

# THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS AND ASSOCIATED PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY



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## THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS AND ASSOCIATED PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPE FEATURES: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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## INTRODUCTION

The Piercefield Walks were laid out for the pleasure of the owners and for the increasing number of tourists who visited the lower Wye valley in the 18th century. They lie along the western banks of the River Wye between Chepstow and a point three miles south of Tintern. The walks and associated viewpoints, summerhouses etc were laid out by Valentine Morris soon after 1752 and seem to have been largely completed by 1760 when Edward Knight visited the estate. The walks were neglected by the 1780s, but a new owner in 1794, George Smith, re-opened them, and straightened some of the more sinuous routes (Skrine 1798). The walks closed to the public in the 1850s. Undoubtedly over almost a century many changes to the walks were wrought. Some of these are detectable in the landscape and are described below.

It is not intended in these brief notes to provide a history of the picturesque at Piercefield - if this is required then reference to Elisabeth Whittle's article (1996) should be made - but rather they consist of a description of the physical remains with reference to historical sources.

The Piercefield Walk forms part of a Grade I Registered Historic Park and Garden. Along the walks are a number of structures, five of which are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and one is a listed building. The site lies within the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the main path forms part of the Wye Valley Walk, a permissive path through Piercefield. The woodland forms part of the Wye Valley SSSI, which is also registered by a EU as a Special Area of Conservation (cSAC).

The Piercefield Walks are owned by the Chepstow Racecourse Ltd.

The objectives of the archaeological survey were set out in a brief issued by the Wye Valley AONB Office in August 2004:

- To collate all known documentary, pictorial and historic map evidence which will identify and describe all the component structures of the Piercefield Walks
- To prepare a project database and complementary GIS in which to store and order this data
- To undertake a walkover and photographic survey to try to locate all the features, pathways and locations described in the documentary sources and record their present condition. This data will be added to the project database and GIS
- To undertake detailed survey of the five Scheduled Ancient Monuments alongside the Piercefield Walks
- To undertake more limited survey of other key features in the area

The survey was supported by Cadw, Monmouthshire County Council and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2500 maps formed the basis of the GIS. These maps were digitised onto several MapInfo tables, with detail added from the subsequent map editions of 1901 and 1921. A rapid walkover survey and photographic survey located and described landscape features recorded on these maps and other landscape elements not shown. All this information was recorded on MapInfo tables and related to the digitised maps. Each archaeological site was assigned a Primary Record Number related to the County Sites and Monuments Record housed with the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust. Numbers in the text are these numbers.

Anne Rainsbury of Chepstow Museum kindly supplied much of the relevant historical information in digital format, with additional material provided by Elisabeth Whittle of Cadw. A selection of historic data is presented in the GIS.

Subsequent to the rapid survey, a detailed topographic survey was undertaken on the five Scheduled Ancient Monuments relating to the walks, on The Druid's Temple and a substantial area around The Grotto, one of the Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Data from these surveys was assigned to MapInfo tables and incorporated into the GIS.

## THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS

Historically, there were three main entries into the Piercefield picturesque landscape: through the Lion's Lodge on the Chepstow side of the estate and via paths and tracks to join the Piercefield Walk at its extreme south end at The Alcove; from the house so joining the walk at its mid point; and through Temple Doors towards the northern end of the estate on the main road northeast of St Arvans village. Access via the lodge is now blocked. The modern visitor now usually gains access to The Piercefield Walk either at the south end through a small, modern opening in the estate wall by Chepstow Leisure Centre, through Temple Doors, or via a path leading down from a Forest Enterprise carpark at the northern end of the estate. See Map 1 for a general location, and Maps 2 - 8 for detail.

Eighteenth century writers gained access to the Piercefield Walk through Temple Doors after visiting the Wyndcliff, past the house, or, like William Gilpin by a path leading up from the Wye after disembarking from a boat. By the early 19th century it had become customary to enter the estate via the Lion's Lodge; this description follows this route from south to north.

As noted above the modern walker enters the picturesque landscape by a gap in the estate wall (08700g) presumably created in the late 20th century as part of the Wye Valley Walk (Map 2). There are two historic courses, both now disused, by which the walker could have arrived at The Alcove, the first point of interest on the walk from the west. The most obvious, and one that is shown on historic maps (The Coxe map of 1801, and the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1881), crosses the ha-ha via a causeway and gate (08708g). A large chestnut tree stands by the gate. Immediately to the west of the ha-ha the course of this walk lies under a modern rubbish tip, 130m by 130m in area and up to 5m high. Part of this tip has encroached onto the ha-ha. After crossing the ha-ha the walk runs to the south where its character changes from a terrace cut into the valley side (08707g), to a linear hollow (08706g) and then to a cutting up to 2m deep (08705g). This cutting is presumably the feature described by Charles Heath: 'its left side fringed with wood, apparently to screen the neighbouring objects from a premature obtrusion'. The walk now meets the estate wall (08704g) and turns sharply to the northeast along the inside (north) face of the wall. The Wye Valley walk follows the Piercefield Walk from this point. The estate wall for this short section of approximately 50m acts as a revetment to a steep slope, with the walk (08703g) running along the top of the wall/slope. Despite being supported by the addition of substantial masonry buttresses, this wall has largely collapsed. The buttresses indicate that this wall was originally higher, and would have shielded the walker from views to the south, towards Chepstow. A linear hollow (08701g) in light woodland represents the second and presumably earlier course of the walk. This hollow meets the estate boundary wall close to the modern gap created for the Wye Valley Walk. It is then overlain and destroyed for a length of c. 25m by later walks before picking up again, now represented by a slight earthwork terrace (08840g). This section lies to the east and up-slope of The Alcove and meets the current walk approximately 25m to the north of The Alcove. If this is a correct historic picturesque walk then the walker would have had to double back to reach The Alcove, and then return for a short distance along the same walk. Alternatively walk 08840g may be an earlier course of communication as it continues the line of track 08712g leading down to the site of the Roman bridge (01160g) on the Wye.





**The Alcove (07830g)** Survey Map 1 and Figs. 1 to 4

The Alcove is one of the original picturesque features on the Piercefield Walk, dating to the mid 18th century. An 1830 drawing is the only known illustration showing details of this structure. This drawing, from a viewpoint sitting in The Alcove, demonstrates that it was a small building, with a wide flat-arched opening, (replicating the rear area of the great gunport in the lower bailey of Chepstow Castle) benches around the inside walls, and railings with finials topping the upright posts outside.



*Photo. 1. The Alcove with modern bench inside the historic structure.*

Surviving physical remains confirm this. Externally the building is rectangular, measuring 5.3m north to south and 2.4m east to east with a 3.9m wide opening in the west Wall. Internally, the building is half an octagon in plan, with maximum dimensions of 4.25m by 1.90m. It is constructed of stone with lime mortar. The walls stand to a maximum of c. 1m. To the east the building is cut into a low bank. The building is approached via two low brick-constructed steps. The outside of the building was rendered with lime mortar into which had been pressed glistening grits, mostly quartzite, but this only survives in small patches. Internally a little lime plaster survives.

The whole structure is constructed on an artificial platform on the top of a limestone cliff. The edge of this platform, which lies 3.5m to the east of the building's entrance, is revetted with a stone wall over 2.2m high in places, but generally c. 1.2 m high. An iron fence around the edge of The platform was embedded into corbel stones projecting out from the top of the wall. Five of these stones survive, one is dislodged and lies close to its original position, and one has gone. Stays for a fence were embedded towards the outer edge of the corbels so allowing the fence proper to run along the very edge of The platform. An examination of the fence shows large sections of it have been replaced, and some



replacement of the replacement has been necessary. Only one original upright survives. This is made from 25mm square (1 inch) wrought iron bar protruding 1.03m from its corbel stone. It is bedded in lead in sockets cut into the stone. Two horizontal straps of 10mm x 30mm wrought iron fit into mortises wrought in the upright. The top rail of 10mm x 50mm wrought iron is fitted to the upright with a mortise and tenon joint, with the tenon forged at the top into a rivet. The upright would have been kept rigid with a curved stay embedded into the corbel. Owing to the rather precarious location of this upright it was not possible to determine how the stay was attached, but as its design is very similar to the railings on The Platform a similar method of fixing is assumed (see below for The Platform). The replacement uprights are also of 26mm square wrought iron bar, but the horizontal straps (10mm x 30mm) are fixed with bolts, as are the stays, which are re-used and in their original position. The top rail of rectangular section 10mm x 50mm iron is fixed to the upright in a similar manner as the original. One section of top rail has been replaced by a curve-headed rail 9mm x 43mm. Overall, the railings are in very poor condition with less than 50 percent surviving and only a c. 2.5m section *in situ*. A modern tubular steel fence set 1.20m back from the edge of The platform provides a safety barrier in front of the building, with a timber post and rail fence running alongside the walk to the north.

### **The Alcove to The Platform** (Maps 2 and 3)

From The Alcove the walk runs north for 250m on a c. 3m wide terrace cut into the steep valley side approximately 5m - 8m below the crest of the slope. Up-slope of the walk some earthworks are worthy of mention. Two platforms (08739g and 08740g) could be viewing platforms or sites of seats mentioned by Heath and Knight. The latter is the better candidate and seems have the line of an old walk (08741g) leading from it to the northwest, defined as an earthwork terrace a few metres above the current Piercefield Walk. This is one of several instances (more below) where original lines of walks were, perhaps, bypassed by late 18th century - early 19th century straightenings. On the south side of the walk a 4m wide shelf (08712g) slopes steeply down the steep valley side towards the site of the Roman bridge (01160g). The bottom end of this shelf is lost in rocks and scree. It seems to be a road or track; its date is unknown.

To the north the Piercefield Walk continues in its general northern direction, rounding a rocky spur via rock-cut terrace c. 70m long and up to 4m high (08737g). Then, for the next 500m, up to The Platform, the walk lies on a level, 3m wide terrace, 3m - 8m below the crest of the valley side. At the south end of this 500m section slight linear earthworks (08742g) demonstrate that the walk originally had a more sinuous course than present. A line of an old walk (08735g) with a sharp dogleg is clearly visible on the down-slope side of the current walk. This old walk may also have sloped down into a natural amphitheatre-shaped hollow, in the base of which lies a cairn (08736g). This cairn seems to be structured, forming an equilateral triangle in plan with sides 4m long, and may have been the site of a seat mentioned by Heath. A viewpoint (08809g) not marked by a platform or any other earthwork has been noted in the current survey immediately to the east of the cairn. An old walk (08748g) runs down the steep valley side from the cairn towards the site of the Roman bridge. This walk is similar to the other picturesque walks on the estate. It may have formed an element of the riverside walk mentioned by Coxe. Further along the Piercefield Walk, a natural promontory on its east side, approximately 120m south of The Platform, is a natural viewpoint (08808g), possibly one recorded by Edward Knight.

At The Platform the current walk rounds a rocky spur on a 3m wide rock-cut terrace (08726g) approximately 65m long and up to 4m high. It then continues to

the head of a small valley for a further 85m on a less heavily engineered terrace (08723g).

**The Platform (07828g)** Survey Map 2 and Figs. 5-7

It is possible that prior to the creation of the existing walk in the late 18th century The Platform was approached via walk 08841g, which lies a little upslope of the current walk. The advantage of this older walk is that it lies at the same level as The Platform, whereas there is an uncomfortable step up from the current walk. If the current Piercefield Walk dates to the later 18th century or early 19th century then originally walkers would have had to retrace their steps for 30m and then taken a disused walk that passes The Platform on its down-slope, eastern side. This walk (08724g) is well constructed, approximately 2m wide and with evidence of dry-stone revetment walling in several locations. It runs for 175m, branching off from the current walk approximately 30m to the south of The Platform and rejoining it c.105m to the northwest of The Platform. A good viewing platform (08725g) from which views across and down a tributary valley are obtained is located on this walk.



*Photo. 2. The Platform from below showing the revetment wall of the abandoned path.*

The Platform itself consists of a flat-topped rectangular block of masonry, 9m north to south and 3.6m east to west, encasing a limestone outcrop. The walls of roughly coursed stone are up to 3.3m high, and bonded with lime mortar with some cement mortar repointing. The east wall is topped with finely dressed blocks up to 300mm deep and which slope out into a 100mm overhang. The northeast corner stone and a 2.25m section of stones in centre of the east wall have been dislodged. Sockets for an iron fence are present in some stones. Where present there are two sockets in each stone, one for an upright and one for a stay. The centres between the centres of the sockets vary between 1.44m and 1.70m. On the south side of The platform two large dressed stones bonded into the wall top have fence sockets at 1.60m intervals (the sockets in the stone in the centre of the wall is obscured by a sapling). The top of the south wall slopes out into a 50mm overhang. On the north side the top course of masonry had gone. However, the northwest corner stone with the fence upright embedded in it and a section of top rail present lies immediately below The Platform. The centre stone of the north wall and the northeast corner stone lie almost at the bottom of the valley side, some 50m from The Platform; both have stubs of iron fence embedded in them. Several blocks of masonry spread down the slope on the east side of The Platform undoubtedly come from the top of the east wall, but it is not possible to assign them to their original positions.

Apart from socket holes in some stones there is no trace of the fence on The Platform; its remains lie scattered on the slopes below. It is likely that with the aid of a metal detector the entire fence could be located. Remains indicate that unlike The Alcove few repairs and replacements were made to The Platform fence. Fence uprights are of 26mm square (1 inch) wrought iron bar protruding 1.10m high from the stone work into which it was embedded 100mm and fixed with lead. Three horizontal straps of 9mm x 27mm wrought iron are fixed into the uprights with mortise and tenon joints and secured with iron wedges. The top rail of 9mm x 48mm wrought iron is fixed with a mortise and tenon joint onto the upright and secured with a wrought splayed end. A 20mm square section wrought iron curved stay is also embedded into stone and attached to the upright with a mortise and tenon joint and secured with a wrought splayed end. The stay is located on the outer edge of The Platform. From a surviving corner upright it is clear that the horizontal straps meeting at right angles are positioned at slightly different heights to avoid contact with each other at the joints.

#### **The Platform to The Grotto (Maps 3 and 4)**

Following section 08723g, the walk swings to the north to cross the head of a small valley. There seems to have been considerable changes to the landscape here since descriptions of it in the 18th and 19th century. Edward Knight and Arthur Young record a bridge crossing a road, called a Chinese Bridge. Presumably this would have been a high-arched design, similar to those shown of 'willow pattern' plates. There is now no trace of a bridge, but earthworks of an abandoned road/track are visible running down to a mill (see below) to the east, and up through a gate in the ha-ha to the west.

To the north of this bridge site there is a cat's cradle of paths and tracks. Two tracks radiate out from a gate (08728g) through the ha-ha. The northernmost one (08732g) is shown on the 1881 OS map and on the modern OS map, and is well constructed - running on a terrace or in a cutting. It can be traced for over 600m down to the banks of the Wye. The southernmost track (08733g) is not shown on maps, although its construction is similar to 08732g. It can be traced for a little over 100m before fading, from which it seems to line up with a track recorded on the 1881 OS map. The modern Wye Valley Walk takes the line of least resistance from the site of the bridge up to The Grotto - running first up a steep slope, then turning sharply east and following the course of track 08732g



for 50m before turning sharply north heading for The Grotto. Approximately 35m south of The Grotto the modern walk crosses a low point of the ramparts of Pierce Wood Camp Iron Age fort (00733g). In addition, two historic walks have been identified. The first (08729g) is shown on the 1881 OS map. This follows a sinuous course, traceable as a slight terrace or linear hollow, from the site of the bridge first to the west of the current Wye Valley Walk and then to the east. Where crossed by the Wye Valley Walk a dry-stone revetment of one or two courses has been revealed. The old track 08732g crosses it. From this track the historic walk curves round close to the ha-ha (from which views of the house would be obtained if the dense woodland were cleared) and enters Pierce Wood Camp through the fort's original entrance. Dense undergrowth blocks the path within the fort.

The second, and presumably earlier, historic walk (08730g) follows a more southerly and easterly course, following at its southern end the upper edge of a tributary valley. This walk is well engineered, with short rock-cut sections on the steeper slopes at its southern end and then on a slight terrace with evidence of a revetment wall and finally on a well constructed terrace (08837g) below The Grotto. Approximately 350m after crossing the Chinese Bridge this walk arrives below The Grotto and Pierce Wood Camp. Arthur Young who in 1768 walked the route from north to south states: 'The winding walk, which leads from the grotto, varies from any of the former: for the town of Chepstow, and the various neighbouring objects, break through the hedge, as you pass along, in a manner very beautiful'. Edward Knight in 1759-61 lists the following in this section:

- 9 - Chinese over a road
  - Two Shady Seats
  - Three seats view to the lawn house & co.
- 10 - Round a tree in shrubbery the farm view & distant river
- 11 - Grotto ...

**The Grotto (07825g)** Survey Maps 3 and 4, Figs. 8 and 9

The Grotto and its environs is the most complex of the remains at Piercefield; this description includes the approach walks, elements of the picturesque landscape and other landscape components in the area.



*Photo. 3. The approach to The Grotto from the south.*



As walk 08730g approaches The Grotto from the south it turns a hairpin taking the walk in a southerly direction for c. 60m, after which a sweeping 300 degree bend takes the walk back on its northerly course. There is a viewing platform (08836g) within the 'elbow' of this second bend from which a glimpse of Piercefield House would have been obtained: now obscured by dense woodland. This would have been the first view of the house when approached from a southerly direction, and then just fleeting. The walk now runs in front of and below The Grotto, below the rampart of Pierce Wood Camp Iron Age fort, along a terrace possibly constructed on the fort's counterscarp bank. This terrace is revetted with dry-stone walling up to 1.5m high, which is in poor condition. The dense laurel scrub here is contributing to the poor condition of the wall. The walk now passes below the fine viewing platform (08745g) named 'Above Pierce Wood' or 'Mount Pleasant' (Knight and Coxe), curves immediately to the north of The platform and gains it from the north. This platform is one of the best at Piercefield. It is roughly circular, c. 7m diameter, with evidence of a dry-stone revetment (now much collapsed). The viewing platform and The Grotto are at approximately the same height, and an easy (it would be easy if not choked with laurel scrub), old walk leads one from the viewing platform to The Grotto, meeting the current path c. 20m north of The Grotto. This southern approach route to The Grotto conforms to historic descriptions. Charles Heath records a seat in this section of walk (on 08729g or 08730g) with views of Chepstow etc, and then, as the walker progressed, of the house. Knight's description seems puts one's arrival of the fine viewing platform (08836g) prior to The Grotto. This is impossible today, given the walks' configuration, but would have been entirely feasible when the terrace is considered.

The Grotto is built into a bank. Initially this was considered to be the inner rampart of Pierce Wood Camp, but on closer examination and topographic survey it was found to be part of a natural slope within the fort. The survey also demonstrated that The Grotto was probably built outside the front of the bank and then covered, rather than cut into the bank. Essentially The Grotto consists of a semi-circular foundation 0.95m high and 2.70m diameter of 'rustic' blocks of slag and occasional quartzite blocks, bonded with lime mortar. A brick hemispherical capping or cove rests on this, with an east-facing opening. This cove is constructed from header-laid red bricks interspersed with which are occasional blocks of slag, approximately one slag block to every 20 bricks, and a few quartzite blocks. The slag and quartzite protrude some 100mm out from the face of the brickwork, or rather the quartzite would have, but all have been snapped off (deliberately?). A small patch of lime plaster with quartzite grit pushed into it indicates the original surface treatment of the brick. There is a regular placing of nails protruding from the brickwork to support the surface treatment. At the front of The Grotto the slag foundation wall starts to curve in towards the entrance. Evidence for a possible door(s), or more probably benches, is provided by slots, c 100mm square, either side of the entrance, 0.75 above ground surface, with the one on the south side containing a timber. Iron fittings protruding from the broken wall ends. Owing to the poor condition of the walls it is impossible to visualise how these fittings and timbers could have operated. An alternative explanation is that the timbers formed part of a bench running around the interior of the Grotto, but no other slots were located to support this.

A small forecourt defined by boulders lies immediately in front of The Grotto. The Piercefield Walk runs across the front of the forecourt.

It is clear from the topographic survey that a considerable amount of manipulation to the landscape was necessary in order to obtain the necessary picturesque views from The Grotto. A view of approximately 40 degrees, from east through to southeast would have been visible when sitting in the rear of The

Grotto. This was achieved by: restricting the opening of The Grotto, removing a c.15m section of the hillfort's defensive bank 10m to the east, constructing low rubble mounds, planting laurel, and the planting of two large limes 36m from The Grotto to frame the view.

Rubble mounds have been mentioned above, but others, presumably as part of a rockery/shrubbery are evident. Ten metres to the north of The Grotto rubble from a small quarry forms a large mound, and more rubble is spread over the truncated ends of the Iron Age defensive bank. These are probably part of the shrubbery so despised by William Gilpin on his visit to Piercefield.

From The Grotto the present Wye Valley Walk runs in a northerly direction up a fairly steep slope and up into the interior of the hillfort. This is the course of the Piercefield Walk shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey map and also apparently by Coxe on his map. However, as described above the original walk approached The Grotto from the north, and probably continued on this course before turning to the west once past The Grotto. Here there is no direct evidence of a path, but the area is very overgrown. However, after approximately 40m an old path line is visible as a linear hollow (08442g). This joins the present Wye Valley Walk 70m west of Pierce Wood Camp.

A series of rubble banks (08744g), shown as rectangles on the 1881 OS map lie within Pierce Wood Camp. Plotted as part of the topographic survey, these banks resemble a demolished farmstead of three, and possibly four, rectangular buildings. A broken stone trough (of the type used in dairying) and a short section of collapsed culvert seem to confirm this. An upright stone, marked as 'standing stone' on the 1881 OS map, set in the end of a rubble bank seems to be nothing more than a gate post, probably the entrance to the farmstead. However, rubble mounds arranged along the edge of the Wye valley, and some other low mounds suggest garden features. The most likely explanation for these remains is that they are of a farmstead, perhaps demolished during the establishment of the Piercefield Walks, which were reused as a shrubbery/rockery. One large hollow, 7m x 4.5m by 3m deep, and a smaller one, may be natural collapse into caverns.

#### **The Grotto to The Giant's Cave** (Maps 4, 5 and 6)

From The Grotto to the Double View, after exiting Pierce Wood Camp the Piercefield Walk (08820g) meanders through trees on level ground on the edge of the valley side for c. 250m. No obvious engineering works have been undertaken to create the walk in this section.

The Double View (08747g) comprises a level rocky area a couple of metres above and immediately to the south of the walk. The level area seems to have been deliberately created, but this is not certain. Trees block views to the west, east and north, but that to the south is still largely open.

From the Double View to the Pleasant View, c. 700m, the walk lies on a terrace, c 3m wide, usually 3m - 8m below the crest of the valley (08797g). At its western end this section of walk runs along the top edge of low cliffs. There are several points of interest on or close to this section of walk; these are described from east to west. Seventy-five metres to the west of the Double View a walk (08798g) branches off up to the house. This walk is well engineered, running on a terrace with dry-stone walling on its down-slope side. It is currently used as a footpath. A further 85m on a more substantial path or track (08799g) branches off up to a terrace below the house - this terrace is dealt with below. Opposite this terrace on the northeast side of the path and about 15m distant from it lies a circular platform, c. 8m diameter, with an annular stony bank around its perimeter, located on the top edge of the steep valley side (08794g). This is

clearly a viewing platform, possibly with a structure such as a seat or summerhouse. It is possibly the Halfway Seat or Beech Tree Seat mentioned by several writers. A possible walk runs down the steep slope from this platform, but fades very quickly. This could be the top end of the short-lived path leading up from the river mentioned by Gilpin, Dodsley and Cumberland. Sixty metres on from this viewing platform another old path or track (08793g) branches off to the west, leading up to the kitchen garden. The walk now passes close to a dam (08791g) on its south side. There seems to have been considerable earth moving between the dam and the walk at some time, perhaps in the 19th century. Edward Knight records a cascade (08819g) at Piercefield. A reading of his itinerary indicates that this dam is the only location for such a cascade.

Seventy metres on from the dam the walk passes through the centre of the Druid's Temple (08787g), a seemingly random placing of square boulders and a standing stone, located in an amphitheatre-like hollow, with the largest of the boulders sitting in a terrace cut into the steep slope. There is an earlier line of a walk at a higher level, in dense undergrowth, which guided the walker at around the temple before dog-legging back into the monument itself, unlike the later walk that weaves through the boulders. The older walk (08788g) starts close to the dam, where the earth moving in front of the dam has truncated it. It continues on a northwest course, running around the slope above the Druid's Temple and then descends to the current Piercefield Walk. It is a well-engineered walk, constructed on a terrace with dry-stone revetting. However, this walk and part of the Druid's Temple has been obscured by soil and other material containing late 19th century and early 20th century pottery dumped down the steep slope, probably from the walled garden, which lies 40m to the southwest. A path leads from a gate in the corner of the walled garden to the top of the slope above the temple. A ceramic-pipe culvert outflow is located c 6m down-slope of the standing stone; its purpose is unknown.

The Piercefield Walk then continues on a northwesterly course, running along a low cliff top at the northwest end. A promontory above the cliffs alongside the walk seems to have been flattened to form a viewing platform (08796g).

The character of the walk (08784g) now changes. It runs along the foot of a c. 8m high cliff on a rock-cut terrace for c. 90m. Rock cut steps lead up to a small cave mid-way along the cliff. At the end of this section a flattened promontory alongside the path is probably the Pleasant View (08785g) mentioned by several writers.

For 110m to the north from the Pleasant View to The Giant's Cave the walk (08775g) runs on a 3m wide terrace cut into the steep valley side. This section of path is in good condition. A walk constructed by the late 19th century branches off to the west in this section and runs up the Lover's Leap, described below.

#### **The Giant's Cave (07832g)** Survey Map 6, Figs. 10 to 12

The Piercefield Walk slopes down from the south to The Giant's Cave, at the entrance at which a forecourt (08776g) or viewing platform is built into the rock-face. It was from here that a small cannon was set up, the echo from which delighted visitors on the river below (Cumberland 1784). The viewing platform is semi-circular, 3.6m diameter, built onto a rock outcrop and supported by a 3m high mortared revetment wall, with a triangular shaped bastion close to the rock face. It was, perhaps, on this bastion that the cannon was mounted. A drawing by Cumberland shows a low parapet wall around the viewing platform, but only a short section on the bastion and a much-reduced length to the south now survives. A series of holes to the right (east) side of the cave entrance have an artificial appearance, but close examination shows they are caused by natural

erosion acting on a soft stratum of rock. Approximately 3m - 4m above the entrance, a ledge in the bedrock may have been the location of the statue of the eponymous giant mentioned by several writers. An attempt to reach this ledge from above failed owing to its precarious location.

The cave entrance is curved headed, roughly 2m high. Inside, the cave opens out upwards and outwards into what is certainly a modified natural cavern. The south entrance is probably partly natural, as are several short side passages/chambers. The north entrance is constructed as a square-cut passage, 0.8m wide, 1.6 -1.9m high and 5m long, the floor of which slopes steeply upwards from the interior. The interior and exterior walls of the cave were searched in raking light for graffiti, but apart from light modern scratches and paint none was found. Bedrock lies a few centimetres below soil and dust accumulation within the cave.

A flat promontory above the cave could have been used as a viewing platform, accessed from the higher course of the Piercefield Walk.

There is a bifurcation of the walk immediately to the north of The Giant's Cave, with one arm of the walk leading up towards Lover's Leap, the other down to The Cold Bath.



*Photo. 4. The Approach to the Giant's Cave from the south.*

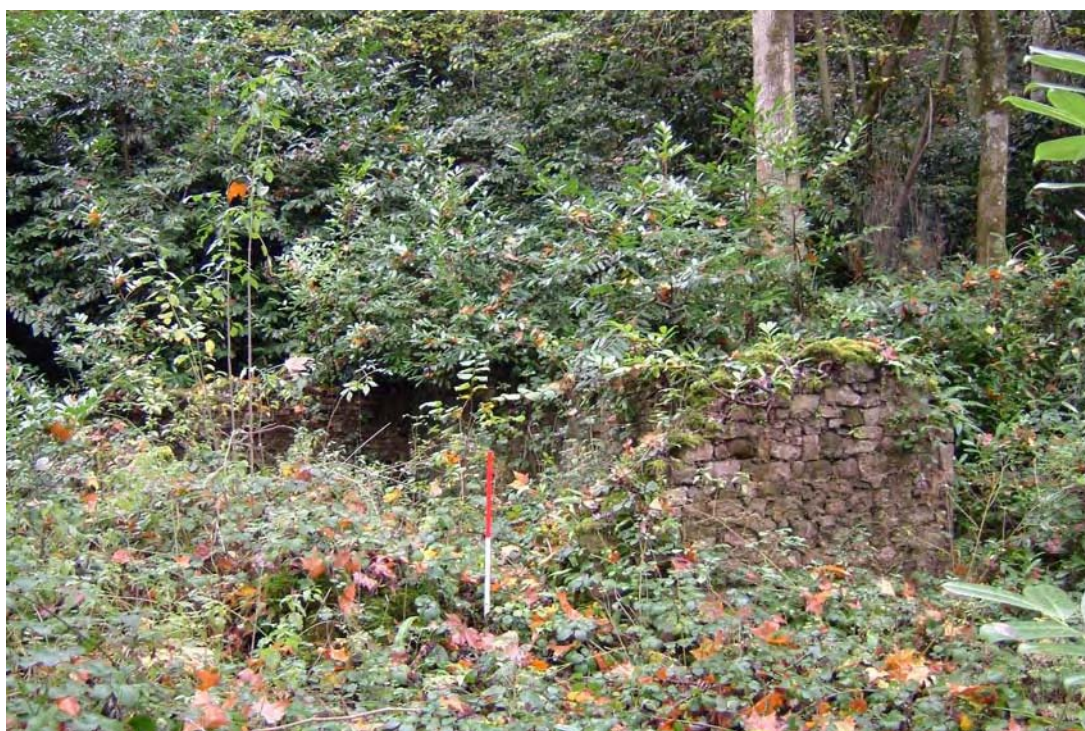


### **The Giant's Cave to The Cold Bath** (Maps 6 and 7)

For 225m north of The Giant's Cave the path slowly descends, running on a 3m wide terrace, occasionally rock-cut and occasionally revetted with dry-stone walling, on the steep valley side (08774g). Approximately 60m north of The Giant's Cave a c. 10m section of the walk has collapsed, and the current walk follows a worn course at a lower level. Elsewhere it is in good condition. After 225m the walk rounds a rocky promontory on a rock-cut terrace up to 5m high. This section of 50m (08773g) is in poor condition - a c.8m length has completely collapsed and much of the rest is choked with rubble and fallen stone. The Wye Valley Walk negotiates these obstructions. From this section to The Cold Bath, approximately 225m, the valley side levels out and consequently the walk (08772g) is less heavily engineered. Here it runs on a 3m wide terrace on gently sloping ground, or with no obvious engineered elements where the land is flat. This section is in good condition.

### **The Cold Bath (07831g)** Survey Map 7, Figs. 13 and 14

The Cold Bath lies in a sheltered hollow, from which the land rises steeply to the west and falls away gently to the east and south. Prior to the construction of a hydraulic ram between 1901 and 1921 the feed stream to The Cold Bath ran west to east, with a culvert branching off to the bath. Now the full stream runs down the culvert towards The Cold Bath. The Cold Bath building is of coursed stone bonded with lime mortar externally and red brick internally. Lime plaster with quartzite grits survives in patches on external faces and criss-cross scored sub-plaster remains over the internal brickwork. The building is 8.25m east - west internally and 4m north - south, with an entrance towards the southern end of the east end wall and a fireplace in the northeast corner. The north wall and west wall survive to over 2m high, probably close to their original height; the other walls are much reduced. Two blocked windows are evident in the south wall, with space for a third, but here the wall is reduced to below windowsill level. The plunge pool lies in the western end of the building and measures 3.75m by 2.55m. It is choked with leaf debris and therefore its depth is unknown. There is evidence of a step down in its northeast corner. A few white ceramic tiles remain on the pool walls.



*Photo. 5. The Cold Bath.*

A terrace wall on average 1m high runs around The Cold Bath building to the north and west. The culvert feed to the bath has largely collapsed. A small inlet, 100mm diameter is located in the north wall of The Cold Bath opposite the outflow of the culvert. Hard against the terrace wall to the west side of the building, collapse has revealed a second culvert. This is clearly the outflow from the pool; water can be heard gurgling in it. The outlet of this culvert with a boulder constructed head-wall lies 35m to the south. A dry, shallow culvert/channel lies 4m to the northeast of The Cold Bath.

What was probably the dressing room for the bath lies 15m to the southeast and is now represented by a mound of rubble. Foundations indicate a rectangular building, 5.5m x 3m internally, with a door in the east wall.

Of note are three large Plane trees on the south side of The Cold Bath, the largest of which is over 2m across at the base. One has now snapped off.

The remains of The Cold Bath conform to several drawings of the 1830s. From the north of the bath these show a low stone structure with chimney in its northeast corner. The earliest drawing shows the building thatched, a few years later it has a slate roof.

A small brick building, with a corrugated iron lean-to, lies 16m to the north of The Cold Bath and houses a hydraulic ram. Earthworks revetted with stone mark the inlet to the west of this structure; iron pipes lying around are probably the result of repairs.

### **The Cold Bath to Temple Doors (Map 7)**

From The Cold Bath there is a choice of walks. A walk (08767g) often running in cuttings 3m wide and up to 1m deep runs down the valley side to the Wye for 200m. It is in good condition, although in only occasional use. A second walk (08765g) runs up to the valley side to the north. This path is not mentioned in early accounts, but it is marked on the 1881 OS map. It was possibly constructed in the early 19th century to connect The Cold Bath with Moss Cottage and the 365 Steps. The lower section of this walk is not in use and can be traced in woodland as a 2m wide terrace. Higher up steps constructed for the Wye Valley Walk obscure the walk's original character. The historic Piercefield Walk is disused and runs up a gently sloping tributary valley side to the west. The lower 110m of this walk (08760g) is characterised by 2m wide terraces and cuttings in dense undergrowth. The course of the path (08759g) is then lost for 150m. It then continues as a 5m wide terrace (08758g) - more a track than a path - for 90m. It then runs across a causeway or dam (08756g). The exact nature of this construction is unclear; is not noted in historic accounts. It is 80m long, 6m wide and up to 4m high. It and the surrounding area are scrub-covered and therefore it is not easy to detect and characterise. However, it would appear that it could be a dam, which held back two ponds, a small northern pond and a larger southern pond. The outflow of the latter is via a deep channel - 1m wide and 6m deep - cut through a rocky spur (08757g). This does not seem to have a functional purpose and therefore it is probably ornamental. It may represent Valentine Morris's attempt to provide a cascade in the light of criticism from several writers. It is unclear whether the outflow channel could have been seen from the site of The Temple or the Lover's Leap perched on the cliffs immediately above, but it is highly likely that noise of the running water would have been audible. After crossing the dam/causeway, the walk (08755g) is traceable in dense woodland as a slight terrace at the foot of a cliff. It then turns up a very steep slope (08754g). Here it is lost owing to modern rubbish/spoil having been tipped down the slope from the public road above.

### **Temple Doors to The Giant's Cave** (Maps 6 and 7)

The walk now runs now outside the estate, but re-enters after 40m via Temple Doors (08752g). The Temple or the Octagon Seat (08751g) lay approximately 40m inside Temple Doors. This summerhouse was demolished about 1800 and no trace of it survives. Contemporary descriptions suggest it was perched on the very edge of the cliff, which is the high point in the immediate area. The Piercefield Walk in this level area above the cliffs is not easy to trace. The modern Wye Valley Walk follows the general route of the historic walk, but not its exact course. To the south immediately inside Temple Doors a walk crosses the ha-ha through a gate (08749g). According to the 1881 OS map the Piercefield Walk (08782g) runs close to the top of the cliff edge for almost 430m. In some short sections, such as close to the Lover's Leap linear hollows up to 2m wide and 0.2m deep mark the course of the walk, but elsewhere it is lost. Lover's Leap (08781g) lies 175m southeast of Temple Doors and is marked by low iron railings on the edge of the cliff. The railings have spear points and are of a type not seen elsewhere on the estate; they may be 19th century rather than 18th century. A linear curving hollow marks the line of the walk and a low earthwork immediately on the southwest side of the walk may mark the location of a seat, but this is very overgrown. The Chinese Seat or The Hill (08780g) lies 225m south of the Lover's Leap. Here the walk curves out towards a semi-circular promontory over vertical cliffs. It would seem that this viewing platform has been artificially levelled, but there are no other surviving constructed elements. Thirty metres south of The Chinese Seat the walk passes through a 19th century iron estate-style gate (08779g), probably recently relocated from elsewhere on the estate, and after a further few metres starts to descend diagonally down the craggy valley side. The Wye Valley Walk and the historic walk diverge at this point. The Piercefield Walk (08777g) now runs on a 2.5m wide rock-cut terrace, sometimes revetted with dry-stone walling, for 175m down to the northern entrance of The Giant's Cave. Although disused and overgrown the walk here is in good condition and passable. Approximately 40m north of the Cave the path terrace widens out into a viewing platform (08778g), probably the one recorded by Charles Heath as Seat Under a Rock. At the point of departure noted above, the Wye Valley Walk continues along the cliff top for a further 230m before descending to the Piercefield Walk via a series of zig-zags (08783g). This section was originally laid out between 1881 and 1901, according to OS maps.

## OTHER SITES AND MONUMENTS

### **The Ha-Ha** (Maps 2-7)

Piercefield ha-ha is an important landscape component, separating the formal parkland from the woodland on the steep Wye valley. It must have been established soon after 1752, but documentary sources are silent. It is shown on Coxe's 1801 map. It runs for 1.5km from the south estate wall up to the gardens around the house, and then for 1.2km from the gardens around the house to the north estate wall. It is a reverse ha-ha, designed to give walkers an uninterrupted view from the woodland of the Piercefield Walk into parkland, rather than out from parkland as is the norm. It consists of a ditch up to 4m wide and 1.5m deep (although generally now much slighter) on the park side and a bank 3m-4m wide and up to 1m high on the woodland side. A stonewall originally revetted the ditch/bank edge facing into the park. Little now survives of this apart from a few well-preserved sections at ST53219559 where the ha-ha turns a right angle. An iron bar and strap 19th century estate fence runs along the crest of the bank. This is in various states of repair, generally poor. Several mature chestnut trees are located on the southern section of the ha-ha. There are several gates in the ha-ha. These take the same form: a causeway across the ditch and a gate in the fence. These gates and individual sections of the ha-ha have been described separately in the GIS database. At the gardens around the house this boundary changes character and becomes normal ha-ha - giving uninterrupted views over the parkland from the house and gardens.

### **From Piercefield up to the Wyndcliff** (part of Map 7)

Most tourists included a trip to the high viewing point on the top of the Wyndcliff, from where a wide panorama was obtained, either before or after completing the Piercefield Walk. This was not within the estate boundary, and the 18th century route up to the Wyndcliff is not known for certain. It may have been via a drive, which now branches from the present main road 150m to the west of Temple Doors. However, this drive may not have been constructed until after the Wye Valley turnpike of 1828-9 (the route followed by the modern main road). In 1828 the 365 steps (07161g) were constructed from Moss Cottage, a cottage ornee (07129g), alongside the turnpike up to a viewing platform known as the Eagle's Nest (08838g). The cottage has gone, but the steps and the viewing platform have been restored. It seems likely that the walk (08765g) branching to the north of The Cold Bath was constructed at this time in order to link the 365 steps with the Piercefield Walk.

### **The walk from the river to the house and the riverside walk** (Maps 6 and 8)

In 1770, William Gilpin arrived by boat and climbed up to the house by a zig-zag path. Dodsley described the same path in 1788 as out of repair, dangerous and difficult. A few years earlier, in 1784, George Cumberland found 'an old walk, now much in ruins, and at the end of whose clue are some steps of Brick-work that are still visible at the edges of the meadow ... the steps and edges of the old walk, which has in one place fallen into the river, and become rather dangerous to pass.' ... 'we begin to ascend, but so steep is the passage between a chasm in the rocks, that it was necessary to continue the walk zig-zag and like a staircase with many landings ... about half way up where there is a cave and a bench.' It was apparently still passable in 1801 when mentioned by Coxe.

A possible landing place for boats (Map 6 08771g) is located at the south end of Martridge Meadow. It consists of a few courses of stone forming a rectangular platform protruding a few metres into wet silts several metres from the present channel of the Wye, possibly Cumberland's brick-work on the edge of a meadow. From here a walk on a terrace with dry-stone revetments runs diagonally up the steep valley side for several metres, then on a more level course, but still rising.



After 80m -90m this walk ends at the mouth of a cave (Cumberland's Cave with bench?). Past the cave are cliffs with evidence of landslips. It is uncertain if the walk continues, but it seems likely that this is the course of the walk described by Gilpin *et al.* An attempt was made to trace the upper section of the walk. This was unsuccessful, with the only a short section of possible path leading down from the viewing platform (Map 5 08794g) identified as a possible course.

Coxe mentions a beautiful walk two miles in length skirting the meadow at the foot of the cliffs and then leading to the house up by the zig-zag path of steps cut into the rock. A two-mile path must run downstream from the house, skirting the bottom of the cliffs and the edge of the river. This is now impassable. It is possible that the walk (Map 2 08748g) running northward diagonally up the valley side from the site of the Roman bridge (01160g) formed an element of this walk. From the site of the Roman bridge to the possible landing place is 2.2 miles. This walk is traceable as a rock-cut terrace at the extreme end of the peninsula of Pierce Wood immediately above the tidal cliffs of the Wye. At the point at the end of the peninsula is a good viewing platform (Map 8 08828g) from which a view of the ruined chapel on the opposite shore is obtained. The walk (08827g) leads to the southwest (upstream) for 150m before it is lost in the active and very steep rocky slopes. To the south (downstream) there is no evidence of a walk, although the top edge of a boundary bank (08720g) provides an obvious route. There are three platforms (08330g, 08331g and 08332g) some 5m upslope of this bank, which may be viewing platforms. Certainly each is positioned opposite high points of the cliffs on the opposite bank. Alternatively, they could be platforms caused by root plates of fallen trees, but their form does not seem correct for this.

#### **The Roman road and the Roman Bridge (Map 2)**

The site of the Roman bridge has been the subject of several archaeological investigations; it is not proposed to discuss them here. On the Piercefield side a 6m wide road terrace (08713g) leads southwards diagonally up the valley side for 1 km. The Piercefield estate boundary wall overlies this terrace. This terrace is certainly a Roman road, and it is of high enough quality to be considered as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It has been suggested that a second road ran up a narrow sub-valley directly to the northwest of the site of the Bridge, roughly following the line of the parish boundary. While the topography of the upper part of this valley is suitable for a road, the lower section is rocky with low cliffs and therefore not a suitable route. A picturesque walk (08748g) runs down to the site of the bridge from the north.

#### **Grove House (Not shown in detailed maps)**

Two record numbers have been allocated to Grove House (01558g and 01559g). The former refers to two small rectangular buildings shown on the 1881 OS map, the second to what seems to be a circular structure with flanking buildings 35m to the south. Little is known about the site, but it is recorded as having been built by George Smith for his daughter, Elizabeth. It is described by J A Bradney in his *History of Monmouthshire* (1929, Vol. IV, 39-40) as 'a tower now nearly a ruin, of whose history no record remains. Parts of it are very ancient, especially the doorway. Around are signs of buildings. From under the door there runs for about 20yds an underground passage along which a man could crawl. It stands on the Roman road about a mile from Crossway Green, and is marked on plan A as Grove House' A photograph in Chepstow Museum shows the tower during 'excavations' in the 1920s.

The two rectangular buildings survive as low stone foundations. Of the tower there is no trace. The general area shows evidence of recent earth moving and rubbish dumping, there is a new track, and boundaries have changed.

**The mill** (Map 3)

The 1881 OS map depicts a building (08716g), apparently roofless. A track leading down to it is also shown. The Coxe map shows the track but not the building. The mill is stone-built with the gable walls and one sidewall standing to almost their full height. It lies in scrubby woodland. A leat (08717g) runs down the valley to the mill. This is now dry. It is difficult to assess how this leat functioned, but there may have been a dam and small pond 25m to the northwest of the mill. The disused but well constructed track (08718g) runs down the north side of the valley to the mill.

**Terrace below the house** (Map 5)

A sunken path or track (08802g) flanked by 'rockery' banks runs down from the house towards the terrace. Passing through the terrace by an iron gate (08801g), of which little survives, the track runs diagonally down a steep slope to the northeast to meet the main Piercefield Walk. The terrace (08800g) is defined by spiked iron railings set in dressed stone. It is just 20m long. The overall character of the path flanked by rockery banks and the railings suggest a mid to late 19th century date.

**The dam and hydraulic ram** (Map 5)

The dam and retaining walls are Listed Grade II. The dam (08791g) is approximately 30m long and 4m wide across the top. It is a stone-faced, earth-built structure. A domed recess in the outer face housed a hydraulic ram (08792g). An area of the gently sloping valley side lying between the dam and the Piercefield Walk to the north seems to have been levelled. The purpose of this is unknown and the date of the dam is unknown, but Edward Knight records a cascade somewhere in this location.

**Piercefield camp** (Maps 4 and 8)

A description of this large Iron Age hillfort (00772g) is outside the scope of this project. Of note, however, is the massive bank and ditch (08834g) lying to the east of the camp. This has not been previously recorded. It forms a continuation of the main defence, effectively cutting off the whole of the peninsula. It should be included in the scheduled area of the hillfort.

## **SUMMARY**

Three main periods of walk can be identified, followed by a period of decay and disuse (Map 9). These are summarised below:

### **Period I. The 1750s**

Valentine Morris intended his walks to be tackled north to south. Surviving stretches of walk are lightly engineered, with a low kerb/revetment on the down-slope side and quite narrow, perhaps indicating that they were walked single file. They were more sinuous than the later walks. Major viewpoints/structures were on short spur paths, providing a sense of surprise, arrival and achievement. The overall length from The Cold Bath to The Alcove was 3.7km. There were many more seats than later on. A long riverside walk and a walk up to the house from the river were constructed but soon fell into disuse. There seems to have been no substantial planting apart from shrubs around The Grotto and Cold Bath.

### **Period II. The 1790s**

Wood reopens the walks and changes the preferred direction to south to north. Many of the loops and spur paths are abandoned and the main viewing points/structures are brought into the main walk circuit. The walk length in this period from The Cold Bath to The Alcove was 3.2 km. Some reengineering of the approaches to structures was necessary in order to maintain an element of surprise. The walks were also more heavily engineered, with rock-cut sections and perhaps rolled gravel surfaces. They were wider, perhaps intended to be walked side-by-side. It was, perhaps, in this period that the walk down to the river from The Grotto was opened. It is also, perhaps, the period when specimen trees were planted: planes at The Cold Bath, chestnuts on the ha-ha, beeches in the northern section of the walk and yews at selected locations.

### **Period III. The Early 19th century**

The walks from Period II were maintained. The 365 steps up to the Wyndcliff was constructed and a possibly linking path from The Cold Bath to the steps. An alternative route of the walk above The Giant's Cave may have been added in this period.

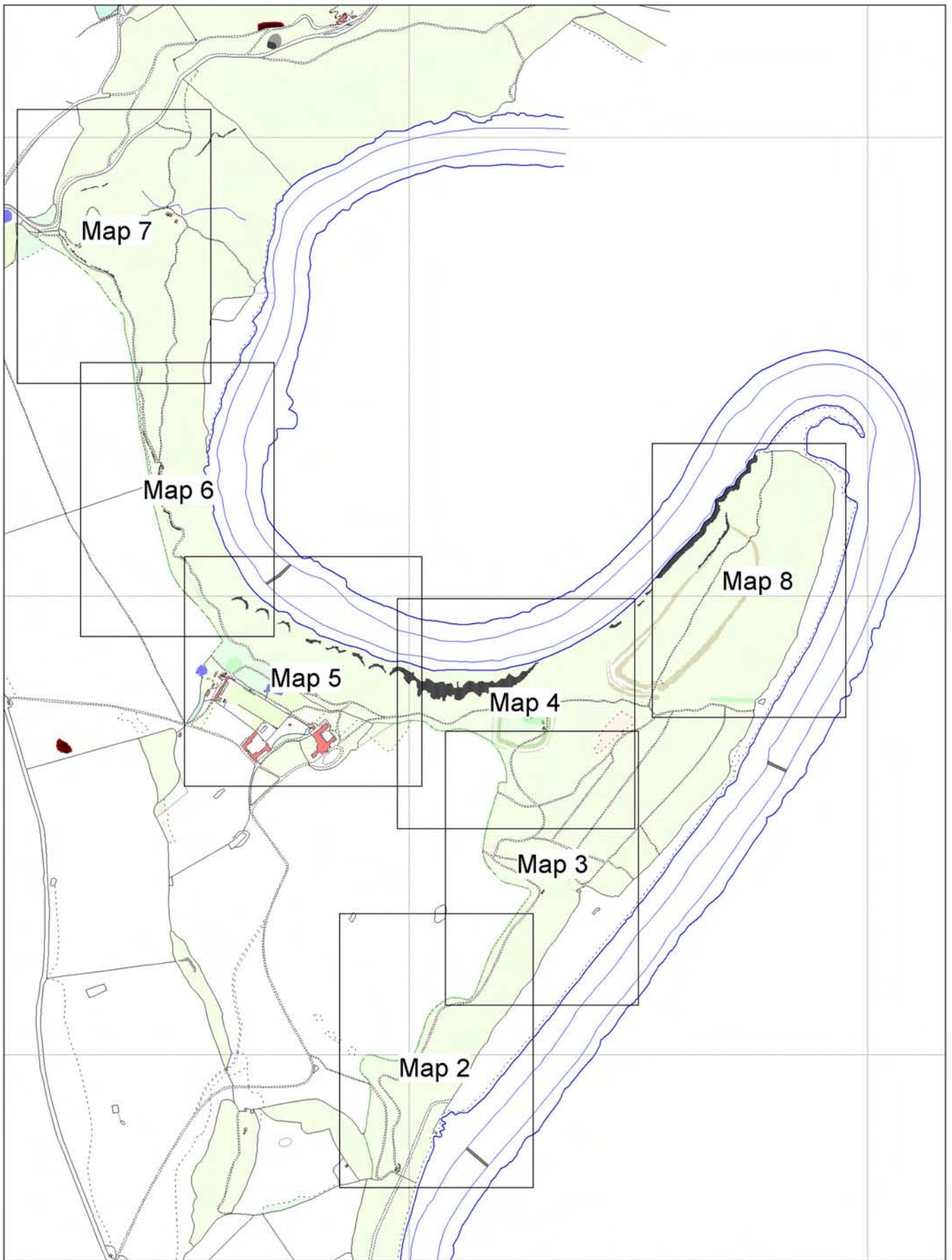
### **Period IV. The mid 19th century to the present**

The walks were closed c. 1850. The Wye Valley Walk now follows the general course of the 1790s walk, although tree growth and regeneration have now obscured most of the views, robbing the modern visitor of the charm, vistas and element of surprise enjoyed by earlier generations of tourist.

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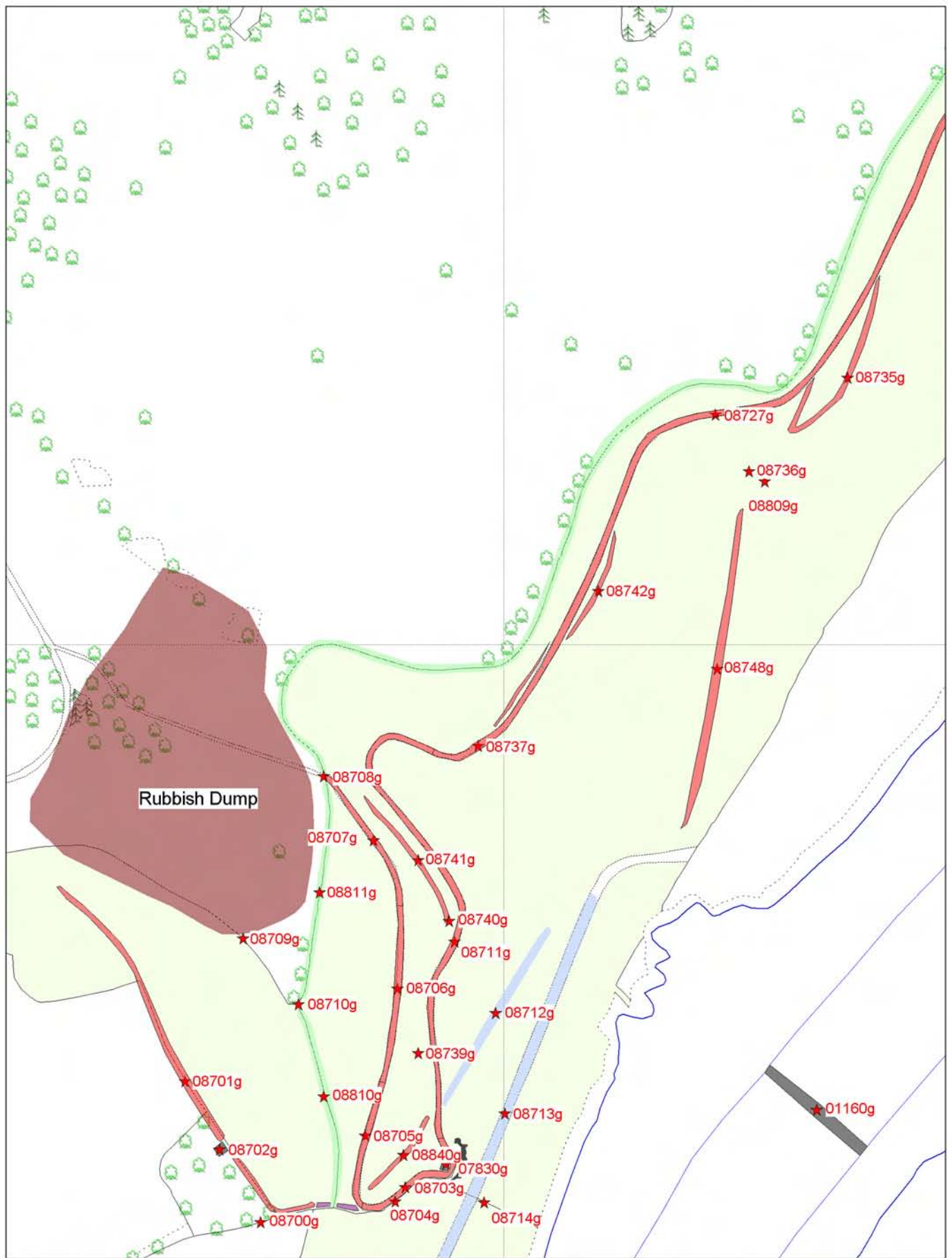




**THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: LOCATION MAP**

Survey by K Murphy and H Wilson of Cambria Archaeology, October 2004 - March 2005

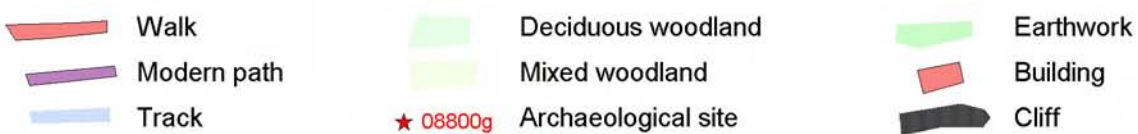
North to top



## THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: THE ALCOVE AND WALK TO NORTH

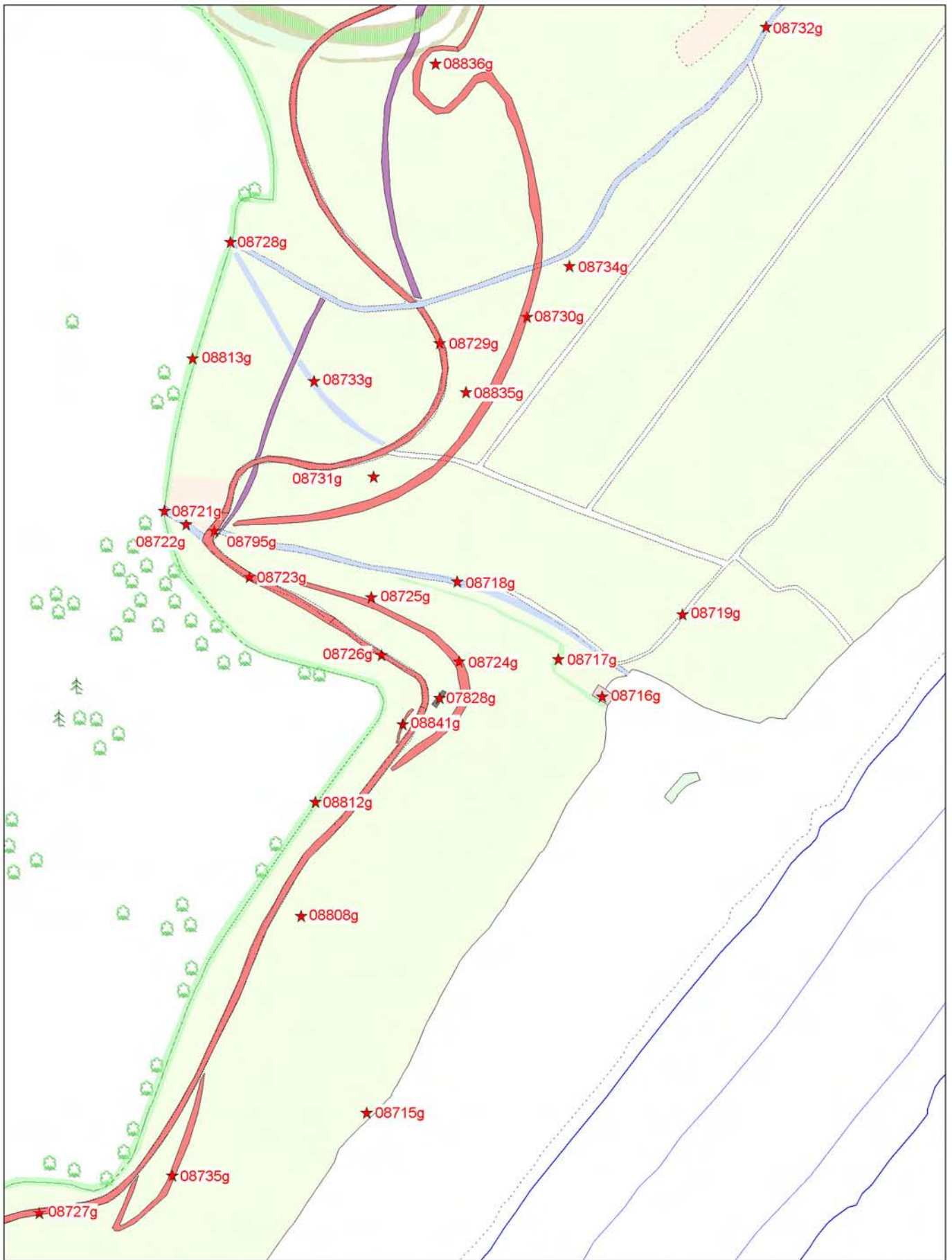
Survey by K Murphy and H Wilson of Cambria Archaeology, October 2004 - March 2005

Scale 1:2500 North to top



Map 2














**THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: THE PLATFORM AND ENVIRONS**

Survey by K Murphy and H Wilson of Cambria Archaeology, October 2004 - March 2005

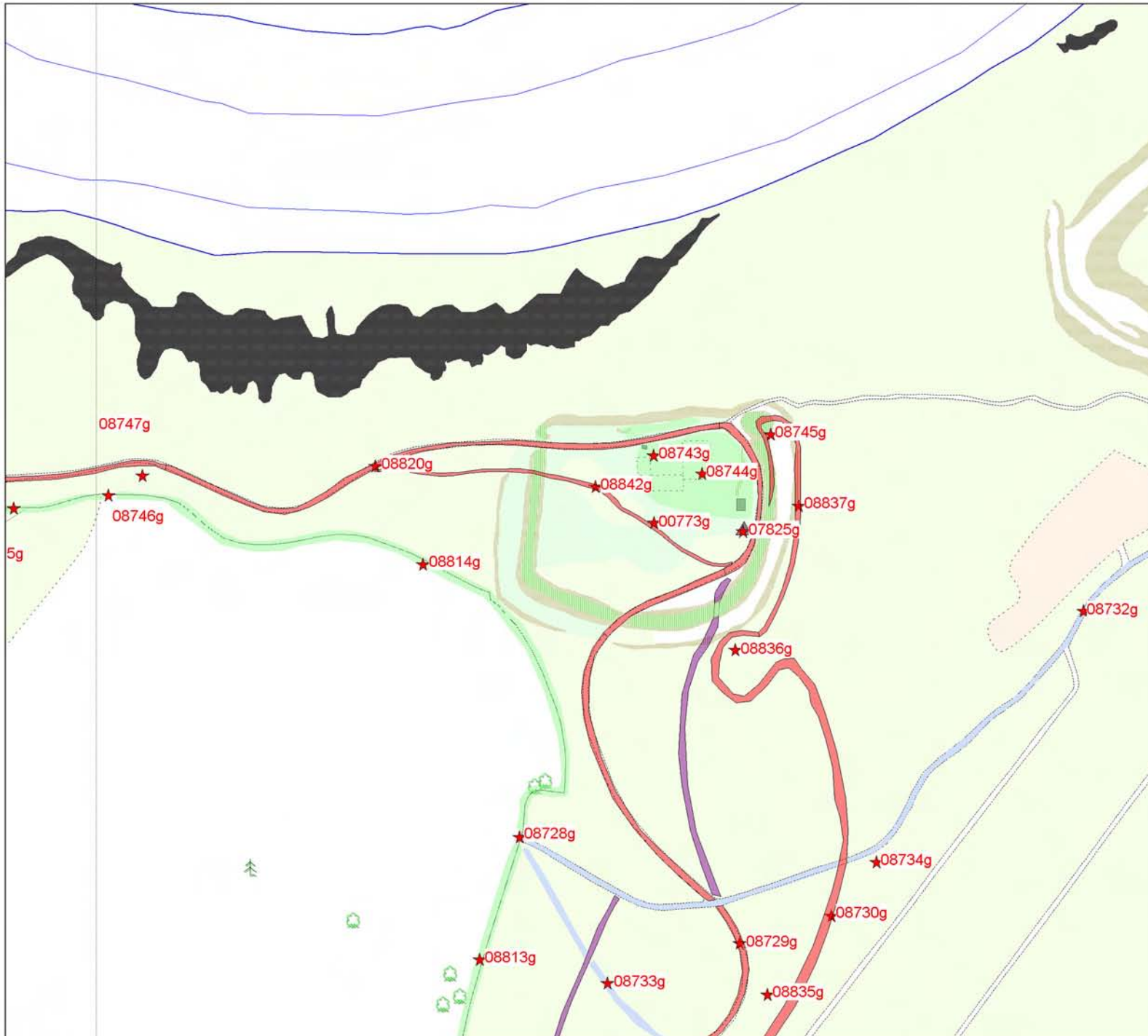
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- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  Walk        |  Deciduous woodland         |  Earthwork |
|  Modern path |  Mixed woodland             |  Building  |
|  Track       |  08800g Archaeological site |  Cliff     |

# THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: THE GROTTO AND ENVIRONS

Survey by K Murphy and H Wilson  
of Cambria Archaeology  
October 2004 - March 2005

Scale 1:2500 North to top



-  Earthwork
-  Building
-  Cliff
-  Walk
-  Modern path
-  Track
-  Deciduous woodland
-  Mixed woodland
-  08800g Archaeological site



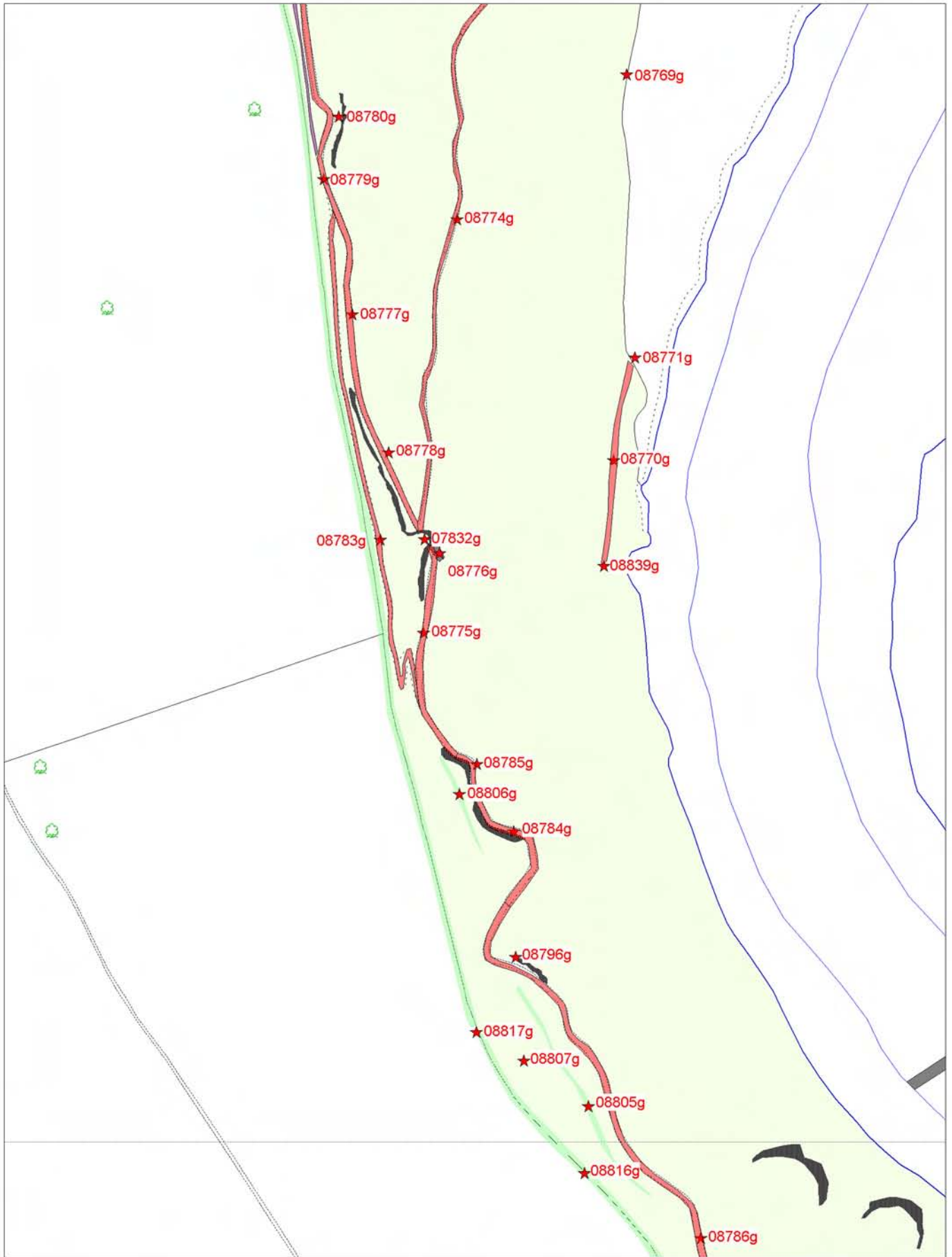
THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY:  
 PIERCEFIELD HOUSE

Survey by K Murphy and H Wilson  
 of Cambria Archaeology  
 October 2004 - March 2005

Scale 1:2500 North to top












-  Earthwork
-  Building
-  Cliff
-  Walk
-  Modern path
-  Track
-  Deciduous woodland
-  Mixed woodland
-  08800g Archaeological site

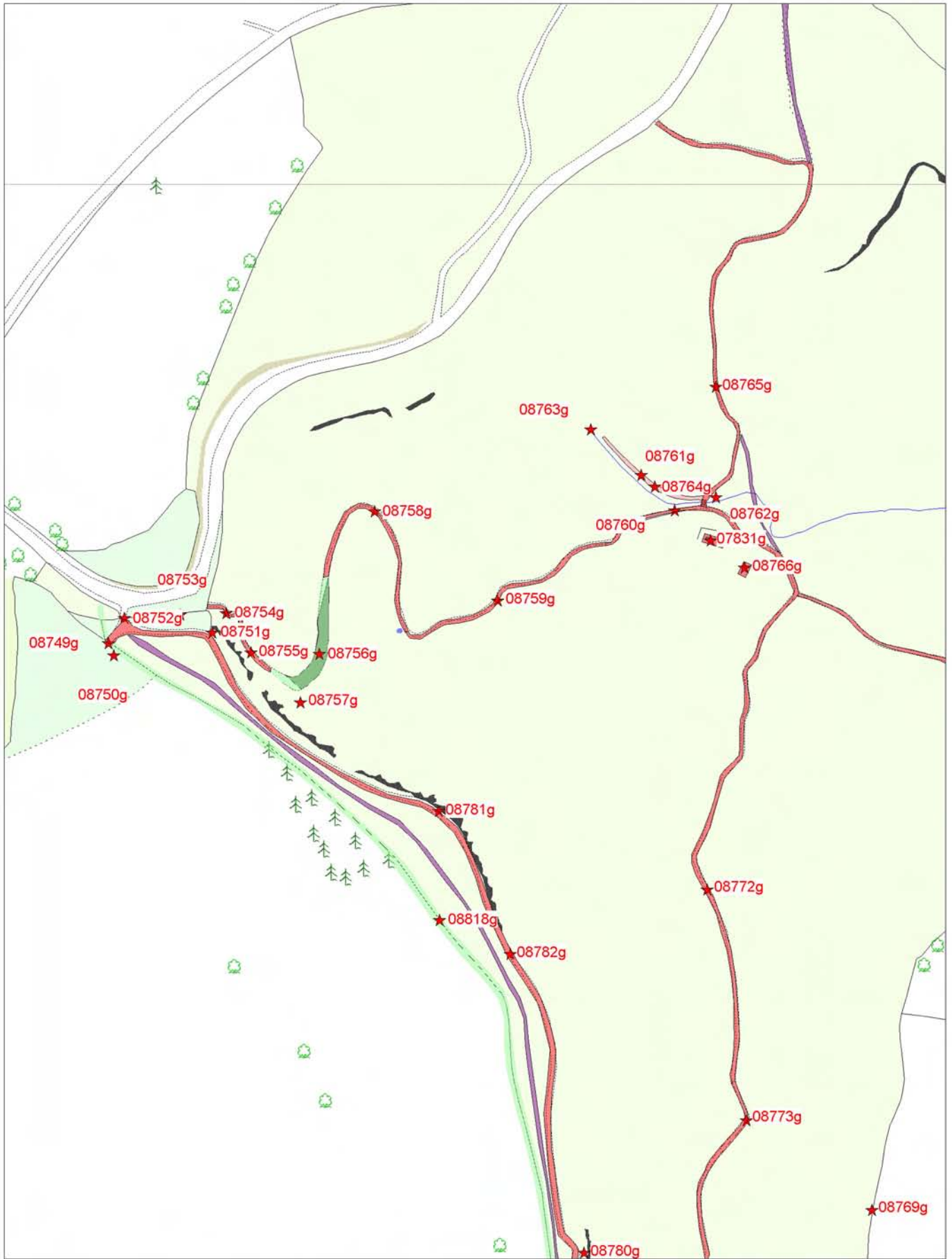


**THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: THE GIANT'S CAVE AND ENVIRONS**

Survey by K Murphy and H Wilson of Cambria Archaeology, October 2004 - March 2005

Scale 1:2500 North to top










- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  Walk        |  Deciduous woodland          |  Earthwork |
|  Modern path |  Mixed woodland              |  Building  |
|  Track       |  *08800g Archaeological site |  Cliff     |



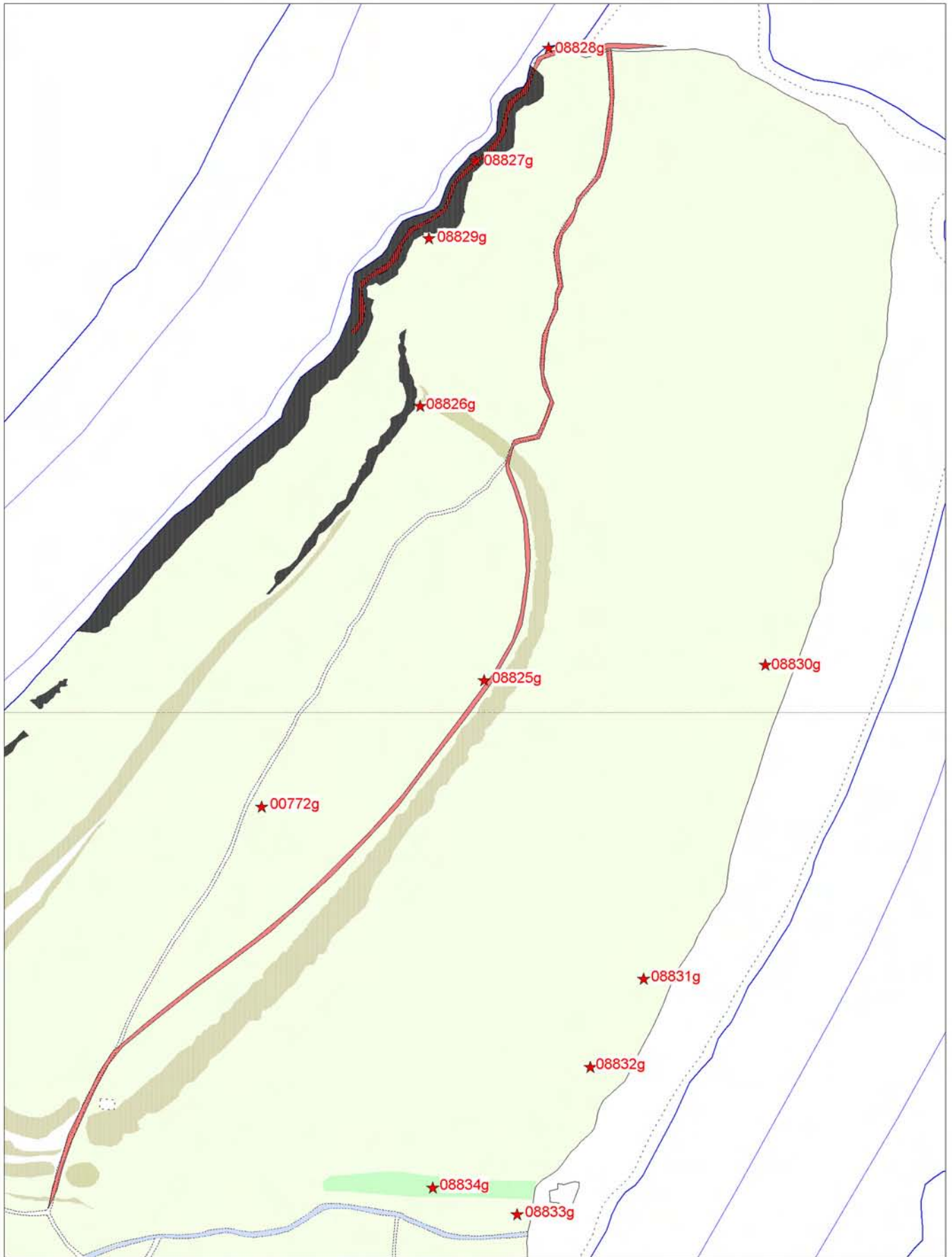
**THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: THE COLD BATH AND ENVIRONS**

Survey by K Murphy and H Wilson of Cambria Archaeology, October 2004 - March 2005

Scale 1:2500 North to top

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  Walk        |  Deciduous woodland         |  Earthwork |
|  Modern path |  Mixed woodland             |  Building |
|  Track       |  08800g Archaeological site |  Cliff     |












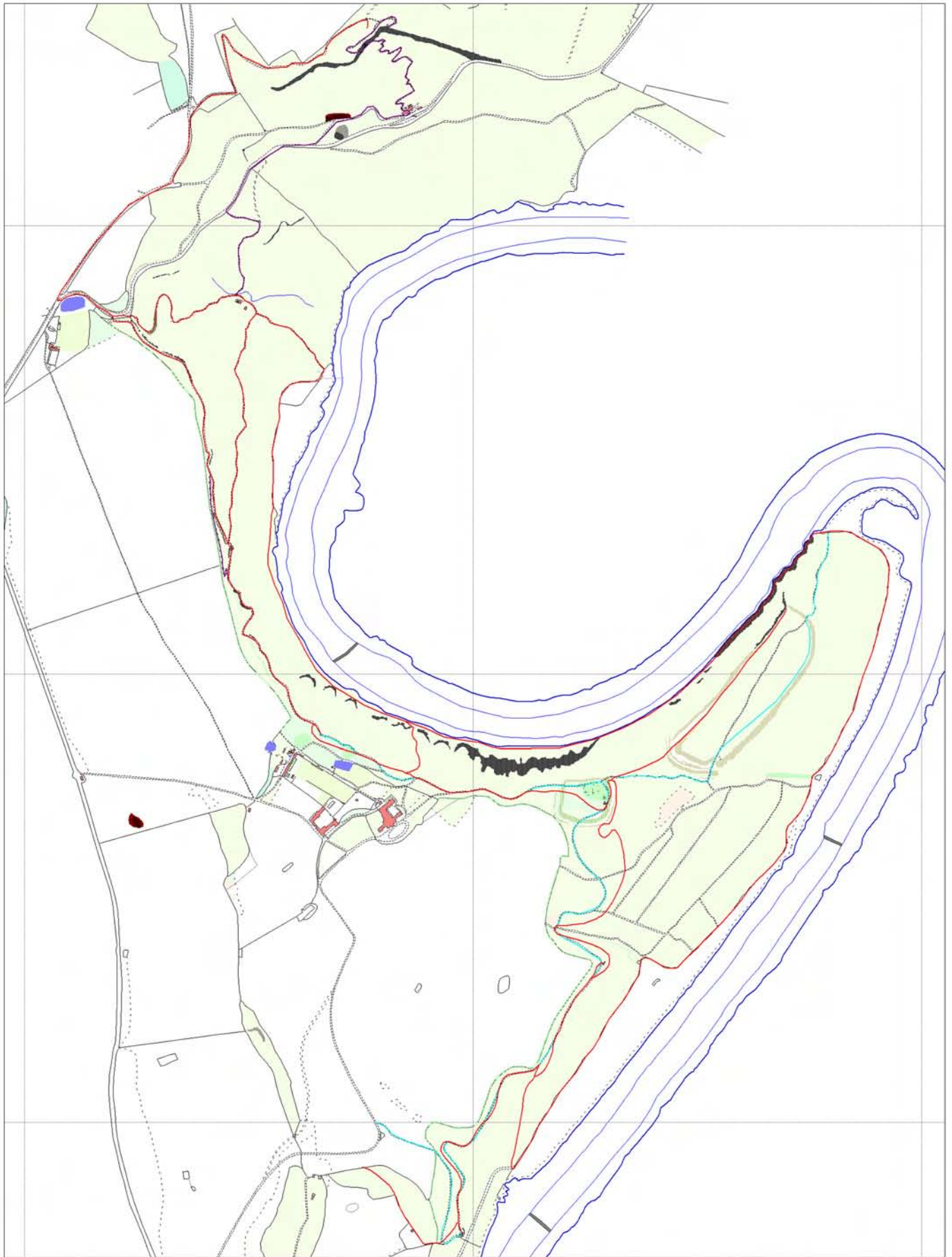


**THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: PIERCEFIELD CAMP AND ENVIRONS**

Survey by K Murphy and H Wilson of Cambria Archaeology, October 2004 - March 2005

Scale 1:2500 North to top

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  Walk        |  Deciduous woodland         |  Earthwork |
|  Modern path |  Mixed woodland             |  Building  |
|  Track       |  08800g Archaeological site |  Cliff     |

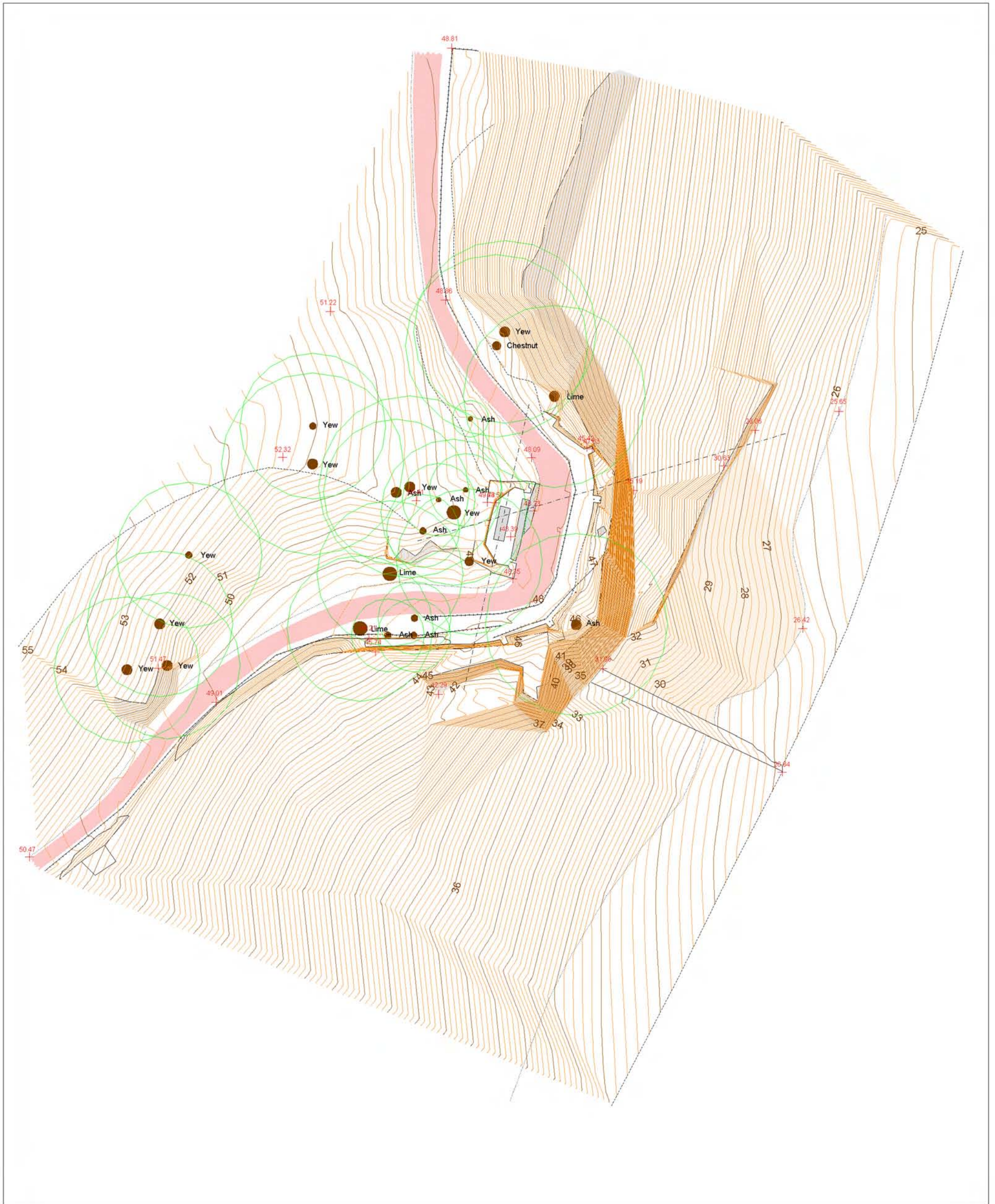


### THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY: WALK PHASES

Survey by K Murphy and H Wilson of Cambria Archaeology, October 2004 - March 2005 North to top

Red = Phase One, Blue = Phase Two, Purple = Phase Three. All phases include conjectured lines as well as routes which have physical and documentary evidence.





PIERCEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

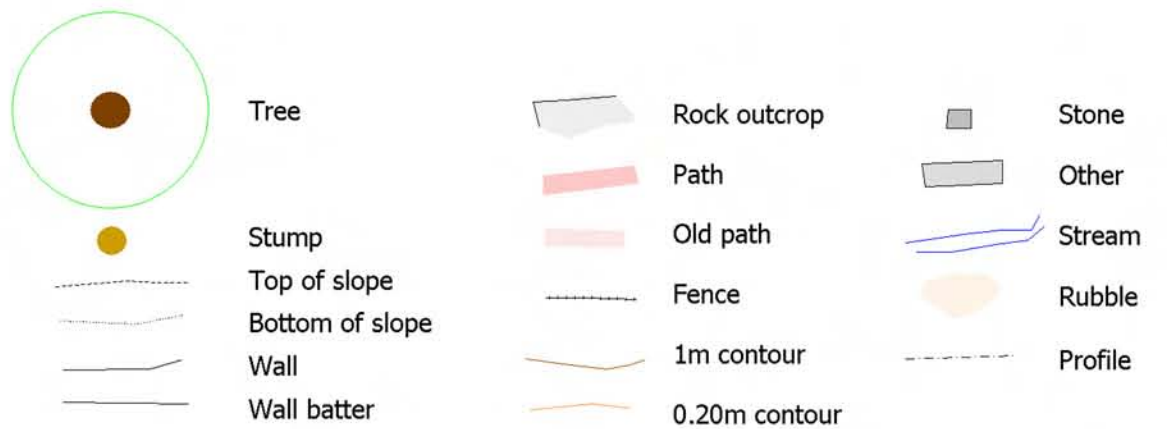
**THE ALCOVE (Survey Map 1)**

Survey by: K Murphy and H Wilson of CAMBRIA ARCHAEOGY  
January - February 2005

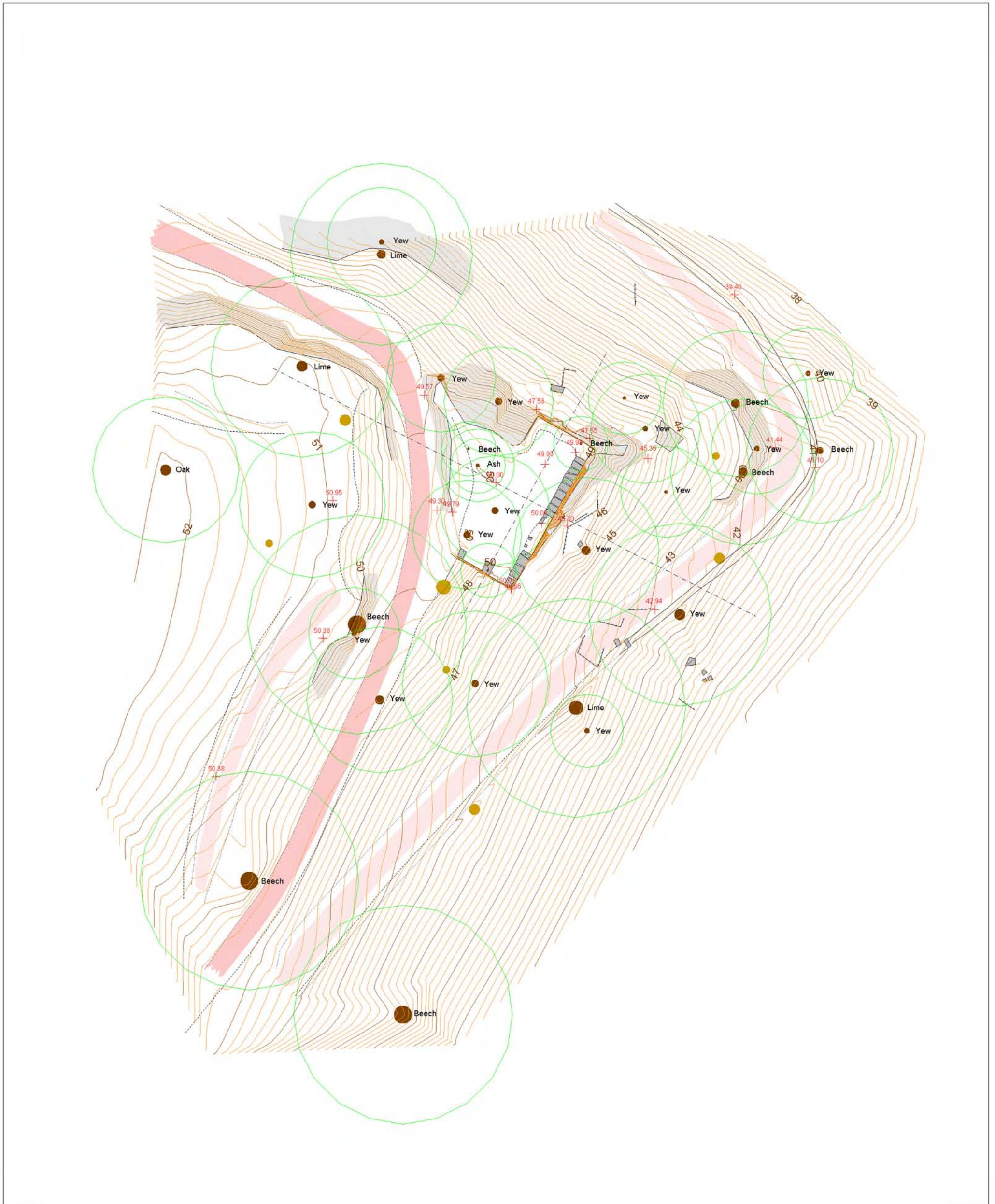
Scale 1:200

All heights based on an arbitrary 50m datum

North to top of map







PIERCEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

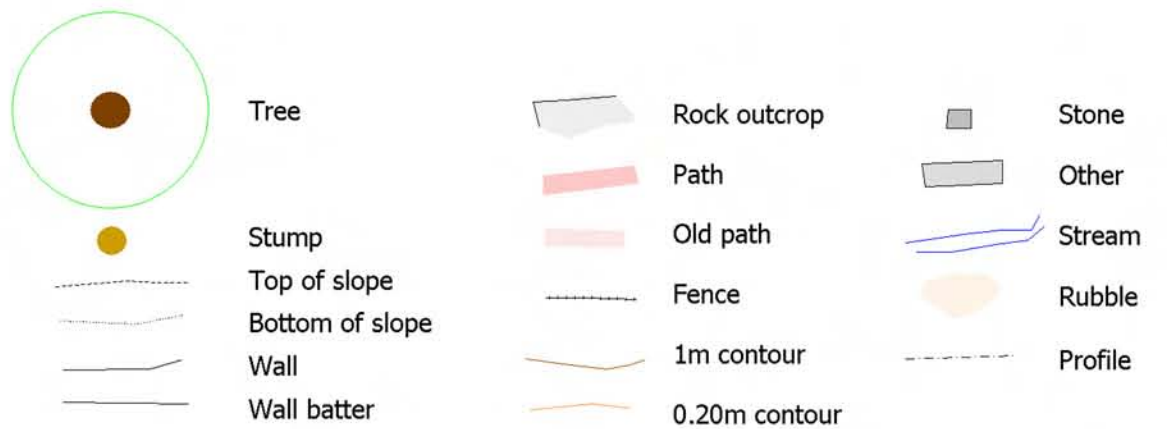
**THE PLATFORM (Survey Map 2)**

Survey by: K Murphy and H Wilson of CAMBRIA ARCHAEOGY  
January - February 2005

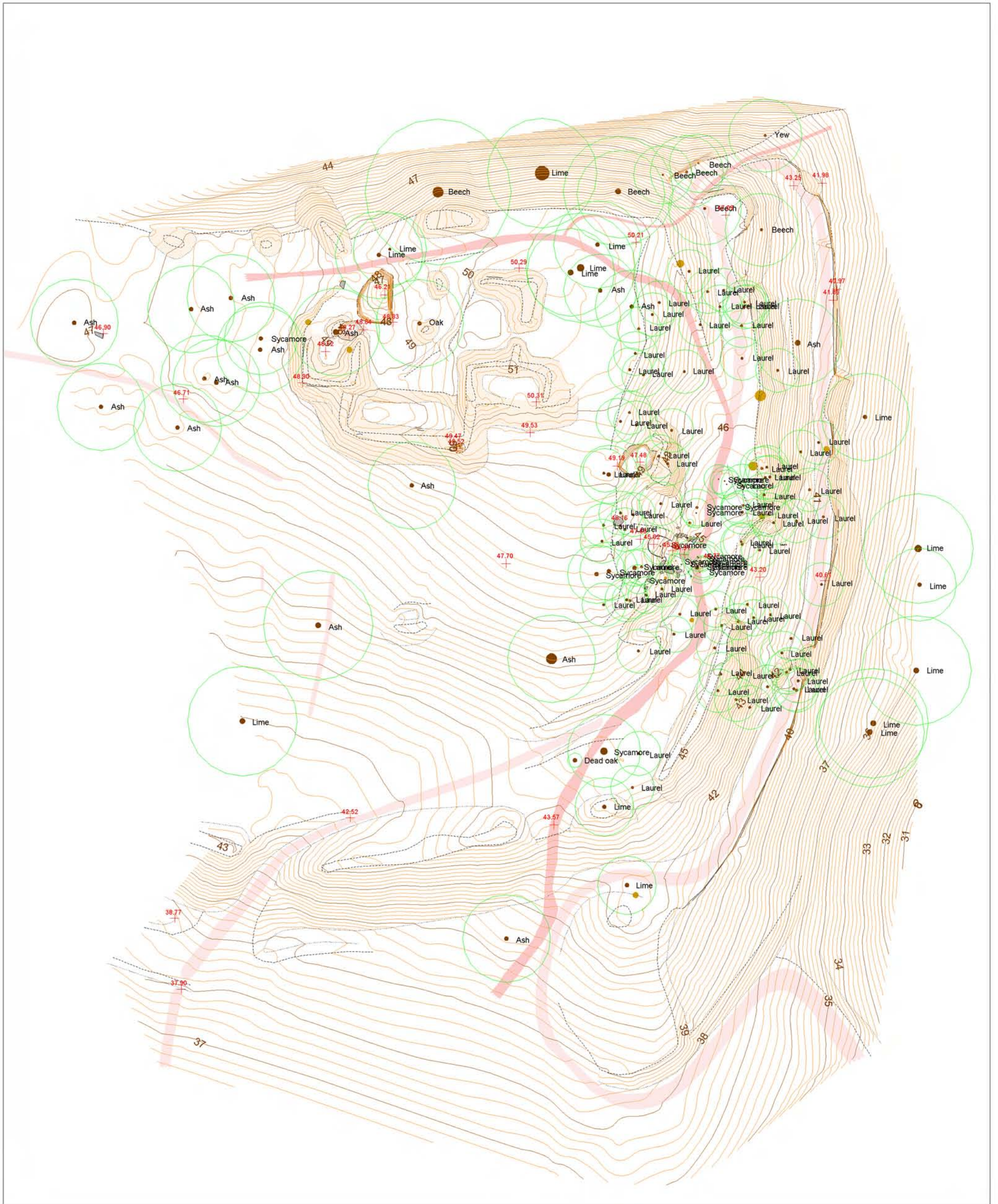
Scale 1:200

All heights based on an arbitrary 50m datum

North to top of map







PIERCEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

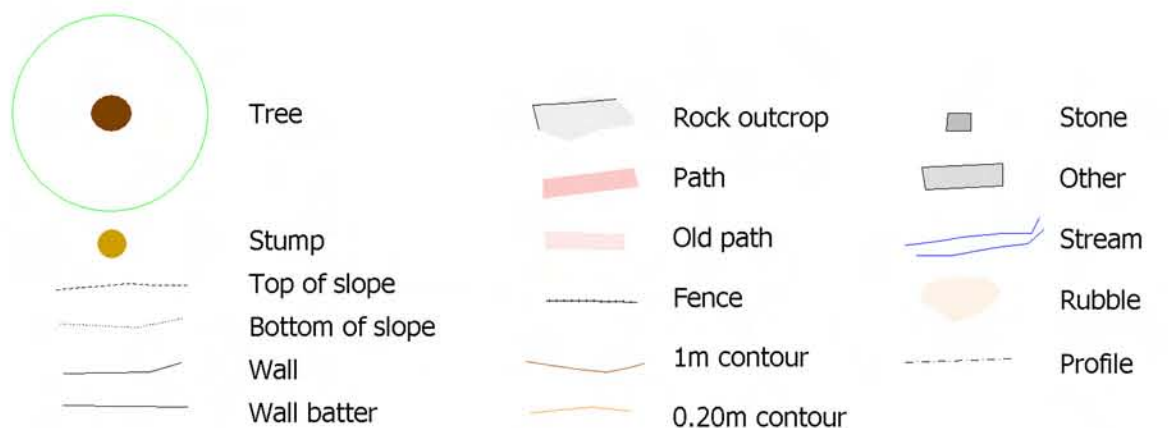
**THE GROTTA AND ENVIRONS (Survey Map 3)**

Survey by: K Murphy and H Wilson of CAMBRIA ARCHAEOGY  
January - February 2005

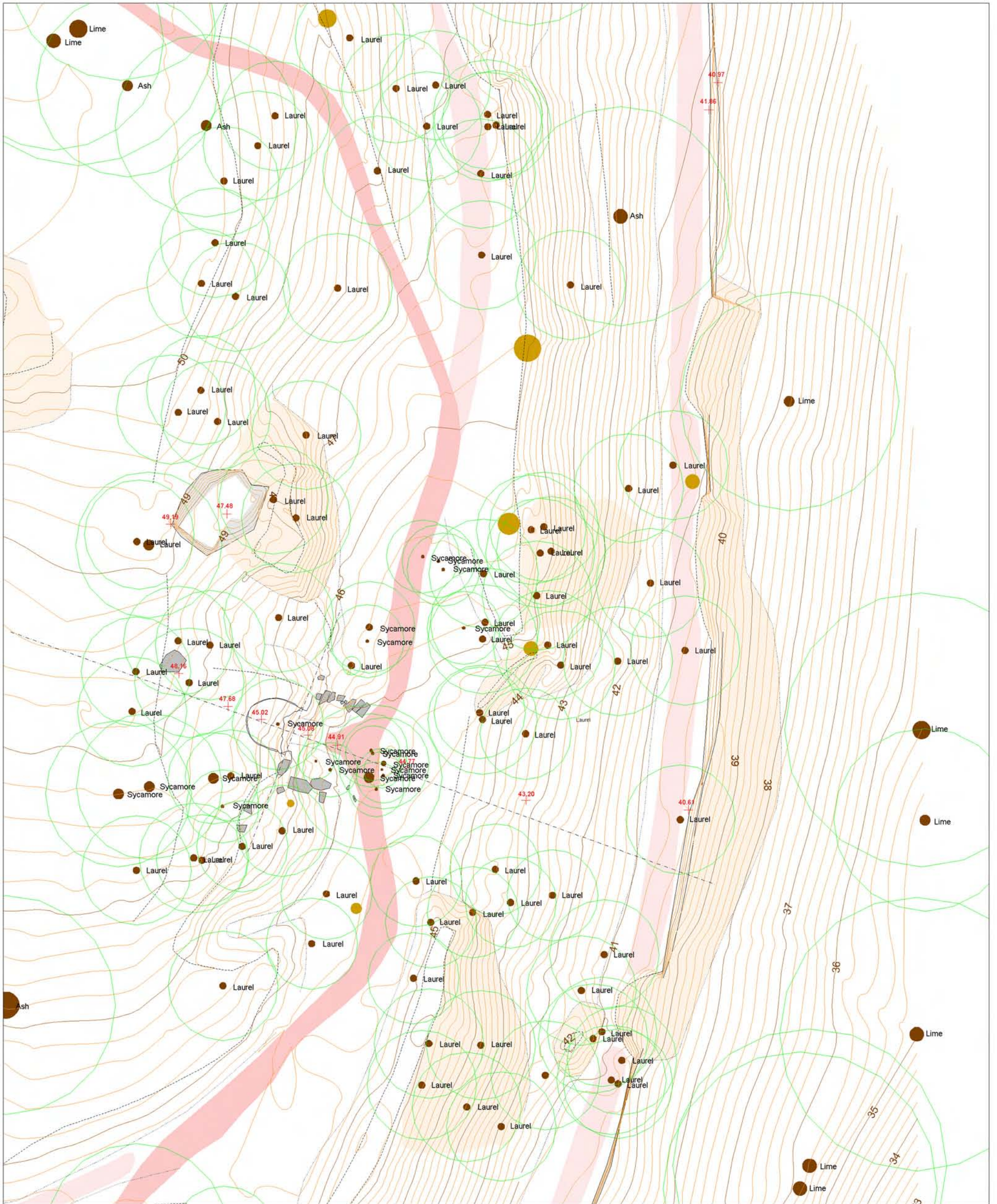
Scale 1:500

All heights based on an arbitrary 50m datum

North to top of map







PIERCEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

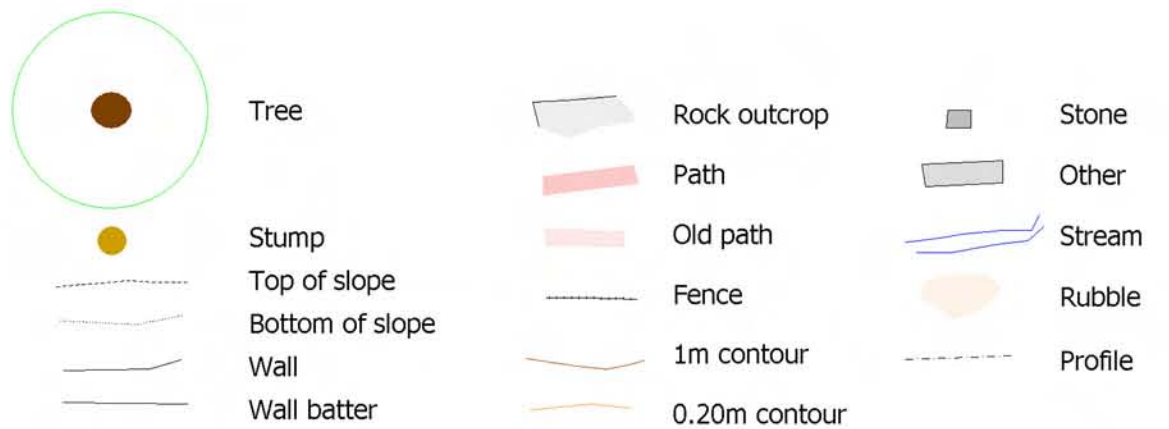
**THE GROTTA (Survey Map 4)**

Survey by: K Murphy and H Wilson of CAMBRIA ARCHAEOGY  
January - February 2005

Scale 1:200

All heights based on an arbitrary 50m datum

North to top of map







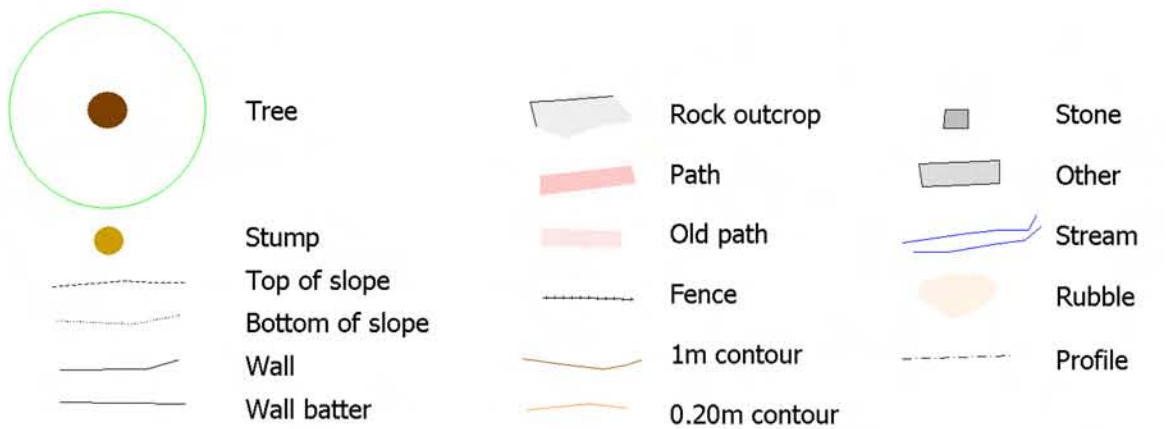
**PIERCEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**  
**THE DRUID'S TEMPLE (Survey Map 5)**

Survey by: K Murphy and H Wilson of CAMBRIA ARCHAEOGY  
 January - February 2005

Scale 1:200

All heights based on an arbitrary 50m datum

North to top of map







PIERCEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

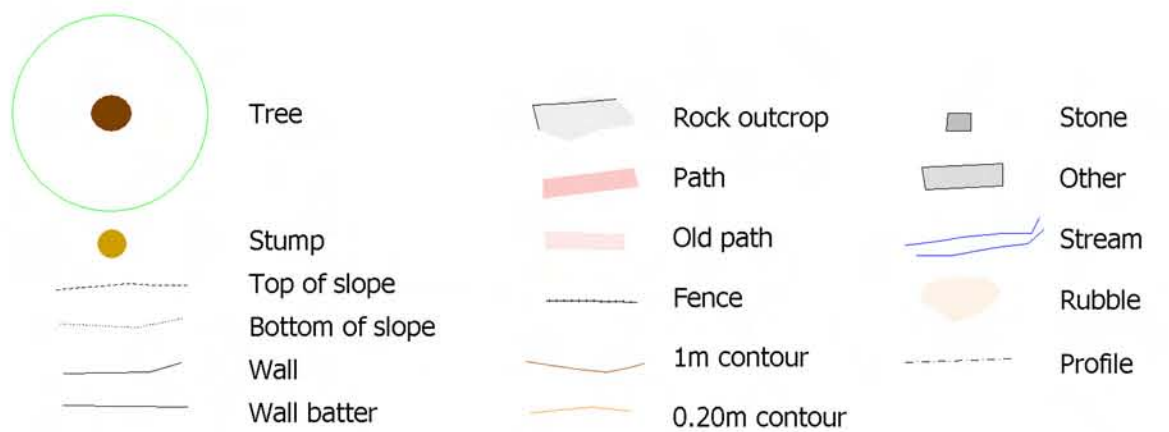
**THE GIANT'S CAVE (Survey Map 6)**

Survey by: K Murphy and H Wilson of CAMBRIA ARCHAEOGY  
January - February 2005

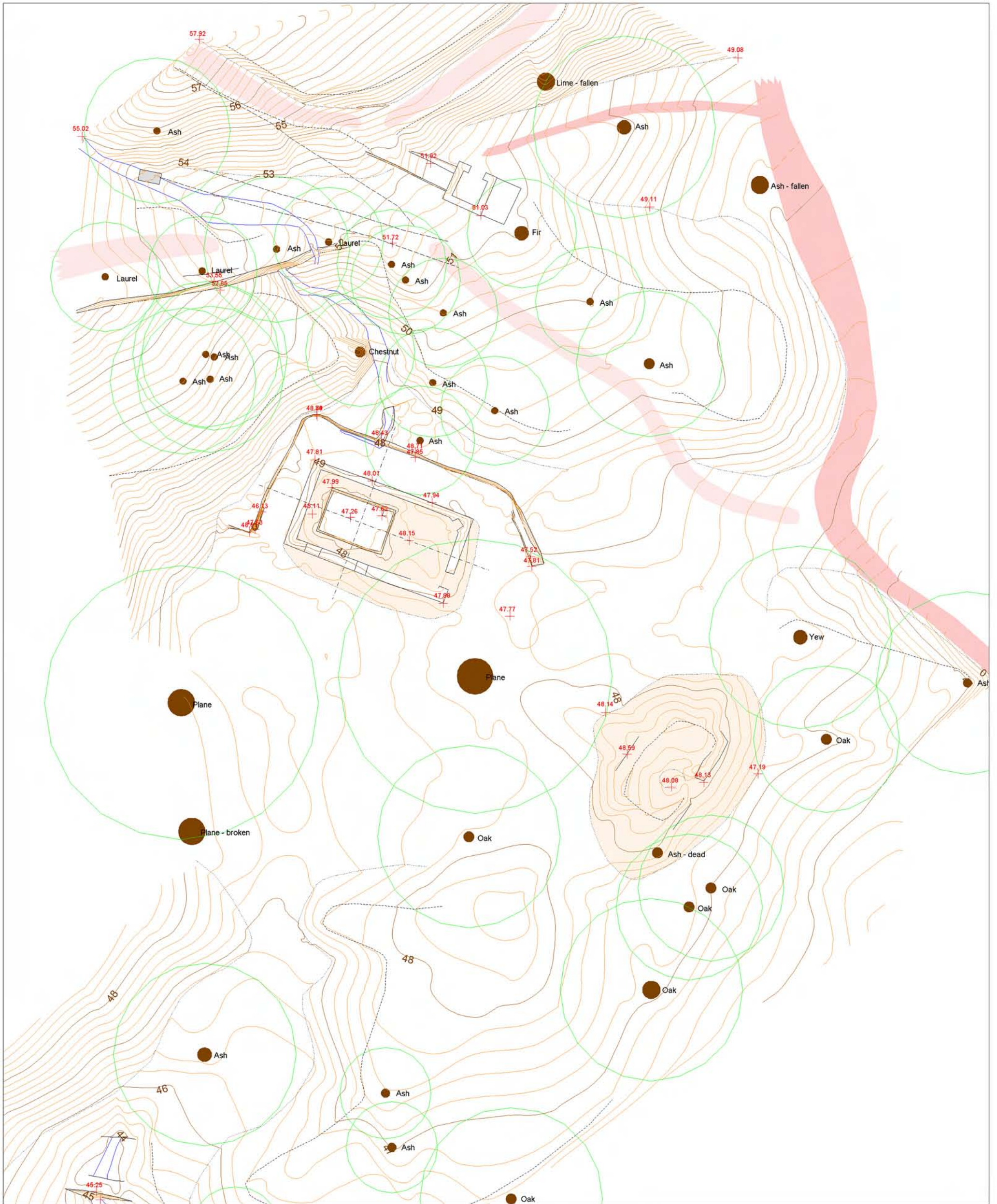
Scale 1:200

All heights based on an arbitrary 50m datum

North to top of map







PIERCEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

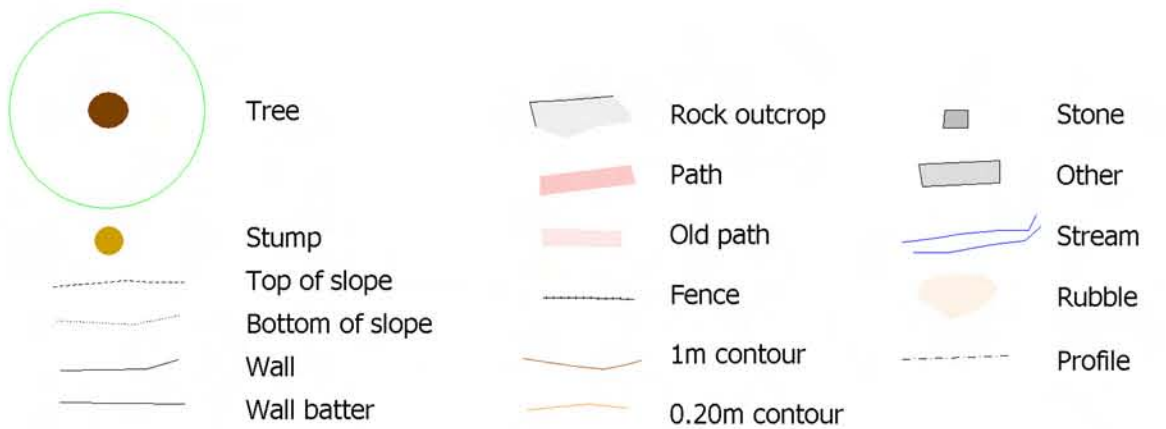
**THE COLD BATH (Survey Map 7)**

Survey by: K Murphy and H Wilson of CAMBRIA ARCHAEOGY  
January - February 2005

Scale 1:200

All heights based on an arbitrary 50m datum

North to top of map





# The Alcove, Piercefield

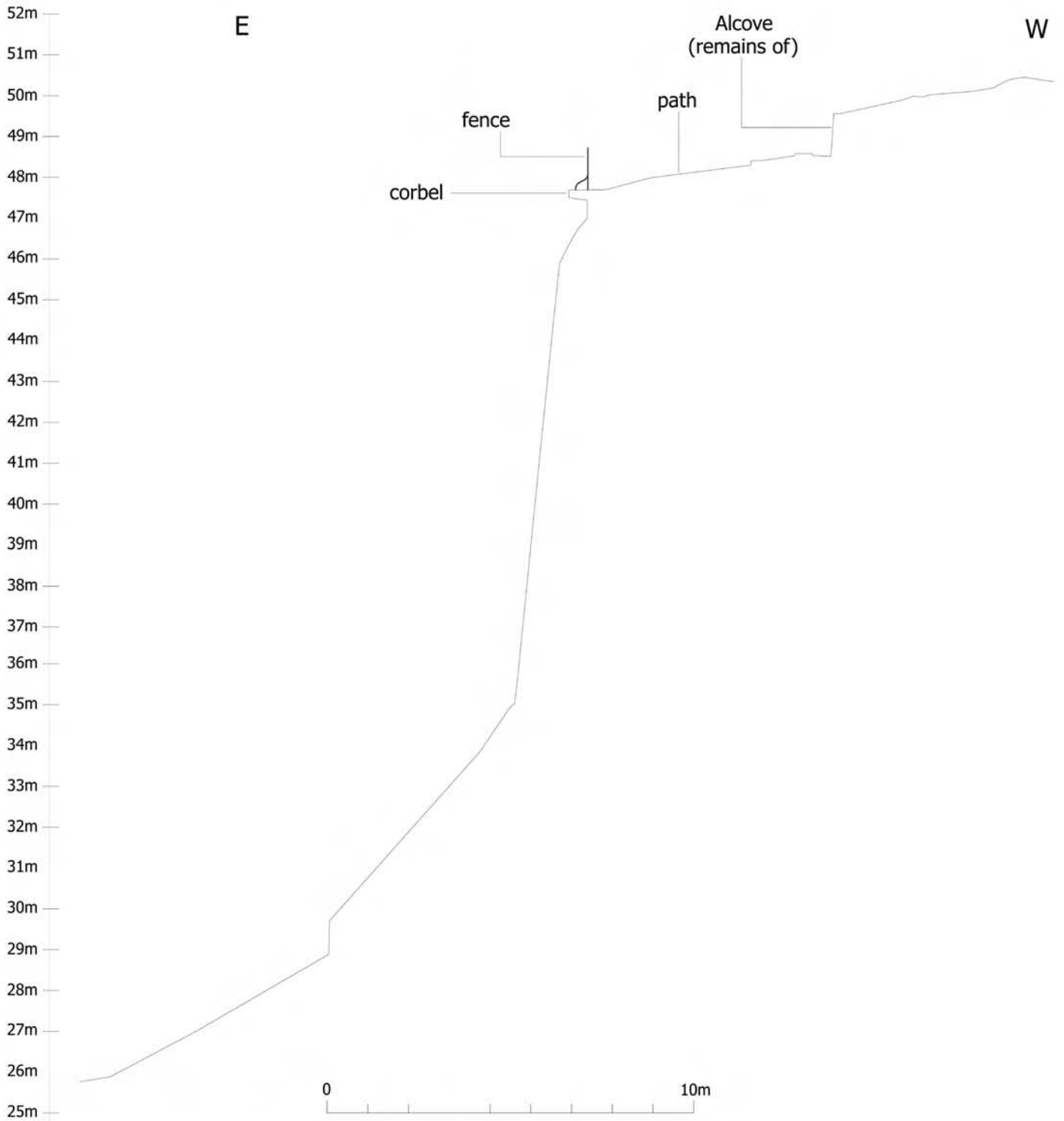
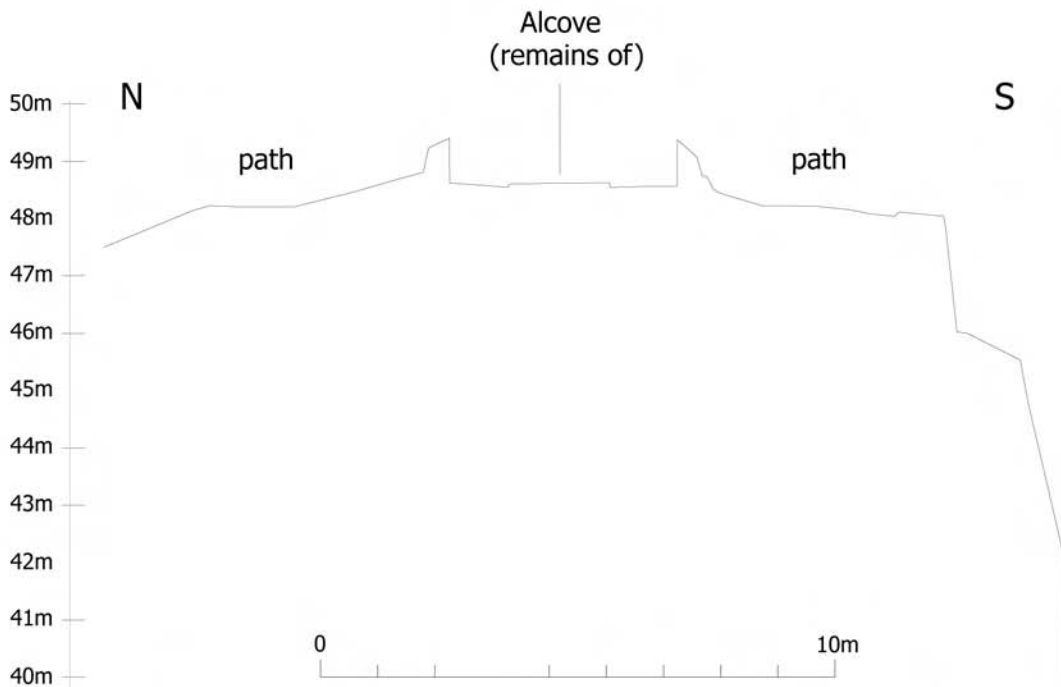


Figure 1



# The Alcove, Piercefield



# The Alcove, Piercefield.

## The Fence (replacement upright)

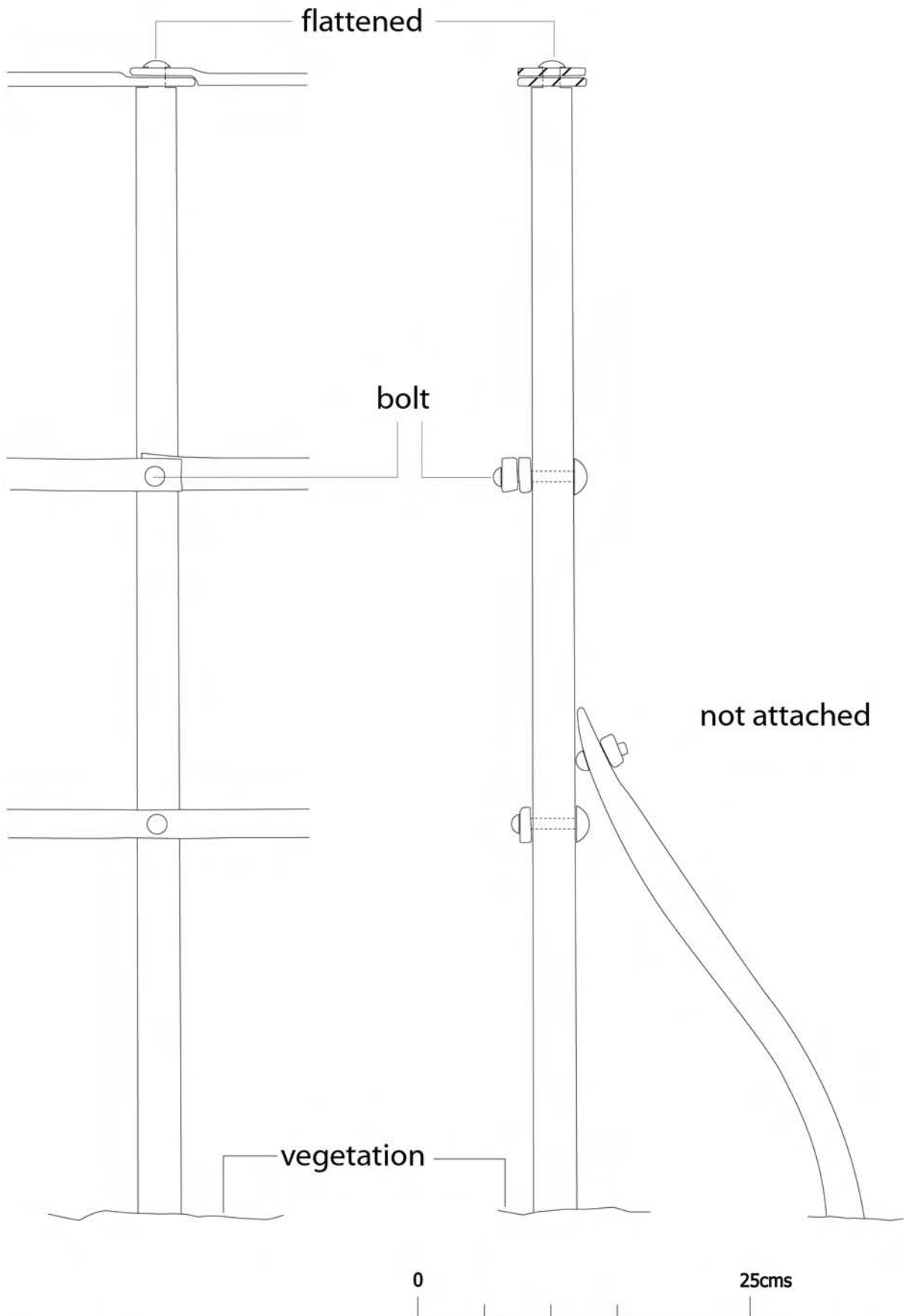


Figure 3



# The Alcove, Piercefield

## The Fence (original upright)

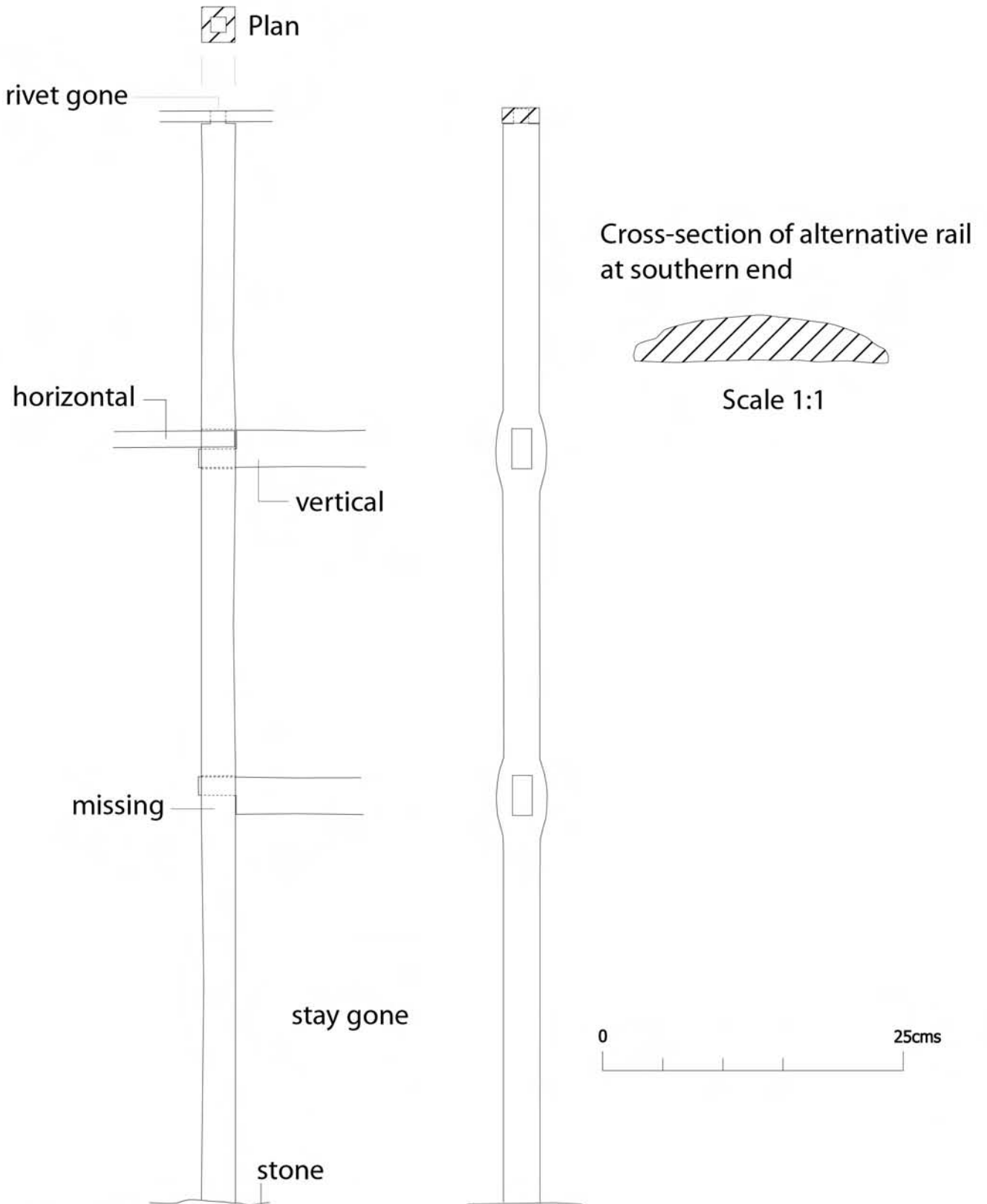


Figure 4

# The Platform, Piercefield

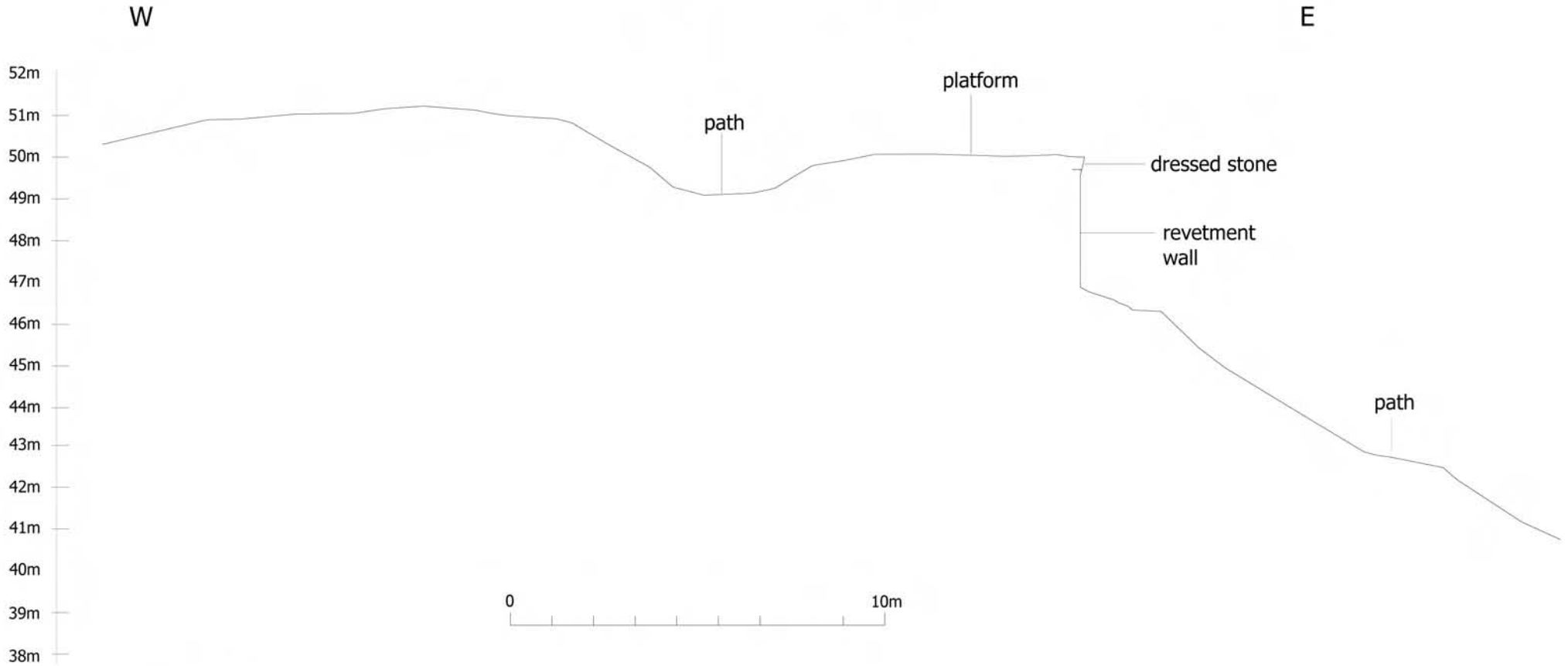


Figure 5



# The Platform, Piercefield

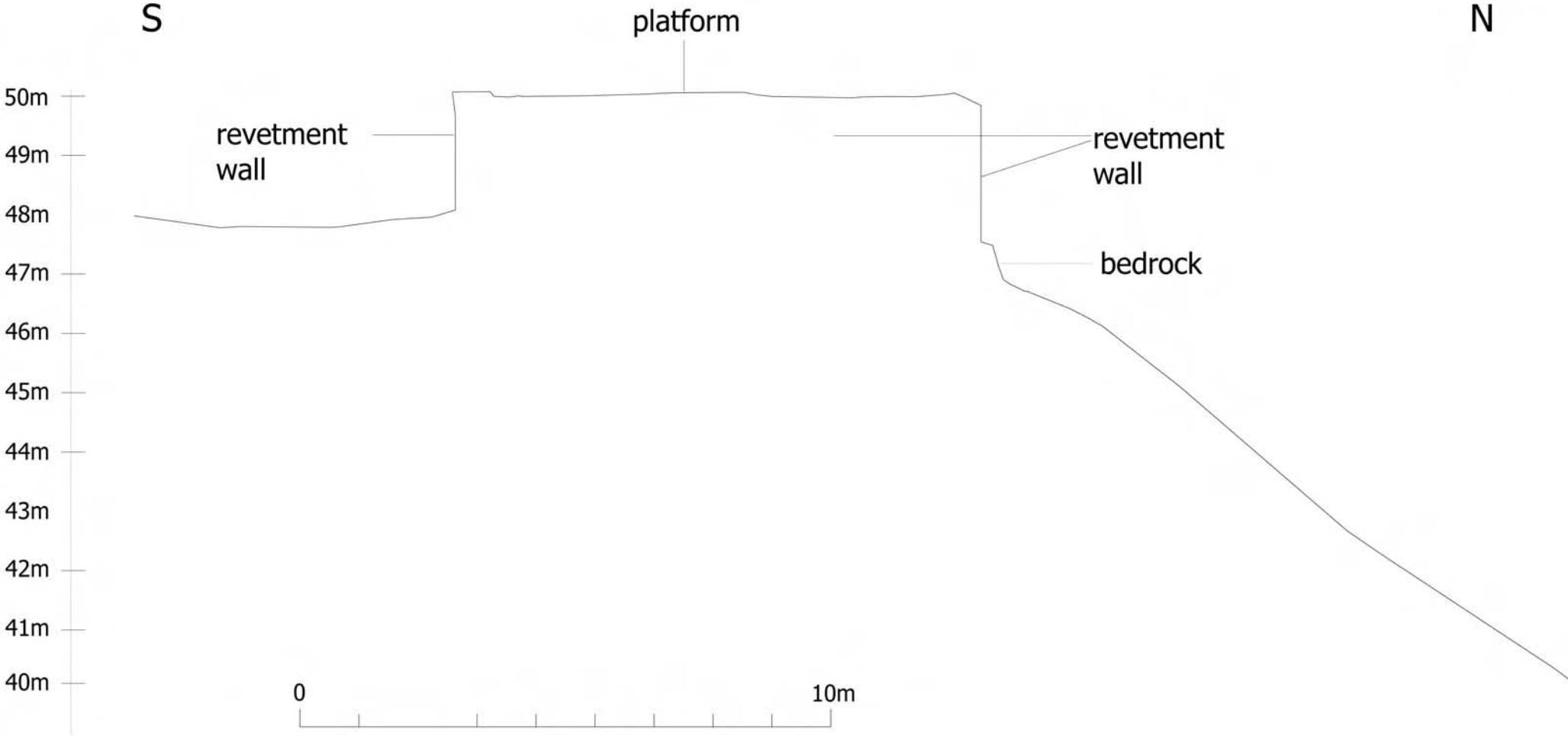


Figure 6

# The Platform, Piercefield.

## The Fence

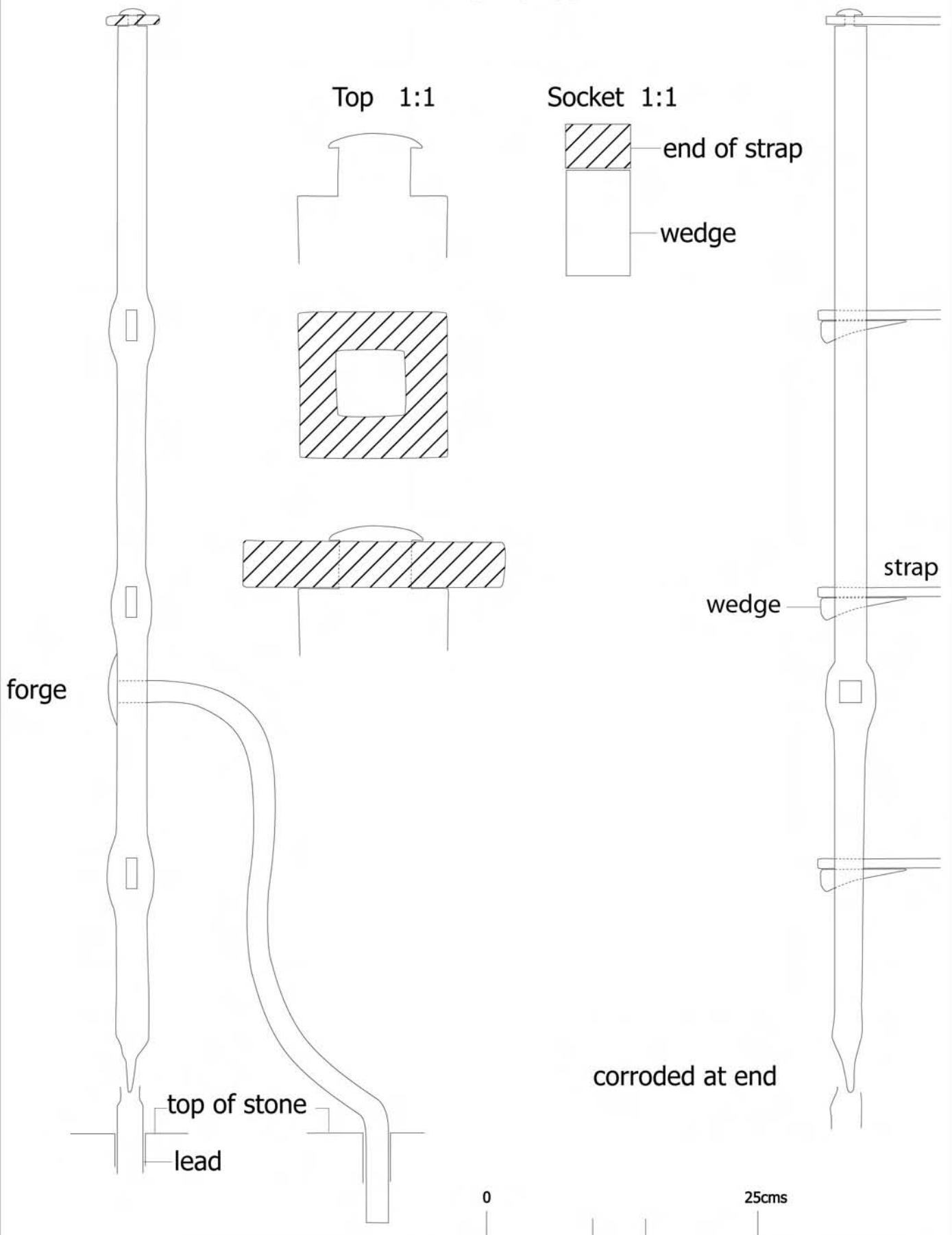


Figure 7

# The Grotto, Piercefield

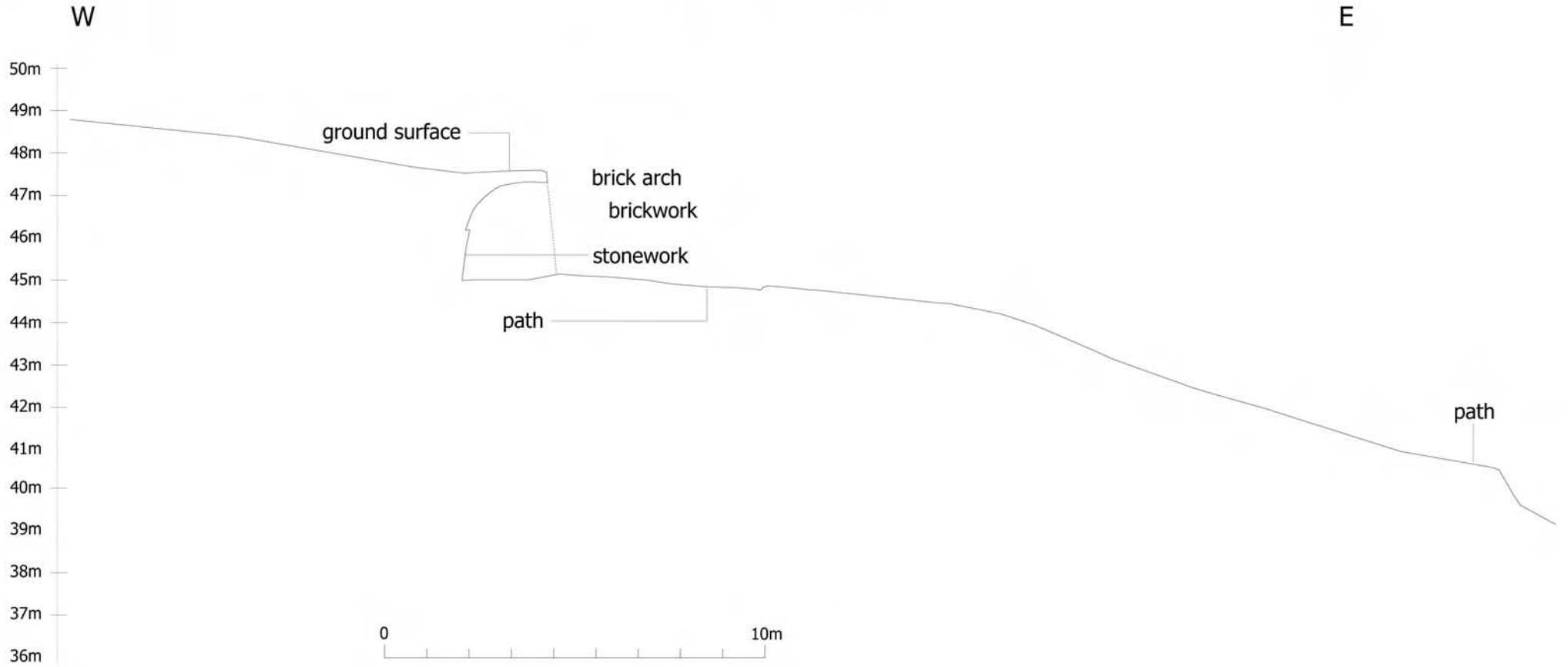


Figure 8



# The Grotto, Piercefield

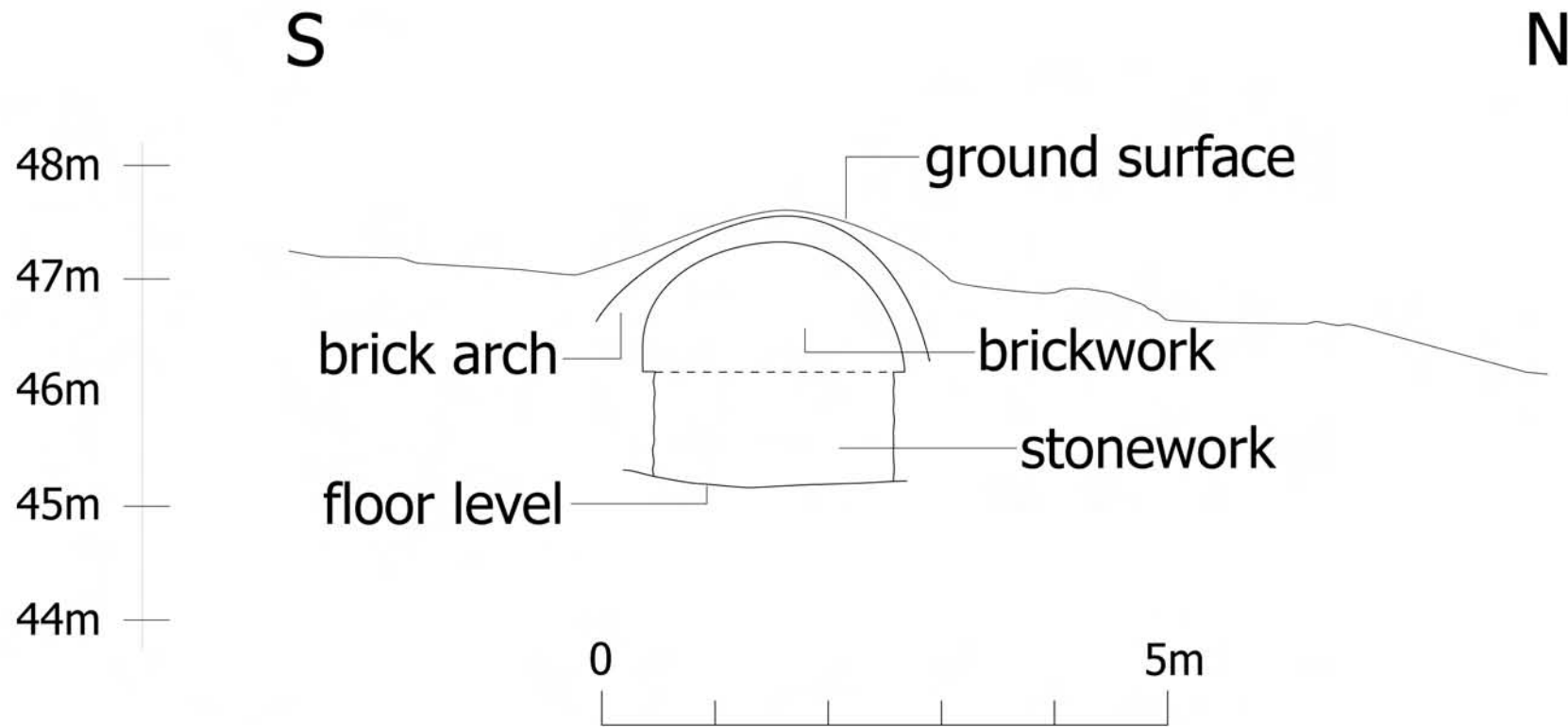


Figure 9

# The Giant's Cave, Piercefield

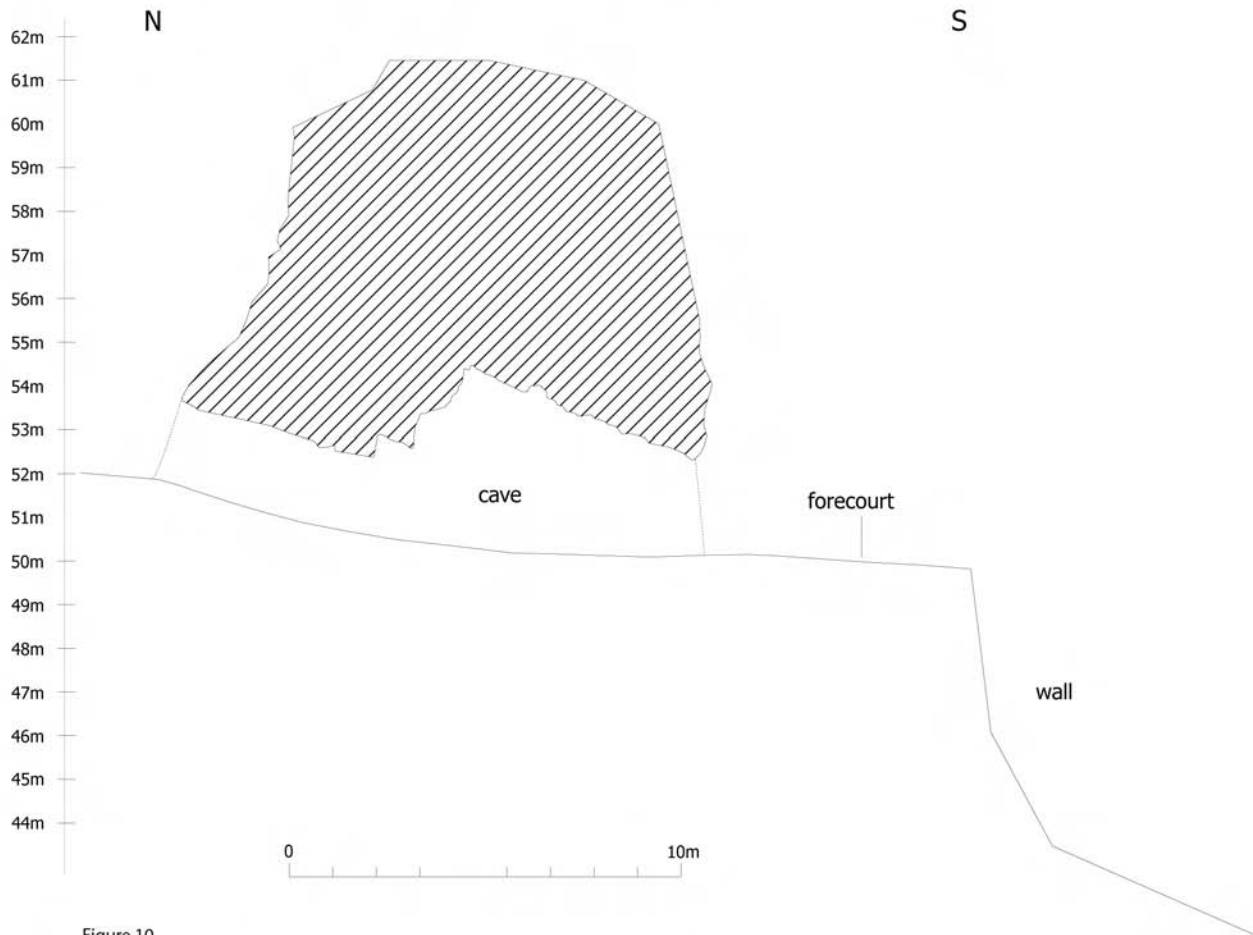


Figure 10

# The Giant's Cave, Piercefield

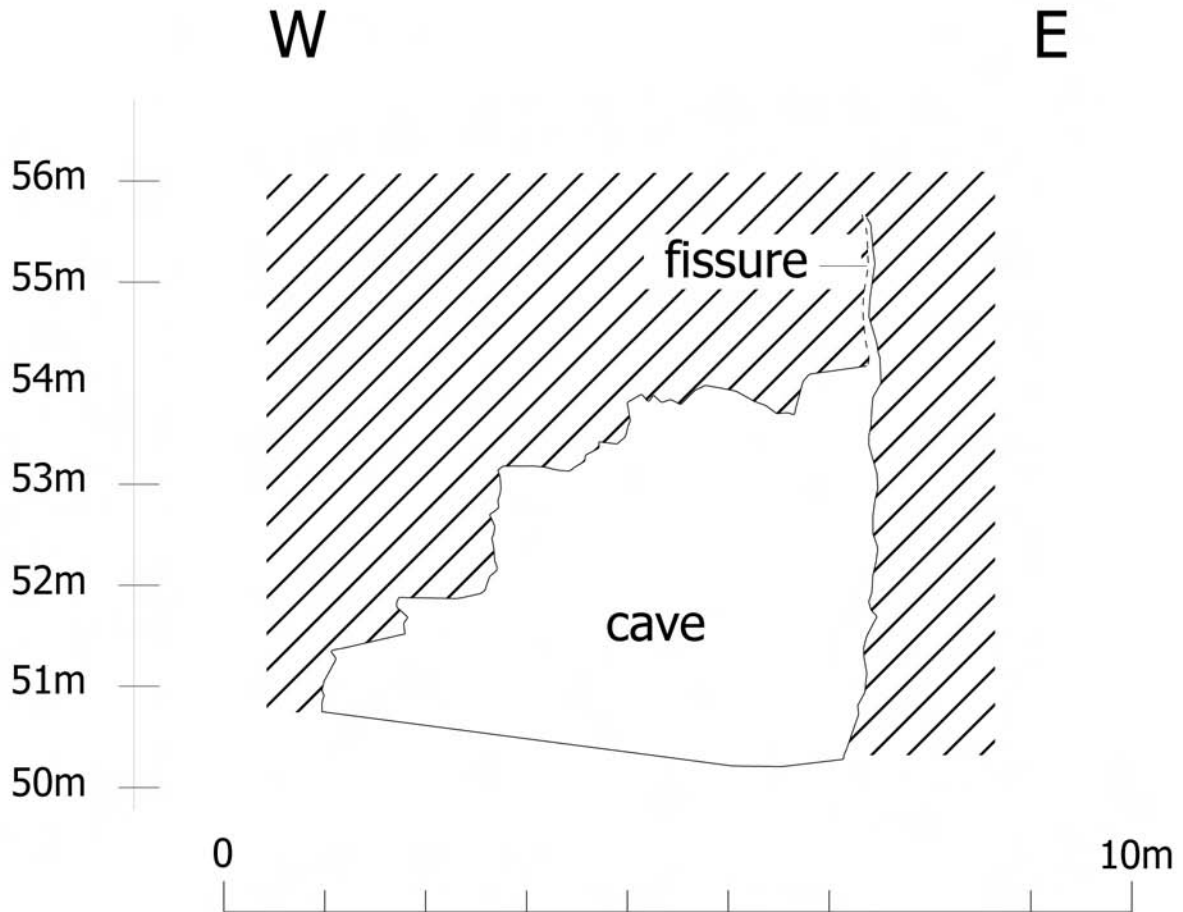


Figure 11



# The Giant's Cave, Piercefield

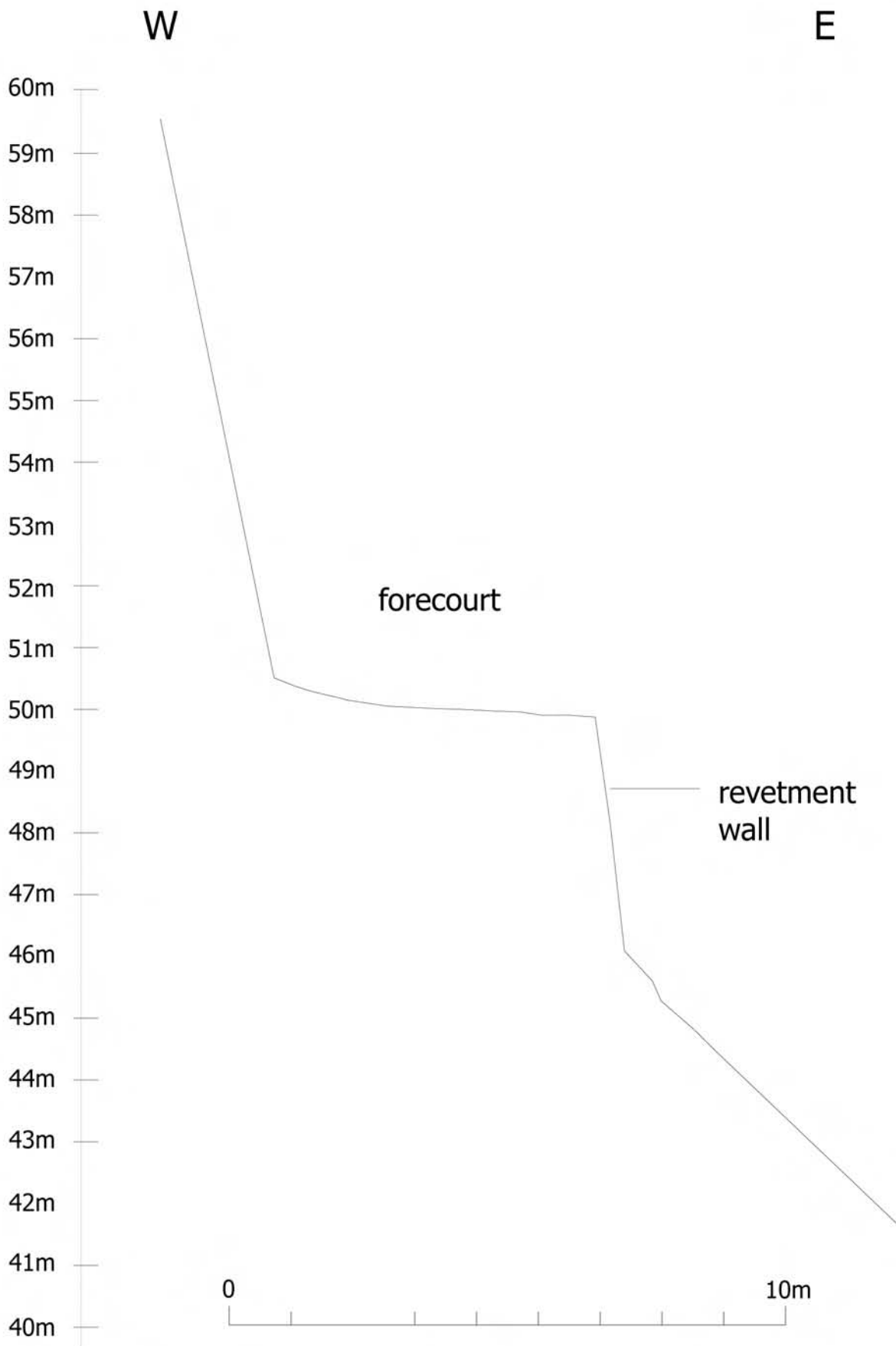


Figure 12

# The Cold Bath, Piercefield

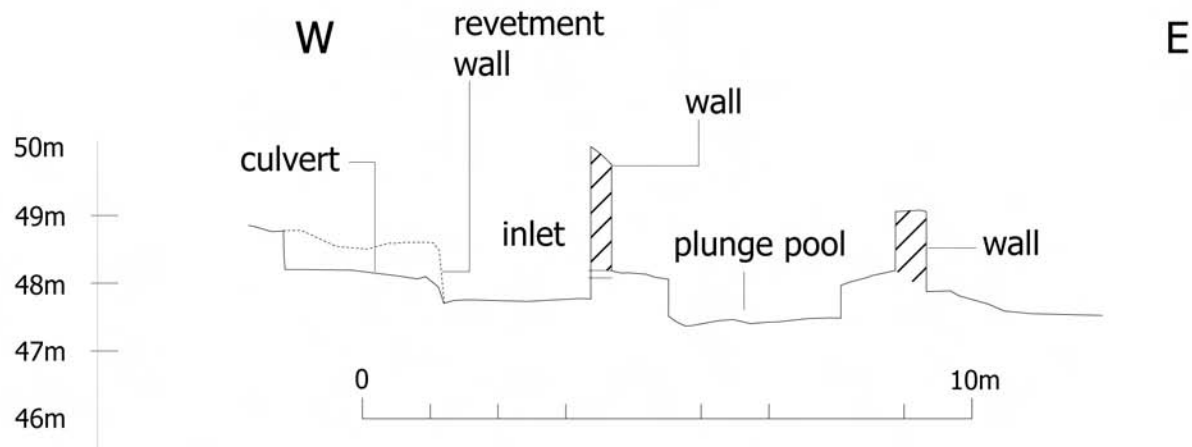


Figure 13

# The Cold Bath, Piercefield

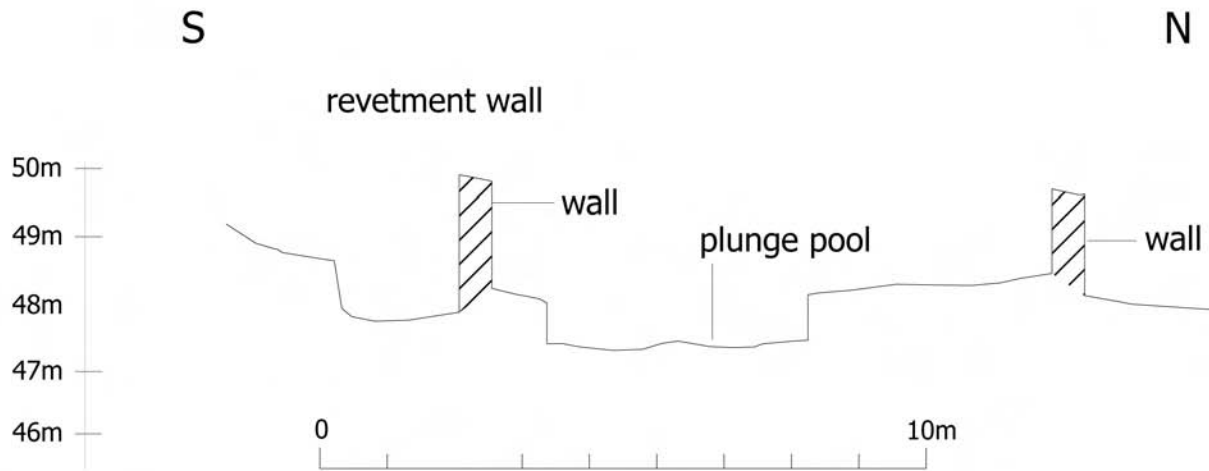


Figure 14



**THE PIERCEFIELD WALKS AND ASSOCIATED PICTURESQUE  
LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2005/23**

**Mawrth 2005  
March 2005**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by  
Ken Murphy

Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist - Field Services

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

Gwilym Hughes

Ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Director

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw  
sylwadau sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report