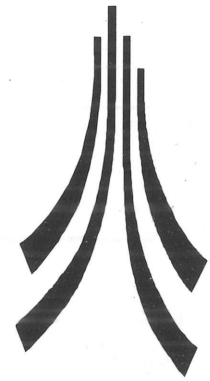


LANCASTER
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
UNIT



December 1999

MONTGOMERY THERMOSTATS

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Interim Assessment Report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our thanks to Ms Jenny Mitcham of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, to Mr Medwyn Parry of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales, and to staff at the Montgomeryshire County Record Office, the National Library of Wales and the Robinson Library, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. We are also grateful to the Lune Valley Metal Detecting Society, who have agreed to undertake the metal-detector survey.

The archaeological survey was undertaken by Matt Town and Neil Wearing, and documentary research by Jo Bell. This report was compiled by Matt Town and Jo Bell, and was edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Rachel Newman.

SUMMARY

This report describes the findings of an archaeological survey and research undertaken for a proposed development site centred on SO 2230 9725, immediately north of the walled town of Montgomery or Trefaldwyn, Montgomeryshire. This work was undertaken on behalf of the Burgess Partnership Limited for the Welsh Development Agency, who propose to build on the land and were required to commission archaeological evaluation in accordance with planning regulations.

An archaeological survey, including topographic survey and photographic recording was undertaken in December 1999. Documentary research was also undertaken, to examine maps, aerial photographs and other documents which might elucidate past developments on the site. A metal detection survey will be undertaken, and computer modelling of the proposed development completed, early in 2000. A final report, including detailed assessments of impact and potential, will then be submitted.

The survey found traces of former agricultural use, in the form of ridge and furrow plough patterns and former field boundaries which predate the nineteenth century. The field may also have been one of those on which the Parliamentary battle line was drawn up during the Battle of Montgomery in 1644, and may contain buried artefacts of seventeenth century date.

The metal detecting survey has yet to be undertaken, which may reveal significant evidence of the sites history; however, on the basis of the documentary and survey evidence, the site would appear to be of only local archaeological significance. The development would therefore not have an undue direct impact upon the local archaeological resource within the extent of the study area. However, on the basis of the initial findings of the vista analysis it would appear that the visual impact of the proposed development will be of greater consequence. The development site lies in a low-lying valley overlooked by scheduled monuments at Montgomery, Hen Domen and Fridd Falwyn, and by the Offa's Dyke National Trail and the factory buildings will have a significant visual impact in an area that is not significantly affected by commercial development. The full visual impact will be clearly defined in the final report, which will incorporate a computer generated reconstruction of the views, and recommendations for the visual mitigation will be proposed.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In December 1999 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) was commissioned by the Burgess Partnership, acting for the Welsh Development Agency, to undertake the archaeological evaluation of a field centred on SO 2230 9725.
- 1.1.2 Archaeological survey was recommended by the curatorial section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) for several reasons. The development site lies within 70m of both the Montgomery Conservation Area and the town wall, which is a scheduled monument. The site is in the Vale of Montgomery, an area included by Cadw in its register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (CPAT 1999, 4.1). Offa's Dyke runs just over 1km to the east. The important monuments whose context will be affected by the proposed development include Hen Domen, Ffridd Faldwyn and Montgomery Castle. In addition, it was considered that the development site was potentially part of the battlefield on which the Battle of Montgomery was fought during the Civil War.
- 1.1.3 **Project Aims:** the primary objective of the study, as defined within the project brief, prepared by the Curatorial Section of Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, was to 'locate...and describe all archaeological features which may be present within the development area'. The general objectives were as follows:
- To undertake an historical and archaeological desk-based assessment of the site and to assess the historic potential.
 - To undertake a landscape survey of the site to record the extant surface features.
 - To undertake a metal artefact detection survey of a sample of the total study area to establish the presence or absence of artefacts relating to the Battle of Montgomery.
 - To undertake a Historic Landscape Impact Assessment to investigate the extent of the visual impact that the proposed development will have upon the landscape and from key historic sites.
- 1.1.4 The survey undertaken included both physical and documentary elements. Physical survey included topographic survey by Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM), photographic survey. At the same time, a documentary survey was carried out at archives including the County Record Office and the National Library of Wales. This drew on primary documents such as historic maps and plans, land transactions and aerial photographs, as well as secondary (published) documentation to assess the importance and archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.1.5 It is proposed that a campaign of metal-detection by the Lune Valley Metal Detecting Society be undertaken; however, this element has been delayed because of poor weather conditions and consequently will be undertaken in the first weeks of January 2000.

- 1.1.6 This report outlines the methodology employed in both studies, and presents their results. The results of both physical and documentary survey have been taken into account in our assessment of archaeological potential.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 DOCUMENTARY SURVEY

- 2.1.1 A number of archives were visited, in accordance with the brief supplied by CPAT and with normal working practice. These archives included:
- 2.1.2 **Sites and Monuments Record (SMR):** the Clwyd Powys Sites and Monuments Record is a database of archaeological information which aims to include all known archaeological sites in the county, and is held at CPAT in Welshpool. A brief record including grid reference and description was printed out for each site within approximately 500m of the study area. Black and white and colour aerial photographs ranging in date from 1972 to 1994 were consulted. Archaeological reports and a number of secondary sources were also scanned for information. A request was made for the Powis estate plans stored at CPAT, as requested in the project brief (CPAT 1999, 6.3), but no relevant plans were available.
- 2.1.3 **County Records Office:** the County Records Office at Llandrindod Wells was visited mainly for its historic maps, including the Tithe Map for Montgomery parish and Ordnance Survey maps dating from the late nineteenth century onwards. A search was made for relevant historic documentation, using the card index and handlists, and drawing on the knowledge of archivists. A number of secondary sources and archaeological or historical journals were also consulted.
- 2.1.4 **The National Library of Wales:** the National Library of Wales was consulted mainly for the holdings in the Powis estate collection. In the Manuscripts room, the collection was searched by the use of schedules (catalogues) and card indices, particularly the schedule of maps and plans belonging to the collection. A broader search was made of the extensive computer catalogue using combinations of search words such as POWIS, PLAN, MONTGOMERY and VERLEN or VERLON (the area in which the field falls). A number of documents concerning land transactions in the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries were studied. In the maps room, a further search was made of the card index and computer catalogues dedicated to maps alone.

2.2 LANDSCAPE SURVEY

- 2.2.1 An LUAU Level 4 survey, which is equivalent to RCHM(E) level 3, with the addition of contour detail, was undertaken. The survey involved the detailed mapping of all surface features within the study area and recorded all extant earthworks, particularly those relating to field system and cultivation evidence. The archaeological survey recorded the earthwork and archaeological features surviving within the study area, and also the associated primary topography. On completion of the work, the survey data will be superimposed with base topography scanned in from a 1:2,500 map base in order to provide a topographic context for the site beyond the limits of the study area. The survey will involve the creation of a detailed interpretative hachure survey which will depict the character of the early agricultural features, and this will be superimposed with the contour survey.

- 2.2.2 Survey control was established over the site by closed traverse and internally was accurate to +/- 15mm; the control network was located with respect to field boundaries. It was located onto the Ordnance Survey National Grid by the use of Global Positioning Survey (GPS), which located to an accuracy of +/- 0.25m. The heights were tied into OS datum.
- 2.2.3 The surface features were surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a data logger, the accuracy of detail generation was appropriate for a 1:500 output. The digital data was transferred onto a portable computer for manipulation and transfer to other digital or hard mediums. Film plots were output via a plotter. The archaeological detail is drawn up in the field as a dimensioned drawing on the plots with respect to survey markers. Most topographic detail was also surveyed, particularly if it is archaeologically significant or is in the vicinity of archaeological features. The survey drawings were generated within a CAD system and were digitally superimposed with the survey provided by the client.
- 2.2.4 In conjunction with the archaeological survey a photographic archive was generated, which recorded significant features and the general landscape context.

2.3 METAL ARTEFACT DETECTION SURVEY

- 2.3.1 The metal artefact survey will be undertaken by David Kierzek and Matt Hepworth of the Lune Valley Metal Detecting Society in January 2000. A full discussion will be included in the main report; it is proposed that a sample area of 30m x 200m will be examined and will be sited in the centre of the field, and that the survey will be undertaken along 2m transects. The metal detector machines are of modern design and, as standard practice, will be adjusted so as to eliminate background noise. The position of each artefact found will be recorded in three-dimensions using Global Positioning System (GPS) techniques to locate and record the features.

2.4 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 2.4.1 The proposed study area is within the Montgomery Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA1070), comprising the key components of a) the town, its defences and the castle; b) the former open-field system; c) the Hen-Domen Motte and Bailey; d) the Montgomery Battlefield; e) communication routes; f) background sites. The project will assess the impact of the proposed development within the context of the overall landscape. This required an assessment of the impact upon the visual setting of key elements of that landscape.
- 2.4.2 **Vista Analysis:** photography was undertaken using medium format, and 35mm colour print from key locations looking in the direction of the development site. The photography was taken with standard 50mm, 70mm zoom and 35mm wide angle lenses in order to assess the visual impact of the development. The photographs were taken from the following locations as defined in the brief and the locations of each of the view points were precisely recorded in three dimensions using GPS equipment.
- Looking from the north wall of Montgomery Castle (SO 2215 9685)
 - Looking from the top of the town wall defences (SO 22333 9702)

- Looking from the B4385 (SO 2203 9730)
- Looking from the former position of Arthur's Gate (SO 2225 9698)
- Looking from the Hen-Domen ridge (SO 2186 9813)
- Looking from the Montgomery Battlefield (SO 2256 9790)
- Looking from the B4388 (SO 2240 9826)
- Looking from Offa's Dyke (SO 2301 0015)

2.4.3 An outline computer model will be created of the structural elements of the proposed development within a 3D CAD system (AutoCAD14), and this will be to 1:1 scale and located accurately with respect to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The viewpoint of the model will be defined by the 3D coordinates obtained by GPS during the photographic survey. The perspective view of the model is then superimposed and appropriately scaled with the relevant scanned photograph using combined AutoCAD14 and PhotoShop software. The resultant enhanced photographic image will provide a realistic impression of how the final building will look from the selected viewpoint. The process will be repeated for all other viewpoints, and the results of this will be outlined in the final report.

2.4.4 **Outward Vista:** the brief requires the creation of an outward view-shed analysis. This can be implemented by viewing Ordnance Survey 3D modelled mesh data for the Montgomery environs from a view point corresponding to the top of the roof line of the proposed High Bay Warehouse. Panoramic photographic views were taken from a cherry picker set at the appropriate height (10.5m above ground) and position, and from there a 360° panoramic montage of photographs was taken. The photographs will be merged using PhotoShop software to create the final montage, and the results will be outlined in the final report.

2.4.5 **Impact Assessment:** the results of the surface survey, desk-based study and metal-detector survey, will be used to make a detailed, characterised assessment of the archaeological significance of the affected archaeological resource. This will be based on the criteria of importance, 'representativeness', group-value, condition, documentation, and associations. It will examine the extent to which the overall landscape will be affected by the loss of those selected elements identified within the study area.

2.4.6 The assessment will also examine, on the basis of the vista analysis, the extent to which the introduction of the proposed development will visually impair the overall historic landscape, and also the setting of the individual elements of that landscape, such as the battlefield, the town / walls, the motte and bailey, and the castle.

2.4.7 The overall impact on the historic landscape, by virtue of both the loss of selected elements, and the insertion of an alien element will be defined in terms of the categories: Very Severe, Severe, Moderate, Low Impact or No Impact. This will be outlined in the final report.

2.5 ARCHIVE

2.5.1 **Archive:** The results of the survey and research, once completed, will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English

Heritage guidelines (*Management of archaeological projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly quantified, ordered, and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in that organisation's Code of Conduct.

- 2.5.2 The textual archive will be provided both as a printed document and on computer disks. The data will be transferred in a compatible format for import into the overall survey report. As well as hard copy drawings, the graphical data can also be supplied in digital form, formatted and layered for use in an industry standard CAD format to be agreed.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 LANDSCAPE CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The site lies close to the Wales/England border in the Vale of Montgomery, a natural basin at the juncture of the rivers Severn and Camlad. The area includes fertile river terraces overlooked by a number of ridges or platforms, whose strategic and military potential was exploited from an early date. Although the town of Montgomery or Trefaldwyn is essentially a Medieval plantation, it was also a strategic site in Iron Age, Roman and early Medieval times (Haslam 1992, 164). It is the current focal point of a rich and varied archaeological landscape. It has been called '*the most important historic settlement in northern Powys,*' and one which '*requires an in-depth topographical and historical survey*' (Silvester 1992, 137).
- 3.1.2 The present study incorporates the principal that the landscape context is crucial to the planning implications for a site, and this is endorsed by Dyer: '*one realises why it is necessary for planning purposes to emphasise the "historic cores", but in those areas where the majority of people lived in irregular and dispersed settlement outside the "historic cores", it is clearly desirable to include in any study all the surroundings*' (Dyer 1997, 167).
- 3.1.3 It is clear that the history and archaeology of the study area have been characterised by conflict; the most outstanding of the monuments are hillforts, castles and other defensive sites, but these also include Offa's Dyke, itself a territorial boundary. A number of these sites have seen multi-period use, as the defensive possibilities of prominent sites have been re-used by successive generations of invaders or defenders.

3.2 PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN PERIODS

- 3.2.1 The earliest evidence of human activity near the study area is of the Neolithic (late stone age) period. Ffridd Faldwyn, a substantial hillfort which lies c 0.5km south west of the study area at SO 217 969, was in use by the Neolithic period (Silvester 1992, 136). Archaeological evidence is limited to stone artefacts, and little is known of the population. However, the important stone source at Cwm Mawr, near the border east of Montgomery, is nearby. It was used in the late Neolithic for battle-axes, axe-hammers and megaliths which were erected in stone circles in Powys (Burnham 1995, 8).
- 3.2.2 Ffridd Faldwyn remained in use through the Bronze Age and Iron Age periods into the Roman period (Burnham 1995, 120); Town Hill, c 1km south of Montgomery, carries earthworks which may also be of Iron Age date (Silvester 1992, 136). In the Roman period, most of Clwyd and Powys remained under military rule. Forts at Castell Collen, Caersws and Forden Gaer, near Montgomery, were in use during this period (Burnham 1995, 77). Enclosed farmsteads of late prehistoric and Roman date have been identified within a 3km radius of the town (Silvester 1992, 136). Other remnants of the prehistoric and Roman periods in the landscape are the roads and trackways including that underlying the current minor road which forms the study area's eastern boundary.

3.3 MEDIEVAL

- 3.3.1 The post-Roman period is relatively little known, and it has been noted that '*for archaeologists working on early medieval settlements Wales can appear to be particularly intractable*' (Edwards and Lane 1988, 3). The economy remained agricultural, with farming probably centred around small curvilinear or rectilinear enclosures as in South-West Wales, or 'small sub-rectangular structures, often grouped to form conjoined rows divided by cross walls' (*ibid*, 9).
- 3.3.2 The Norman Conquest brought numerous castles and there are 27 small strongholds in the Vale of Montgomery alone. The first site fortified by the Normans was at Hen Domen, sometimes called Old Montgomery, a site where traces of '*possible sub-Roman buildings*' and pre-Norman agriculture suggest earlier occupation (Burnham 1995, 149). Its motte and bailey castle was built between 1071-1086, at a focus of routes including the north/south route along the Severn and the east-west route along the Camlad. It was held by the de Montgomery and de Boulers families before reverting to the crown in 1207. In 1223 Henry III ordered the construction of the stone castle at 'New' Montgomery and the creation of the planted town or bastide associated with it. Today the characteristic regular street plan of a bastide is visible only in the area around the church and market (Silvester 1992, 136).
- 3.3.3 The study area is likely to have been within the agricultural holdings that clustered around the town. It may have been amongst the lands newly farmed by Norman settlers, who often established farms on '*virgin lands or lands which had hitherto not been intensively or permanently cultivated*' (Davies 1987, 98). Throughout the Middle Ages the town of Montgomery remained a military base. It was used for instance by Edward I as a defensive site from which to strike at the rebel leaders Llewelyn ap Gruffudd, and Madog ap Llywelyn who were supremely powerful in the Montgomery area. The castle was burned by the Welsh in 1231, but was regained at the treaty of Woodstock in 1247. Nothing is known of the study area specifically in this period, or indeed throughout the early modern period (c 1500-1750) with the exception of the 1640s, for which we have some partial information (see below).

3.4 POST MEDIEVAL

- 3.4.1 ***Battle of Montgomery***: the period of greatest archaeological significance for the study area is perhaps the Civil War. In this period it was probably part of the battlefield on which was fought the largest engagement of the war in Wales (Gaunt 1991, 49). The battle of Montgomery was fought on September 18, 1644. Up to this date Montgomery Castle, held by Lord Chirbury, had remained neutral in the conflict; however, the castle was taken by Parliamentary forces in early September. The castle was besieged by Royalists, who threw up defensive earthworks and cut trenches to the west of the castle. The forces of both sides were gathered at Montgomery, and a Royalist encampment was established 'below the town', possibly 'at cSO 2223097735' [sic] (Walters and Hunnisett 1995, 2).
- 3.4.2 On September 18 1644, the Royalists formed a battle line below and to the north east of the town, with the Parliamentarians ranged below them. The Royalist line has been estimated as falling roughly between SO 2219 9795, and the

Parliamentary line between SO 2350 9790 and SO 2209 9818 (Walters and Hunnisett 1995, 4). This places the study area within the Parliamentary line. Despite their disadvantage, the Parliamentarians won a convincing victory.

- 3.4.3 With this remarkable exception, the study area seems to have continued as undisturbed arable land, in a landscape '*little changed since the seventeenth century except for enclosure*' (Walters and Hunnisett 1995, 4). After the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, the local economy saw a modest expansion in non-agricultural production, notably of woollen cloth. The weavers of Montgomery specialised in flannel (Jenkins 1987, 120), but it was not until the end of the eighteenth century that their production could be described as properly industrial (Rees 1975, 220). In the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, the road now called the B4388, which forms the western boundary of the study area, was built or rebuilt by a turnpike trust, and a milestone erected which remains *in situ*.
- 3.4.4 Throughout the later eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries the study area has been in use as agricultural land. Photographs and historic maps show that it has been used for both arable and pastoral farming. In recent years it has seen the construction of a pond and the laying of a pipeline, both of which will have disturbed subsoil deposits including any archaeological strata.

4. RESULTS

4.1 DOCUMENTARY SURVEY

4.1.1 **Sites and Monuments Record (SMR):** six SMR records were identified in the vicinity of the study area. Of these, only one was directly relevant to the study area. Aerial photographs included the following:

- 82-04-0035 A black and white oblique photograph of 6 December 1982, showing only a small strip of the study area with no archaeological features visible.
- 82-C-0256 A colour oblique slide, showing only a corner of the site and providing no archaeological information.
- 82--0272 A hazy colour oblique slide, showing ridge and furrow as mentioned below in 94-C-0305.
- 84-MB-0555 A black and white oblique photograph of 1 August 1984, marked as showing a 'possible enclosure' at SO 222 973. An amorphous dark blob, roughly oval, is shown in the large field immediately north of the study area on the opposite side of the cross-roads, with a linear feature running north towards it from the road. In the study area, a light scar running north east-south west marks the modern pipeline, with a circular pale feature to its north which probably marks the present manhole. No other features were seen.
- 94-C-0305 A colour oblique slide. Ridge and furrow is faintly visible at the south east end of the enclosure, running roughly south east to north west and occupying the southern third of the field. Defining the northern edge of the ridge and furrow is a faint, thin raised earthwork which may represent a defunct field boundary. To its north is a further thin earthwork, curving slightly to the west. North of this are two further linear marks. The northernmost, running close to the road, runs parallel to similar earthworks in neighbouring fields and may be part of a former field system [001].
- 94-C-0306 An infra-red oblique slide, showing exactly the same marks and earthworks as the previous slide.
- 94-C-0307 A colour oblique slide, showing identical information to the previous two slides.
- 94-C-0308 An infra-red oblique slide, again showing identical information to previous slides.
- 94-C-0309 An infra-red oblique slide, repeating the same information.
- Two further slides believed to show the study area, namely 82-C-0257 and 82-C-0261, were found to be missing from the archive.

4.1.2 Information from archaeological reports and secondary sources consulted at the SMR office has been partly incorporated in the historical background section, above. Reports of research in and around the study area suggest that the Battle of

Montgomery touched on the study area, and consequently that it may include buried remains of Civil War date.

- 4.1.3 One report (Walters and Hunnisett 1995) mentions possible earthworks of Civil War date near the study area, at 'SO 2230 97735'[sic]. If this reference means SO 2230 9735, then the earthworks may lie within the present study area.
- 4.1.4 A summary of survey and metal detection undertaken near the study area at c SO 2200 9678 concluded that the '*main battlefield array [of the Battle of Montgomery] was successfully located*' (Walters 1995). The surveyors added that '*the potential for other military artefacts is considered to be very high based on the well-preserved artefact scatter recovered*', and identified considerable potential for more intensive survey near the battle line.
- 4.1.5 **County Records Office:** the record office was consulted for maps for the regression analysis, and no other primary documentation was found here that was of relevance to the study area. Information from secondary sources and archaeological or historical journals has been incorporated into the historical background section (*Section 3.2*).
- 4.1.6 **National Library of Wales:** the Powis collection was consulted but this unfortunately provided no further information, despite a rapid but extensive survey of the six-volume catalogue. Although the collection includes numerous maps and plans, none are thought to include the study area. No other collections were located which might relate to the study area.
- 4.1.7 Land transactions which might touch on the study area were consulted, but gave no information that could be of use to the present study (such as land use, the location of boundaries or the nature of any structures in the study area). The documents consulted were D26/35/1, an 1813 'mortgage of land formerly on Verlon Common to Joseph Weaver' and D23/44/8, a 1797 'exchange of Verlon Meadow'.
- 4.1.8 Documents not consulted because they were judged to be not relevant included D29/4/1-2, a 1797 lease and release of land at Sarkley; and D23/42/2, a 1771 exchange of land north of Upper Verlon Meadow. A map derived from the tithe map, M168/26, was not consulted as the tithe map had already been studied at the County Record Office.
- 4.1.9 **Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW):** a number of maps and aerial photographs were consulted and the maps are described below in the map regression analysis. Evidence from secondary sources consulted at RCAHMW is included in the historical background section, above. Aerial photographs seen included:
- 3193 106G/UK 1698 A black and white vertical photograph taken on 27 August 96. The study area is shown, apparently under pasture. No marks are visible, and no indications of archaeological features in the area.
 - 3194 106G/UK 1698 A further black and white vertical photo taken on the same date shows the study area. No marks are visible within the study area, although an L-shaped earthwork or mark is visible in the neighbouring field to the north west, and possible ridge and furrow in fields to the south.
 - 72/333/1031 A black and white vertical photo of 22 August 1972 shows the study area clearly, and the L-shaped boundary in the neighbouring field

is just visible in pasture. The study area is apparently under crop as the tracks of a harvester are visible, and no marks are apparent.

- 72/333/1059 A further black and white vertical photo of the same date shows the study area on the edge of the photograph. No marks are visible.

4.1.10 Ordnance Survey record cards, a precursor to the SMR system of archaeological recording, were checked. These provided the following information. A 'Roman' road (RRX73) is marked on the route of the present north west-south-east route which forms the northern boundary of the study area. It is suggested as part of a route 'connecting Lydham Fort, Forden Gaer, Bryn Penarth fortlet, and finally Dolgellau....supporting evidence given by Putnam is very tenuous'.

4.1.11 OS card 15 mentions 'Old field boundaries' at SO 2229 9733. They are described summarily as '*rectangular enclosure, traces of bank*' defining a '*supposed enclosure*' on a west-facing slope.

4.2 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

4.2.1 Maps consulted at the Local Records Office and RCAHMW are listed here in chronological order, with a brief discussion of evidence gathered from each.

- Speed's 1605 schematic map of Montgomery does not include the study area.
- A 1785 survey of Powis Estates shows the study area as part of Verlon Common: the present boundaries are not in place. 'Lower Verlon Piece' is named as an area rented by C G Humphreys and given to pasture. This may be the enclosure named as 'Hither Verlon Piece' named in the tithe award, below, which is demonstrably the study area.
- An 1817 map at a scale of 2" to 1 mile is the Ordnance Survey surveyor's drawing of the area (ref 200TL 1816). It was seen as a dark photocopy which was not of reproducible standard, but on which the study area could be seen as a single undivided field south of the road, its boundaries apparently as they are at present. No features are marked within it, and there is no indication of land use in the field. No milestone is shown at the roadside in the western boundary of the field, as it is on later maps.

4.2.2 There was no enclosure award for Montgomery parish, in which the study area falls. There was no such award at the National Library either, and it seems that no such award was made. Enclosure may have been privately agreed before 1817, since the 1817 map (above) suggests that enclosure boundaries were then in place which have remained unchanged since.

4.2.3 The 1839 tithe map and apportionment were drawn up at a time when dues to the church, hitherto nominally payable as goods in kind, were formally commuted to cash payment. The tithe map is a plan of the area (usually a parish or township) with fields or enclosures numbered, and the apportionment describes the ownership and use of each enclosure. In this case, the study area is shown with its boundaries, like those of neighbouring fields, exactly as at present. The study area field is numbered 204. It is identified as the property of the Earl of Powis, but was farmed by Edward Weaver who was then using it as meadow; the field is named as 'Hither Verlon Piece'. Neighbouring fields were also in use as meadow land, with

the exception of the field to the south, Verlon Close, which was used as pasture. In conjunction with the 1785 survey above, the absence of an enclosure award, and an 1813 document seen at the National Library (*Section 4.1.6*) which refers to 'land formerly on Verlon Common' in the hands of a Joseph Weaver, the tithe map suggests that the Weaver family had recently enclosed a part of the common by private agreement, bypassing the need for a Parliamentary enclosure award.

- 4.2.4 The 1865 first edition Ordnance Survey map at a scale of 1" to 1 mile (sheet 60SE) shows 'Verlen' to the west of the study area, but no enclosures are shown at this scale.
- 4.2.5 The 1889 first edition Ordnance Survey map at a scale of 6" to 1 mile shows the study area as on the previous map, but with the north-south route marked as Forden Road. The milestone on the road immediately west of the study area (the current B4388) is shown in place. The north and east boundaries of the study area are shown to have trees on the boundary line.
- 4.2.6 The revised edition Ordnance Survey map at a scale of 6" to 1 mile, incorporating information up to 1948, shows the boundaries of the study area unchanged from previous maps, and no evidence of features or indication of topography within the boundaries.

4.3 LANDSCAPE SURVEY

- 4.3.1 The survey identified a number of earthworks within the survey area, predominantly Medieval ridge and furrow. The main concentration of ridge and furrow consists of eleven well-defined ridges running north-west south-east, in the south-eastern half of the field. These ridges were most prominent in the north-east of the field, approximately 6m apart, and 0.75m high at the north-eastern side of the field, becoming broader and shallower towards the south-west (12m wide and 0.3m high). As expected, they appear to predate the post-medieval field lines, as defined by hedgerows and the new road, which visibly truncate the earthworks (the fields were probably enclosed sometime before 1817 – see above). A boggy pond has been cut into the eastern corner of the field through the ridge and furrow, with soil upcast mounds, visible to the north-east and south-east of it, obscuring the furrows. The pond is roughly 15m across, and abuts the field boundary to the east, post-dating it. A possible land drain runs off north-north-east from the pond for 110m, to drain the boggy areas around the north-west of the pond. This is visible as a low narrow linear depression, which also cuts the ridge and furrow (approximately 1.5m wide and 0.7m deep).
- 4.3.2 A modern pipe-line, measuring 2.5m wide by 75m, in length runs north-east across the mid-point of the survey area, bisecting the north-western ends of the ridge and furrow field, and the afore-mentioned land-drain. This has a concrete cap approximately mid-way along its length and is probably a waste-water pipe. The ridge and furrow abuts a headland to the north-west, visible as two s-shaped linear ridges running east/west, approximately 6m wide and 1m high. Approximately 15m to the north is a further land-drain (measuring approximately 2m wide, 70m long and 0.5m deep) also running in the same direction. This is a curvilinear depression extending from the hedgerow down to the south-west corner of the field. It appears to cut a further area of cultivation, visible abutting its northern side as a series of shallow ridge and furrow earthworks running for 15m northwards up to the

hedgeline; these were very faint and only at most 0.3m high. This second area of ridge and furrow probably extended up to join central headland originally, though it is not now visible in the area between the two features.

- 4.3.3 Two steep parallel north/south lynchets form the western boundary of this last area of ridge and furrow. These are both west facing; the easternmost lynchet measures approximately 45m in length and 1.2m in height, while the western lynchet is the same length but shallower at 0.6m. These may mark further cultivation marks, though the westernmost lynchet is parallel with the road, and this suggests that this marks the eastern boundary of a holloway, now formalised as the road. Cultivation marks were also noted in the field on the opposite side of the road (to the west) which seen to correspond with these lynchets. This would suggest that they were originally part of a field of furrows with a central holloway. No further potential holloways were positively identified.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The survey is currently incomplete, as the results of metal-detector survey has yet to be implemented. However, it is possible to draw some conclusions on the basis of documentary research, and of the fieldwork already completed.

5.2 DOCUMENTARY AND FIELDWORK RESULTS

- 5.2.1 Fieldwork and documentary survey both encountered evidence of Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation, but no further Medieval or earlier features. Despite its scarcity within the area, ridge and furrow is arguably of little archaeological importance once its presence and alignment have been recorded. It is felt that the contour survey of the ridges, and their establishment within the historical context of the town, will have provided sufficient record to mitigate their destruction by the proposed factory extension.
- 5.2.2 The potential of archaeological evidence relating to the Civil War is as yet to be defined by the metal detection survey, but there are no obvious earthworks relating to this episode.

5.3 VISTA ANALYSIS

- 5.3.31 The detailed analysis of the photographs taken during fieldwork is as yet to be completed. However, as a result of the site study and an examination of the computer models of the proposed new build it is possible to provide an initial, and interim assessment of the visual impact. The key element is the proposed warehouse, which at such a prominent location at the northern approach of the town, may detract from visual impression of the town. Its presence may prove an imposition from a northern perspective, being at the forefront of the line of sight to the town; this would be particularly visible from the Offa's Dyke path, a National Trail. From the west, the warehouse would also be very prominent, particularly from the B4385 approach road and Hen Domen, a Scheduled Monument. The view down from the castle may also be impeded, as it is very visible from this point. A full discussion of the impact will appear in the final report.

5.4 BATTLEFIELD

- 5.4.1 The development lies within the defined civil war battlefield area, possibly along the line of the mustered parliamentary forces. In England the major battlefields are listed on a register and this acts as a prompt to them being material considerations within the planning process. No such register exists in Wales, but battlefields are still a material consideration. The weight to be given to this should depend on the final evaluation of the sites likely role in the battle and the impact of the development on the understanding of the battle in the landscape context.

6. IMPACT

- 6.1 On the evidence of the documentary and surface surveys the identified archaeological resource within the study area is of local archaeological significance only, and the present archaeological surveys would provide an adequate mitigative record of the extant earthworks. However, on the basis of the initial findings of the vista analysis it would appear that the visual impact of the proposed development will be of greater consequence. The proposed high warehouse would stand considerably higher than local buildings and would not be shielded by the present tree cover. The development site lies in a low-lying valley overlooked by scheduled monuments at Montgomery, Hen Domen and Fridd Falwyn, and by the Offa's Dyke National Trail and the factory buildings will have a significant visual impact in an area that is not significantly affected by commercial development. There is a possibility that its presence will impair the view out from the town and castle and from a northern perspective, would be at the forefront of the line of sight to the town; this would be particularly visible from the Offa's Dyke path, a National Trail. From the west, the warehouse would also be very prominent, particularly from the B4385 approach road and Hen Domen, a Scheduled Monument.
- 6.2 These are only interim views based upon examination of the photographic evidence and computerised reconstruction's of the new build. A detailed break-down of the vista analysis will be presented in the final report alongside the enhanced vista images.

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