

**ST MARY HILL**

**LLANSANNOR**

**LLANGAN**

**PENLLYN**



## PENLLYN, LLANSANNOR, LLANGAN AND ST. MARY HILL : HISTORICAL PREFACE

The **four** community areas are situated in the north west of the county, traditionally known as the Border Vale. It is a tract of transitional country lying between the lower plateau of the Vale of Glamorgan and the high plateau of the uplands (Blaenau). Here, unlike most of the Vale of Glamorgan the topography is more broken and the plateaux are not so much in evidence, though you can find the same variation from broad vale to narrow valley.

Because it is a transitional area the communities were characterised by both a dispersed settlement pattern and a settlement pattern containing nucleated villages. These patterns of settlements were indicative of pastoral and arable farming. Pastoralism prospered on the poorer soils, a farmer could clear a patch of woodland and graze cattle and sheep without requiring any help in the form of labour and machinery. On the better land arable farming was possible, the nucleated village emerged to provide the labour necessary to work the land and the resources to acquire and maintain the specialised equipment notably the eight ox plough team. The villages of Penllyn and Treoes are good examples of nucleated settlements. Penllyn comprises of a crescent shaped limestone ridge which forms the central core of the locality with flat moorland to the north and east. The communities of Llansannor, Llangan and St. Mary Hill are situated on two high limestone plateaux separated by one steep sided but broad valley of the River Thaw, which rises in Llansannor parish south west of Llanharry. The western plateau, with a maximum height of 120 metres, covers Llangan and St. Mary Hill and drops steeply westward to the Ewenny Valley and gradually southwards to Treoes and Llangan, situated near a tributary of the Ewenny river. The eastern plateau, partly covered by Llansannor, is rather higher (130 metres) and falls steeply to both south and west to the Thaw Valley. The whole area is pockmarked with remains of quarrying and mining activity.

The community area of Penllyn is 1784 acres in extent. The Le Norris family held the fee of the manor until 1320. The Normans quickly siezed on the strategic value of the site of Penllyn Castle doubtless to cover the Welsh Lordship of Ruthin. The parish church is unusually dedicated to St. Brynach, a 5th or 6th century Irish saint whose activities mainly centred around Nevern, North Pembrokeshire.



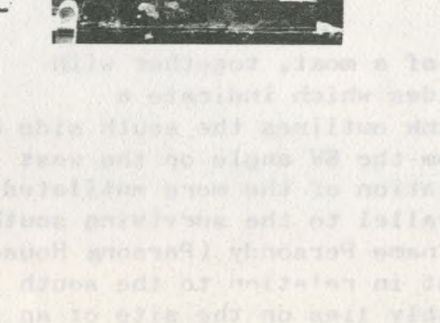
Llangan is 1200 acres in extent. On the evidence of the ancient remains in the community it is believed it once formed part of a well populated ancient British region. Manorially the community was bound up with the manor of Penllyn. Llangan church, like many ecclesiastical sites in South Glamorgan, is placed in a secluded position. The church is dedicated to St. Canna, believed to be the wife of St. Sadwrn. The celtic wheel cross on the churchyard is the only specimen of a crucifixion of this early period in Wales, except for an example at Meifod, Powys.

The community of St. Mary Hill is 1480 acres in extent. In the middle ages St. Mary Hill lay partly in the manor of Gelligarn and the other part lay in Ruthin, a lordship of which Gelligarn once formed part. A major event of the community was the St. Mary Hill fair held on the 26th August. The history of the fair goes back to mediaeval times when it was held on the feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. In earlier times the old Welsh drovers of the hill country would move their large herds from St. Mary Hill across the Brecon Beacons to English markets.



Llansannor is 1740 acres in extent. Llansannor or City Llansannor is situated near the source of the River Thaw. An interesting story puts this site as the one of Civitas Beneventana lifris (hence City) which **is reputed to be the burial place of St. Cadoc. It is stated that he was buried in a silver coffin with a great basilica raised over his tomb after being murdered during mass by an enemies lance.**

Other historians place the burial site in southern Italy. The parish of Llansannor comprised the estates of Breigan and Llansannor, granted by the Lord of Glamorgan in 1257 to Stephen Bawson, from whom it came ultimately to the Gwyn family. The parish church is dedicated to St. Senewyr. Legend has it that Senewyr was the son of King Seithenyn of Mais Gwyddno, whose land was supposedly submerged by sea.

<p>S1 <u>CHURCH OF ST. MARY</u> (8.3)</p> <p>Church having mainly 16th century features; nave, chancel, south porch, unbuttressed west tower with embattled parapet. Mainly mullioned windows. Restored.</p>		<p>Listed Building Grade B</p>	<p>SS 957793</p>
<p>S2 <u>CHURCHYARD CALVARY ST. MARY'S CHURCH</u> (8.5)</p> <p>This mediaeval churchyard cross has been restored, but still retains its original head with carvings on four sides.</p>		<p>Ancient Monument</p>	<p>SS 957793</p>
<p>S3 <u>TY'R EGLWYS</u> (10.3)</p> <p>A two storeyed house of two unit central entry plan with gable fire-places. Possibly of early 17th century date. The double ceiling over the ground floor has broad chamfered beams and chamfered joists. The present stair to the first floor is modern, and a blocked doorway at the upper level in the west gable suggests an outside stair existed originally. This may conform with other "church" houses where the upper room was used for parochial purposes.</p>			<p>SS 9584793</p>
<p>S4 <u>VILLAGE HOUSE</u> (10.3)</p> <p>Originally a three unit house of circa 1600. A dressed stone doorway with four centred arch and broad stops to the plain chamfer still remains giving entry through the central wall at the side of a large fireplace with chamfered timber bressumer. On the opposite side of the fireplace is a stone stair with cross slab roof and a doorway set across the corner of the room. The broad chamfered main beams of the double ceiling over this central room are still visible. Both the inner and the outer rooms have been modernised. The roof, which was thatch covered, has been raised.</p>			<p>SS 96137854</p>



S5 CWRT

(10.3)

Originally pre 17th century building with two additions, the latter 1746. The place is also known as "St. Mary Hill Court" and has a tradition of having been a monastery, though it is more likely that it was a monastic grange.



SS 95707838

S6 GELLI GARN

(9.2)

Ploughed ring motte and bailey; ditched with bank remaining in places. The bailey is bounded in the east by a baule and in the south by a ditch and outer baule (in which there is a possible entrance gap 4.0 metres wide).

SS 96037869

S7 MEDIAEVAL MOAT : PERSONDY

(9.2)

The remains consist of a southern area of a moat, together with short stretches of the east and west sides which indicate a trapezoidal enclosure. A low spread bank outlines the south side of the moat island and continues north from the SW angle on the west side. A **fading scarp** is the only implication of the more mutilated east side. Persondy farmhouse lies parallel to the surviving south side of the moat and north of it. The name Persondy (Parsons House) together with its position and alignment in relation to the south arm of the moat suggests that it probably lies on the site of an earlier building set along the north side of the moated enclosure.

SS 948790



## DESCRIPTION

## PROTECTION

## GRID REFERENCE

S8 CRAIG TAN-Y-LAN

(3)

SS 95857954

A small univallate hillfort of the Iron Age period. The earth work is situated on a spur and is fortified by a rampart across its southern end. The site has been damaged by cultivation. Where best preserved, the defences consist of a ditch and a very stony bank measuring 14 m. wide and about 2.5 m. high overall, but for most of its length the ditch has been filled.

S,9 ST. MARY HILL DOWN

(3)

SS 96727905

A univallate enclosure of Iron Age date. The earthworks stand on a slope. The position is not, naturally defensible. The enclosure is almost circular with a crescentic annexe on the SW. Both are protected by a bank and ditch measuring about 20 metres wide by nearly a metre high where best preserved. There is an entrance to the annexe at its eastern end and immediately within this a simple gap leads into the round enclosure.

S 10 RUTHIN HOUSE

(10.3)

SS 97207987

House possibly incorporating extensive remains of a manor house or castle extant in the C14. Neither the house nor the outbuildings bear any visible evidence of antiquity, but it seems probable from the thickness of the walls that the house contains some fabric of early date.



§ 11 CROSS

(8.5)

All that remains of this mediaeval cross is a much weathered, sandstone socket stone which stands on the roadside.



SS 96097856

§ 12 MEDIAEVAL DOVECOTE

(10.3)

The dovecote is in a much ruined condition and the western half has been destroyed. It is circular and has stone walls 0.7 metres thick. The walls are of rubble with the majority of the facings removed. The interior is lined with crude nesting boxes, many of which have been destroyed.

SS 95697845

§ 13 MEDIAEVAL FISHPONDS

(12.3)

Both are now dry and overgrown. The south pond is triangular in shape with a modern field boundary across its south side. The north pond is roughly oval and mutilated.

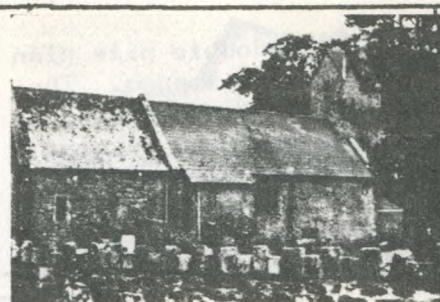
SS 95677845



L1 LLANSANNOR CHURCH

(8.3)

Probably 14th century origin. Nave, chancel, south porch, west tower with gable to each face. Windows mainly square headed perpendicular double trefoiled lancet east window. Probably built on the site of the St. Senweredela Thowe mediaeval chapel.



Listed Building  
Grade B

SS 993775

L2 BREIGAM CASTLE

(9)

The site also known as Gelli Garn Castle has been rejected as a castle. It is a mystery site. There are no mediaeval references to such a castle, while an effigy in Llansannor Church said to be of Stephen Bauzen who is reputed to have built Breigam Castle remains unsubstantiated. Only Rice Lewis mentions Breigam in his Breviat (1596-1600) and there it is called a house. This however may be the present Breigam House which is a double pile structure with a rear unit of circa 1600.

It is now thought that this site is not of any antiquity, but the ruins are of a 19th century "shooting box".

SS 982796

L3 LLANSANNOR COURT

(10.3)

16-17th century manor house. Rubble, slate roofs two storey, L shaped frontage with projecting wings to left. Three storey, gabled porch with flat pointed moulded stone door frame. Drip mould windows with stone mullions. The west wing is part of the earlier mediaeval manor house, over which the arched braced roof trusses survive.



Listed Building  
Grade II\*

SS 993774



L4 BRIGAM FARM

(10.3)

Double pile house. C18 symmetrical facade. The double pile plan was one of the great productive innovations of the Renaissance. The plan gave a much more economical ratio of the floor area to outside wall, much better circulation and was easier to warm as each room has less external wall.



SS 9946798

L5 VIEWPOINT

(23.2)

View of upper reaches of River Thaw Valley, which has been recognised as an area of special landscape value in the County of South Glamorgan's Structure Plan.

SS 997787

L6 GARWA FARM

(10.3)

Three room, central stair, parlour has lateral chimney. Refurbished 1800.

SS 97787973

L7 IS-Y-COED FARM

(10.3)

Circa 1650. Two room plan, entry behind chimney, arched doorway to winding stair, beams chamfered and stopped. Tudor arched doorways.



SS 98217837



L8 LLANSANNOR HOUSE (10.3)

Mansion, circa 1840, possibly built on the site of a mediaeval manor house.



SS 984783

L9 CROSS SOCKET STONE (8.5)

In the churchyard of St. Senewyrs Church stand the remains of a much weathered mediaeval cross socket - stone which surmounts a calvary of three steps. In the socket stone is a modern shaft and cross head. A plaque built into the calvary states that:

"The bases of this churchyard cross were restored and a new shaft added in 1937".







SS 99367749

L10 OLD MILL (12.5)

18th century origin, modernised (windmill).

SS 991777



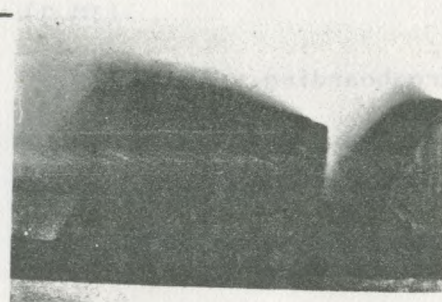
DESCRIPTION		PROTECTION	GRID REFERENCE
<p>A1 <u>CHURCH OF ST. CANNA</u> (8.3)</p> <p>Medieval origin almost entirely rebuilt in the 19th century. It consists of chancel, nave and north vestry. The only remains of the former rood loft is the staircase door. A chalice bears the date 1576 and the register goes back to 1488.</p>		Listed Building Grade B	SS 957778
<p>A2 <u>MEDIAEVAL CALVARY IN CHURCHYARD</u> (8.5)</p> <p>On a base of four square steps, surmounted by a socket, stone and cross shaft. The head is fairly well preserved and carved in two tiers - a splendid example of C15 work. The calvary and socket stone have evidently been restored.</p>		Ancient Monument	SS 957778
<p>A3 <u>CELTIC CROSS IN CHURCHYARD</u> (8.5)</p> <p>Dated to late 9th or early 10th century. A sandstone disc headed slab cross. Both main faces have crude carved decoration in low relief but with the edges much affected by weathering.</p>		Ancient Monument	SS 957778
<p>A4 <u>OLD RECTORY, LLANGAN</u> (10.3)</p> <p>Entry behind chimney, winding stair. Round headed mullioned windows, moulded fireplace with a lintel. Double pile house, part of which is dated C1550. Main facade now symmetrical with sash windows and central doorway.</p>			SS 957778



LA5 REMAINS OF CROSS SLAB, ST. CANNA CHURCH

(8.5)

Incomplete 11th century broken slab found in 1909 in the garden of the rectory and preserved in St. Cannas Church. Three pieces survive forming most of the head with part of the shaft as a cross slab with round headed and squared sides. Except for one defaced narrow side, the slab has carved decoration on each face with rounded angle mouldings.



SS 95757783

LA 6 TWO HEADSTONES , ST. CANNAS CHURCH

(8.5)

Two fragments of probable headstones with ring cross, built into the external chancel walls. In the east wall, the fragment is squared off on two edges and has one splayed arm of an incised cross within part of a double incised ring. In the south wall, the fragment retains half of a cross, with expanded terminals set in relief by sunk inter arm spaces, within a double incised ring - 11th 12th century.

LA7 TY MAWR, TREOES

(10.3)

Occupying a position in the centre of the village. 17th century, five dormer windows, with bargeboarding, slate roof. Windows have been modernised, stop chamfered beams.



SS 94277842

LA8 STAR INN, TREOES

(10.3)

Pleasant thatched stuccoed public house situated in the heart of the village. Three chimney stacks.



SS 94387836



A9 CLIFTON HOUSE, TREOES

(10.3)

late roof, rubble with interesting bargeboarding.

SS 94197848

LA 10 SARON CHAPEL, TREOES

(8.3)

Rebuilt in 1826. Two storey chapel with slate saddleback roof. Tall round headed windows and doorways. Square sashes on first floor.



SS 943783

LA11 HORSE MOUNT, TREOES

(11.3)

Three step stone horse mount attached to a gable end of a house.



SS 94417831

A12 PENLLYNE COURT or TEWGOED LEAD MINE

(15)

Worked intermittently on a mineralised fault in the liassic limestone during the 18th century and later from 1851-1855, by the Penllyne Court Mining Company. Silver and lead ores were worked from at least four shafts, mainly by Cornish miners. Various filled shafts and ruined buildings remain on site with small kilns and spoil heaps.

SS 966768



## DESCRIPTION

## PROTECTION

## GRID REFERENCE

- LA13 LLANGAN LEAD MINE (15.3)  
Worked in the 18th century and from 1855-1879 on a particularly rich, four feet wide, lode of silver and lead. The engine house chimney near "Gelliaraul" is well preserved but the two shafts are filled. Various companies worked the ore but finances were always difficult due to imported ore being cheaper and the workings ceased in 1879.

SS 9577



## PENLLYN

## DESCRIPTION

## PROTECTION

## GRID REFERENCE

P1 CHURCH OF ST. BRYNACH

(8.3)

Listed Building  
Grade B

SS 979946

Dedicated to St. Brynach, an Irish saint who made several journeys into South Wales. The church is probably 12/13th century, mostly 16-17th century. Nave, chancel, south porch, unbuttressed west tower. Remains of a churchyard cross.

P2 PENLLYN CASTLE

(9.3)

Listed Building  
Grade II

SS 979760

Late 18th century mansion attached to and embodying remains of a mediaeval castle. Two-storey with embattled parapet and hipped slate roof. Porch and tower. The keep which is rectangular, i.e. Norman date, is possibly one of the earliest of its type in Wales. Incorporated in a wall in the garden is a ruined gable of a substantial mediaeval building with a fireplace and ovens.

P3 WELLS, PENLLYN

(11.2)

SS 972766

Two stone wells set back in an attractive but unmaintained enclosure near a road junction.

P4 TY FRY

(10.3)

SS 977773

Ruin. Two room plan, gable chimney, winding stair, stop chamfered beams, 18th century wooden windows. Roof contains reused cruck blades. Byre attached to the house.





# DESCRIPTION

## PROTECTION

## GRID REFERENCE

### P5 GREAT HOUSE FARM

(10.3)

C1750. Georgian house with smaller early building as kitchen, with a winding stair. Symmetrical facade and central stair passage, built on to the east gable. Good farmyard buildings to the west.



SS 973760

### P6 VILLAGE FARM

(10.3)

A 17th Century house of L-shaped **plan**. The main entry with Tudor arched doorway has the chimney of the hall on the west backing on to it. Good 17th Century beams, doorways and windows remain.



SS 9726 7643

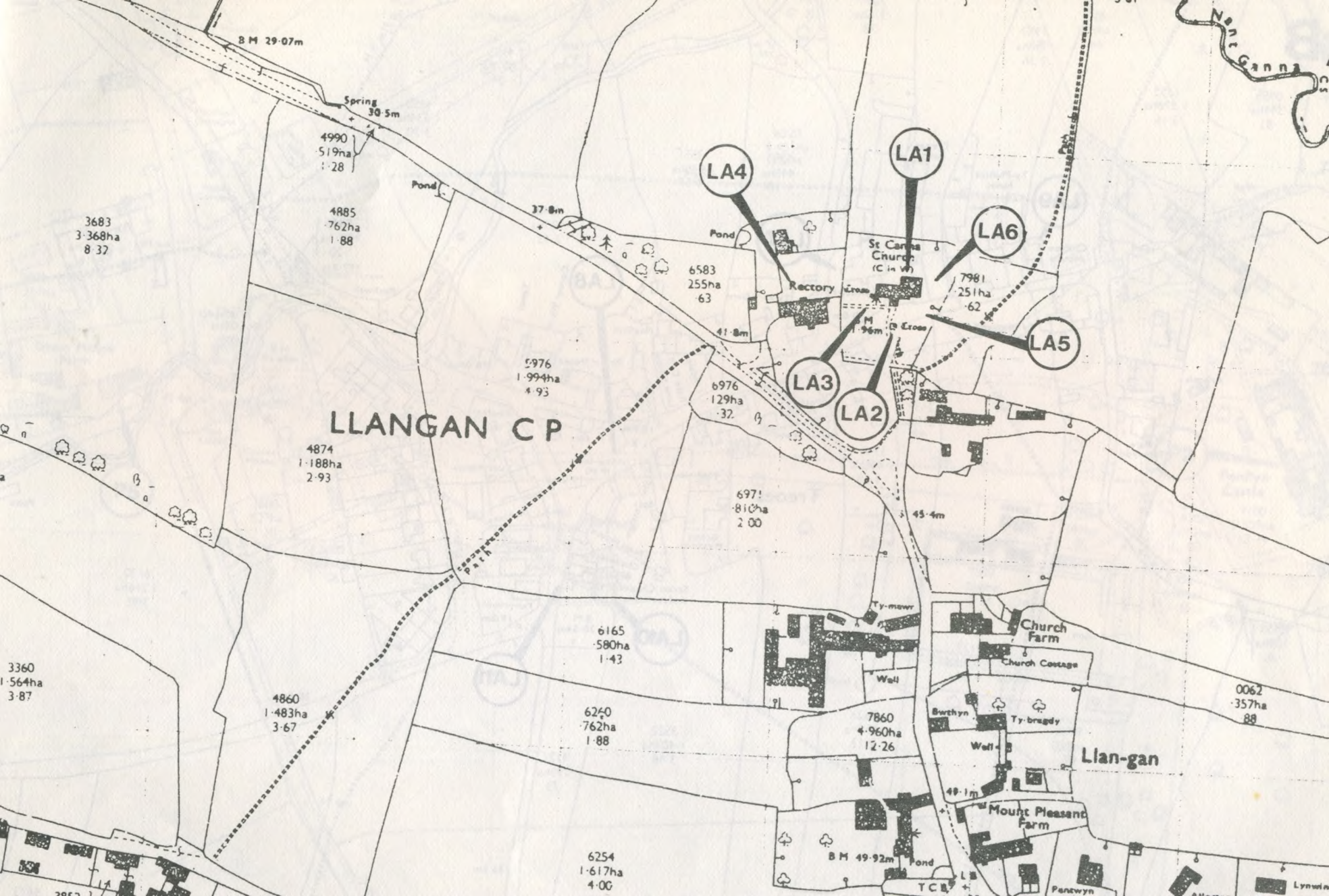
### P7 VILLAGE HOUSE

(10.3)

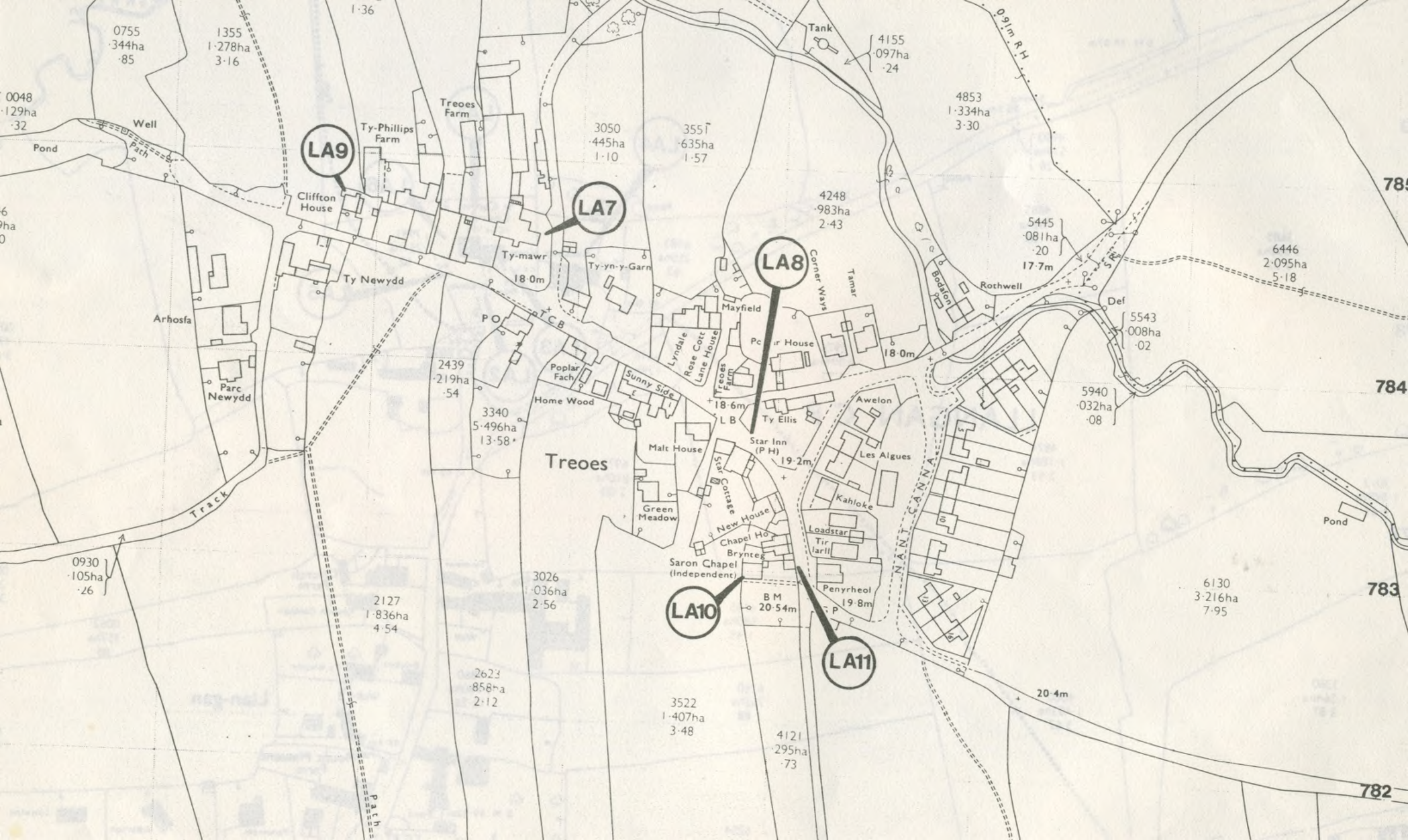
17th Century origin, but modernised. Still retains the projecting stair turret and 17th Century main beams.

SS 9721 7650

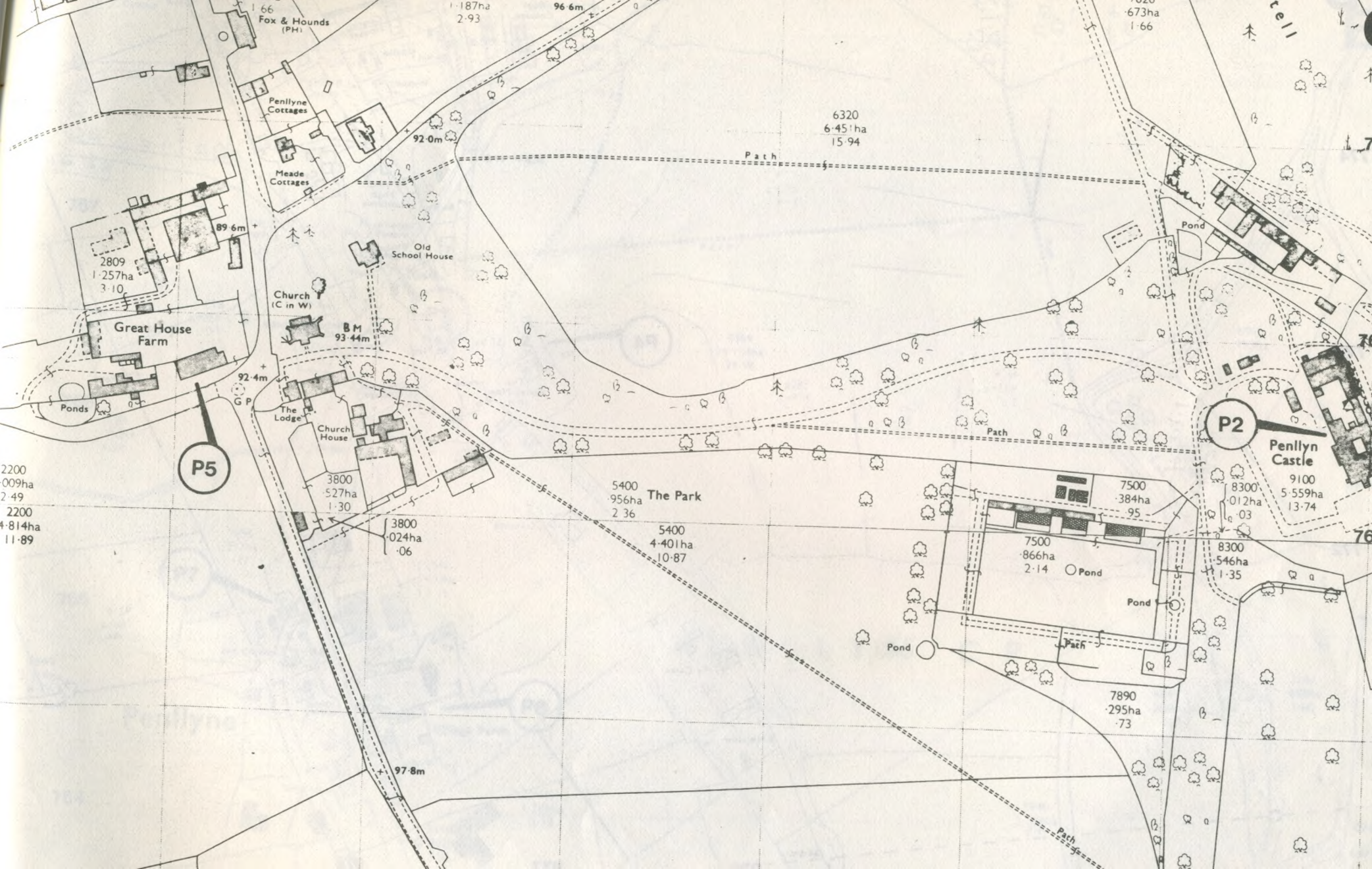










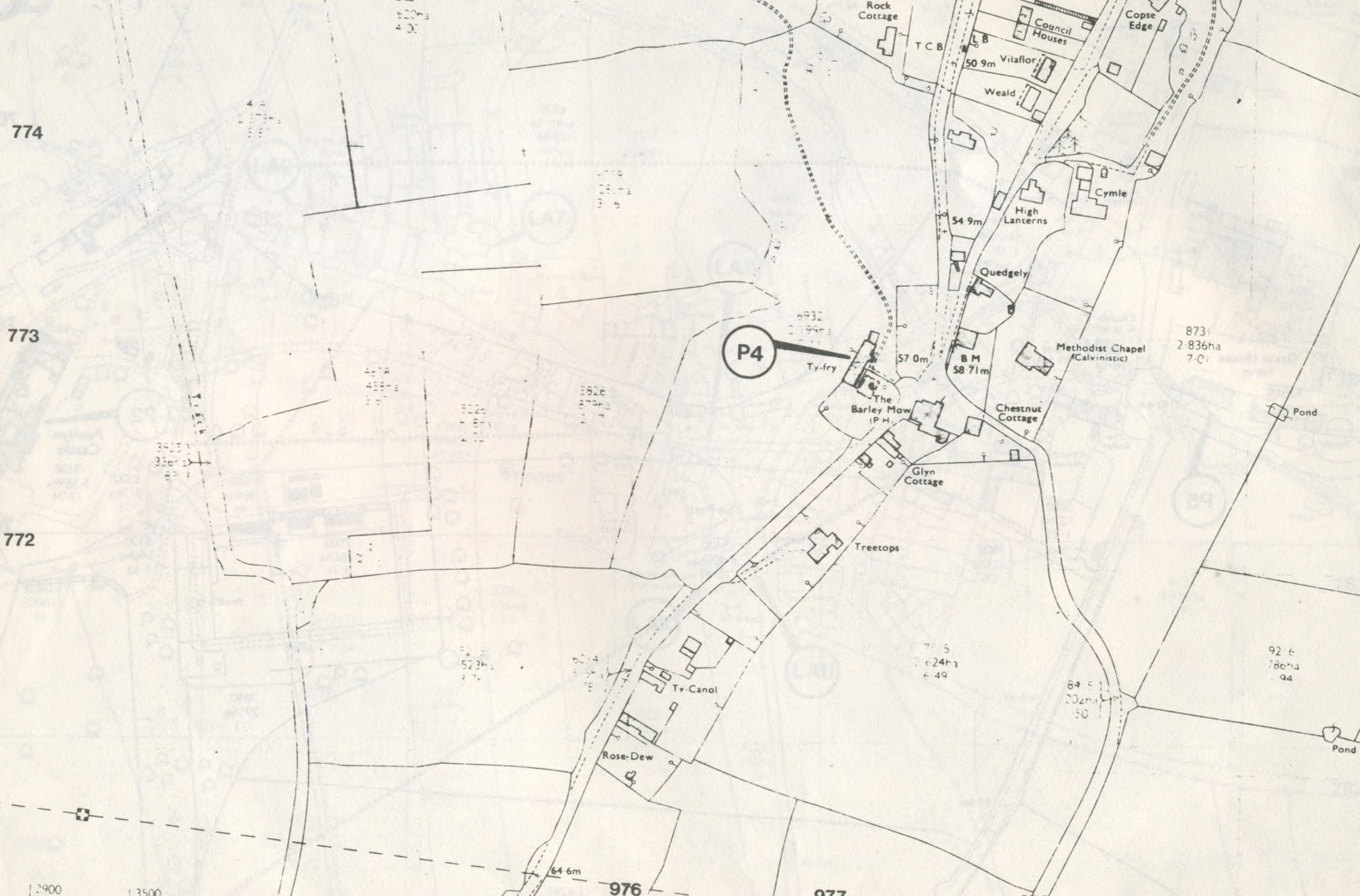




774

773

772



P4

Ty-fry

The Barley Mow  
(P.H.)

Glyn Cottage

Treetops

Ty-Canol

Rose-Dew

Methodist Chapel  
(Calvinistic)

Chestnut Cottage

B.M.

58.71m

57.0m

54.9m

Weald

Vilaflor

50.9m

Council Houses

TCB

Rock Cottage

Copse Edge

Cymle

High Lanterns

Quedgely

873  
2.836ha  
7.0

92.6  
78.6  
94

64.5  
202m  
50

78.5  
24m  
6.49

64.6m

976

977

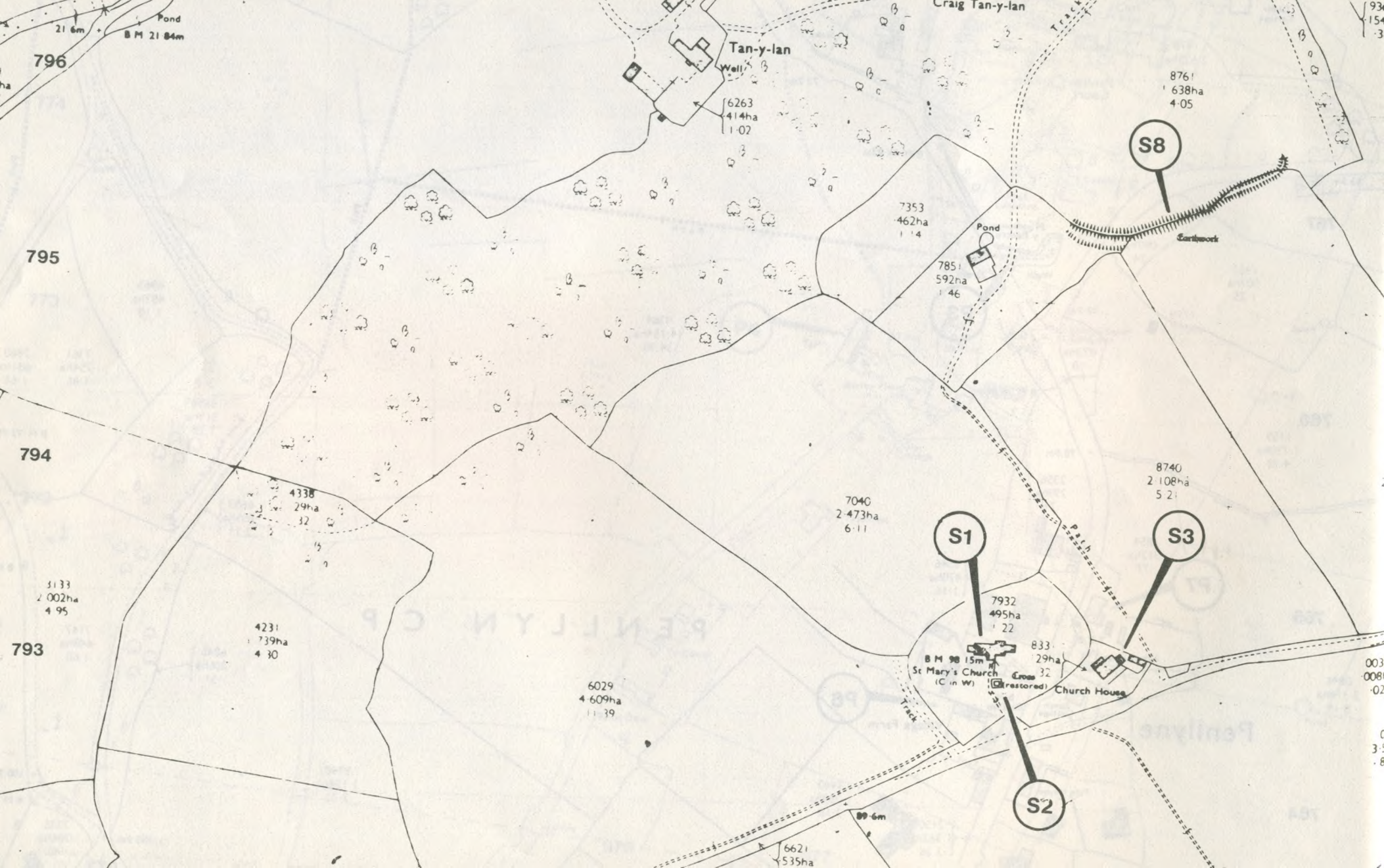
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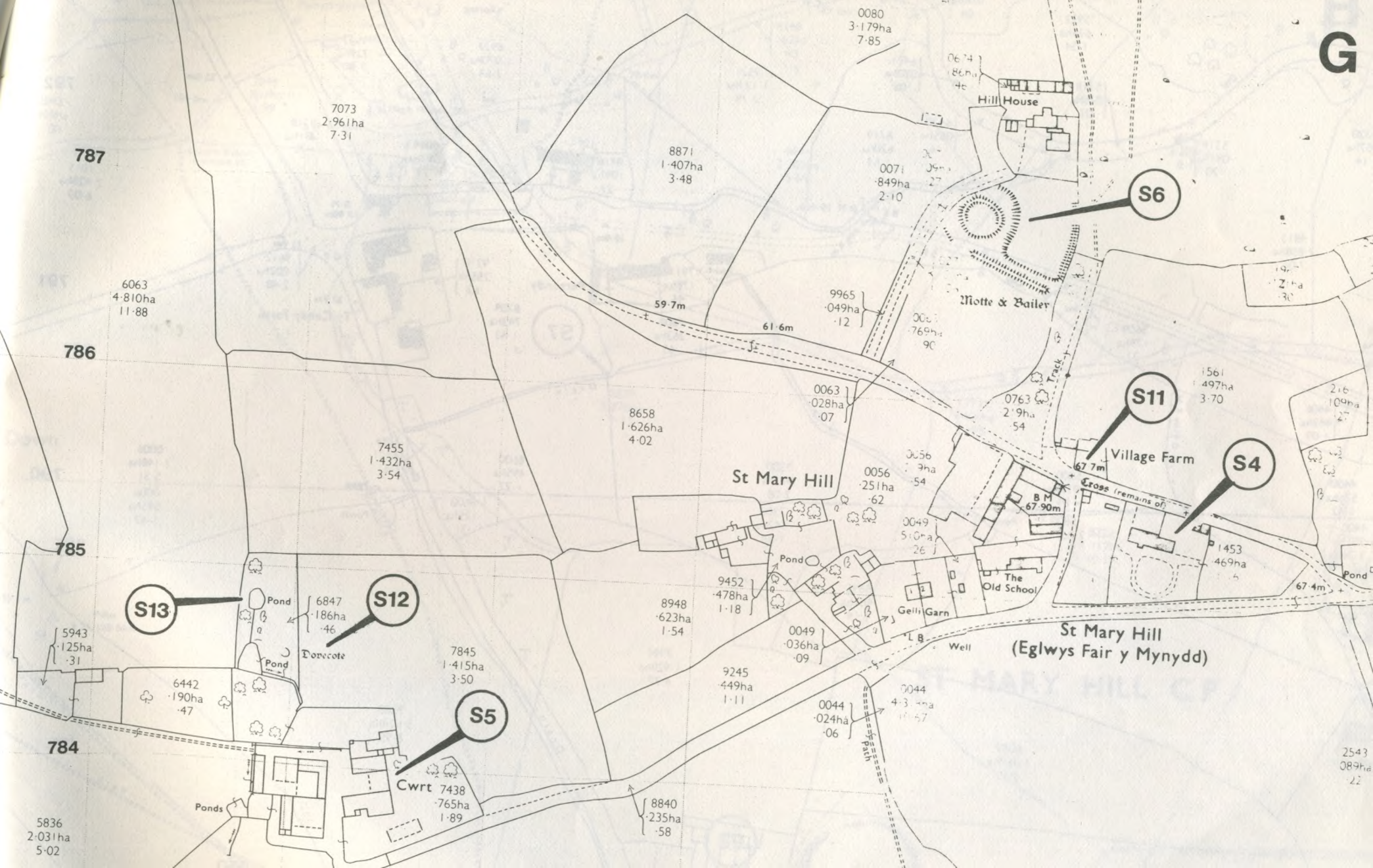




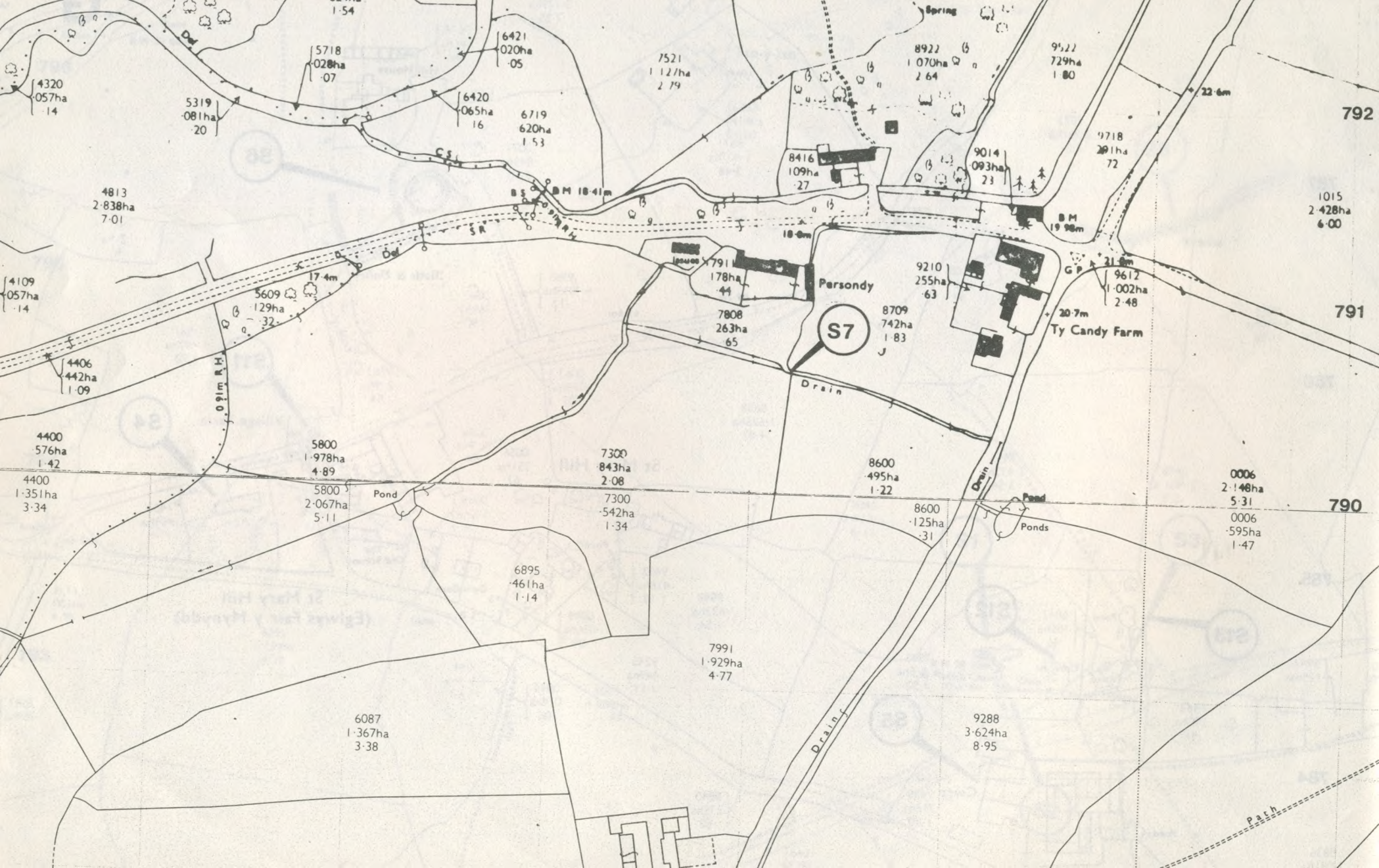




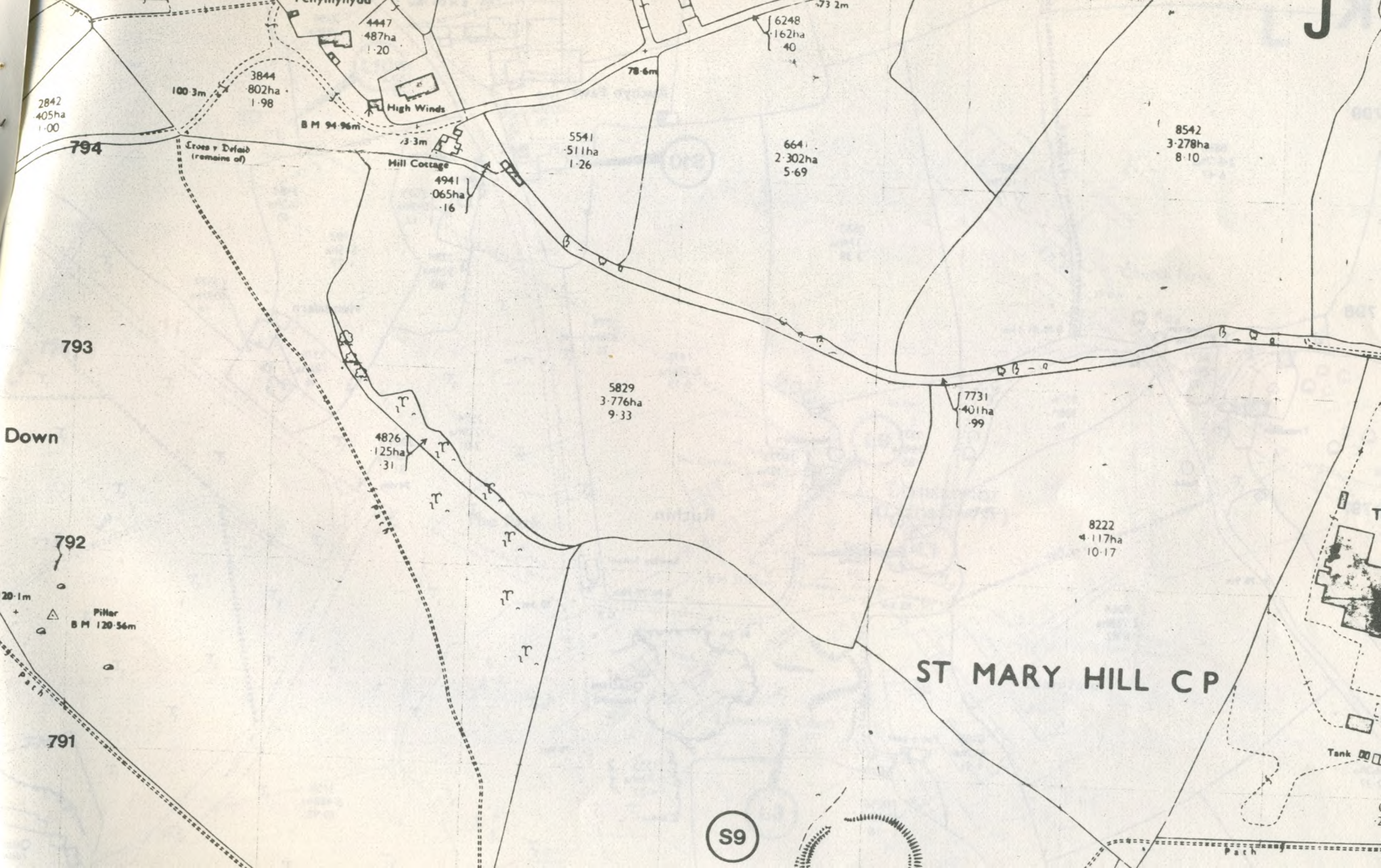




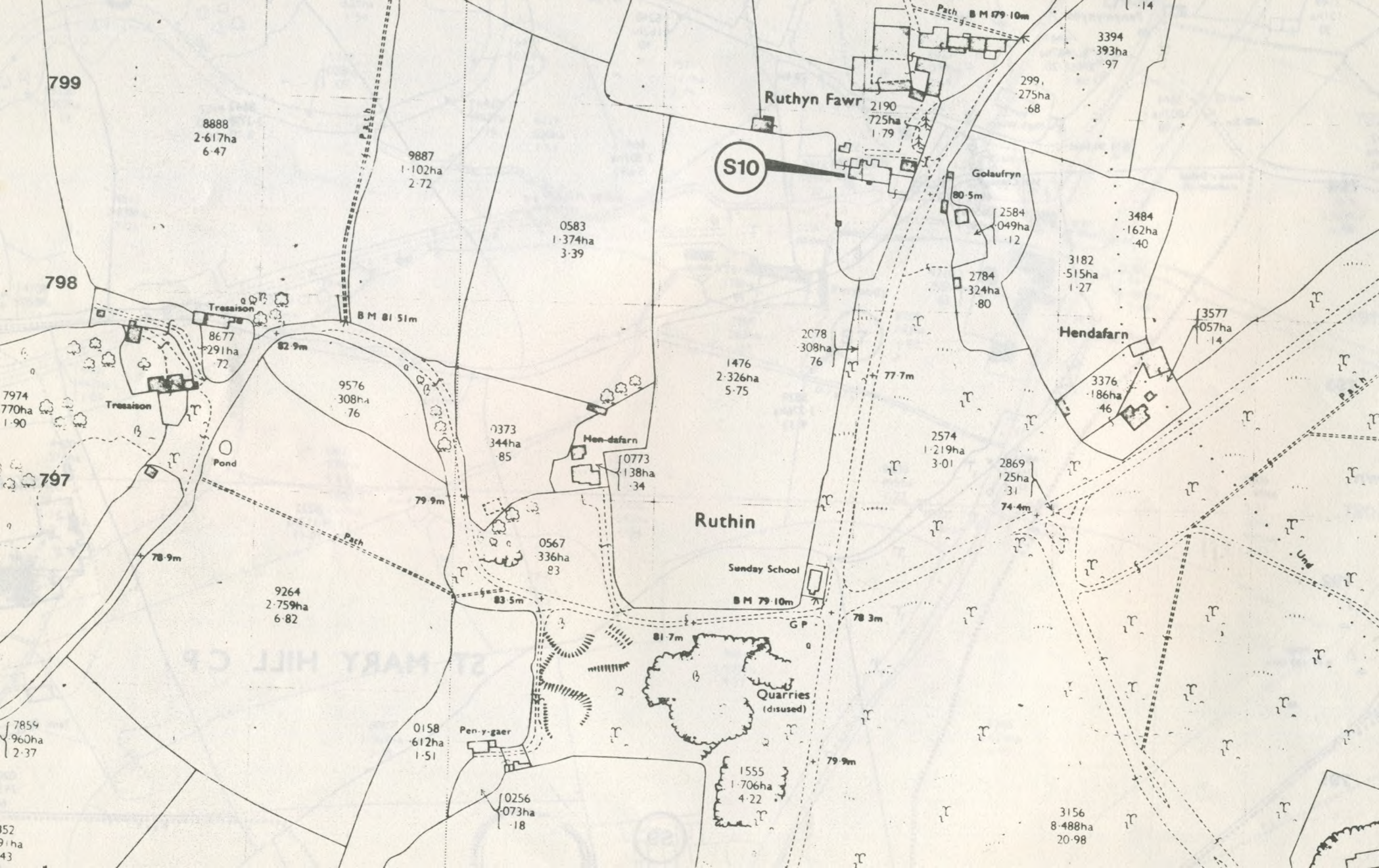




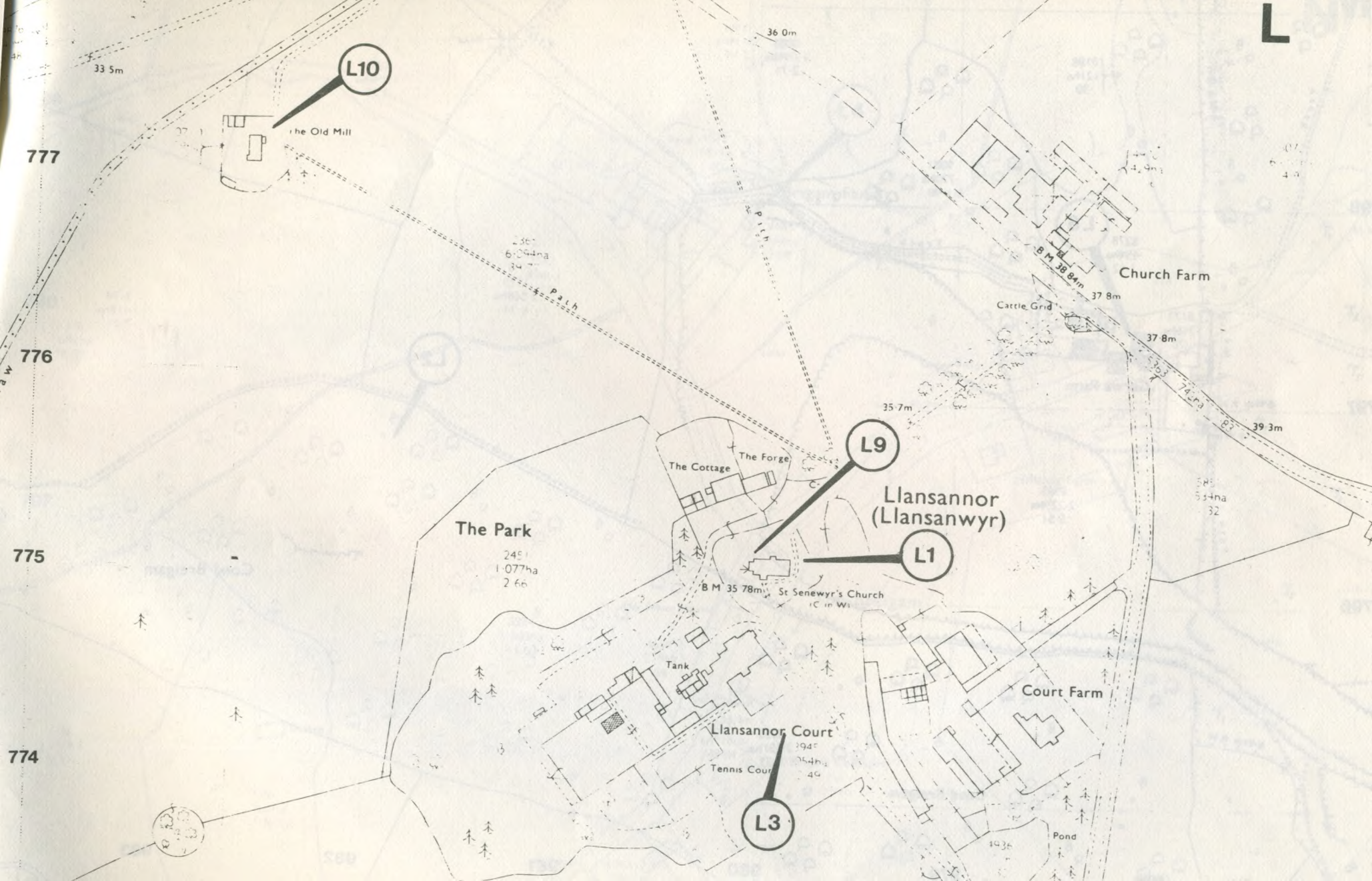




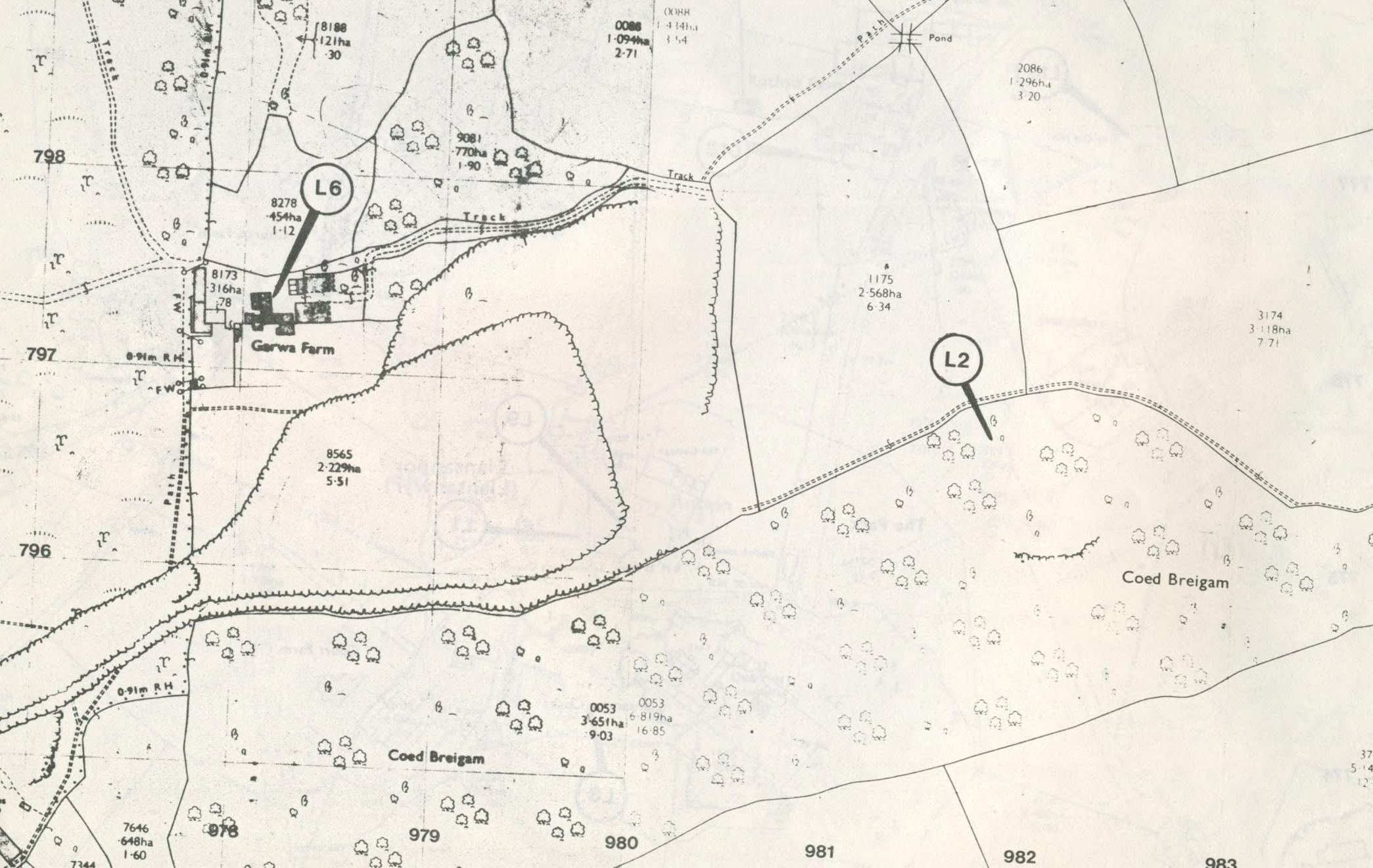














N

799

1490  
899ha  
2.22

798

1378  
7.682ha  
18.99

797

1358  
2.150ha  
5.31

2355  
361ha  
8.36

3582  
498ha  
1.23

Pond 4589  
081ha  
20

L4

Brigam Farm

4485  
843ha  
2.08

Sinks

Green Fields

Denzel

678  
502ha  
24

6475  
397ha  
98

Hillside Farm

5072  
057ha  
14

G P

Ton-Breigam

The White House

Pond

3564  
5.503ha  
13.60

4664  
219ha  
54

Well  
64.3m

Brigam Cottages

5156  
1.094ha  
2.70

4759  
170ha  
42

5453  
2.458ha  
8.55

7161  
4.025ha  
12.42

7675  
527ha  
3.71

65.8m

66.4m

63.1m

62.5m

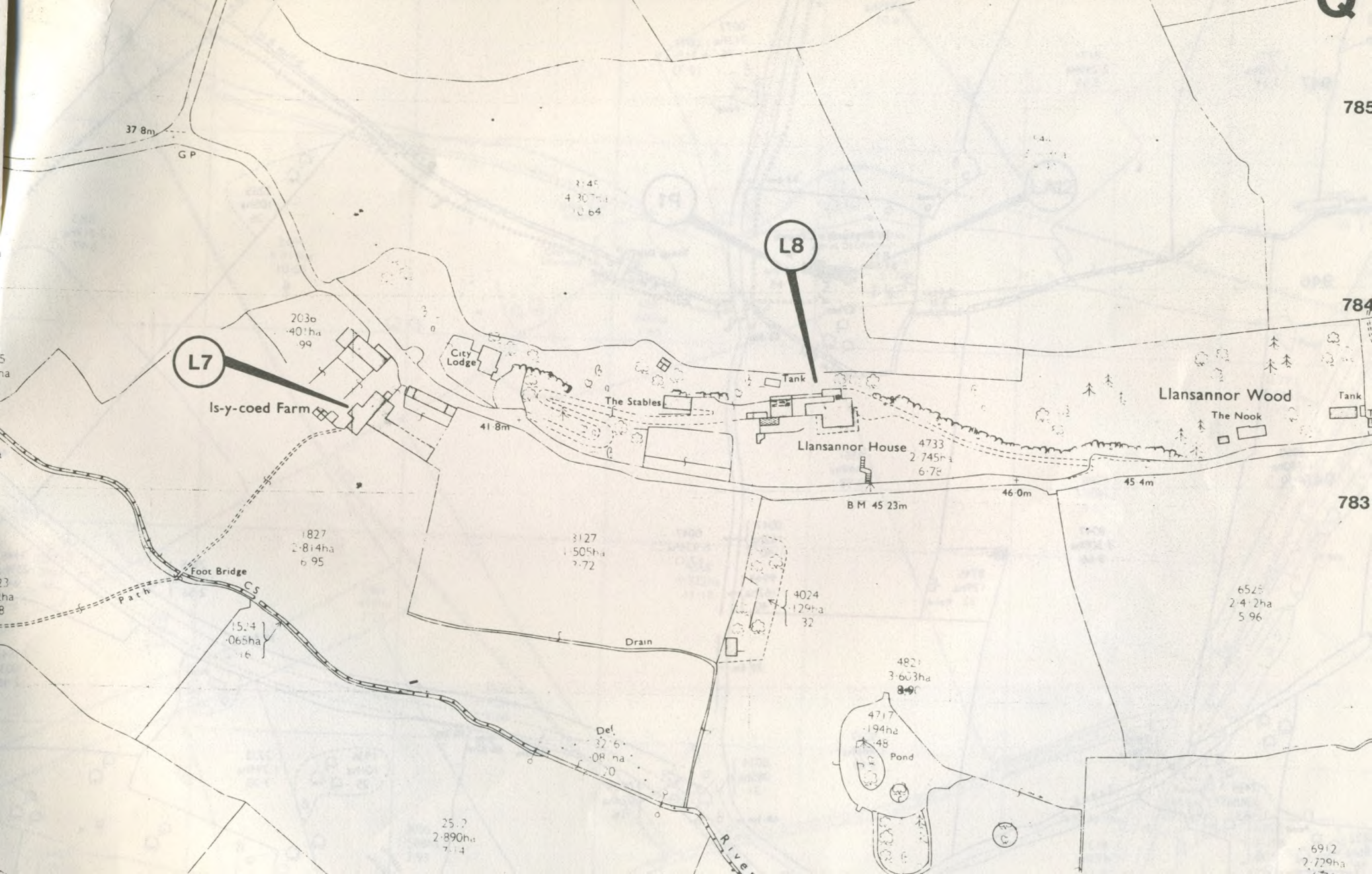
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Gilfach

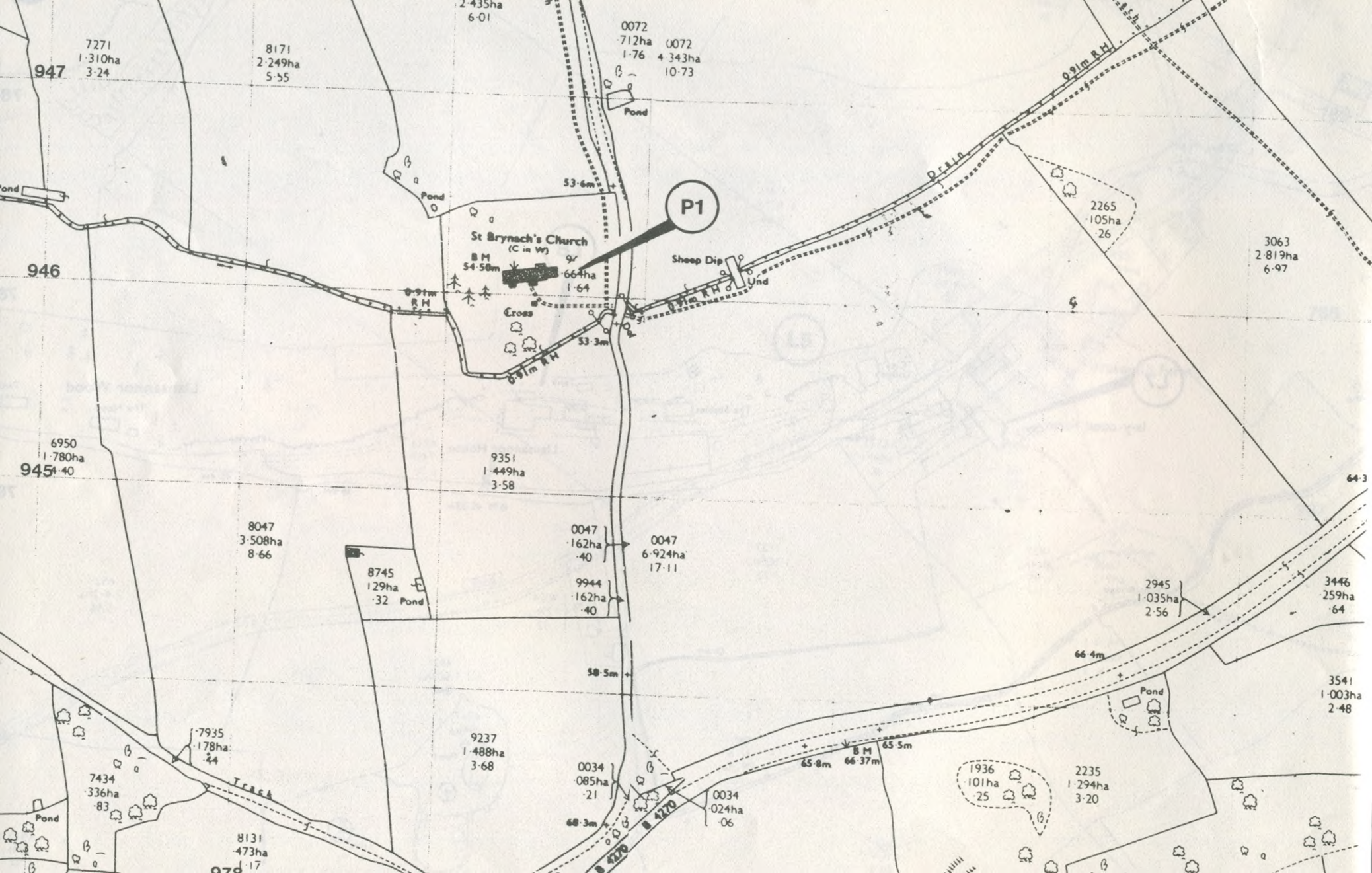




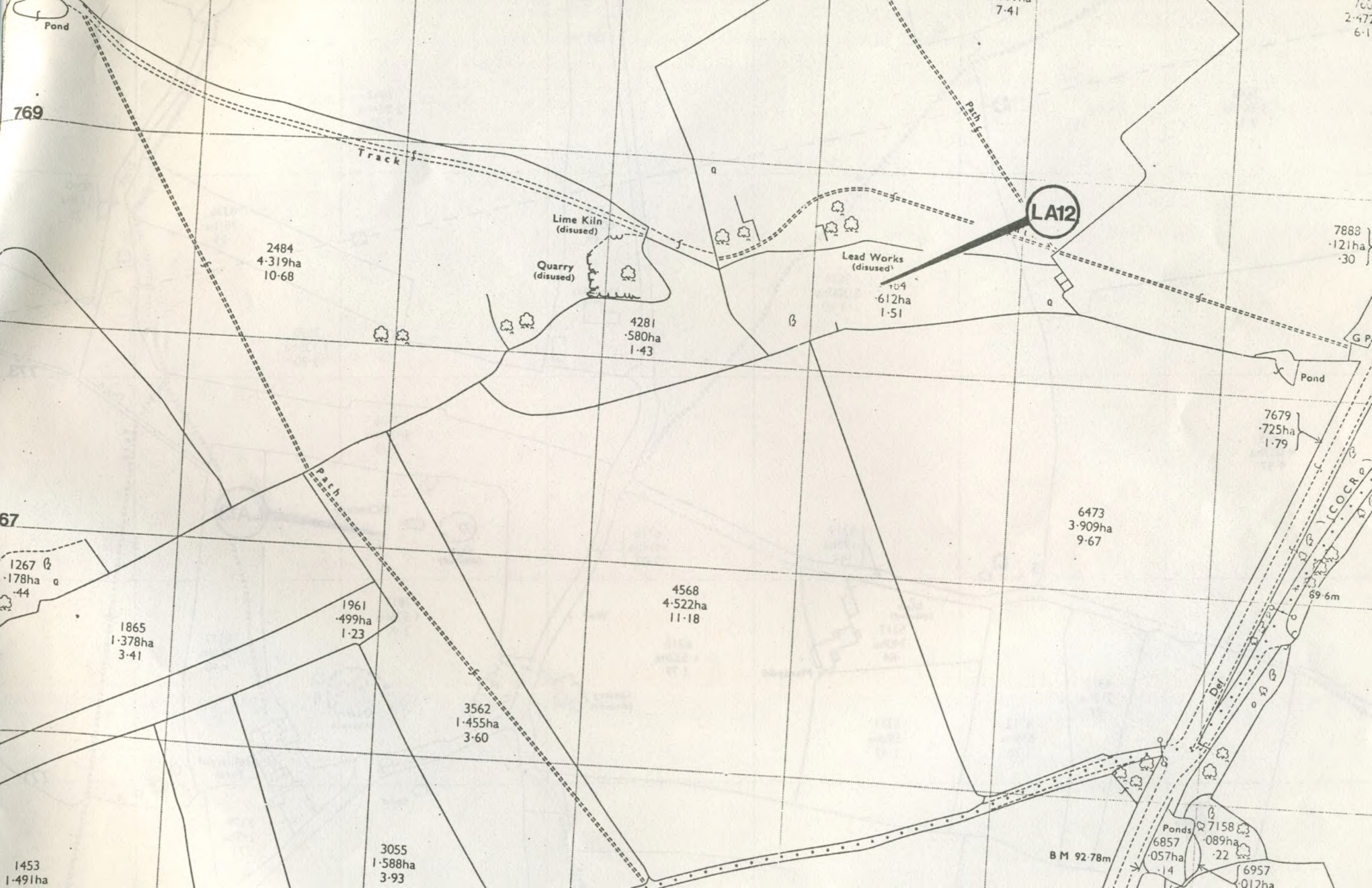




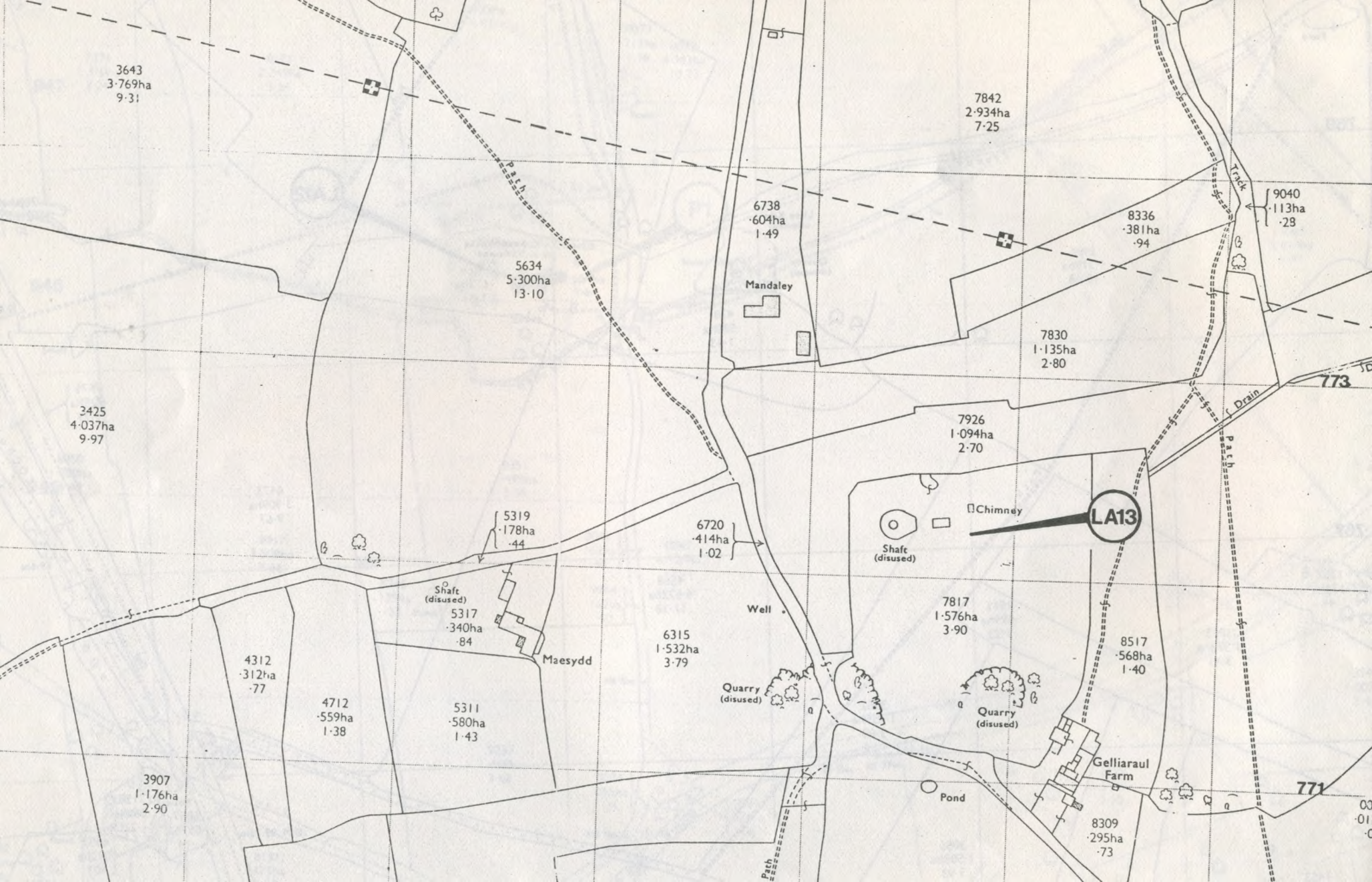












3643  
3.769ha  
9.31

7842  
2.934ha  
7.25

6738  
604ha  
1.49

8336  
381ha  
.94

9040  
113ha  
.28

5634  
5.300ha  
13.10

Mandaley

7830  
1.135ha  
2.80

3425  
4.037ha  
9.97

7926  
1.094ha  
2.70

773

6720  
414ha  
1.02

5319  
178ha  
.44

Shaft  
(disused)  
5317  
340ha  
.84

Shaft  
(disused)

Chimney

LA13

Well

7817  
1.576ha  
3.90

8517  
568ha  
1.40

4312  
312ha  
.77

4712  
559ha  
1.38

5311  
580ha  
1.43

Maesydd

6315  
1.532ha  
3.79

Quarry  
(disused)

Quarry  
(disused)

Pond

Gelliaraul  
Farm

8309  
295ha  
.73

771

3907  
1.176ha  
2.90