

CPAT Report No. 1488

Offa's and Wat's Dykes in Wrexham

Monument Condition Survey






Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Cover: A section of Offa's Dyke at Chirk Castle Home Farm



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Summary

The study has investigated unscheduled sections of both Offa's and Wat's Dykes within Wrexham County Borough, assessing in each case the survival and condition of the monument, together with the identification of management issues and the perceived risk to the monument. The best-preserved sections of both dykes are already afforded statutory protection, and have recently been the subject of a condition survey, the format of which was adopted by the present study. This has focused on sections of dyke where desk-based study had identified the potential for surviving earthwork remains and did not consider sections of both dykes which lie in urban areas where the line is only predicted.

Seventeen sections were investigated along Offa's Dyke, the results demonstrating that seven were found to be in a favourable condition, eight were unfavourable, one unit had been destroyed and in a further case there was no visible evidence within a private garden. While 11 units were seen as being stable, four had deteriorated, one of which severely so, having been much reduced by ploughing. Only two units have been recorded as being at high risk, both as a result of ploughing in cases where the surviving bank is very low.

The situation was relatively similar with respect to Wat's Dyke. Of the 15 units visited one, at Erddig, had been lost owing to a landslip, while of the remainder half were in favourable condition and the other half unfavourable. The majority of units were identified as being in a stable condition, while four had worsened superficially and one more significantly, owing to ploughing. As with Offa's Dyke, the only two units considered to be at high risk were both cases where the bank had been almost levelled already with further denudation likely to result from ploughing.

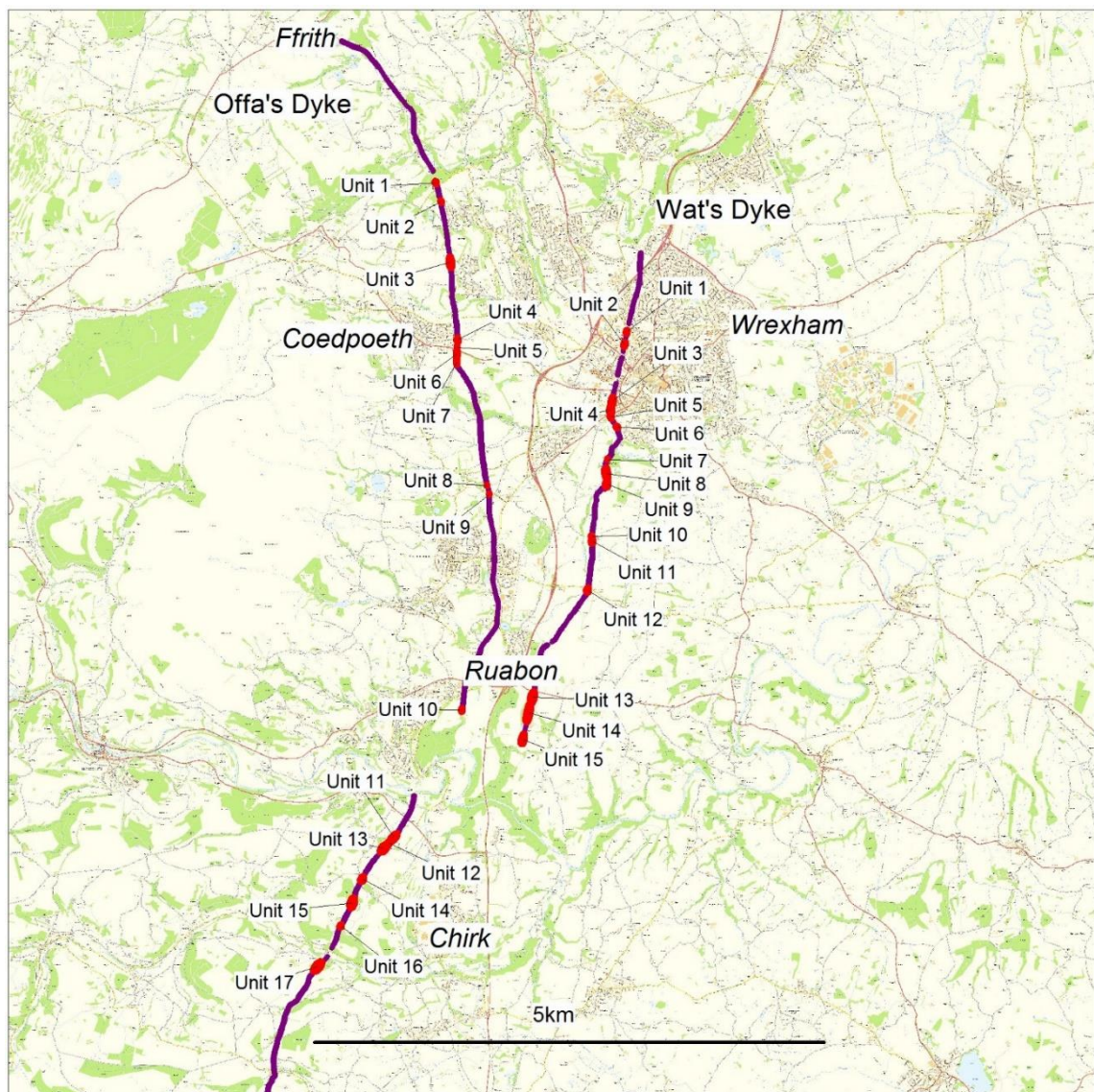
1 Introduction

- 1.1. The largely urban landscape of Wrexham presents a unique challenge to the survival and understanding of Wat's Dyke and Offa's Dyke. Although the designated monuments are in theory protected, there is continual pressure from often incremental small-scale developments. Undesignated sections are also under threat. These particular pressures of the urban landscape are in addition to the more familiar issues such as invasive vegetation, burrowing, and visitor-generated erosion.
- 1.2. Originally the project was intended to be an initial scoping study in order to inform a longer term project for the large-scale conservation of Offa's Dyke in the coming years. However, following various issues regarding the timing of the work, while the results will undoubtedly be of use to future Offa's Dyke conservation projects, it was not possible for this study to contribute to this objective.
- 1.3. The condition survey is one of three initiatives that have been developed since 2015 which relate to Offa's and Wat's Dykes. One is the development of a Conservation Management Plan for Offa's Dyke on behalf of the Offa's Dyke Association, Cadw and Historic England. A second is a more academic cross-border initiative to develop a large-scale survey and investigation project for both Dykes which will seek HLF funding. This - the third - is specifically intended to address conservation, interpretation and community issues around both Dykes in Wrexham County Borough, and is intended as a regional methodological pilot project for the Cadw and Historic England Offa's Dyke Conservation Management Plan, which aims to facilitate the systematic conservation and improve the management of the whole of Offa's Dyke.
- 1.4. This initiative follows a meeting in November 2015 with CPAT, Cadw, officers of WCBC, the National Trust and the Offa's Dyke Association. The long-term intention is to develop and deliver a series of conservation-led projects which will engage with local communities and enhance understanding of the Dykes.
- 1.5. Key tasks for this project have been:
 - identification of undesignated sections of both Dykes
 - assessment of potential conservation and investigation projects

2 Methodology

- 2.1. A condition survey for all scheduled sections of both dykes had already been completed by the Cadw Field Monument Warden and the present study therefore focused on unscheduled sections.
- 2.2. Full use was made of LiDAR data, which was generally available at 1m-resolution, together with historic mapping, in order to plot the surviving earthworks together with areas which have since been levelled or destroyed, as well as the predicted line where no physical evidence is recorded. Mapping was done using GIS in a format compatible with the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) to enable subsequent integration of the data. Metadata recorded the source of the information

- and form of the dyke, an earthwork, cropmark, documentary record only, or predicted.
- 2.3. The results from the mapping exercise were then compared with the scheduling data for both dykes to determine where new fieldwork was required and as a basis for future scheduling recommendations.
 - 2.4. The condition survey was conducted using pro-forma record forms (see Appendix 3) which were designed to record data in a similar format to that recorded by the Field Monument Warden and based on the same glossary of terms used by Cadw (see Appendix 1-2).
 - 2.5. Each section was divided into units, based on land ownership, land use and topography, with an overall assessment form being completed for each unit. Within these units management issues were recorded individually.

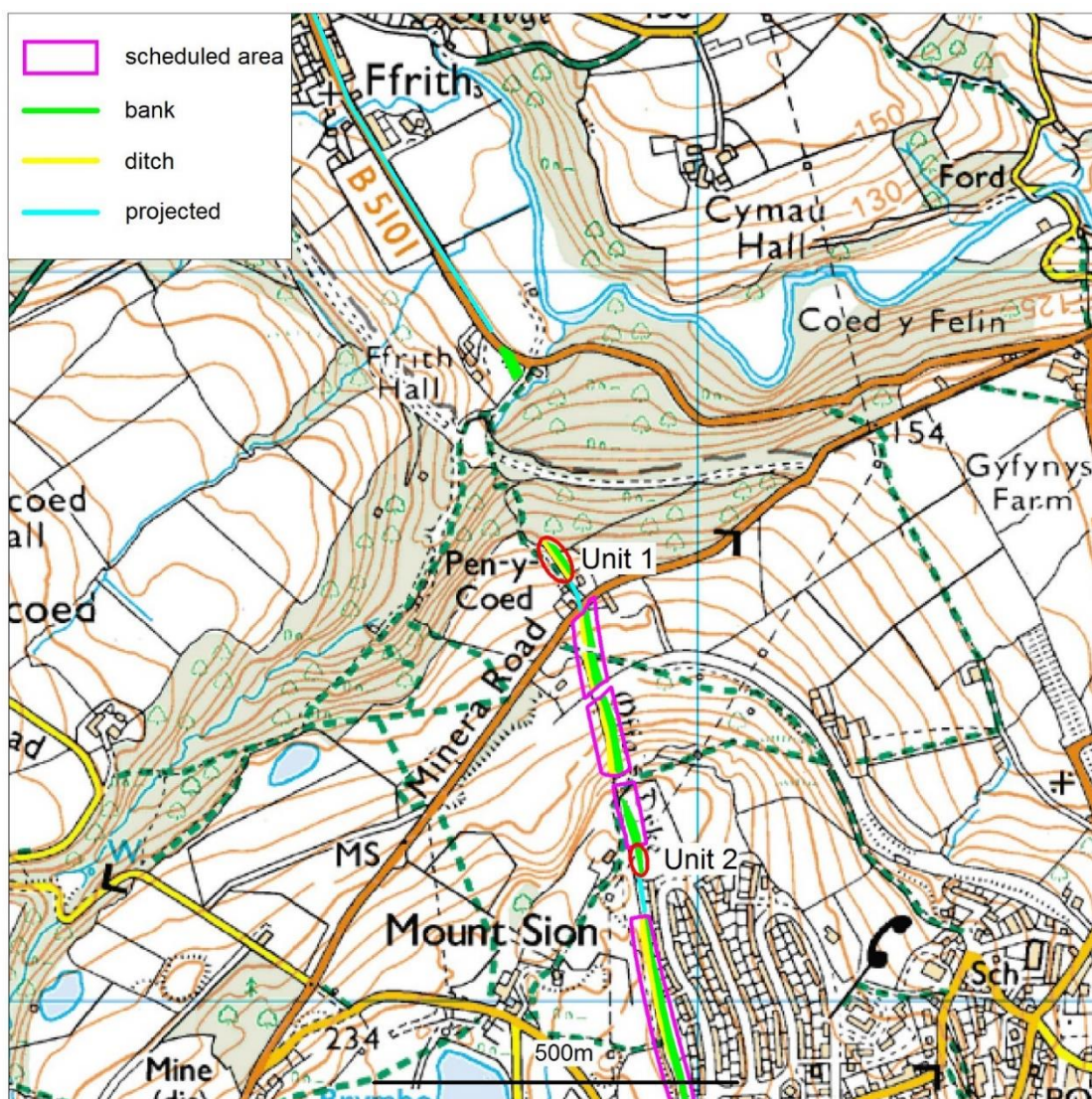


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Fig. 1 The course of Offa's and Wat's Dykes in Wrexham, showing the location of the survey units

3 Offa's Dyke Unit 1

NGR: SJ 28805 54606



Description

- 3.1. An upstanding section of the dyke to the north-west of the B5102. The ditch lies on the south-west side, within pasture fields, but has been infilled. The bank is on the north-east side in private gardens, where there is a scarp facing south-west, but the top of the bank merges with the rest of the garden and the earthworks here may be the result of garden landscaping. The line of the dyke takes a marked turn as it crosses the road and ends on a very steep slope where there is a possible landslip which has cut the earthwork.

Vegetation: Grass, trees.

Land use: Pasture; private garden.

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: None



Offa's Dyke Unit 1

Condition Summary

- 3.2. This section is in a favourable condition and is not under any active threat, although there is a boundary along the line of the bank.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Fence/hedge	No	Low

- 3.3. There is a fence and small trees from an overgrown hedge along the line of the bank.

Actions: Maintain in present condition.

Management recommendations

3.4. None.



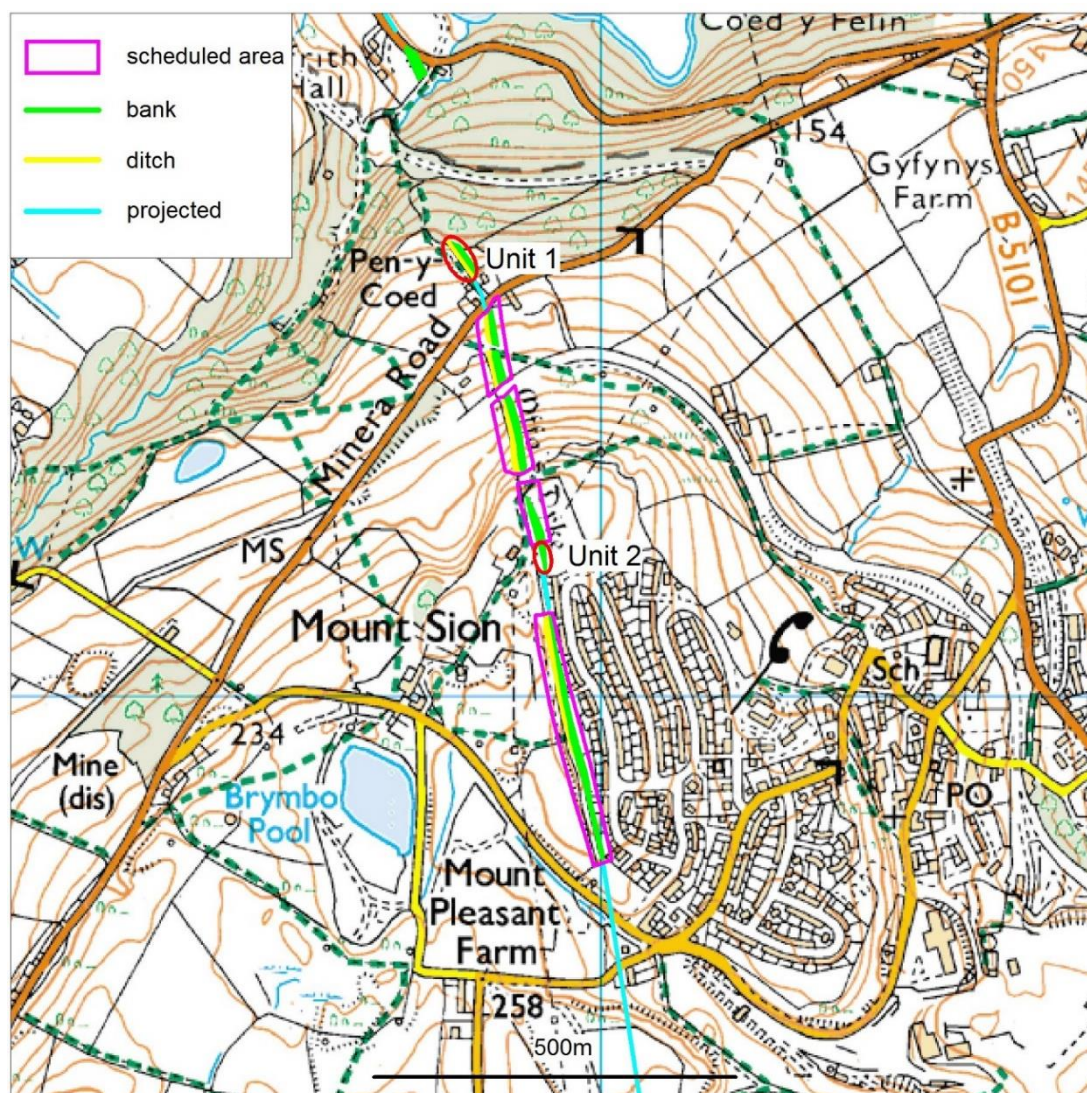
Offa's Dyke Unit 1: View from the south the escarpment with fence and trees CPAT 4315-0005



Offa's Dyke Unit 1: View from the south-east of landscaped area of bank CPAT 4315-0006

Offa's Dyke Unit 2

NGR: SJ 28919 54194



Description

- 3.5. A short section of dyke at Mount Sion. The northern end is visible as an embankment continuing south from a SAM De222. Bordering a playing field, the ditch is on the west, covered by dumped material.

Vegetation: Grass, scrub.

Land use: Playing field; waste land.

Vulnerability: Medium

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: Bank south of De222

Condition Summary

- 3.6. The north part of the bank, adjacent to SAM De222, is in a good condition, while to the south both the bank and the ditch are obscured by dumped material.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Scrub, dumping	No	Medium

- 3.7. The ditch is entirely covered with dumped soil etc, as well as the southern part of the bank, with scrub growth on tipped material. It is likely that the dyke still survives beneath the tipped material.

Action: Prevent further dumping and control scrub growth.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Footpath erosion	Yes	Low

- 3.8. There is a path across the dyke from the south end of the playing field, linking with the public footpath on the west side of the dyke. The path is mostly stoned/gravelled and there is therefore not much likelihood of further erosion.

Action: None

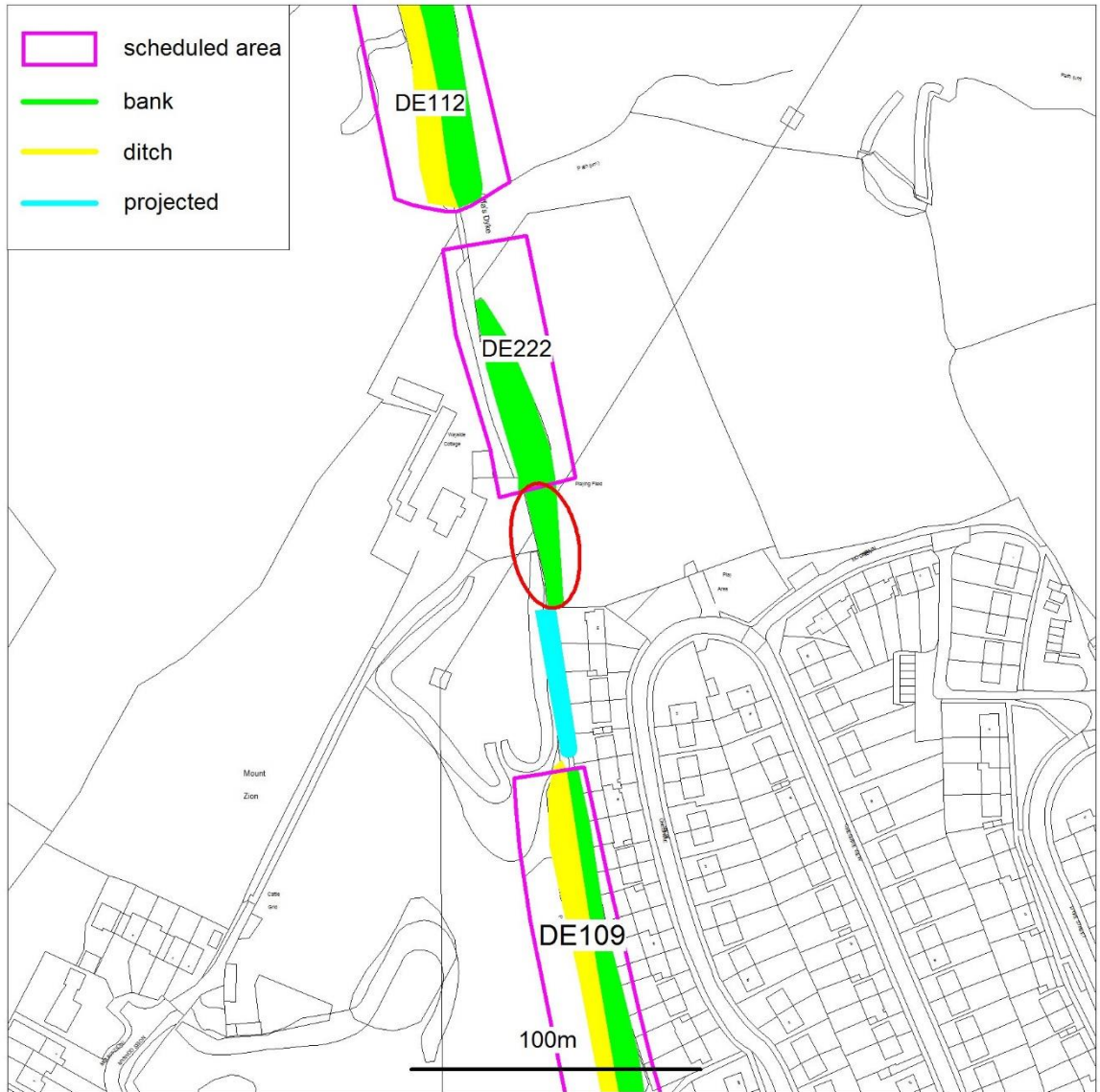
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
3	Development	No	Low

- 3.9. There is the possibility of further development of the housing estate into this unscheduled section of the dyke.

Action: Archaeological evaluation in advance of any potential development.

Management recommendations

- 3.10. The current scheduling does not include all of the upstanding earthwork. Prevent the dumping of any further material and control the existing scrub growth. An evaluation would be required should proposals arise to expand the existing housing estate.



Offa's Dyke Unit 2



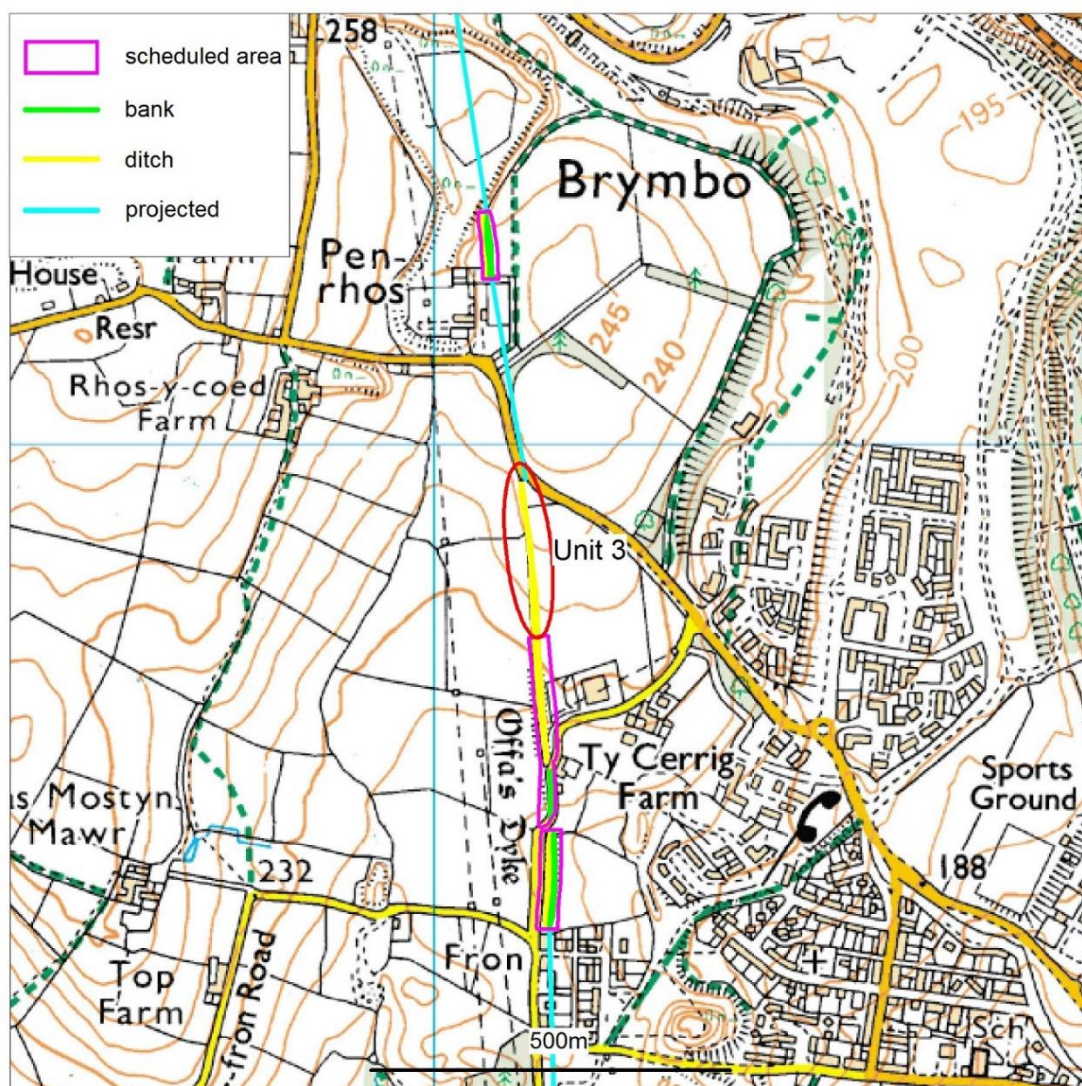
Offa's Dyke Unit 2: View from the north of the spoil and scrub (Issue 1). CPAT 4315-0002



Offa's Dyke Unit 2: View from the east of the path (Issue 2) crossing the dyke. CPAT 4315-0001

Offa's Dyke Unit 3

NGR: SJ 29130 52853



Description

- 3.11. Immediately to the north of SAM De110 there is little evidence for the dyke for around 120m, to the north of which there is a pronounced scarp up to 4m in height with a field boundary along the crest. Beyond this the scarp continues, with Brymbo Road along its upper edge. While there is no visible evidence for a bank or ditch it is clear that the scarp marks the western edge of the bank, with the infilled ditch lying in the fields to the west.

Vegetation: grass

Land use: pasture/arable

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition Summary

- 3.12. The southern fields are part of an arable rotation, with ploughing having denuded the earthworks in this area, while the northern field is currently equestrian pasture, which has led to some minor erosion of the scarp.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Ploughing	Yes	Med

- 3.13. Continued ploughing of the southern fields will further denude the surviving earthwork and also has the potential to impact on buried deposits.

Action: Address the agricultural regime

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Stock erosion	Yes	Low

- 3.14. There is some minor erosion to the scarp by horses in the northern field.

Action: Restrict equine access to the scarp

Management Issues

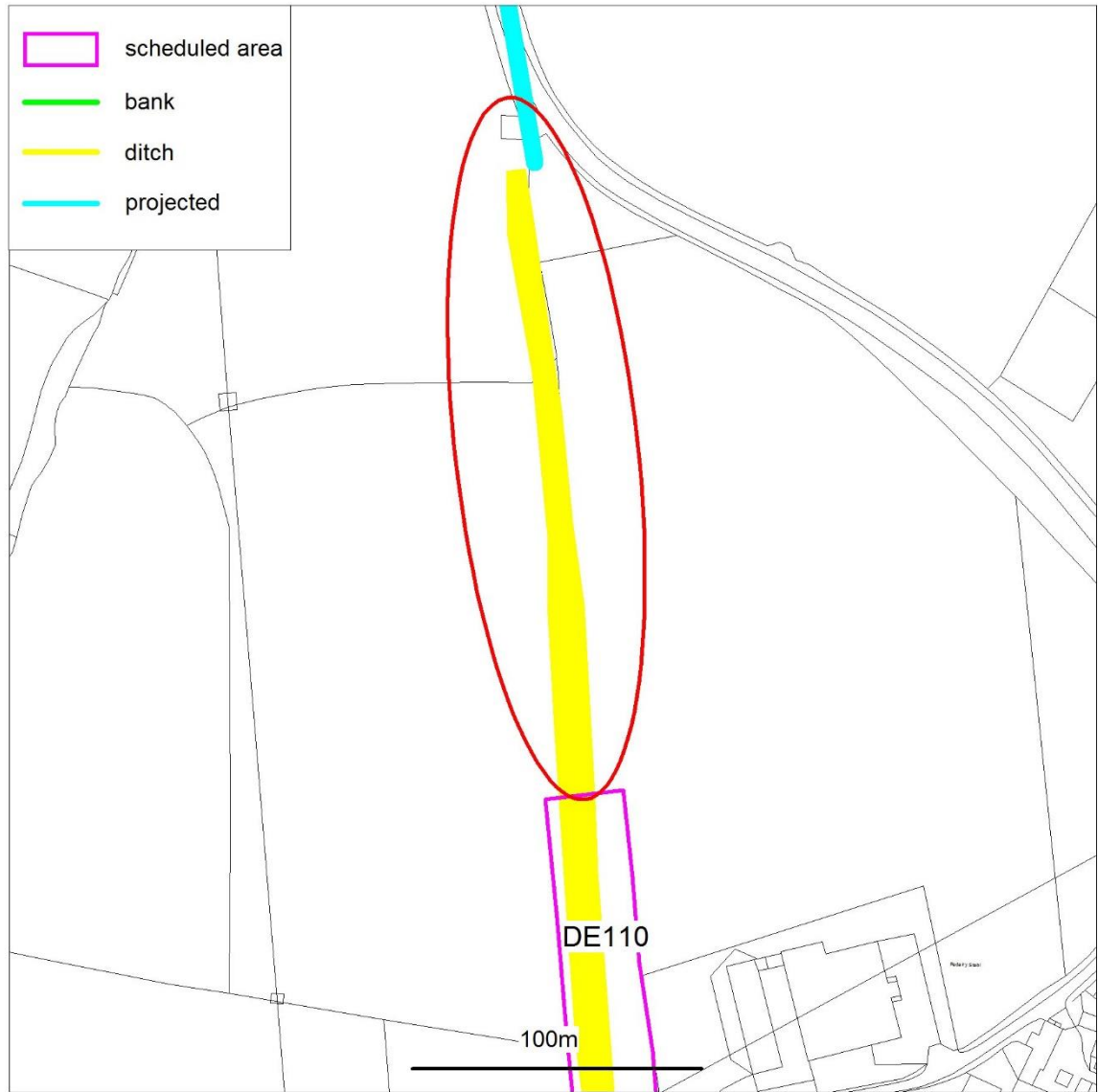
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
3	Fencing	No	Low

- 3.15. A fence runs along the crest of the scarp, although this does not pose any obvious active threat.

Action: None

Management recommendations

- 3.16. Consideration should be given to restricting the access of horses to the scarp in the northern field and introducing a 'no plough' zone to either side of the fence which follows the line of the bank.



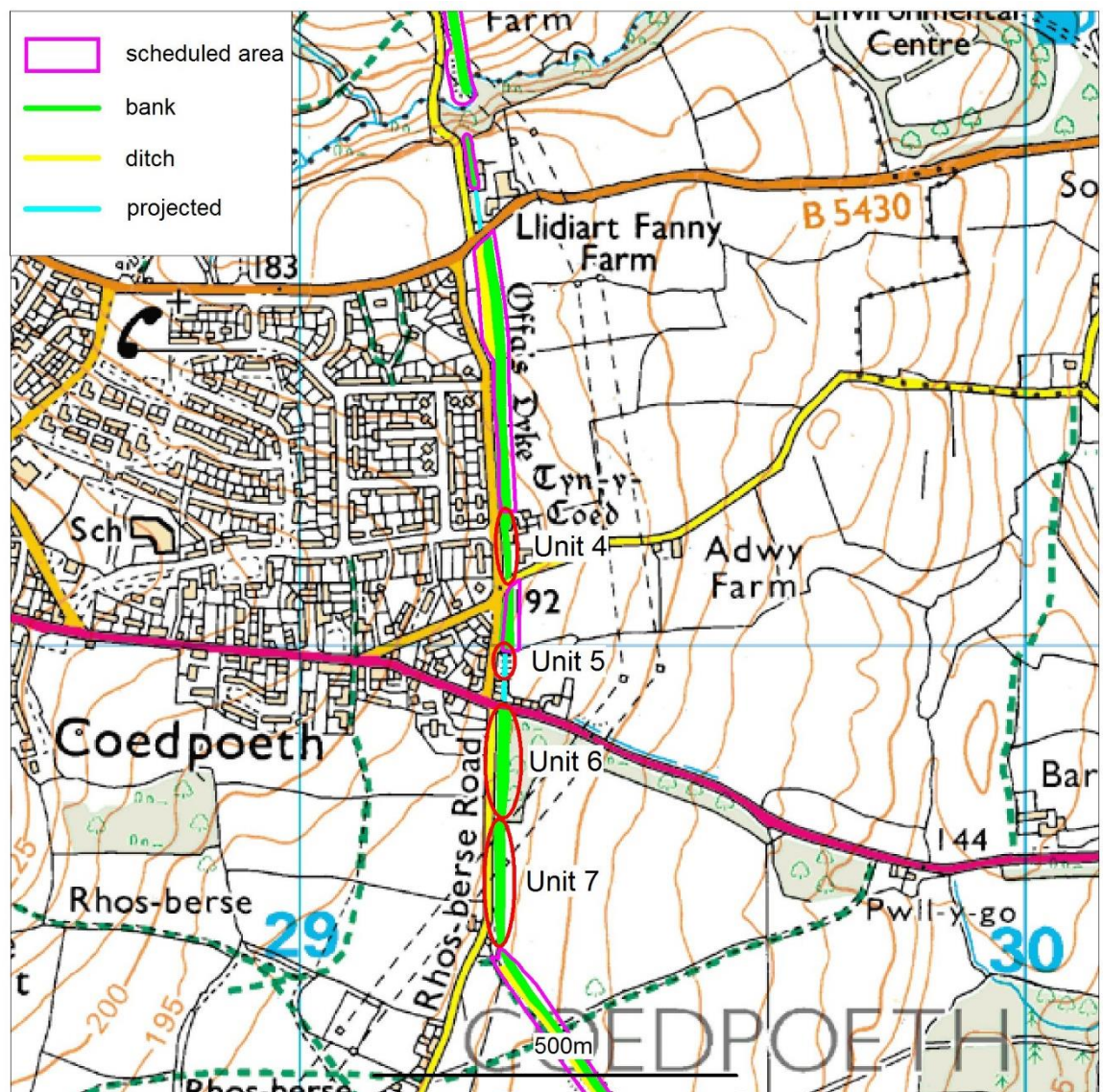
Offa's Dyke Unit 3



Offa's Dyke Unit 3: View to the north showing the pronounced scarp with minor stock erosion (Issue 1). CPAT 4326-0029

Offa's Dyke Unit 4

NGR: SJ 29286 51138



Description

- 3.17. A short section of the dyke between SAMs De181 and De182. The northern part is relatively intact and the bank survives on the east side of the public road. From the south part, the west side of the bank is revetted with a stone wall and the bank slopes off gently to the east within the garden of Ty'n y Coed.

Vegetation: Scrub, grass.

Land use: Garden

Vulnerability: Medium

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: North end adjacent to De182

Condition Summary

- 3.18. The north part is in reasonable condition, although denuded and covered in trees and scrub. The south part has been heavily modified by landscaping of the garden and the construction of a wall. The line of the ditch is now occupied by the adjoining public road.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Worsened superficially

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Scrub	Yes	Low

- 3.19. The north part of the bank is covered in scrub and small trees, likely to have a minor effect over time.

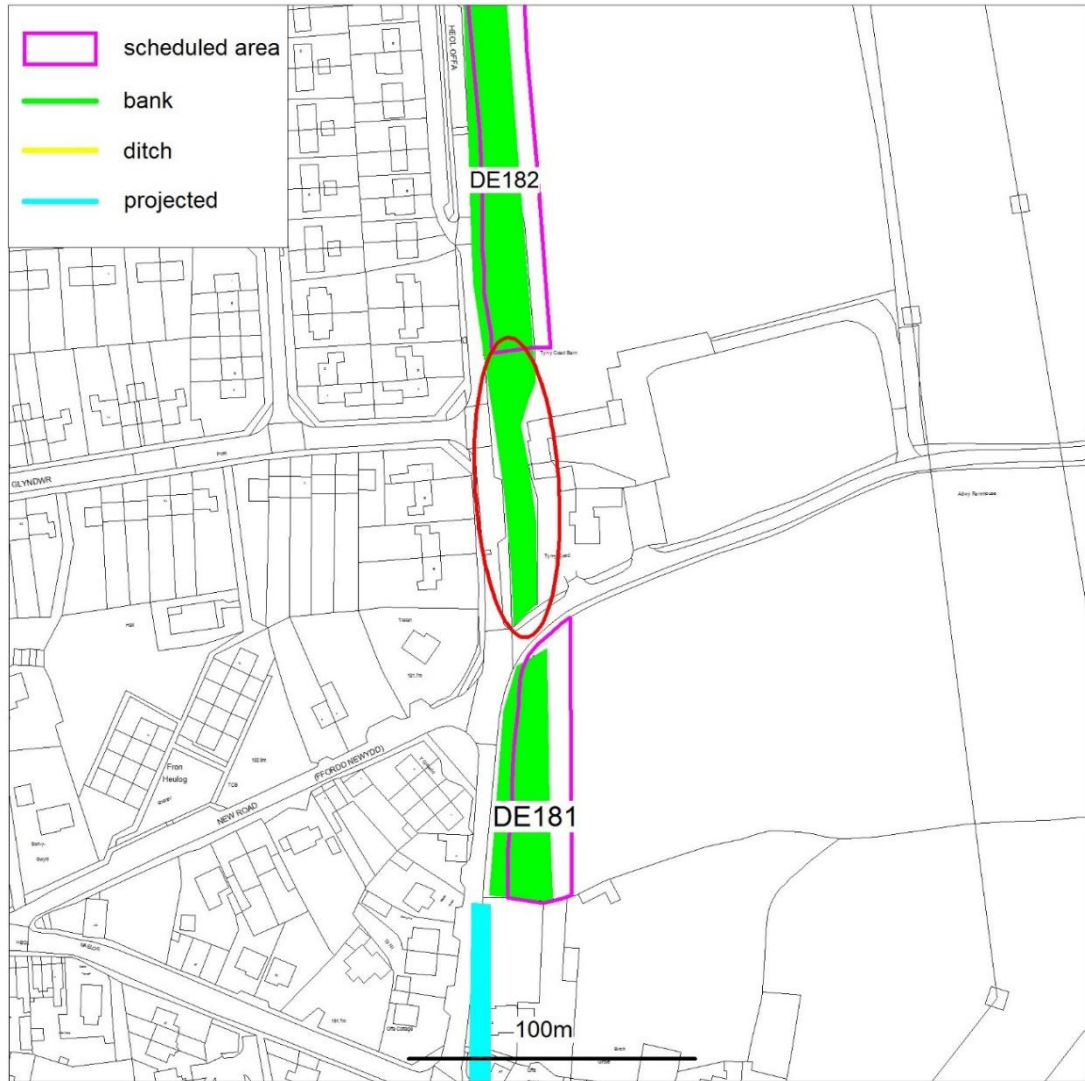
Action: Clear scrub from the north part.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Garden	Yes	Low

The south part of the bank lies within a garden and has been heavily truncated, merging with the rest of the garden to the east. Any further garden landscaping could impact on archaeological deposits.

Management recommendations

- 3.20. The northern part of the bank is a continuation of that scheduled as SAM De182, which does not therefore include the whole of the upstanding earthwork. Scrub growth within this area should be cleared and regrowth prevented.



Offa's Dyke Unit 4



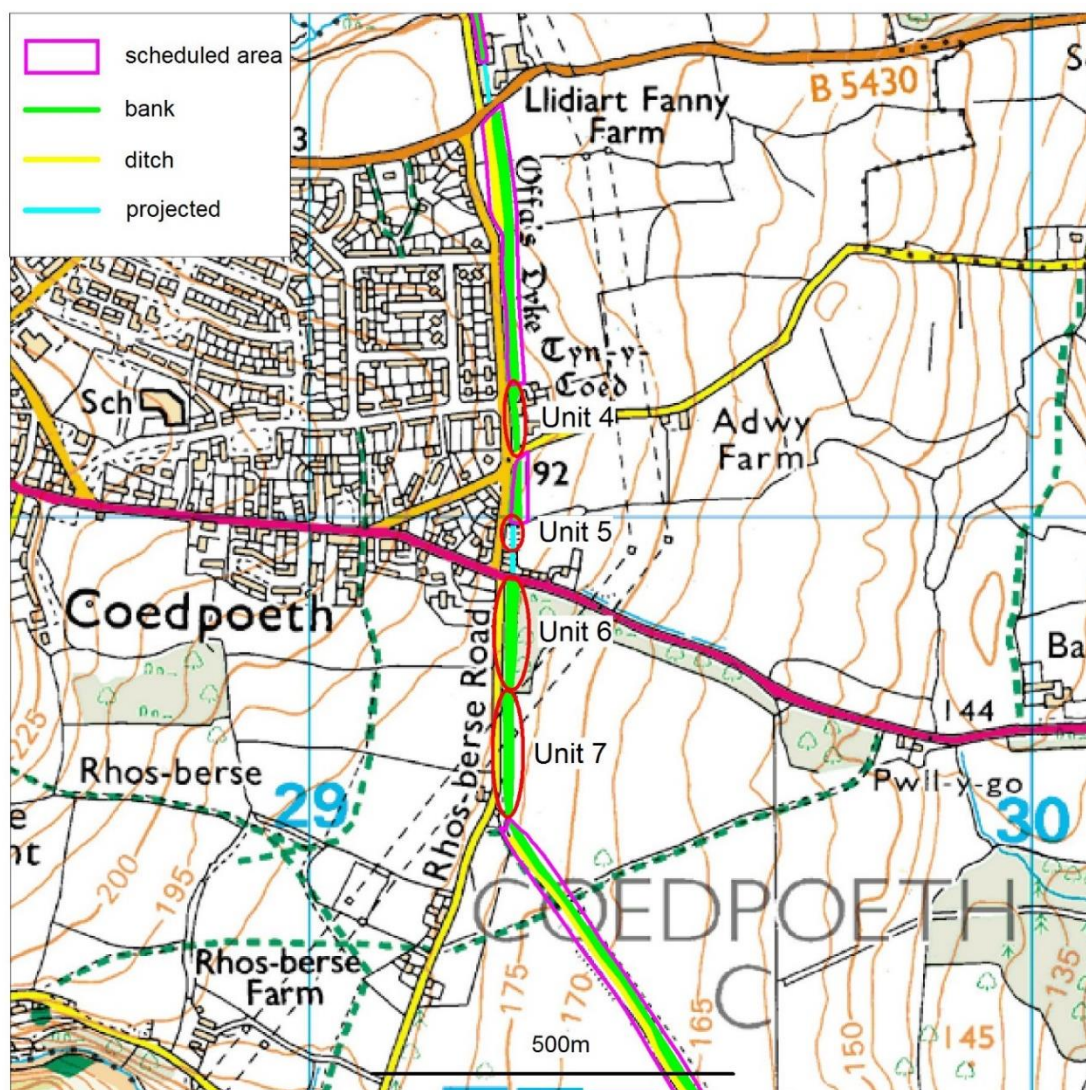
Offa's Dyke Unit 4: View from the south showing the wall surrounding the garden.
CPAT 4315-0007



Offa's Dyke Unit 4: View from the south-west of the scrub (Issue 1) covering the
north part of the bank. CPAT 4315-0008

Offa's Dyke Unit 5

NGR: SJ 29282 50979



Description

- 3.21. Evidence from LiDAR suggested that a short section of the dyke might survive as an earthwork immediately to the south of SAM De181. However, the area has been levelled within a private garden and no visible remains are present.

Vegetation: Grass; none.

Land use: Garden.

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: None

Condition Summary

- 3.22. There are no surviving earthworks, the area of the bank lying within a private garden

Condition: N/A

Trend: N/A

Management Issues

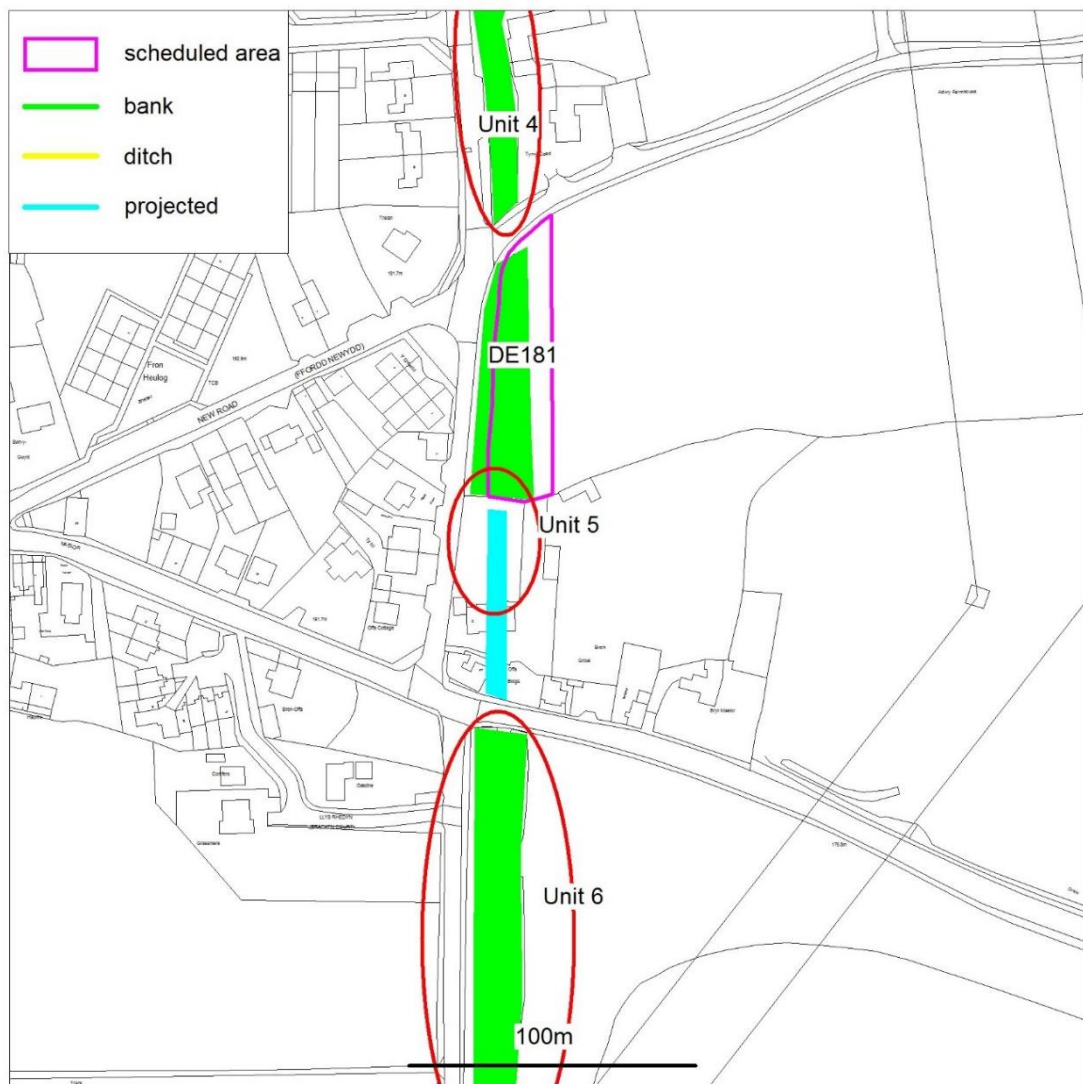
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Gardening	Yes	Low

3.23. It is possible that gardening activity might impact on buried archaeological deposits.

Action: None.

Management recommendations

3.24. None.



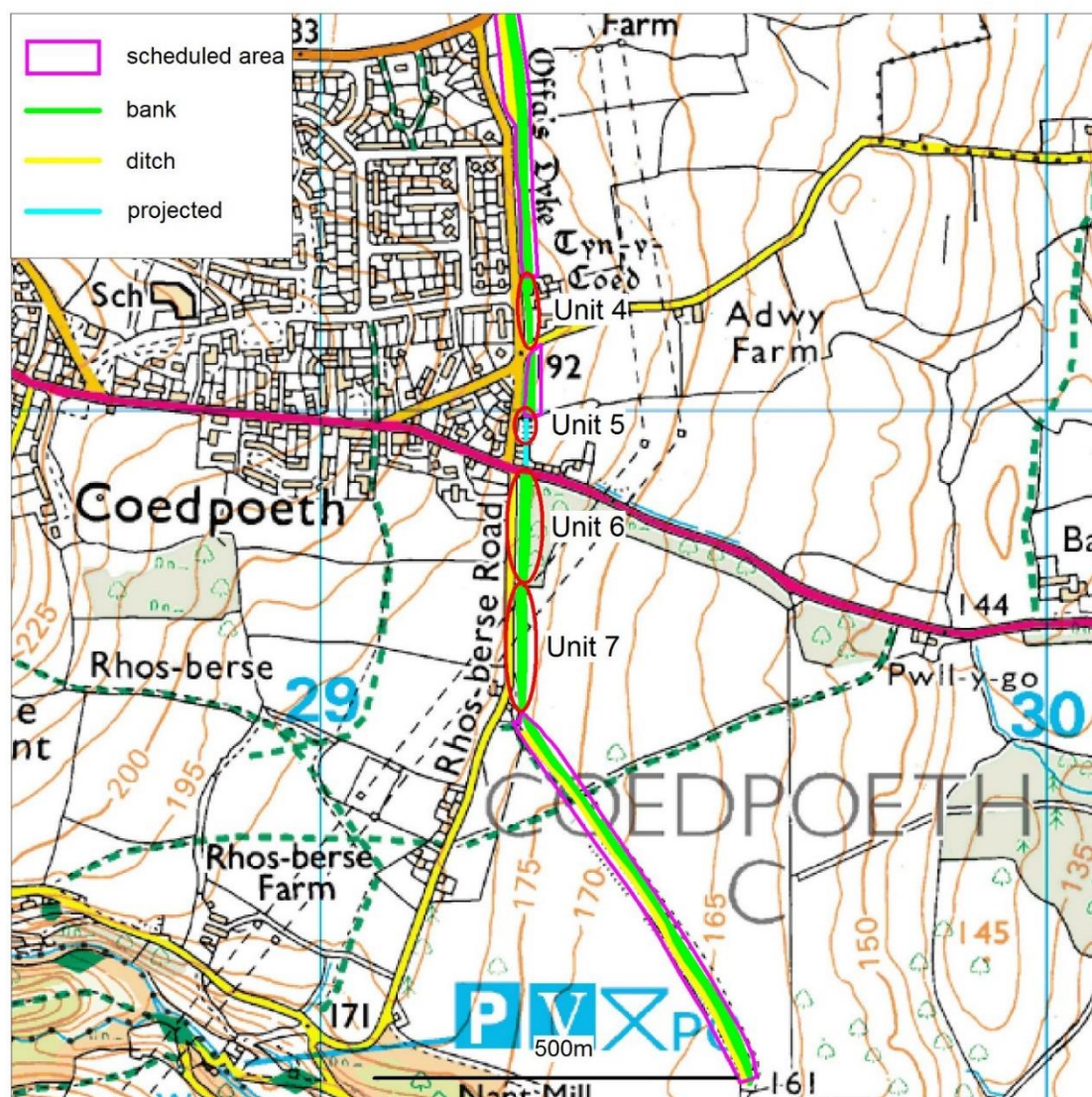
Offa's Dyke Unit 5



Offa's Dyke Unit 5: View from the north-west showing the upstanding section of SAM De181 with the private garden beyond. CPAT 4315-0010

Offa's Dyke Unit 6

NGR: SJ 29281 50841



Description

- 3.25. A section of the dyke running south from the A525, along the eastern side of Rhos Berse Road, which follows the line of the ditch. The bank survives to a height of 1.3m at the northern end, but is more ephemeral to the south.

Vegetation: trees; scrub.

Land use: private parkland

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition Summary

- 3.26. The bank is heavily overgrown with scrub and trees.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Scrub/trees	Yes	Low

- 3.27. The whole of the section is heavily overgrown with trees and scrub, making it difficult to appreciate the upstanding earthwork, while there is also the potential for damage from tree roots and wind-blown trees.

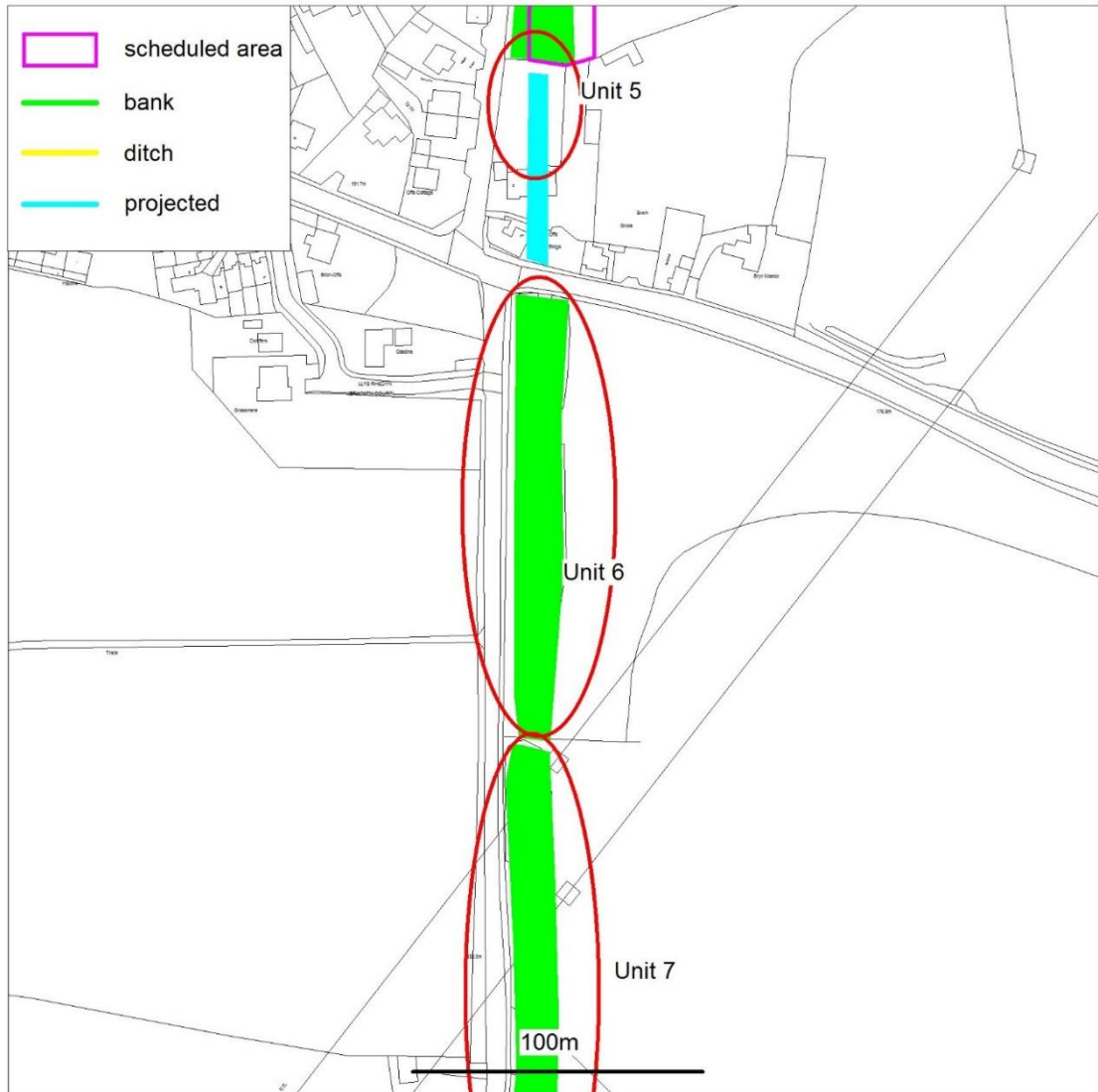
Action: remove and control scrub and manage mature trees.

Management recommendations

- 3.28. The upstanding remains are not currently afforded statutory protection. Clearance of scrub would improve the visibility of the bank and enable it to be appreciated by the public.



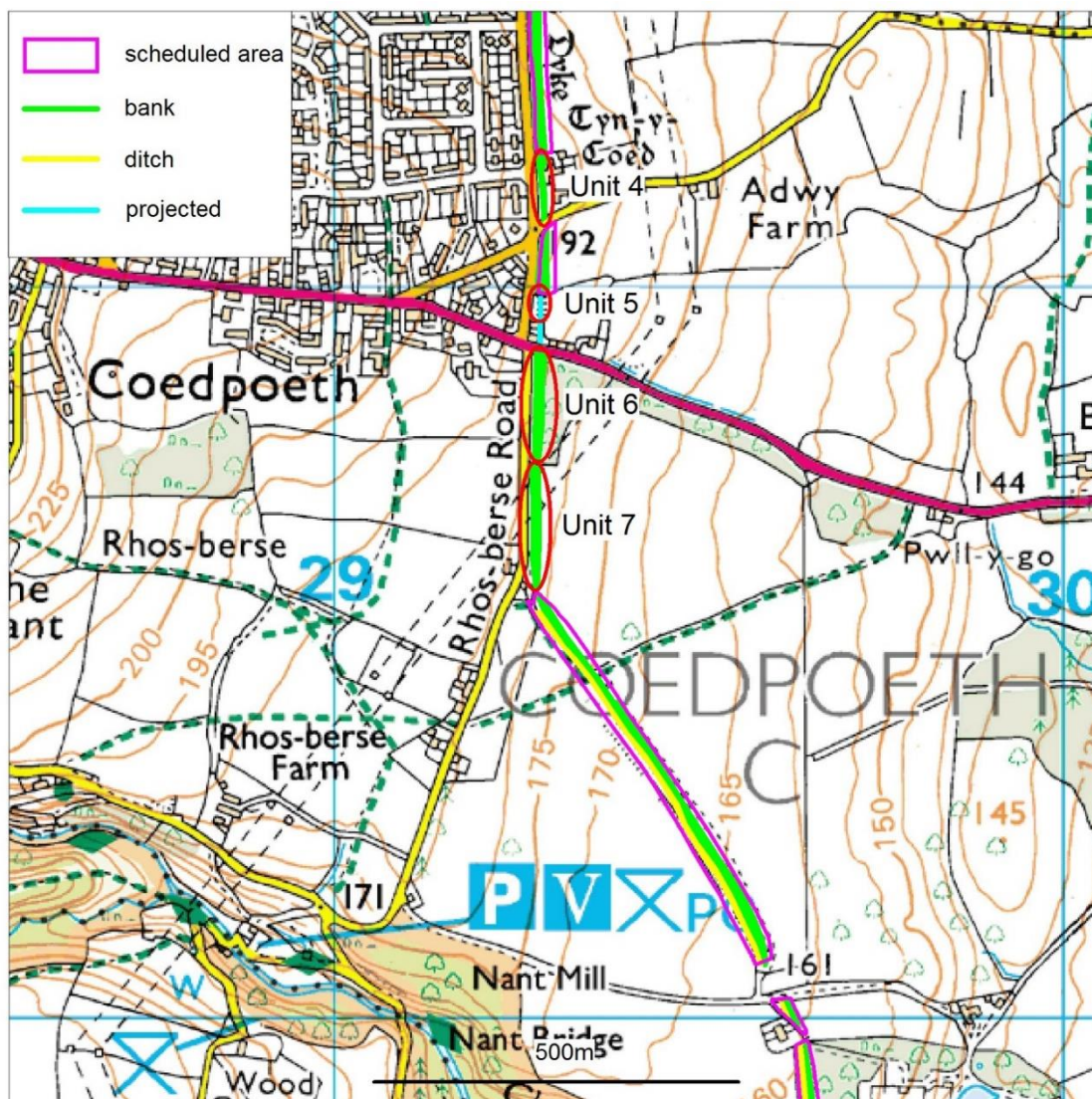
Offa's Dyke Unit 6: view from the south showing the overgrown bank within woodland. CPAT 4326-0007



Offa's Dyke Unit 6

Offa's Dyke Unit 7

NGR: SJ 29276 50674



Description

- 3.29. The section lies immediately to the east of Rhos Berse Road, which follows the line of the ditch. While LiDAR suggests the survival of a low bank this is difficult to determine on the ground owing to scrub vegetation.

Vegetation: scrub

Land use: uncultivated land

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition Summary

- 3.30. The dyke lies in an uncultivated area beneath powerlines, on the western side of an arable field and is covered in dense scrub growth.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	scrub	Yes	Low

- 3.31. Scrub grassland, brambles and small trees cover the low earthwork.

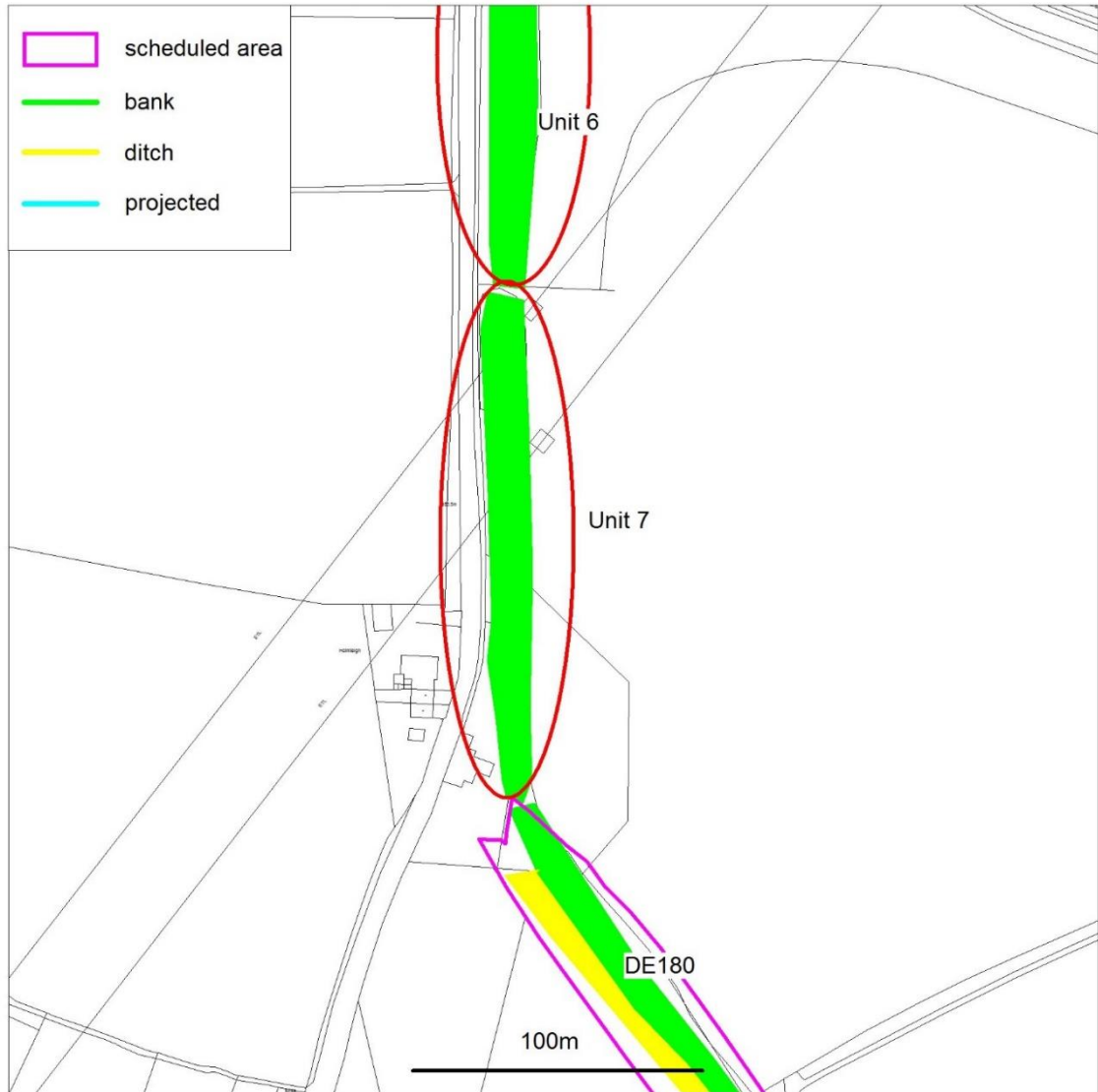
Action: Clear scrub and prevent regrowth.

Management recommendations

- 3.32. The low upstanding remains are not currently afforded statutory protection. Clearance of scrub would improve the visibility of the bank and enable it to be appreciated by the public.



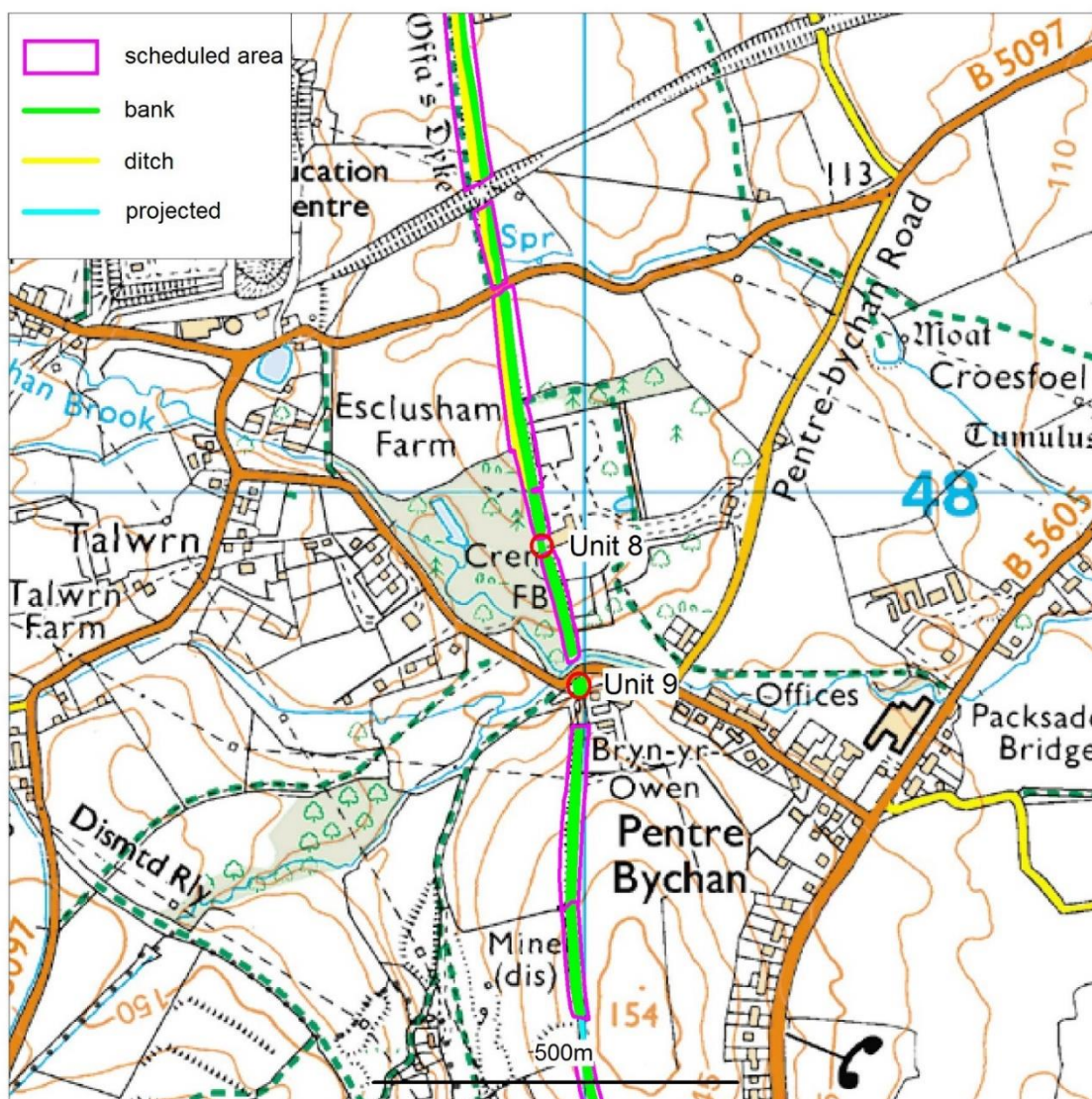
Offa's Dyke Unit 7: view from the south showing the upstanding bank obscured by scrub (Issue 1). CPAT 4326-0014



Offa's Dyke Unit 7

Offa's Dyke Unit 8

NGR: SJ 29940 47928



Description

- 3.33. This short section of the dyke lies immediately to the west of the crematorium, with sections of SAM De137 to either side. The bank is narrow and steeply profiled, suggesting that it was truncated when the crematorium was constructed and the visible remains may not be part of the original bank, but have perhaps been reconsolidated. The ditch is largely infilled within what is now a garden of contemplation.

Vegetation: Grass

Land use: recreation.

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: None

Condition Summary

- 3.34. The damage here is historic, when the crematorium was built, and the area is now in good condition, being maintained as part of the garden of contemplation.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

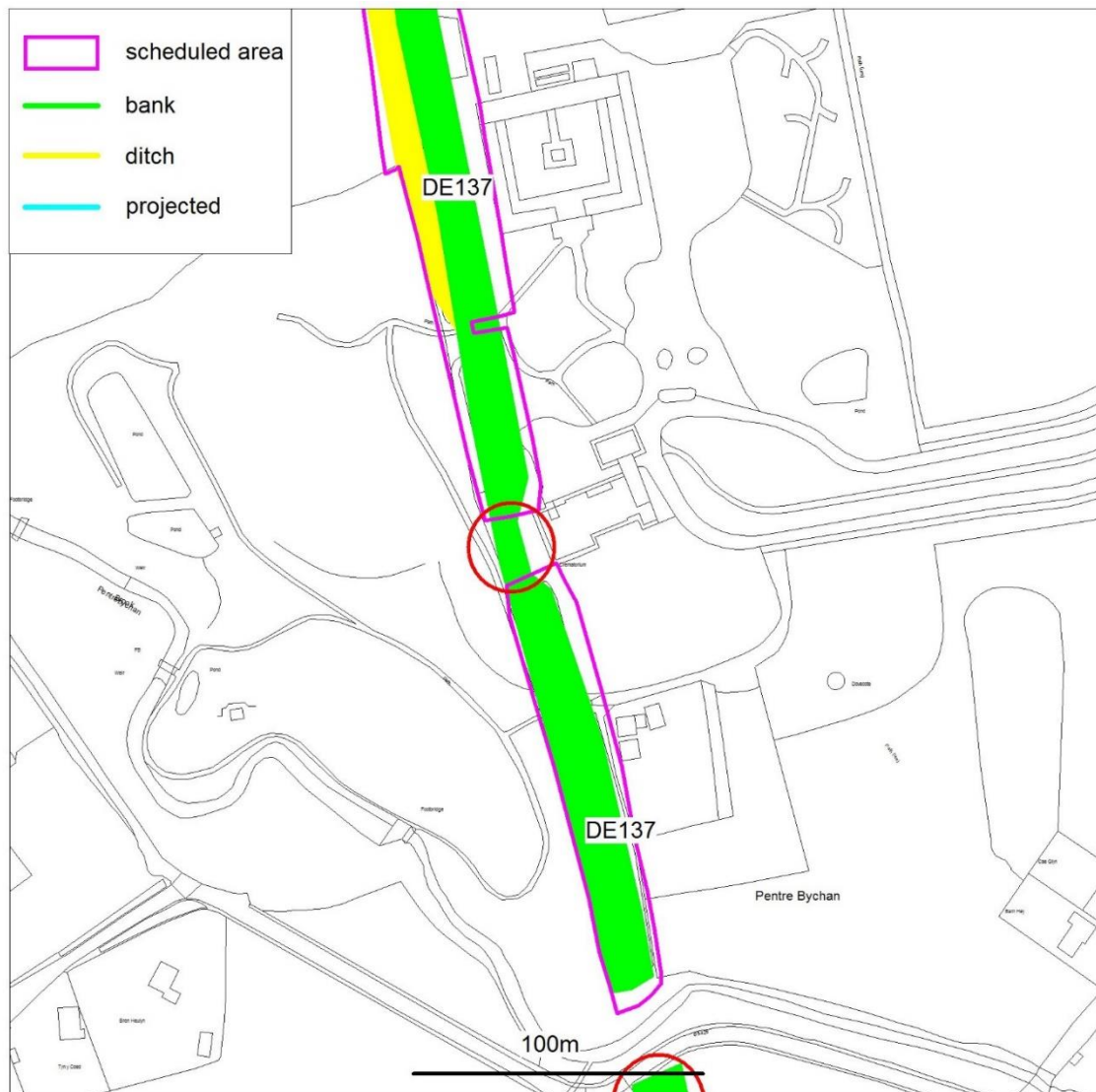
Management Issues

- 3.35. None

- 3.36. *Action:* None

Management recommendations

- 3.37. None



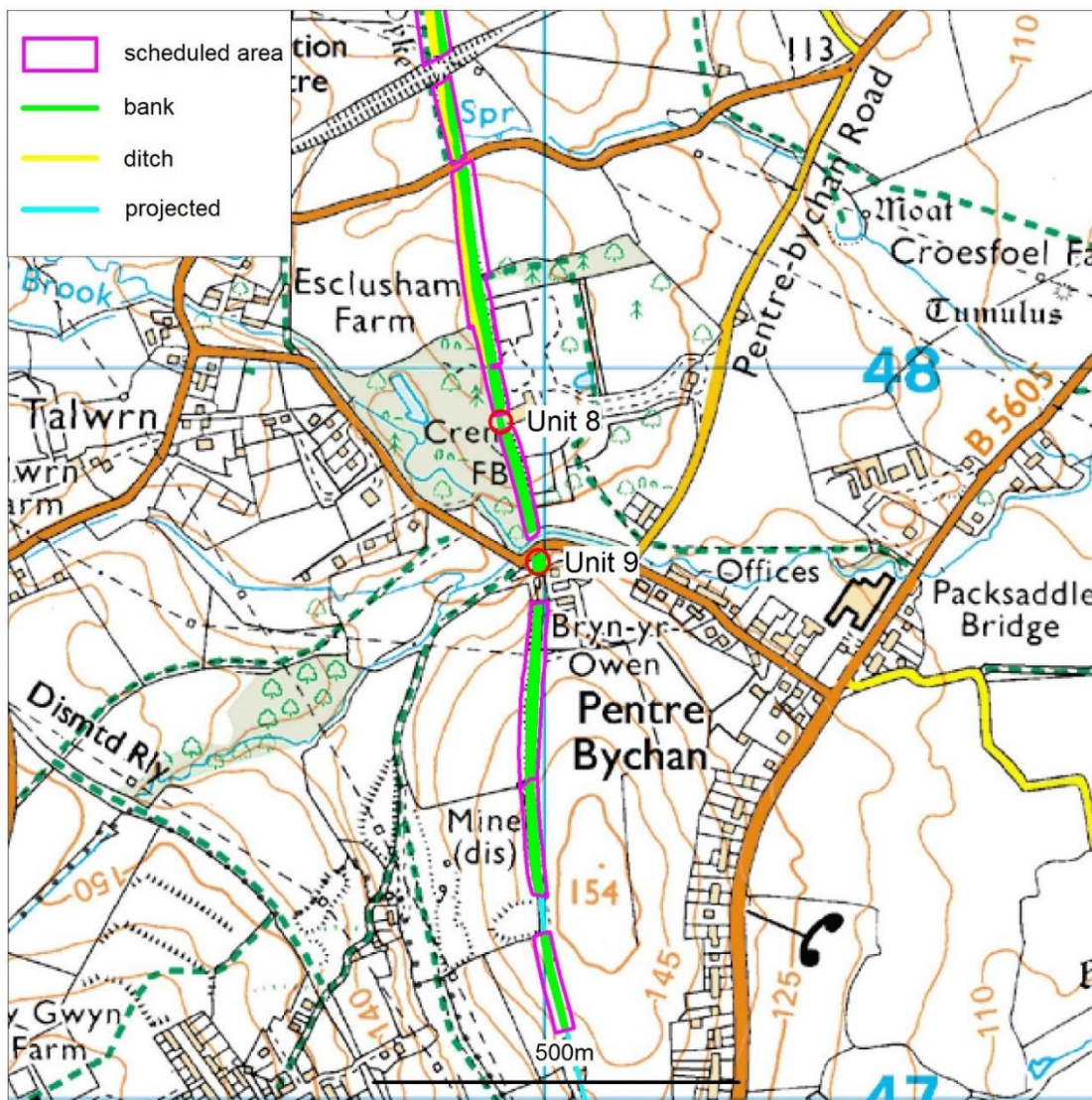
Offa's Dyke Unit 8



Offa's Dyke Unit 8: View from the south-west of what may be a remnant of the bank, with the ditch lying to the left and beneath the crematorium road. CPAT 4315-0011

Offa's Dyke Unit 9

NGR: SJ 29990 47736



Description

- 3.38. A field visit to the area between SAMs De137 and De174 at Pentre Bychan has shown that there is no surviving evidence for the dyke in a small area of woodland to the south of the B5426, which occupies the south side of a stream valley, having been terraced into the slope.

Vegetation: Trees; scrub

Land use: Woodland

Vulnerability: N/A

Risk: N/A

Scheduling potential: None

Condition Summary

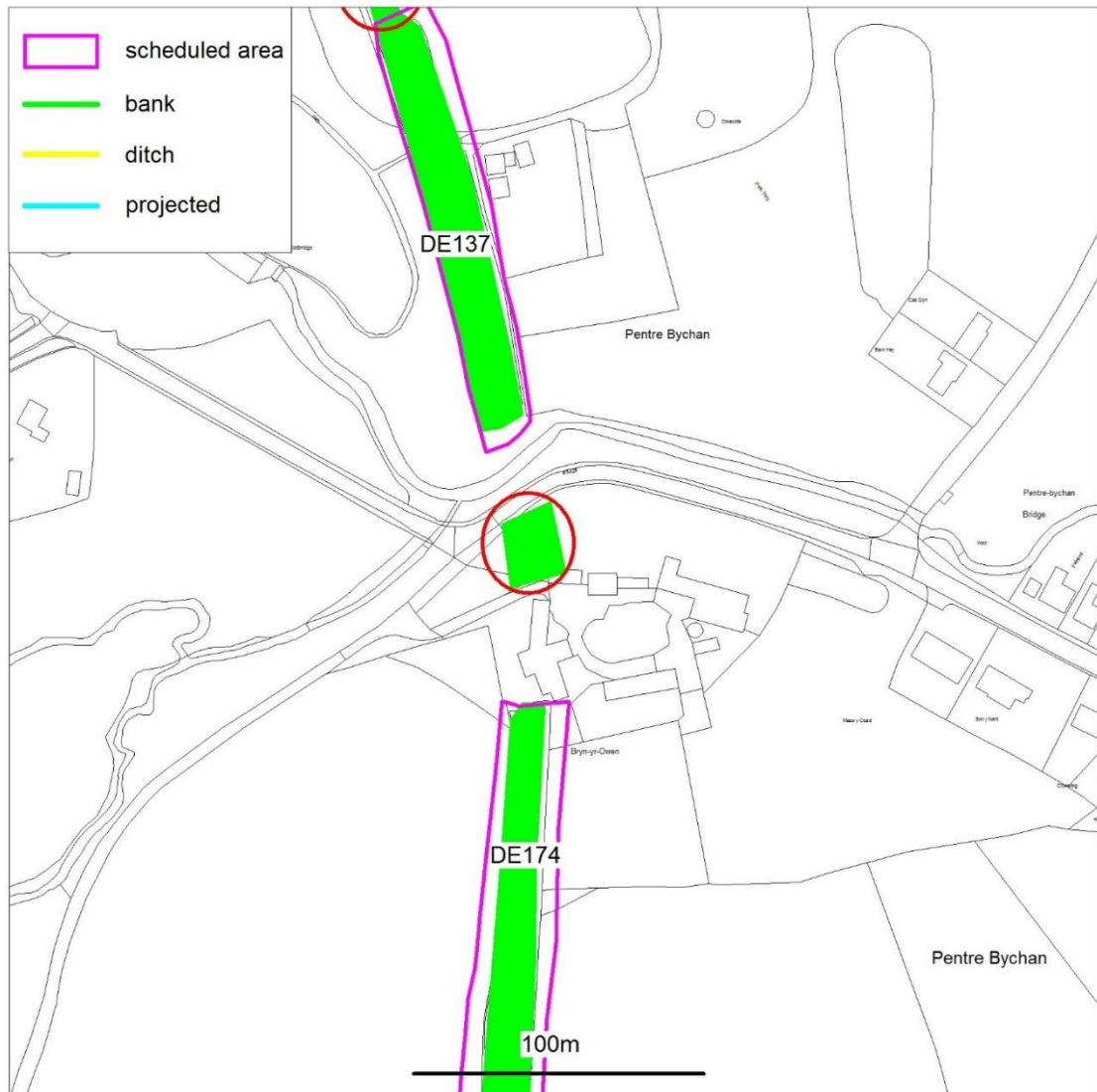
3.39. All trace of the dyke has been removed in this area.

Condition: N/A

Trend: N/A

Management recommendations

3.40. None



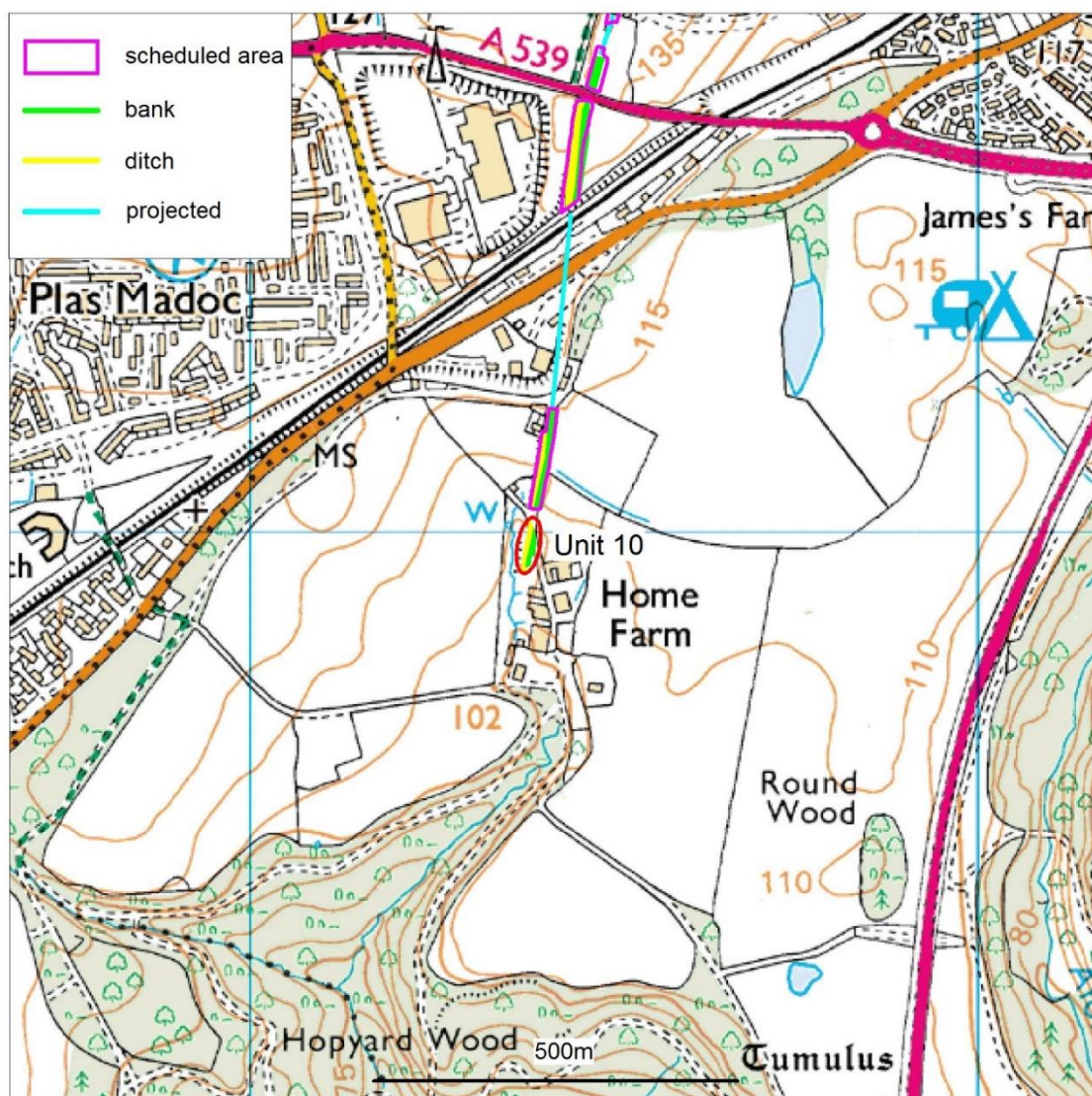
Offa's Dyke Unit 9



Offa's Dyke Unit 9: lost section of dyke alongside road. CPAT 4326-0032

Offa's Dyke Unit 10

NGR: SJ 29381 42982



Description

- 3.41. A relatively short section of the dyke on the east side of a narrow stream gully adjacent to Wynnstay Estate's Home Farm. To the north is a scheduled section (SAM De177) where a farm road runs on top of the bank, which then turns towards the farm avoiding this section.

Vegetation: trees

Land use: Woodland

Vulnerability: Medium

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition Summary

- 3.42. Overall the section is in a good condition, although damaged in the past by the creation of the road and some landscaping near the farm buildings. The area is now woodland, with trees and small shrubs and minor evidence for burrowing animals. Some spoil from the farm has been dumped on the east side of the bank, obscuring part of the earthwork.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Animal burrowing	Yes	Low

- 3.43. Small amount of surface scratching by wild animals looking for food, but no significant burrowing

Action: None.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Trees	No	Low

- 3.44. Some mature trees on the monument in an effectively unused section of woodland.

Action: Appropriate management of trees.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
3	Dumping	No	Low

- 3.45. Historic tipping of spoil related to the farm has covered some of the earthwork (on the east side), although the monument is likely to survive beneath this.

Action: Prevent further dumping.

Management recommendations

- 3.46. The upstanding earthwork is not currently afforded statutory protection. The dyke here is in generally good condition, but should not be encroached upon further by dumped material.



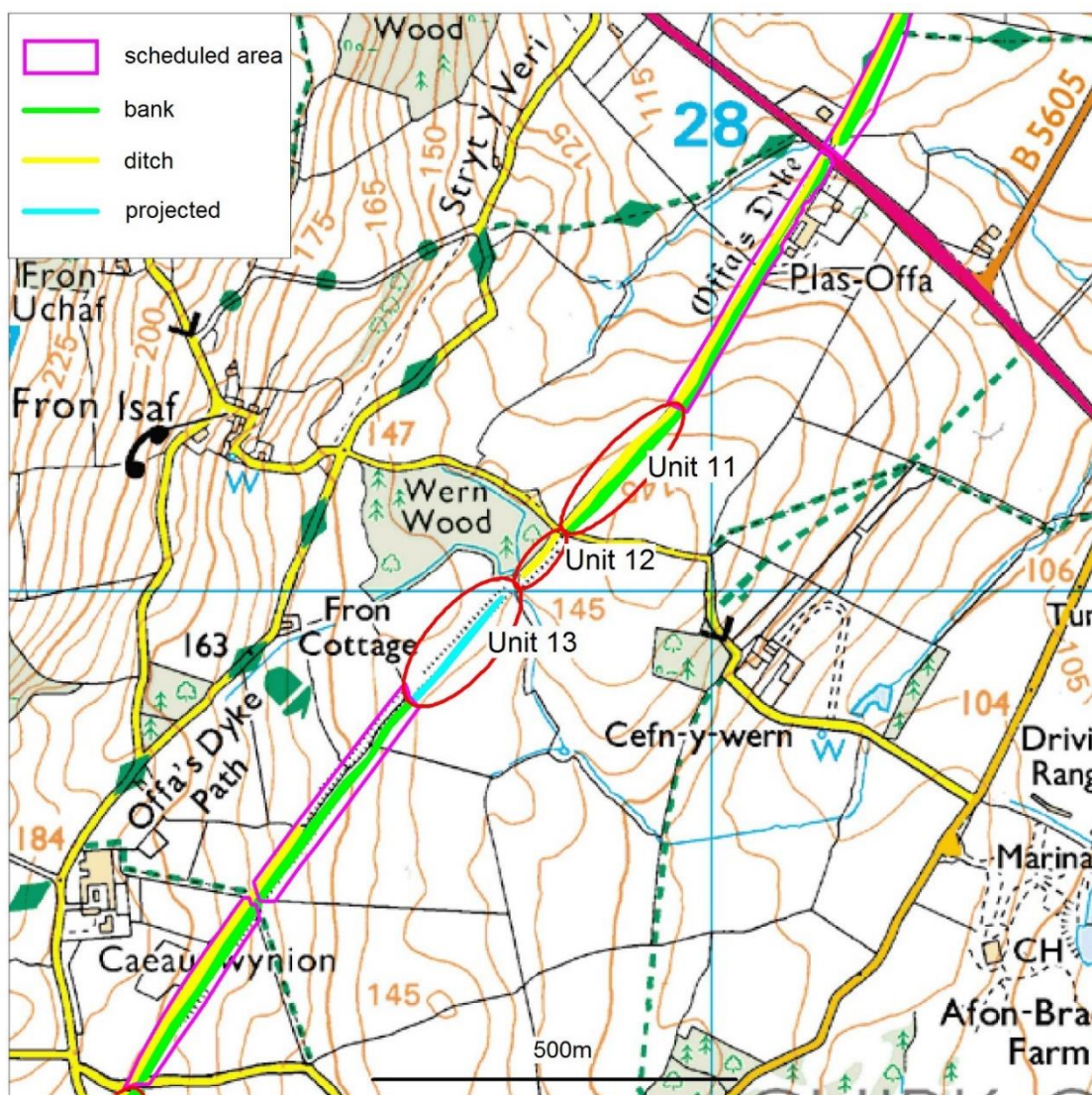
Offa's Dyke Unit 10



Offa's Dyke Unit 10: View from the north-west showing the trees (Issue 2) on the bank in within the area of the ditch, together with the dumped material (Issue 3), visible top left. CPAT 4315-0012

Offa's Dyke Unit 11

NGR: SJ 27878 40170



Description

- 3.47. To the south-west of SAM De138, as far as a minor road, the dyke survives as a slight bank up to 0.8m high for around 80m in the central section, but is more denuded at either end.

Vegetation: grass; bracken

Land use: pasture; arable

Vulnerability: Medium

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition Summary

- 3.48. The dyke forms a boundary between two fields, both of which are subject to occasional ploughing, while there are a number of minor issues relating to scrub and bracken, which in part encourage rabbit burrowing.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Ploughing	Yes	Med

- 3.49. Either side of the dyke is subject to occasional ploughing, which is likely to have a great impact on the bank than the ditch.

Action: Avoid ploughing close to the field boundary which follows the ditch

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Animal burrowing	Yes	Med

- 3.50. There is intermittent evidence for rabbit burrowing along the field boundary which is in part associated with the presence of bracken.

Action: See below

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
3	Bracken	Yes	Low

- 3.51. There is minor bracken growth along the field boundary.

Action: Control bracken.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
4	Hedge/fence	Yes	Low

- 3.52. A field boundary hedge, runs along the line of the ditch.

Action: None

Management recommendations

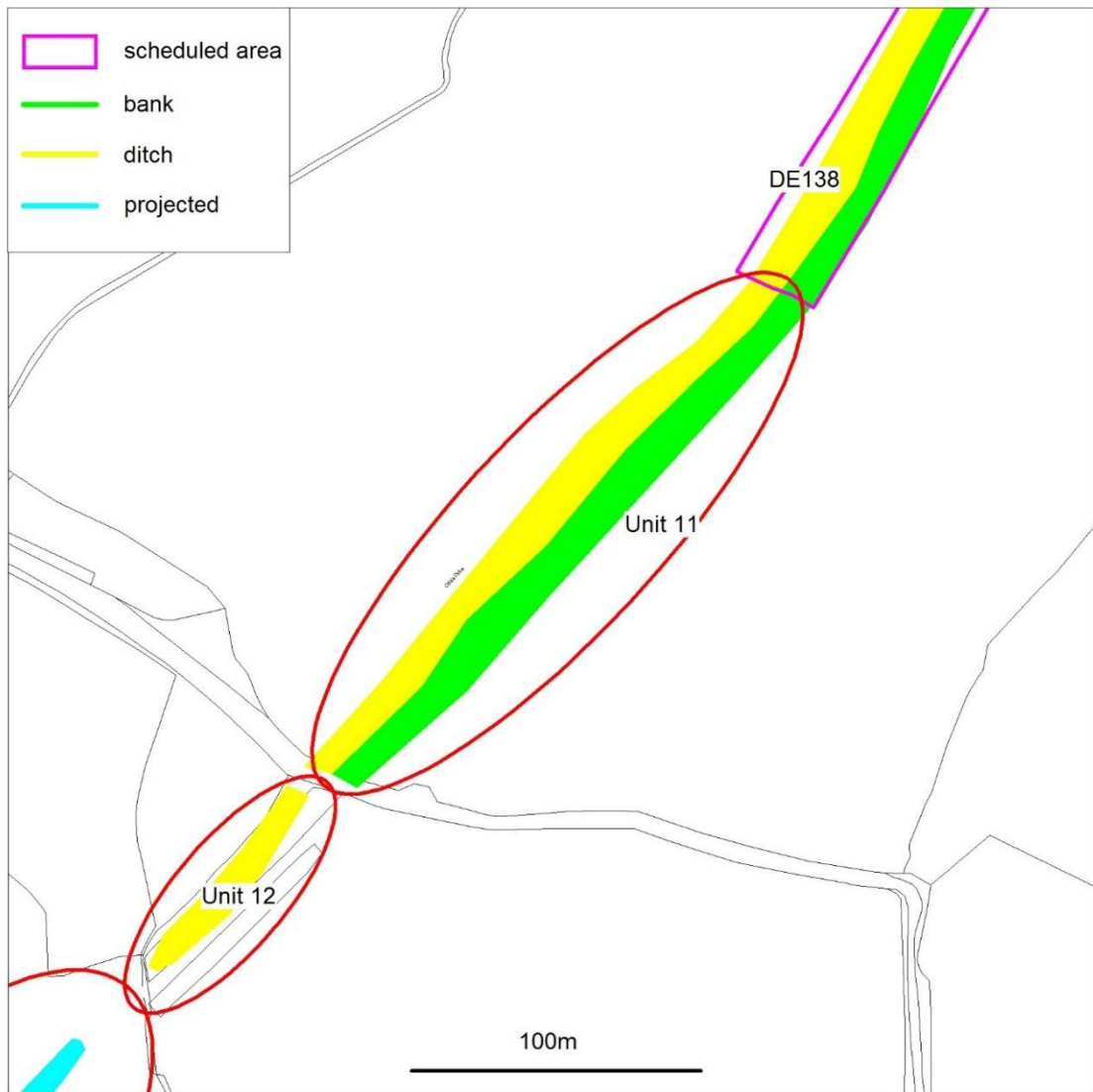
- 3.53. Control of the bracken would likely to help reduce the issue of burrowing animals.



Offa's Dyke Unit 11: Animal burrowing (Issue 2) and bracken (Issue 3) along the north-west side of the bank. CPAT 4326-0034



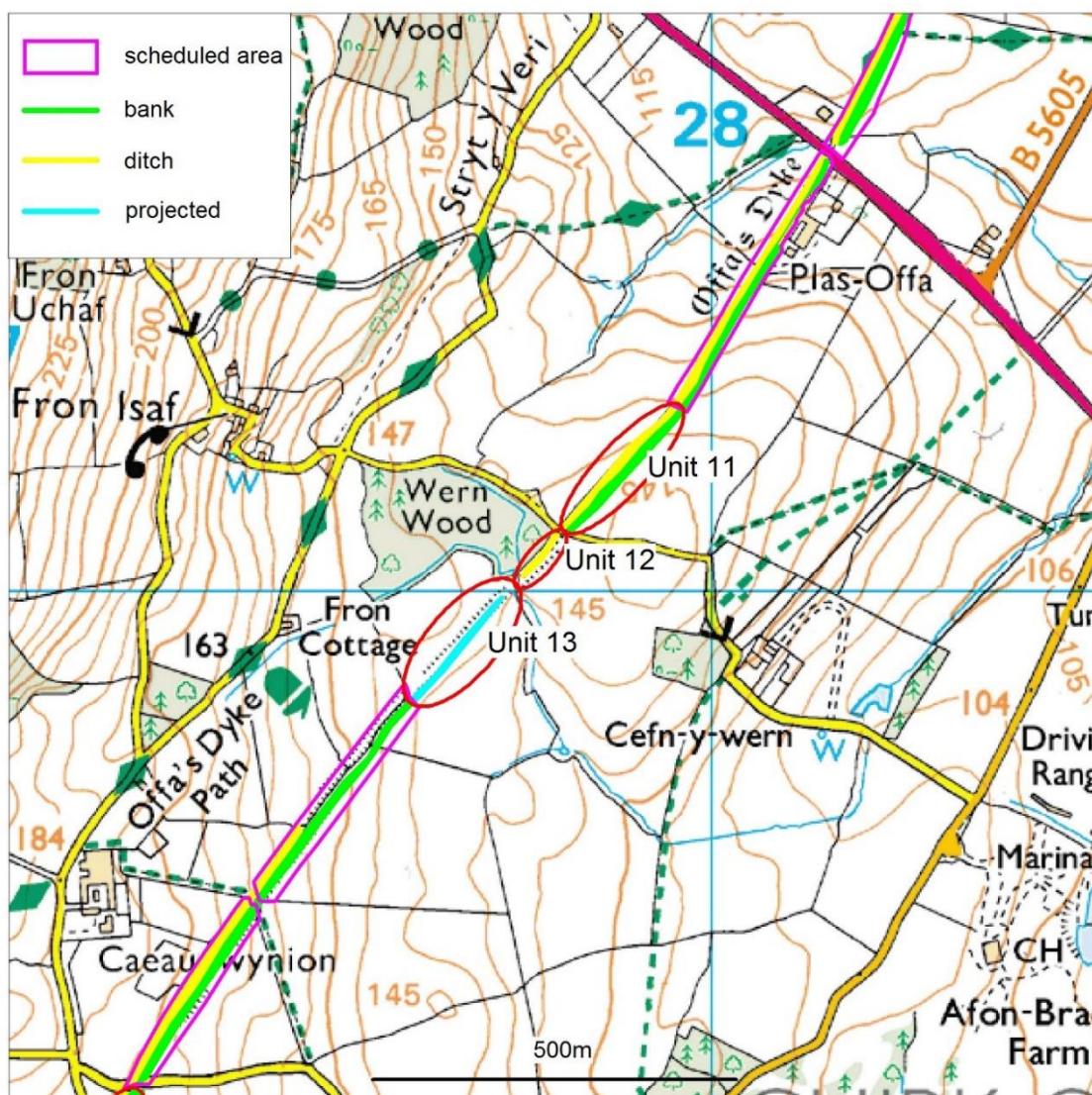
Offa's Dyke Unit 11: View from the south-west along the line of the dyke. CPAT 4326-0035



Offa's Dyke Unit 11

Offa's Dyke Unit 12

NGR: SJ 27765 40045



Description

- 3.54. An upstanding bank, together with a ditch in the woodland to the north-west, is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" mapping and also appears on modern mapping. However, virtually all trace of the bank has now been levelled, although the ditch is still visible, lying in woodland and along the edge of the adjacent field.

Vegetation: fodder crop; trees

Land use: pasture/arable; woodland

Vulnerability: high

Risk: high

Scheduling potential: No

Condition Summary

- 3.55. The bank is been almost entirely levelled and the field to the south-east is subject to ploughing, while the area of woodland to the north-west is relatively well managed.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: Worsened severe

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Ploughing	Yes	High

- 3.56. At the time of the visit the field was under a fodder crop and is likely to be ploughed on at least an occasional basis.

Action: Prevent further ploughing.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Trees	Yes	Low

- 3.57. The ditch lies in woodland, although the trees are unlikely to pose a real threat to the archaeology.

Action: None

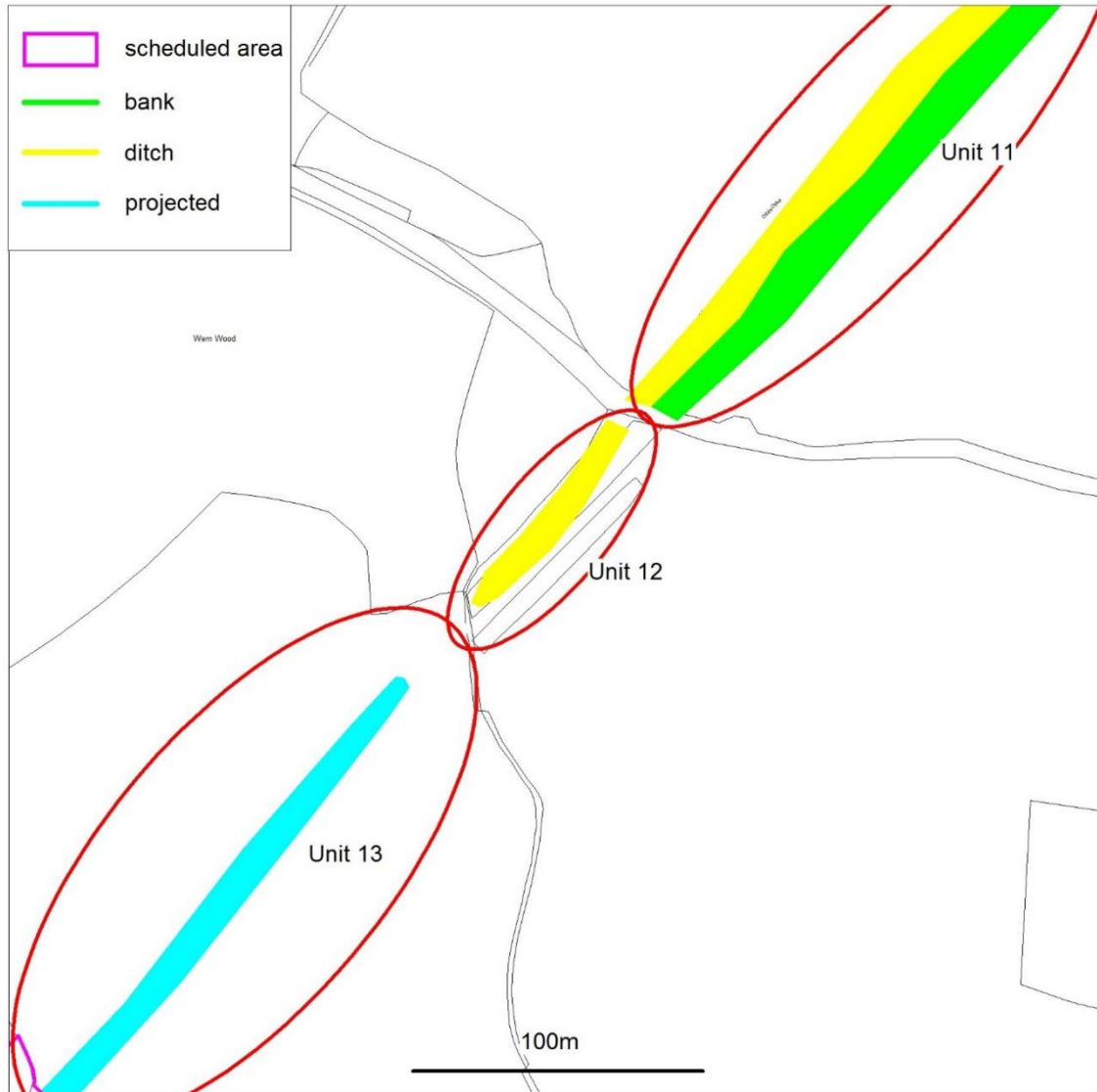
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
3	Fence	No	Low

- 3.58. The boundary fence runs along the base of the ditch, which is largely infilled and replacing the fence is unlikely to pose a real threat to the archaeology.

Action: None

Management recommendations

- 3.59. Address the agricultural regime to prevent further plough damage.



Offa's Dyke Unit 12



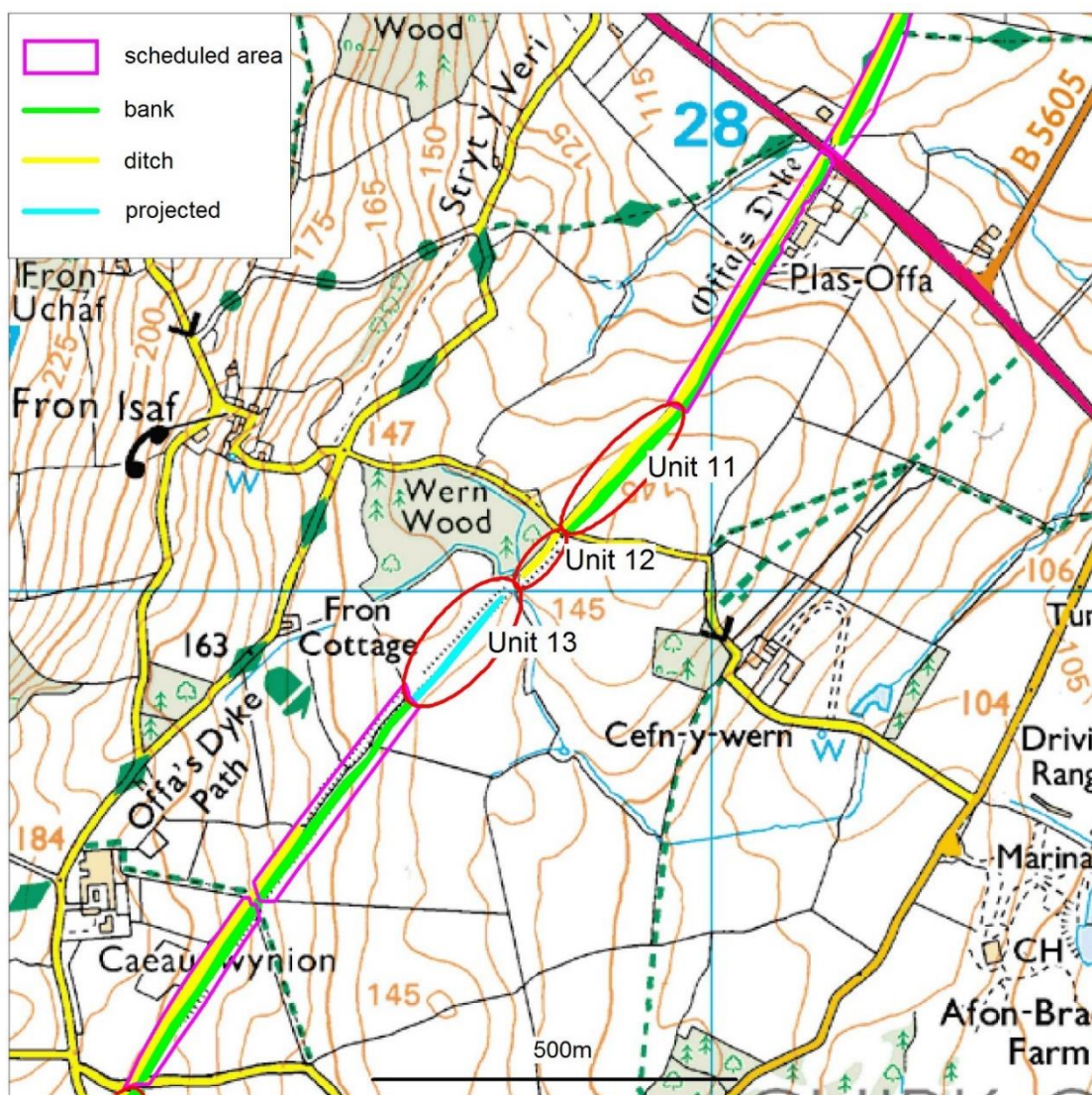
Offa's Dyke Unit 12: View from the north-east showing the levelled bank to the left with the fenceline running along the base of the ditch. CPAT 4326-0039



Offa's Dyke Unit 12: View from the north-east showing the slight earthwork of the ditch within woodland. CPAT 4326-0040

Offa's Dyke Unit 13

NGR: SJ 27658 39931



Description

- 3.60. An upstanding bank, forming a field boundary, is depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" mapping and also appears on modern 1:25,000 maps. However, the field boundary has been removed and virtually all trace of the earthwork has now been levelled, with the possible exception of a very low, spread bank towards the north-eastern end.

Vegetation: grass

Land use: pasture

Vulnerability: high

Risk: high

Scheduling potential: No

Condition Summary

- 3.61. The bank is almost entire plough-levelled and while currently under pasture the condition of the vegetation suggests that the field is subject to at least occasional ploughing.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: worsened superficially

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Ploughing	Yes	High

- 3.62. Further ploughing will impact on the slight earthwork and buried deposits.

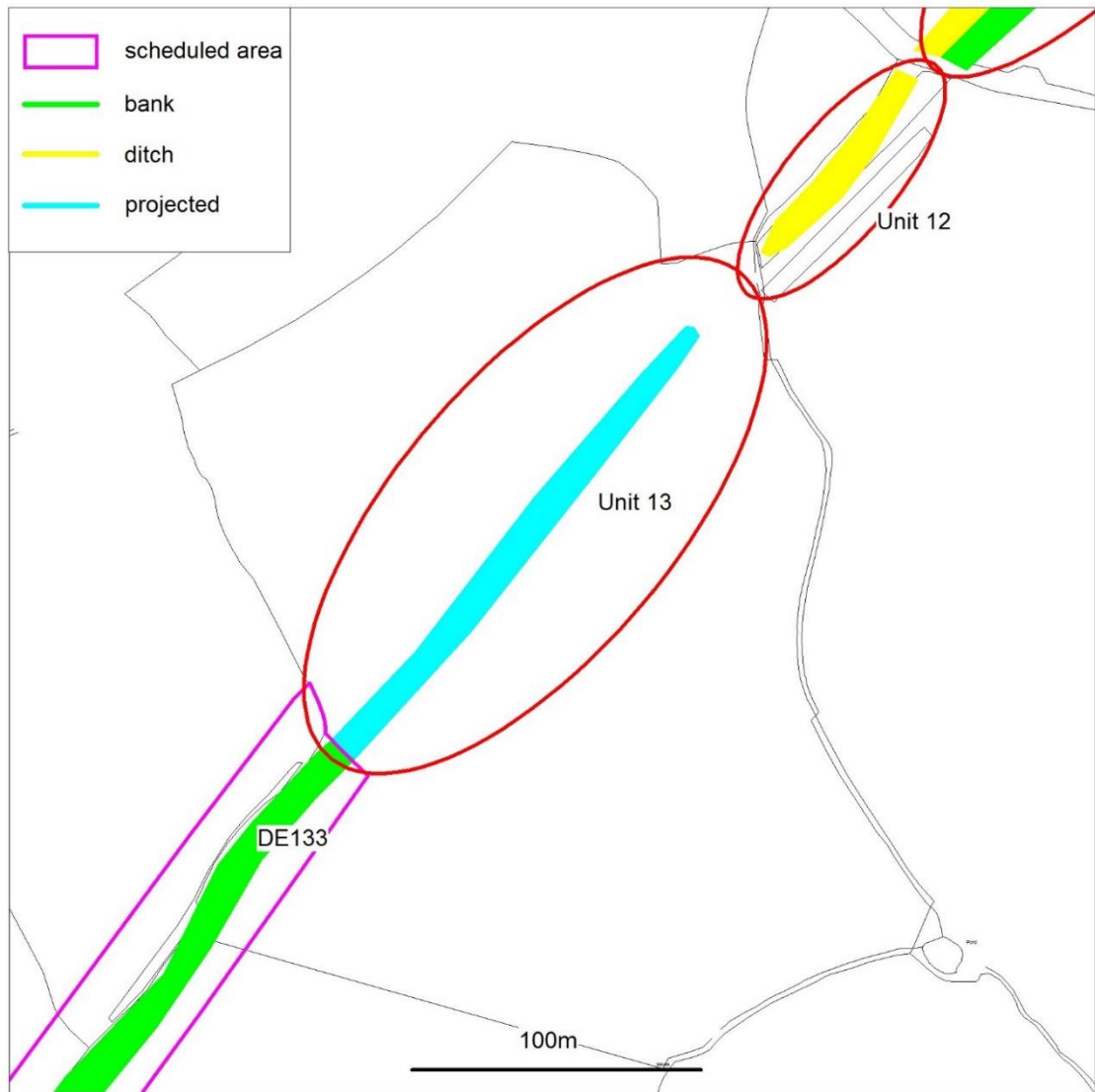
Action: Prevent further ploughing.

Management recommendations

- 3.63. Address the agricultural regime to prevent further ploughing.



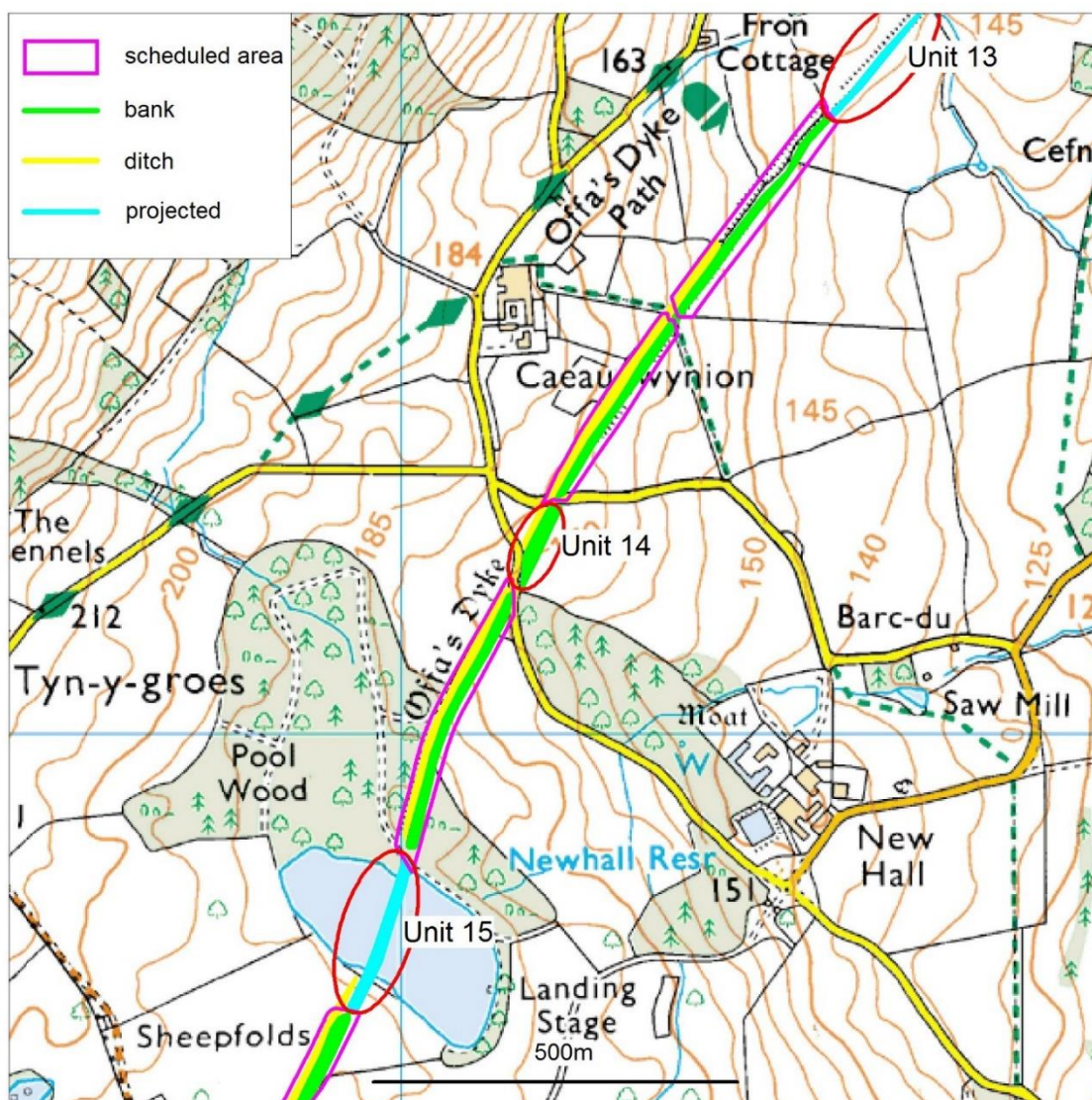
Offa's Dyke Unit 13: View from the south-west showing the slight earthwork of the bank heading to the right of woodland in the distance. CPAT 4326-0045



Offa's Dyke Unit 13

Offa's Dyke Unit 14

NGR: SJ 27185 39260



Description

- 3.64. Between SAMs De133 and De135 the dyke survives as a low bank around 12m across and 0.4m high, with no real trace of the ditch.

Vegetation: grass

Land use: pasture

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition Summary

The dyke crosses a pasture field and is in good condition with no obvious management issues.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management recommendations

3.65. None



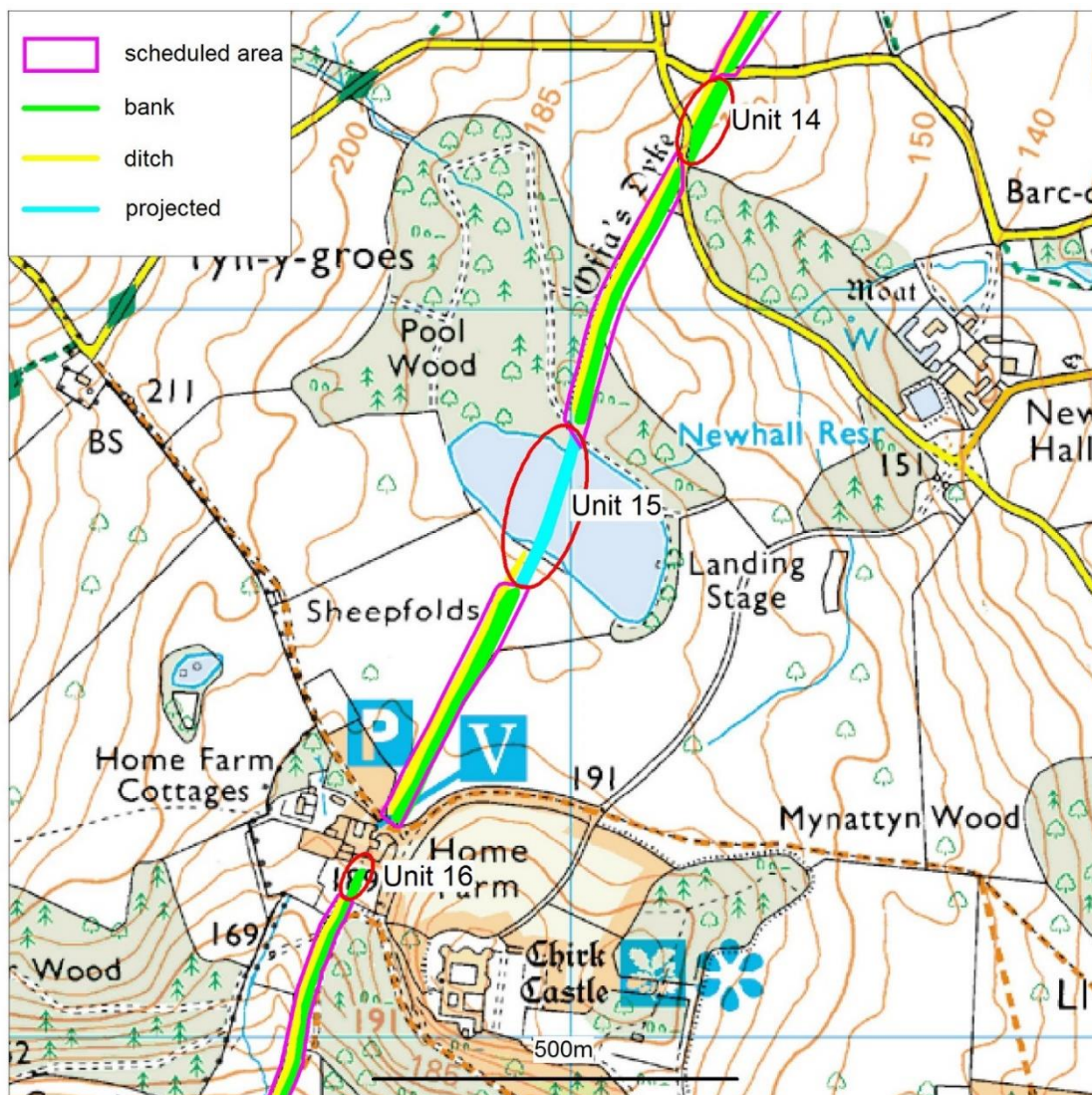
Offa's Dyke Unit 14



Offa's Dyke Unit 14: View to south-east, showing the low earthwork of the bank.
CPAT 4326-0050

Offa's Dyke Unit 15

NGR: SJ 26966 38731



Description

- 3.66. The bank here survives well, but is submerged beneath an ornamental lake within Chirk Castle park. There is a short unscheduled section to the south of the lake where there is no visible trace of a bank or ditch, the earthwork reappearing within SAM De198.

Vegetation: submerged

Land use: lake

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: No

Condition Summary

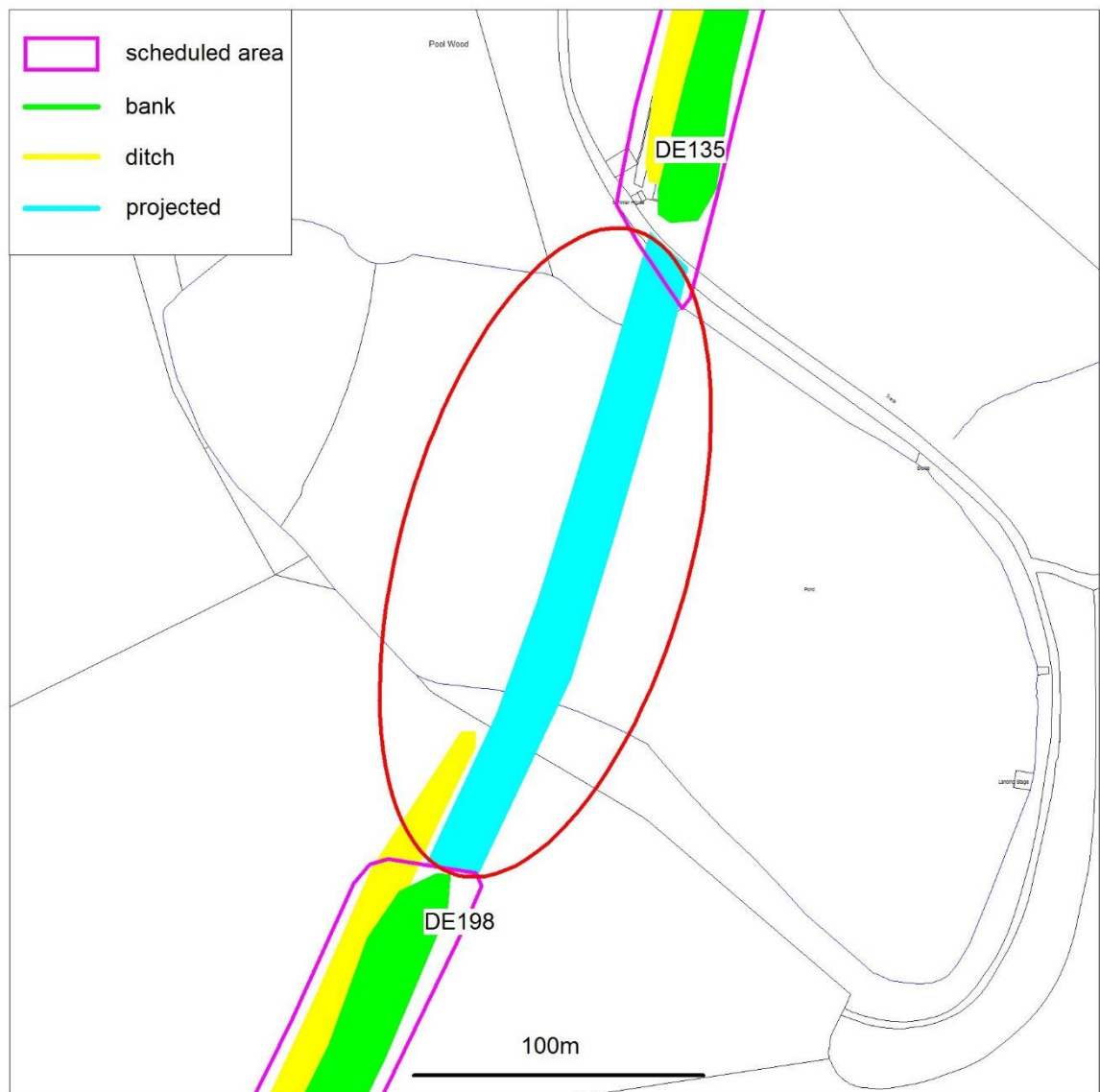
- 3.67. The surviving earthwork is submerged beneath the lake with no trace surviving immediately on either side.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management recommendations

- 3.68. None



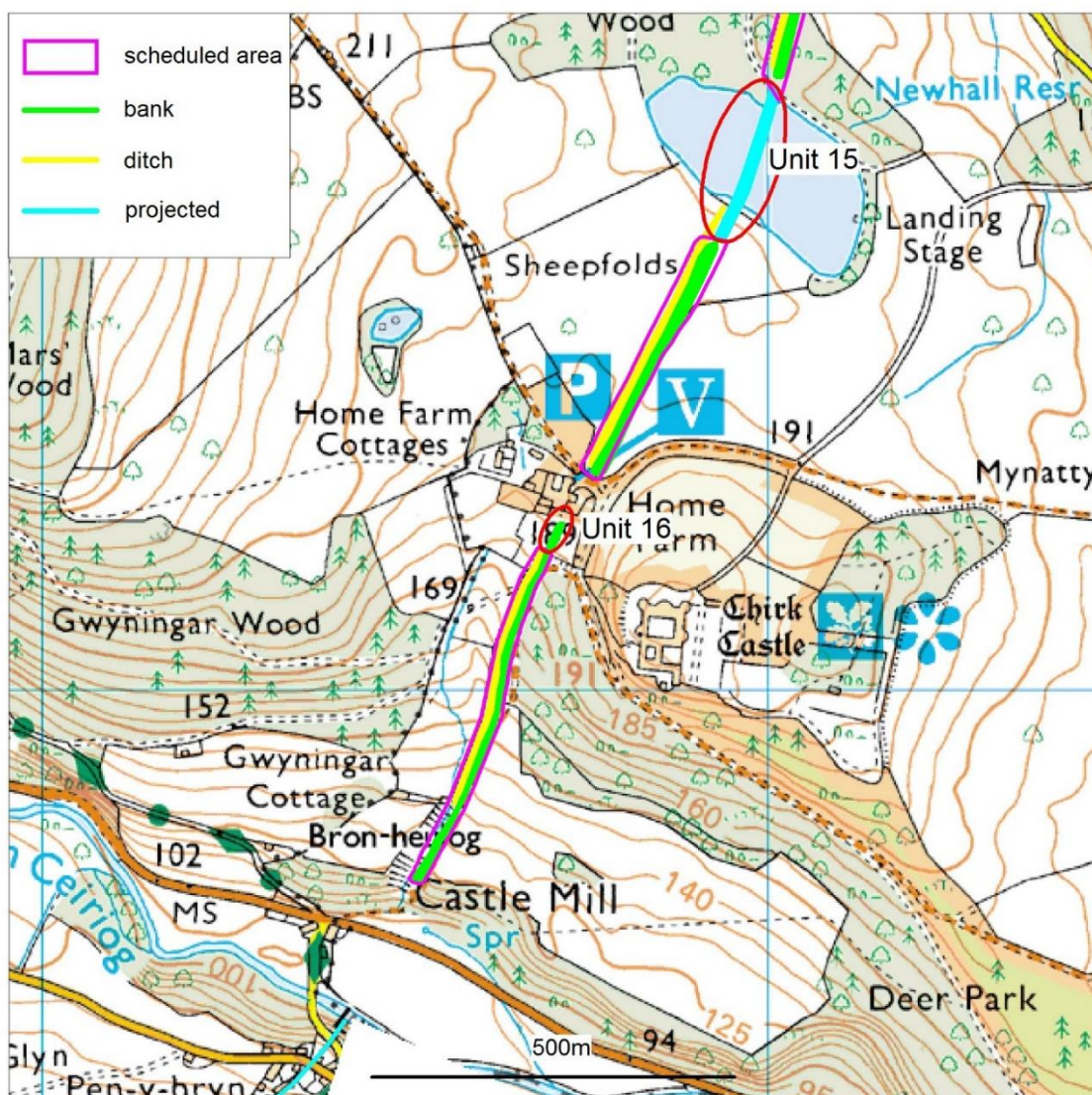
Offa's Dyke Unit 15



Offa's Dyke Unit15: Aerial photograph of the bank visible beneath the surface of the ornamental lake in Chirk Castle park. CPAT 03-c-0532

Offa's Dyke Unit 16

NGR: SJ 26707 38222



Description

- 3.69. A short section of upstanding bank immediately to the north of the well-preserved section of the dyke scheduled as SAM De134, lying within the building complex of Chirk Castle's Home Farm. The surviving bank is generally well-preserved, but has been truncated by the park boundary, an access road and buildings.

Vegetation: Grass; scrub

Land use: parkland

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition Summary

- 3.70. The surviving bank is in good condition, although with some trees and scrub obscuring the monument on the south side of the access road.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

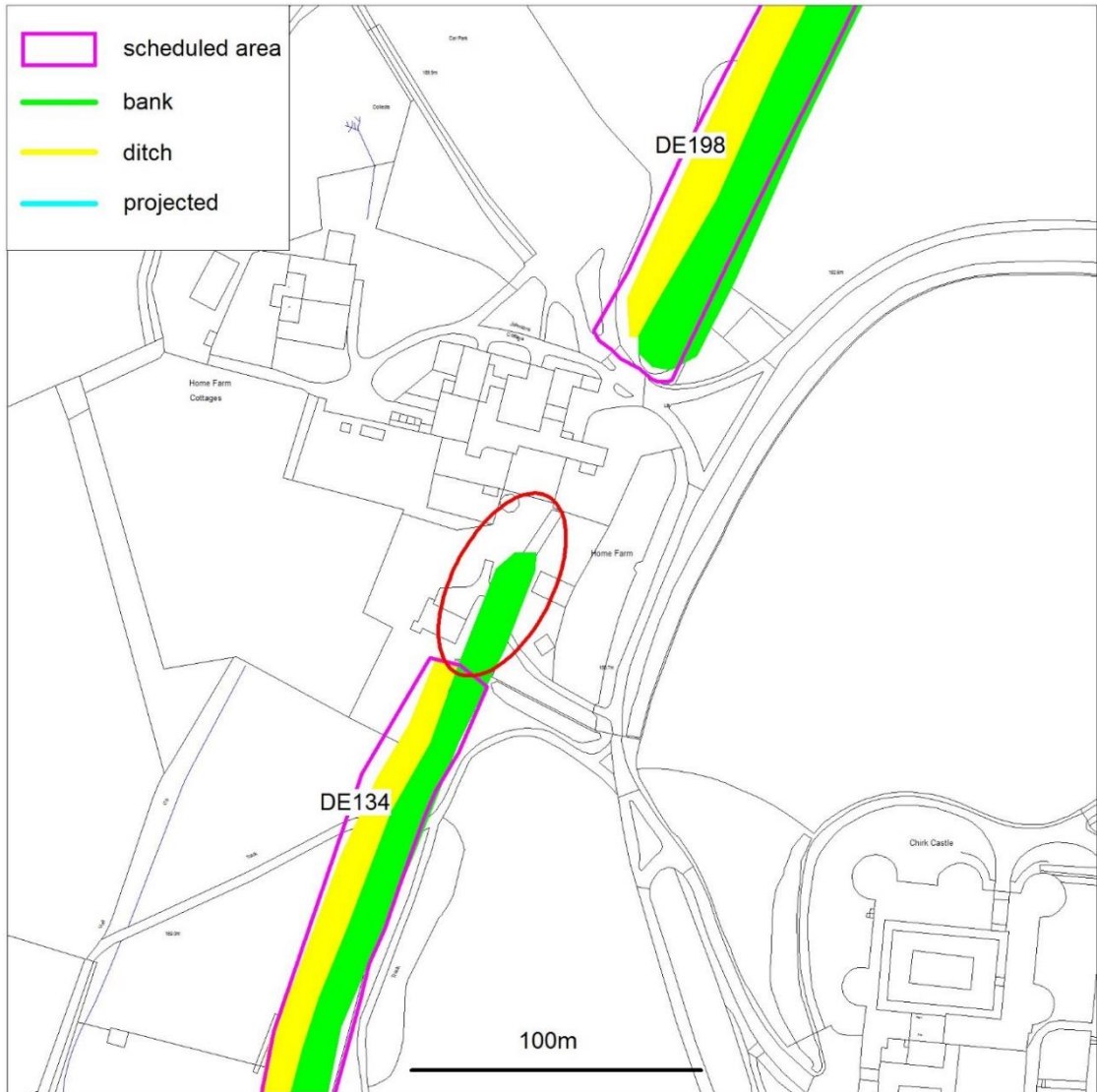
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Trees/scrub	Yes	Low

- 3.71. Trees and scrub obscure the bank to the south of the access road.

Action: remove scrub and prevent regrowth.

Management recommendations

- 3.72. The upstanding bank is a continuation of that scheduled as SAM De134. The southern section, adjacent to the scheduled section, should be cleared of scrub vegetation to improve the visibility of the bank.



Offa's Dyke Unit 16



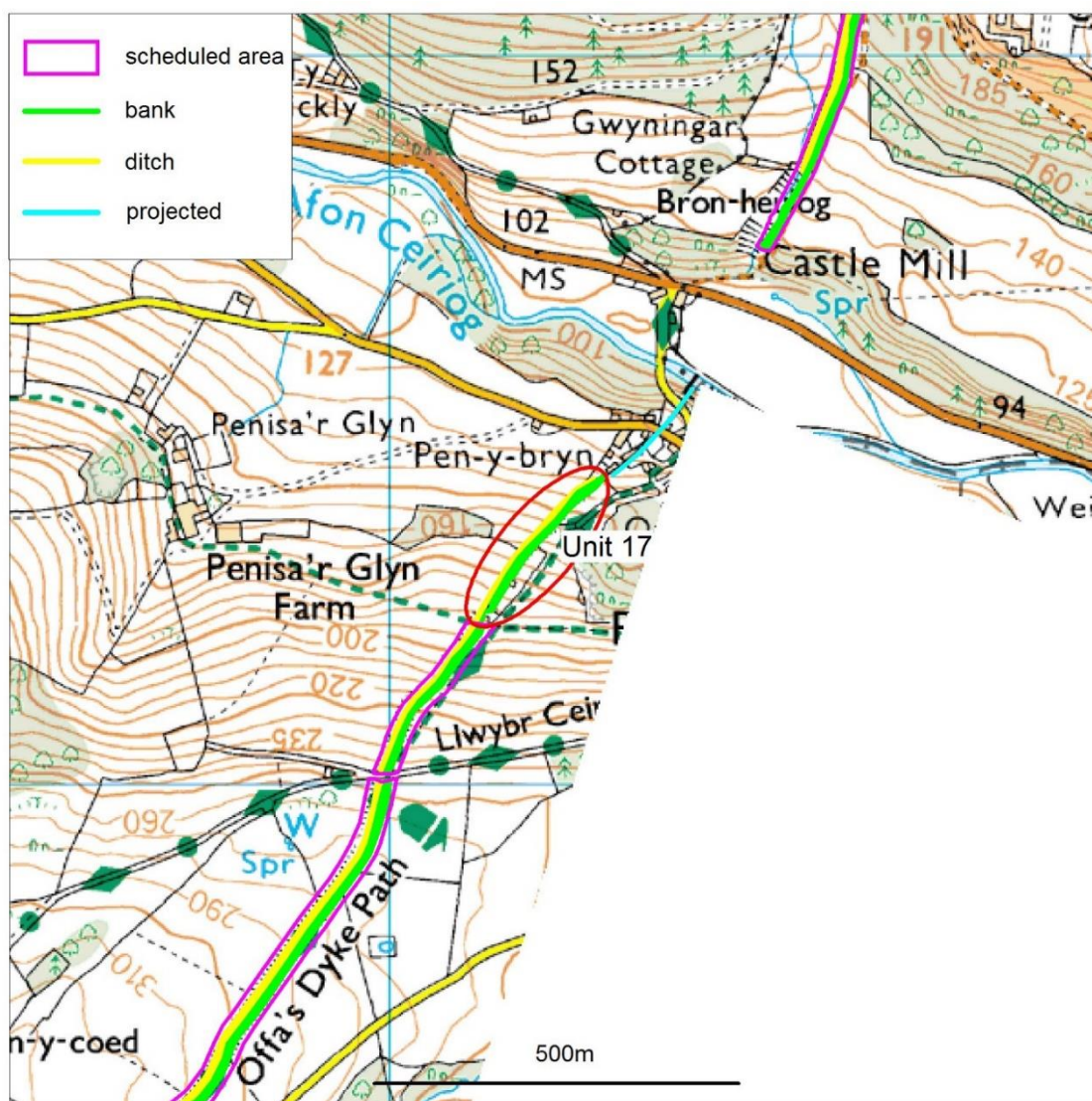
Offa's Dyke Unit 16: View from the south showing the upstanding bank at Chirk Castle Home Farm. CPAT 4326-0015



Offa's Dyke Unit 16: View from the north showing the trees and scrub (Issue 1) bank at Chirk Castle Home Farm. CPAT 4326-0019

Offa's Dyke Unit 17

NGR: SJ 26203 37328



Description

- 3.73. The section of the dyke runs north-north-east down the southern side of the Ceiriog Valley. The bank on the east-south-east is present throughout, although the ditch to the west-north-west is generally infilled. Two cottages have been built into the slope of the bank to the east-south-east, the rest of the monument here being within farmland. The earthwork terminates at Pen-y-Bryn farm on its north-north-east end. The bank survives to a good height although it has been cut into on the east-south-east when Orchard Cottage and Croft Cottage were built.

Vegetation: Grass, trees.

Land use: Pasture, garden.

Vulnerability: Medium

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition Summary

- 3.74. Croft Cottage has been recently renovated/rebuilt and a concrete block revetment has been built, cutting into the bank. A concrete paved track leads to Croft cottage along the ditch which seems to have been filled in some time before the track was built. Minor stock erosion is present along the length.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: worsened superficially

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Stock erosion	Yes	Low

- 3.75. There is some stock erosion throughout the length, notably along the fence atop the bank and also along an access route giving animals access to the fields to the south.

Action: Manage grazing and movement of animals.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Fence	Yes	Low

- 3.76. A fence follows the crest of the bank which has led to minor stock erosion alongside, and also has the potential for further damage when it is replaced.

Action: While it would be preferable to remove the fence, it forms a boundary between properties, at least in part, and this is therefore likely to be impracticable.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Development	Yes	Medium

- 3.77. Orchard Cottage lies on the east-south-east side of the bank, some of which was probably removed when it was built (the crest survives), while Croft Cottage has been recently renovated/rebuilt, including a concrete block revetment cutting into the bank.

Action: Prevent further encroachment associated with the two properties.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
3	Vehicles	No	Medium

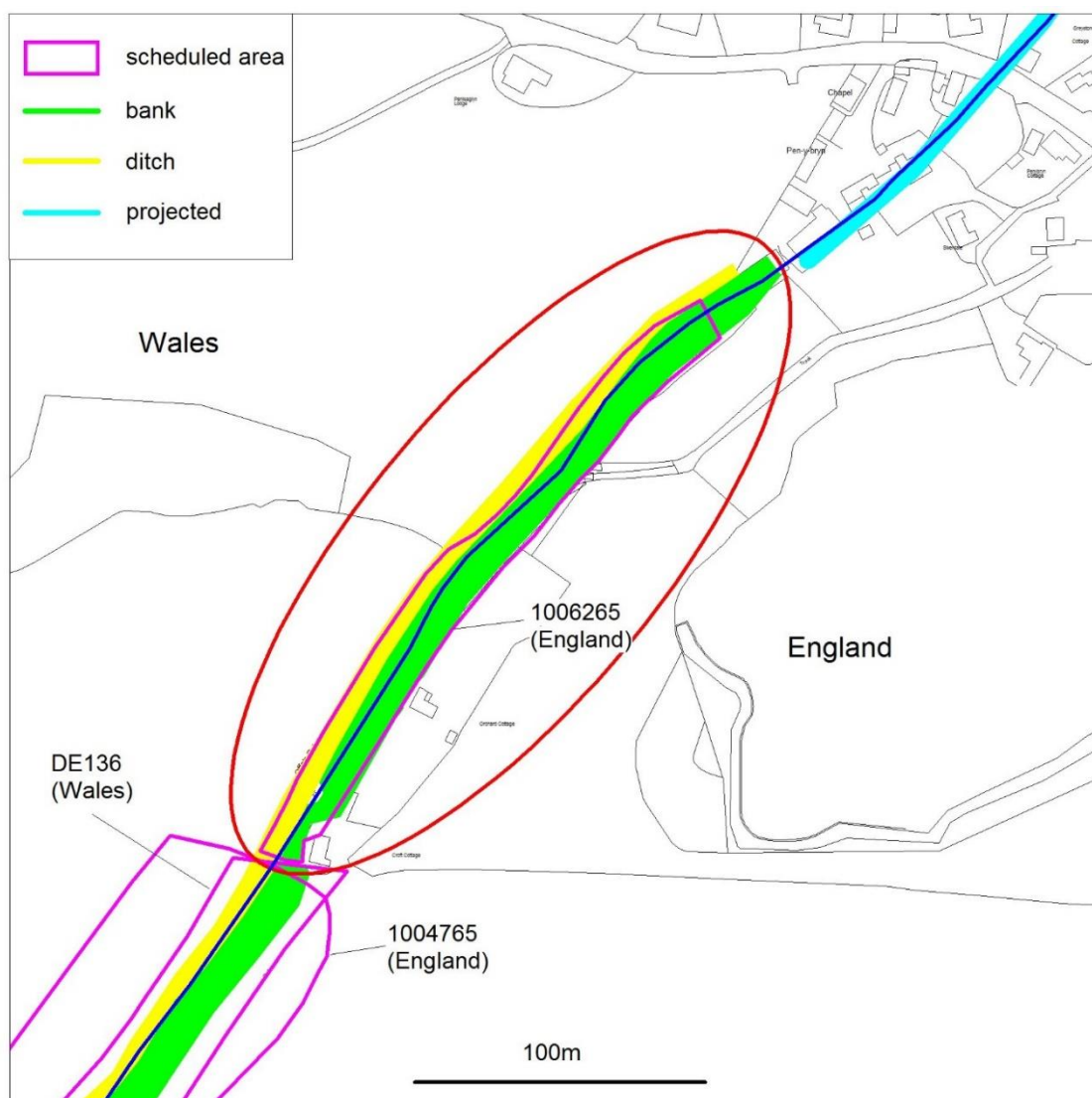
- 3.78. The access to both cottages has already impacted on the earthworks: that to Orchard Cottage runs along the bank, while that to Croft Cottage lies along a concrete track following the line of the ditch before cutting across the bank at the cottage.

Action: While there is no active erosion by the tracks there is the potential for further damage if they were altered. Any upgrading/relaying of the tracks should be managed carefully to prevent damage.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
4	Trees	Yes	Medium

- 3.79. Much of this section of the dyke has trees along the earthwork. Some of these are mature and susceptible to high winds given their location.

Action: Monitor their condition and fell if necessary.



Offa's Dyke Unit 17

Management recommendations

- 3.80. All but the north-east end is scheduled with an English designation (list 1006265) which crosses the border into Wales. Active management issues may require management of livestock, while potential issues resulting from development and vehicles should be managed through the scheduled monument consent process.



Offa's Dyke Unit 17: View from south of the stock erosion (Issue 1). CPAT 4315-0014



Offa's Dyke Unit 17: View from the south of the concrete block revetment at Croft Cottage (Issue 2). CPAT 4315-0023



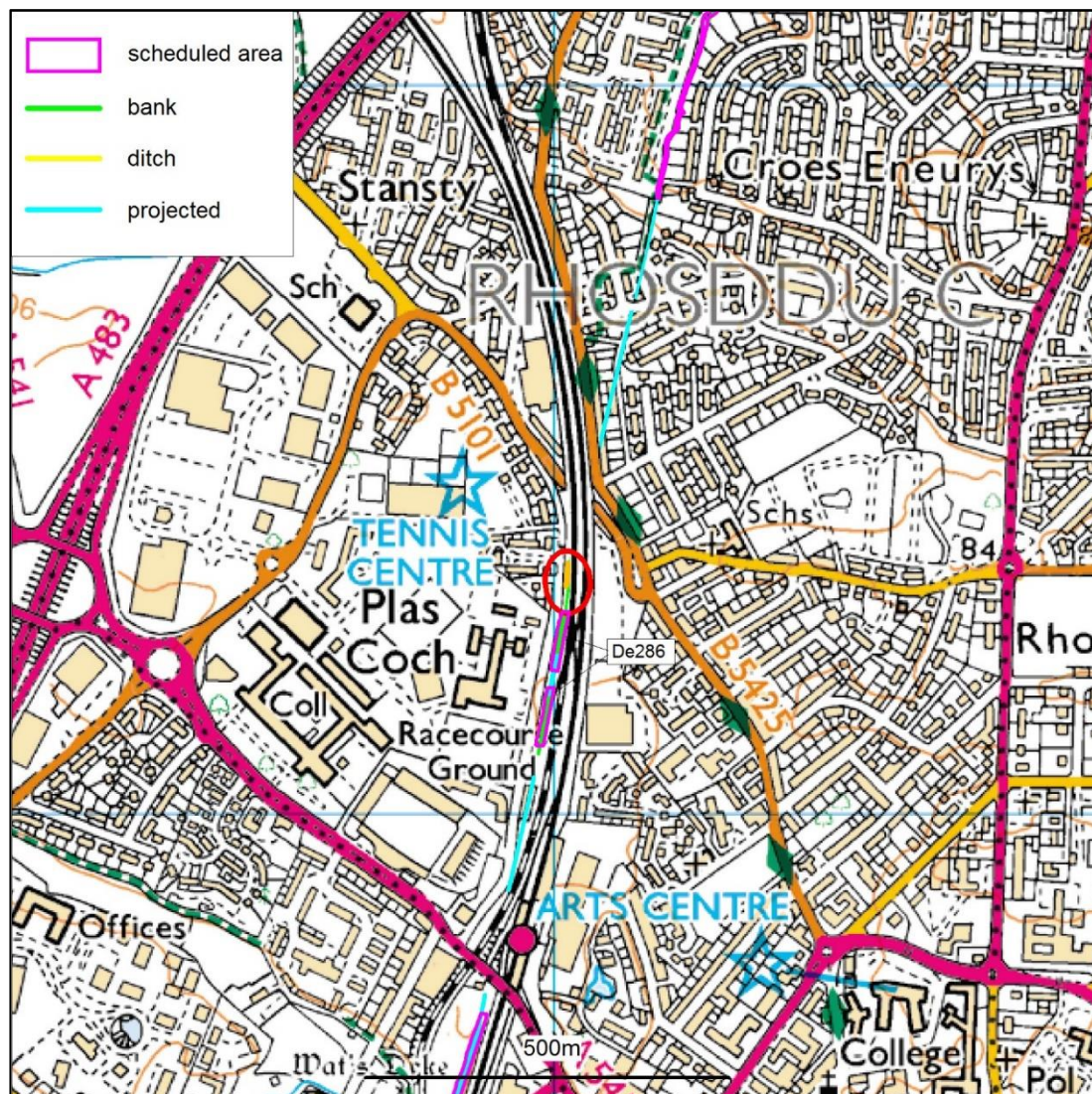
Offa's Dyke Unit 17: View from south-south-west of the vehicle erosion (Issue 3).
CPAT 4315-0019



Offa's Dyke Unit 17: View from the north of the trees growing on the dyke (Issue 4).
CPAT 4315-0021

4 Wat's Dyke Unit 1

NGR: SJ 33019 51317



Description

- 4.1. An undesignated section of Wat's Dyke immediately to the north of SAM De286, along Crispin's Lane, Wrexham. The visible earthworks comprise a low bank, 1.2m in height and approximately 75m in length. It is unclear whether this represents a continuation of the better preserved scheduled section or is a result of 19th-century landscaping following the excavation of the railway cutting. The bank peters out at the north end.

Vegetation: Bracken, light scrub, brambles, self-seeded trees.

Land use: Enclosed land forming part of lineside adjacent to railway cutting.

Vulnerability: Medium.

Risk: Medium.

Scheduling potential: None

Condition Summary

- 4.2. The bank is covered with fairly light scrub, including a large patch of bracken, brambles and small trees. There is a fair amount of rubbish and dumped material across the entire area, which has been thrown over the fence.

Condition: Unfavourable.

Trend: Worsened superficially.

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Bracken	Yes	Medium

- 4.3. An area of dense bracken partially overlies the bank.

Action: Control bracken

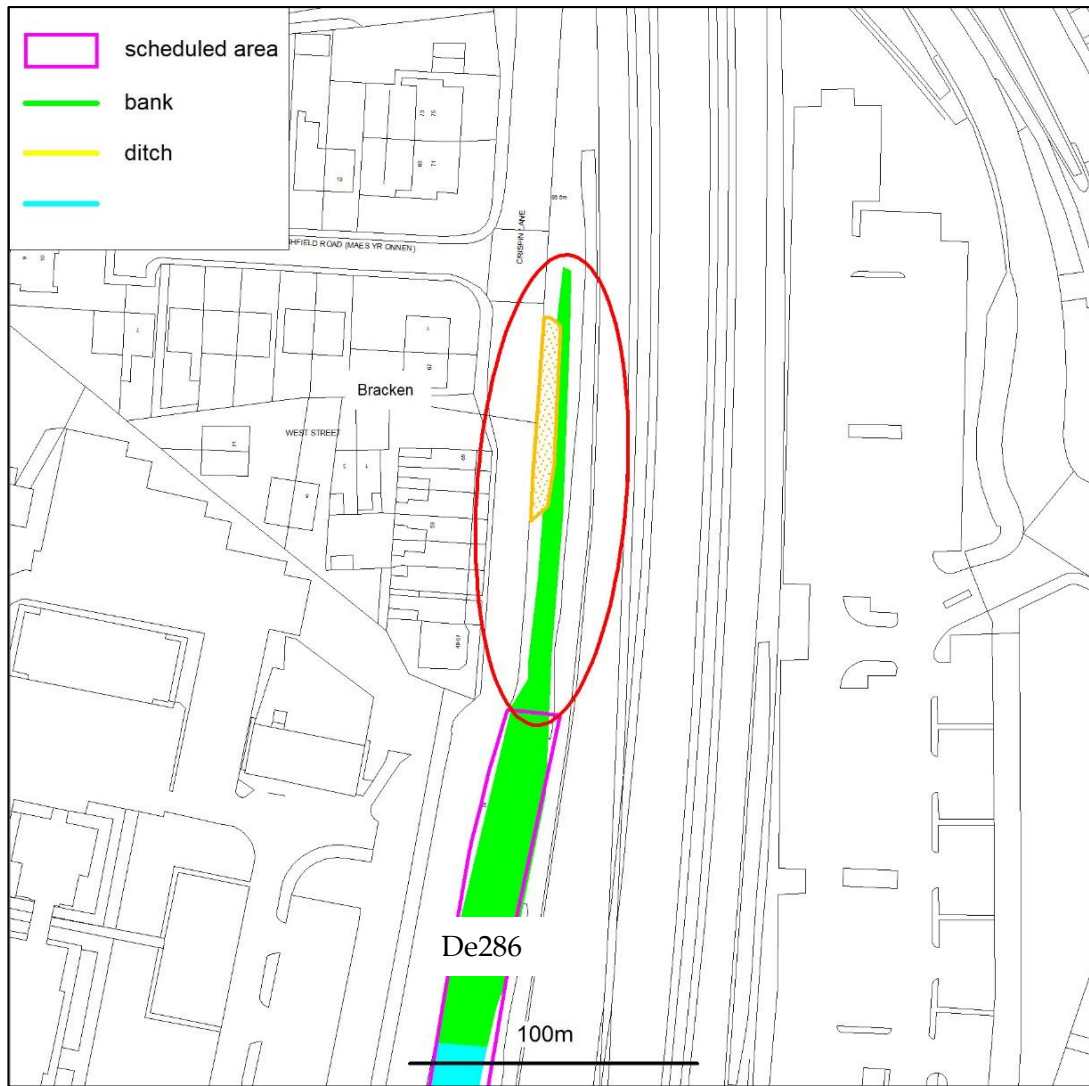
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Dumping/tipping	Yes	Medium

- 4.4. There is a general spread of rubbish across the entire area.

Action: Removal of rubbish and dumped material.

Management recommendations

- 4.5. Regardless of where the visible remains are those of the dyke the control of bracken and the removal of rubbish and dumped material would enhance this and the adjacent scheduled section.



Wat's Dyke Unit 1



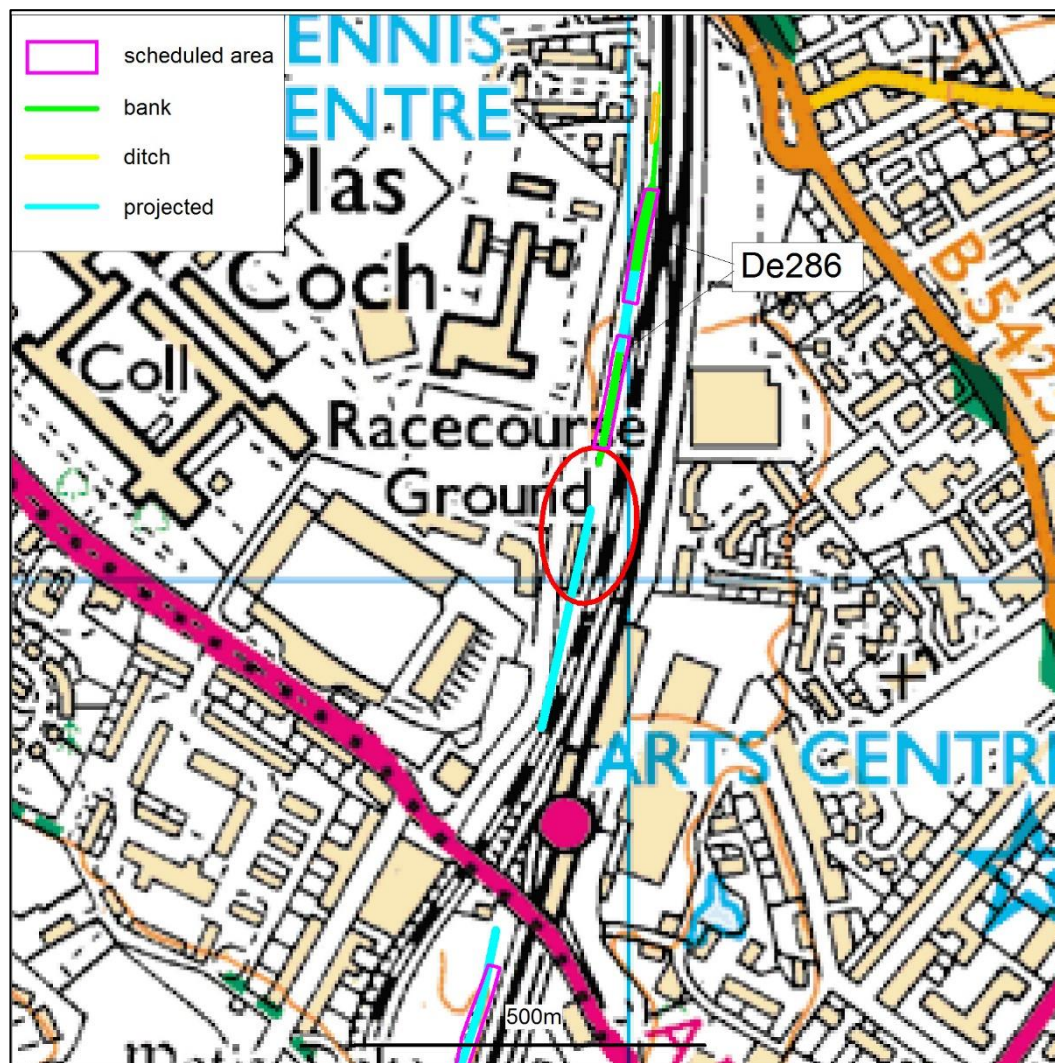
Wat's Dyke Unit 1: View from the south of the bank, covered in bracken (Issue 1).
CPAT 4317-0013



Wat's Dyke Unit 1: View from the west showing dumped material to the west of
the bank (Issue 2). CPAT 4317-0015

Wat's Dyke Unit 2

NGR: SJ 32971 51044



Description

- 4.6. To the south of SAM De286, along Crispin's Lane, Wrexham, the upstanding bank tails off rapidly, beyond which there is no discernible trace of the earthwork. The central section of the area appears to have been re-landscaped and the road access between the railway and Crispin Lane cuts across the line of the earthwork.

Vegetation: Heavy scrub, self-seeded trees.

Land use: Enclosed railway land adjacent to railway cutting and road access to the railway.

Vulnerability: Medium.

Risk: Medium.

Scheduling potential: None

Condition Summary

- 4.7. The line of the bank is on derelict land which on which scrub and trees are now recolonizing.

Condition: Unfavourable.

Trend: Worsened superficially.

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Trees/scrub	Yes	Low

- 4.8. This is an area of derelict land on which scrub and small trees are growing.

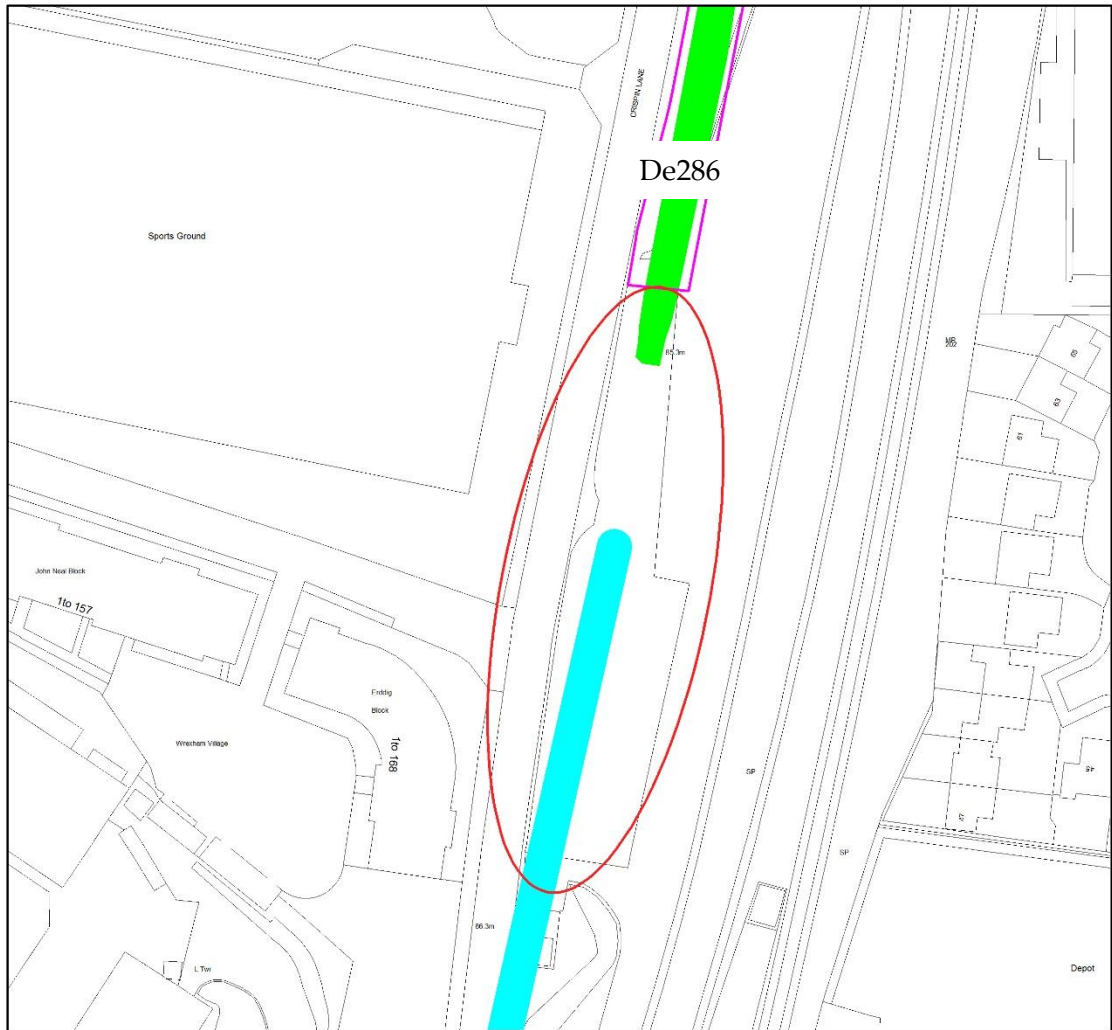
Action: Control scrub growth.

Management recommendations

- 4.9. The upstanding remains extend slightly to the south of the scheduled area of SAM De286. The control of scrub growth would enhance the scheduled section.



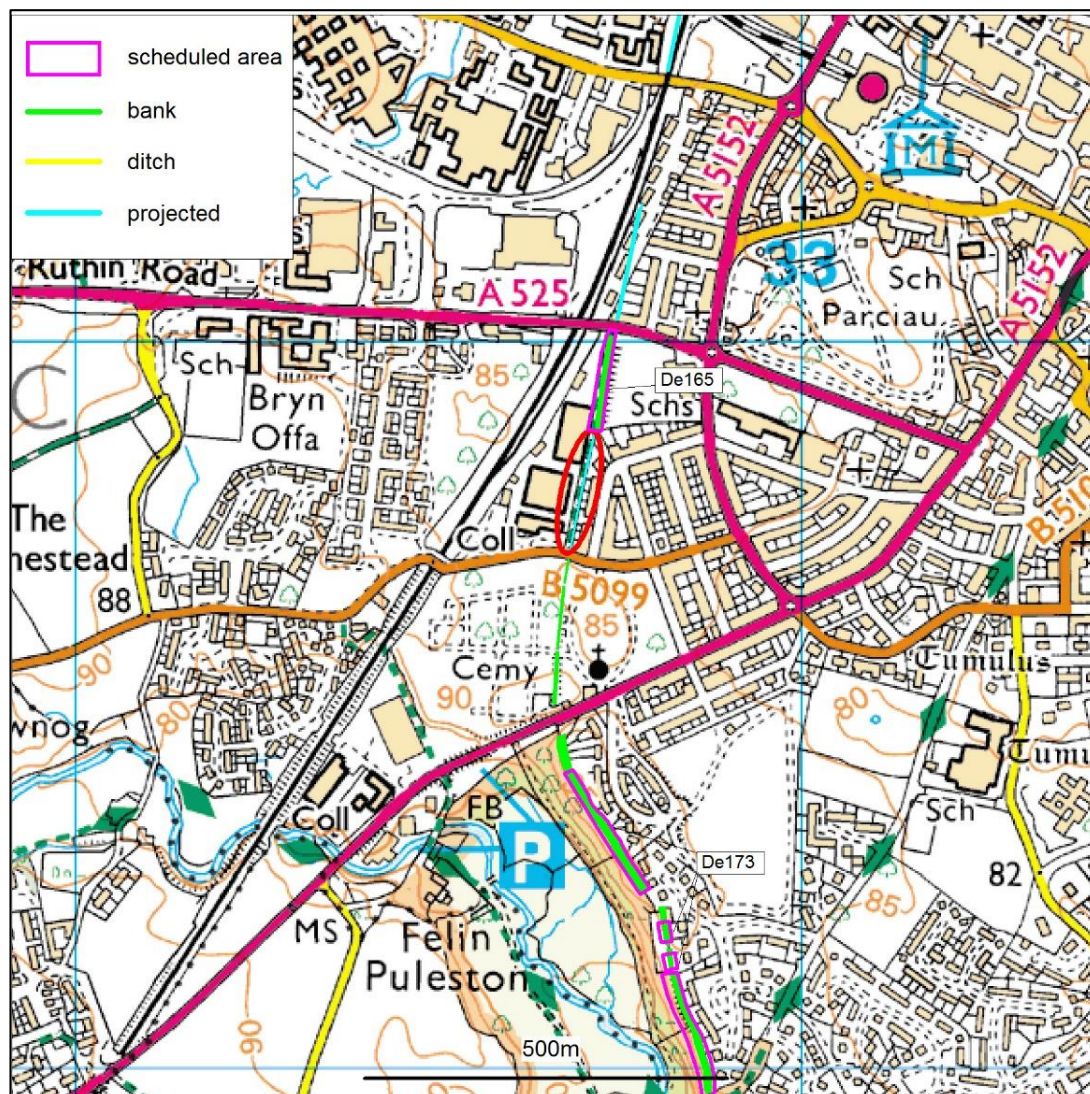
Wat's Dyke Unit 2: View from the north along the route of the dyke, showing tree growth (Issue 1). CPAT 4317-0020



Wat's Dyke Unit 2

Wat's Dyke Unit 3

NGR: SJ 32703 49799



Description

- 4.10. A section of Wat's Dyke immediately south of SAM De 165, now occupied by a footpath between Ruthin Road and Bersham Road in Wrexham. LiDAR data suggested the presence of a low bank along the eastern side of the footpath, abutting a brick wall. A section of this has been cleared against the brickwork, suggesting that at least some of the visible earthwork is relatively recent, perhaps have been redeposited during the construction of the adjacent properties. The ditch lies beneath the boundary with Coleg Cambria, to the west.

Vegetation: Scrub, elder and other self-seeded trees

Land use: Footpath

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: None

Condition Summary

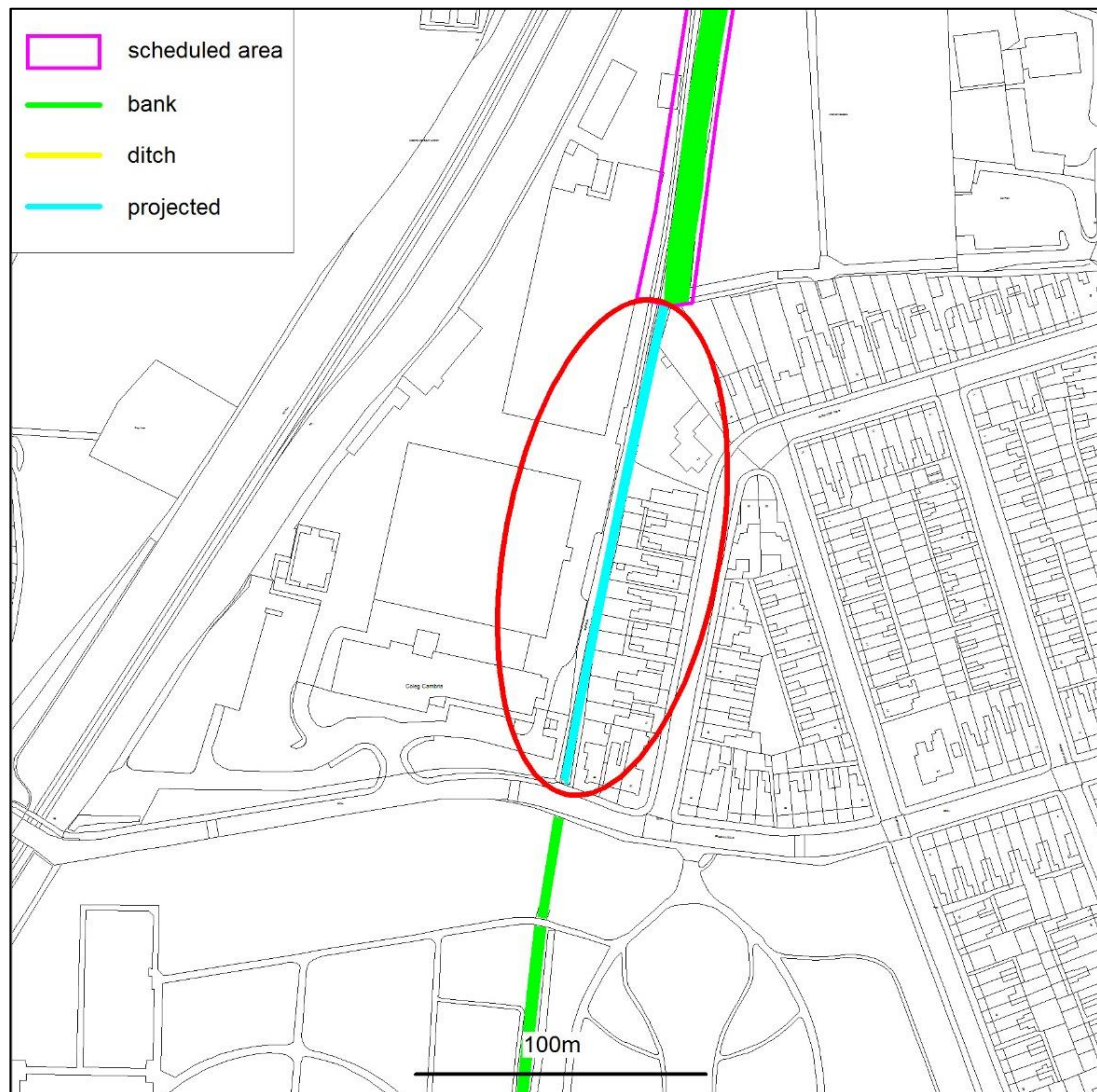
- 4.11. Assuming that the visible bank is not part of the dyke then there are no management issues for this section.

Condition: Favourable.

Trend: Stable.

Management recommendations

- 4.12. None



Wat's Dyke Unit 3



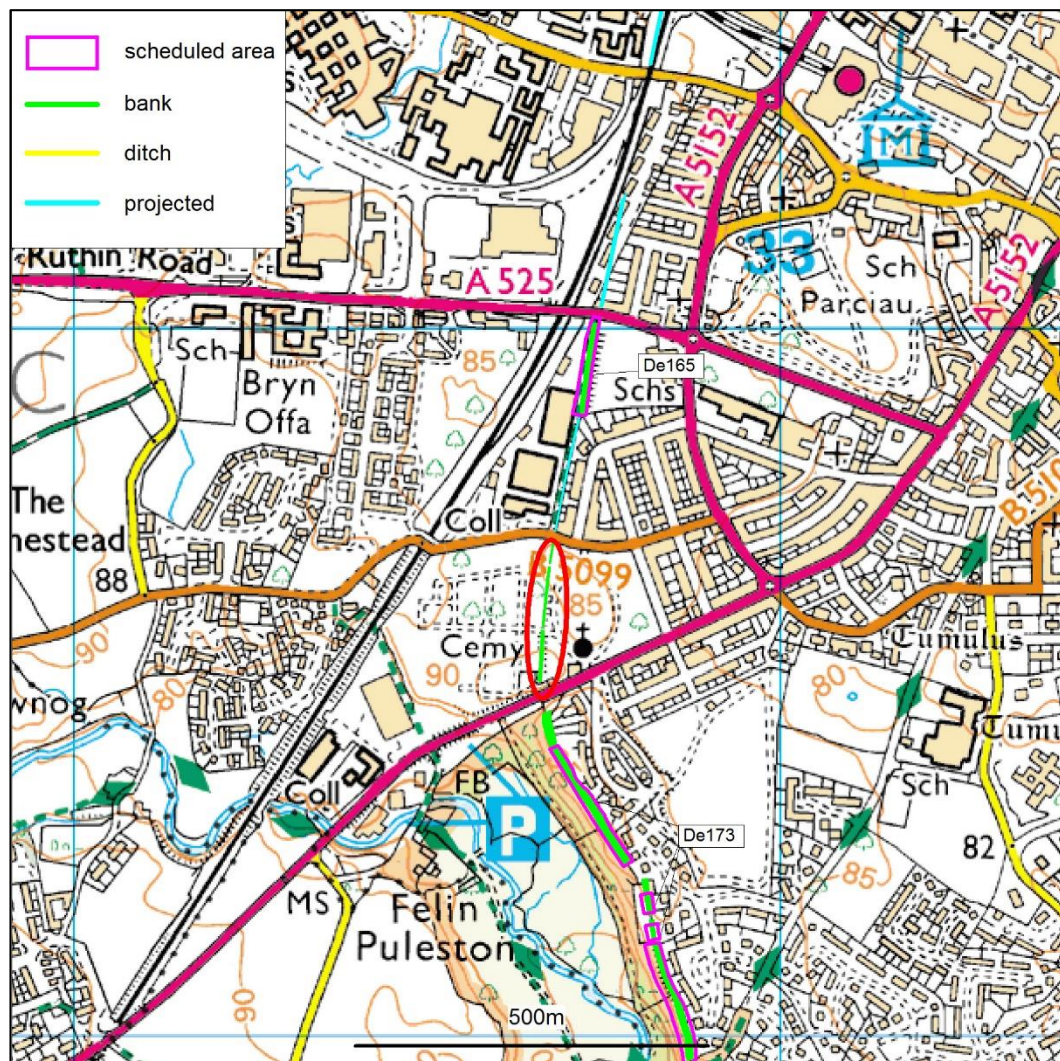
Wat's Dyke Unit 3: View from the north along the line of the dyke. CPAT 4317-0024



Wat's Dyke Unit 3: View from the north showing section through bank. CPAT 4317-0026

Wat's Dyke Unit 4

NGR: SJ 32670 49595



Description

- 4.13. At one time the upstanding earthworks of the dyke formed the western boundary of Wrexham Cemetery, although this has since expanded to the west. The bank is clearly discernible as an earthwork within the cemetery, although the northernmost extent is quite ephemeral.

Vegetation: Grass, large mature trees.

Land use: Cemetery

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: None

Condition Summary

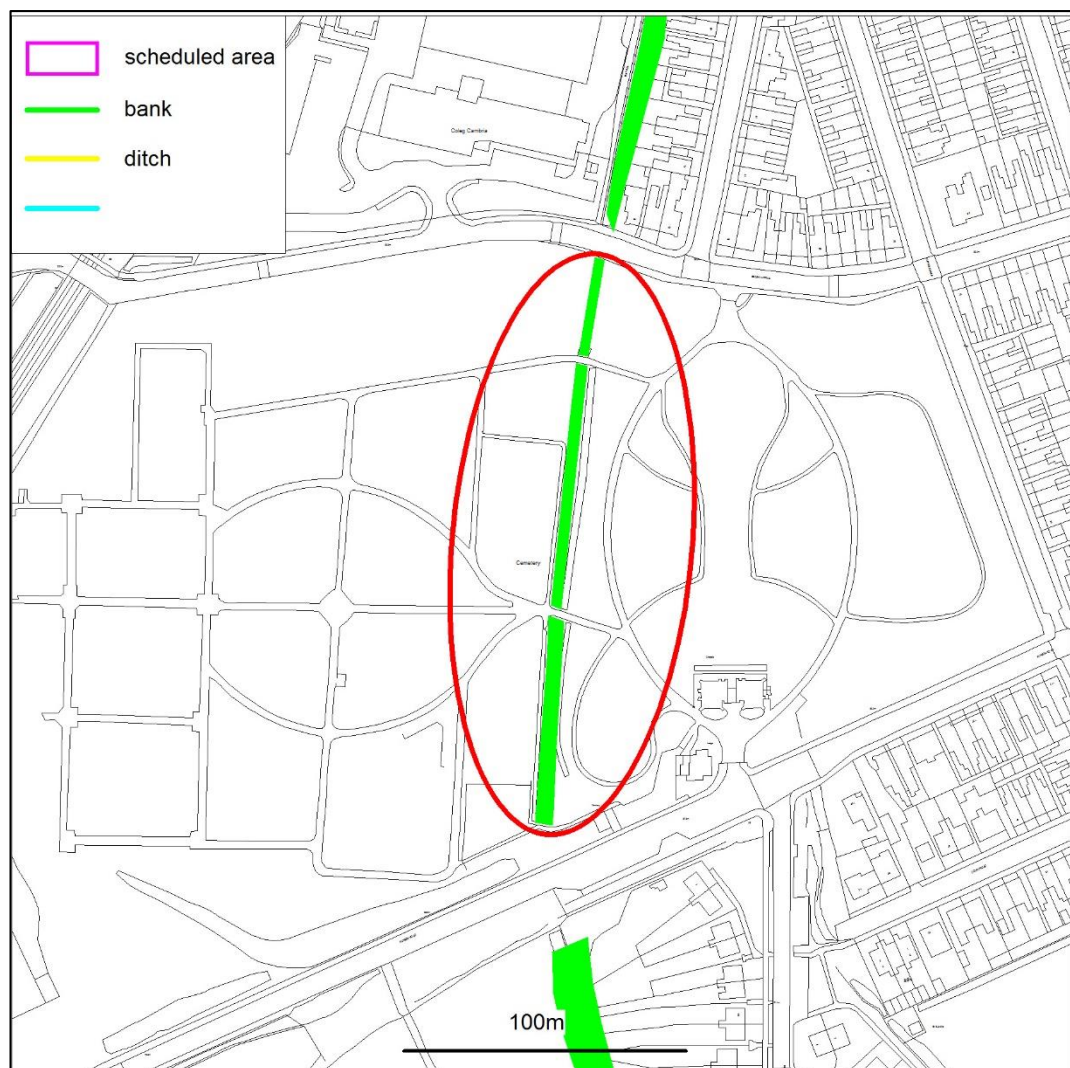
- 4.14. The bank has been historically heavily truncated by grave excavations, although this part of the cemetery appears to have been closed for burials for quite some time. At the time of the site visit, shallow trenching, presumably for drainage was being carried out parallel to the west side of the dyke. The cemetery is, however, well maintained and there are no active issues.

Condition: Favourable.

Trend: Stable.

Management recommendations

- 4.15. None



Wat's Dyke Unit 4



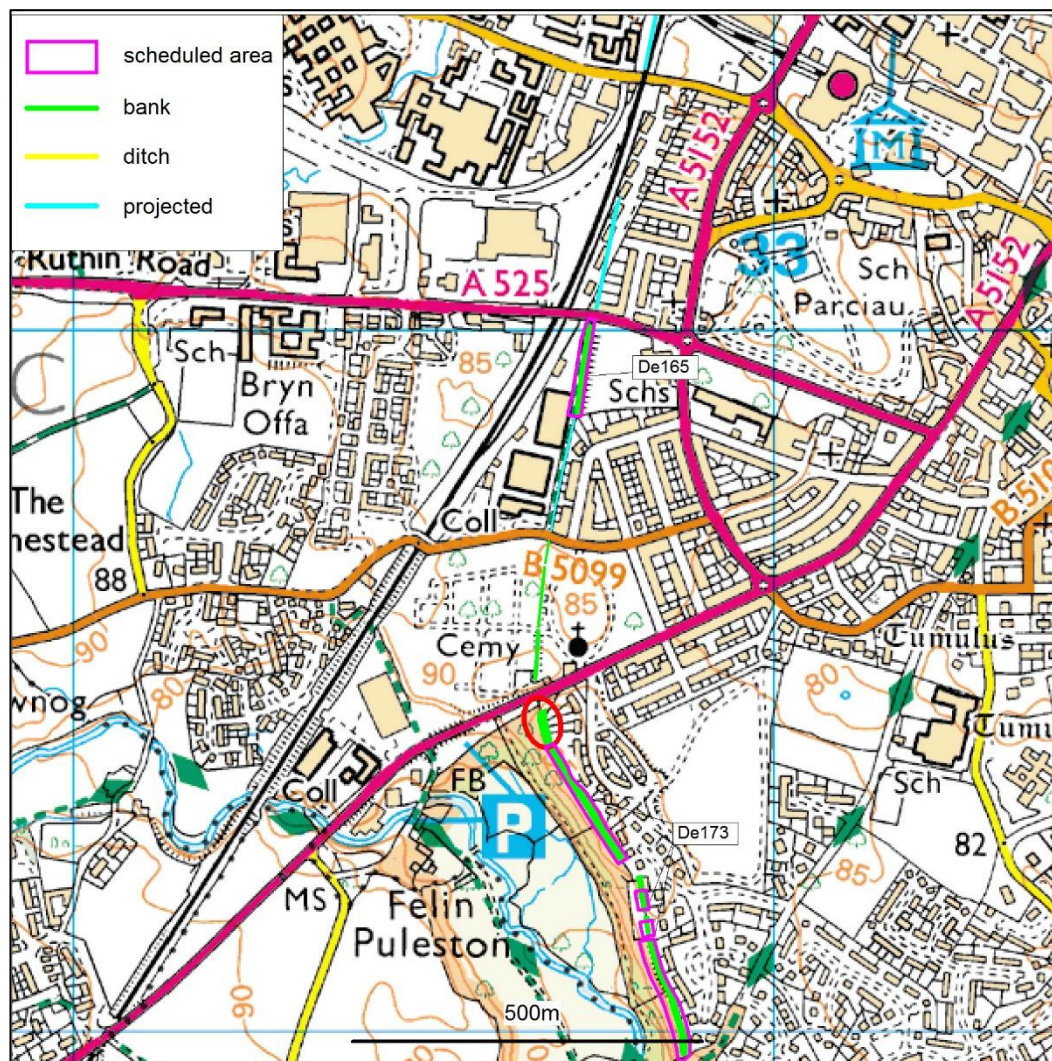
Wat's Dyke Unit 4: View from the south of the southern extent of the dyke in the cemetery. CPAT 4317-0034



Wat's Dyke Unit 4: View from the east of the dyke within the middle of the cemetery. CPAT 4317-0038

Wat's Dyke Unit 5

NGR: SJ 32671 49437



Description

- 4.16. A short section of the dyke within Erddig Park, between SAM De173 and the A5152. No trace of ditch and while it is difficult to distinguish the bank from the natural brake of slope owing to the undergrowth, there does appear to be an upstanding earthwork at the top of the slope.

Vegetation: Trees, scrubs.

Land use: Woodland.

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition

- 4.17. The dyke here is heavily overgrown with scrub, in stark contrast to the adjacent scheduled section which has been cleared. There is also an issue with dumping material over the rear boundary of the adjacent properties.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: worsened superficially

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Scrub	Yes	Medium

- 4.18. Dense scrub, brambles and other undergrowth on the slope below dyke and on the slight earthwork of the bank.

Action: Clear scrub.

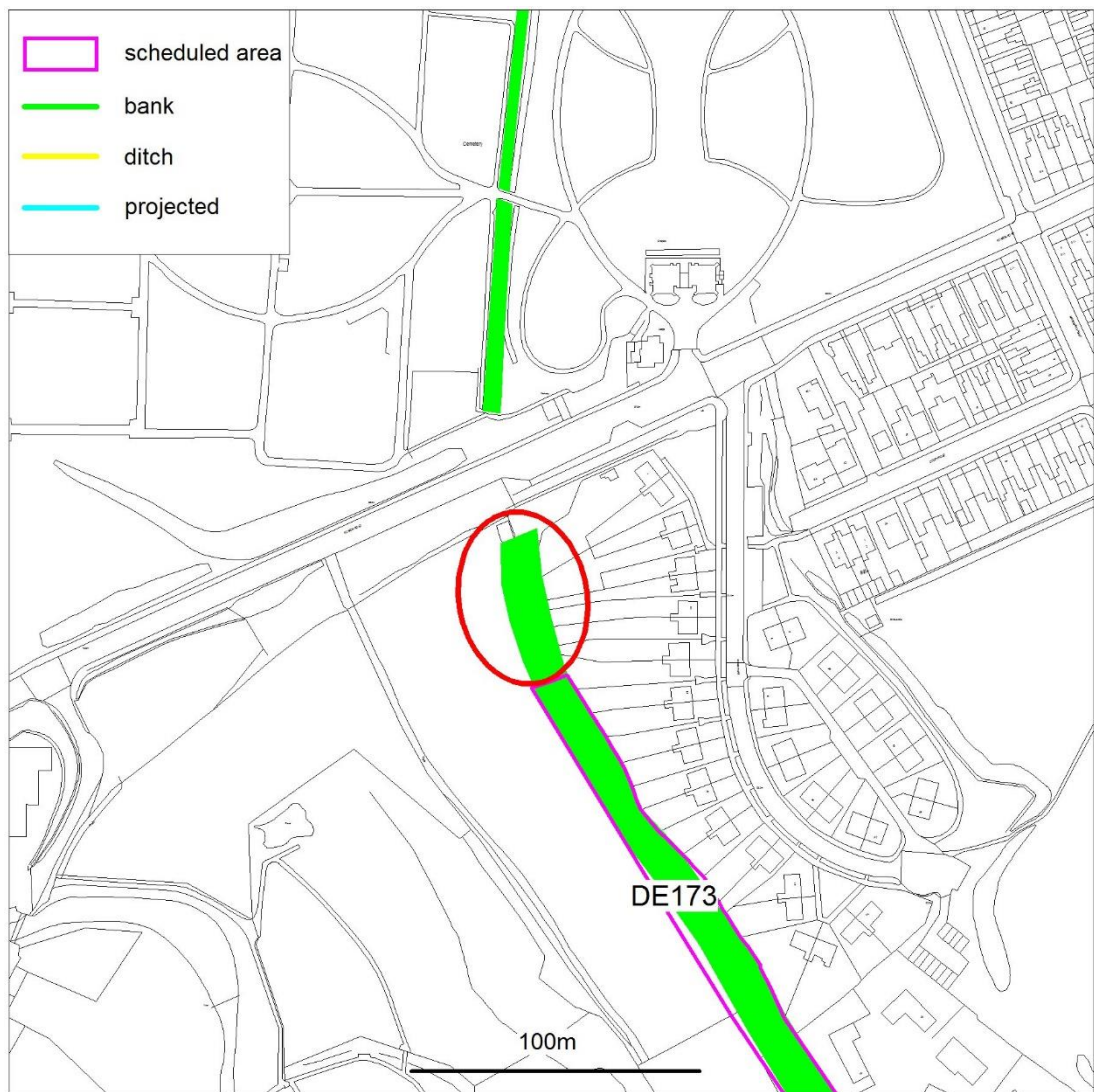
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Dumping/tipping	Yes	Low

- 4.19. Some localised tipping of rubbish and garden waste over the rear boundaries of the adjacent properties. This has been a problem in the past for the adjacent scheduled section, although not at present.

Action: Remove material and prevent further dumping.

Management recommendations

- 4.20. Clear scrub and remove dumped material, preventing further dumping. The condition of this section is in stark contrast with the adjacent scheduled section which has been cleared recently by the National Trust.



Wat's Dyke Unit 5



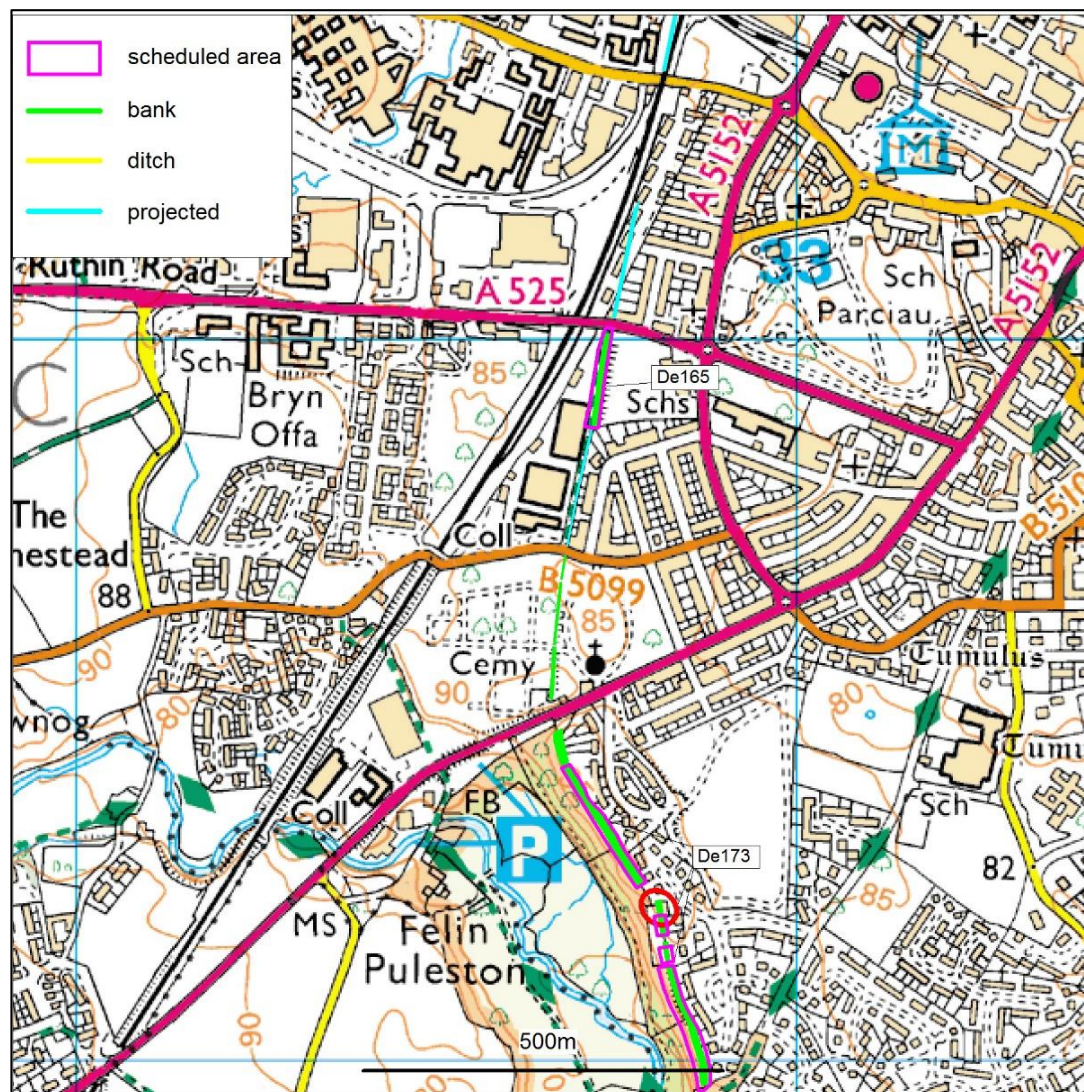
Wat's Dyke Unit 5: View from the north-west looking along the line of the ditch, with the bank top left, showing the scrub vegetation (Issue 1). CPAT 4311-0017



Wat's Dyke Unit 5: View from the scheduled section to the south-east. CPAT 4311-0018

Wat's Dyke Unit 6

NGR: SJ 32800 49224



Description

- 4.21. A short section of upstanding bank between two sections of SAM De173. The dyke here follows the top edge of the valley, with no discernible ditch and the bank lying in the rear gardens of a housing estate. Comparison with the scheduled sections to either side suggests that the bank does survive, although having been landscaped to form a flat, lawned area which appears to have been achieved in part by building up the level, so that it is difficult to determine to what extent the bank actually survives.

Vegetation: garden planting

Land use: private garden

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: None

Condition

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

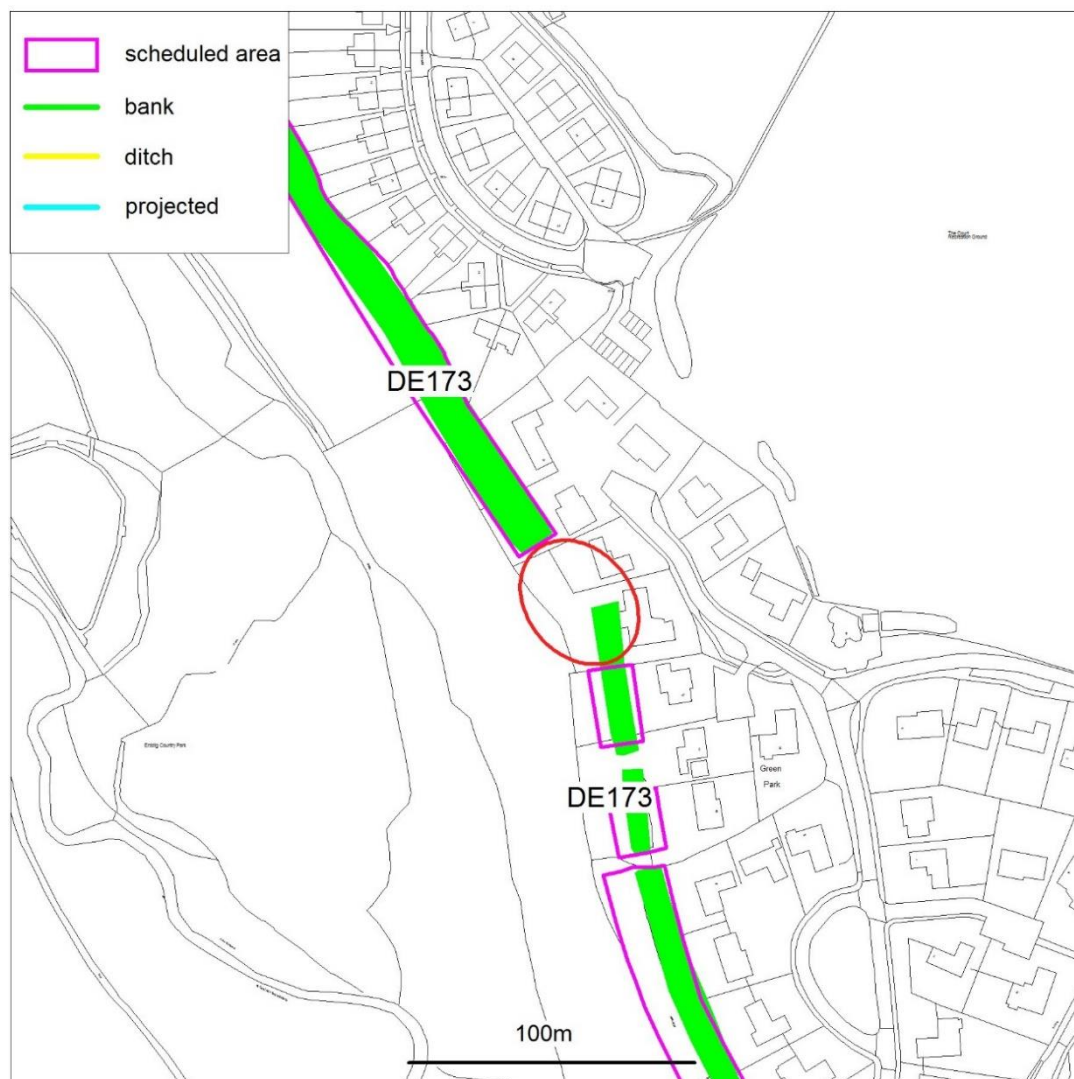
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Gardening	Yes	Low

- 4.22. The surviving remains of the bank may be at risk from further landscaping and other garden activity

Action: Monitor

Management recommendations

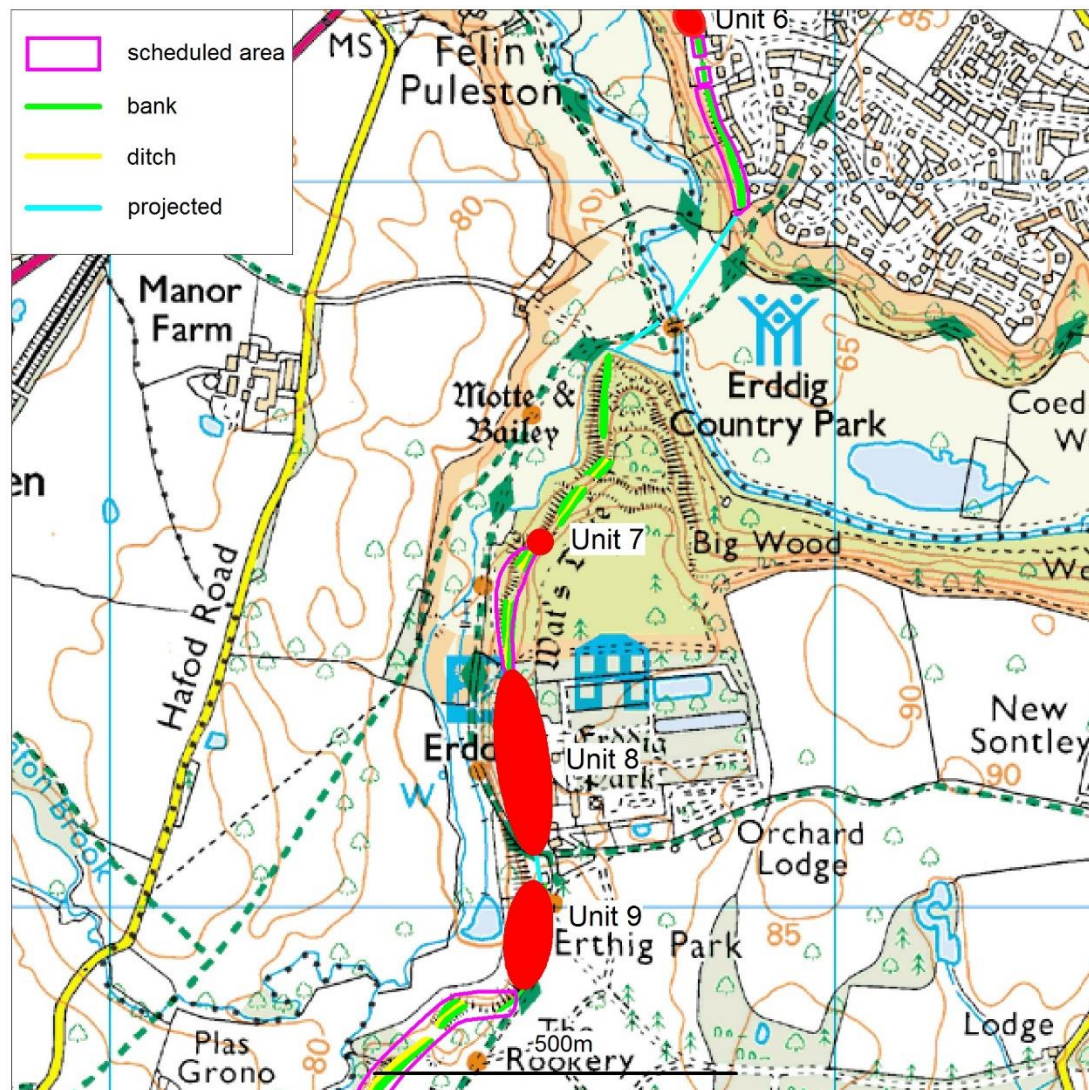
- 4.23. Unlike the adjacent sections, this is not currently afforded statutory protection.



Wat's Dyke Unit 6

Wat's Dyke Unit 7

NGR: SJ 32594 48505



Description

- 4.24. This section of the dyke was lost to a landslip as recently as the late 1980s which is the reason why it lies between two scheduled and upstanding sections (SAMs De017 and De152). The landslip has exposed a section of possible bank at the north end of the southern scheduled area.

Vegetation: Trees.

Land use: Woodland.

Vulnerability: N/A

Risk: N/A

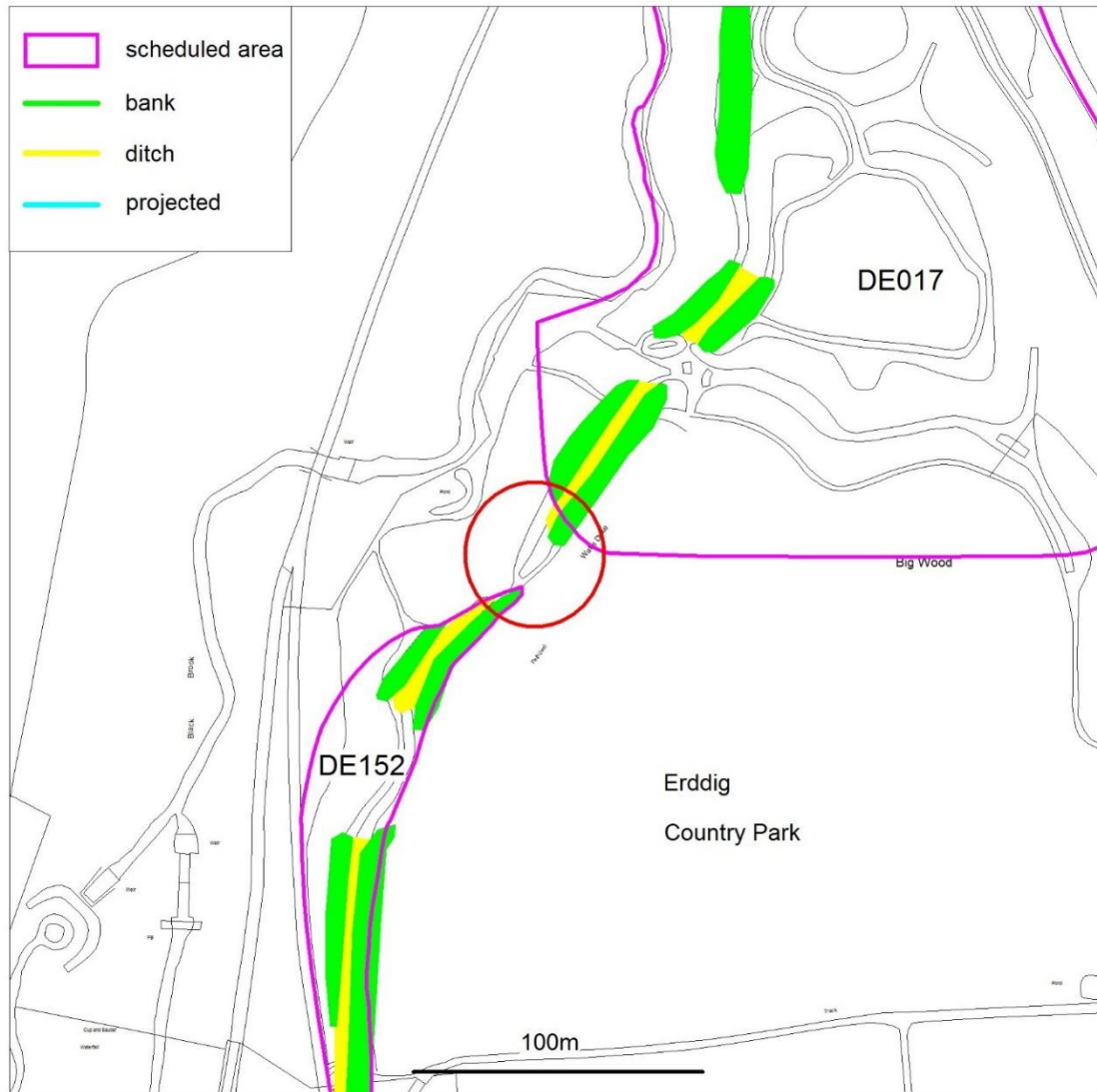
Scheduling potential: None

Condition

4.25. Destroyed.

Management recommendations

4.26. No action for lost section, but there is potential for investigation of the exposed bank section, perhaps as part of a community project with the National Trust.



Wat's Dyke Unit 7



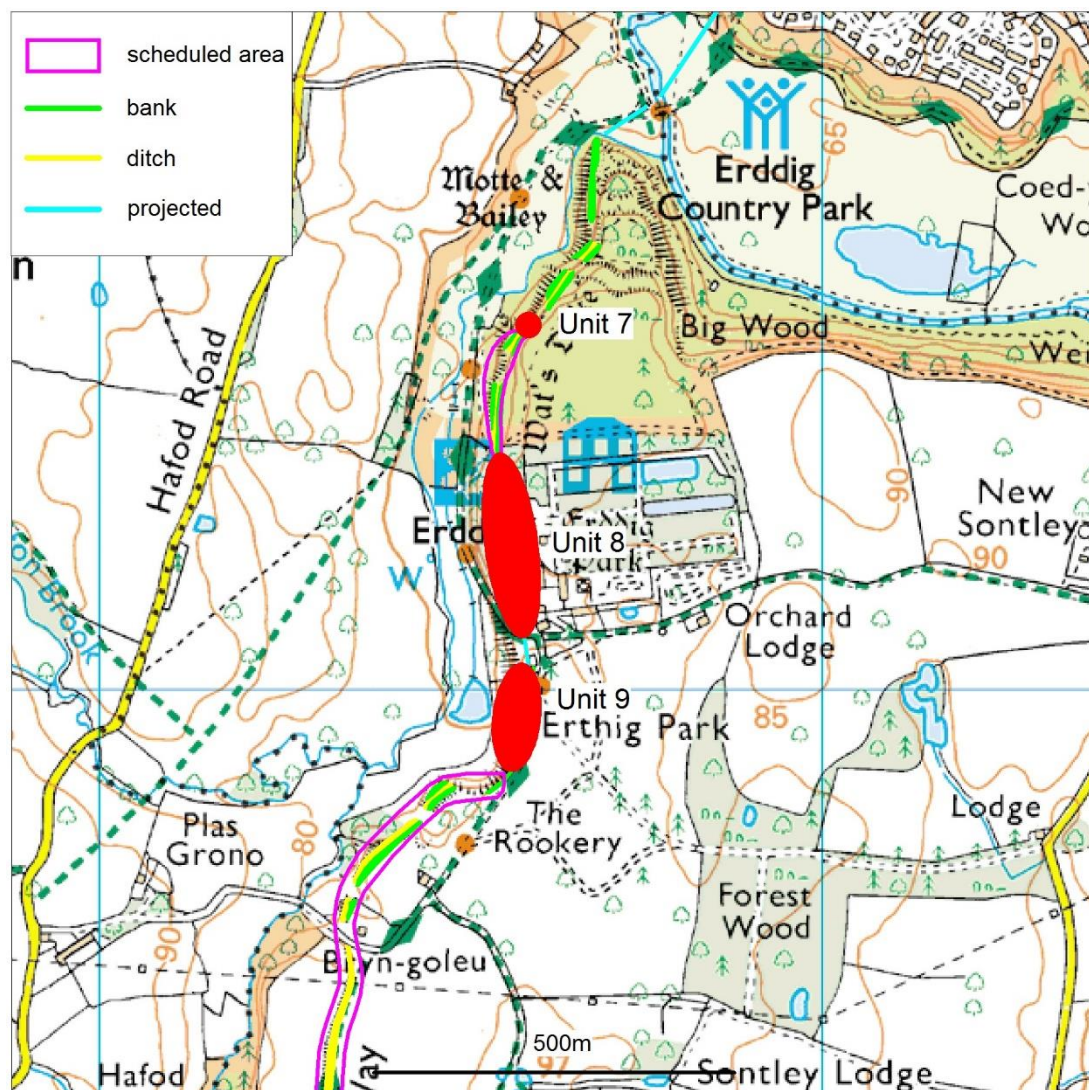
Wat's Dyke Unit 7: View from the north-east showing the section of possible bank within SAM De152 exposed by the landslip. CPAT 4311-0004



Wat's Dyke Unit 7: View from the south-west showing the area of the landslip. CPAT 4311-0005

Wat's Dyke Unit 8

NGR: SJ 32570 48201



Description

- 4.27. The line of the dyke crosses a lawned area in front and west of Erddig house. Although heavily landscaped and levelled there is a short section of possible ditch, c.20m long and 10m across, opposite the stable block. Further north, nearer the house, is a slight rise with a large beech tree on it, c. 8m west of the drive, which may mark the outer edge of the ditch.

Vegetation: Grass.

Land use: Parkland.

Vulnerability: Low.

Risk: Low.

Scheduling potential: None

Condition

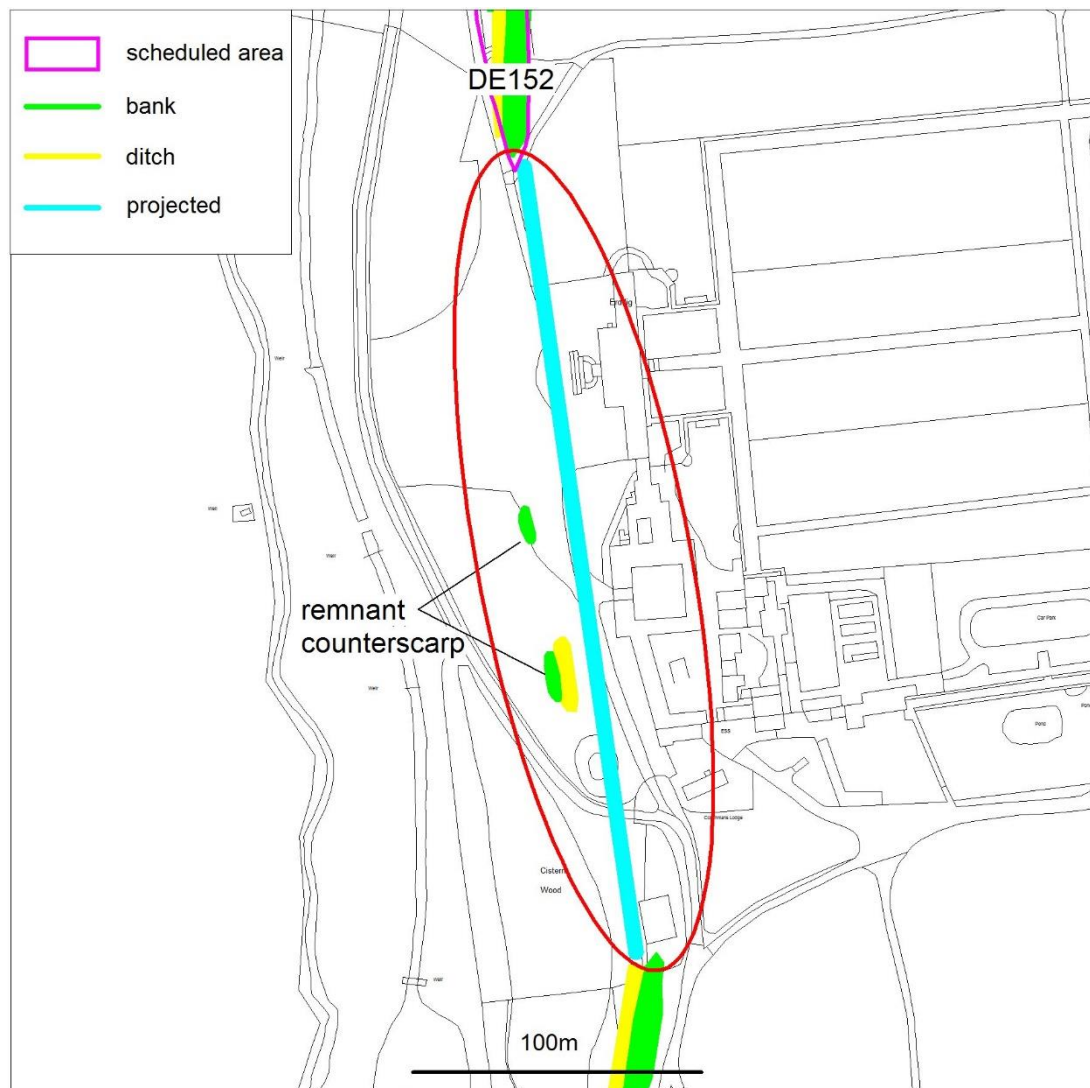
- 4.28. The line of the ditch is crossed by at least two services while a fibre optic cable trench has been cut recently along the edge of the drive, in the position of the bank, although information from the National Trust indicates only modern material/finds were identified. The area is well maintained and managed as part of Erddig Park and Gardens.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management recommendations

- 4.29. The section presents an opportunity for community engagement with National Trust volunteers to conduct auger transects to confirm the line of the ditch.



Wat's Dyke Unit 8



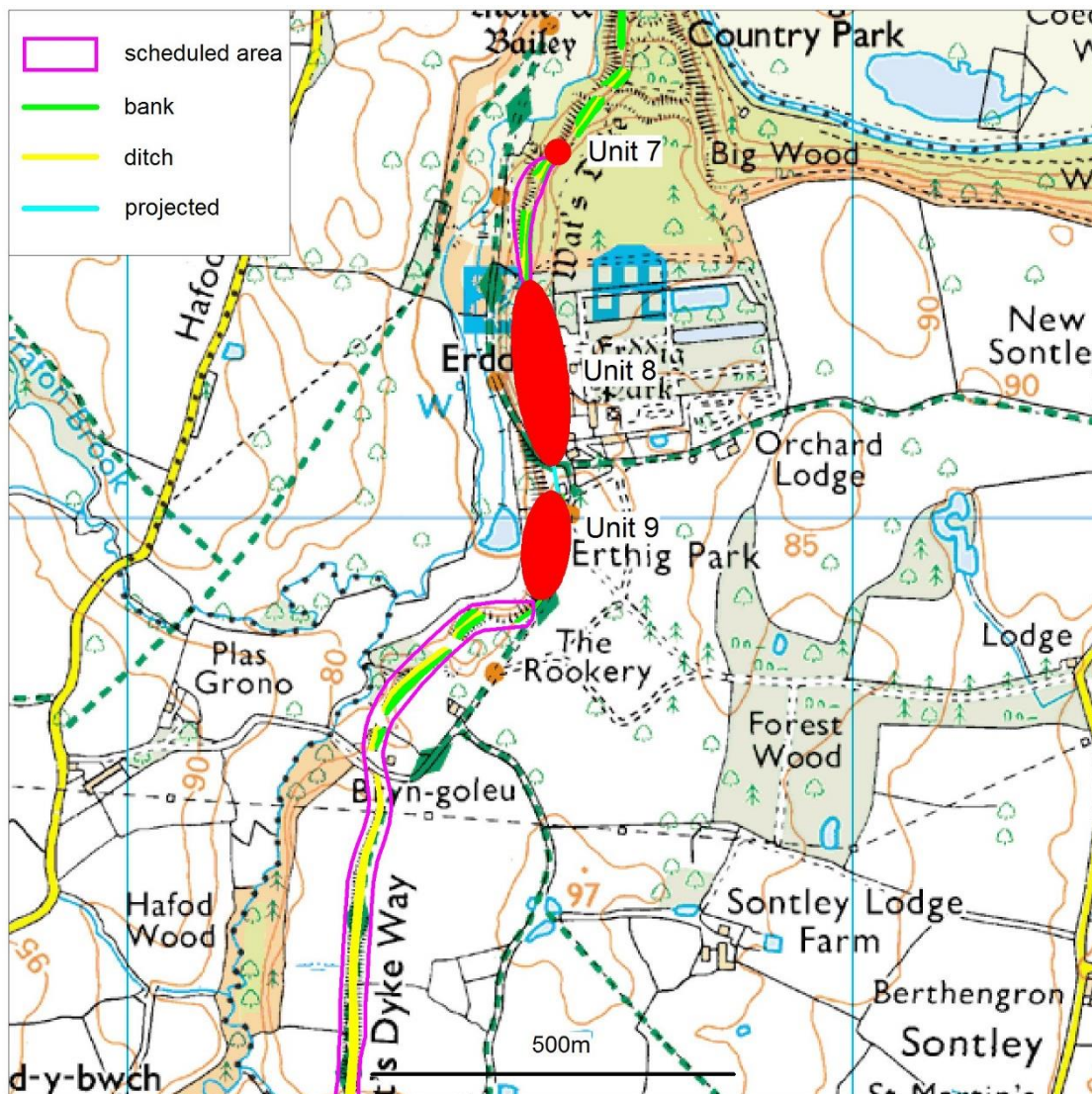
Wat's Dyke Unit 8: View from the south-east of possible remnant couterescarp in the lawned area in front of the house. Tree CPAT 4311-0016



Wat's Dyke Unit 8: View from the east of possible remnant ditch and couterescarp in the lawned area in front of the stables. CPAT 4311-0015

Wat's Dyke Unit 9

NGR: SJ 32578 47963



Description

- 4.30. Section in Erddig Park south of the house and outside the National Trust paid access to the house and gardens. Along the West side of the drive is a low bank 40m long, up to 4m wide and 0.5m high, on which there is a large oak tree and stump of another. North of this there is no discernible bank, but instead a scarp and terrace suggesting the line of the ditch.

Vegetation: Grass, trees.

Land use: Parkland, woodland.

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition

- 4.31. Generally good condition especially alongside the drive. In the woodland at the north end there is minor damage from burrowing animals, and some scrub and large trees.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Animal burrowing	Yes	Low

- 4.32. Limited evidence for rabbit burrows in the area of woodland, but no real impact on the archaeology.

Action: Related to management of scrub.

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Scrub	Yes	Low

- 4.33. Undergrowth within woodland affects appreciation of slight earthworks and setting of the dyke and also encourages burrowing animals.

Action: Clear and manage scrub.

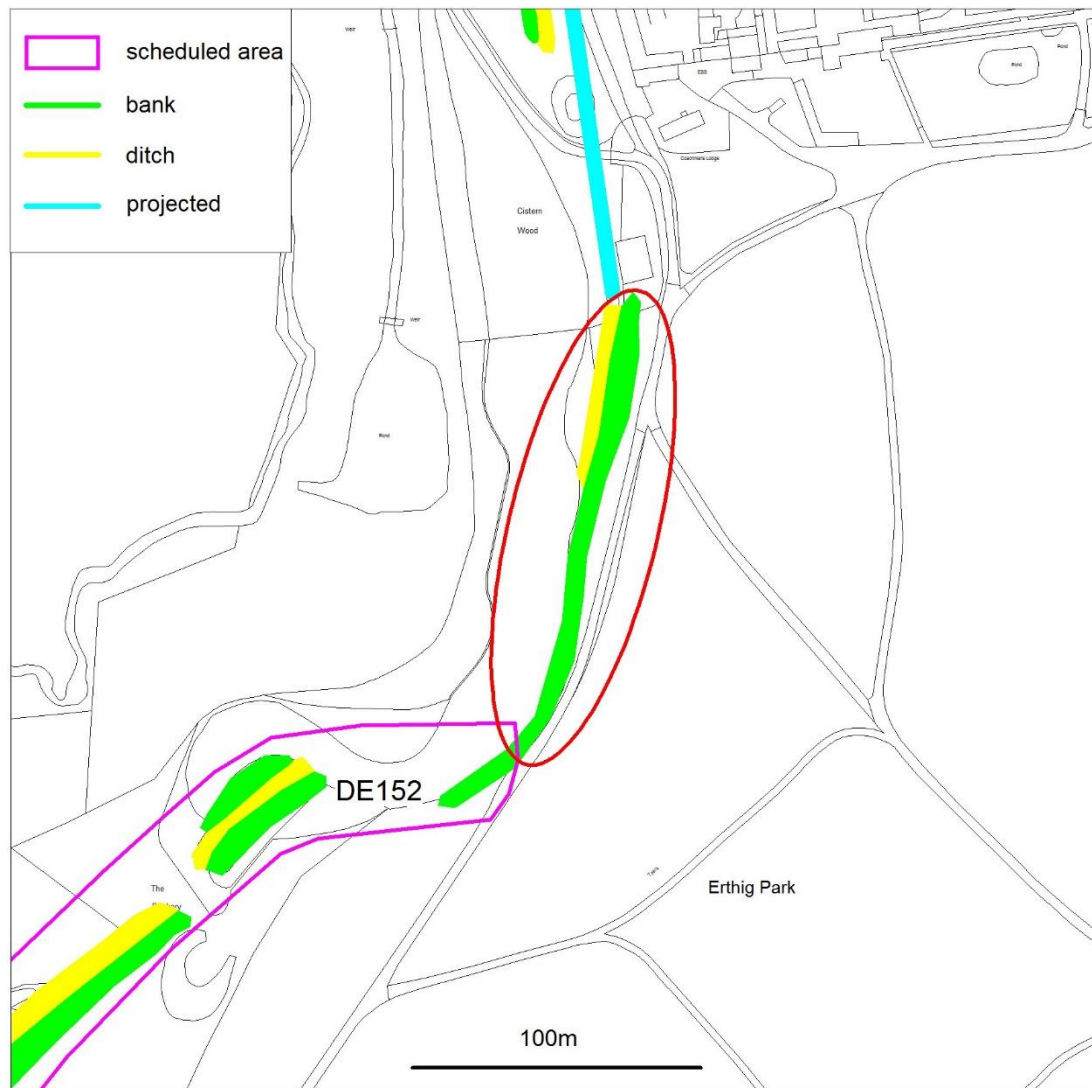
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
3	Trees	Yes	Low

- 4.34. Mature trees within woodland and one in particular on bank alongside the drive, they have potential to damage the earthwork.

Action: None.

Management recommendations

- 4.35. Manage trees and scrub at north end. There is an opportunity for community engagement with National Trust volunteers to conduct a trial excavation to investigate possible bank and ditch.



Wat's Dyke Unit 9



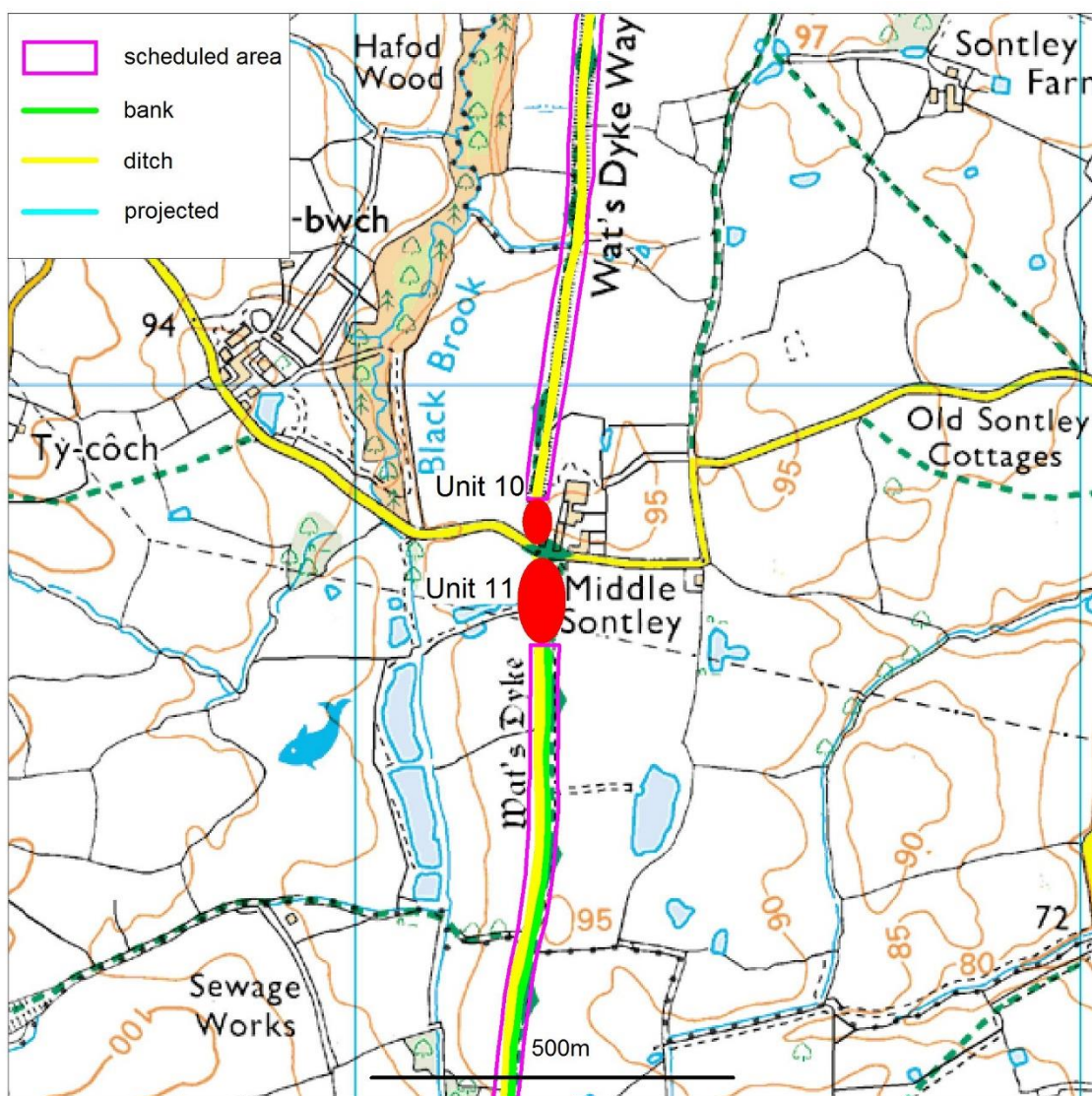
Wat's Dyke Unit 9: View from the north-east showing the low bank alongside the drive CPAT 4311-0009.



Wat's Dyke Unit 9: View from the south showing the scarp which may indicate the eastern edge of the ditch. CPAT 4311-0009.

Wat's Dyke Unit 10

NGR: SJ 32252 46812



Description

- 4.36. Immediately west of Middle Sontley Farm the line of the dyke follows a 2.5m-high scarp, with no visible trace for the bank, although there is a slight hollow at the base (west) of the scarp which presumably indicates the line of the ditch. This lies partly within a field which is within an arable rotation, although currently under pasture.

Vegetation: Hedging plants.

Land use: on a field boundary between Middle Sontley Farm and arable field.

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: Yes

Condition

- 4.37. There is a hedge along the crest of the scarp and a fence along its base, with the hedge encroaching between the two.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Hedge/boundaries	Yes	Low

- 4.38. Modern well maintained coniferous hedge on the top of the scarp, while an old hedge has been grubbed out at the base to be replaced by a fence, but is regrowing on the slope of the scarp.

Action: None

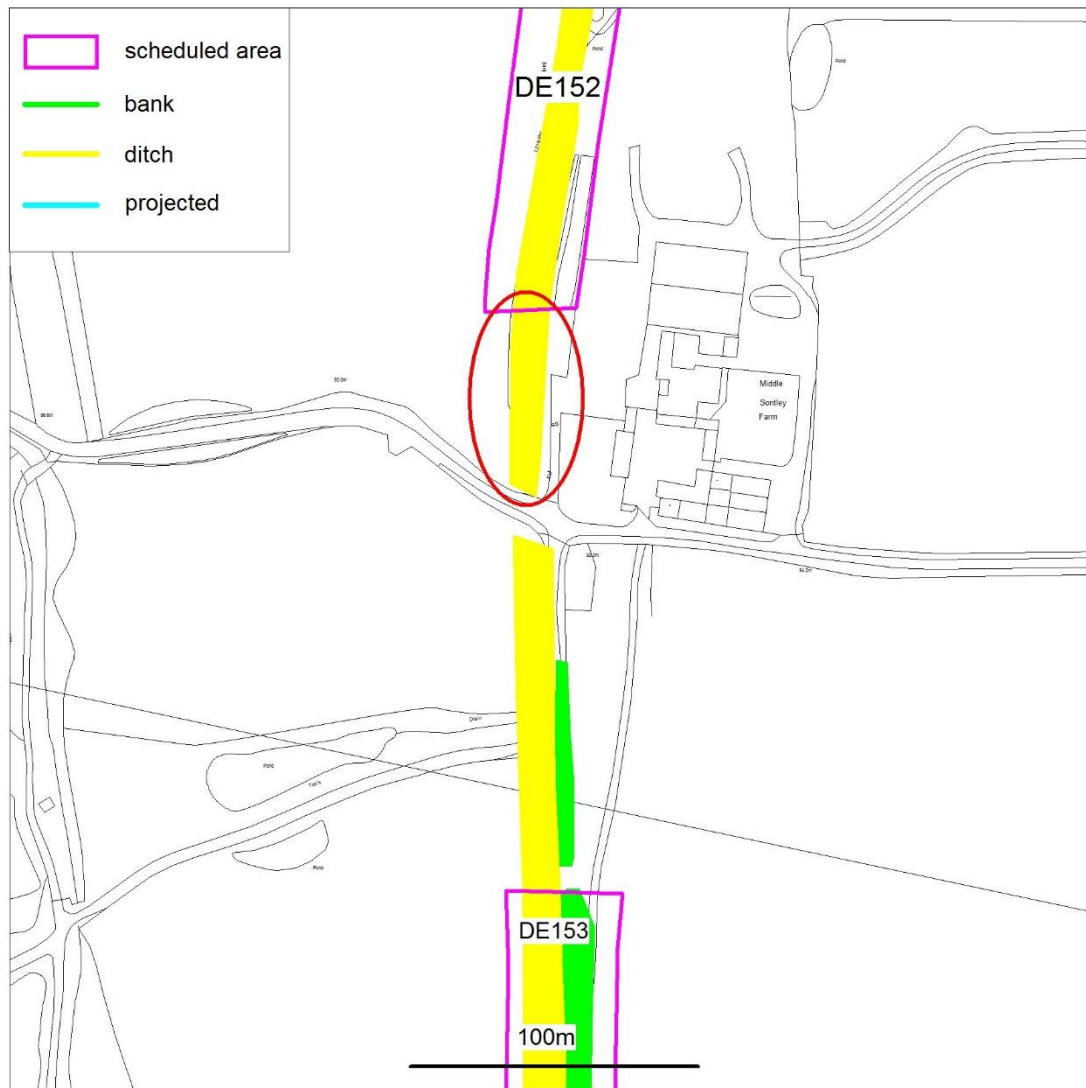
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Ploughing	Yes	Low

- 4.39. The western side of the ditch lies within an arable rotation and is likely to be ploughed on a regular basis, although this is unlikely to have much impact on the monument.

Action: None

Management recommendations

- 4.40. The section is not significantly different from that scheduled to the north and while the bank is not really evident, the largely infilled ditch survives at the base of a scarp.



Wat's Dyke Unit 10



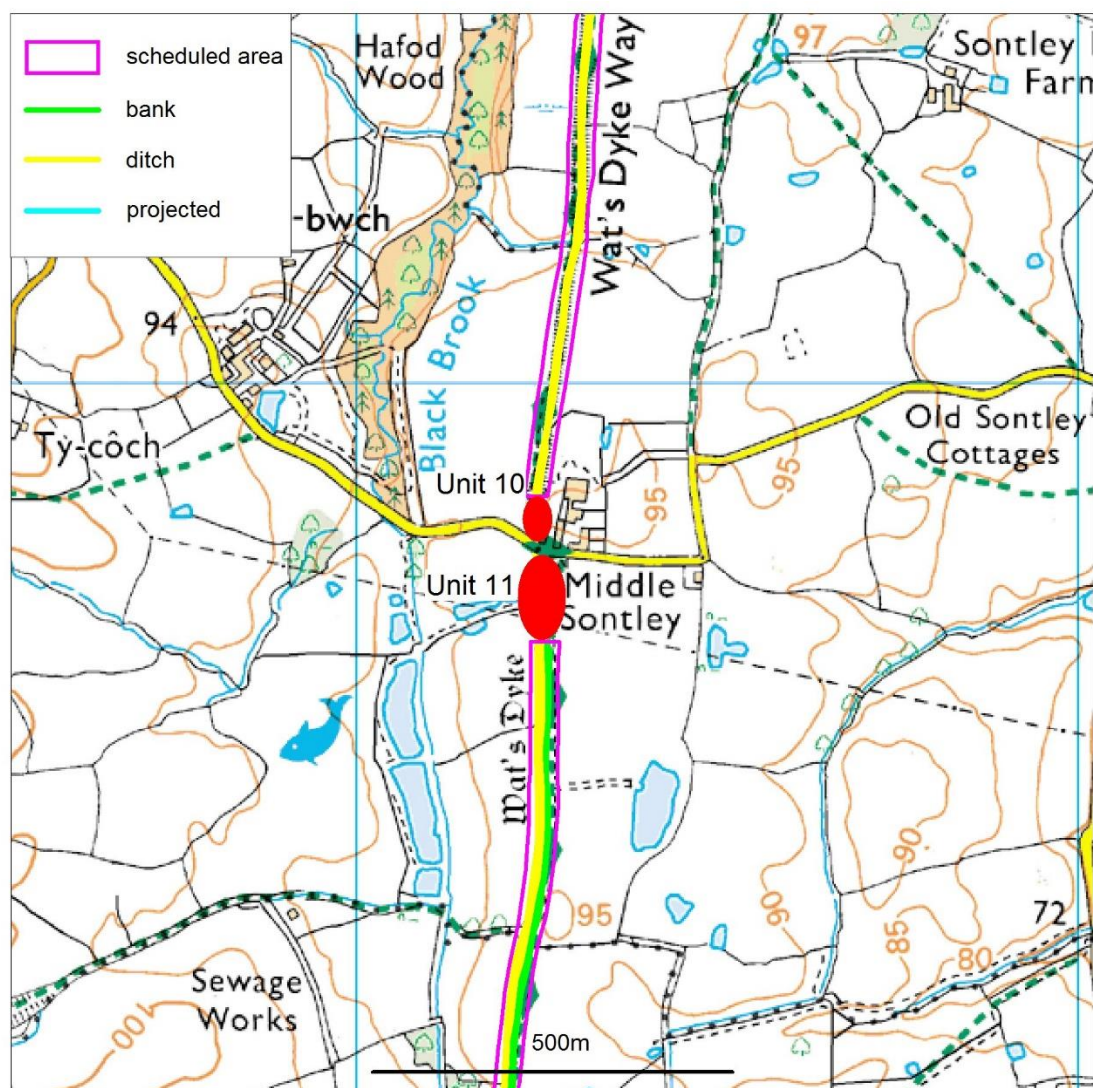
Wat's Dyke Unit 10: View from the south-west of boundaries (Issue 1) along the line of the dyke. CPAT 4317-0046



Wat's Dyke Unit 10: View from the west showing the arable rotation (Issue 2).
CPAT 4317-0055

Wat's Dyke Unit 11

NGR: SJ 32257 46703



Description

- 4.41. To the south of Middle Sontley the line of the bank is followed by a trackway for around 150m, with a prominent scarp 1.4m to 2.0m high sloping down to the west, indicating the position of the ditch, which is now occupied by a drainage ditch. South of this the earthwork has been levelled in the area of a gateway between two fields, while a slight scarp is then visible which continues into SAM De153, at which point it is 0.7m high.

Vegetation: grass.

Land use: Pasture.

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: None

Condition

- 4.42. While the appearance of the dyke has clearly been modified significantly, to the extent that the earthworks are no longer prominent, the surviving remains are not really currently affected by the minor issues noted, consisting of drainage, stock erosion and a field boundary.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: Stable

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Drainage	Yes	Low

- 4.43. A modern drainage ditch follows the line of the infilled ditch to the west of an access track which follows the line of the bank.

Action: None

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
2	Stock erosion	Yes	Low

- 4.44. There is a wet area around a gateway between two fields which has been trampled by livestock. However, there is no visible earthwork here and the issue is therefore of no real concern

Action: None

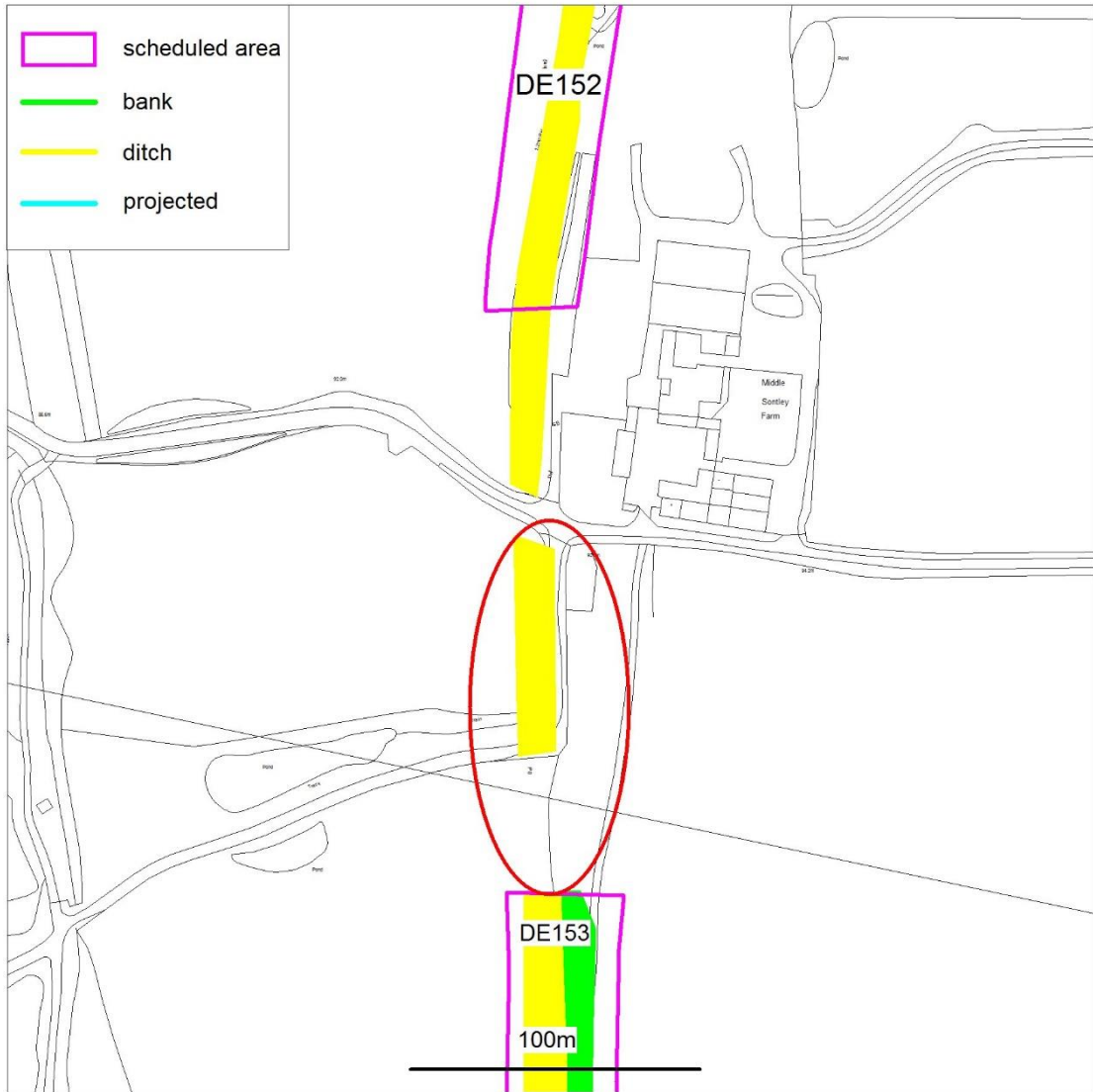
Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
3	Hedge/fence	Yes	Low

- 4.45. A hedge and fence follows the top of a scarp for around 30m north of SAM De153.

Action: None

Management recommendations

- 4.46. None.



Wat's Dyke Unit 11



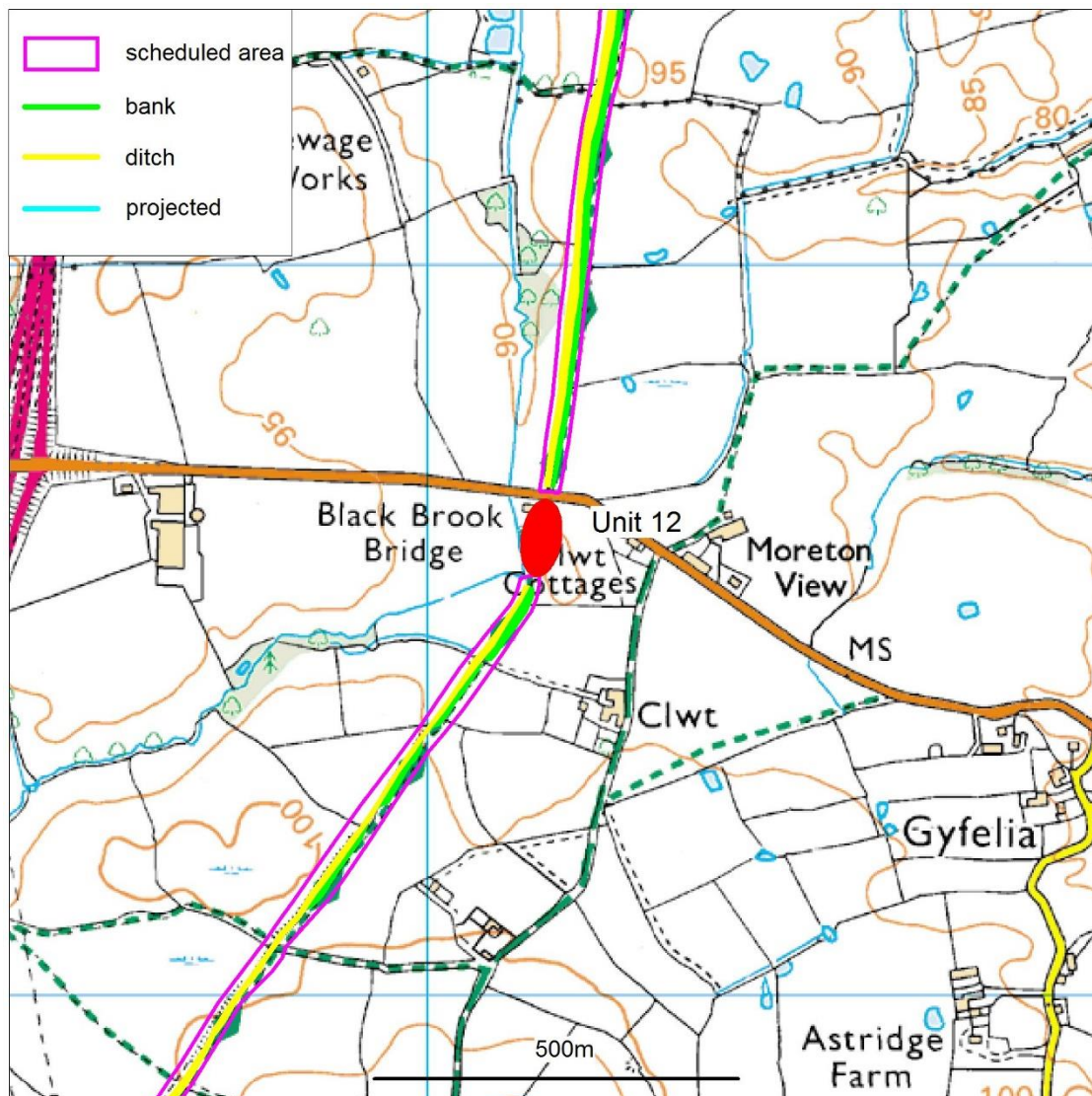
Wat's Dyke Unit 11: View from the south, showing the drainage ditch (Issue 1) following the line of the ditch, with the track along the line of the bank. CPAT 4317-0057



Wat's Dyke Unit 11: View from the north, looking towards SAM De153, showing stock trampling (Issue 2) and the field boundary (Issue 3). CPAT 4317-0062

Wat's Dyke Unit 12

NGR: SJ 32156 45627



Description

- 4.47. A short section of the dyke south of the B5426 and adjacent to east boundary of One Oak Cottage. The line of the dyke is marked by a scarp around 0.7m high which is possibly a natural feature which was enhanced to form the dyke. There is no trace of a bank in pasture, while the ditch may survive as a slight earthwork in the garden, at the base of the scarp.

Vegetation: Grassland; garden

Land use: Pasture; garden

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: None

Condition

- 4.48. A hedged and fenced field boundary follows the top of the scarp and in one area there is minor livestock erosion along the eastern side the boundary, although there is no obvious threat to the archaeology.

Condition: Favourable

Trend: Stable

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Stock erosion	Yes	Low

- 4.49. There is some minor livestock erosion along the eastern side of the field boundary.

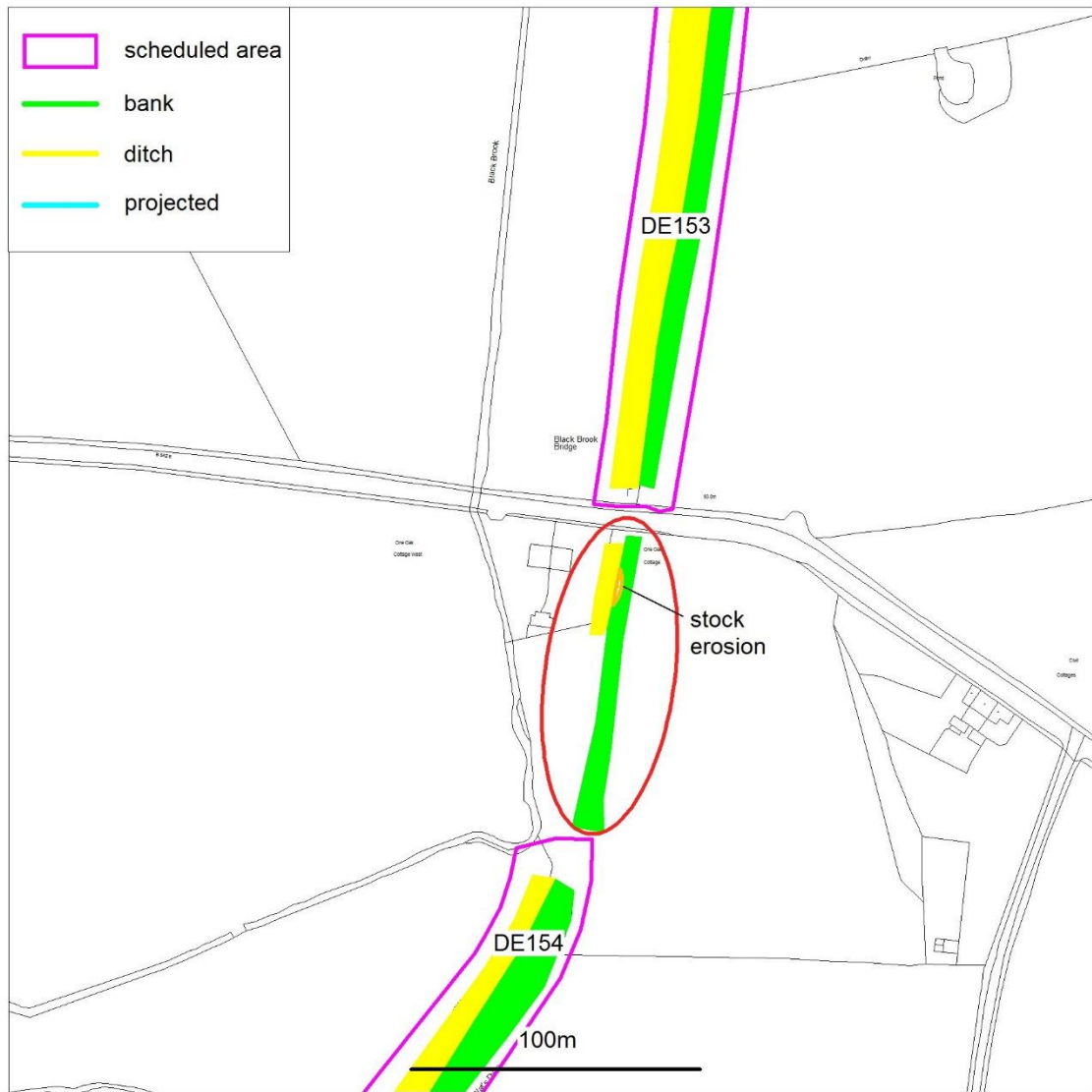
Action: None

Management recommendations

- 4.50. None



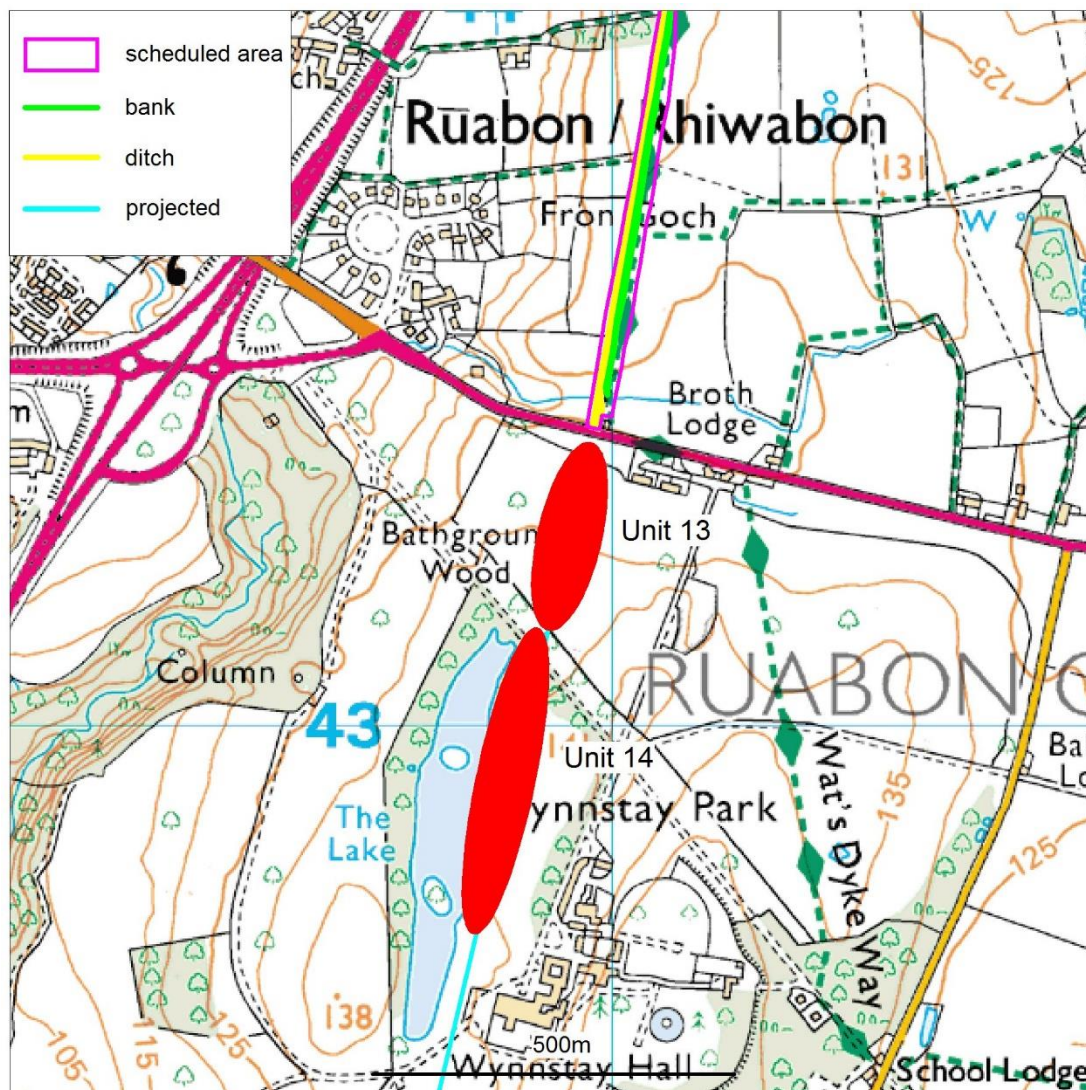
Wat's Dyke Unit 12: View form south of stock erosion (Issue 1) alongside the boundary. CPAT 4317-0069



Wat's Dyke Unit 12

Wat's Dyke Unit 13

NGR: SJ 30940 43262



Description

- 4.51. The section of dyke lies in an arable field to the south of the A539. It was not possible to gain access to undertake the condition survey, although LiDAR evidence suggests that a very slight bank survives within the field, which has been mapped by the Ordnance Survey at the southern end for around 85m, suggesting that this section is better preserved. The bank also shows as a soil mark, and the ditch as a cropmark, in the NextPerspectives vertical aerial photography.

Vegetation: Crops

Land use: Arable

Vulnerability: High

Risk: High

Scheduling potential: None

Condition

- 4.52. The dyke crosses an arable field which is ploughed regularly with soil marks along the line of the bank demonstrating an impact on surviving archaeology.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: Worsened moderate

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Ploughing		

- 4.53. Regular ploughing continues to denude any slight earthworks.

Action: Prevent further ploughing

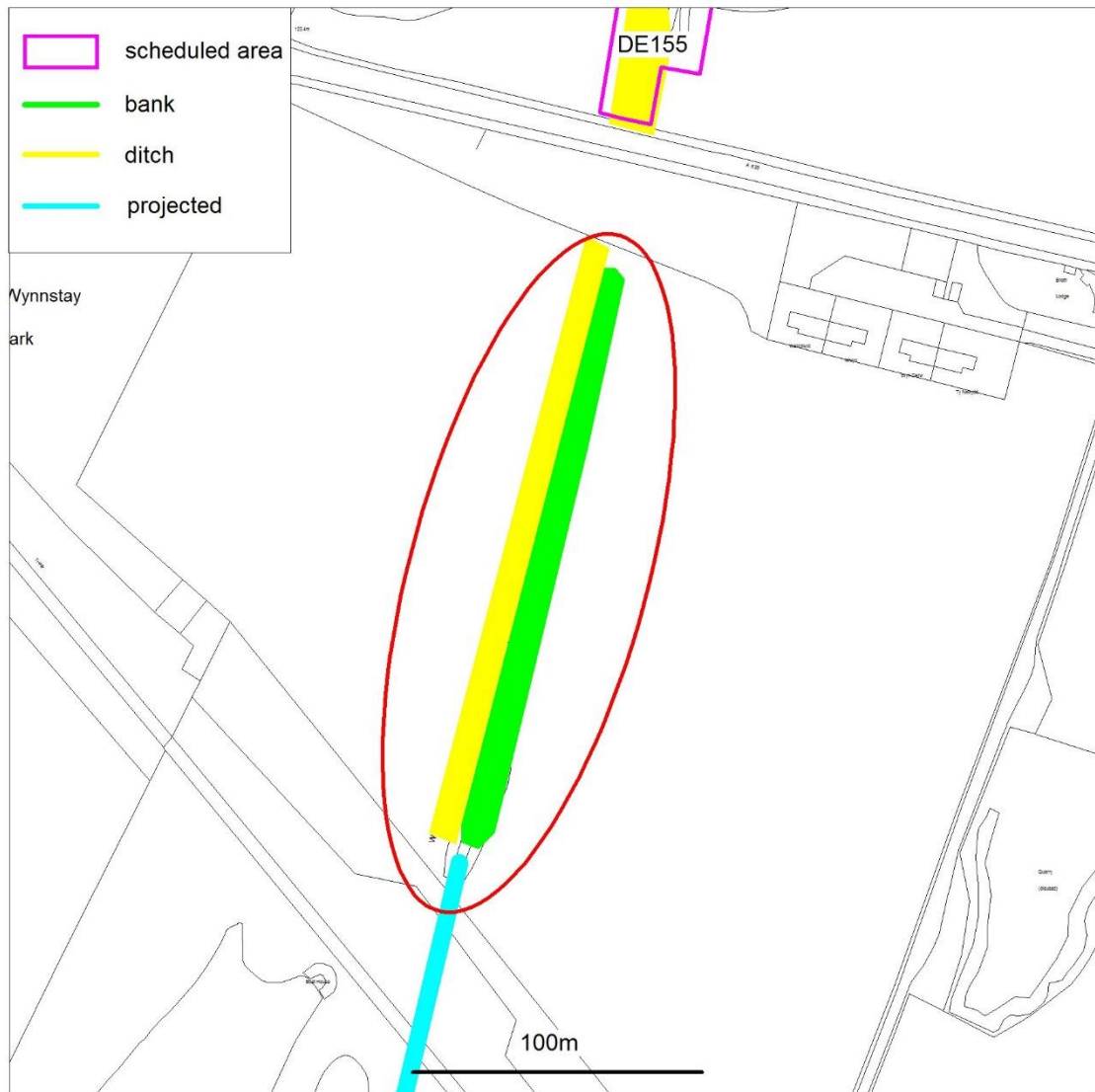
Management recommendations

- 4.54. The slight earthworks are extremely vulnerable to further ploughing which can only be addressed by a change in the agricultural regime to either pasture or direct drilling of crops.



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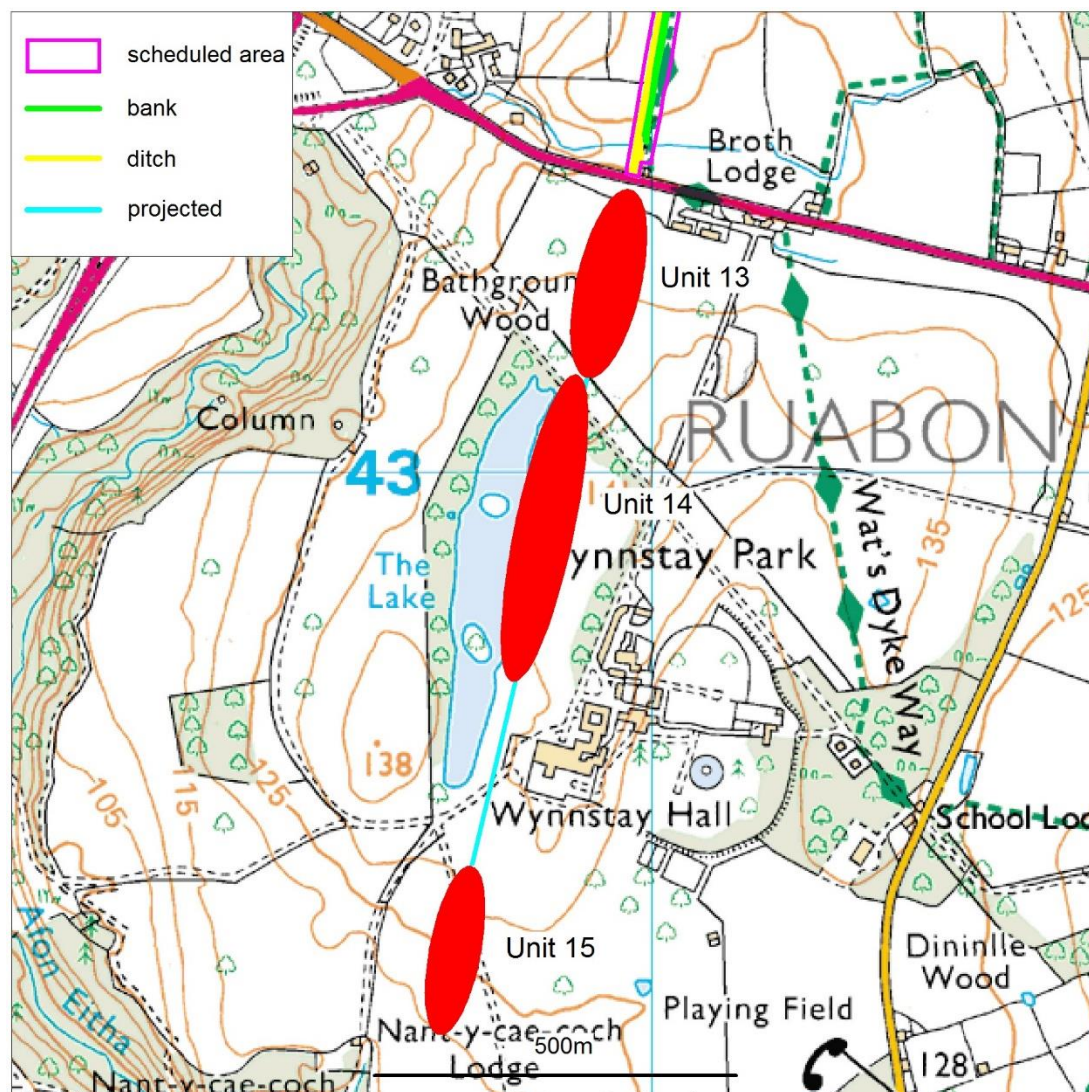
Wat's Dyke Unit 13: cropmarks recorded in 2015



Wat's Dyke Unit 13

Wat's Dyke Unit 14

NGR: SJ 30852 42925



Description

- 4.55. The line of the dyke runs north/south to the east of the lake in Wynnstay Park. While there is a linear scarp visible, sloping westwards, which may follow the general line of the dyke this is actually associated with 19th-century landscaping of the parkland, forming the western edge of a levelled area in front of the house. Buried remains may well survive for both the bank and the ditch.

Vegetation: Grass

Land use: Parkland

Vulnerability: Low

Risk: Low

Scheduling potential: None

Condition

- 4.56. There are no visible traces for the bank or ditch, although the present land use is such that any buried remains are not obviously under threat.

Condition: Favourable

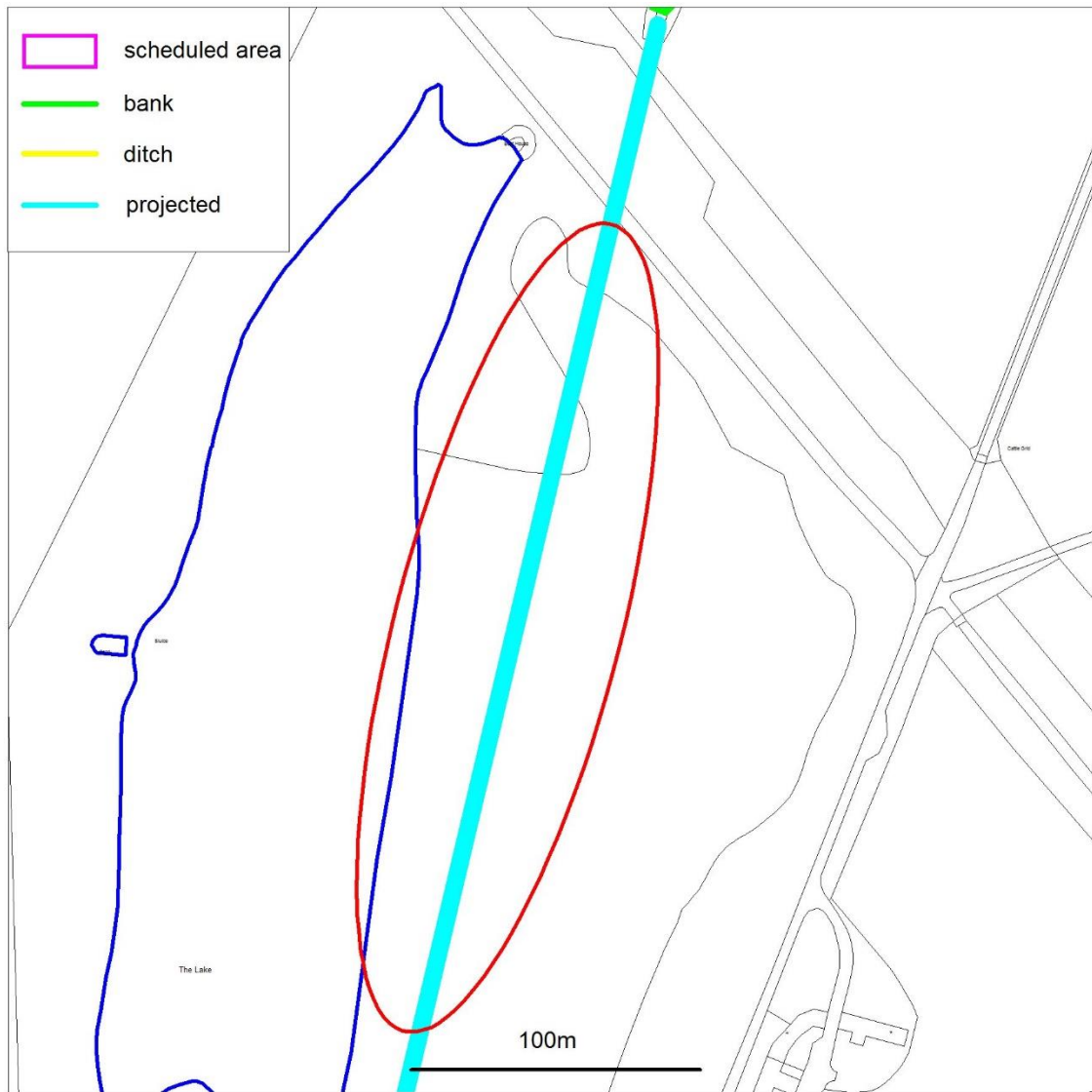
Trend: Stable

Management recommendations

- 4.57. None.



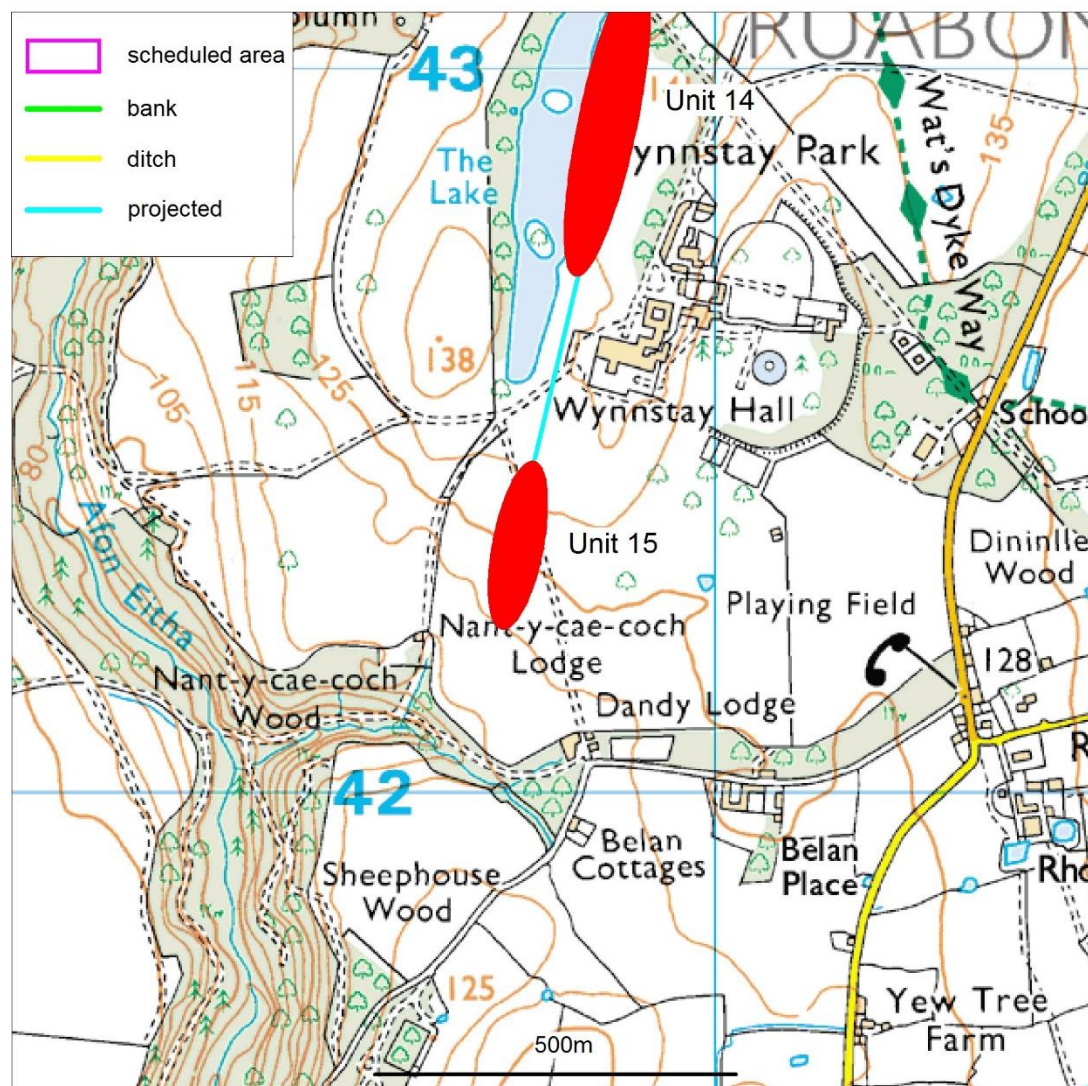
Wat's Dyke Unit 14: View from the south showing the west-facing scarp along the approximate line of the dyke, with the lake to the left and the levelled area to the right. CPAT 4317-0070



Wat's Dyke Unit 14

Wat's Dyke Unit 15

NGR: SJ 30728 42343



Description

- 4.58. Evidence from LiDAR suggests that the bank survives as a very slight earthwork in fields to the south of Wynnstay Hall. On the ground, however, there is no clear evidence for the bank or ditch.

Vegetation: Grass

Land use: pasture; arable rotation

Vulnerability: Medium

Risk: Medium

Scheduling potential: None

Condition

- 4.59. Poor, almost worn/truncated away as an extant feature, no start or end point clearly distinguishable. Field had been chain harrowed but this did not appear to have damaged the dyke.

Condition: Unfavourable

Trend: worsened superficially

Management Issues

Issue no.	Type	Active	Impact
1	Ploughing	Y	Medium

- 4.60. The dyke lies in fields subject to arable rotation and the earthworks have already been reduced to a point where they are barely visible. Further ploughing will continue to erode any upstanding earthwork and has the potential to damage buried archaeology.

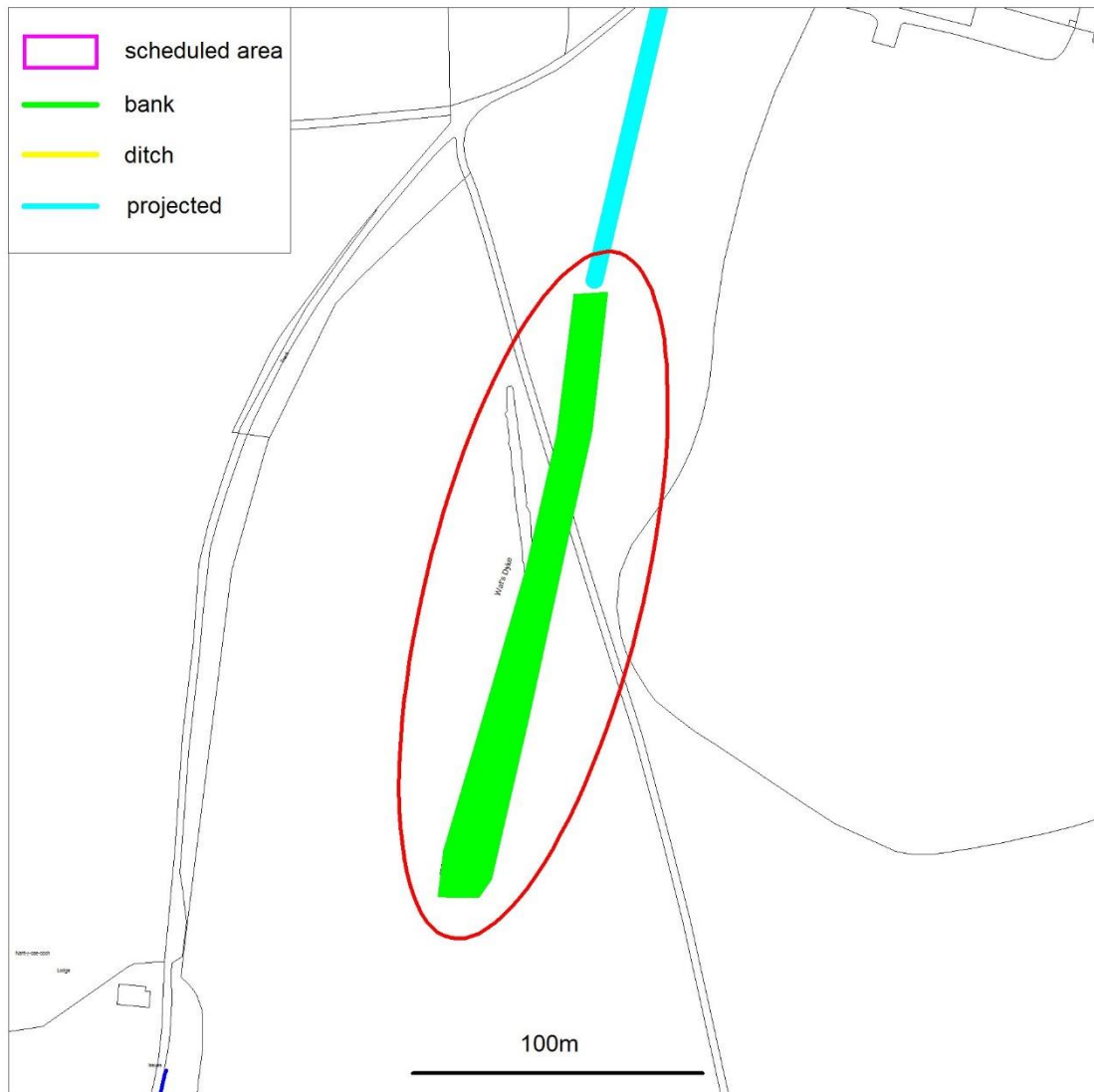
Action: Manage the agricultural regime

Management recommendations

- 4.61. Exclude the dyke from future ploughing.



Wat's Dyke Unit 15: View to the south-west along the line of the dyke. CPAT 4317-0074



Wat's Dyke Unit 15

5 Outreach opportunities

- 5.1. During the course of the project consideration has been given to identifying opportunities for future community engagement and potential partners who may be able to assist in raising awareness of the dykes within the local community, conserving the monuments, enhancing lifelong learning opportunities and individual and community well-being.
- 5.2. There is considerable potential for developing community-based activities in partnership with the National Trust, whose estates at Erddig and Chirk Castle contain sections respectively of Wat's and Offa's Dyke and preliminary discussions have already been held to this effect. In the case of Erddig the valuable vegetation clearance which has already been undertaken within SAM De173 could be extended to the adjacent section, which is currently unscheduled, while there is the opportunity for small-scale excavation, survey and recording upstanding sections of the Wat's Dyke close to the house. There are already plans to develop an archaeological project at Chirk Castle with a group of local volunteers, the preliminary stages of which will be during 2017-18 but with the possibility of developing the project further in 2018-19 to include investigation of Offa's Dyke.
- 5.3. Recent ongoing projects as part of the Cadw-funded North East Wales Community Archaeology (NEWCA) project have already developed close links with both Glyndŵr University and Coleg Cambria, both of which have a campus in close proximity to Wat's Dyke in Wrexham. The recent excavations by CPAT at Llys Edwin, near Northop, as part of the NEWCA project have demonstrated the benefits to both the project and participating students of engaging in a multi-disciplinary approach, involving students studying not only archaeology, but also history, forensics, biodiversity and horticulture. Further opportunities to engage with local students could be provided by Ysgol Rhiwabon, which is located immediately adjacent to Offa's Dyke, while Bersham Ironworks, owned by Wrexham County Borough Council, is also nearby, potentially presenting opportunities to engage with the wider public.
- 5.4. The project has not investigated outreach and engagement opportunities for the wider communities around the dykes, although other potential groups where links could be developed might include local walking groups, residents groups and local youth organisations (scouts etc).

7 Conclusion

- 7.1. The study has investigated unscheduled sections of both Offa's and Wat's Dykes within Wrexham County Borough, assessing in each case the survival and condition of the monument, together with the identification of management issues and the perceived risk to the monument. The study focused on sections of dyke, termed here units, where desk-based study had identified the potential for surviving earthwork remains and did not consider sections of both dykes which lie in urban areas where the line is only predicted.

Table 1: Offa's Dyke condition survey results

Unit No	Condition	Trend	Vulnerability	Risk
1	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
2	Unfavourable	Stable	Medium	Medium
3	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
4	Favourable	Worsened superficially	Medium	Medium
5	N/A	N/A	Low	Low
6	Unfavourable	Stable	Low	Medium
7	Unfavourable	Stable	Low	Medium
8	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
9	Destroyed	N/A	N/A	N/A
10	Favourable	Stable	Medium	Medium
11	Unfavourable	Stable	Medium	Medium
12	Unfavourable	Worsened severe	High	High
13	Unfavourable	Worsened superficially	High	High
14	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
15	Unfavourable	Stable	Low	Low
16	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
17	Unfavourable	Worsened superficially	Medium	Medium

- 7.2. Seventeen units were investigated along Offa's Dyke, which are summarised in Tables 1 and 2. Seven were found to be in a favourable condition, eight were unfavourable, one unit had been destroyed and in a further case there was no visible evidence within a private garden. While 11 units were seen as being stable, four had deteriorated, one of which (Unit 12) severely so, having been much reduced by ploughing. Only two units (Units 12 and 13) have been recorded as being at high risk, both as a result of ploughing in cases where the surviving bank is very low.

Table 2: Offa's Dyke Condition Summary

Condition		Trend		Vulnerability			Risk		
<i>Favour.</i>	<i>Unfavour.</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Worse</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>High</i>
7	8	11	4	8	5	2	6	7	2

NB Excluding Units 5 and 9

Table 3: Wat's Dyke condition survey results

Unit No	Condition	Trend	Vulnerability	Risk
1	Unfavourable	Worsened superficially	Medium	Medium
2	Unfavourable	Worsened superficially	Medium	Medium
3	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
4	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
5	Unfavourable	Worsened superficially	Low	Medium
6	Unfavourable	Stable	Low	Medium
7	Destroyed	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
9	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
10	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
11	Unfavourable	Stable	Low	Medium
12	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
13	Unfavourable	Worsened moderate	High	High
14	Favourable	Stable	Low	Low
15	Unfavourable	Worsened superficially	Medium	High

7.3. The situation was relatively similar with respect to Wat's Dyke (Tables 3 and 4). Of the 15 units visited one, at Erddig, had been lost owing to a landslip, while of the remainder half were in favourable condition and the other half unfavourable. The majority of units were identified as being in a stable condition, while four had worsened superficially and one (Unit 13) more significantly, owing to ploughing. As with Offa's Dyke, the only two units considered to be at high risk were both cases where the bank had been almost levelled already with further denudation likely to result from ploughing.

Table 3: Wat's Dyke Condition Summary

Condition		Trend		Vulnerability			Risk		
<i>Favour.</i>	<i>Unfavour.</i>	<i>Stable</i>	<i>Worse</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>High</i>	<i>Low</i>	<i>Med</i>	<i>High</i>
7	7	9	5	10	3	1	7	6	1

NB Excluding Unit 7

- 7.4. The study also included GIS mapping for scheduled and unscheduled sections, including both upstanding remains and the predicted alignment, data from which will be incorporated into the regional HER as an aid to future development control.
- 7.5. The project has also identified areas where there may be an opportunity for community-based projects, either to enhance the appearance of the monument, assist in its management or add to existing knowledge and understanding of dyke. Specific examples might include work with the National Trust at both Chirk Castle, on Offa's Dyke, and Erddig, on Wat's Dyke, while other potential partners could include Coleg Cambria and Glyndŵr University, following on from recent collaborations at Llys Edwin, near Northop.

8 Acknowledgements

- 8.1. The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Hankinson and Will Logan, while the report was prepared with the assistance of Will Logan and Rachael Matthews. We are grateful to the respective landowners for permitting access and in particular the National Trust and their archaeologist, Kathy Laws. Thanks are also due to Fiona Grant, Cadw Field Monument Warden for her assistance and advice.

Appendix 1: Matrix for determining overall risk level

Condition	Current Condition Trend	Vulnerability	Overall risk level
Favourable	Greatly Improved	High	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Improved	High	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Stable	High	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Worsened superficial	High	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Worsened moderate	High	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Worsened severe	High	<i>High</i>
Favourable	Very much worse / Destroyed	High	<i>High</i>
Favourable	Greatly improved	Medium	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Improved	Medium	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Stable	Medium	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Worsened superficial	Medium	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Worsened moderate	Medium	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Worsened severe	Medium	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Very much worse / Destroyed	Medium	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Greatly improved	Low	<i>Low</i>
Favourable	Improved	Low	<i>Low</i>
Favourable	Stable	Low	<i>Low</i>
Favourable	Worsened superficial	Low	<i>Low</i>
Favourable	Worsened moderate	Low	<i>Low</i>
Favourable	Worsened severe	Low	<i>Medium</i>
Favourable	Very much worse / Destroyed	Low	<i>Medium</i>
Unfavourable	Greatly improved	High	<i>High</i>
Unfavourable	Improved	High	<i>High</i>
Unfavourable	Stable	High	<i>High</i>
Unfavourable	Worsened superficial	High	<i>High</i>
Unfavourable	Worsened moderate	High	<i>High</i>
Unfavourable	Worsened severe	High	<i>High immediate</i>
Unfavourable	Very much worse / Destroyed	High	<i>High immediate</i>
Unfavourable	Greatly improved	Medium	<i>Medium</i>
Unfavourable	Improved	Medium	<i>Medium</i>

Unfavourable	Stable	Medium	<i>Medium</i>
Unfavourable	Worsened superficial	superficial	<i>Medium</i>
Unfavourable	Worsened moderate	Medium	<i>High</i>
Unfavourable	Worsened severe	Medium	<i>High</i>
Unfavourable	Very much worse / Destroyed	Medium	<i>High</i>
Unfavourable	Greatly improved	Low	<i>Medium</i>
Unfavourable	Improved	Low	<i>Medium</i>
Unfavourable	Stable	Low	<i>Medium</i>
Unfavourable	Worsened superficial	Low	<i>Medium</i>
Unfavourable	Worsened moderate	Low	<i>Medium</i>
Unfavourable	Worsened severe	Low	<i>High</i>
Unfavourable	Very much worse / Destroyed	Low	<i>High</i>

Appendix 2: Glossary of terms and definitions

Condition Trend:

Greatly Improved:

1. The monument has been improved by factors such as:
 - Extensive reconsolidation of masonry; reconsolidation preventing major collapse;
 - Extensive clearance / herbicide treatment of harmful vegetation (ivy / scrub / gorse / bracken etc.);
 - Erosion repairs over substantial areas or to serious problems.
2. There has been substantial presentation for provision of public access/presentation, usually involving some/all of the above.

Improved:

1. The monument has been improved by factors such as:
 - Reconsolidation of masonry over localised areas; reconsolidation preventing localised collapse;
 - Clearance / herbicide treatment of harmful vegetation (ivy / scrub / gorse / bracken etc.);
 - Erosion repairs.
2. Ploughing has ceased and the monument is to remain in permanent pasture.
3. Other changes to management regime or local environment have resulted in generally better overall appearance.
4. There has been presentation for public access, usually involving some/all of the above.

Stable:

1. The monument is not suffering from active erosion or on-going damage.
2. Masonry is generally in a good condition with no serious structural defects / extensive vegetation growth and no pointing repairs required.
3. Earthworks are not overgrown with harmful vegetation.
4. Where the overall dynamic of the site is driven by land management and there has been no overall change, individual areas of concern (a sheep scrape etc.) may be ignored in defining the site as stable, subject to the follow-up that the owner/occupier understands the dynamic and is likely to intervene if it moves in the wrong direction.
5. A very slow natural change could be considered to be stable depending on the degree of damage and the threat timescale.

Worsened:

1. The site shows a negative departure from the definition of stability as above, either obviously, because of some catastrophic loss or sudden unhelpful change in management, or less obviously, if some threshold of neglect has arrived and the problem looks unlikely to be tackled in the immediate future. Ongoing natural damage is happening at a timescale that is considered to be rapid for example: coastal erosion; storm damage.

Worsened - Superficial:

2. Damage is restricted to small, localised areas or is affecting areas with a lower potential for archaeological significance, e.g. turf of pasture, infill of ditches.
3. The damage to the archaeology is likely to be minimal.
4. The damage may have stabilised and may repair naturally without scarring, e.g. minor footpath erosion or animal erosion.
5. Improvements may be achieved by a change of management as opposed to direct physical intervention.
6. Examples include:
 - vegetation encroachment (particularly where existing bushes have just got bigger);
 - smaller isolated erosion scrapes;
 - feeders/feed dumping where surface is not too heavily disturbed;
 - fly tipping;
 - minor visitor wear;
 - minor cairn rearrangement.

Worsened - Moderate:

1. A degree of damage is occurring, which requires more concerted management to facilitate recovery.
2. Some damage to the archaeology is active.
3. These problems are going to take more effort (sometimes specialist) to fix.
4. Failure to act may result in further worsening in the condition of the site.
5. Examples include:
 - natural decay of masonry or coastal features;
 - vertical erosion of earthworks;
 - cultivation, track and trough construction, drainage works, vehicle wear and other disruptive agricultural operations;

-
- vegetation encroachment of problem species or over larger areas;
 - more extensive or numerous erosion scrapes;
 - feeders/feed dumping where considerable churning has occurred;
 - extensive visitor wear;
 - extensive cairn rearrangement.

Worsened - Severe:

1. Action is required urgently to prevent major damage / collapse.
2. Major damage / collapse requiring mitigating works may already have occurred.
3. Irreversible damage to the archaeology of the site is likely; part may have been destroyed.
4. The problem, if it is fixable in some way, will take specialist management and resources to fix.
5. If repair work is not feasible / safe the only appropriate action may be preserving the archaeological record of the site by archaeological surveyor building recording.
6. Examples include:
 - collapsing lintels or comer stones of buildings;
 - large trees growing from masonry;
 - earthworks with extensive areas of active erosion;

Very Much Worse / Destroyed:

1. Virtually all archaeological features / potential for archaeological remains obliterated, e.g. demolition of a building; deep ploughing of an earthwork, cliff collapse. (Individual points of concern of course are still noted in the management text).

Condition Current:

A 'snap-shot' view of the condition of the monument at the actual time of the visit.

Favourable:

The current condition and management are appropriate for the preservation of the site.

Unfavourable:

The current condition and management are in-appropriate for the preservation of the site.

Vulnerability Level:

How susceptible the monument is to damaging processes already at work or likely to occur.

High - The monument is exposed to immediate threat or threats which are not being managed.

Medium - The monument is likely to be exposed to threat in the near future, or is already exposed to encroaching threat and minimal management of this is being undertaken.

Low - The monument is being managed adequately and there is minimal identifiable threat.

Risk Level:

Determined following assessment of the three criteria: condition current; condition trend and vulnerability.

High - Immediate: Active identifiable threat or threats, which are having a severe impact upon the monument and require immediate mitigation.

High: Active identifiable threat or threats, which are or have the potential to impact severely upon the monument.

Medium: The monument is suffering from threat or threats such as visitor damage, natural erosion.

Low: The monument and any threat are being managed effectively.

Appendix 3: Condition Survey Record Forms

Dyke Condition Survey

UNIT ASSESSMENT FORM

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

MONUMENT NAME:				UNIT No:					
SAM/PRN				COUNTY:					
NGR 1:				NGR 2:					
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:				RECORDER:					
UNIT DESCRIPTION: 									
OVERALL CONDITION DESCRIPTION: 									
VEGETATION:				LAND USE:					
CONDITION:		Favourable			Unfavourable				
CONDITION TREND:		Greatly improved		Improved		Stable			
Worsened superficial		Worsened moderate		Worsened severe		Very much worsened/ destroyed			
VULNERABILITY:		High	Medium	Low	RISK:		High	Medium	Low
Animal Burrowing	H	Bikes	H	Bracken	H	Dumping/ tipping	H	Equestrian	H
	M		M		M		M		
	L		L		L		L		
Development	H	Fence/ hedge	H	Footpath erosion	H	Natural Erosion	H	Ploughing	H
	M		M		M		M		
	L		L		L		L		
Scrub	H	Stock Erosion	H	Trees	H	Vehicles	H	Other	H
	M		M		M		M		
	L		L		L		L		
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: 									

Dyke_Unit_Assessment_Form_V3.docx

Dyke Condition Survey

UNIT ASSESSMENT FORM

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

MONUMENT NAME:	UNIT No:
DATE OF ASSESSMENT:	RECORDER:
OWNER:	
OCCUPIER:	
SKETCH:	

Dyke_Unit_Assessment_Form_V3.docx

Dyke Condition Survey

ISSUE ASSESSMENT FORM

Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust

MONUMENT:	ISSUE No:
SAM/PRN:	UNIT No:
DATE:	RECORDER:
SKETCH:	

Dyke_Issue_Assessment_Form_V2.docx

