

# HEOL Y PLAS, LLANNON, CARMARTHENSHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL



Prepared by  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: Asbri Planning Ltd



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# HEOL Y PLAS, LLANNON, CARMARTHENSHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL

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## **HEOL Y PLAS, LLANNON, CARMARTHENSHERE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL**

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## **HEOL Y PLAS, LLANNON, CARMARTHENSHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL**

### **SUMMARY**

*A Historic Environment Appraisal of land off Heol y Plas, Llannon, Carmarthenshire (centred on SN 54125 08890) was undertaken by DAT Archaeological Services on behalf of Asbri Planning Ltd, ahead of a planning application for development of the plot.*

*This document contains a summary of the archaeological resource and an appraisal of the potential impacts upon the resource by the proposed development. This document will be used by planners to make an informed decision on the development proposals at Heol y Plas with regards to archaeology and the historic environment.*

*The potential development site covers an area of around 1.95ha. It is proposed that the development will include some 45 units, a mix of both bungalows and houses with associated access and infrastructure works. Although there are no known archaeological sites within the development site, there are twenty four known archaeological or historical sites within a 1km buffer zone around the area and eleven Listed Buildings with 2km. One of the Listed Buildings has Grade II\* status and the rest have Grade II status. To the south the site is bounded by a modern housing estate and to the east a conifer belt restricts the view. To the north and east the site looks over farmland.*

*From an archaeological and historic environment perspective there could potentially be impacts on buried, as yet undiscovered archaeology, due to construction activities that have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains if present at the site.*

*The archaeological potential for hitherto unknown archaeological sites to be present within the proposed development area is considered to be low. There is a possibility that a field name on the tithe map of 1841 referred to a cottage within or near the proposed site boundary. This gives a low potential for buried remains of medieval and Post-Medieval date. The potential for features and finds originating from any time period before the medieval cannot be discounted, but is considered to be very low based on the dearth of other sites of these periods in the area.*

*The proposed development is considered unlikely to impact upon the settings of any designated heritage sites within the vicinity.*

*The exact nature of any archaeological mitigation required at the site will need to be discussed with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority, Development Management - Dyfed Archaeological Trust. It is recommended that the site area is subjected to a non-intrusive geophysical survey in order to better ascertain the potential archaeological of the 1.95ha site area.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Proposals and Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Asbri Planning Ltd to prepare a Historic Environment Appraisal for land off Heol y Plas, Llannon, Carmarthenshire (centred on SN 54125 08890; Figures 1 and 2). The appraisal was requested prior to pre-planning consultation in order to ascertain what archaeological works could potentially be required for the development site.
- 1.1.2 This Historic Environment Appraisal has collated information on the known and potential archaeology of the site area, and also determined the potential effects of the development proposals on the historic environment. The Development Management section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust (archaeological advisors to the local planning authority) confirmed that a Historic Environment Appraisal was appropriate as a first stage of archaeological works, with the information enabling a decision to be made regarding archaeology and the historic environment, on any forthcoming planning application for the site.
- 1.1.3 The potential development site covers an area of around 1.95ha. It is proposed that the development will include some 45 units, a mix of both bungalows and houses with associated access and infrastructure works (Figure 3).
- 1.1.4 No previous archaeological work is known to have taken place at the site itself. Only one desk top study and two watching briefs are known to have previously taken place in Llannon. The general area has been subjected to few archaeological investigations.

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

- 1.2.1 The appraisal is presented as a fulfilment of a Specification of Archaeological Works (Appendix 1) working to a generic brief provided by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority (Development Management - Dyfed Archaeological Trust). This appraisal 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 to outline a possible programme of further works to mitigate those impacts. The appraisal 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, the proposed development.
- 1.2.3 The proposed development lies within the planning jurisdiction of Carmarthenshire County Council.
- 1.2.4 The archaeological appraisal was limited to the resources held in the regional HER, a site visit and on-line resources.
- 1.2.5 This report complies with the relevant parts of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (2014). Dyfed Archaeological Trust is a CIfA Registered Organisation and this investigation has been carried out in accordance with the CIfA Code of Conduct (2014).

### 1.3 Abbreviations

- 1.3.1 All sites recorded on the regional 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 (RCAHMS) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Monument (SM). 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. North is always towards the top of the page unless otherwise indicated.

### 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.

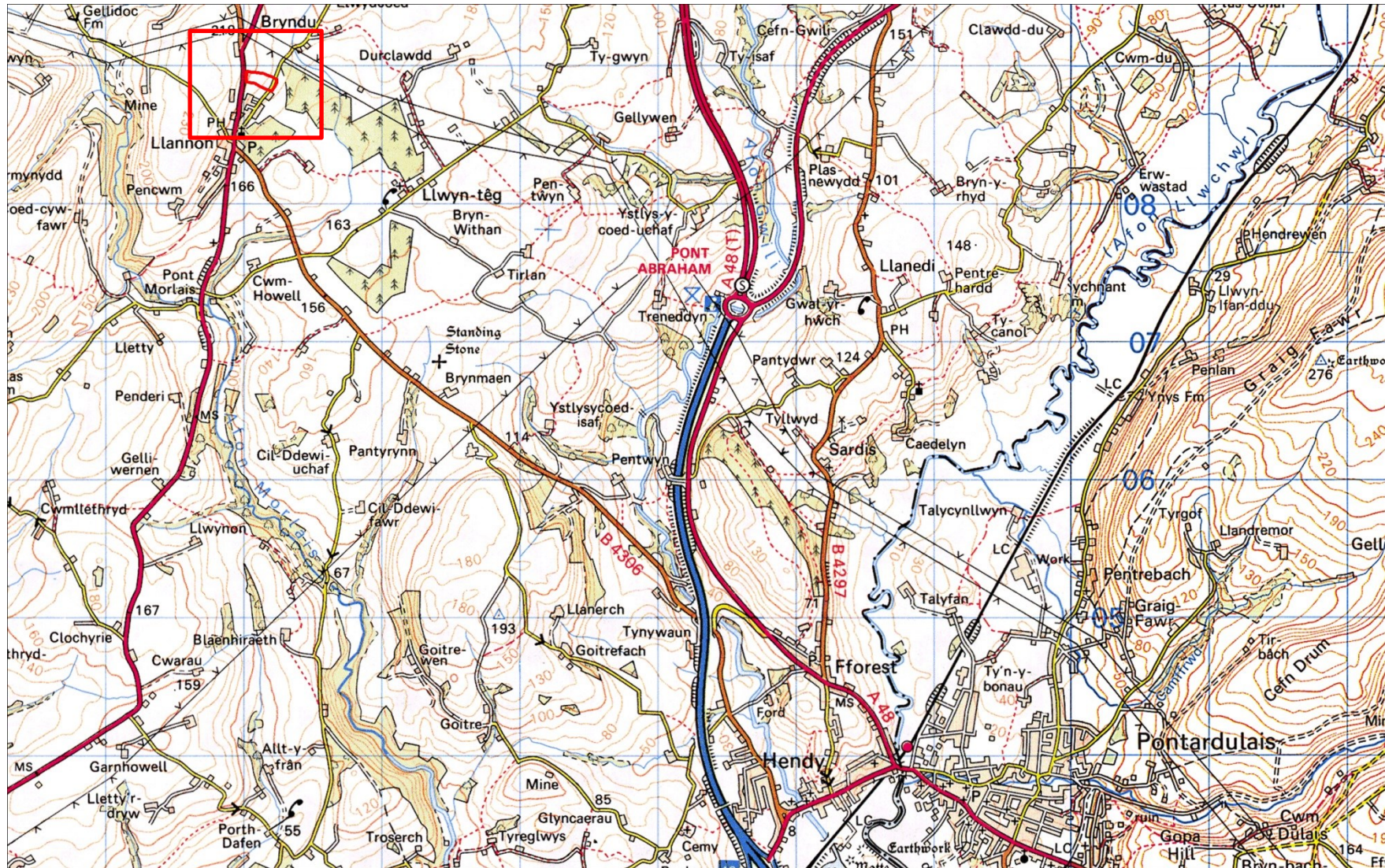
Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 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, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

- 2.1 The proposed development is situated at land off Heol y Plas, Llannon, Carmarthenshire (roughly centred on SN 54108 08878; Figures 1 and 2). This area is about 7km northwest of Pontarddulais and about 7km north-northeast of Llanelli. Llannon is a growing village with good access to the M4 motorway.
- 2.2 The village has a primary school and two pubs but lacks any other amenities such as a shop. Two new small housing estates have been constructed since 1999. The local school recently underwent a large extension programme to cope with the increased demand for schooling from the growing population.
- 2.3 The site and its environs occupy a gentle slope on the east-facing side of a hill on the northern edge of the village. The lowest point on the site is at c.185m above OD and the highest at c.208m above OD.
- 2.4 The development site lies on the northern side of a modern housing development leading from Clos Rebecca. The proposed development area is currently used as an agricultural field.
- 2.5 The underlying solid geology of the site is complex: Green-grey and blue-grey, feldspathic, micaceous lithic arenites ("Pennant sandstone") with thin mudstone/siltstone and seatearth interbeds and mainly thin coals. It is named the 'Llyfni Member' and dates to the Bolsovian substage. The bedrock is overlain by Till (Diamicton) of Devensian Age - superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago by glacier deposition.



**Figure 1:** Map showing the location of land off Heol y Plas, Llannon, Carmarthenshire (within the red outline, top left of image)

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**Figure 2:** Plan of the proposed development site outline at land off Heol y Plas, Llannon, supplied by client



**Figure 3:** Plan of the current development proposals at land off Heol y Plas, Llannon, supplied by client

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 This Historic Environment Appraisal is written to a brief provided by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority (the Development Management - Dyfed Archaeological Trust) as a fulfilment of a Specification of Archaeological Works (Appendix 1).

#### ***Desk Top Study***

- 3.2 Computer-based and other resources within the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER) were consulted in the preparation of this document. Sufficient information was consulted to inform comment on the goals of the appraisal. GIS layers were used to assess and illustrate what the likely effects of the proposals upon the historic environment might be. Relevant information was obtained from a number of sources, and comprised a number of elements, including:
- Dyfed Archaeological Trust HER data and other relevant information (including a review of online information held on the RCAHMW Coflein site);
  - Identification of any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas or Historic Landscape Areas within or in the vicinity of the site area from information held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Cadw and NRW;
  - Readily available bibliographic, cartographic and photographic information held at the Trust;
  - Map regression exercise;
  - Site visit and walkover survey;
  - Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area and estimation of depths and significance of the archaeological remains (where possible); and
  - Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains (or potential remains) or setting issues and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.
- 3.3 Designated historic environment assets (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Landscape Characterisation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens) were identified within 2km of the proposed development site. The potential visual effect of the proposed development on the settings of the designated sites within this area was then evaluated.
- 3.4 Non-designated archaeological and historic sites were identified within 1km of the proposed development site. This area was considered sufficient to enable an assessment of the archaeological potential of the site area to be made.

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

- 3.5 A site visit was undertaken on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2017. The visit comprised a walkover of the proposed development site and the surrounding area and also incorporated looking at the wider area for views looking back to the proposed development location from designated and other sites. Photographs were taken and field observations recorded in note form.

## **4 HISTORICAL, LANDSCAPE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **4.1 Archaeological and Historic Background**

- 4.1.1 Palaeolithic archaeology is not found *in situ* in this part of Carmarthenshire because the last ice-sheets eroded away all man-made remains in their path. Evidence for Mesolithic activity is absent around Llannon, but there are coastal sites in west Carmarthenshire and on the Gower. There is also a relative dearth of Neolithic sites in this area, and the sites that are present, long barrows, are not typical of those found in most of the rest of Wales.
- 4.1.2 Evidence for occupation in the Bronze Age is prolific, in line with the distribution shown in the county as a whole. Sites are mainly funerary mounds and standing stones, and there is a particularly high density of standing stones 2km southeast of Llannon. Remains of known Iron Age date are few and far between in this area, which again is not typical of the county or of Wales as a whole.
- 4.1.3 It has been postulated that a Roman Road running between Pontarddulais and Carmarthen ran through Llannon, but as yet there is no evidence to support this. There are no findspots of Roman artefacts within 8km and no confirmed Roman sites within 13km (the nearest is a stretch of Roman road heading south from Carmarthen).
- 4.1.4 Evidence for early-medieval settlement is almost as sparse, though it is more apparent in many other parts of the county. Nearby Carnawllon Fawr, 5km to the west, holds the distinction of being the only place to bear the name of the former commote of Carnawllon, in which Llannon is located (Jones 1980); a commote being a geo-political region of early-medieval Wales. The name can be traced back as far as c.1100 where it is recorded as *Cornoguatlaun* in the *Vitae Sancti Cadoci*. The boundaries of the commote were recorded sometime between 1609 and 1613 as:

*.....begineth at the entrance of a river called Dulais into another called Lougher, and so boundeth from that place upon the parishes of Penbrey and Llangendeirne as far as the bridge called Ponty-Berran, and so forwards by the side of the river called Gwendraeth Fawr to Blaenhirwen, and so from a place called Llidiad Hirwen all along Mynydd Mawr as far as Llech-yffin, and there hence to a place called Cwm-y-Rhosdu, and so to a river called Cwm Gwili, meeting with a brook called Fferrus, leading directly to the river called Lougher, and so the said river Lougher bounds' till it meets the river called Dulais aforesaid.*

It is possible that Carnawllon Fawr retained the name of the commote due to it once being the location of its caput (principal centre of a commote). It is also known that a castle was once located within 'Carnwyllion' commote, destroyed by Rhys Ieunc in 1215. It is not known where this castle was located and potentially it lies at Carnawllon Fawr, perhaps in the same place as an Iron Age defended enclosure at the site.

- 4.1.5 Little has been recorded about the origins or history of Llannon. Lewis, writing in 1844 after visiting the village wrote that:

*LLANNON (LLAN-NON), a parish, .....containing 1769 inhabitants. It extends six miles in length from north to south, and 4 1/2 in breadth from east to west; and comprises by admeasurement, made in the year 1807, 11,466 a. 1 r. 13 p., of which 2507 are in the hamlet of Blaenau, 3011 in that of Glynn, 3130 in that of Goytre, and 2000 in that of Ismorlais . . . The lands, with the exception of a comparatively small portion, consisting of part of the Great Mountain, the Little Mountain, and Mynydd Sylvan, are mostly inclosed, and in a good state of cultivation; the soil is chiefly a*

*clayey loam, and the principal produce, corn, hay, and butter, for the latter of which it is much celebrated; coal mines are in operation, and the smelting of iron-ore by the use of anthracite coal has lately been commenced. . . There is here no manor, the parish being situated within the lordship of Kidwelly. The great turnpike-road from Swansea to Carmarthen intersects the parish . . . the tram-road from the works in the Great Mountain is continued through the parish to the port of Llanelly. . . The church, dedicated to St. Non, was rebuilt in 1841 in the early English style . . . A National school-house was erected in 1841; and there are four Sunday schools (Lewis 1849).*

- 4.1.6 Llannon has deep historical links with the Rebecca Riots that took place between 1839 and 1843 in south and mid Wales on account of the charges levied at toll gates. There is even rumoured to be a "secret passage" under the main road running through the village, which was said to have been used by Oliver Cromwell and possibly the Rebecca Rioters as an escape route (Davies and Jenkins 2008).

## **4.2 The Historic Landscape**

- 4.2.1 The proposed development site does not lie within or near to any Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs) recorded in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw 1998).
- 4.2.7 No registered park or garden lies within 2km of the proposed development site.
- 4.2.8 The historic landscape of Llanon has previously been described by Murphy (2006):

*The evolution of the historic landscape of southeast Carmarthenshire has not been studied, and, therefore, how and when the current field systems and settlement pattern came in to being is unknown. Historic Documents such as a survey of the Duchy of Lancaster lands in 1609-1613 (Rees 1953), clearly demonstrate that the land was settled and that there was much arable land, presumably arranged into some form of unenclosed moor, or mountain as it was then termed. Mountain was a prominent feature of the landscape until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when most of it was enclosed by Act of Parliament. Close to Llannon there is no evidence for large tracts of moor.*

*Llannon Church was present in the medieval period; the dedication to St Non suggests an early medieval foundation. The form of the settlement pattern around the church in the medieval period is unknown, but given the constraints of the site it could not have been large. Indeed, there may have been no houses at all close to the church.*

### **4.3 Known Archaeological Remains**

#### ***Scheduled Monuments***

- 4.3.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within 2km of the boundary of the proposed development site. There are no Scheduled Monuments further afield whose setting would be affected by the current development proposals.

#### ***Listed Buildings***

- 4.3.2 Table 2 and Figure 4 show the one Grade II\* and ten Grade II Listed Buildings within 2km of the proposed site boundary. There are no Grade I Listed Buildings within 2km. The Grade II\* building is the village church, of medieval origin. All of the Grade II buildings are of Post-Medieval date. Only four of the buildings are likely to be intervisible with the proposed development site, all of which have grade II status. The first is the milestone at Bryn Du, 0.56km north of the planned site, which might well be out of sight behind vegetation. The other three are buildings at Llwyd Coed Fawr Farm, which lies 1.38km to the northeast.
- 4.3.3 None of these designated sites lie within the proposed development boundary.

#### ***Non-designated sites***

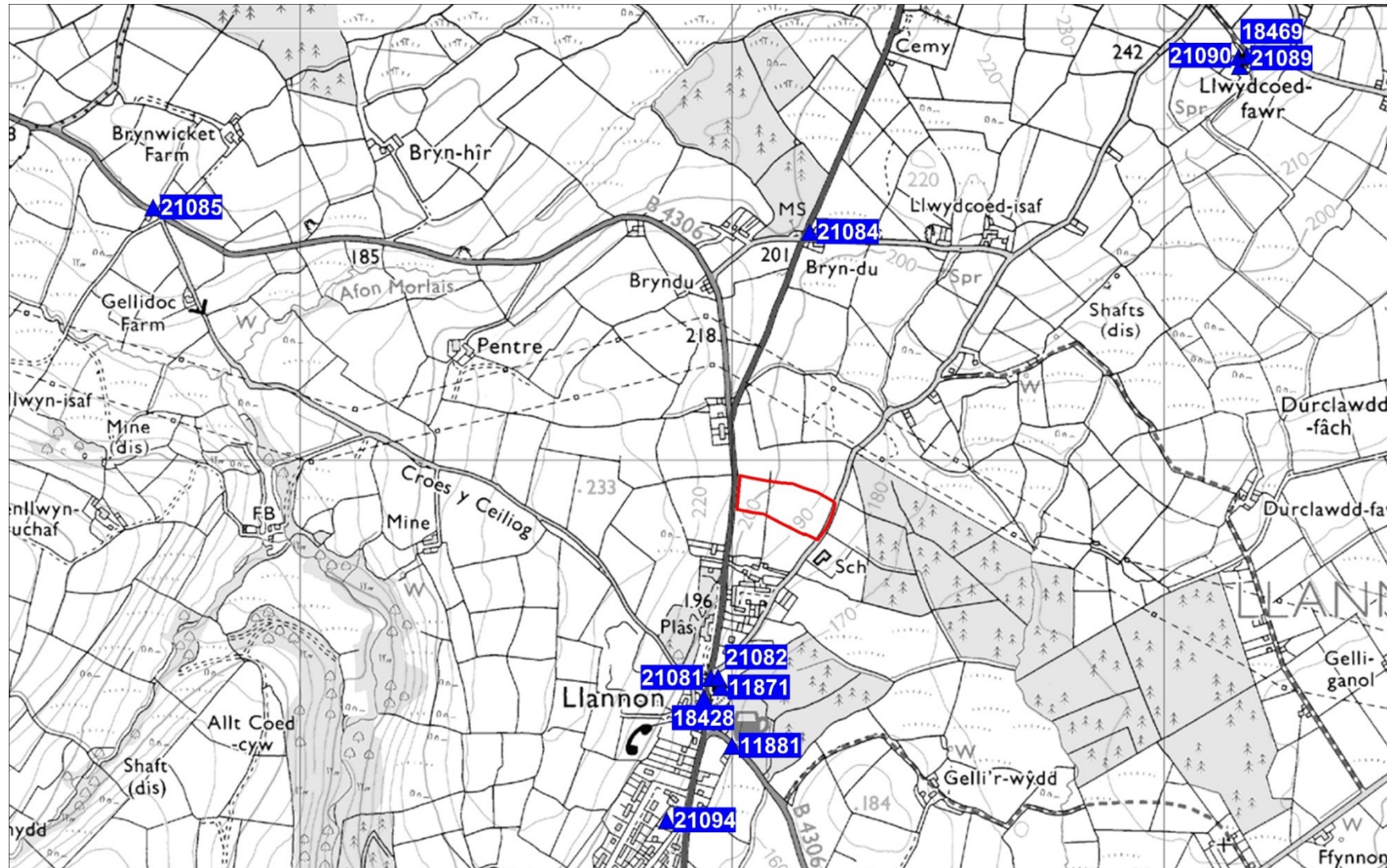
- 4.3.4 This section considers historic assets that are recorded in the Regional HER and the NMR within a 1km radius of the proposed development site. The Regional HER records a total of twenty four sites of archaeological interest, five of which are also recorded in the NMR (Table 3 and Figure 5). These sites include seven of the Listed Buildings already described, including the village church that is the only Grade II\* building.
- 4.3.5 The earliest record in Table 5 is of Neolithic date: PRN 8972, a long barrow, which is a type of communal burial monument, such monuments are typically found in south-central England and are uncommon for Wales (Savoury 1980). It is situated 0.88km north-northwest of the proposed development site, on the outskirts of the village.
- 4.3.6 No other sites of prehistoric date are present within the study area. There are no records of known sites of Roman or Early Medieval date. Two sites date from the medieval era, one of which is the Grade II\* listed village church (PRN 664). The other medieval site is a well dedicated to St Non, almost 1km south-southwest of the planned development, on the edge of the southwest side of Llannon.
- 4.3.6 The remainder of the records are of Post-Medieval date and comprise components of the village; buildings, bridges, milestones, fountains, farms and a field system.
- 4.3.7 None of these non-designated sites lie within the boundary of the proposed development.

### **4.4 Other archaeological finds**

- 4.4.1 No finds have been reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Llannon or the area around it.

LB No.	PRN	Grade	Name	Summary	NGR
11871	664	II*	Church of St Non	Medieval chapelry to Llanelli parish, later a parish church. The church was a possession of the bishops of St Davids. It occupies a regular, rectangular/polygonal churchyard which is post-medieval in its present form. The church is dedicated to the 'Celtic' St Non.	SN5397408475
11881	60834	II	Drinking Fountain	Sandstone structure in Gothic style, erected in memory of Rees Goring Thomas of Plas Llannon, d.1887.	SN5400008340
18428	24248; 61028	II	The Old School	Established by Rees Goring Thomas, the squire of Llannon, in 1841. Two rooms 4.3m by 6.1m in area and 4.3m high, built on a detached part of the churchyard, which is still consecrated ground. Later rebuilt in two phases dated 1872 and 1882. Now occupied as two separate dwellings.	SN5393508451
18469	24357	II	Llwyd Coed Fawr Farmhouse	The house is the centrepiece of an informally planned three-sided farmyard. The property was at first part of the Stepney estate, and is mentioned in a deed of 1621. Empty after 1945.	SN5517409936
21081	61101	II	Railings and Gates of St Non's Church	Low wall in local stone, randomly coursed, extending along the west edge of the churchyard and returning about 30m along the north side. Iron gates in two positions between stone piers.	SN5395208497
21082	61102	II	Gravestone with Railings within St Non's Churchyard	The headstone and grave railings of the tomb of C G Griffiths (solicitor), d.1850, and his wife Eliza d.1864; probably erected at the latter date.	SN5396808498
21084	61104	II	Milestone at Bryn Du	Late C18 milestone of limestone. The road Llandeilo-Llannon road was part of the Three Commotts Turnpike Trust system established in the late C18.	SN5418009530
21085	61105	II	Milestone near Brynwicket Farm	Late C18 milestone of limestone. The road through Pontyberem to Llannon was part of the Kidwelly Turnpike Trust system re-established in the late C18 under its Renewal Act of 1779.	SN5266009587
21089	61109	II	Lofted stable range at Llwyd Coed Fawr Farm	Late C18 or early C19 farm-building, probably comprising stable with hayloft over, added at the front of Llwyd Coed Fawr farmhouse, flanking the farmyard.	SN5517609915
21090	61110	II	Barn at Llwyd Coed Fawr Farm	Small barn probably constructed soon after the late-C18 enlargement of Llwyd Coed Fawr farmhouse. Remains of a very substantial chimney in the east gable of the building suggest it was used as a smithy at one period, and it is now a farm workshop.	SN5519209939
21094	61114	II	The Old Vicarage	Parsonage in Gothic style built of lightly rock-faced local masonry in irregular coursing, with a slate roof.	SN5384908167

**Table 2:** Grade II\* and II Listed Buildings within 2km of the boundary of the proposed development site (Figure 4)

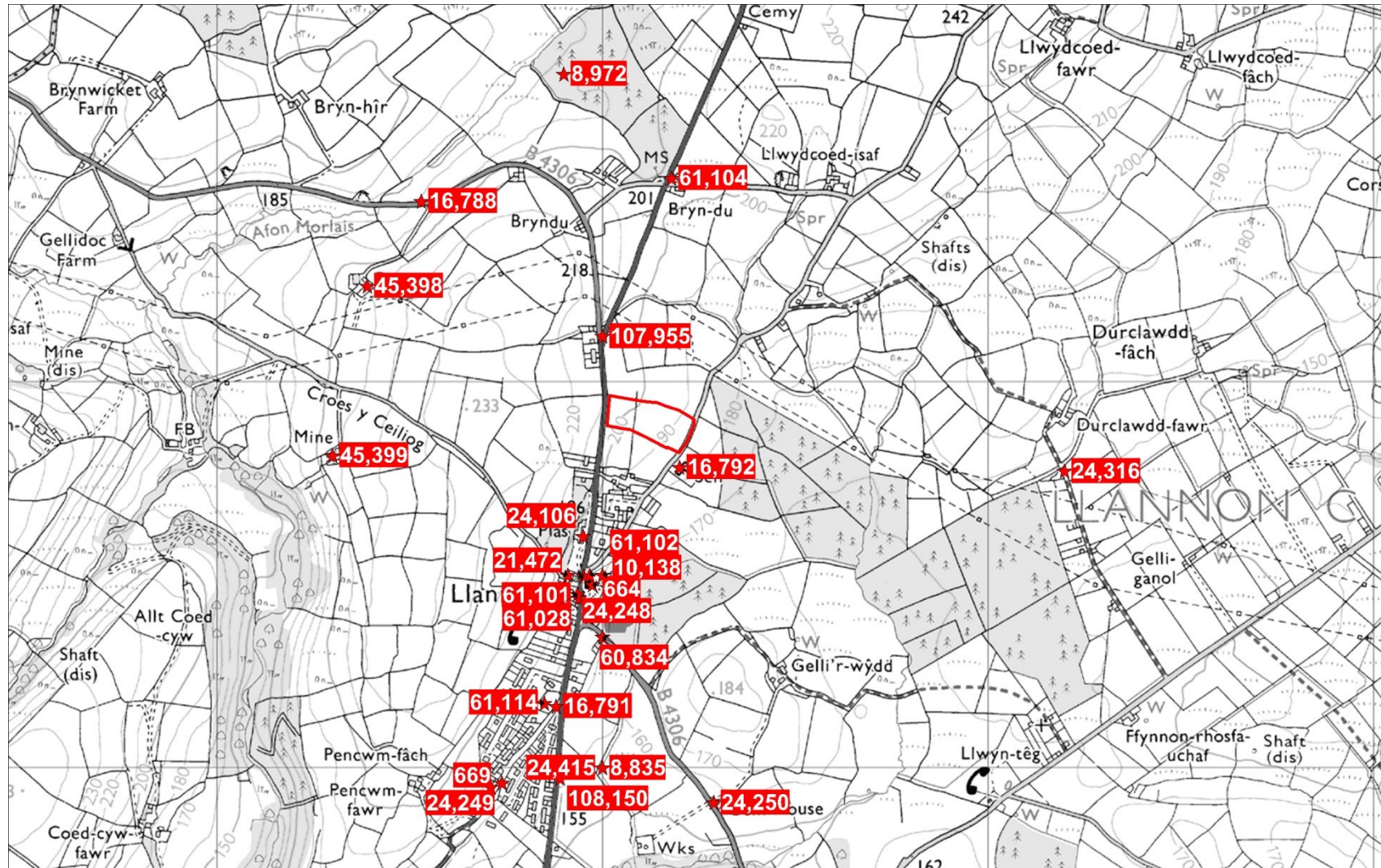


**Figure 4:** Grade II\* and II Listed Buildings (blue) within 2km of the proposed development site (outlined in red)

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PRN / NPRN	Name	Summary	Period	NGR
664/ 301860	Llannon Parish Church; St Non's	Grade II* Listed Building. Medieval chapelry to Llanelli parish, later a parish church.	Post-medieval, Medieval	SN5397408475
669	Ffynnon-Non	A medieval well where, traditionally, Non drew water.	Medieval	SN53710795
8835/ 32656	Llannon Drinking Fountain	-	Post-medieval	SN5408
8972	Bryn Du	Long Barrow	Neolithic	SN539098
16788/ 23953	Pont y Pentre	Bridge	Post-medieval	SN53530947
16791	-	Vicarage	Post-medieval	SN53880816
16792/ 116442	-	School	Post-medieval	SN54200878
21472	Llanon	Village	Post-medieval	SN53910850
24106/ 409656	Llannon; Plas Llannon	Historic home described by Francis Jones.	Post-medieval	SN53950860
24248	Llannon	School known from documentary evidence	Post-medieval	SN53940844
24249	Ffynnon Non	Blacksmith's Workshop	Post-medieval	SN53740796
24250	Cwm Deri-Cyrn	Cottage shown on early 20th century maps.	Post-medieval	SN54290791
24316	Gelli-Hwyaidd	Cottage shown on early 20th century maps.	Post-medieval	SN55200877
24415	Mynydd Bach	Parliamentary Field System	Post-medieval	SN5408
45398	Pentre	Farm shown on the Llannon Tithe Map of 1841.	Post-medieval	SN53390925
45399	Pencwmucha	Farmstead called Pencwmucha shown on Llannon Tithe Map.	Post-medieval	SN53300881
60834	Drinking Fountain	Grade II listed drinking fountain	Post-medieval	SN5400008340
61028	The Old School	Grade II listed school	Post-medieval	SN5393508451
61101	Railings and Gates of St Non's Church	Grade II listed churchyard railings and gates	Post-medieval	SN5395208497
61102	Gravestone with Railings within St Non's Churchyard	Grade II listed grave with railings	Post-medieval	SN5396808498
61104	Milestone at Bryn Du	Grade II listed milestone	Post-medieval	SN5418009530
61114	The Old Vicarage	Grade II listed parsonage	Post-medieval	SN5384908167
107955	Gate Cottage	Mid-19th century toll house shown on the 1st edition OS map.	Post-medieval	SN5400109120
108150	-	A milestone on the Llanelli to Llandeilo turnpike road.	Post-medieval	SN5389107972

**Table 3:** Known heritage assets recorded in the HER and NMR databases within 1km of the proposed development site (Figure 5)



**Figure 5:** The heritage assets within 1km of the proposed development site (red outline) as recorded in the HER and NMR databases. Only HER data is shown.

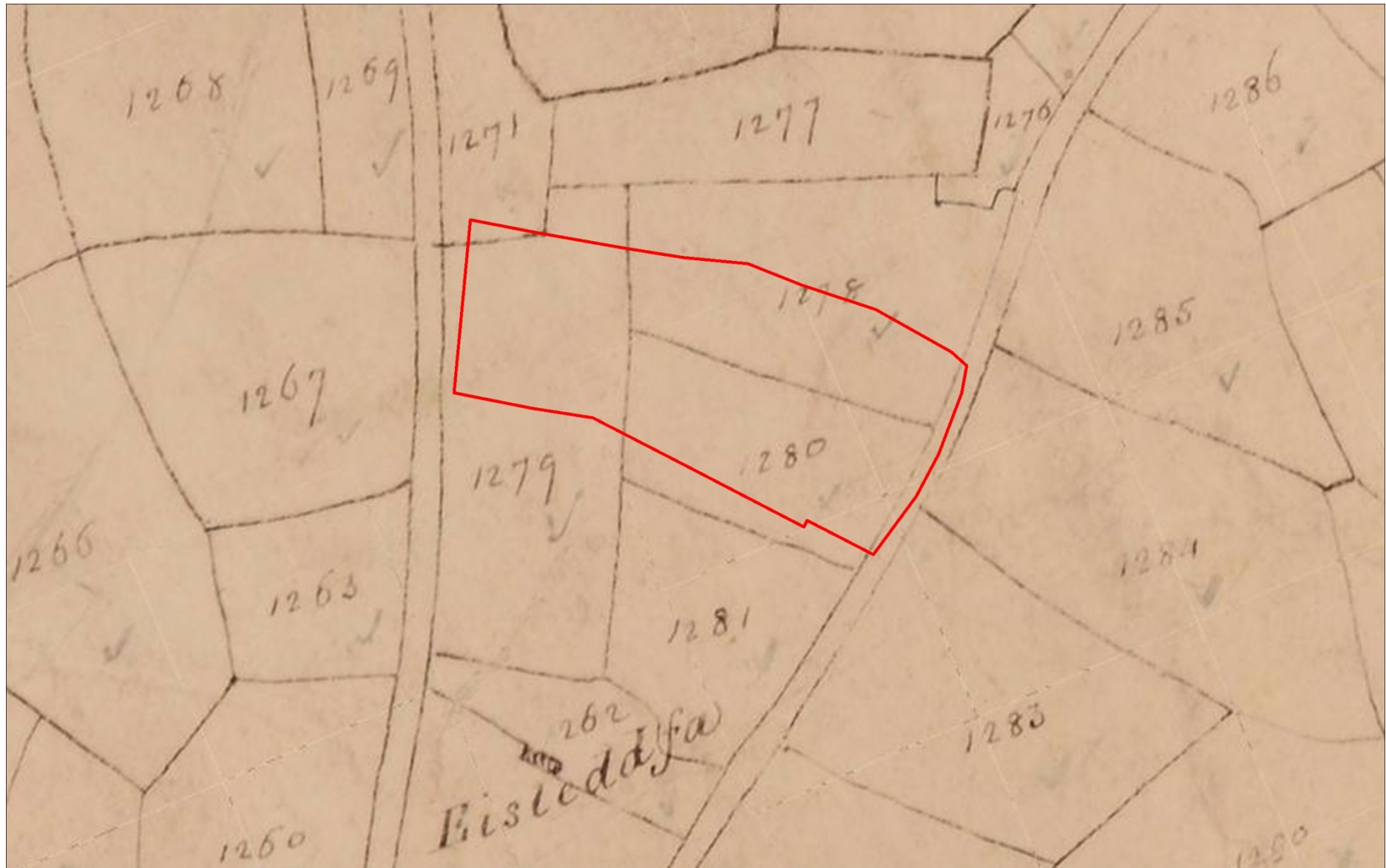
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE. Licence No 100020930

## **4.5 Historic Mapping**

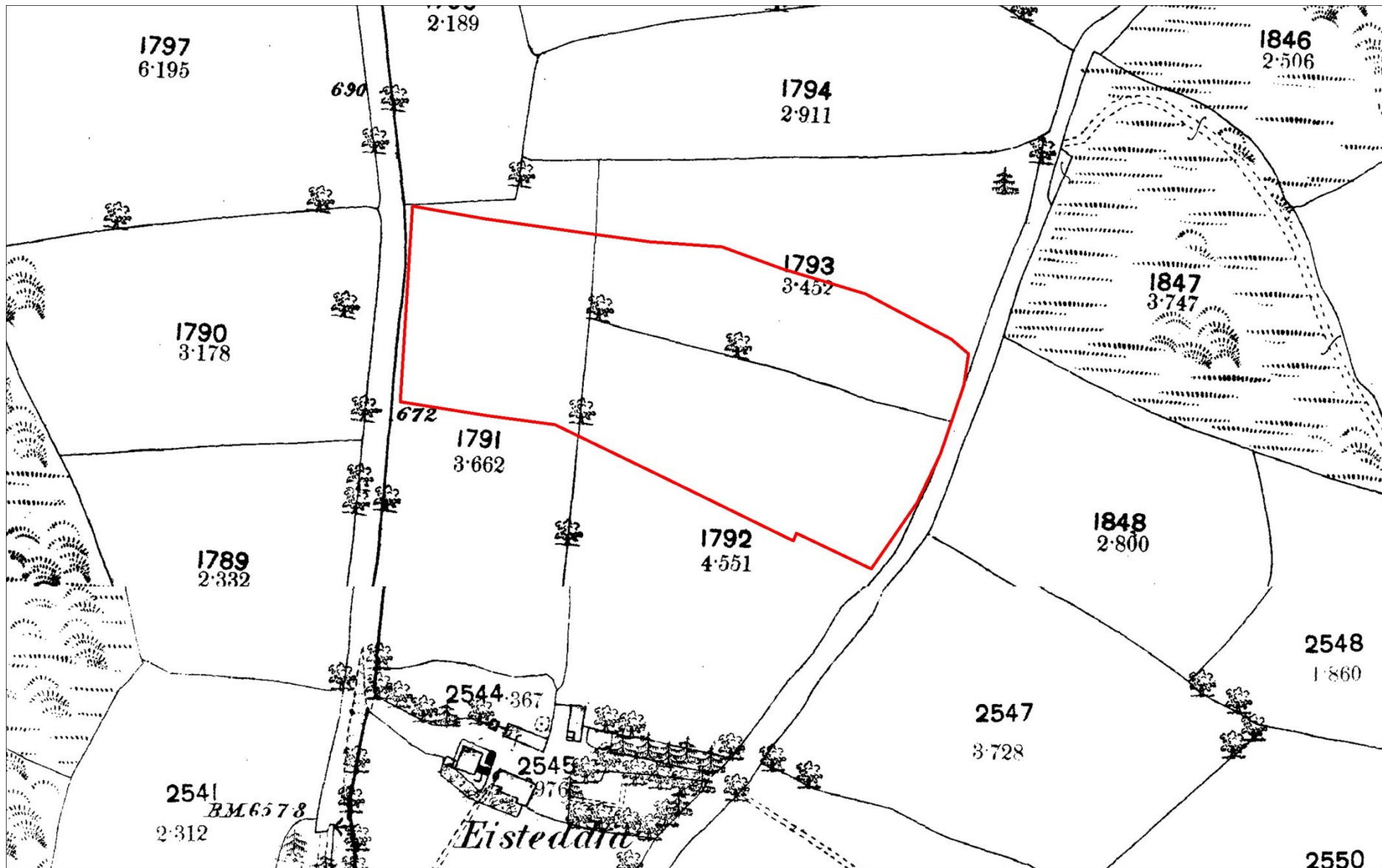
- 4.5.1 The following description of the historic mapping of Llannon is from Murphy (2006):

*The first cartographic indication of the settlement pattern and field system is the Ordnance Survey map of 1813. The fields on this map are schematic, but they are clearly established. A hamlet of a few houses is also shown around the church. The tithe survey map of 1841 is the next useful map. This shows fields almost identical to that of today. The village had hardly changed since 1813. Indeed, there are no substantial changes to the structure of the village until after the publication of the 1964 Ordnance Survey map.*

- 4.5.2 The 1813 map is not reproduced here but the tithe map of 1841 is shown in Figure 6. The apportionment to this map gives us some details of the land use as well as the names of the individually numbered land parcels. Three of the fields that are partially within the proposed development boundary have agricultural names such as 'small field.' The fourth field, No. 1278, is named 'Cae Cwm Nant Cott,' implying that a cottage once stood in the field or nearby. The land is recorded as being under the ownership of Lady Williams, and occupied by Elizabeth Jenkins at a farm called 'Eisteddfa.' This placename means 'Seat of (.....someone important)' so it can potentially indicate important historical remains.
- 4.5.3 The first edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1889, with a very similar layout to the tithe map, is shown in Figure 7. A housing estate was created around Eisteddfa Farm in the first decade of this century, and the farmer recounted that this was the time when field boundaries were removed to give the field layout seen today (Figure 2).



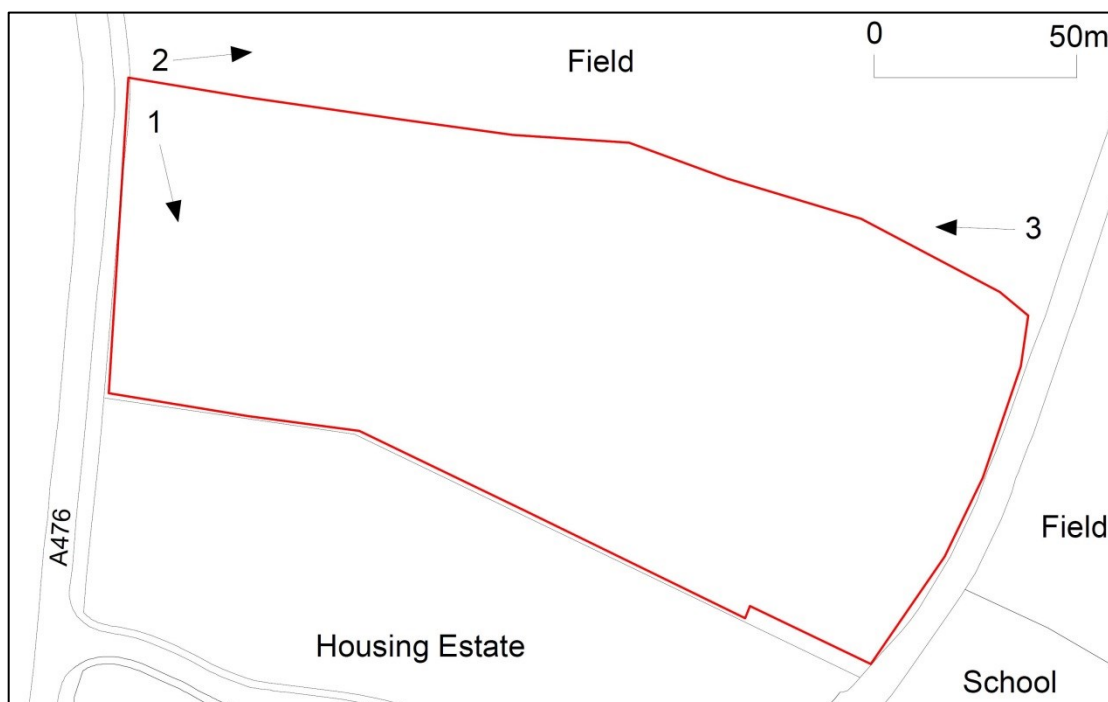
**Figure 6:** Extract of the Llan-nnon Parish Tithe Map of 1841, with the approximate outline of the proposed development in red



**Figure 7:** Extract of the first edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, dated 1879, with the proposed development site outlined in red

#### 4.6 Site Walkover Survey

- 4.6.1 The site walkover survey was undertaken on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2017. Figure 8 shows where and in what direction photos were taken at the site. Nothing of archaeological note was observed in the area. The field was under pasture and had been for at least twenty years. Thick hedges, two and a half metres tall, bounded the field to the east and west.
- 4.6.2 Photos 1, 2 and 3 show panoramic views to the south, east and west respectively. To the south the view is dominated by the modern housing estate. The view to the west shows the field sloping upwards. From the upper storeys of the proposed housing the views to the west and north would be of farmland. To the east a belt of conifers obscures the view. No designated or undesignated heritage assets were intervisible with the proposed site.



**Figure 8:** Positions and directions of Photos referred to in this report, with the proposed site boundary in red



**Photo 1:** Panoramic view to the south from within the boundary of the proposed development site



**Photo 2:** Panoramic view to the east from within the boundary of the proposed development site



**Photo 3:** Panoramic view of the land within the proposed development site, from just beyond its northeast corner

## **5 IMPACT OF PROPOSALS ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

### **5.1 Physical Impacts of the Development Proposals**

- 5.1.1 It is currently proposed that forty five new houses be built (Figure 3), with driveways, garages, and front and rear gardens. There is no upstanding known archaeology within the site that these plans would affect. However, from an archaeological and historic environment perspective there will potentially be impacts on buried, as yet undiscovered archaeology.
- 5.1.2 Full details of the construction design for the development have not been produced as yet. The following construction activities are all likely to be undertaken to some extent at the development site, all of which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains if present at the site:
- Enabling works, such as installation of contractor's compound, construction of access roads, parking areas, storage areas and borrow pits;
  - topsoil stripping;
  - landscaping and terracing works;
  - foundation excavation;
  - construction of roads and infrastructure; and
  - service installation.

### **5.2 Buried Archaeological Potential**

- 5.2.1 The archaeological potential for hitherto unknown archaeological sites to be present within the proposed development area is considered to be low.
- 5.2.2 There are no *known* archaeological sites that give a potential for buried archaeology within the development site boundary.
- 5.2.3 There is a possibility that a field name on the tithe map of 1841 referred to a cottage within or near the proposed site boundary. This gives a low potential for buried remains of medieval and Post-Medieval date. The potential for features and finds originating from any time period before the medieval cannot be discounted, but is considered to be very low based on the dearth of other sites of these periods in the area.
- 5.2.4 It should be noted that there have been few previous archaeological investigations undertaken within the general area of the site thus this apparent absence of archaeology may be due to this, rather than an actual absence of archaeology.

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

It is unlikely that deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental analysis could be recovered during groundworks due to the probable nature of the soil and sub-strata and the dryness of the site.

### **5.4 Visual Impacts**

- 5.4.1 It is considered that the development proposals will have no significant impact upon the current setting of any designated heritage sites in the vicinity.

## **5.5 Recommendations for Further Archaeological Works**

- 5.6.1 Although the proposed development area is identified as having a low archaeological potential for buried remains of significance, as noted above this may be based on the lack of previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the general area.
- 5.6.2 The development site covers an area of almost 2ha, which is relatively large. It is likely that some archaeological mitigation may be required by way of a condition on any planning permission forthcoming for the development. It is recommended that the area is subject to a geophysical survey using a gradiometer, a rapid method of non-intrusive survey. Gradiometer survey detects and plots variations in the earth's magnetic field which can be caused by buried features such as pits, ditches, buildings, hearths etc and provide a better indication of the archaeological potential of the site. If no archaeological potential is identified by such survey it is thought unlikely that further archaeological mitigation would be required. If significant archaeology was indicated, then further programmes of archaeological works would likely be required.
- 5.6.4 The decision for the scope of any further programme of archaeological works lies with the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority (Development Management - Dyfed Archaeological Trust).

## 6 SOURCES

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Savours, H.N. 1980. The Neolithic in Wales, in Taylor, J.A. (ed.) *Culture and Environment in Prehistoric Wales*. BAR British Series 76. Oxford: BAR.

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### Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust at Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AE

### Websites

British Geological Survey mapping portal. Available at:  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed 11/Apr/2017]

Dyfed Historic Landscape Characterisation. 2001. Available at:  
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### Cartographic

Llan-nnon Parish Tithe Map 1841

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1<sup>st</sup> edition Map 1879

## APPENDIX III:

### PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND OFF HEOL Y PLAS, LLANNON, CARMARTHENSHIRE: SPECIFICATION FOR A HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This written scheme of investigation presents a proposed methodology for a historic environment appraisal of a proposed development site on land off Heol Y Plas, Llannon, Carmarthenshire (SN 54125 08890). The appraisal has been requested by Asbri Planning to support a planning application for the proposals being submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council.
- 1.2 A generic brief for the required historic environment appraisal has been previously prepared by the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, Development Management - Dyfed Archaeological Trust. This document outlines the proposed methodology that will be used to undertake the appraisal and provide the information required in support of the planning application for the development.
- 1.3 The appraisal will be a primarily desk-based study of the site area, identifying any known archaeological or historical sites within the site and its environs, identifying potential setting impacts on scheduled ancient monuments or listed buildings in the vicinity, identifying any historic landscape areas that may be affected by the proposals and assessing the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains to be present within the proposed development area.
- 1.4 An indication of what further archaeological works might be required, if any, will also be prepared.
- 1.5 The specification is in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014).
- 1.6 The Trust always operates to best professional practice. DAT Archaeological Services has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.
- 1.7 ***Dyfed Archaeological Trust is a CIfA Registered Archaeological Organisation.***
- 1.8 ***All permanent staff members of DAT Archaeological Services are CSCS<sup>2</sup> registered.***

#### 2. AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- 2.1 This document provides a scheme of works for:  
***The preparation of a historic environment appraisal of proposed development on land off Heol Y Plas, Llannon, Carmarthenshire. The report will assess the potential impact the development may have on any known or potential underlying archaeological remains, and an assessment of the wider impact of the development on the wider historic environment. The appraisal shall be presented***

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<sup>2</sup> Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)

***within a report which will be submitted with the planning application for the development.***

- 2.2 Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake appraisal.
- 2.3 To identify any known archaeological remains and assess the potential of any hitherto unknown archaeological deposits within the location of the water treatment works and any associated infrastructure.
- 2.2 To identify any known historic environment features within the wider area that could be affected indirectly by the proposed works.

**3. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The historic environment appraisal will involve the preparation of a stand-alone report. The report will be prepared using relevant information from a number of sources, and will comprise a number of elements, including:
  - Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record data – 1km area;
  - Identification of any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas or Historic Landscape Areas within or in the vicinity of the site area from information held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, CADW and CCW – 2km search area;
  - Readily available bibliographic information, cartographic material and photographs (including aerial photographs) held at the Trust;
  - A review of historic maps;
  - Relevant web-based information;
  - Site visit and walkover survey;
  - Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area; and
  - Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains (or potential remains) or setting issues and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.
- 3.2 The proposed site visit would be undertaken to provide an assessment of the presence of any visible archaeological remains within the development area and its visibility from nearby cultural heritage features. Photographs will be taken of the site area and its environs and these will be used within the report. In addition observation of geotechnical test pitting was also undertaken at the site.
- 3.3 The search areas for both designated and undesignated sites will be used to determine the presence of historic environment features within the site location and vicinity of the proposed development – as agreed with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority. This will identify HER sites, SAMs, Listed Buildings and Historic Landscape Characterisation areas etc.
- 3.4 The following will be considered when preparing the appraisal, although in some cases no such features may be present and will thus not be considered further:
  - a. Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and their settings;
  - b. Non-scheduled ancient monuments and their settings;
  - c. Listed buildings and their settings;

- d. Non statutory Buildings of Local Importance, where this information is readily available and relevant to the proposed development;
  - e. Registered Parks and Gardens and their essential settings;
  - f. Registered Historic Landscapes;
  - g. Non-registered historic landscapes;
  - h. Buried archaeological potential;
  - i. Palaeo-environmental potential;
  - j. Hedgerows and field patterns;
  - k. Ancient woodland;
  - l. Place-name evidence;
  - m. Newly identified sites of historic importance;
  - n. Cumulative impacts, e.g. wind turbines in close proximity;
  - o. Any Tir Gofal / Glastir interests or requirements (where relevant); and
  - p. LANDMAP and landscape characterisation information.
- 3.5 A report will be prepared on the results of the assessment. This report will include information on known sites within and in the vicinity of the proposed development site. Maps of known archaeological and historical sites will be presented in the report. Photographs will be used where appropriate.
- 3.6 The report will be fully representative of the information gained from the above methodology, even if there should be negative evidence. The report will include the following:
- a) A concise non-technical summary of the appraisal results.
  - b) The report will contain at least one plan showing the site's location in respect to the local topography.
  - c) The report should list all the sources consulted.
  - d) Where necessary, the report will also contain suitably selected plans and maps (including historic maps) of significant archaeological features.
  - e) Written descriptions of all archaeological features observed during the site visit.
  - f) Statement of the local and regional context of the historic assets identified. Consideration, where appropriate, of the national Research Agenda.
  - g) An assessment of the relative value or significance of each recognised historic asset.
  - h) An impact assessment of the proposed development on the potential archaeological resource.
- 3.7 Once completed, a copy of the report will be submitted to the LPA for the consideration of their archaeological advisers. A further copy of the report should be provided to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust for deposition within the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 3.8 Where appropriate, a summary report on any new significant archaeological discovery will be submitted for publication to a national journal (e.g. Archaeology in Wales) no later than one year after the completion of the work.

- 3.9 Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality should be maintained, the report and the archive should normally be deposited in the appropriate repository not later than six months after completion of the work.

#### **4. STAFF**

- 4.1 The project will be managed by Fran Murphy, Project Manager, DAT Archaeological Services.
- 4.2 The report and site walkover survey will be undertaken by Alice Day of DAT Archaeological Services.

#### **5. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 5.1 All permanent members of DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS<sup>3</sup> registered.
- 5.2 DAT Archaeological Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment prior to the site walkover survey to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 5.3 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed where advised by the client.
- 5.4 As the site visit will likely be undertaken by a single archaeologist, it may be necessary to implement lone working procedures and contacts.

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<sup>3</sup> *Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)*

# HEOL Y PLAS, LLANNON: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2017/51  
RHIF Y DIGWYDDIAD / EVENT NO. 110740

Medi 2017  
September 2017

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

**Alice Day**

Swydd / Position: **Archaeologist**


Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Dyddiad / Date 15/August/2017

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 07/09/2017

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

