# PARK, LLANELLI, CARMARTHENSHIRE:

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust For: Taylor Wimpey Ltd





#### DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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## LAND AT THE FORMER STRADEY PARK, LLANELLI, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Gan / By

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# LAND AT THE FORMER STRADEY PARK, LLANELLI, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

#### SUMMARY

A planning application has been submitted for a substantial residential development of an area of land at the former Stradey Park, Llanelli (centred on NGR SM 4968 0092). An archaeological desk-based assessment of the development area has been requested to 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 Taylor Wimpy Ltd.

The assessment has shown that one recorded archaeological site lies within the proposed development area - Stradey Park (NPRN 411026). No Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie within the development area boundary, but one lies within the wider study area - Old Castle Medieval Motte (SAM CM 323). No Listed Buildings lie within the development site boundary, but twelve are present within the wider study area. No scheduled ancient monuments of listed buildings would be affected by the development proposals.

The archaeological assessment has demonstrated that the Stradey Park area lies within a landscape of very few pre-medieval archaeological remains. A find spot of a Neolithic axe found has been found in the Llanelli area, possible within the study area, but this cannot be confirmed. The route of a projected Roman road also lies to the southeast, but does run into the development area. The potential for remains of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman or Early Medieval date to be present within the development area is considered to be very low.

Medieval archaeological remains are likely to relate to agricultural practices associated with settlement in the wider area, and possibly lying close to the site of Old Castle motte to the south of the development area. Remains associated with medieval mining may also be present within the boundaries of the proposed development, but the potential for this is minimal given the depths of the coal seams in the area.

During the Post-Medieval period and into the Industrial Period, the land would have again been mostly used for agricultural purposes, but could also have been used for mineral extraction as techniques improved allowing deeper coal measures to be exploited. A number of industrial sites lie within the wider study area ranging from collieries, to metalliferous sites and associated transportation links. There are no records of any post-medieval or industrial sites within the boundaries of the development area, although it is considered that mine workings extend beneath the area at considerable depth. If present, archaeological remains of this period would be considered to be of local importance.

The modern period archaeology is represented by Stradey Park itself where the most important features would have been the standing fabric of the stadium which has now been demolished. Prior to demolition the stadium was photographically recorded by the RCAHMW. It is likely that remains of the stadium survive below ground but these are considered to be of low archaeological interest.

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.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 Asbri Planning Ltd on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Ltd have submitted a planning application to Carmarthenshire County Council for residential development of land at the former Stradey Park, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire (centred on SN 4968 0092; planning application S/18743). An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be prepared in support of the planning application.
- 1.1.2 Taylor Wimpey Ltd commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the archaeological assessment in September 2011.
- 1.1.3 The proposed development land is located in two areas. One area lies to the north of Sandy Road and the other to the east of Denham Avenue, Llanelli, Carmarthenshire. The site area is presently undeveloped, but was formerly occupied by a mix of Rugby Stadium, ancillary buildings, car parking, industrial buildings and hard standing.

#### 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 Record<sup>1</sup> (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.
- 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.
- 1.2.3 A study area of 800m diameter from the approximate centre of the development site has been used to provide an indication of the known archaeological remains in proximity to the site area. The results of this provides an indication of the potential archaeological resource that be present within the development site area.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire.

#### 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 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 included within 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    |             |
| Mesolithic –                         | c. 10,000 – 4400 BC      | Pre         |
| Neolithic –                          | c.4400 - 2300 BC         | Prehistoric |
| Bronze Age –                         | c.2300 - 700 BC          | ori         |
| Iron Age –                           | c.700 BC - AD 43         | n           |
| Roman (Romano-British) Period –      | AD 43 – <i>c.</i> AD 410 |             |
| Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period – | c. AD 410 – AD 1066      |             |
| Medieval Period –                    | 1066 - 1536              | Hist        |
| Post-Medieval Period <sup>2</sup> –  | 1536 - 1750              | Historic    |
| Industrial Period –                  | 1750 - 1899              | C           |
| Modern –                             | 20th century onwards     |             |

**Table 1:** Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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 The site area lies to the west of Llanelli town centre and is centred on NGR SN 4968 0092. The site area lies to the north of the A484 Sandy Road and is accessed from an unnamed road on the south, whilst to the east access is via Stradey Park Avenue.
- 2.2 The site area itself is bounded by a recreation ground and primary school to the north whilst a cycleway forms the boundary on the east. The south and west boundaries are formed by residential development.
- 2.3 The underlying solid geology of the area is represented by Carboniferous Sedimentary (mainly productive coal measures) (British Geological Survey 2003). The soils of the area are characterised by less fertile soils over the coal measures.

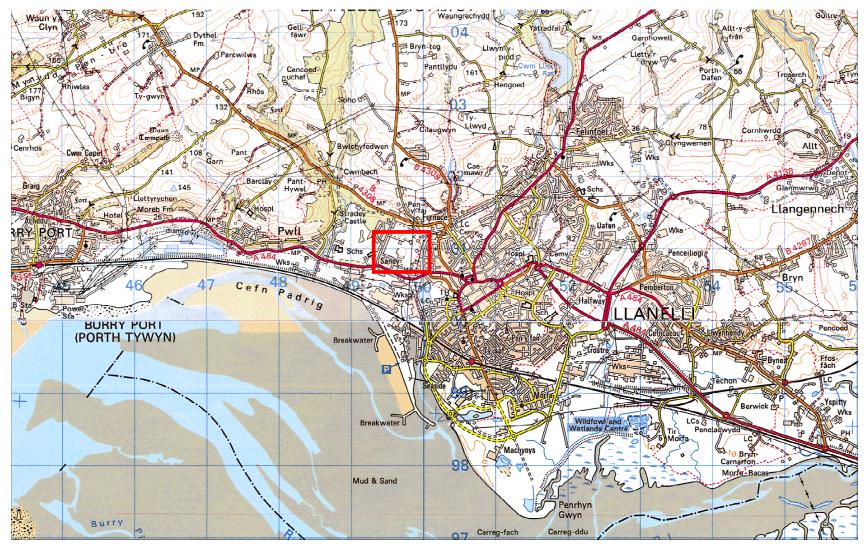


Figure 1: Location Map based on the Ordnance Survey, the site marked within the red rectangle

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

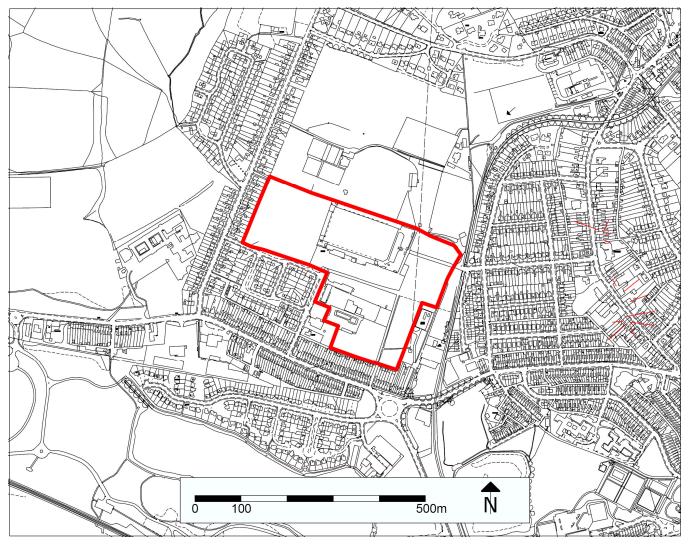
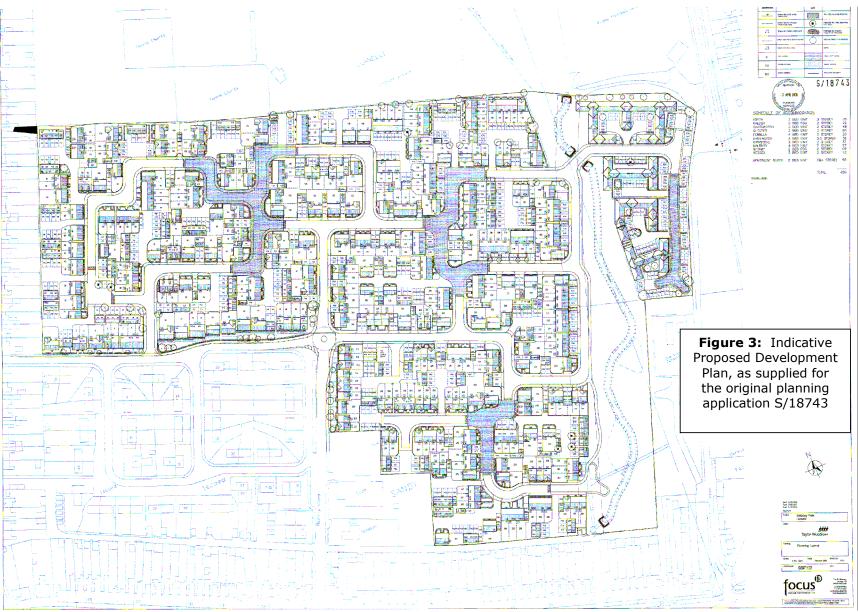


Figure 2: Proposed Development Site Boundary



#### 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 area. The scheduled remains of Old Castle medieval motte (PRN 694; SAM CM323) lie partially submerged in the former reservoir of the Old Castle Tinplate Works *c*.640m to the SE of the application area (NGR SN 5004 0036). The site of Old Castle would not be affected by the proposed development.
- 3.1.2 Within the study area there are twelve sites that have been designated as Grade II listed buildings. These consist of eleven properties on New Road and one property on Old Road. The twelve designated listed buildings would not be directly affected by the proposed development.
- 3.1.2 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, the nearest lying over 1.1km to the east of the application area.

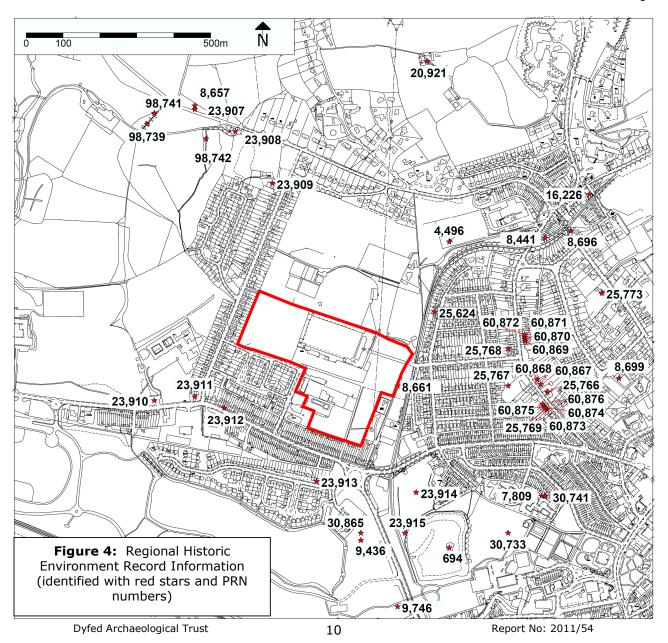
#### 3.2 Known Archaeological Remains and Historical Development

- 3.2.1 A search of the Regional Historic Environment Record database revealed that a total of forty one sites of archaeological and historic interest are located within the study area (Table 2, Figure 4). 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 12 known sites within the study area (Table 3, Figure 5). 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                         |
|----------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 694            | Old Castle                                 | SN 5004 0036                 | Motte                         | Medieval                    |
| 4496           | Cille Colliery                             | SN 5004 0030                 | Coal Mine                     | Post-medieval               |
| 7809           | Caemain Pit                                | SN 5004 0119<br>SN 5029 0050 | Coal Mine                     | Post-medieval               |
| 8441           | Furnace Gate Toll House                    | SN 5029 0030                 | Toll House                    | Post-medieval               |
| 8657           | Old Shaft                                  | SN 4935 0156                 | Coal Mine                     | Post-medieval               |
| 8661           | Cae'r Elm Pit                              | SN 499 008                   | Coal Mine                     | Post-medieval               |
| 8696           | Old Road Bridge                            | SN 5037 0122                 | Bridge                        | Post-medieval               |
| 8699           | Cilfig Pit                                 | SN 5057 0122<br>SN 5050 0082 | Coal Mine                     | Post-medieval               |
| 9436           |  |                              |                               |                             |
| 9746           | Old Castle Chemical Works Old Castle Works | SN 4980 0038<br>SN 4990 0020 | Chemical Works                | Post-medieval Post-medieval |
| 23907          | Cwmbach Road                               | SN 4935 0155                 | Iron and Tinplate Works Shaft | Post-medieval               |
|                | Cwmbach Road                               |                              |                               |                             |
| 23908<br>23909 |  | SN 4946 0149<br>SN 4956 0135 | Lodge                         | Post-medieval               |
|                | Pen-Y-Wern                                 |                              | Cottage                       | Post-medieval               |
| 23910          | Sandy Road                                 | SN 4924 0076                 | Lodge                         | Post-medieval               |
| 23911          | Astoria                                    | SN 4935 0077                 | Cottage                       | Post-medieval               |
| 23912          | Dulais House                               | SN 4943 0074                 | Dwelling                      | Post-medieval               |
| 23913          | Sandy Brickworks                           | SN 4968 0054                 | Brickworks                    | Post-medieval               |
| 23914          | Wern Foundry                               | SN 4995 0051                 | Brass Works                   | Post-medieval               |
| 23915          | Wiseboom Bridge                            | SN 4992 0040                 | Bridge                        | Post-medieval               |
| 25624          | Parc Howard                                | SN 50 01                     | Park                          | Post-medieval               |
| 25766          | New Road No 56;                            | SN 50306 00783               | Dwelling                      | Post-medieval               |
|                | Craighouse                                 |                              |                               |                             |
| 25767          | New Road No 58                             | SN 502 008                   | Dwelling                      | Post-medieval               |
|                | Ravenscourt; No 60 Wellfield               |                              |                               |                             |
| 25768          | New Road No's 76 To 82                     | SN 502 009                   | Terrace                       | Post-medieval               |
|                | (Even Nos)                                 |                              |                               |                             |
| 25769          | New Road No's 41-47 (Odd                   | SN 5030 0074                 | Terrace                       | Post-medieval               |
|                | Nos)                                       |                              |                               |                             |
| 25773          | Greylands                                  | SN 50454 01052               | Dwelling                      | Post-medieval               |
| 30733          | Mansell's Railway                          | SN 502 004                   | Tramway                       | Post-medieval               |
| 30741          | Raby's Railway System                      | SN 503 005                   | Tramway                       | Post-medieval               |
| 30865          | Carmarthenshire                            | SN 498 004                   | Railway                       | Post-medieval               |
|                | Tramroad; Carmarthenshire                  |                              |                               |                             |
|                | Railway;Llanelli & Mynydd                  |                              |                               |                             |
|                | Mawr Railway                               | =                            |                               |                             |
| 60867          | No.58 (Ravenscourt) New                    | SN 50288 00804               | Villa                         | Post-medieval               |
| 60060          | Road                                       | CN 50070 00047               | 1.00                          | 5                           |
| 60868          | No.60 (Wellfield) New Road                 | SN 50279 00817               | Villa                         | Post-medieval               |
| 60869          | No.76 New Road, Including                  | SN 50246 00920               | House and Forecourt           | Post-medieval               |
|                | Walled Forecourt                           |                              |                               |                             |
| 60870          | No.78 New Road, Including                  | SN 50245 00926               | House and Forecourt           | Post-medieval               |
| 60074          | Walled Forecourt                           | CN 50245 00022               |                               | 5                           |
| 60871          | No.80 New Road, Including                  | SN 50245 00932               | House and Forecourt           | Post-medieval               |
| 60070          | Walled Forecourt                           | CN 50244 00020               |                               | B                           |
| 60872          | No.82 New Road, Including                  | SN 50244 00938               | House and Forecourt           | Post-medieval               |
| 60072          | Walled Forecourt                           | CN F020F 00726               | Haves 9 Catago Dailings       | Deet weedievel              |
| 60873          | No.41 New Road, Including                  | SN 50305 00736               | House & Gates& Railings       | Post-medieval               |
|                | Gates And Railings To<br>Forecourt         |                              |                               |                             |
| 60874          | No.43 New Road,Including                   | SN 50301 00740               | House gates 9 Dailings        | Doct medicus!               |
| 000/4          | Gates And Railings To                      | 3N 30301 00740               | House, gates & Railings       | Post-medieval               |
|                | Forecourt                                  |                              |                               |                             |
| 60875          | No.45 New Road,Including                   | SN 50297 00745               | House, gates & Railings       | Post-medieval               |
| 000/3          | Gates And Railings To                      | JN JUZ7/ UU/43               | House, gates & Railings       | rost-medieval               |
|                | Forecourt                                  |                              |                               |                             |
| 60876          | No.47 New Road,Including                   | SN 50293 00750               | House, gates & Railings       | Post-medieval               |
| 000/0          | Gates And Railings To                      | 214 20232 00/30              | House, gates & Railings       | r ost-illeuleval            |
|                | Forecourt                                  |                              |                               |                             |
| 98739          | Hollow Way                                 | SN 4922 0151                 | Hollow Way?                   | Post-medieval               |
| 98741          | Pump                                       | SN 4924 0154                 | Pump                          | Post-medieval               |
| 98741          | Well                                       | SN 4924 0154<br>SN 4938 0147 | Well                          | Post-medieval               |
| 30/42          | WEII                                       | 3N 4930 U14/                 | VVCII                         | rust-medieval               |

**Table 2:** Archaeological and Historical Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record within an 800m radius (Figure 4)

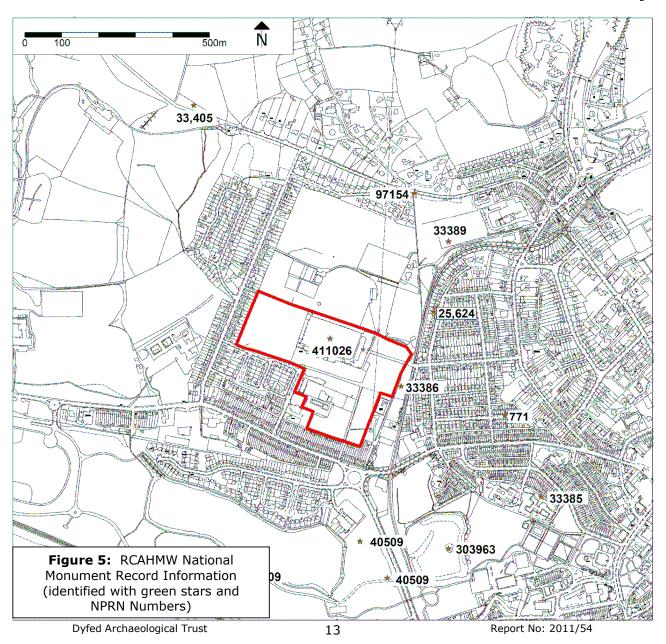


#### RCAHMW NMR Information

| NPRN   | Name   | Grid Ref       | Period                         | Description   |
|--------|--|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 771    | 2 New Zealand<br>Street                                    | SN 50134 00797 | Post Medieval                  | Townhouse.  |
| 33385  | Caemain Pit  | SN 5029 0050   | Post Medieval                  | Site destroyed, opened as colliery 1750 by Mansel of Stradey.   |
| 33386  | Cae'r-Elm Coal Pit   | SN 4995 0085   | Post Medieval;<br>18th Century | Site overgrown. Some traces of masonry, but no spoil heap. Pit opened by Alexander Raby in 1798.  |
| 33389  | Cille Colliery   | SN 50047 01211 | Post Medieval                  | Opened by Alexander Raby 1798, site destroyed apart from a large spoil heap. Inclined shaft.  |
| 33405  | Llanelli Old Shaft   | SN 4935 0156   | Post Medieval                  | Llanelli Old Shaft  |
| 40409  | Llanelli Steelworks;<br>Duport Steelworks                  | SN 4950 0028   | Modern;<br>20th Century        | Llanelli Steel Works opened in 1907 and underwent huge expansion during the first part of the twentieth century. In 1960 the Canadian-based Duport Steel bought the works but when the company hit financial difficulties twenty years later production ended in 1981 and the site was abandoned. The dereliction left behind and the subsequent reclamation of the site and its transformation into Sandy Water Park was the catalyst for the regeneration of the Llanelli coastline and eventually led to the creation of the Millennium Coastal Park.  |
| 40509  | Old Castle Works;<br>Old Castle Iron And<br>Tinplate Works | SN 49911 00209 | Post Medieval                  | The Old Castle Works later became known as Old Castle Iron Works. The site was demolished around 1983 when the area was cleared and landscaped. This site should not be confused with Old Castle Tinplate Works (nprn 85495) immediately adjacent to the south, in conjunction with which it was worked.  |
| 41105  | Old Castle Chemical<br>Works                               | SN 4980 0038   | Post Medieval                  | Destroyed.  |
| 97154  | Mission Room, New<br>Road,                                 | SN 4994 0132   | Post Medieval                  | No further information recorded.  |
| 97266  | Ty Gwyn Apostolic<br>Church, New Road,                     | SN 50191 00993 | Post Medieval                  | The church appears to have been built in the late C20th based on architectural evidence, long-wall entry type. Status (2002): Chapel  |
| 303963 | Old Castle, Llanelli                                       | SN 50044 00359 | Medieval                       | Claimed as partially submerged motte of earthwork castle, although some uncertainty surrounds this identification and the monument has also been described as a 'tumulus'. A bailey is said to be visible when water levels in the reservoir are low.   |
| 411026 | Stradey Park   | SN 4970 0093   | 19th Century                   | Stradey Park was the home of Llanelli RFC and the Scarlets for 129 years. In its day it was a first class 20th century rugby stadium and the location of many memorable events in modern Welsh history, where in 1972 the All Blacks were last defeated by a club side or where in 2007 over 6000 people including leading figures in Welsh political, cultural and sporting life attended Ray Gravell's funeral. The buildings on the south of the stadium all date back to the 1950s. Stradey Park was bought from the Stradey Estate in 1952 and a new grandstand was opened in 1957. This was built by public donations, but in reality a generous donation from a Mr Rolfe of Pembrokeshire provided for most of the £14,500 cost. He stated that he gave the donation to allow Llanelli supporters to watch the team at Stradey forevermore. In 1958 the terracing on the west, north and east sides of the stadium were provided and the following year social facilities behind the south stand were completed. In the 1960's |

|  | the west terrace (or Pwll End) was covered with funds raised by the supporters club. Floodlighting was also erected in the 1960's with local labourers and welders working for free in the evenings to help the club. In 1991 the Tanner Bank was replaced by the North Stand in readiness for Stradey to host World Cup matches. Games transferred to Parc yr Scarlets, a purpose-built stadium, in 2008/9. Stradey Park was demolished in 2010. Photographed by RCAHMW during demolition. |
|--|---|
|--|---|

Figure 5: Archaeological and Historical sites recorded on the RCAHMW National Monument Record within an 800m radius.



#### 3.2.3 Palaeolithic (c.450,000 - 10,000 BC)

No recorded sites of Palaeolithic date have been identified within the boundaries of the application area or within the study area. Such remains are scarce in the region.

#### 3.2.4 Mesolithic and Neolithic (c. 10,000 - 2000 BC)

There are no recorded sites of Mesolithic or Neolithic date recorded on the HER or NMR within the boundaries of the application site or within the study area.

A polished stone axe of potential Neolithic date was exhibited at a meeting of the Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society in 1923. It is thought that the axe was found in Llanelli, but the precise find spot is unknown as is the current whereabouts of the axe (PRN 2074; NGR 50 95).

#### 3.2.5 Bronze Age (c.2000 - 700 BC)

No recorded sites of Bronze Age date have been identified within the boundaries of the application site or within the study area on the regional HER or NMR.

#### 3.2.6 Iron Age (c.700 BC - 43 AD)

No recorded sites of Iron Age date have been identified within the boundaries of the application site or study area.

#### 3.2.7 Roman (AD43 - c. AD410)

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

The suggested route of the Roman road between Lougher and Carmarthen lies c.430m to the north of the proposed development area. The projected line of the road does not come any closer to the development site.

#### 3.2.8 Early Medieval (c.AD410 - AD1066)

No recorded sites of Early Medieval date have been identified within the boundaries of the application site or within the study area.

#### 3.2.9 **Medieval (1066 - 1535)**

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

One site of medieval date lies within the study area which comprises the scheduled ancient monument of Old Castle (c.640m SE; PRN 694; SAM 323).

The site at Old Castle consists of the remains of a motte and bailey castle 30m in diameter which is now submerged with the reservoir of the former Old Castle Tinplate Works. The remains are said to be the site of the Castle of Carnwyllion that was destroyed by Rhys Ieunac of Dinefwr during his attacks on Kidwelly and Gower in 1215.

The site of Old Castle motte perhaps indicates a focus for medieval settlement at Llanelli. However, it is considered that previous heavy industrial

use of the surrounding area during the  $19^{th}$  and early  $20^{th}$  centuries and subsequent landscaping of much of the area in the early  $21^{st}$  century has potentially seriously damaged or completely destroyed any evidence for medieval settlement. The Old Castle motte site would not be affected by the proposed development.

During the 14<sup>th</sup> century the area formed part of the property of the Duchy of Lancaster (Rees, 1932).

In addition there is also the potential for medieval coal mining activity within the area. There is some indication that the Llanelli coalfield has been worked since the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but the extent and location of this early mining in the area is unclear (Symons, 1979, 26). During the medieval period the use of coal as a fuel was not generally popular, the preferred fuels being wood and peat, suggesting that mining in the period was generally a small scale industry.

Medieval mining techniques would work easily won coal from surface outcrops, shallow adits and the use of bell pits. Bell pits are considered to be amongst the deepest forms of mining utilised during the medieval period and consisted of a vertical shaft sunk to the coal seam and hollowed out at the base to extract the coal. Bell pits are usually closely spaced to allow maximum retrieval of coal, with each pit representing a seasons work. The average working depth of a bell pit was generally in the region of 9m although at Mathley West Yorkshire a series of pits were revealed that were sunk to a depth of 18m (Roe, 2008, 29). Agricola, writing in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, refers to mine workings in continental Europe reaching depths of between 61m and 152m (Hoover & Hoover, 1950, 102), although nothing of this depth has been recorded during the medieval period in the UK. Medieval mine workings would most likely lie in hillton locations potentially utilising a series of interconnecting shafts and adits driven into the hillside. Given the topography of the proposed development and wider study area, it is considered unlikely that mining was undertaken to significant depths such as these.

Available borehole data from the study area has revealed that to the west of the development site on the site of Stradey Comprehensive School (centred on NGR SN 4927 0093) the 1m thick Swansea Three Feet coal seam was the shallowest found and lies at a depth of 30.4m beneath the present ground surface<sup>3</sup>. To the northeast of the development area on the site of Castle (Cille) Colliery (centred on NGR SN 5000 0114) coal was proved at a depth of 87.4m, but this was a thin seam with a thickness of 0.15m. A further six seams were proved at this location all of which were below 0.3m thickness, the deepest lying at a depth of 258m<sup>4</sup>.

The borehole data and relatively low lying nature of the study area suggests that the coal seams within the development area are very unlikely to have been exploited during the medieval period with the focus being the more easily won coal within the wider landscape. The potential for archaeological remains associated with medieval coal mining to be present within the proposed development is considered to be low.

#### 3.2.10 Post Medieval (1535 - 1750)

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

A total of thirty nine sites are recorded on the Regional HER and twelve on the RCAHMW NMR within the wider study area, and the majority of these

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi\_scans/boreholes/254046/images/10506582.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://scans.bgs.ac.uk/sobi\_scans/boreholes/255192/images/10508653.html

recorded sites relate to the industrialisation of the area following the Industrial Revolution. For the purposes of this report and to distinguish between the pre-industrial archaeology of the area, and that associated with it, the post medieval period has been split into two with basic post-medieval covering the period between 1535 – 1750, and the Industrial Period between 1750 and 1900).

During the post medieval period coal mining was well established in the Llanelli area with an export trade to the West Country, Channel Islands and France (Symons, 1979, 27). There appears to be no evidence for coalmining within the proposed development area during this period, but a pit known as 'Moarme' had been sunk  $c.450\mathrm{m}$  to the south east (NGR SN 4993 0053) by Robert Reeves and Walter Vaughan in c.1609 (ibid, 29). The proposed development would have no impact on the site of 'Moarme' pit. It is also considered unlikely given the depths of the coal seams within this area that any evidence of post medieval mining would be present within the proposed development site.

#### 3.2.11 Industrial (1750 - 1900)

No recorded sites of Industrial period date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development site.

Thirty nine sites are recorded on the Regional HER and twelve on the RCAHMW NMR lying within the wider study area. Many of these sites relate to dwellings located along New Road, along with others relating to the industrial development of the area during the period, including brick works, coal mines, railways, and former metal production and processing sites.

#### **Brick Works**

One brick works is recorded on the Regional HER (PRN 23913; NGR SN 4968 0054) as Sandy Brickworks and lies 380m to the south west of the proposed development area. The recorded location of the site is questionable, as cartographic research has no evidence for a brick works at this location on late  $19^{th}$  century and early  $20^{th}$  century mapping. Sandy Brickworks does appear on early  $20^{th}$  century map editions as a substantial building with two possible kilns lying on its south side along with a connecting line to the adjacent railway, although it is marked at NGR SN 4985 0054 (c.162m to the east of the recorded location on the Regional HER). Thus the actual site of Sandy brickworks lies 390m to the south east of the proposed development site. The site was later used as the Sandy Wagon Repair Works.

Further research has revealed that two further brick works lay within the study area. Caebad Brickworks (NGR SN 4998 0069) was founded in the 1860s and was operational until 1889 utilising clay from the adjacent colliery of the same name. Following closure most of the site was converted to a coal yard, the remainder absorbed into a galvanising works (Craig et al, 2002, 335). The site of Caebad brickyard lies 357m to the south east of the proposed development area and would not be affected by the development.

The second brickworks was founded during the earlier part of the  $19^{\rm th}$  century and manufactured bricks from a nearby clay pit. The works, known as Sandy Brickyard were closed by the mid  $19^{\rm th}$  century when it was occupied by a skin and hide business owned by Joseph Reynolds. The flooded clay pit, known locally as 'Pound Joe' remained until c.1900 when it was filled in (ibid). The exact location of Sandy Brickyard is not known, but can be confidently located within the study area. Late  $19^{\rm th}$  century mapping of the area shows a possible clay pit

at NGR SN 4986 0062, and the brickworks would have laid in close proximity and thus may lie on or near the proposed development area boundary.

#### **Collieries**

Five colliery sites are recorded within the study area on the Regional HER and four on the RCAHMW NMR.

Caemain Pit (PRN 7809; NPRN 33385; NGR SN 5029 0050; 698m SE), Cae'r Elm Pit (PRN 8661; NPRN 33386; NGR SN 499 008) and Cilfig Pit (PRN 8699; NGR SN 5050 0082; 733m E) all date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and were formerly owned by Alexander Raby who leased the lands from the Mansel Lewis family of the Stradey Estate (Symons, 1979, 98). Two further recorded colliery sites exist in the area: Cille Colliery (PRN 4496; NPRN 33389; NGR SN 5004 0119; 486m NE) and Old Shaft/ Llanelli Old Shaft (PRN 8657; NPRN 33405; NGR SN 4935 0156).

Documentary research has revealed that two further collieries operated within the study area. Sandy Pit is recorded in 1791 as being worked by Dame Mary Mansel of the Stradey Estate, the suggested location of the pit being at c. NGR SN 4974 0056, some 380m to the south of the proposed development site. A colliery known as Caebad is marked on late 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping lying adjacent to Caebad Brickworks (NGR SN 4997 0067; 377m SE). Caebad Colliery also dates from the latter part of the 18th century and was opened by Alexander Raby (Craig et al, 2002, 29). Further research has revealed that Cae'r Elms Colliery was located at NGR SN 4995 0083 (62m to the north east of the site recorded on the Regional HER). In 1828 Caerelms was known as Furnace Pit and there is some suggestion that it acted as an upcast furnace ventilation pit for Caemain Colliery (Symons, 1979, 345). During late 1830s a steam pumping engine at Caemain Colliery was dismantled and re-erected at the Old Castle New Pit which resulted in the flooding of Caemain, Caebad and Caerelms Collieries suggesting that all three were connected below ground (Craig et al, 2002, 50). Caerelms and Caebad Collieries had recommenced mining by c.1863 but finally closed in 1890 (ibid, 100).

Cille Colliery was first established in 1866 and worked intermittently under numerous owners until final closure in 1952 when it was known as Castle Colliery and owned by the Castle Colliery Company (ibid, 106). Late  $19^{th}$  century mapping of the area suggests that the colliery was a drift or level driven into the hillside.

Whilst none of the collieries are located within the boundaries of the proposed development area the sites of Caerelms, Caebad, Cille/Castle Collieries and Sandy Pit lie in close proximity. However, it is likely that workings associated with Caerelms and Caebad Collieries and potentially Sandy Pit may extend beneath the proposed development site. These abandoned workings will lie at significant depths below ground level and are unlikely to be affected, although potential for hitherto unknown shafts or pits to be present should not be discounted.

#### Metalliferous Industries

The Regional HER and RCAHMW NMR record no metalliferous industrial sites within the boundaries of the proposed development site. Two sites are recorded on the Regional HER, with two further site recorded on the RCAHMW NMR as lying within the wider study area.

The recorded site of the Wern Brass Foundry (PRN 23914; NGR 4995 0051) lies to the south east of the proposed development area. Late 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping of the area shows the foundry at NGR SN 5000 0055 (*c*.66m to the north east of the location recorded on the Regional HER) and lying 435m south east of the proposed development site. Wern Brass Foundry was operational between the 1870s up to the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Craig et al, 2002, 273). The brass foundry was constructed on the site of an earlier iron forge established by Alexander Raby in 1804 as part of his expansion of Stradey Ironworks, and is thought to have consisted of puddling furnaces, three rolling mills, forge hammers and potential refineries (ibid, 146). The Wern Brass Foundry and Stradey Ironworks Forge sites lie outside the proposed development site boundary and would not be affected by the development.

Both the Regional HER and RCAHMW NMR record the Old Castle Iron and Tinplate Works (PRN 9746; NPRN 40509; NGR SN 49900020) as lying 722m to the south of the proposed development site. Also recorded on both the Regional HER and RCAHMW NMR is the former Old Castle Chemical Works (PRN 9436; NPRN 41105; NGR SN 4980 0038) which formed part of the same complex as the Old Castle Iron and Tinplate works. Early  $20^{\rm th}$  century mapping of the area marks the Old Castle Chemical Works site at NGR SN 4985 0028 (c.107m to the south east of the location recorded on both the Regional HER and RCAHMW NMR). The RCAHMW NMR also records the site of the former Llanelli Steelworks; Duport Steelworks lies in this area (NPRN 40409; NGR SN 4950 0028). None of these recorded sites would be affected by the proposed development.

#### Transportation

No former transportation sites are known to exist within the boundaries of the proposed development area. Two tramways and one railway line are recorded on the Regional HER as lying within the wider study area.

Recorded 692m to the south east of the proposed development area is Mansell's Railway (PRN 30733; NGR SN 502 004). This was constructed in the 1760s by Sir E V Mansell of the Stradey Estate to connect Caemain Colliery to a shipping place on the River Lliedi known as 'Bank y Llong' (Symons, 1979, 204). The proposed development would have no impact on the route of Mansell's Railway

During the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Raby's Railway System (PRN 30741; NGR SN 503 005) was constructed by Alexander Raby to interconnect his iron furnaces at Cwmddyche (modern day Furnace) with his forge and collieries and on to a new shipping place known as the Carmarthenshire Dock (Price, 1992, 14). It is possible that the route taken by Raby's railway system lies in close proximity to the eastern boundary of the proposed development area, but its true route is unclear.

In 1802 an Act was passed authorising the construction of Carmarthenshire Railway or Tramroad (PRN 30865; SN 498 004) and this was the second Act of Parliament promoting a public railway independent of a canal in the UK. By 1803 a 1.5 mile stretch of the line was opened between the forges at Cwmddyche down to the coast making it the first operational public railway in the UK (ibid, 14-17). It is known that the route of this line ran along the eastern boundary of the proposed development site and was later upgraded to a railway by the Llanelly and Mynydd Mawr Railway before coming under the ownership of the Great Western Railway, and latterly part of the nationalised British Railways. The line finally closed during the latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (ibid).

Research indicates that a further railway operated in the study area. Sometime prior to 1832 David Lewis of the Mansel Estate constructed a line from

Cwmddyche and Cille to the Carmarthenshire Dock. This new line ran parallel to, and west of, the route of the Carmarthenshire Railway and is believed to have been constructed as an edge rail tramway which could cope with heavy amounts of traffic. It is suggested that the Stradey Estate Railway had a monopoly over traffic from the estate lands to the dock and was even provided with a crossing over the South Wales Railway in *c.*1845 indicating it was still operational at this time (Price, 1992, 27-30). It is unclear when the Stradey Estate Railway was abandoned. The route the railway took is also unclear and may potentially lie on the eastern boundary of the proposed development area or just inside it.

#### Non Industrial

A number of non industrial sites are recorded on both the Regional HER and RCAHMW NMR as lying within the wider study area. No known archaeological sites lie within the proposed development site boundary.

A large number of the recorded sites relate to dwellings along New Road. In addition to dwellings, a lodge, two chapels, a bridge and two cottages are recorded within the wider study area. None of these would be affected by the proposed development.

During the late 18<sup>th</sup> century Alexander Raby is known to have constructed housing for his workers at Caer Elms Colliery (Symons, 1979). It is unclear where these houses were located, but late 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping shows a terrace of cottages at NGR SN 4980 0007. These cottages have now been demolished and their former site survives as waste land. The proposed development would have no impact on this possible site of Raby's workers cottages.

#### 3.2.12 Modern (20th century to present)

No sites of modern date are recorded on the Regional HER and one site is recorded on the NMR - Stradey Park (NPRN 411026; NGR SN 4970 0093) home to Llanelli RFC and later also to the Scarlets regional rugby team.

In the early part of the  $20^{th}$  century considerable residential development occurred, providing more homes for the workers in the region. The Stradey Park development site is surrounded by residential development constructed throughout the  $20^{th}$  century.

#### Stradey Park

The first recorded rugby game played by Llanelli RFC was at People's Park in 1876 before playing at the Stradey Cricket ground. In 1904 the team moved their games to a new purpose built ground at Stradey Park with the first game being played on 15<sup>th</sup> October the same year against Swansea.

Stradey Park and Llanelli RFC first rose to prominence in 1908 when a victory was gained over a touring Australian side. The ground became the scene of a number of victories over the years which earned it and the team a world wide reputation. On October  $31^{\rm st}$  1972 in front of a crowd of 26,000 the home side led by Delme Thomas and coached by Carwyn James, defeated the touring New Zealand All Blacks by a score of 9-3, the only try of the game coming from a charged down kick and scored by centre Roy Bergiers.

In 1992 Stradey Park paid host to then world champions Australia, who were also defeated by the home team. In the same season the Welsh League and Cup were won in what became known as 'The Treble', with Llanelli RFC being awarded the title of Best Team in Britain.

On November 15<sup>th</sup> 2007 Stradey Park was the setting for the public memorial of the former Scarlets, Wales and British Lions player, actor and broadcaster Ray Gravell which a crowd of 10,000 attended.

Stradey Park closed in 2008 when home matches were transferred to the new Parc y Scarlets stadium at Pemberton.

#### Metalliferous Industries

Research has revealed that two unrecorded modern period metalliferous sites lie within the wider study area. On early  $20^{th}$  century mapping a substantial building is marked along with a rail connection at NGR SN 4992 0064. Further research has revealed that this building housed the Sandy Bridge Works, which was established as a foundry before being converted into a galvanised sheet works in c.1908-09 by the Wellfield Galvanising Co Ltd. In 1917 the sheet works was converted for use as a red lead works under the ownership of the East Moors Chemical Co before subsequently reverting to a foundry. Later a second red lead works known as the Sandy Gate Works occupied the site. The site has since been cleared and an engineering works built on the site (Craig et al, 2002, 241).

A second foundry was established by the Llanelly Foundry & Engineering Co in 1922 who operated from the site until 1959 when it passed to the Iron & Steel Holding & Realisation Agency, who sold the site to Duport Ltd in 1960. The site was last used as a maintenance department and storage building for the Llanelli/Duport Steelworks which closed in 1981 (Craig et al, 2002, 269). A substantial building marked on 1930s mapping of the area at NGR SN 4966 0051 is considered to represent the former foundry. The foundry site is now occupied by modern housing. Both newly identified sites would be unaffected by the proposed development.

#### 3.3 Cartographic Information

- 3.3.1 The earliest cartographic source consulted for this assessment was Saxton's map of Carmarthenshire from 1578 (not illustrated), which depicts 'Llanelthye' and shows the church (although the scale of the map is such that no further detail is given).
- 3.3.2 The Mansel Lewis Muniments held at Carmarthen Records Office contains material relating to the Stradey Estate covering the period 1650 1960 and is likely to contain estate maps showing the proposed development area. Unfortunately, access to the collection is restricted and it was not possible to view the collection. A series of maps dating from the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards is known to have been housed in Llanelli Library during the 1970s (Symons, 1979). A map showing the area of the proposed development is known to have formed part of this collection. Consultation with staff at Carmarthen Records Office revealed that the collection had been transferred to their care along with plans of abandoned mine workings in the Llanelli area. It was discovered that the map showing the area around Stradey Park was missing from the collection and is thought to either have been lost or stolen prior to the collection being transferred from Llanelli to Carmarthen
- 3.3.3 The earliest detailed map of the area is that of the Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings map of 1813 (not illustrated). There is an indication of field boundaries dividing the proposed development site, but detail is lacking. To the north east of the proposed development sit is marked a cluster of buildings named 'Cila' with further unnamed structures along the eastern boundary of the development area. There is no indication of mining activities in the area, even though it is known that many of the colliery sites were in operation at this time.

- 3.3.4 The first edition Ordnance Survey map 1:2500 scale map of 1880 (Figure 6) provides more detail of the landscape than the earlier cartographic sources. The site area is shown as undeveloped agricultural land crossed by two possible water courses. A trackway is marked running along the northern boundary whilst the boundary wall forming the eastern boundary also appears to be marked.
- 3.3.5 No change is discernable on either the 1891 (Figure 7) or 1901 1:10568 scale maps. By 1907 the playing field, marked as football ground, had been constructed along with a single stand on its south side (Figure 8). To the north a cricket ground is marked with seating constructed on the line of the former trackway. The possible water courses identified on earlier map editions appear to have been straightened. The 1908 1:10568 scale map marks the eastern water course as a Parliamentary Borough Boundary, but no further changes are shown.
- 3.3.6 No changes are identifiable on the 1916 1:10568 scale map (Figure 9) of the area. The 1953 1:10568 scale map shows a stand had been constructed at the west end of the ground and an embanked probable spectators area had been constructed at the east end (Figure 10). An area of marshy ground is shown lying to the south of the ground with allotment gardens lying on the southern boundary of the proposed development area.

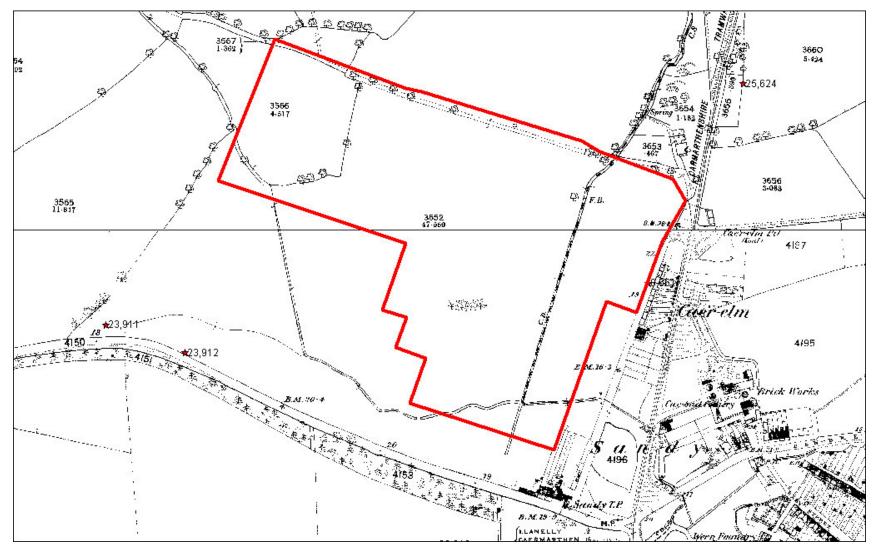


Figure 6: Extract of 1880 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey Map.

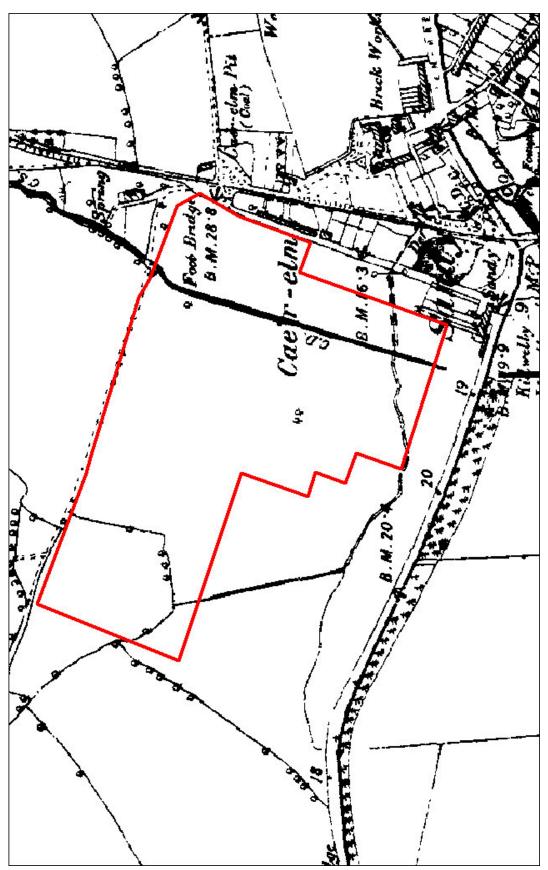


Figure 7: Extract of 1891 1:10568 scale Ordnance Survey Map

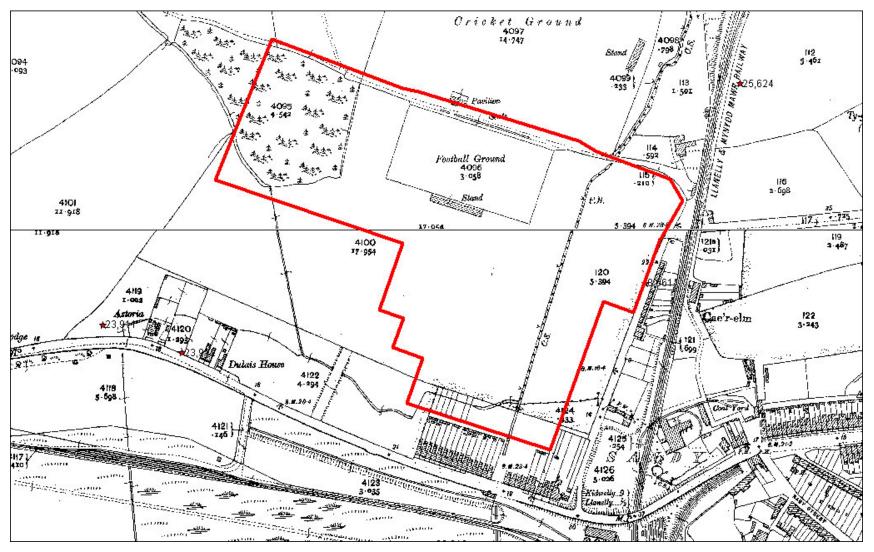


Figure 8: Extract of 1907 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey Map

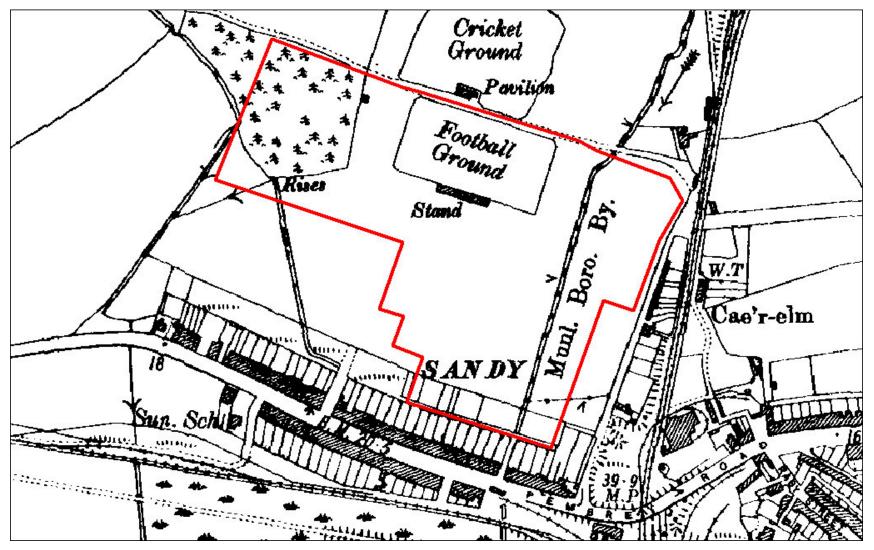


Figure 9: Extract of 1916 1:10568 scale Ordnance Survey Map

Figure 10: Extract of 1953 1:10568 scale Ordnance Survey Map

#### 3.4 Site Visit

- 3.4.1 A site visit was undertaken on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011. The visit comprised a walkover of the proposed development site, and partial access to those areas where visibility was restricted. Photographs were taken and field observations were recorded in a notebook.
- 3.4.2 Stradey Park rugby ground has been demolished and the demolition material crushed and left piled up on the site. Remnants of the east terrace or 'Town End' remain as a bank leaving no trace of the former concrete terracing. However, on the top of the former terrace a tarmaced hard standing survives as does the concrete, brick and tubular steel base of the former scoreboard (see photos 1). The main scoreboard was removed from the Stradey Park site in 2008 and is preserved at the new ground at Parc y Scarlets.
- 3.4.3 A similar situation remained on the site of the west terrace or 'Pwll End' where the remains of terrace bank survives (see photo 2). It was noted that in this area substantial quantities of slag and demolition rubble in the form of refractory and domestic red brick were present. Amongst this material were a number of named examples including Horeb (Eclipse Works), P.P (Penrhos Pottery) Llanelly and S J & Co (Southwood Jones), Risca. It is considered that this material may have been imported onto the site to construct the terrace bank and has the potential for artefact retrieval.
- 3.4.4 Both the North and South stands of the ground have been destroyed along with the hospitality areas that once lined the south side of the ground. All that remains in this area is the tarmaced car park.
- 3.4.5 No archaeological remains were visible on the site of the former training pitch which lies to the east of the site of the main stadium site (see photo 3). To the south on the area of land at the rear of the properties fronting Sandy Road, no archaeological remains were visible with much of the area obscured by crushed stone and piles of demolition rubble (see photo 4).
- 3.4.6 A former car park occupies the eastern part of the development site. In the north east corner of this area lies a substantial grassed over mound (NGR SN 4990 0089). The mound may represent a spoil tip from the nearby Caer Elms colliery but it has not been possible to confirm this (see photo 5).
- 3.4.7 A substantial stone wall of probable 19<sup>th</sup> century date forms the eastern boundary of the development site with a pair of former gate piers located at NGR SN 4994 0088 (see photos 6 and 7). It is possible that the wall marks the boundary of the Stradey Estate, but this has not been confirmed. It is unclear if the wall will be affected by the proposed development and ideally the wall would be retained. Running parallel with, and on the east side of the boundary wall, lies a footpath (see photo 8). The footpath may indicate the former route of the Stradey Estate Railway.



Photo 1: Remains of East Terrace or 'Town End'



Photo 2: Remains of West Stand or 'Pwll End'



**Photo 3:** View across site of training pitch from east



**Photo 4:** South part of development area lying to rear of housed fronting Sandy Road



**Photo 5:** View of possible spoil tip and former car park from west



Photo 6: Wall forming eastern boundary of proposed development area



**Photo 7:** Gate piers to north east of development site.



**Photo 8:** Footpath on east side of boundary wall possibly following line of Stradey Estate Railway

#### 3.5 Previous Archaeological Work

3.5.1 No previous intrusive archaeological work has been undertaken within the boundaries of the proposed development site. A digital photographic survey of Stradey Park was undertaken by the RCAHMW prior to demolition in May 2010.

#### 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, although due to the depths of coal seams across the proposed development site area, this is considered very unlikely. 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- $19^{th}$  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.
- 4.1.3 The site area had not been subject to any development as far as can be ascertained, until the latter part of the  $19^{th}$  century when the first Rugby ground was built.
- 4.1.4 Stradey Park was substantially developed during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Large stands were erected, the pitches were improved, ancillary buildings were erected and large car parking areas were constructed. Although the construction of the stands and ancillary buildings will have caused a limited amount of disturbance to the site area, the construction of the rugby pitches and car parking areas are likely to have necessitated ground levelling. Whether this was achieved through ground reduction or rising is uncertain, but either would involve an initial topsoil strip and subsequent removal or importation of material. Any such activity will have had a damaging affect on any below ground archaeology that may have been present.

#### 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. The site is relatively flat having been levelled or turned into car parks. The nature of any archaeological activity pre-dating the rugby stadium is uncertain. Should any remains be present they would be represented by buried earth-cut features, such as pits, postholes or ditches. 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 or 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 site boundary. The report has highlighted the following potential archaeological resources within the site area, although there presence would be affected by previous disturbances (see section 4.). An assessment of their most likely archaeological importance is also made<sup>5</sup>.
- 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 very low as no such remains have been recorded within the study area. If found to be present such remains would be considered to be of at least regional importance.
- 5.4 The potential for remains of Neolithic date to be present within the site area is considered to be low as no such remains have been recorded within the study area, although a possible Neolithic stone axe may have been found in proximity. If found to be present such remains would be considered to be of at least regional importance.
- 5.5 The potential for remains of Bronze Age date to be present within the site area is considered to be very low as no such remains have been recorded within the study area. If found to be present such remains would be considered to be of at least 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. The projected line of a Roman road lies to the west of the site, but does not project in close proximity to the proposed development site. Should such remains be found they would be considered to be of local to regional importance.
- 5.8 The potential for remains of Early Medieval date to be present within the site area is considered to be low as no such remains have been recorded within the study area. If found to be present such remains would be considered to be of at least regional importance.
- 5.8 The potential for medieval settlement remains to be present within the site area is considered to be low. The site area does not lie near any definite settlement foci, other than the site of Old Castle which lies some distance to the southeast. Any associated settlement is unlikely to have stretched as far as the development site. The majority of the development area is more likely to have laid within the surrounding agricultural lands used by the medieval settlement at Llanelli and surrounding villages. The potential for medieval mining remains, in the form of bell pits or similar, is considered very unlikely due to the depth of the coal seams in this area. Should settlement remains be present, they would be considered of local to regional importance, as would mining remains. Agricultural remains would be of low archaeological importance.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The potential for remains of higher or lower archaeological importance for all periods cannot be discounted.

- 5.9 Post-medieval (1535-1750) 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 be present, although again, the depth of the coal seams makes this unlikely.
- 5.10 Industrial period remains are most likely to exist within the development site area, although these would most likely be in the form of residual activity around the industrial sites identified within section 3.2 above. No standing structures associated with industrial period sites are present within the development area, and would be present as below ground foundations, pits, service runs etc. As the remains lie on the periphery of the known industrial period sites, then they would be considered to be of low importance. The boundary wall and gate piers noted during the walkover survey may be associated with the Stradey Estate, and thus of some historic importance. Ideally these would be retained and incorporated into the development plans.
- 5.11 The modern period archaeology is based almost entirely on Stradey Park itself. The importance of the site has already been recognised in the fact that the stadium was recorded by the RCAHMW prior to its demolition. Any remains surviving below ground of the stadium and its ancillary buildings and car parks are considered to be of minimal archaeological significance. The most important features of the park are considered to be what formerly stood above ground and the memories of matches and other events played in the stadium. Photographs, plans, film footage, event programmes etc all survive of the park, many of which will be housed at the new Parc Y Scarlets. The modern period industrial sites would be considered of minimal archaeological significance.

#### 6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological assessment has shown that the development site at Stradey Park lies within a landscape of containing very limited archaeological information. This may be as a result of a lack of previous archaeological works undertaken within the area.
- 6.2 No known archaeological remains are present within the proposed development site or in the vicinity for the entire prehistoric period through to the medieval period (excluding a find of a Neolithic stone axe which may or may not have been found in the vicinity, and the possible line of a Roman road to the southeast). There is considered to be a very limited potential for hitherto unknown remains to be present of the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Early Medieval periods.
- 6.3 Medieval settlement activity is considered unlikely within the development site boundary. Medieval mining is highly unlikely due to the depth of the coal seams in the area. The land was probably used for agricultural purposes, the archaeological significance of any associated remains being low. This is considered the same for the post-medieval period.
- 6.4 By the Industrial period the wider study area was substantially developed with a range of collieries, brickworks, metalliferous industries and transportation links. These are of significance to wider development of the region, but no such remains are known to have been located directly within the development site boundary. Potentially ancillary buildings and structures may have encroached into the site area, but any such remains would be considered to be of limited archaeological significance.
- 6.5 Although some industrial sites are known in the wider area during the modern period (the site area having a former works within its boundary), these are considered to be of minimal archaeological significance. The former Stradey Park Stadium site would be considered to be of archaeological importance. It was subject to a photographic survey by RCAHMW prior to its demolition, so a record of the structure has already been made and archived. Memorabilia of the stadium, including photographs, plans, event programmes, films etc are stored at Parc Y Scarlets (and also by fans).
- 6.6 From the results of this desk-based assessment, no further archaeological mitigation is considered necessary for any future development of the site area. This should be discussed and confirmed with 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.

#### Maps

Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings 1813

Ordnance Survey 1880 1:2500 scale Carmarthenshire Sheet LIV.7

Ordnance Survey 1907 1:2500 scale Carmarthenshire Sheet LIV.7

Ordnance Survey 1891 1:10568 scale Carmarthenshire Sheet LIV NE

Ordnance Survey 1916 1:10568 scale Carmarthenshire Sheet LIV NE

Ordnance Survey 1953 1:10568 scale Carmarthenshire Sheet LIV NE

Full suite of maps available at <a href="http://www.old-maps.co.uk/">http://www.old-maps.co.uk/</a>

#### **Published**

Craig R S, Protheroe Jones R & Symons M V, 2002 *The Industrial and Maritime History of Llanelli and Burry Port 1750 – 2000.* Carmarthenshire County Council.

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Price, M. R. C., 1992, *The Llanelly and Mynydd Mawr Railway*. Headington. Oakwood Press

Symons M V 1979, Coal Mining in the Llanelli Area Volume I: 16<sup>th</sup> Century to 1829. Llanelli, Llanelli Borough Council.

#### **Online Sources**

http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/boreholescans/

http://www.coflein.gov.uk/

### LAND AT THE FORMER STRADEY PARK, LLANELLI, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2011/54
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Tachwedd 2011
November 2011

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

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

Swydd / Position: HEAD OF FIELD SERVICES / ARCHAEOLOGIST

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

