

**WELSH WATER TREATMENT WORKS  
TRACK IMPROVEMENTS, SOLVA,  
PEMBROKESHIRE:  
(NGR SM 81420 24097 to SM 80731  
24130)  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED  
ASSESSMENT**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: Asbri Planning



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol  
**DYFED**  
archaeological trust

## DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2014/30  
RHIF Y PROSIECT / PROJECT RECORD NO. 107362

Medi 2014  
September 2014



# WELSH WATER TREATMENT WORKS TRACK IMPROVEMENTS, SOLVA, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Gan / By

Charles Enright  
and James Meek

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.*



**INVESTOR IN PEOPLE**  
**UDDSODDWR 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](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Gwefan: [www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk](http://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](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Website: [www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth.  
The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)  
CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: Professor B Burnham MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K Murphy BA MIFA

# **WELSH WATER TREATMENT WORKS TRACK IMPROVEMENTS, SOLVA, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
	1.1 Project Commission	2
	1.2 Scope of Project	2
	1.3 Abbreviations	2
	1.4 Illustrations	3
	1.5 Timeline	3
<b>2</b>	<b>LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>6</b>
	3.2 Desk top Study	6
	3.3 Site Walkover Survey	6
<b>4</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND</b>	<b>7</b>
	4.1 Historic Landscapes	7
	4.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments	7
	4.3 Listed Buildings	7
	4.4 Known Archaeological Remains	7
	4.5 Historic Map	13
	4.6 Site Walkover Survey	15
<b>5</b>	<b>IMPACT OF PROPOSED TRACK IMPROVEMENTS ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>20</b>
	5.1 Physical Impacts	20
	5.2 Buried Archaeological Potential	20
	5.3 Palaeo-environmental Potential	21
	5.4 Visual Impacts	21
	5.5 Other Constraints	21
	5.6 Summary of Impacts	21
<b>6</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>Summary descriptions of Scheduled Ancient Monuments within a 500m buffer zone around the proposed track improvements</b>	<b>23</b>

## **FIGURES**

<b>Figure 1:</b> Location map based on the Ordnance Survey. Proposed track improvements marked in blue	4
<b>Figure 2:</b> Map showing location of SAM's (red) and proposed route (blue)	8
<b>Figure 3:</b> Map showing distribution of archaeological sites recorded on the Dyfed HER within a 250m buffer zone around the proposed track improvements (blue line)	12
<b>Figure 4:</b> Extract of 1889 1:2500 OS map showing location of proposed track improvements (red) around St Elvis Farm	13
<b>Figure 5:</b> Extract of 1904 1:2500 OS map showing location of proposed track improvements (red) around St Elvis Farm	14
<b>Figure 6:</b> Map showing location of photographs	15
<b>Figure 7:</b> Areas of enhanced potential for buried archaeology	20

## **TABLES**

<b>Table 1:</b> Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales	3
<b>Table 2:</b> HER sites within a 250m buffer zone of the proposed track improvements	10

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

<b>Photo 1:</b> Field to the east of Elvis Farm with existing track way adjacent	16
<b>Photo 2:</b> Field to the south west of St Elvis Farm through which the track improvements will pass	16
<b>Photo 3:</b> The existing track runs adjacent to the burial chamber within the fenced enclosure to the left and semi-circular enclosure to the right	17
<b>Photo 4:</b> Field to the west of the burial chamber	17
<b>Photo 5:</b> View from the burial chamber to St Elvis Farm, buried remains of St Elvis Church may survive below ground in this area	18
<b>Photo 6:</b> The Gribin peat bog (PRN 37718) at the lower of the existing track way	18
<b>Photo 7:</b> Neolithic burial chamber (PRN PE043).	19
<b>Photo 8:</b> Semi-circular enclosure now covered in vegetation	19

**WELSH WATER TREATMENT WORKS TRACK IMPROVEMENTS,  
SOLVA, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT**

**SUMMARY**

*Welsh Water proposes to carry out track improvements at the Water Treatment Works in Solva, Pembrokeshire, to improve and enhance the existing track to meet modern vehicle standards. DAT Archaeological Services have been commissioned by Asbri Planning on behalf of Welsh Water to carry out a rapid desk based assessment (historic environment appraisal) of the historic environment along the proposed route of the track to accompany the planning application that will be submitted to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority. The assessment will enable an informed decision to be made on the potential impacts of the development on the known and potential archaeological resource.*

*The proposed track improvements are located on agricultural land to the southeast of Solva Harbour (centred on NGR SM 8088 2410) in the Parish of St Elvis. Improvements will upgrade the existing track.*

*The site lies within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and is under the ownership of the National Trust. The proposed improvement works do not lie within the boundaries of any Historic Landscape Categorisation Area. There are 25 known archaeological sites recorded on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record within a 250m buffer zone around the proposed track improvements route. They range from the aforementioned Neolithic burial chambers to post-medieval limekilns, as well as including two prominent Iron Age earthwork settlement sites, all of which are scheduled and therefore of national importance. The proposed new track also passes close to the possible site of the early medieval church of St Teilo that lies to the south of St Elvis farm. The range of sites indicates the depth of archaeological activity in the immediate area of the proposed development.*

*The desk based assessment suggests that no known archaeological remains will be directly impacted upon by the proposed improvements to the track but there is an enhanced potential to disturb buried remains particularly in the area around St Elvis Farm and the Neolithic burial chambers. The greatest potential here lies in exposing further evidence of prehistoric activity, medieval buildings or the graveyard associated with St Teilo's church. It is anticipated that there will be minimal visual impact on the wider historic landscape as a result of the improvement works.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Projects Proposal and Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Asbri Planning on behalf of Welsh Water, to prepare a rapid archaeological desk based assessment (or Historic Environment Appraisal) to provide additional information about the potential impacts of the proposed track improvement works leading to the water treatment works at Solva, Pembrokeshire upon the historic environment. The resulting report will enable the planners to make an informed decision on the proposal as regards archaeological and historic environment issues.
- 1.1.2 The proposed track improvements will involve improving the existing track adjacent to the two Neolithic chambered tombs that are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM PE043). Although the track will use the existing route, there may be an impact upon below ground archaeological features in the vicinity of the scheduled chambered tombs, and elsewhere along the track route where works will be undertaken below any make-up for the existing track way.
- 1.1.3 The assessment has been produced in accordance with a generic brief for a Historic Environment Appraisal supplied by the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (the Planning Services section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust) for Historic Environment Appraisals.

### **1.2 Scope of the Project**

- 1.2.1 This assessment is not a full desk-based assessment of the potential historic environment resource. Rather, it is a more rapid piece of work involving readily available information to assess the historic environment potential.
- 1.2.2 The results are intended to identify the extent and character of the known and potential archaeological resource, to assess the likely and potential impacts of the scheme 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 include the possibility that further archaeological input may be required prior to, or during, the proposed development.
- 1.2.3 The proposed road improvement works lie within the planning jurisdiction of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.
- 1.2.4 This assessment was limited to the resources held in the Dyfed HER, on-line resources and verified by a site visit.

### **1.3 Abbreviations used in this Report**

- 1.3.1 All sites recorded on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

## **1.4 Illustrations**

1.4.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

## **1.5 Timeline**

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

<b>Period</b>	<b>Approximate date</b>	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	<b>Prehistoric</b>
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	<b>Historic</b>
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period <sup>1</sup> –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

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

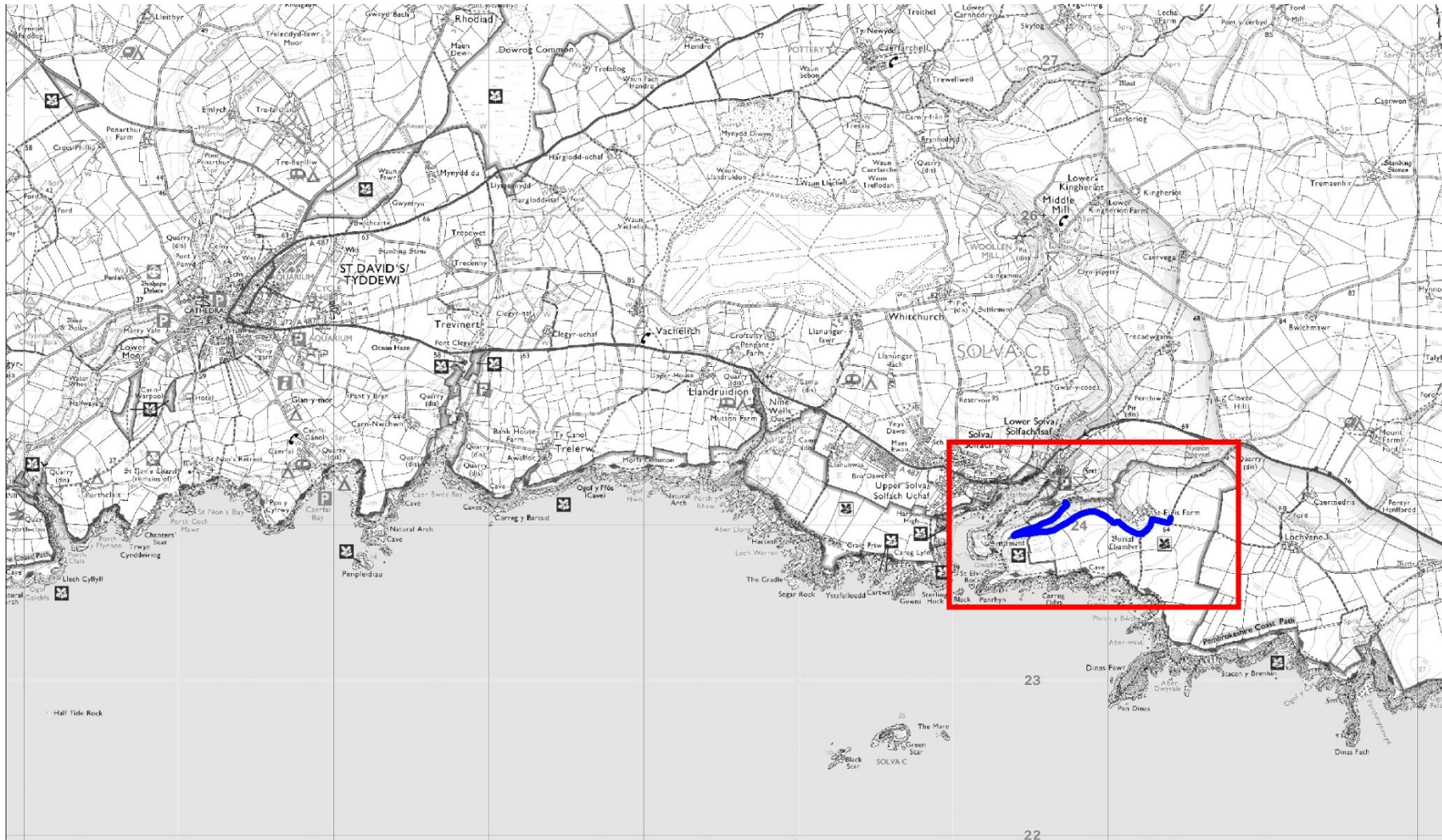
<sup>1</sup> The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

## **2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.1 The proposed track improvements are located in the Parish of St Elvis, east of Lower Solva, Pembrokeshire (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The track improvements will upgrade the existing route of the track way which runs to the east of St Elvis Farm at NGR SM 81420 24097, heading in a south western direction. The road sweeps to the west passing to the north of the Neolithic burial chambers (PRN PE043).
- 2.3 From here on the track follows westwards along the top of the ravine and then downwards towards the base of the valley before taking a hairpin turn at NGR SM 80380 23932 in an easterly direction towards the Welsh Water Treatment Works, finishing at NGR SM 80731 24130.



*Welsh Water Treatment Works Track Improvements,  
Solva, Pembrokeshire:  
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*



**Figure 1:** Location map based on the Ordnance Survey. Proposed track improvements marked in blue.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:25,000 scale Explorer 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 100020930.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 This rapid archaeological desk-based assessment used the following methodology:

#### **3.2 Desk top Study**

- 3.2.1 Computer based and other resources within the Dyfed HER were consulted in the preparation of this document. Sufficient information was consulted to inform and comment on the goals of the assessment. GIS layers were used to assess and illustrate what the likely effects of the proposals upon the historic environment might be.
- 3.2.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Historic Landscape Characterisation Areas and Historic Parks and Gardens were identified within a buffer zone of 500m around the proposed track route. Listed Buildings were identified within a 250m buffer zone to avoid identifying the numerous listed buildings within Solva village near the harbour which are not visible from the proposed track route. The potential visual effects of the proposed track route on the settings of the designated sites within this area were then evaluated.
- 3.2.3 Non-designated archaeological and historic sites were identified within a 250m, buffer zone around the proposed track route. This area was considered sufficient to enable an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site area to be made.

#### **3.3 Site Walkover Survey**

- 3.3.1 A site visit was undertaken on the 8th August, 2014. The visit comprised a walkover of the proposed track improvements and the surrounding area and also incorporated looking at the wider area for views looking back to the site. Photographs were taken and field observations recorded in note form.

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 Historic Landscapes**

- 4.1.1 The proposed road improvement does not lie within the boundaries of any Historic Landscape Categorisation Area (HLCA) recorded on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw 1998). Middle Hill is the nearest HLCA, located approximately 0.5km to the north on the opposite side of the ravine.
- 4.1.2 The proposed road improvements do lie within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, in an area of land owned by the National Trust.

### **4.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments**

- 4.2.1 There are four Scheduled Ancient Monuments within a 500m buffer zone around the proposed track improvements route. These include a promontory fort south of Solva Harbour (PRN PE410), a Neolithic chambered tomb (PRN PE043), an Iron Age enclosure (PRN PE480) and post-medieval lime kilns (PRN PE378) (Figure 2). A summary of the information held on the Scheduled Ancient Monuments can be found in Appendix 1.
- 4.2.2 The nearest and most relevant scheduled monument to the track improvements is the Neolithic burial chambers (PE043). Two chambers are present, each with a possible capstone measuring around 4m x 2m and the other 2.2m by 2m. These have probably been moved and now rest on the ground at one end and sit on top of an upright stone at the other. Other upright stones in the area may have formed part of the original structure of the tombs. Earlier records indicate they may have been surrounded by a large mound of stones and that a previous farmer removed much of the stone. The existing track way lies immediately adjacent to the monuments.

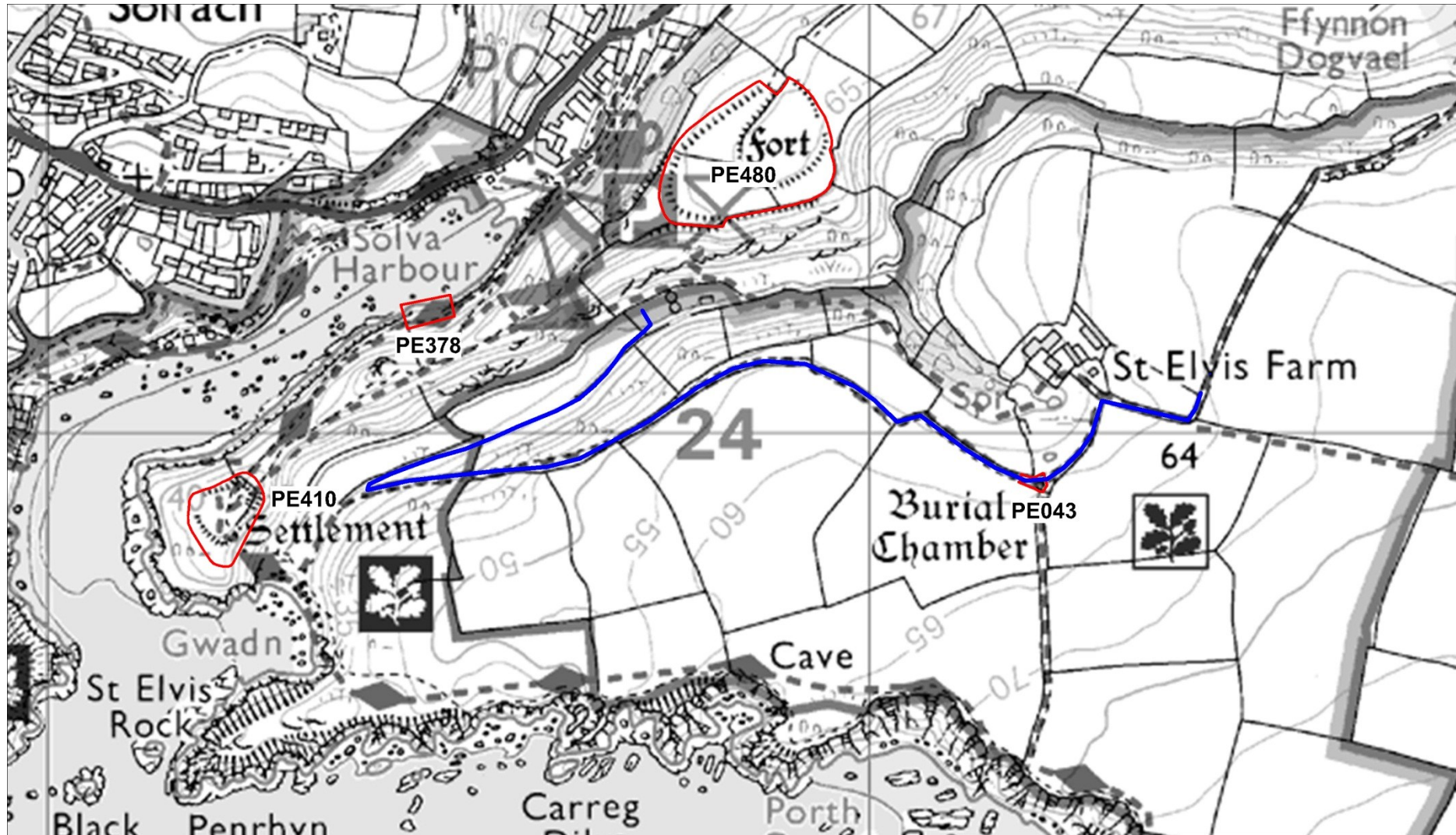
### **4.3 Listed Buildings**

- 4.3.1 There are five listed buildings within a 300m buffer zone around the proposed track improvements; these are all lime kilns, four of which are located within the Scheduled Ancient Monument PRN378 (**Figure 2**). The fifth lime kiln is located to the northeast of these, also on the Solva Harbour edge. All of the lime kilns are listed at Grade II.

### **4.4 Known Archaeological Remains**

- 4.4.1 A search of the Dyfed Historic Environment Record within a 250m buffer zone of the proposed track improvement route identified 25 known archaeological sites. No additional sites to these were recorded on the NMR, so only the Dyfed HER information is used. The distribution of the known sites is shown in Figure 3.
- 4.4.2 The HER records the scheduled chambered tombs at St Elvis Farm (PRN 2792; SAM PE043) as described above. There is a potential for associated prehistoric remains to be located within the route of the proposed track improvements.





**Figure 2:** Map showing location of SAM's (red) and proposed route (blue)

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:25,000 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 100020930.

- 4.4.3 PRN 2780 refers to the scheduled site of the Iron Age promontory fort overlooking Solva harbour (SAM PE410) at the western end of the Gribin ridge, which is further described in Appendix 1. Similarly the HER also records the scheduled defended enclosure at the eastern end of the Gribin (PRN 2798; SAM PE480). Both of these sites are of Iron Age date and are probably settlement sites located on topographically defensive sites. There are suggestions of a further Iron Age settlement on the Gribin ridge between these two scheduled sites, in the form of a series of possible hut circle hollows and the remains of a possible defensive ditch (Pete Crane pers. comm.). The proposed track improvements would not affect either of these sites. The potential for further Iron Age sites along the track way route could not be discounted, as the upper parts of the track do lie on a naturally defensive area with relatively steep slopes dropping down to the Gribin peat bog (PRN 32718) which lies in the valley between the site area and the Gribin ridge. The possible Iron Age or Roman field system which has been previously identified in the area (PRN 2800) could potentially extend into the proposed track improvement route.
- 4.4.4 Early Medieval and medieval remains recorded on the HER within the search area comprise the St Elvis parish church (PRN 2787 and PRN 10171). The church no longer has any surviving above ground remains but it is likely that they do still survive below ground. The church dedication to St Elvis (or originally Ailbe, recorded as being the nephew of St Non) would indicate an early medieval origin for the church, possibly in the 6<sup>th</sup> century during or just after the life of St Ailbe. The former church site lies in semi-circular enclosure also suggesting an early medieval origin, which is partly bounded by the Neolithic chambered tomb. An early medieval cross carved pillar was found near the site in the 20<sup>th</sup> century which was being used as a gatepost, but which was subsequently moved to St Aidan's Church in Solva (PRN 2791). The track way lies in close proximity to the St Elvis church site and the potential for associated archaeological remains to be present within its route cannot be discounted. One other site of possible medieval date is the common land on Mountain Issa and Hill Furze (PRN 14067) which was presumably designated as common land in the medieval period and continued through into the post-medieval period. The land lies to the north of the track way route on the northern side of the hill slope.
- 4.4.5 Post medieval remains are the most common within the search area. These include the four lime kilns which form part of the scheduled group PE378, all of which are grade II listed buildings are also included on the HER: PRN 4645 (group); PRN 58702; PRN 58703; PRN 58704; and PRN 58705. These are all located on the southern edge of Solva Harbour. The other listed lime kiln is recorded on the HER to the northeast of this group, also on the northern edge of the harbour (all records refer to the same limekiln: PRN 23745; PRN 32720; and PRN 58701). A further limekiln is recorded at the western end of the valley containing the Gribin peat bog (PRN 23741), which lies close to the bay at Gwadn. There is a very low potential for limekilns to be present within the route of the proposed track improvements as it does not lie close enough to the sea for transportation. Potentially the track way itself may have provided road access to the kilns.
- 4.4.6 A small quay is present on the northern edge of Solva Harbour (PRN 32622), called Sand Slip or formerly Sand Quay which is of post-medieval date. The HER also records a number of modern features at the eastern end of Solva Harbour which just encroach into the search area. These include the landing stage (PRN 32713), the new slipway (PRN 32714), the sea wall (PRN 32715) and a former tramway tunnel entrance (PRN 32716).

*Welsh Water Treatment Works Track Improvements,  
Solva, Pembrokeshire:  
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*

The last site recorded within the search area is a commemorative stone located at the western end of the Gribin ridge commemorating the donation of the land to the National Trust in 1957 (PRN 32717). None of these modern sites will be affected by the proposed track way improvements.

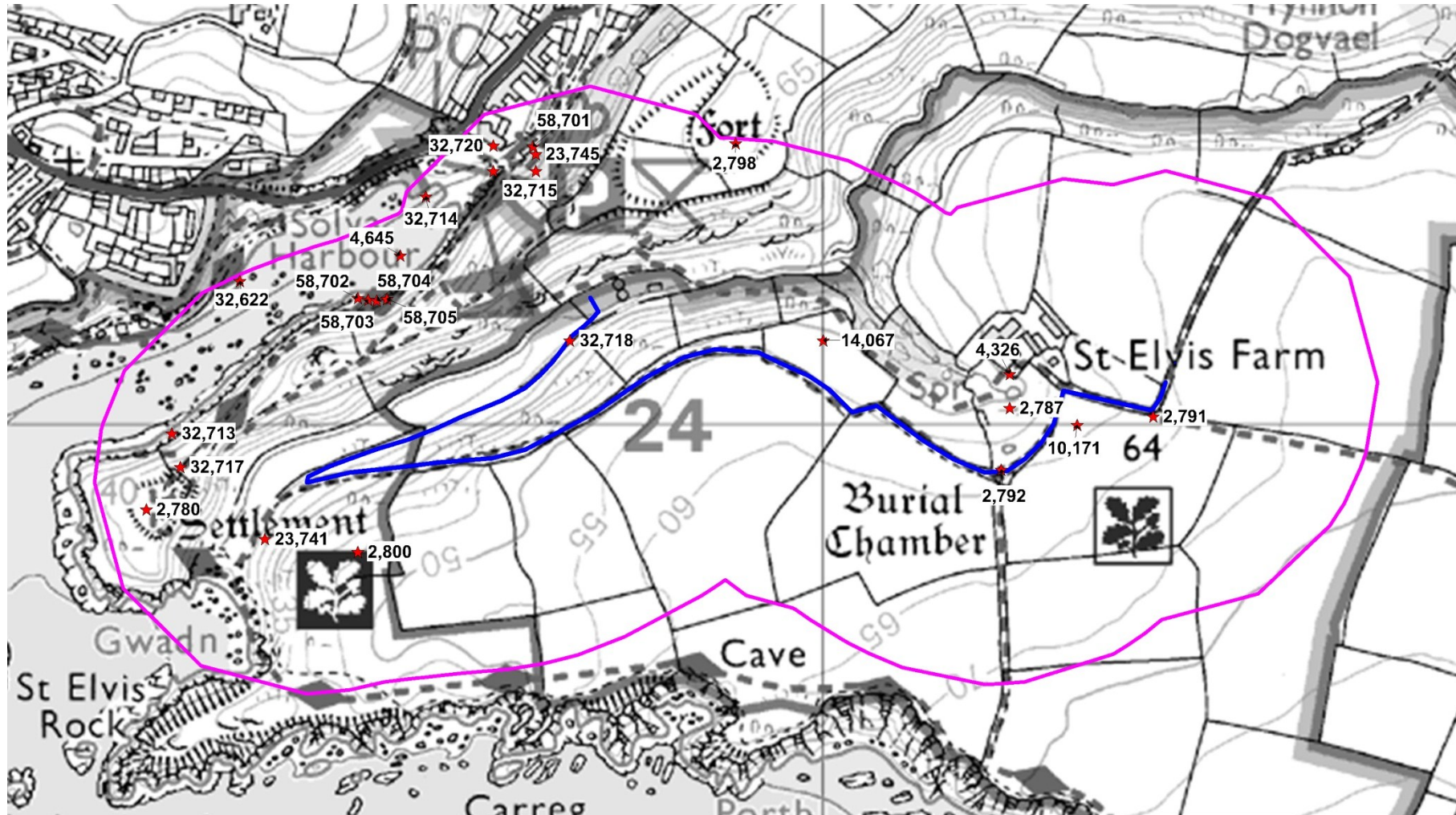
PRN	Site Name	Description	Period	Grid Reference
2780	Gribin	Gribin is a small, univallate defended enclosure occupying the end of a ridge or promontory overlooking Solva harbour in a strong naturally well-defended location at 40m above sea level. To the north and south the land falls away steeply to the sea. Scheduled Ancient Monument PE410	Iron Age	SM 8020 2390
2787	St Elvis Parish Church	Site of medieval parish church, now gone although below-ground remains may survive.	Medieval	SM 8122 2402
2791	St Elvis	Group II ECM (cross-carved pillar), of probable 7th - 8th century date, now in St Aidan's Church, Solva. It was first recorded in 1908 when it was a gatepost of the farm track to St Elvis. Moved to its present location in c.1936.	Early Medieval	SM 8139 2401
2792	St Elvis Farm	Remains of two chambers on an east-west alignment, located at the junction of two footpaths, with the monument fenced off and maintained by the National Trust. Scheduled Ancient Monument Number PE043	Neolithic	SM 81210 23947
2798	Solva	Solva is a small, quite lightly defended enclosure with concentric annexe lying on a ridge crest at 60m above sea level. It occupies a strong naturally defensive position, with very steep slopes to the north and south. Scheduled Ancient Monument PE480	Iron Age	SM 8090 2435
2800	Gribin	Field system although no longer visible as area covered in dense gorse, scrub and heather. No evidence of this system from the other side of the valley.	Roman, Iron Age	SM 8045 2385
4326	St Elvis Parish Church	Early medieval B site, ie. medium-probability early medieval origins. Site of the medieval St Elvis parish church (PRN 2787), and large semicircular enclosure, partly defined by a Neolithic chambered tomb (PRN 2792), containing cist burials.	Early Medieval	SM 8122 2406
4645	Solva Kilns	Four lime kilns on the south side of Solva Harbour (PE378). Joined together in a row. The kilns are D-shaped, each with two tap holes, approximately 4m high with pots approximately 3.5m in diameter. The pot of the eastern kiln has collapsed and is now misshapen.	Post Medieval	SM 805 242
10171	St Teilo Dedication	Record deleted as part of Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project. Now merged with record PRN 4326.	Unknown	SM 813 240
14067	Mountain Issa and Hill Furze	Common land	Post Medieval, Medieval	SM 810 241
23741	Gwadn	Circular or D-shaped lime kiln, with two tap holes. Now reduced to earthwork, approximately 3m high, and 5m in diameter, though stonework around the pot and tap holes is evident. Unrestored.	Post Medieval	SM 80340 23865
23745	Solva	The kiln is situated against a north-facing slope approx 30m east of the westernmost footbridge at Solva, across the stream from the Harbour Inn the	Post Medieval	SM 8066 2432

*Welsh Water Treatment Works Track Improvements,  
Solva, Pembrokeshire:  
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*

		drawing arches are no longer visible, but were probably on the west and east sides. Grade 2 listed		
32622	Sand Slip; Sand Quay	Now named 'Sand Slip', marked on OS map 1st ed. as 'Sand Quay'. Small levelled quay faced with an assortment of brick blocks and stone alongside slip. Evidence of modern material used to consolidate slipway and quay. Slipway approximate slope 35 degrees	Post Medieval	SM 8031 2417
32713	Solva Harbour – Landing stage	Landing stage, small concrete platform down at high water mark, access by concrete steps, railings further up the steep slope.	Modern	SM 8023 2399
32714	Solva Harbour – new slipway	New slipway at the edge of the carpark. Capped with concrete with rubble foundations.	Modern	SM 8053 2427
32715	Solva Harbour – sea wall	Sea wall extending from head of harbour round the western side of the River Solva meander to Trinity quay (32711), incorporating Sand Slip (32622). Wall comprising recent dump of huge faced stone blocks, capped with concrete in parts.	Modern	SM 8061 2430
32716	Solva Harbour – tunnel entrance	Tunnel entrance at the head of the harbour at the base of the west facing slope. Tramways connecting tunnel network. Access through to Gribin Valley to the east of Solva. Owned by Welsh Water, initiated as a result of denied access from Solva to the Solva WWTW.	Modern	SM 8066 2430
32717	Solva Harbour – commemora tive stone	Approximately 1.3m high obelisk commemorating the donation of land to the National Trust in 1957.	Modern	SM 8024 2395
32718	Gribin Peat Bog	Very long valley bottom peat bog, built up behind storm beach.	Undated	SM 8070 2410
32720	Solva lime kiln	Top truncated, blocked off, completely painted, integral feature of residential house now used as veranda.	Post Medieval	SM 8061 2433
58701	Limekiln – Lower Solva	Limekiln adjacent to Brookside. Grade II listed limekiln	Post Medieval	SM 80657 24329
58702	Limekiln – Lower Solva	Limekiln on S. side of estuary. Grade II listed limekiln. Part of Scheduled group PE378	Post Medieval	SM 80450 24150
58703	Limekiln – Lower Solva	Limekiln on S. side of estuary. Grade II listed limekiln. Part of Scheduled group PE378	Post Medieval	SM 80462 24148
58704	Limekiln – Lower Solva	Limekiln on S. side of estuary. Grade II listed limekiln. Part of Scheduled group PE378	Post Medieval	SM 80472 24147
58705	Limekiln – Lower Solva	Limekiln on S. side of estuary. Grade II listed limekiln. Part of Scheduled group PE378	Post Medieval	SM 80484 24149

**Table 2:** Dyfed Historic Environment Record entries within a 250m buffer zone of the proposed track improvements





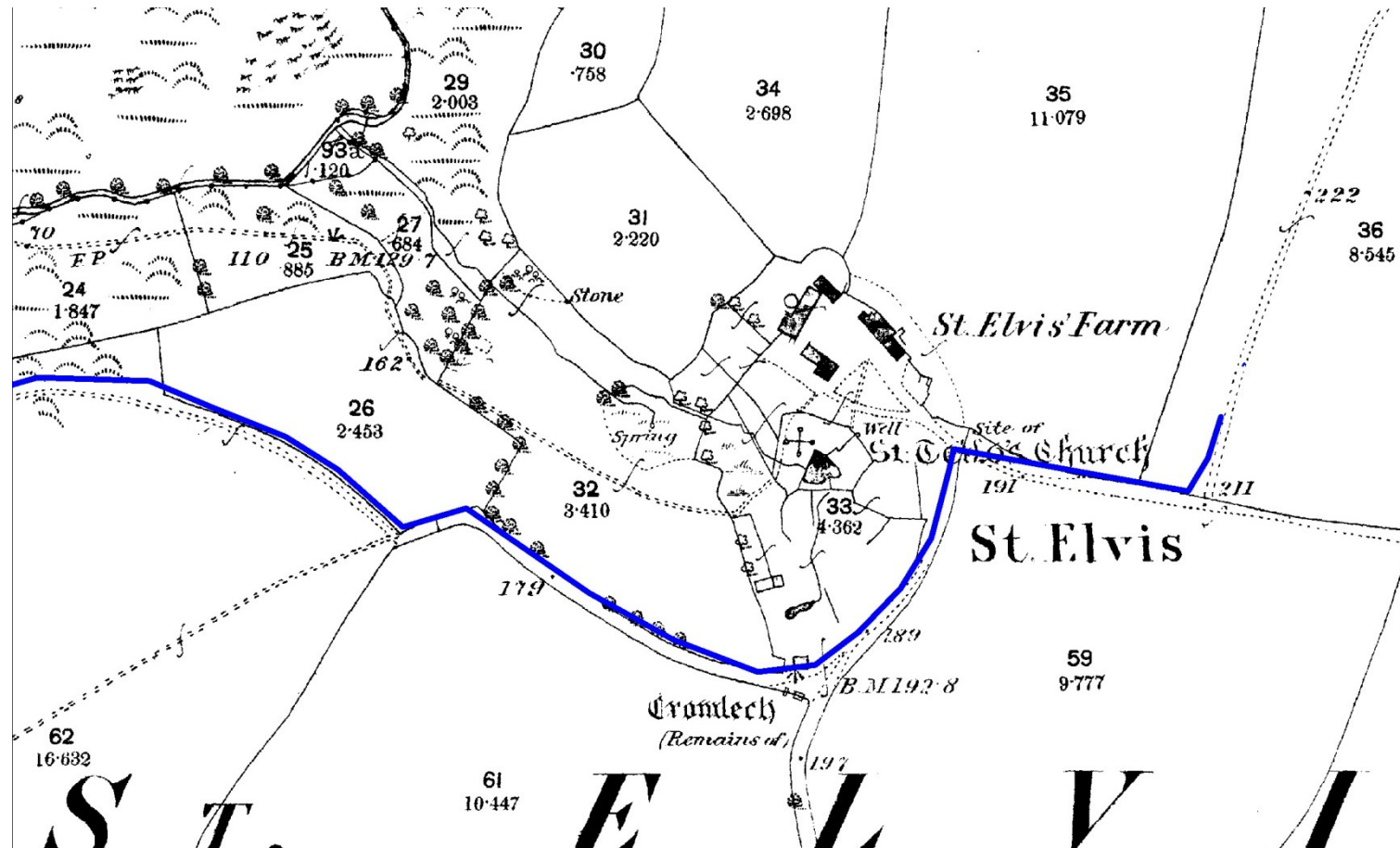
**Figure 3:** Map showing distribution of archaeological sites recorded on the Dyfed HER within a 250m buffer zone around the proposed track improvements (blue line).

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:25,000 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 100020903.

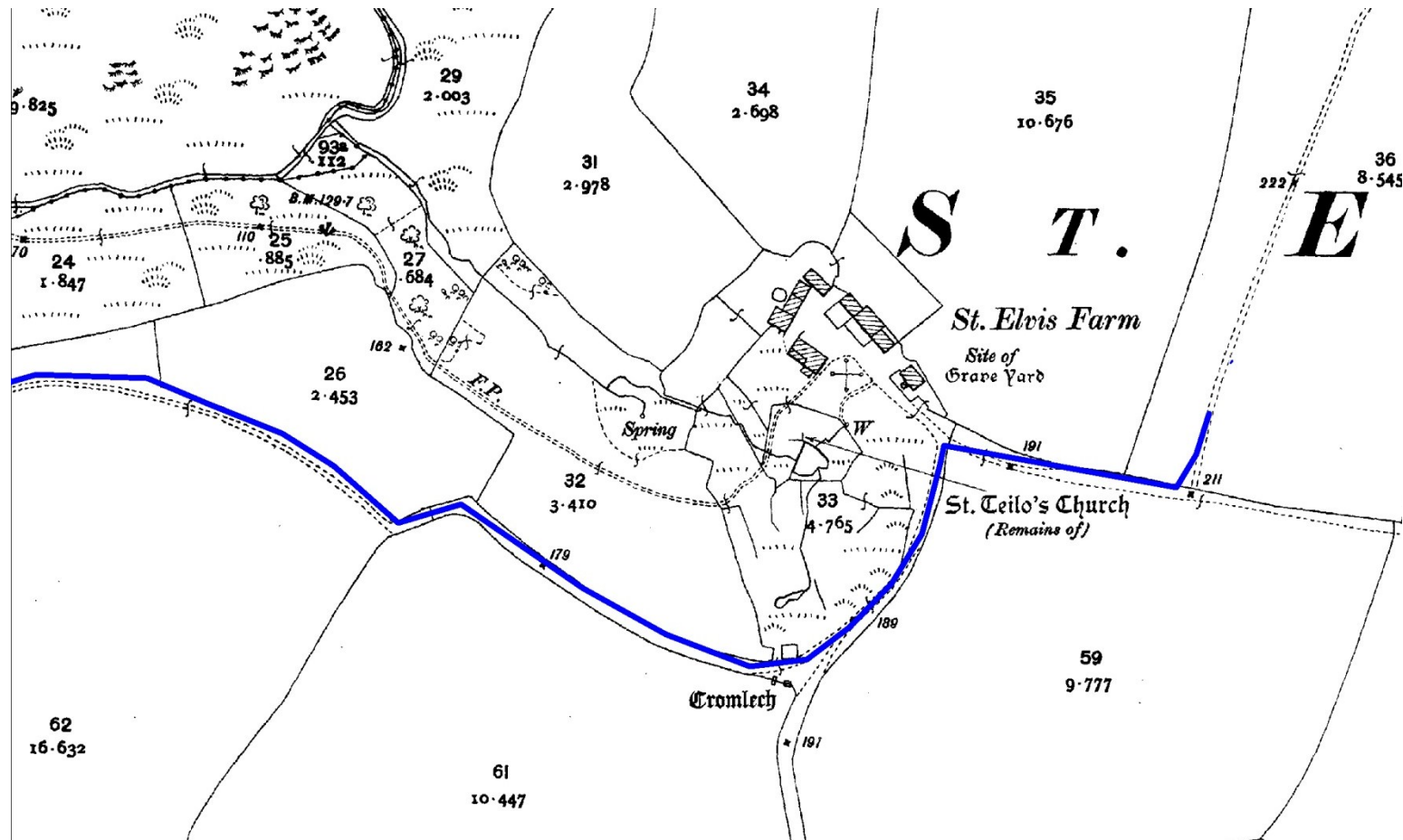


#### 4.5 Historic Maps

- 4.5.1 The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps of 1889 and 1907 (Figure 4 and 5 respectively) demonstrate that the area of the proposed track improvements has changed little over time with the existing track present as early as 1889.
- 4.5.2 Both historical maps indicate the site of St Teilo's church to the north of the ancient burial chambers. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map even suggests the presence of a graveyard. It not possible to accurately demarcate the boundaries of the church and churchyard but it appears they may be in close proximity to the proposed realignment of the track.



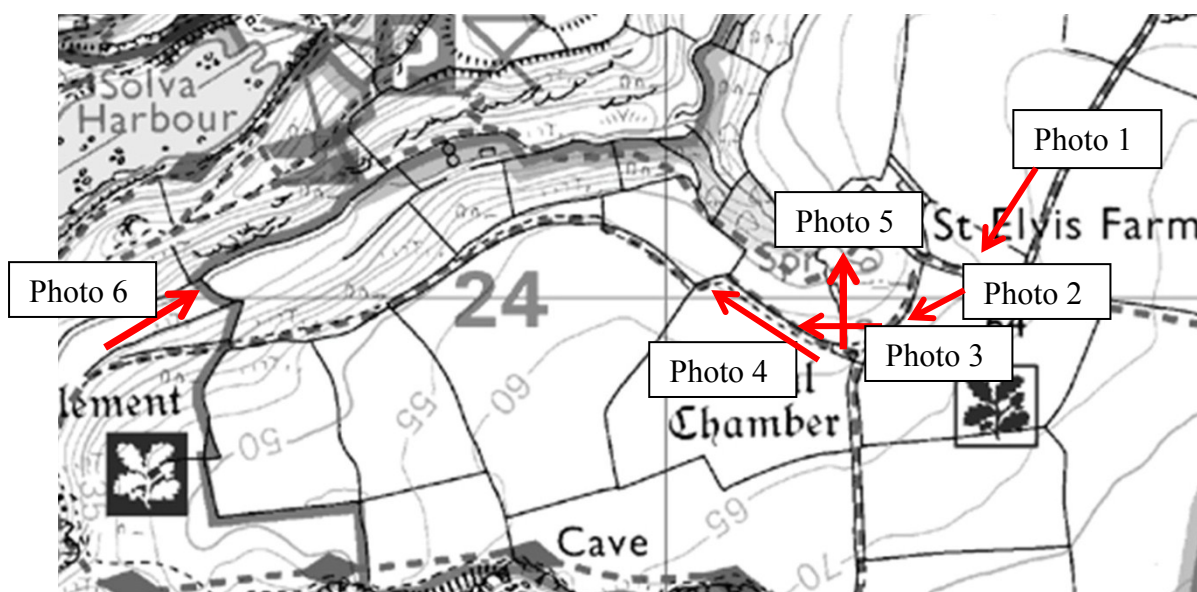
**Figure 4:** Extract of 1889 1:2500 OS map showing location of proposed track improvements (red) around St Elvis Farm.



**Figure 5:** Extract of 1904 1:2500 OS map showing location of proposed track improvements (red) around St Elvis Farm.

#### 4.6 Site Walkover Survey

- 4.6.1 During the site visit photographs were taken along the proposed route of the track way (Photos 1 – 6). Viewing these photographs may help with the following description of the site. The direction of each corresponding photograph is shown in Figure 6.
- 4.6.2 The landscape is one of enclosed fields and dispersed farms. The suggested fields for the track realignment are currently used for agricultural purposes. The landscape appears to be relatively untouched with little interference from modern disturbances or developments.
- 4.6.3 No new archaeological sites were identified during the course of the site visit.
- 4.6.4 The natural topography of the area meant it was not possible to see the Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the area from the proposed route of the track way, except for the Neolithic burial chamber which lies adjacent to the existing track.
- 4.6.5 The Neolithic chambered tomb (Photo 7) is fenced from the existing track way (Photo 3). A small semi-circular enclosure lies to the north (Photo 3 and Photo 8).
- 4.6.6 The lower part of the track way improvements will follow the existing line along the southern edge of the Gribin peat bog (Photo 6).



**Figure 6:** Map showing location of photographs.





**Photo 1:** Field to the east of Elvis Farm with existing track way adjacent



**Photo 2:** Field to the south west of St Elvis Farm through which the track improvements will pass





**Photo 3:** The existing track runs adjacent to the burial chamber within the fenced enclosure to the left and semi-circular enclosure to the right



**Photo 4:** Field to the west of the burial chamber





**Photo 5:** View from the burial chamber to St Elvis Farm, buried remains of St Elvis Church may survive below ground in this area



**Photo 6:** The Gribin peat bog (PRN 37718) at the lower of the existing track way





**Photo 7:** Neolithic burial chamber (PRN PE043). The existing track way lies directly to the south



**Photo 8:** Semi-circular enclosure now covered in vegetation

## **5. IMPACT OF PROPOSED TRACK IMPROVEMENTS ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

### **5.1 Impacts of proposals**

- 5.1.1 There will be no physical impacts on any known archaeological site recorded on the HER other than the fact the track way crosses through the scheduled area of the chambered tombs.
- 5.1.2 The track improvements will follow the existing track route, from St Elvis farm. The existing track will have already caused some disturbance to remains
- 5.1.3 Where the existing track will be upgraded, any potential impacts to underlying archaeological remains are likely to be lessened due to previous disturbance from the construction, improvements and use of the existing track. Where works wider or deeper than the existing track and its make-up are proposed, below ground disturbance may be needed in previously undisturbed ground.

### **5.2 Buried Archaeological Potential**

- 5.2.1 The greatest potential for archaeological remains exists in the area around St Elvis farm. Here there is the potential for Neolithic remains associated with the chambered tombs.
- 5.2.2 In addition to this there are the suspected buried remains of St Teilo's Church and graveyard located somewhere to the south of St Elvis Farm, which could potentially lie or extend into the route of the track way improvements.
- 5.2.3 Figure 6 illustrates the areas where there is considered to be an enhanced potential for archaeology to exist.



**Figure 7:** Areas of enhanced potential for buried archaeology.  
Red = High potential. Blue = Medium potential.



### **5.3 Palaeo-environmental Potential**

- 5.3.1 The hilltop and hill side location of the majority of the proposed track improvements are unlikely to have any potential to reveal substantial deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental analysis.
- 5.3.2 Alterations to the existing track way along the valley floor on the southern side of the Gribin peat bog could disturb palaeo-environmental remains. This potential is considered low as the existing trackway is unlikely to have been constructed directly upon any part of the peat bog, or alternatively if it had been, the ground would have been substantially altered for the formation of the track and any such remains damaged or removed.

### **5.4 Visual Impacts**

- 5.4.1 As the proposed improvements will make use of the existing track the overall visual impact is considered negligible. The visual setting of the ancient burial chamber has already been significantly compromised by the existing track way (Photo 4).
- 5.4.2 It is not possible to see the other scheduled ancient monuments or any of the grade II listed lime kilns from the route of the proposed track improvements.
- 5.4.3 Visual impacts to non-designated archaeological sites is considered negligible as the track will use the existing route.

### **5.5 Other Constraints**

- 5.5.1 The site does not lie in an area of ancient woodland or within farmland within the Glastir scheme.

### **5.6 Summary of Impacts**

- 5.6.1 The scale of any potential to disturb buried archaeology along much of the route has been significantly reduced by making use of the existing track. However the areas around St Elvis Farm and the burial chambers do still have a high or medium potential for archaeological remains to survive in areas where previous disturbance has not occurred. These may be where the track improvements are wider or deeper than the existing track way. Potential archaeology could include evidence of prehistoric activity; medieval buildings associated with St Elvis's Church and possibly even inhumations within the burial ground.
- 5.6.2 The decision for any further programme of archaeological works lies with the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority.

## 6. RESOURCES

### Published

Cadw 1998. Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales.

### Database

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

### Cartographic

Ordnance Survey      1880    *1:2500 1<sup>st</sup> edition Pembrokeshire*

Ordnance Survey      1906    *1:2500 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Pembrokeshire*

**Appendix 1 – Summary descriptions of Scheduled Ancient Monuments within a 500m buffer zone around the proposed track improvements**

SAM Ref	NGR	Site Name	Summary	Period
PE410	SM80202390	Promontory Fort S of Solva Harbour	<p>A small, univallate defended enclosure occupying the end of a ridge or promontory overlooking Solva harbour in a strong naturally well-defended location at 40m above sea level. To the north and south the land falls away steeply to the sea; to the southwest the ridge continues 50m before terminating in coastal cliffs; to the northeast the ridge-top narrows to an arête rising gently in elevation.</p> <p>The polygonal enclosure measures approximately 75m SW - NE and 40m SE - NW and is defined by a spread, stony bank, probably the remains of a wall. On the north and south sides this bank runs along the crest of the steep slope and rises to a maximum of 0.5m above the fort's interior. There is no trace of a ditch here. On the northeast side, where the fort can be approached along the arête, the site is defended by a rock-cut ditch c. 4m wide and 1.5m deep with a stony bank up to 1m high and 6m wide. The southwest corner of the fort is defended by a c. 15 length of grass covered bank up to 2m high and 6m wide with an external ditch 5m wide and 0.5m deep. However, only a low stony bank defends the remainder of the western side. The entrance is on the northeast corner (and is used by the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, which crosses the interior and the fort and the defences on the south side). Here the bank on the north side of the enclosure runs down the slope for 10m - 15m forming an overlapping entrance, or entrance passage-way.</p> <p>The Ordnance Survey recorded two circular house platforms on the southwest side of the enclosure and at least one rectangular platform towards the northwest corner when the site was under pasture. In 2006, much of the interior and defences, particularly on the south and east sides, were under dense blackthorn scrub and the platforms recorded by the OS were not visible.</p>	Iron Age
PE043	SM8121023947	Burial Chamber	<p>Remains of two chambers on an east-west alignment, located at the junction of two footpaths, with the monument fenced off and maintained by the National Trust.</p> <p>The description held on the National Monuments Record COFLEIN website</p>	Neolithic

			<p>states:</p> <p>The burial chambers at St Elvis Farm consist of two purported capstones, 4.0m by 2.0m and 2.2m by 2.0m, set astride a fieldbank, each rest on the ground at one end and are supported by an erect stone at the other. Other stones may have been structural components. Early accounts refer to a cratered mound and describe the stones as 'a heap'. Once a focus for Neolithic rituals and a place of great sanctity for the communities who laboured to move the large stones into place, the ruinous burial chambers at St Elvis are now somewhat divorced from their original surroundings by well-worn farm tracks and a modern protective fence. Despite having been blasted by the tenant farmer in 1890, who then removed two stones from the eastern chamber, the site is well preserved and appears to have once been two different tombs, each surmounted by a massive capstone (RCAHMW, 94-cs-0130).</p> <p>Extract from: Driver, T. 2007. Pembrokeshire, Historic Landscapes from the Air, RCAHMW, page 108, Figure 162.</p>	
PE480	SM80902435	Enclosure 200m SE of Solva Village	<p>Solva is a small, quite lightly defended enclosure with concentric annexe lying on a ridge crest at 60m above sea level. It occupies a strong naturally defensive position, with very steep slopes to the north and south. To the southwest the ridge-top falls away slightly and narrows to an arête. The most easily approachable side is the northeast where the flat ridge-top widens out into the coastal plateau. The main enclosure is sub-rectangular in shape approximately 100m SW - NE and 85m SE - NW internally. The defences are best preserved beneath a hedge-bank on the southwest side where a single earth bank (stonework here seems to be associated with the hedge-bank rather than the defences) rises to over 2m externally, with no trace of a ditch. On the north and south sides the bank survives as a scarp, up to 1.5m - 1m high externally at the western ends, but fading to nothing to the east. The northeast end is defended by a spread bank up to 6m wide and 0.5m high, but this fades to nothing towards the southeast corner of the enclosure. There is a trace of a ditch towards the northeast corner, and here a simple gap marks the entrance. The defence of the outer enclosure or annexe is best preserved to the southwest of the main or inner enclosure. Here a simple spread bank 1m high externally lies 100m from the inner enclosure, cutting off the approach along the arête. This bank curves round to the northeast and southeast where it fades into a scarp running along the sharp breaks of slope that define the ridge-top.</p>	Iron Age

			Effectively this bank forms a concentric outer enclosure, but not a complete circuit as the easily approachable northeast side is left undefended by it. In 2006, the site was under improved pasture.	
PE378	SM8065724329	Lime Kilns	<p>Group of grade II listed limekilns.</p> <p>The description held on the National Monuments Record COFLEIN website states:</p> <p>A bank of four circular lime kilns, linked by straight lengths of retaining wall, c.45m overall extent, fronting a terrace above the S foreshore of Sola harbour. Repaired 1996 following storm damage.</p> <p>Lime became commonly used to improve agricultural land after c.1600, but it was not until the early nineteenth century that most of the permanent, stone-built limekilns around the Welsh coast were constructed. Far safer than transporting burnt, unslaked lime by sea, rock and coal were imported directly to coastal limekilns to be burnt, so that the finished product could be transported inland to where it was needed. The impressive set of four limekilns forming a single masonry structure on the east side of Solva harbour was once joined by six others nearby.</p>	Post Medieval

# **WELSH WATER TREATMENT WORKS TRACK IMPROVEMENTS, SOLVA, PEMBROKESHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER. 2014/30  
RHIF YR DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NUMBER 107362**

**Medi 2014  
September 2014**

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

Swydd / Position: **Archaeologist**

Llofnod / Signature .....



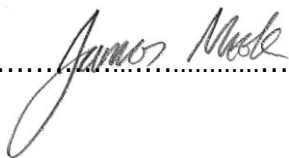
.. Dyddiad / Date 02/09/14

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

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

Swydd / Position: Head of DAT Archaeological Services

Llofnod / Signature .....



Dyddiad / Date 02/09/14

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

