

LAND OFF NEW ROAD, BEGELLY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: JMKA (Begelly) Ltd



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RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2011/47
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 102354

Medi 2011
September 2011

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Gan / By

James Meek and Simon Ratty

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE
BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

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**LAND OFF NEW ROAD, BEGELLY, PEMBROKESHIRE:
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SUMMARY

A planning application is being submitted for a 115 house development of an area of land off New Road, Begelly, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SN 11630 07147). It has been recommended by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority that an archaeological desk-based assessment of the development area be submitted with the application to enable an informed decision to be made on the potential impacts of the development on known and potential archaeological resources. The assessment was commissioned from Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services by JMKA (Begelly) Ltd.

The assessment has shown that although there are no known archaeological sites recorded within the proposed development site, there is a low to moderate potential for significant archaeological remains to be present. No Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie within or in the 500m radius study area centred on the development site. No Listed Buildings lie within the development site boundary, but three are present within the study area. None of these structures would be affected by the proposed development although the tower of the Church of St Marys would look across the development site.

The archaeological assessment has demonstrated that Begelly lies within a landscape with a long and continuous history of human activity, including activity during the Bronze Age and possibly Neolithic periods, but concentrating from the Early Medieval period onwards. At least one Bronze Age feature was recorded on a site close to the east of this development area, and possible Neolithic finds were also recovered. It is possible that further evidence of activity of these dates survives within this site area.

Early Medieval activity has been indicated on the Church Close site to the east, and it is possible that such remains may be present within this development area, although most likely concentrated in the northeastern part, closest to the Church. During the medieval period the site area would have primarily been used for agricultural purposes, probably as meadow or pasture and occasionally as arable land. Such remains if present may include former field boundaries and evidence for ploughing and these would be considered to be of low archaeological importance. It is also possible that the site area was used for coal mining, as it has been recorded in Begelly from as early as 1330, and the site area does lie within the exploited area of the coal measures. Such remains from the medieval period may be in the form of bell pits, and would be considered of local or regional importance if present.

During the post-medieval period, the land would have again been mostly used for agricultural purposes, but could also have been used for mineral extraction. There are no records of any sites within the boundaries of the development area, so any such remains would probably be of pre-19th century date. If present, archaeological remains of this activity would be considered to be of local or regional importance.

No archaeological or historical remains of national significance which could preclude development of the site have been identified within the proposed development area by this desk-based assessment, although remains worthy of some further record are present and may require further phases of archaeological investigation by way of condition placed upon any forthcoming planning permission for development.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 JMKA (Begelly) Ltd are submitting a planning application for the proposed development of 115 houses on land off New Road, Begelly Pembrokeshire (centred on SN 11630 07147).
- 1.1.2 Following advice from the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, the developer was requested to submit an archaeological desk-based assessment in support of the planning application. This would ensure that when the application was submitted, an informed decision could be made of the impact of the development on the known and potential archaeological resource within the site area.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the archaeological desk-based assessment is to determine the nature and location of any known archaeological remains and the potential for hitherto unknown remains to be present on the site.
- 1.1.2 JMKA (Begelly) Ltd commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the archaeological assessment in September 2011.

1.2 Scope of the project

- 1.2.1 The assessment comprised the examination and collation of available sources of information including:
 - Information on known archaeological and historic sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record¹ (HER), including a search of available maps, published and unpublished works, and aerial photographs;
 - Relevant information held at the National Library of Wales (NLW), the Pembrokeshire Records Office, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (via the Coflein online computer database);
 - A search of Cadw's Listed Building records and Schedule of Ancient Monuments for designated buildings and sites of archaeological and historical importance lying on or in close proximity to the site;
 - Site visits to determine the presence or absence of visible archaeology or evidence for previous ground disturbance within the proposed development area (undertaken both before and after a programme of vegetation clearance was undertaken).
- 1.2.2 The results of the assessment contained in this report are intended to identify the extent and character of the known and potential archaeological resource, to assess the likely and potential impacts of any development on that resource and, if required, to outline a possible programme of further works to mitigate those impacts. The assessment should be seen only as the first stage of the archaeological process and does not preclude the possibility that further archaeological input may be required prior to, or during, any proposed development.

1.3 Abbreviations used in this report

- 1.3.1 All sites recorded on the regional HER are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire.

Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD).

1.4 Illustrations

1.4.1 Photographic images and printed map extracts are to be found at the back of the report. Note that the printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

1.5 Timeline

1.5.1 The following timeline is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text (Table 1).

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval Period –	1066 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period ² –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

² The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

2. SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 Begelly is a small village located some 7km to the north of Tenby in Pembrokeshire. The site area lies to the southwest of the parish church of Begelly, St Marys. It lies to the west of the A478 road between Tenby and Narberth and north of the A477 between Pembroke and Carmarthen.
- 2.2 The site area itself is located between Parsonage Lane to the north and New Road to the south (SN 11630 07147). A field boundary forms the site edge to the northwest. The northern boundary is formed by Parsonage Lane and associated properties. Church Close and associated properties lie to the east. The southern part of the site area is bounded by properties fronting New Road to the southeast and the Miner's Walk footpath route to the southwest.
- 2.3 The site area lies on a south facing slope, which is steepest in the northern part of the field (although never very steep).
- 2.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is represented by Carboniferous Sedimentary rocks of the Lower Westphalian (mainly productive coal measures) (British Geological Survey 2003). The soils of the area are characterised by less fertile soils over the coal measures.



Figure 1: Location Map based on the Ordnance Survey, Begelly marked within the red rectangle

Reproduced from the 1987 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A



3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Designated Sites and Listed Buildings

- 3.1.1 No scheduled ancient monuments (SAMs) lie within the boundaries of the proposed development site or in the near vicinity.
- 3.1.2 Within a 500m radius of the application area there are three sites that have been designated as listed buildings, Begelly House (Grade II Listed); Zion Chapel Schoolroom and Railings (Grade II Listed) and the Church of St Mary (Grade II* Listed). Only the tower of St Marys Church would be visible from the development site and it is not considered that this would be a constraint to the development.
- 3.1.3 The application area does not lie within any Historic Landscape Categorisation Areas.
- 3.1.4 No Conservation Areas lie within close proximity to the application area.

3.2 Known Archaeological Remains and Historical Development

- 3.2.1 A search of the Regional Historic Environment Record database revealed that a total of thirty sites of archaeological and historic interest are located within a 500m radius study area of the centre of the proposed development area (Table 2, Figure 3). No archaeological sites are recorded on the Regional HER within the boundaries of the application area.
- 3.2.2 A search of the same study area was undertaken of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) National Monument Record (NMR). This search returned 13 known sites within the study area (Table 3, Figure 4). A few of these refer to the same sites as recorded on the Regional HER. No archaeological sites are recorded on the NMR within the boundaries of the application area.

Regional HER Information

PRN	Site Name	Period	Description	NGR
3640	Bottom Farm Motte	Medieval	Medieval motte earthwork	SN 1178 0728
3641	Begelly Parish Church of St Mary's	Post-medieval, Medieval	Medieval parish church, first mentioned in 1291 Taxatio. Polygonal churchyard. Adjacent to former motte.	SN 1181 0731
4692	Kings Moor	Post-medieval, Medieval	Post-medieval, Medieval Crown Land as indicated by place-name	SN 120 068
13812	Kings Moor Common	Post-medieval, Medieval	Common Land	SN 120 069
18872	Chapel	Post-medieval	Chapel building	SN 1180 0761
18875	School	Post-medieval	School building	SN 1176 0739
18883	Rectory	Post-medieval	Rectory building	SN 1136 0731
21421	King's Moor Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Coal mine earthwork	SN 1119 0694
21423	King's Moor Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Coal mine earthwork	SN 1141 0690
21424	King's Moor Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Coal mine earthwork	SN 1144 0688
21425	King's Moor Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Coal mine earthwork	SN 1180 0688
21426	King's Moor Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Coal mine earthwork	SN 1185 0688
21427	King's Moor Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Coal mine earthwork	SN 1195 0677
23837	Little Kilvelgy Shafts	Post-medieval	Ironstone Mine	SN 12 07
27057	Kilgetty	Post-medieval	Domestic Building	SN 12 07
28251	Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Earthwork of former coal mine	SN 115 076
28253	Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Earthwork of former coal mine	SN 115 075
28254	Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Earthwork of former coal mine	SN 113 072
28255	Coal Mine	Post-medieval	Earthwork of former coal mine	SN 113 072
33755	Almshouse	Post-medieval	Almshouse	SN 118 073
33756	Mansion	Post-medieval	Mansion	SN 1173 0738
33758	Blacksmiths Workshop	Post-medieval	Blacksmiths Workshop	SN 1175 0705
33759	Begelly Arms	Post-medieval	Begelly Arms Inn	SN 1188 0707
48900	Building	Post-medieval	Post-medieval building identified from historic mapping.	SN 11842 07404
48901	Building	Post-medieval	Post-medieval building identified from historic mapping.	SN 11680 07390
48902	Building	Post-medieval	Post-medieval building identified from historic mapping.	SN 11695 07438
48903	Building	Post-medieval	Post-medieval building identified from historic mapping.	SN 11750 07410
59547	Begelly House	Post-medieval	Grade II listed mansion	SN 11733 07382
59553	Zion C. M. Chapel schoolroom	Post-medieval	Grade II listed schoolroom, and house, with railings and gate	SN 11807 07601
60059	Church of St. Mary	Post-medieval	Church of St. Mary Grade II* listed church	SN 11815 07311

Table 2: Archaeological and Historical Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (Figure 3)

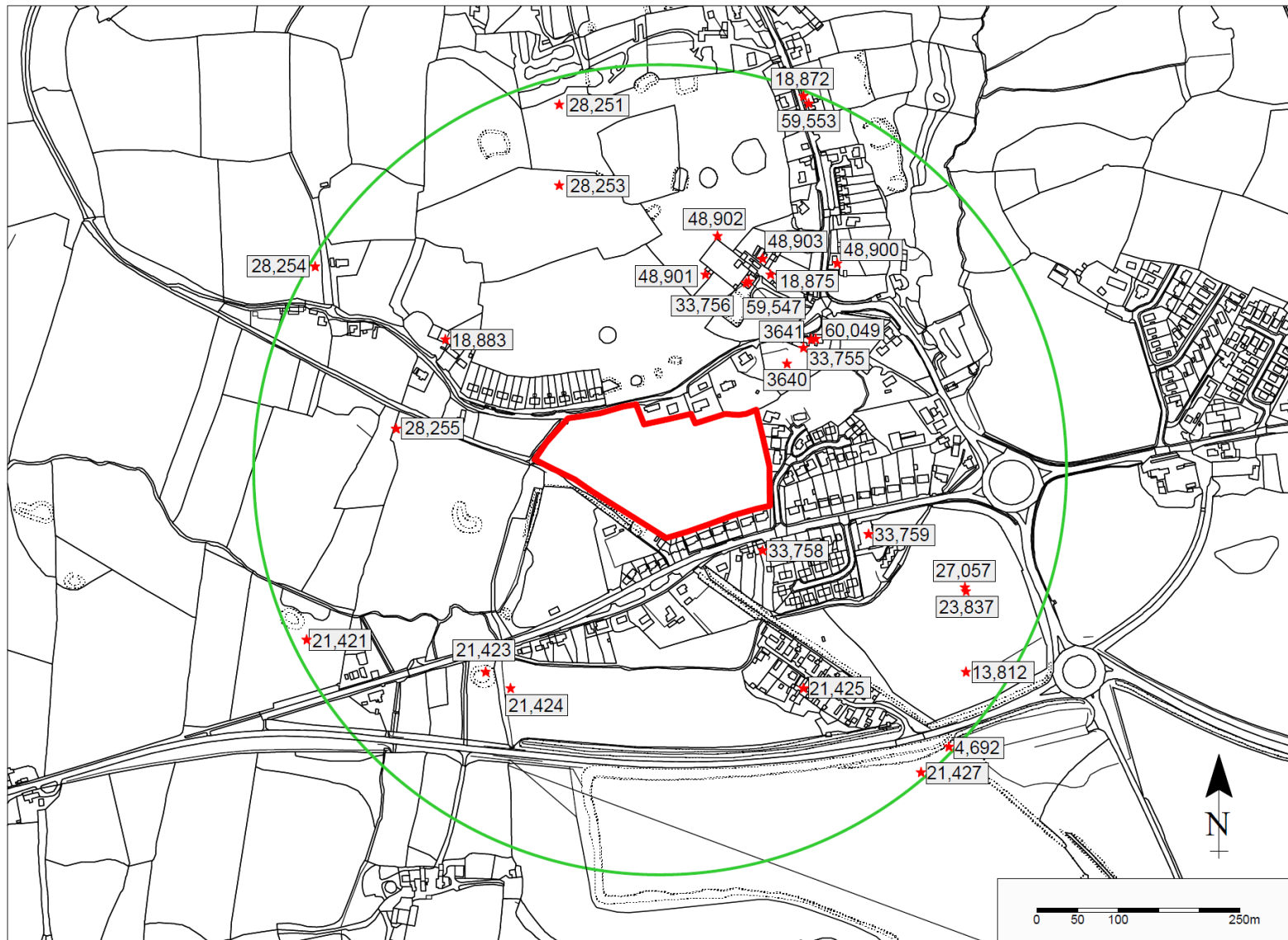


Figure 3: Regional Historic Environment Record Information (identified with red stars) within search area (green circle)

RCAHMW NMR Information

PRN	Site Name	Period	Description	Grid Reference
10952	Zion Calvinistic Methodist Chapel	Post Medieval	Zion Methodist Chapel built in 1828, a gallery installed 1851 and rebuilt 1866.	SN 1181 0761
22498	Old Rectory, Begelly	Post Medieval	19th century. Georgian style. Stone built rectory with associated gardens etc	SN 1134 0732
96309	Begelly House; Selwyn House	Post Medieval	Three storey Georgian style house of about 1825	SN 1173 0738
103614	St Mary's	Medieval; Post Medieval	St Mary's Church, Begelly	SN 1181 0731
265316	Begelly House, Gardens And Associated Landscaping Features	Post Medieval	The small estate of Begelly was owned by the Child family from early eighteenth century until 1919. The family prospered with the development of the anthracite industry. The present house was probably built/rebuilt in the second quarter of the 19 th century. Colliery tips have been adapted as tree-clumps in fields to the W & N	SN 11693 07403
400195	Old Coal Workings W Of Begelly House,	Post Medieval	Earthworks of colliery tips occur over an area, c.850m by 550m, W of Begelly House. Some planted as tree clumps.	SN 1141 0755
400196	Landscape Planting on Colliery Waste Tips W of, Begelly	Post Medieval	Up to eight colliery tips can be identified in the field between the grounds of Begelly House & The Old Rectory (NPRN 265316, 400198), the majority of which were planted as tree clumps.	SN 11559 07314
400197	Begelly House, Landscape Planting On Colliery Waste Tips N Of, Begelly	Post Medieval	A number of colliery tips (NPRN 400195) occur in the field to the N of the grounds of Begelly House (NPRN 265316), and some are portrayed as formerly enclosed tree-clumps, c.30m in diameter on 2 nd edition OS map	SN 11730 07531
400198	Old Rectory, Gardens and Landscaping Features	Post Medieval	Gardens associated with 19th C. rectory (NPRN 22498). The adaption of colliery waste tips as tree clumps in field between rectory grounds & those of Begelly House (NPRN 265316), may be associated.	SN 11351 07300
400199	Linear Features, Probable Tramways, SW of Begelly	Post Medieval	A linear earthwork feature, probably representing a disused colliery tramway, running c.600m ENE from an area of relict colliery features (NPRN 400200), at SN 1088 0706, to an apparent junction with the Saundersfoot Railway (NPRN 43052), at SN 1149 0713	SN 1149 0713
400200	Relict Colliery Working Features SW of Begelly	Post Medieval	Colliery tips occurring over an area, c.600m E-W by 200, SW of Begelly; depicted by OS County series with disused shafts at at SN 1141 0689; at SN 1138 0707; at SN 1086 0709	SN 1117 0696
400235	King's Moor, Possible Field System, Drainage Features	Unknown	Indistinct parallel linear features running c.150m N-S, extending c.100 E-W, apparent through vegetation cover, in the N part of King's Moor.	SN 1195 0696
408326	Begelly, Village	Multiperiod	Begelly Village	SN 1206 0713

Table 3: Archaeological and Historical Sites recorded on the RCAHMW National Monuments Record (Figure 4)



Figure 4: RCAHMW National Monument Record Information (identified with red circles) within search area (green circle)

Palaeolithic (c.450,000 – 10,000 BC)

3.2.3 No recorded sites of Palaeolithic date have been identified within the boundaries of the application area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre. Such remains are scarce in the region.

Mesolithic and Neolithic (c. 10,000 – 2000 BC)

3.2.3 Although there are no recorded sites of Mesolithic or Neolithic date recorded on the HER or NMR within the boundaries of the application area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre, possible Neolithic remains have been found on a development area close to the east. During an archaeological evaluation of this site at Church Close, several worked flints were found in close proximity to features containing charcoal. The flintwork was considered possibly of Neolithic date, although radiocarbon dating of charcoal taken from one of the nearby features provided a Bronze Age date. Potentially the flint work had been misdated, or the features were not associated.

Bronze Age (c.2000 – 700 BC)

3.2.4 No recorded sites of Bronze Age date have been identified within the boundaries of the application area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre on the regional HER or NMR. As discussed above, charcoal recovered from a feature found on the development site at Church Close provided a Bronze Age date.

3.2.5 A possible burial chamber or round barrow is recorded in Archaeologia Cambrensis within Begelly. The information dates from 1863, but the exact location of the site is not recorded, although it is possible it lies within or close to the study area. The reference states:

"BEGELLY or BUGELI, near Narberth, PEMBROKE SHIRE.—I observe it stated by Lewis, Top. Diet., that "near the parsonage house are the remains of a cromlech, which has been thrown down; and in its vicinity is a tumulus, supposed to have been raised to the memory of some unknown chieftain." According to this the locality in question must be one promising to reward the labour and expense of excavation. Is the tumulus a chambered mound? H. L. J. (Arch Camb, 1868, p413).

Iron Age (c.700 BC – 43 AD)

3.2.6 No recorded sites of Iron Age date have been identified within the boundaries of the application area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre.

Roman (AD43 – c. AD410)

3.2.7 No recorded sites of Roman date have been identified within the boundaries of the application area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre. Known sites of Roman date are relatively scarce in this area.

Early Medieval (c.AD410 – AD1066)

3.2.8 No recorded sites of Early Medieval date have been identified within the boundaries of the application area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre. The HER states that there is no evidence for the Church of St. Mary's to have Early Medieval origins, and it is assumed that it was established after the 11th century.

3.2.9 It should be noted that during the evaluation of the Church Close site, a feature was excavated which had the appearance of a prehistoric feature, but radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the feature provided an Early Medieval date. Although only a single feature, it represents the first clear evidence for Early Medieval settlement at Begelly. It would be reasonable to assume that some occupation was present here prior to the Norman Conquest, following which the

site was taken over and expanded (with the church and motte, see below) by the Norman invaders.

Medieval (1066 – 1485)

3.2.10 No recorded sites of Medieval date have been identified within the boundaries of the application area.

3.2.11 Three sites of medieval date lie within the 0.5km radius study area. These comprise Bottom Farm motte (PRN 3640) which lies 190m to the northeast of the application area; St Mary's church (PRNs 3641 & 60059; NPRN 103614) lying 230m to the northeast and Kingsmoor Common (PRNs 4692 & 13812) which lies 440m to the southeast.

3.2.12 The church and motte at Begelly lie in close proximity of each other. It is likely that they would have formed the focus for settlement during the medieval period (NPRN 408326), although the extent of any such settlement is unclear. It is possible that medieval settlement may extend into the proposed development area with remains surviving below ground.

3.2.13 The Church (PRNs 3641 & 60059; NPRN 103614) is not included in any of surviving Episcopal acts issued by the Bishops of St David's between 1087 and 1280 (Barrow 1998). It is first recorded in Taxatio of 1291 as *Ecclesia de Urgely cum Capella* with an assessed value of £12 0s 0d³. The nave, chancel and south transept of the present structure date from the 13th century; the north chapel from the 14th century; and the tower from the 16th century (Salter 2003, 47). Between 1885-87 the church was re-seated and repaired⁴.

3.2.14 The motte at Bottom Farm (PRN 3640) lies in close proximity to the church, perhaps indicating a focus for medieval settlement. It is described by RCAHMW as a round camp up to 2.4m high and 50m across, with a bailey on the NW side (Davis 2000, 27). This also notes that it is a possible ringwork as opposed to motte (*ibid*). Nothing now survives above ground, with the last remains being cleared in 1955 (Hull 2005, 47). The motte may have been an outlying stronghold of Manorbier lordship (Davis 2007, 27). There is also an indication that the castle formed the centre of the former Manor of Begelly (Hull 2005, 47).

3.2.15 The place-name of Kingsmoor Common would suggest it was land owned by the Crown and granted commoner's rights for use. Such land may have formed part of an unenclosed field system around the medieval settlement at Begelly. Such a layout of lands is more akin to medieval settlement within England and indicates that the settlement was of Norman style. The presence of Bottom Farm motte may also corroborate this idea, as such earthwork castles were regularly erected as defensive sites associated with the Norman invaders.

3.2.16 It is understood that coal was being mined in the Begelly area in 1330 (Connop-Price 2004, 10). Such workings would have been relatively shallow and probably comprised bell pits, simple workings accessed from a single, usually shallow, shaft into the coal seam, and a chamber worked around this. The precise location of these early workings is unclear, and there is the potential for them to lie within the boundaries of the application area.

3.2.17 By the latter part of the 16th century there is some indication that coal mining had become so widespread in the area that concerns were raised about the safety of the main roadway through the area due to the large numbers of open and unprotected coal pits (*ibid*, 28).

³ <http://www.hrionline.ac.uk/taxatio/db/taxatio/printbc.jsp?benkey=DA.DA.PK.18>

⁴ <http://www.churchplansonline.org/>

Post Medieval (1485 – 1900)

3.2.18 No recorded sites of Post Medieval date have been identified within the boundaries of the application area.

3.2.19 A total of twenty seven sites are recorded on the Regional HER and ten on the RCAHMW NMR within the wider study area consisting of buildings in the form of a school, chapel and rectory. In addition to the buildings, many of the other recorded sites relate to former episodes of mining in the area.

3.2.20 Buildings recorded include Begelly House (PRNs 59547 & 33756; NPRN 96309), a structure dated to around 1825 (located some 150m north of the development site). It is thought to have replaced an earlier structure as the estate had been owned by the Child family since the early 18th century. The Child family were involved in the anthracite industry and had a number of outcrops and seams of coal and culm within their estate. The house is Grade II Listed. The landscaped gardens of the house (NPRN 265316) include areas which had been formerly mined and had been used in the landscaping design, some being made features with the planting of clumps of trees (NPRNs 400196 & 400197). The gardens lie on the northern side of Parsonage Lane, directly to the north of the development site.

3.2.21 The former Rectory building of 19th century date, located on the western edge of the Begelly landscaped gardens, is also a post-medieval building of note (PRN 18883; NPRN 22498; around 150m to the northwest of the site area). The rectory gardens also include the site of former colliery workings that had been made into landscape features (NPRN 400198).

3.2.22 Other post-medieval buildings (mostly of 19th century date) include the Zion Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, first built in 1828 and rebuilt in 1866 (PRN 18872; NPRN 10952). It was partially converted into a school room (PRN 59553). The chapel / schoolroom is located around 500m to the north of the development site. It is Grade II Listed. A 19th century school building located in the centre of Begelly lies some 200m to the north of the site (PRN 18875), identified from earlier cartographic sources. Four other buildings have been identified from early maps within the centre of Begelly close to the school, although the names and functions of these structures are not known (PRNs 48900, 48901, 48902 & 48903). Almshouses have also been recorded to the west of the church on old maps (PRN 33755). The maps also indicate the site of a Blacksmiths to the south of the development site on the opposite side of New Road (PRN 33758). Also to the south of New Road lies the extant site of Begelly Arms (PRN 33759).

3.2.23 Former colliery sites are located to the north of the development site and the Begelly House gardens identified as surviving earthworks associated with former spoil tips (PRNs 28251 & 28253; NPRN 400195. More workings are shown to the west of the site (PRNs 28254 & 28255).

3.2.24 Further colliery workings are indicated some 400 - 500m to the southwest of the development site (PRNs 21421, 21423 & 21424; NPRN 400200). These are said to belong to the King's Moor Colliery. Other workings associated with the King's Moor colliery are present to the southeast (PRNs 21425, 21426 & 21427). A possible tramway route is also recorded from aerial photographs associated with the colliery which runs directly to the south of the development site (NPRN 400199).

3.2.25 Possible relict drainage features and field systems have been recorded on aerial photographs within Kingsmoor in an area some 300m to the southeast of

the development site (NPRN 400235). These features are undated and could relate to post-medieval farming or even potentially be of medieval date.

3.2.26 Two other sites are recorded within the search area on the Regional HER, Little Kilvelgy Shafts (PRN 23837) and a possible longhouse style building within Kilgetty (PRN 27057). The exact locations of both of these sites is not known, but they are thought to lie within the 1km grid square, southwest corner at SN 12 07. It is most probable that both sites actually lie outside of the study area as they lie close to the 500m boundary and are not considered further.

3.2.27 There are records of leases of coal and culm in Begelly in the mid-19th century, including a substantial lease by the Picton Castle Estate to the Pembrokeshire Iron and Coal Company in 1853 (Price 2004, 48). In 1838 Begelly Colliery was leased for 21 years by Captain J M Child of Begelly House to Lewis Pocock (*ibid*, 48). Records also indicate that the Begelly collieries were troubled by firedamp issues (methane gas build up) in the 19th century (*ibid*, 61).

Modern (20th century to present)

3.2.28 No sites of modern date are recorded on the Regional HER or RCAHMW NMR within the study area.

3.3 Cartographic Information

3.3.1 The earliest cartographic source consulted for this assessment was Saxton's map of Pembrokeshire from 1578 (not illustrated), which depicts 'Begely' and shows the church (although the scale of the map is such that no further detail is given).



Figure 5: Extract from Ordnance Survey 2" to 1 mile Original Surveyors Drawings, surveyed 1809, with approximate outline of proposed development

3.3.2 The earliest detailed map of the area is that of the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings map of 1809-10 (Figure 5). There is an indication of field boundaries dividing the proposed development site, but detail is lacking. The village of Begelly and the road layout is clearly shown to the northeast of the

development site. There is a lack of information regarding mineral extraction activities in the area, even though it is known that many of the colliery sites were in operation at this time.

3.3.3 The 1841 Tithe map of Begelly (Figure 6) indicates the general layout of the village of Begelly and buildings in the vicinity of the proposed development site. The site area itself contains no illustrated detail, with no boundaries, structures or footpaths indicated. No indication of mines or former mine workings are shown, either within the site area or on the land to the north where it is known that colliery spoil tips were present. The development site occupies a single field, No. 467 which is described within the Tithe Schedule as called 'Big Meadow', used as meadowland and owned and worked by Capt. James Mark Child. The field to the north (landscaped gardens of Begelly House) is also named as 'Big Meadow', also owned by Capt. Child. To the southwest lie the house and gardens and the adjacent field of Barley Park (470, 471). There is no description within the Schedule of any mine workings in close proximity to the development site.

3.3.4 The first edition Ordnance Survey map 1:2500 scale map of 1890 (Figure 7) provides more detail of the landscape than the earlier cartographic sources. The site area lies within a single field, with a footpath crossing the centre of the area roughly northeast to southwest from Parsonage Lane towards a property at Barley Park. A small hump is shown in the ground in the northeast corner of the development area which could possibly relate to a small spoil tip from adjacent mining (but no information is given). Evidence for former mining in the form of spoil tips, old shafts and an old engine house are present to the northwest and southwest. The map indicates that the footpath to the south of the site, now known as the Miners Walk, appears to be an embanked route way, with a bridge crossing over the line of New Road. Although not indicated on the map this was the former route of part of the Saundersfoot Railway, owned by the Saundersfoot Railway and Harbour Co., the Act for which was passed in 1829 and was completed by 1834. This may have replaced an earlier tramway, for which a licence was granted in 1824, to connect the Begelly collieries with the coast, although it is unclear if this was ever built (Price, 1982, 162). The embankment and bridge imply it was constructed on a steady incline. This stretch would connect directly with the King's Moor colliery workings to the southwest of the site (as per NPRN 5400198). Presumably as no tramway or railway is marked, it had gone out of use by this time. The material used for the embankment and bridge abutments was presumably derived from the nearby mine workings.

3.3.5 The second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906 (Figure 8) is very similar to that of 1890 and shows little change, other than the small hump in the ground in the northeast corner of the site area is no longer present.

3.3.6 Sale Particulars of the Camrose Estate in Begelly (Pembrokeshire Records Office Reference DX 155/13) dating from 1919 includes a plan of the site area based on the Ordnance Survey (not illustrated). The map divides the estate into a number of Lots, including Begelly House and gardens to the north and the sale of Lot 5, which comprises Barley Park, the field and buildings to the southwest and the field in which the development site is located. The sale particulars indicate that the land was used as meadow and pasture (it also notes that the present tenant of Barley Park, Mr Alfred Ernest Phelps, had been given notice to quit terminating on 29th September 1919). The sale particulars make no mention of any mine workings or former colliery buildings, although the conditions of sale state in Note 7 that *'All mines, veins and seams of coal and culm and ironstone and all other minerals in or under all Lots, being the properties of the Parish of Begelly are excepted from the sale....'* This indicates that the importance of the coal and minerals in the area was still considered to be a valuable resource, even though they were not presently being exploited at the time of sale.

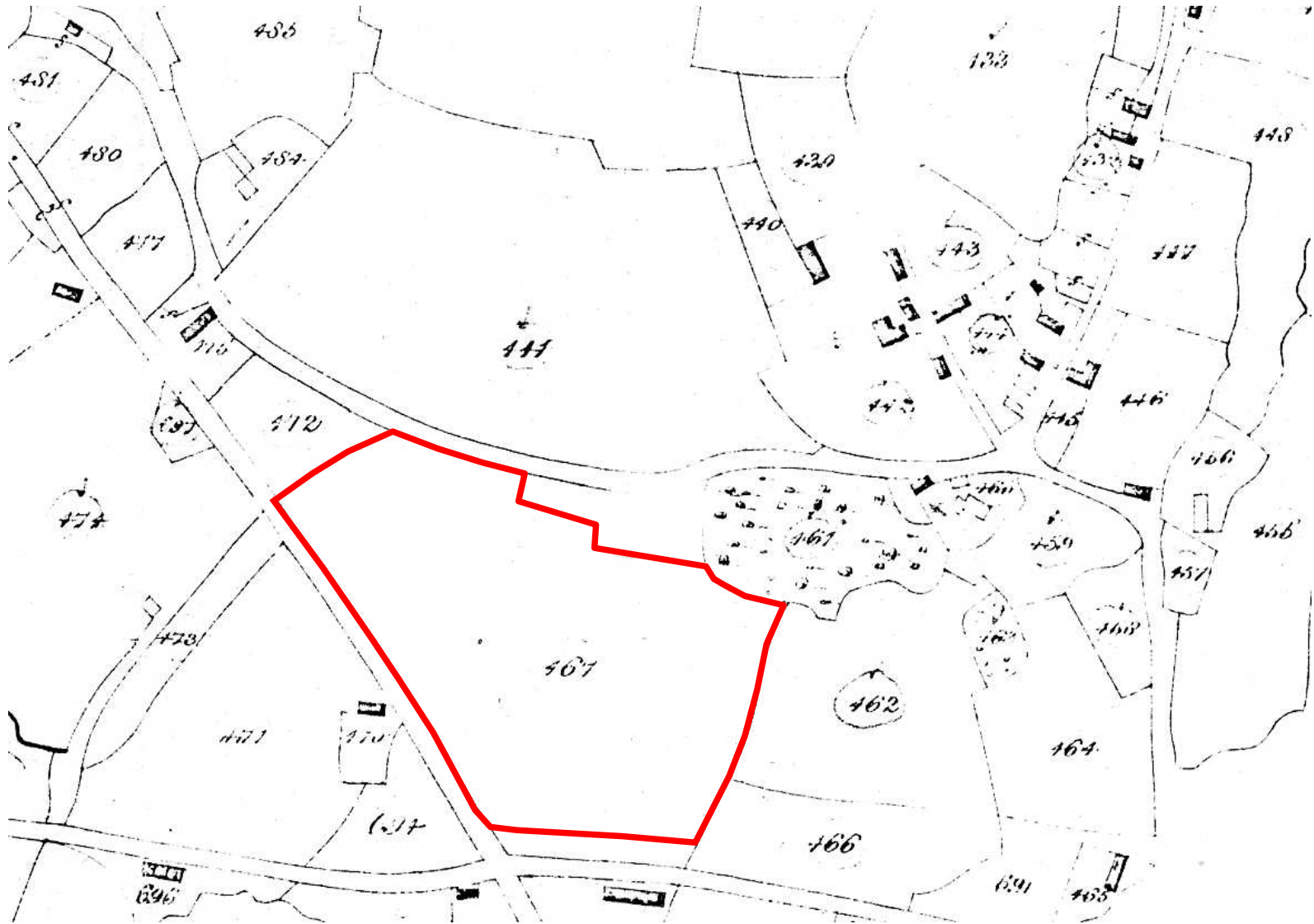


Figure 6: Extract from the 1841 Begelly Parish Tithe Map; the approximate proposed development area is outlined in red. North points to the top right hand corner of the map.

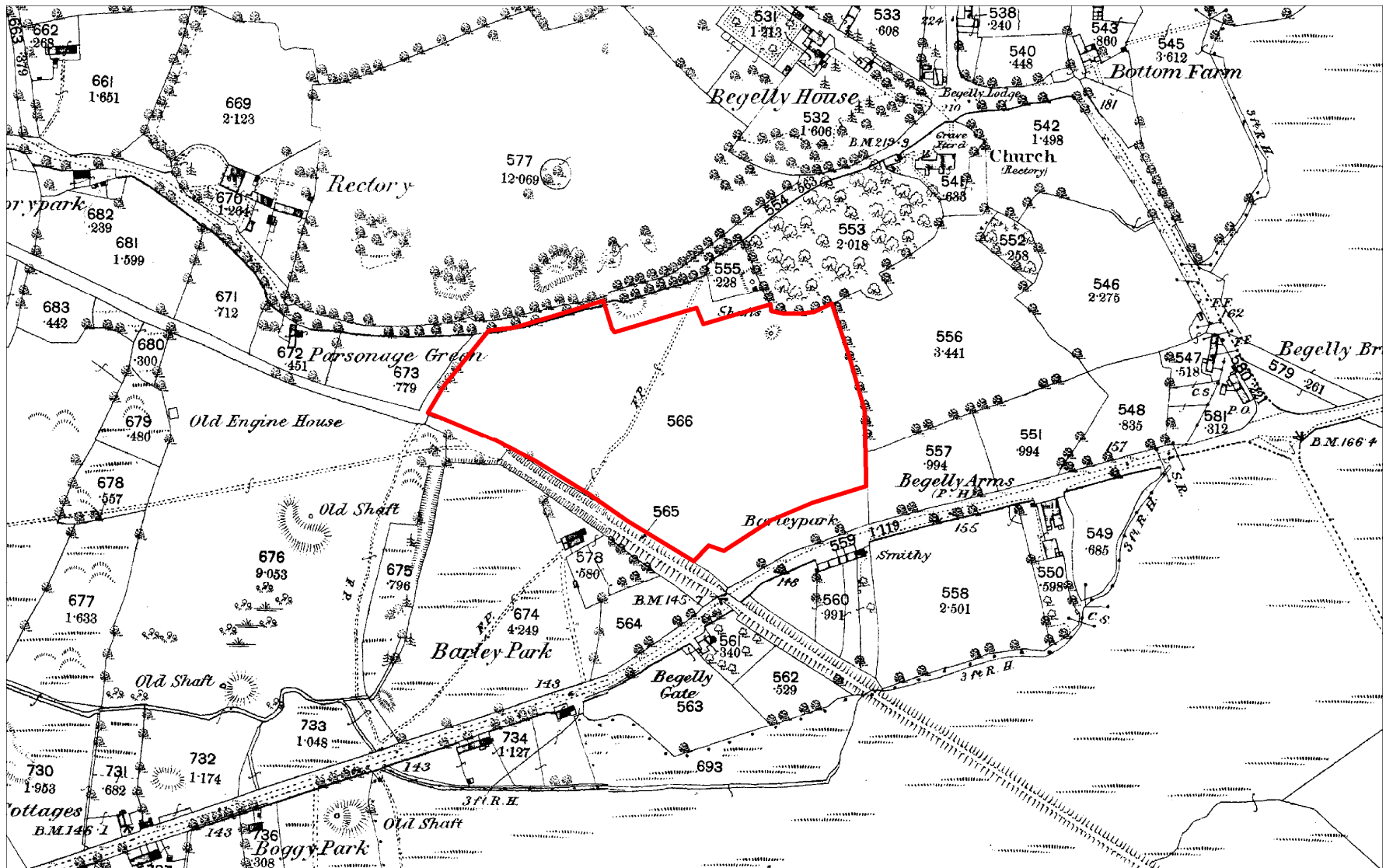


Figure 7: Extract of 1890 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey Map

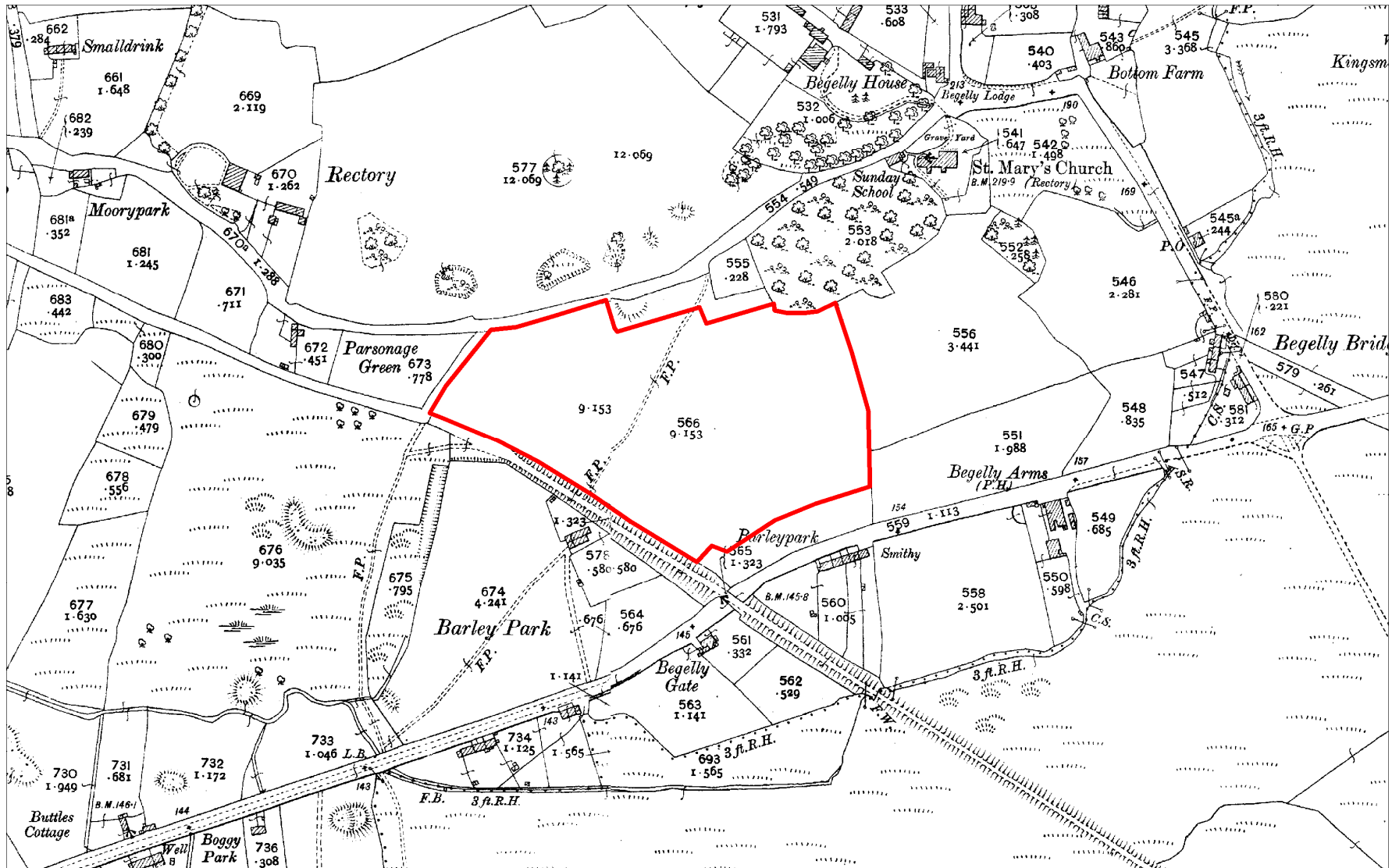


Figure 8: Extract of 1906 1:2500 scale Ordnance survey map

3.4 Site Visit

3.4.1 A site visit was undertaken on 27th September 2011. The visit comprised a walkover of the perimeter of the proposed development site, and partial access to those areas where visibility was restricted (Photos 1 & 2). Photographs were taken and field observations were recorded in a notebook.

3.4.2 No structures are present within the site area. No visible archaeological features were identified within the site area, although an area of rougher grass was noted in the south-central part of the site area which may indicate disturbed ground below. Aerial photographs of the site area also indicate a number of areas of rough grass across the development site (not visible at ground level) potentially also indicating below ground disturbance that may suggest former mining activity.

3.4.3 In the southwestern corner of the development site a dip was noted in the ground level, which may indicate a former pond was present in this area (Photo 3). Due to the construction of the railway embankment the feature had been partially covered, so it was not possible to ascertain if it was a discrete feature or merely a topographic one. It should also be noted that such a depression in the ground surface could also come from a collapse of earlier mine working beneath.



Photo 1: Proposed development area from northwest corner



Photo 2: View north across proposed development area from Miners' Walk

3.4.4 The original field boundary was present along the southern edge of the site in the form of a denuded hedge bank, with the embankment for the former railway lying directly to the south of this. A gateway had been cut through this hedge bank into the field and a group of stones were visible at the base of the bank on the eastern side (Photo 4). The date of the hedge bank is unknown but is at least mid-19th century in date (and presumably relates to the post-medieval field layout of the area).

3.4.5 The Miners' Walk along the southern boundary of the site follows the line of the former Saundersfoot Railway line (Photo 5). It is still evident as a raised trackway, constructed of mining waste. Close to the site of the property Tara/Clover Cottage on New Road, the footpath makes a small dogleg around a large pile of colliery spoil waste (Photo 6). This may either be the remains of a former colliery spoil tip (indicating a former mine close by) or more likely is the remains of the material that was used to create the northern abutment to the bridge across New Road.

3.4.6 Parsonage Lane along the northern boundary of the development site is evident as a deep hollow way (Photo 7). Presumably this roadway has been used since at least the medieval period, leading directly to the Church and former motte.



Photo 3: Possible former pond in southwest corner of proposed development site



Photo 4: Stone showing in area of denuded hedge bank along southern edge of proposed development site

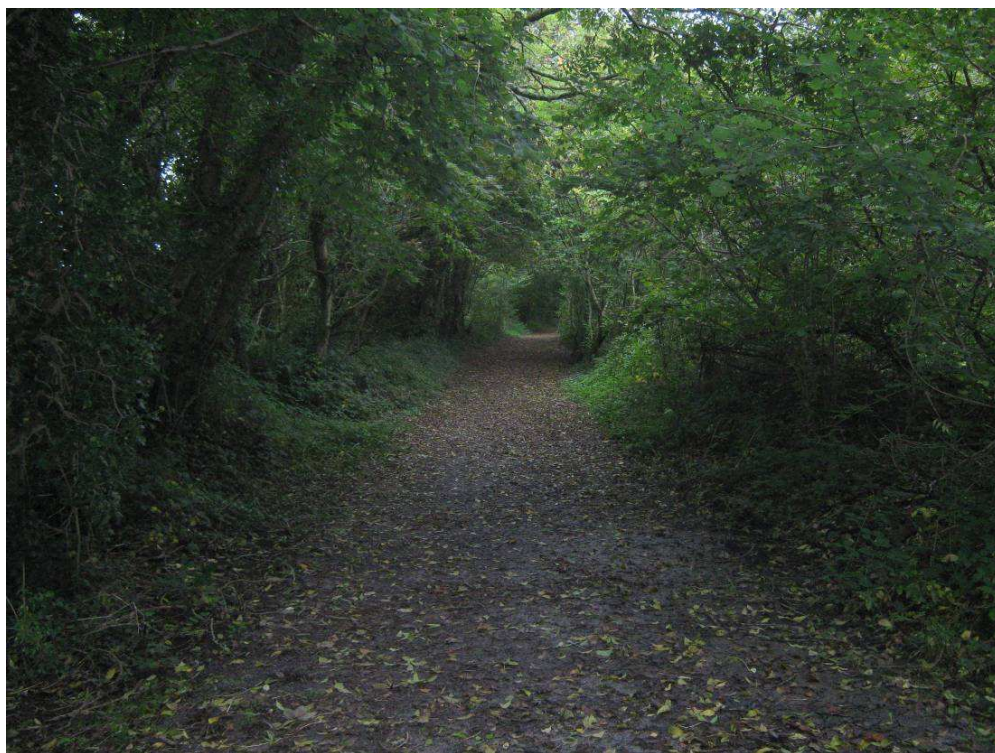


Photo 5: View southeast along Miners' Walk, the former Saundersfoot Railway



Photo 6: Spoil tip on southern edge of site area, adjacent to Miners' Walk



Photo 7: Parsonage Lane to north of proposed development area, viewing west, showing hollow way

3.5 Previous Archaeological Work

3.5.1 An archaeological evaluation has been previously undertaken on the site area to the east of the development site at Church Close, Begelly (Schlee 2006) in advance of a smaller development scheme. Further excavation is due to start at this site prior to development commencing. The conclusions of the evaluation report are summarised below.

3.5.2 The natural geology in the area of the proposed development is complex and was found to vary considerably across the site. It is known that coal-mining activity occurred in the vicinity and it was expected that some evidence of this might be apparent from the presence of dumped spoil deposits. In the event, no features or deposits clearly associated with mining activity were identified. There is some evidence that ground levels may have been altered within the development site. Elsewhere, the contrast between the topsoil and the compact and homogenous subsoil suggests that the original soil profile has been truncated, possibly in the post-medieval period.

3.5.3 A medieval, possibly Anglo-Norman phase (presumably associated with the motte and bailey castle (PRN 3640) that once stood in the church yard) is suggested by V-shaped linear recorded in one of the trenches. This feature contained medieval pottery dated to the 13th-15th centuries. Other recorded linear features may represent the remains of field or property boundaries, but no dating evidence was recovered from their fills. They may therefore be earlier or later than the medieval period.

3.5.4 It is possible that an Early Medieval phase of activity is represented at the site, with earlier pits being recorded being truncated by the larger medieval V-shaped ditch. Another feature excavated at the site provided a radiocarbon date of 960 to 1010 AD, corresponding to the Early Medieval period.

3.5.5 In addition to the medieval phases, two excavated features possibly represent tree throws and suggest a phase of deliberate tree clearance in the vicinity. These features were originally thought to be of Neolithic origin, due to the presence of worked flint tools in proximity. However, charcoal obtained from one of the features has been dated from 1880 to 1740 BC which lies within the accepted range for the Early Bronze Age. The flintwork appeared to be Neolithic in style, so the date from this feature could indicate either activity of both periods is present, or the flintwork has been mis-dated.

3.5.6 Overall the evaluation demonstrated the presence of surviving archaeological features of medieval, Early Medieval and Bronze Age date. Flintwork of potential Neolithic date was also recovered. The results suggest that the area (including this proposed development site) has been occupied since at least the Bronze Age period, with more activity dating to the Early Medieval and medieval periods.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.1 Previous Impacts

4.1.1 It is possible that the site area was used for coal extraction during the medieval and later periods, as is clearly evident in the surrounding land to the north, west and south. Whether any mining activity actually occurred within the proposed development site is not certain. If such activity did occur, then it is likely that any earlier archaeological remains would have been disturbed or destroyed.

4.1.2 Mapping since the mid-19th century indicates that the area was used for meadow / pasture. It is possible that the land was used for arable purposes during the post-medieval and medieval periods, in areas where potential mineral extraction did not occur. Such farming practices, especially ploughing, do have a damaging impact on earlier archaeological remains. The poor fertility of the soils across the coal measures, and its use as a meadow during the mid-19th century, may suggest that damage from ploughing is minimal.

4.1.3 The site area has not been subject to any development since the mid-19th century. It is possible that the edges of the site adjacent to the more recent developments along New Road and at Church Close could have led to some disturbance from the development of those properties, although nothing obvious was visible during the site visit.

4.1.4 The line of the former Saundersfoot Railway, now the Miners' Walk footpath runs along the southwestern part of the site boundary. There was no evidence to suggest that the creation of the railway, or improvements to create the new footpath have caused any disturbance to the proposed development area. A field entrance has been cut through the denuded field boundary, as noted above, but again this would not have impacted upon the site area.

4.2 Potential Impacts from Development

4.2.1 The site contains no upstanding remains of buildings or structures associated with early settlement, farming or mineral extraction. There is some potential for below ground remains associated with earlier settlement and mineral extraction to be present on the site. Such remains could range from large features associated with mining (shafts or spoil heaps) through to earth cut remains of former settlement activity (for example postholes, wall lines or rubbish pits). Any of the following activities that might be associated with future development of the site area could therefore expose, damage or destroy any such remains:

- Enabling works, such as installation of contractor's compound, construction of access roads, parking areas, storage areas, borrow pits and associated services;
- Landscaping and terracing works;
- Topsoil stripping;
- Foundation excavation;
- Construction of roads and infrastructure; and
- Service installation.

5. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND IMPORTANCE

5.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment has indicated that there are no known sites of archaeological significance within the proposed development area. The report has highlighted the following potential archaeological resources within the site area. An assessment of their most likely archaeological importance is also made⁵.

5.2 The potential for remains of Palaeolithic date to be present in the site area is considered to be very low as no such remains have been recorded within the study area, and are known to be scarce in the wider area. If found to be present such remains would be considered to be of at least regional importance.

5.3 The potential for remains of Mesolithic date to be present within the site area is considered to be low as no such remains have been recorded within the study area, but are known to exist in the wider area. If found to be present such remains would be considered to be of at least regional importance.

5.4 Neolithic activity may have been identified from flintwork recovered on the site to the east at Church Close, although the dating is questionable. There is considered to be a moderate potential for further flintwork to be present within the site area, but a very low potential for any features of this date to be present. If found to be present such remains would be considered to be of at least regional importance.

5.5 The potential for activity of the Bronze Age period within the proposed development site is considered low to moderate, although this will have been reduced through impacts from later activity. At least one feature excavated on the site at Church Close was of Bronze Age date, indicating that buried archaeological features of this date do survive. If further remains of this period are present they would be considered to be of regional importance.

5.6 The potential for remains of Iron Age date to be present in the site area is considered to be low as no such remains have been recorded within the study area, but are known to exist in the wider area. If found to be present such remains would be considered to be of at least local to regional importance.

5.7 No Roman activity has been found in the vicinity of the site area, and as such activity is usually quite finds rich and easy to recognise, this lack of remains would suggest the potential for remains to survive within the development site is very low. Should such remains be found they would be considered to be of regional importance as Roman activity in southwest Pembrokeshire is rare.

5.8 The potential for Early Medieval activity to be present within the site area is considered low to moderate. Such remains are often focussed on known church sites, and St Marys Church is present to the northwest of the development site. Although the church has no known Early Medieval origins, the potential for an earlier religious site to have been here which served as a focus for the later Norman settlement cannot be discounted. The presence of a feature of Early Medieval date at Church Close highlights this. It is possible that the northeastern part of the development site may just lie within a settlement area of this date, but this is by no means certain. If such remains are present within the site area they would be considered to be of regional importance.

5.8 The potential for medieval settlement remains to be present within the site area is considered to be low to moderate, although any such remains would be focussed in the northeastern part of the site area. The majority of the development site is more likely to have laid within the surrounding agricultural lands used by the medieval settlement at Begelly. The potential for medieval

⁵ The potential for remains of higher or lower archaeological importance for all periods cannot be discounted.

mining remains, possibly in the form of bell pits, is considered moderate as mining is recorded in Begelly as early as 1330. Settlement remains would be considered of local to regional importance, as would mining remains. Agricultural remains would be of low archaeological importance.

5.9 Post-medieval remains would follow a similar pattern to medieval remains, again the site area predominantly being used as agricultural land, and remains of such being of low importance. Evidence for post-medieval mining may also be present, which would be considered to be of more archaeological importance the earlier it is.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The archaeological assessment has shown that the development site at Begelly lies within a landscape with a long and continuous history of human activity from at least the Bronze Age to the present. The main concentration of archaeologically significant activity lies within the Early Medieval through to the post-medieval periods.

6.2 Although no known archaeological remains are present within the proposed development site, the potential for hitherto unknown remains has been identified. This potential has been highlighted by the archaeological evaluation undertaken on the development land at Church Close. That site identified remains ranging from possible Neolithic flintwork, Bronze Age vegetation clearance, Early Medieval features and medieval ditches and plot boundaries. The Church Close site was located directly to the south of St Marys Church, within an area which is likely to have been a focus for Early Medieval and medieval settlement, whereas this development site lies further to the west on a south facing slope (land more likely to have been used for agricultural purposes than settlement).

6.3 No archaeological sites of early prehistoric date have been identified within the site boundary itself or within a 500m radius study area centred upon it. The overall archaeological potential for remains of these dates to survive is considered very low, especially in terms of later disturbance from agricultural and potential mining activity.

6.4 Neolithic and Bronze Age remains were not present across the entire Church Close site, and it is unlikely that any major concentrations would survive within this development site. Any such remains would have been subject to later disturbance from agricultural and potentially mining activity.

6.5 No remains of Iron Age or Roman date are known within the site area or within a 500m radius of the site area. The overall potential for remains of these dates to be present within the development site is considered very low, especially in terms of later disturbance from agricultural and potential mining activity.

6.6 As noted above, Early Medieval remains have been located directly to the south of the Church on the Church Close site. Although there is still a potential for similar remains to be present in the northeastern part of the site area (closest to the main focus of settlement in the later medieval period), any such remains would have been disturbed by later agricultural and potential mining activity.

6.7 Medieval settlement evidence may be present in the northeastern part of the site, focussed on the main area of medieval settlement around the church, although the development site does lie some distance from this focus. The majority of the development site would have been used for agricultural purposes, possibly as intermittent arable land, but mainly as pasture or meadowland. The agricultural uses would be similar for the post-medieval period.

6.8 Medieval and post-medieval mining may well have been undertaken within the site area, for which no records or plans remain. Any spoil heaps have been levelled over time such that there are no obvious signs of mining in the field today. The area of rough grass in the south central part of the site may indicate below ground disturbance, as may the areas shown on aerial photographs, and be the site of former mine workings. The depression noted in the southwestern corner of the area could either be a former pond or a slumped patch of ground over collapsed mine workings.

6.9 As the archaeological desk-based assessment has not indicated a potential for nationally important remains to be present within the site area which would

preclude development of the site, or areas therein, then there is no need for any further archaeological investigation of the site area to be undertaken pre-determination of the planning application.

6.10 Any further archaeological mitigation needed can be dealt with by way of a condition on any forthcoming planning approval. The requirements for any such condition for further archaeological survey or recording at the site should be discussed the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority.

7. SOURCES

Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF

Cartographic

- 1578 – Saxton Map of Pembrokeshire
- 1809 Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings 2" to 1 mile 1809-10
- 1841 Tithe Map and Apportionment for the Parish of Begelly 1841
- 1890 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Pembrokeshire 1890
- 1906 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Pembrokeshire 1906
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LAND OFF NEW ROAD, BEGELLY, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

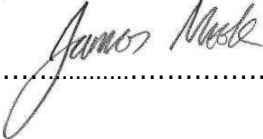
RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2011/47
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 102354

Medi 2011
September 2011

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

JAMES MEEK AND SIMON RATTY

Swydd / Position: HEAD OF FIELD SERVICES / ARCHAEOLOGIST

Llofnod / Signature  Date 29/09/2011

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

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position:

Llofnod / Signature Date 29/09/2011

*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***

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