overlooking Swansea Bay. The house, now abandoned and ruinous, is substantially that occupied by the Williams family during the 16th and 17th centuries.

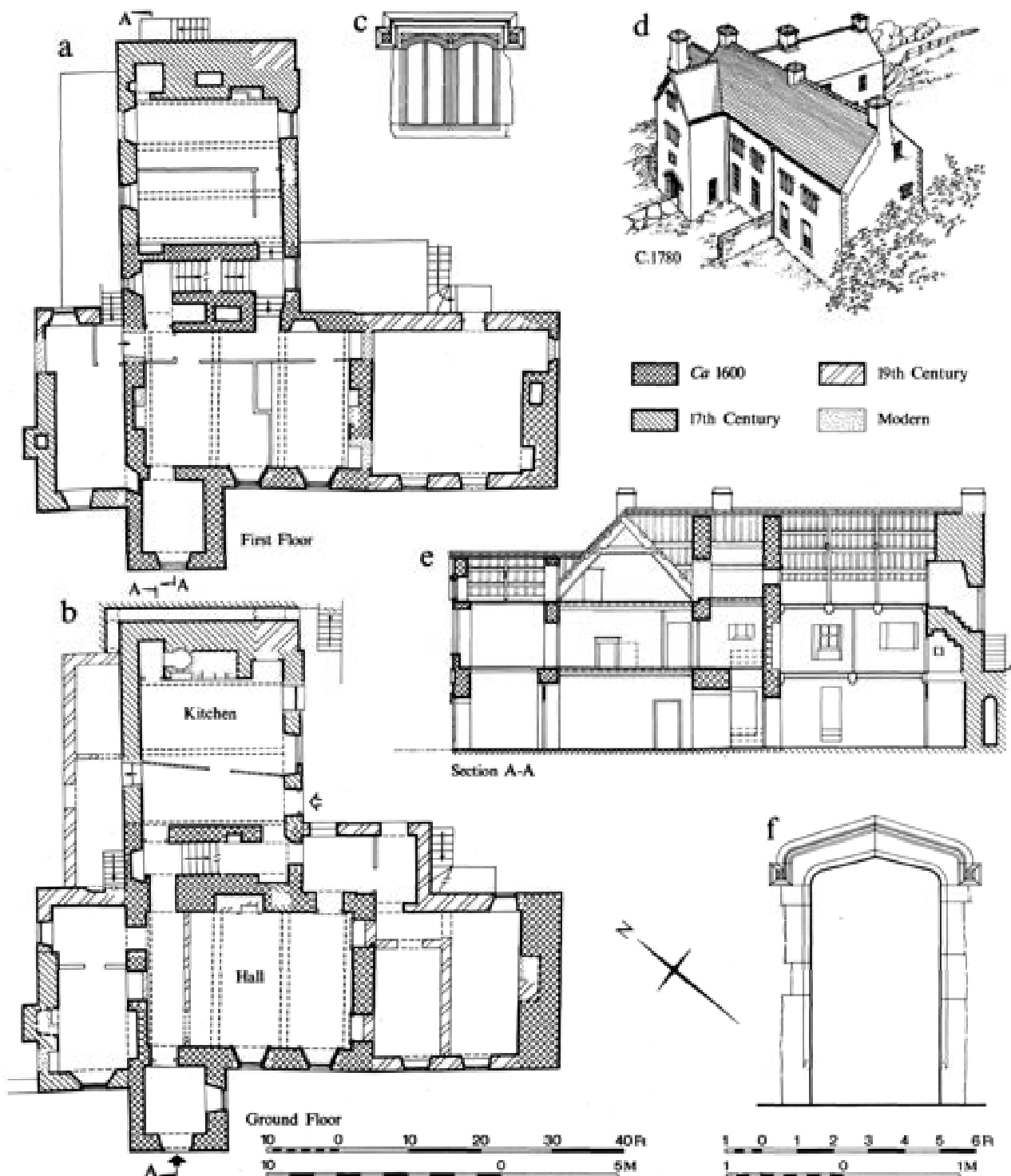
This family and the Thomas family of Betws shared a common ancestor in William ap Hopkin who was

descended by a cadet line from the medieval lords of Baglan and ultimately from Iestyn ap Gwrgan.<sup>1</sup> A great-grandson, William ap Jenkin, was described as being of Tythegston and Blaen Baglan when appointed sheriff in 1566, and Rice Merrick later in the century indicated that he or his father had purchased Blaen Baglan.<sup>2</sup> This William, appointed a J.P. in 1564 and appearing as 'armiger' in 1573,<sup>3</sup> seems to have lived chiefly at Tythegston through his second marriage to





65 Plas-y-betws (22), restored perspective from the S.W., gateway to courtyard and plan. This long-ruined house stands in the hills N. of Bridgend. The form of the plan resembles Y Fan (Fig. 59) and Nottage Court (Fig. 63) in having the main entry at the extreme end of the house. The small farmhouse below the mansion seems to bear no relationship to it.



66 Blaen Baglan (23), *a* first floor, *b* ground floor, *c* window, S.E. gable, *d* view from the S., *e* cross-section through entrance and kitchen, *f* porch doorway. This is another example of a house with the main entry at the end of the building. Note the stone mural stair running behind the lateral fireplace and at the opposite end of the 'passage'.

the widow of Robert Lougher of that place. Long before his death in 1598 he had settled Blaen Baglan on his eldest son George who established the patronymic surname of the family.<sup>4</sup> The latter, acting as steward of the manors of Afan and Afan Wallia for the earls of Pembroke, was in conflict with neighbouring landowners, notably with Sir Edward Mansel over rights to a shipwreck; in one dispute the ownership of Blaen Baglan was claimed by Thomas Lewis of Plas Baglan, and in another in 1584 he alleged that this house had been forcibly entered and pillaged by rioters.<sup>5</sup> Like his father, George Williams spent the latter part of his life in another house, leaving Blaen Baglan in the occupation of his eldest son William, son of his first marriage to a daughter of Richard Lougher. He died in 1600, and an altar-tomb in St. Michael's Church, Cwmafon, has been identified as his memorial. About the time that William Williams came into his inheritance the house was virtually reconstructed, but before 1626 William was succeeded by his half-brother Edward, son of a second marriage and fifteenth child of his father. In 1658 Edward's own son George inherited and was recorded as still occupying Blaen Baglan twenty years later, dying in 1682. Only another ten years later the last in the male line of descent (another Edward) died, leaving the estate to a sister. The ownership thereafter is uncertain, but in 1755 it was occupied if not owned by a family named Davies, and the burial of a William Davies of Blaen Baglan was recorded in 1782. Though forming part of the Jersey Estate from before 1841, the house was in tenant occupation as a farmhouse from an earlier date and subsequently, except for a period when a local Baptist minister lived there and may have been responsible for the last major alterations to the building.

The house (Fig. 66, *a-b*), of two storeys with attics, consists of a main N.W.-S.E. block aligned across the slope of the site, with a storeyed porch towards the N.W. end of the front; a rear wing, set deeply into the hillside on the N.E., completes the basic L-shaped plan. The walls are rubble-built (rendered on the S.W. front), most windows having brick surrounds; some dressed-stone windows and a doorway utilize the local sandstone. The roofing is of modern slates, but stone tiles around the site together with fragments of green-glazed ridge tiles showing hand-moulded serrations and pierced holes indicate the earlier roof covering.

The main block incorporates features of an original house earlier in date than most of the existing fabric, but the extent of that 16th-century structure cannot be

determined. In the S.E. gable-end a blocked two-light window with four-centred heads and hollow-chamfered dressings (Fig. 66, *c*) does not correspond to the internal floor levels, and the existing gable has clearly been raised by about 1.25 m above an earlier gable-end which has alternating ashlar quoins. The outer doorway of the porch has a hood-mould shaped to the Tudor-arched head (Fig. 66, *f*) but has probably been reset; a blank panel over the doorway may have displayed the Williams arms (*gules 3 chevrons argent* for Iestyn ap Gwrgan) or an inscription. Such internal features as the dressed-stone jambs of the ground-floor fireplace in the S.E. gable-end and one jamb of an opposite doorway are possibly as early also, indicating perhaps a house built for William ap Jenkin. Apart from these features and the later addition of the rear wing, the fabric of the main block represents a major rebuilding carried out about 1600. This provided a hall and parlour on the ground floor, with a storeyed porch on the S. and a stair unit on the N. built around the lateral chimney of the hall. The first-floor rooms and attics, repeating the same layout, were floored at a higher level than those in the earliest building. Although almost all the fenestration has been altered at a later date, the attic window to the porch retains its sunk-chamfered stone jambs. The addition of the rear wing is likely to have followed closely in time, but the only surviving evidence for this is the resemblance of its ceiling beams to those in the hall. Visible straight joints remain where it abuts the stair unit, and the N.E. window of a small room over the stair at attic level is covered by the roof of the wing. Probably contemporary with this is part of the storeyed addition against the N.W. gable-end of the main block. About the middle of the 19th century, the appearance and internal layout of the house were greatly altered: vertically proportioned sash-windows with brick surrounds replaced almost all earlier windows, and internally many rooms were divided by partitioning, while doorways were either blocked or cased. A single-storey addition in the angle between the rear wing and the S.E. part of the main block provided access from the kitchen to the former parlour then closed off from the hall; in more recent changes this was partitioned. On the N.W. side of the house are several late additions, while to the N.E. late-19th-century farm buildings are set around a yard and include a barn of earlier date on the S.E.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION.** The main S.W. elevation is dominated by a storeyed porch towards the



N.W. end, in which the dressed-stone doorway has chamfered jambs and Tudor-arched head under a hood-mould of similar shape with square sunken terminals (Fig. 66, *f*). A square recessed panel over the doorway has a plain raised frame. Above a modern sash-window to the first floor is a blocked attic window with sunk-chamfered jambs, formerly of two square-headed lights. The ground-floor window on the S.E. side of the porch and all the other windows of the front are vertically proportioned sash-windows; the two windows to each floor at the S.E., in a section of wall that appears to have been rebuilt, have been altered or blocked. The added building N.W. of the porch has a sash-window to each floor, and abutting the face of the porch at upper mezzanine level is a small blocked light with dressed-stone frame serving no discernible former function.

The N.W. side of the house is mostly obscured by 19th-century additions, but above the lean-to roof of the long dairy unit to the N.E. is a blocked stair light with dressed-stone surround under a crude hood. A straight joint occurs N. of this where the rear wing abuts the stair unit of the main block.

The gable-end of the rear wing, set into the rising ground, is surrounded by a narrow vaulted passage that is returned on the long walls, serving to counteract water seepage. A short flight of steps against the gable-end rises to a doorway at upper mezzanine level giving access to an internal stair to the attics. The N.E. corner of the wing has been largely altered or rebuilt, but there are indications of a possible former chimney projection at the gable-end. All the windows and the doorways at the S.W. end of the S.E. wall are 19th-century.

In the angle between the rear wing and the main block, a single-storey late addition with lean-to roof supports steps rising on its S.E. face to a first-floor doorway on the N.E. side of the main block; the wall housing this doorway shows evidence of possible rebuilding and of the roof level having been raised. S.E. of the steps is a sash-window to the ground floor. In the S.E. gable-end of the main block, towards the N.E. end, is a two-light window with hollow-chamfered jambs and mullion, the four-centred heads of the lights forming sunk spandrels under the flat hood-mould that is returned at the ends, with square sunken terminals (Fig. 66, *e*); within the frame, the window is blocked. The quoins are formed of alternating long and short blocks. Above this window is the line of an early gable with a chimney stack embedded in the masonry of the heightened gable which has a modern

attic window to the N.E. and a rebuilt stack at the apex.

The interior has few early features surviving alterations made in the 19th century. The hall is ceiled in three bays, the main beams having broad chamfers, and a modern partition forms a passage between the entry from the porch and a doorway to the rear wing and stair. The fireplace in the N.E. wall has been reduced by blocking, and the doorway S.E. of this and those in the S.E. wall have been cased, the latter two now forming recesses. The former parlour is now entered only from the added unit on the N.E., but the adjacent former doorway from the hall retains one dressed-stone jamb with a plain chamfer terminating in a curved stop with torus. The fireplace in the S.E. gable-end retains early dressed-stone jambs but has been blocked, and the room has been divided by a modern partition. The kitchen in the rear wing has beams similar to those in the hall, but a modern partition forms a passage in its S.W. half between two inserted doorways. The fireplace in the N.E. gable-end has been reduced by blocking. The stair backing on the hall fireplace was originally lighted on the N.W. at ground and first-floor levels, but both these windows have been blocked and replaced by an enlarged window on the S.E. at landing level where the stair divides to the differing levels of the first floors of the main block and rear wing (Fig. 66, *e*).

The original disposition of the first-floor rooms followed that of the ground floor but they have been divided into smaller units, and the S.E. room, blocked off the rest of the floor, has been adapted as a granary entered only from external steps. The broad-chamfered main beams with straight-cut stops and fillet form three bays in the rooms over the hall and the kitchen; a blocked splayed recess in the N.E. wall of the former probably represents an early window opening. The blocked two-light window in the S.E. gable-end is at the level of the existing floor. A fireplace in the N.W. gable-end of the main block has been reduced, as has one in the rear wing, but no fireplace is visible in the S.E. room. Between the room over the hall and the continuation of the stair to the attics is a narrow recess in the central chimney block.

The attic rooms are all floored but are open to the roof, forming three interconnected rooms with a small room over the N.W. side of the stair and another small room over the porch which is sealed off. The rear attic also has an external entry in the N.E. gable, reached by external steps. The roof trusses (two in the main attic, one over the S.E. part, two over the rear

wing) are similar in having curved feet to the principals and notched lap-jointed collars supporting three pairs of through-purlins and the ridge-piece (Plate 37) but those in the rear wing differ in style, suggesting differing periods of construction. Most of the purlins have been repositioned to carry new rafters when the existing roofing was provided.

<sup>1</sup> Clark, *Limbus*, pp. 80, 86; A. Leslie Evans in *Trans. Port*

*Talbot Hist. Soc.*, 1, No. 2 (1965), pp. 54–68, on which this account of the family is largely based.

<sup>2</sup> In Lhuyd, *Parochialia*, III, p. 122.

<sup>3</sup> Phillips, *Justices of the Peace*, pp. 288, 311.

<sup>4</sup> Rice Merrick as in n. 2.

<sup>5</sup> *Star Chamber Proc.*, pp. 82, 182; *Glam. Co. Hist.*, IV, p. 183.

Baglan (E), Port Talbot (C)  
SS 7602 9255

25 N.W.

## 24 Nash Manor

Nash Manor stands 3.5 km S.W. of Cowbridge near the road leading to Llantwit Major, about 1 km S. of the village of Llysyrny. The development of the house from one of modest size at an early date to the existing mansion reflects its long occupation by the Carne family that was prominent in the affairs of the county over several centuries. A late 16th-century stair and early 17th-century panelling in the parlour are notable features of the house.

The former extra-parochial district of Nash in which the house stands was a possession of the medieval bishops of Llandaff, then known as Little Ash or Osmund's Ash to distinguish it from Monk-nash, a grange of Neath Abbey. The remains of the medieval chapel of St. Osmund, disused since the 18th century, stood immediately E. of the house until demolished about 1963. By the early 15th century Nash had been leased to a junior branch of the Giles family of Gileston, and through marriage to one of the co-heiresses of this branch it was acquired by Hywel Carne, reputedly descended from a prince of Gwent but the first of this family known to have settled in Glamorgan where in 1425–26 he held the office of the lord's 'approver'.<sup>1</sup> Having apparently bought out the interest of the other heiresses, he obtained a long lease of Nash in 1432 which was repeatedly renewed until in 1561 his grandson Hywel ultimately secured from the bishop of the time a perpetual lease at a low annual rent, in effect an advantageous purchase.<sup>2</sup>

Up to that time the estate had been increased by purchases in adjacent parishes, and the heirs had married into Gwent families. Subsequent marriages, however, were almost entirely into local gentry families, and the estate was thereby enlarged, notably when Richard Carne, son of the younger Hywel or Howell, wed the heiress of Jenkin Dalden of Penarth.<sup>3</sup>

His previous marriage to a daughter of Sir Rice Mansel of Oxwich, like that of his son John (sheriff in 1561) to a daughter of Sir John Raglan of Carnllwyd, indicated the family's standing by the middle of the 16th century. As early as the 1530s, Nash had been noted by Leland as having fallow deer in an enclosed park that survived to be recorded later in the century by Merrick and Rice Lewis.<sup>4</sup> Howell's brother, Roger Carne, was appointed the first Clerk of the Peace in 1539 for the newly formed county administration, while one of Howell's younger sons was the famous lawyer and diplomat Sir Edward Carne of Ewenny, whose descendants largely overshadowed the senior branch at Nash. Members of the family were involved in some of the often violent disputes and subsequent litigation between factions of the local gentry.<sup>5</sup>

At the death of the John Carne who had been sheriff, his only son out of eight children having predeceased him, the entailed estate passed to his brother William who with his wife (a daughter of Edward Van of Marcross) was commemorated by an elaborate monument set up in Cowbridge Church in 1626 by their son Sir Edward Carne of Nash.<sup>6</sup> The latter achieved some eminence as Receiver General for South Wales and was an Exchequer officer (as were his sons in turn); he married a daughter of Sir Edward Mansel of Margam. No member of the family took any prominent part in the Civil Wars, but a son-in-law of William Carne (son of this Sir Edward) served as sheriff in 1658. Later generations provided two sheriffs of the county, Thomas Carne in 1690 who married into the Stradling family, and John Carne in 1731 whose son the Reverend John Carne, at his death in 1798, was the last in direct male descent. The property was ultimately inherited by the latter's niece who had married a younger son of the Nicholl family



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