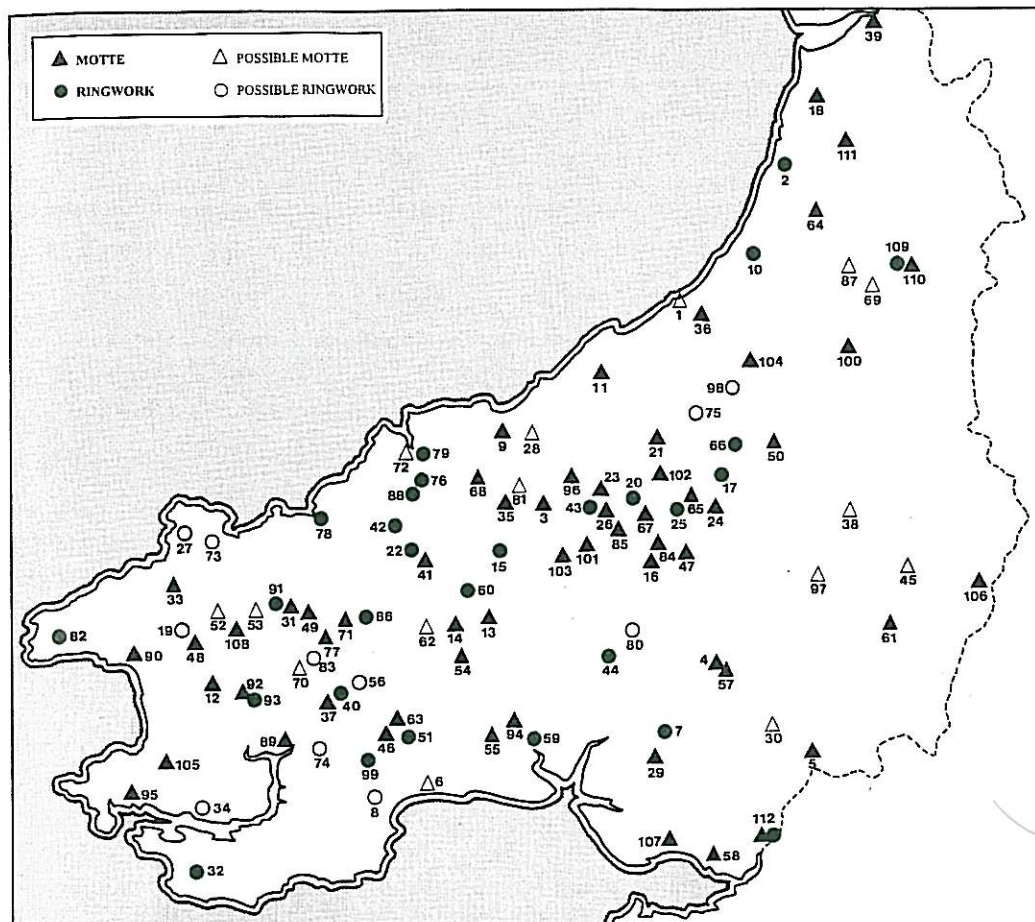


contains a list of sites in west Wales, information on some sites. Reference to Nevebury, Nevern, which are sites, but have to warrant an investigation like Eglwysrw, some vestiges of it with in this

tries has meant a sum and avoiding sites. Most of these are those marked on the map, but those marked on the map are from nearby accessible to the town arranged in a town or village, the site is in fairly good condition, Cenarth, rather than the site has an enclosure after the map was obtained. The original heights were found/bank to the top of the ditch. It is expected for this site had to rely on the measure-



Map 2: Distribution map of mottes and ringworks in west Wales.

1 ABERAERON, Castell Cadwgan. Coastal erosion destroyed this site in the last century. Meyrick referred to it as a 'tumulus' (i.e. a motte), but a contemporary topographer, Samuel Lewis, described it as 'a small circular encampment' which sounds more like a ringwork. The eponymous Cadwgan ruled Ceredigion from 1099 to 1110, and if any credence is attached to the placename, then this lost site could have been the first castle built by the Welsh.

2 ABERYSTWYTH (SN 585 790)*. Much of the early history of Aberystwyth is confused due to a change of placename, and the likelihood that more than two sites are involved. The first castle was built by Gilbert

fitz Richard in 1110 'near the estuary of the river called Ystwyth', and a later entry in the *Brut* adds that it lay on top of a hill. There can be no doubt that this was the large ringwork and bailey at Rhydyfelin, about 3km south of the present town.

In 1116 Gruffudd ap Rhys attacked the castle, but his army was routed when a second Norman force led a surprise attack. Owain and Cadwaladr of Gwynedd burnt the fortress in 1136, but it must have been rebuilt by Cadwaladr because seven years later it was destroyed again in a family feud. Roger de Clare may have repaired it in 1158 (or else built a new castle), for in 1164 Lord Rhys destroyed an 'Aber Rheidol' castle. Llywelyn Fawr rebuilt Aberystwyth in 1208, and in

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