



*Tomen y Rhodywdd from the north, prior to tree clearance. © Crown copyright: Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.*

### **Tomen y Rhodywdd motte & bailey**

Although on private land, but visible from the road, this castle is included because it is one of the finest motte and bailey castles in Wales. Originally built by Owain Gwynedd, lord of north Wales, in 1149, it was strengthened, with its ditches re-dug by the English in 1212, at the time of King John's second campaign in north Wales. The accounts in the Pipe Rolls mention iron mallets being purchased in order to break up the rocks in the ditch of the castle of Yale, but it is uncertain whether this refers to this motte or one a few miles away, Tomen y Faedre in Llanarmon yn Ial (Yale) (SJ 194 561).

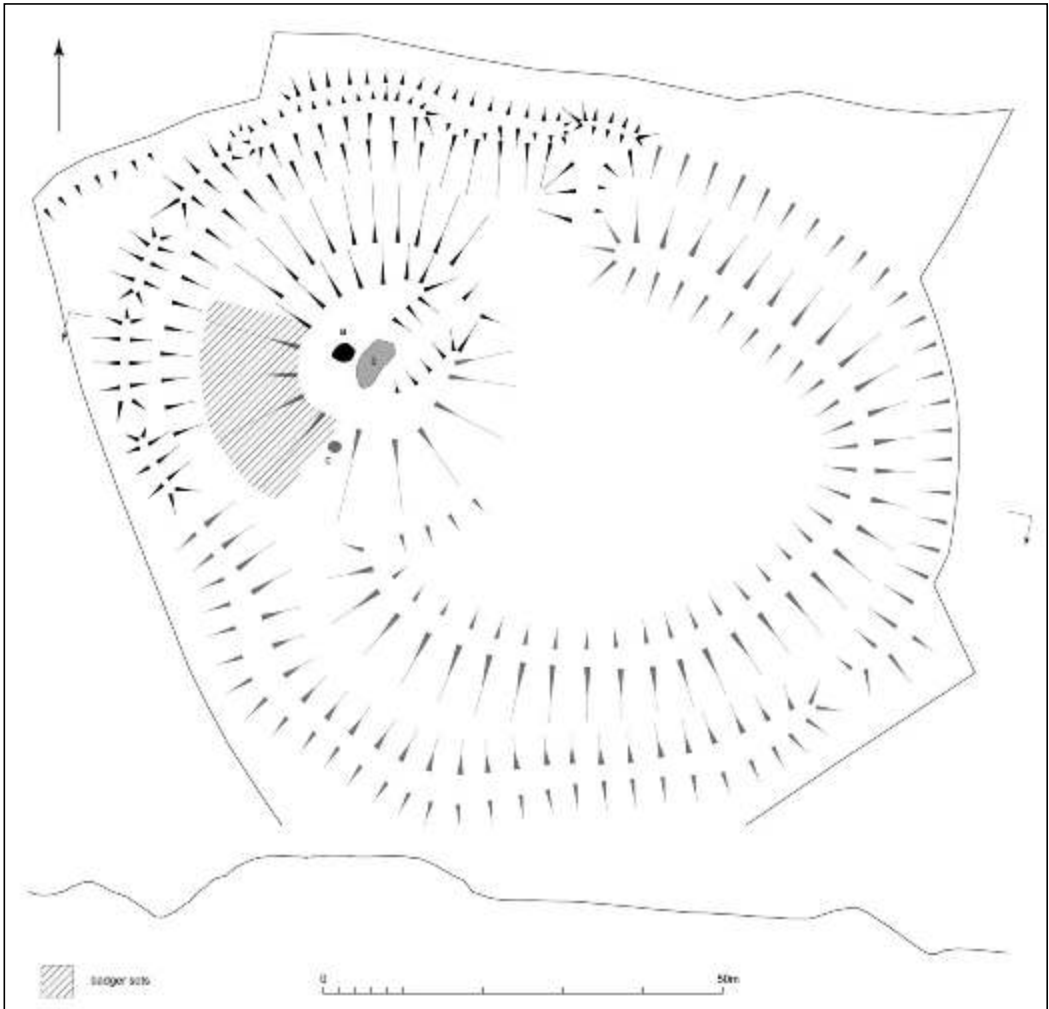
### **Further Reading**

Avent, R., *Castles of the Princes of Gwynedd*, Cardiff, HMSO, 1983.

Davis, P. R., *Castles of the Welsh Princes*, Talybont: Y Lolfa, 2007

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2014 *Report No 1261 Tomen y Rhodywdd, De018, Denbighshire Survey and Conservation 2014. North East Wales Community Archaeology.*





The results of the 2014 survey of Tomen y Rhodywdd (in black), with the remaining earthworks based on Ordnance Survey mapping (in grey). a – disturbance, b – spoil, c – tree stump.



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