

LLYN Y FAN CAR PARK, LLANDDEUSANT, CARMARTHENSHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
for Brecon Beacons National Park Authority



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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**LLYN Y FAN CAR PARK, LLANDDEUSANT,
CARMARTHENSHIRE:
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT**

By
Charles Enright & Philip Poucher



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

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LLYN Y FAN CAR PARK, LLANDDEUSANT, CARMARTHENSHIRE

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**LLYN Y FAN CAR PARK, LLANDDEUSANT, CARMARTHENSHIRE:
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake a Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment on proposed enhancement works on the Llyn y Fan Car Park, Llanddeusant, Carmarthenshire (SN 7998 2380). One historic asset and a general archaeological potential of Medium archaeological value have been identified, with a potential Slight Adverse direct impact from development. Two assets of Low archaeological value are identified, with a potential Slight to Moderate Adverse direct impact from development. A potential Slight Adverse impact upon the setting of scheduled monument CM306 was also highlighted. Archaeological mitigation, in the form of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks, is recommended along with future monitoring of CM306 to determine the true nature of the impact.

CRYNODEB

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD i gynnal Asesiad ar Ddesg yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol ar waith gwella arfaethedig ar Faes Parcio Llyn y Fan, Llanddeusant, Sir Gaerfyrddin (SN 7998 2380).

Mae un ased hanesyddol a photensial archeolegol cyffredinol o werth archeolegol Canolig wedi'u nodi, gyda effaith uniongyrchol andwyol o ddatblygiad. Nodir dau ased o werth archeolegol Isel, gyda effaith uniongyrchol bach i Ganolig o ddatblygiad. Tynnwyd sylw hefyd at effaith andwyol fach bosibl ar osod Heneb Rhestredig CM306.

Argymhellir lliniaru archeolegol, mewn ffurf brîff gwyllo archeolegol yn ystod gwaith daear, ynghyd â monitro CM306 yn y dyfodol i benderfynu natur gwir yr effaith.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to prepare an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for the proposed enhancement works on the Llyn y Fan Car Park, Llanddeusant, Carmarthenshire (roughly centred on SN 7998 2380; Figure 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 The site lies in close proximity to known and potential archaeological features across a broad date range. As a result Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, have requested that a desk-based assessment be carried to determine the potential impact of the works upon the historic environment.
- 1.1.3 This Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment provides an indication of the archaeological potential of the development area and highlights possible issues in relation to the impact of the development on the historic environment.
- 1.1.4 The assessment has been a primarily desk-based study of the site area (although a site visit was also undertaken), identifying any known archaeological or historical sites within the site and its environs, identifying potential setting impacts on designated archaeological assets 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 development area. Due to current restrictions related to the Covid-19 outbreak some archive sources have not been consulted, although sufficient information has been gained to provide a comprehensive assessment of the site.

1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology

- 1.2.1 The scope of the assessment follows the WSI prepared by DAT Archaeological Services and approved by DAT-DM prior to the commencement of the assessment. The works also follows the Standard and Guidance For Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2017). The standard is stated as:

Desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. Desk-based assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA. In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact.

- 1.2.2 A desk-based assessment is defined by CIfA as:

a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

- 1.2.3 The desk-based study identifies known archaeological sites within the site and its environs, and assesses the potential for hitherto unknown remains to be present within the proposed development area. The scope of the report also includes an assessment of the impact on the settings of surrounding designated heritage assets, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic landscape character areas, registered parks and gardens and conservation areas. This will help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigations strategies, including the potential for further archaeological works.
- 1.2.4 The report presents relevant information from a number of sources including:
- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record data and other relevant information;
 - National Monuments Record of Wales information as held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth (RCAHMW offices in Aberystwyth);
 - Accessible (under current Covid restrictions) bibliographic, cartographic and photographic information held at the National Library of Wales and potentially information held at the Local Studies Library;
 - Identification of any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens, Historic Landscape Character Areas or Conservation Areas within or in the vicinity of the site area (Cadw, DAT, NRW);
 - Relevant web-based information;
 - Site visit and walkover survey;
 - Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area;
 - Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.
 - National Museum of Wales (NMW) for sites and finds.
 - Portable antiquity Scheme (PAS) for information on small finds.
 - Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales (CRAPW)
 - Secondary sources including national, regional and local journals, published books, etc.
- 1.2.5 A 2km buffer zone around the proposed development area was used to evaluate impacts on designated historic assets (Scheduled Monuments, Registered Historic Landscapes, Registered Parks and Gardens and Listed Buildings) and a 500m buffer zone was used to evaluate impacts on undesignated recorded archaeological sites, in order to provide sufficient overview of the nature of the areas heritage and ascertain archaeological potential of the site area.
- 1.2.6 For the purposes of planning policy in Wales, the historic environment is defined as:

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed (Welsh Government 2017).

A historic asset is:

An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, a historic building or area, historic park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated (ibid).

- 1.2.7 Further guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment and historic assets during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and Listed Building (LBC) applications can be found in *Planning Policy Wales: Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (Welsh Government 2017; available online).

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 (RCAHMW) 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 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.

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

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 ¹ –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

¹ 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

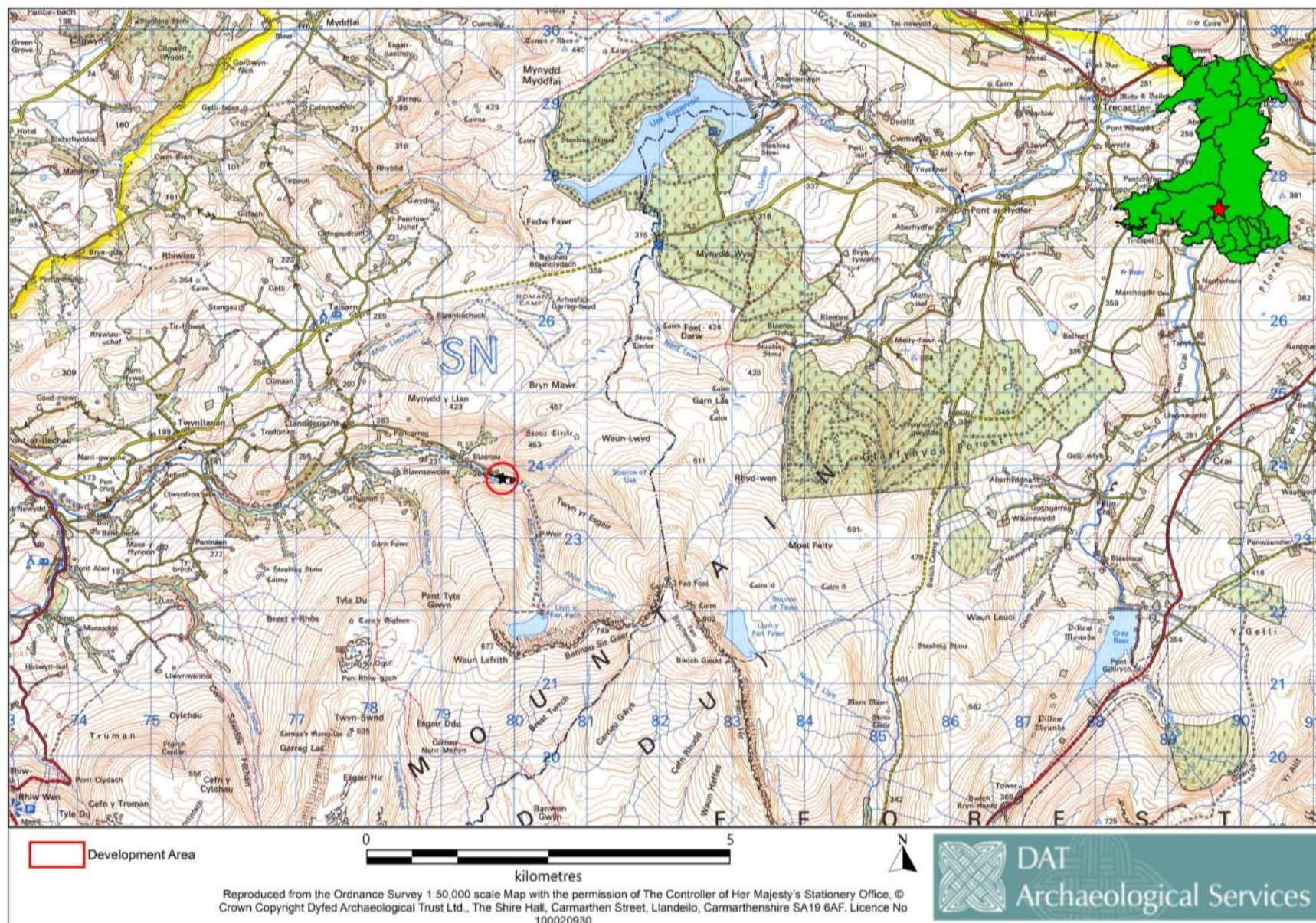


Figure 1: Location of development.

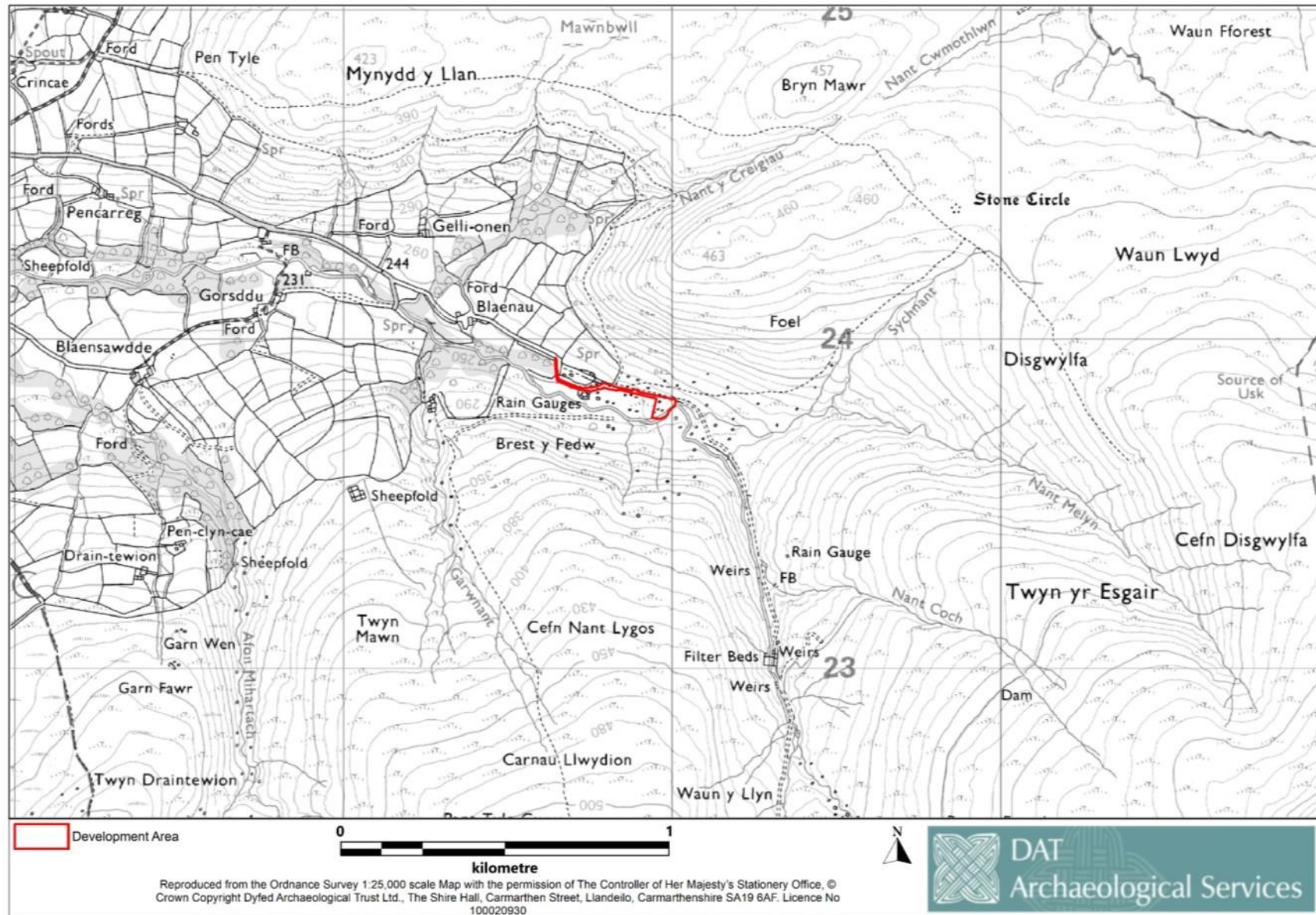


Figure 2: Further detail on the location of development.

2 NATIONAL POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

2.1 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act

2.1.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 was previously the primary legislation for protecting archaeological remains and scheduled monuments. This has more recently been amended by The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which has three main aims as defined by Cadw:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

2.1.2 The new Act amends the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and also the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It is supported by a number of planning guidance documents. The Act most specifically provides better safeguards for the protection of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and historic parks and gardens. It also includes further guidance on place names.

2.2 Planning Policy Wales (February 2021)

2.2.1 Planning Policy Wales sets out the Welsh Government's land use planning policies. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation.

2.2.2 Chapter 6, 'Distinctive and Natural Places', explains how planning systems must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. It also sets out the planning policies for the sustainable management of specific categories of historic environment assets.

2.3 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment

2.3.1 This technical advice note provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and Listed Building consent applications. It also provides specific guidance on how the following historic environment assets should be considered:

- scheduled monuments
- archaeological remains
- listed buildings
- conservation areas
- historic parks and gardens
- historic landscapes
- historic assets of special local interest
- World Heritage Sites

- 2.3.2 The technical advice note usefully gathers together the selection criteria employed in the designation of scheduled monuments and listed buildings and the registration of historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes.
- 2.3.3. Advice and decisions on planning applications affecting nationally significant historic environment features (or designated historic environment assets) is provided by Cadw acting on behalf of Welsh Government.
- 2.3.4 This report will also make reference to other guidance documents published by Cadw, namely: Conservation Principles (March 2011); Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (May 2017); Managing Historic Character in Wales (May 2017); and Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (May 2017).

3. LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES

3.1 Local Development Plan

- 3.1.1 The site lies within the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP). The BBNP Authority Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in December 2013, and sets out the planning development strategy for the area. The LDP policies are set out in line with national policy and guidance outlined above, but sets out policies and proposals to meet the needs for housing, jobs and services whilst protecting the Park's high quality environment.
- 3.1.2 Strategic Policy SP3 Environmental Protection states that all proposals for development of change if use of land or buildings in the National Park must demonstrate that the proposed development does not have an unacceptable impact on, nor detract from, or prevent the enjoyment of (e) cultural and historic heritage, and (f) the character of the built heritage, including listed buildings, conservation areas and archaeological features.
- 3.1.3 Section 3.15 of the LDP deals specifically with 'Conserving the Historic Environment'. Of particular relevance for this project are two specific policies. Policy 21 relates to 'Historic Landscapes', which states that development which directly or indirectly affects a Registered Historic Landscape will only be permitted if the essential integrity and coherence of the area, as defined in the Register, is preserved or enhanced.
- 3.1.4 Policy 22 relates to 'Areas of Archaeological Evaluation', which requires areas where archaeological remains are known to exist, or potentially exist, the archaeological implications of development proposals shall be evaluated by qualified and independent Archaeologists before planning applications are determined.

4 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

- 4.1 The development area is located in Carmarthenshire near the Carmarthenshire / Powys border (roughly centred on SN 7998 2390; figure 1 and 2), and within the Brecon Beacons National Park.
- 4.2 The site lies on the edge of the Black Mountain towards the head of Afon Sawdde valley. A number of streams, including the Sychnant, Garwnant, Nant y Creigiau, Nant Melyn and Nant Coch run off the high ground to the east to combine into the river immediately to the east of the car park. The valley then runs in a westerly direction, before it opens out as it approaches Llanddeusant. The car park lies at the east end of a publically accessible single-track road along the valley base. Beyond this point it becomes a trackway and footpath that climbs up towards the Llyn y Fan Fach reservoir to the southeast.
- 4.3 The site lies at the junction of enclosed upland to the east, with a scattering of sheepfolds along its fringes, and enclosed irregular fields within the valley to the west. The settlement pattern is one of dispersed farmsteads with small scattered settlements to the east, connected by a network of local roads. The closest settlement is the small village or hamlet of Llanddeusant 2km to the west.
- 4.4 The site is accessed by a local road as far as an unnamed house to the east of Blaenau farm, beyond which it is a rough track along the flat valley base to a rough area of car parking adjacent to a stone-built bridge across the river. The site is a popular spot for walkers accessing the hills to the east.
- 4.5 The bedrock geology in the area comprises sandstones and argillaceous (containing clay) rocks of the Maughans Formation and Senni Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 393 to 419 million years ago in the Devonian period in local environments previously dominated by rivers. Diamiction, river gravels and mixed alluvial deposits have all formed over the bedrock in the base of the valley.

5 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Table 2; Figure 3)

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 A search of data held on several databases was made of historic assets within a 500m search area around the proposed development site to fully understand the potential archaeological resources of the development area. The search area to assess potential impact on designated assets was extended to 2km.

5.2 Scheduled Monuments

- 5.2.1 There are two scheduled monuments within a 2km search area of the proposed development scheme. The closest monument lies approximately 100m to the east of the development area, and consists of CM306 Rectangular hut. This feature comprises the stone foundations of a rectangular dwelling, along with associated structures, animal pens and enclosures. The features are undated, and have been given a very broad date range of sometime between the prehistoric to medieval periods. The site lies at the foot of a tributary stream just before it enters the Sawdde.
- 5.2.2 The second monument lies 1km to the northeast, and consists of CM260 Stone Setting on Waun Llwyd. This comprises a circular setting of small upright and recumbent stones approximately 20m in diameter, representing a funerary and ritual site likely dating to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. The site lies in a flat saddle of high ground between the Sychnant which drops down into the Sawdde to the south, and further streams the drop down to form the start of the Usk to the north.

5.3 Listed Buildings

- 5.3.1 There are three listed buildings within the 2km search area, all of which are Grade II listed. The closest is Gorsddu farmhouse (LB ref.20825) located 900m to the west. This farmhouse may have 17th century origins, altered in the early 19th century, comprising the farmhouse and outbuilding in line, a good example of a regionally characteristic farmstead layout.
- 5.3.2 The remaining two buildings both lie on the Blaensawdde farmstead, located a further 370m down the valley to the west. Blaensawdde (LB ref.20823) is a 17th century gentry house, with possible earlier origins. It is listed as an important surviving gentry house of the 17th century, with a rare surviving post-and-panel partition. The associated barn range is dated to 1834, and is also listed (LB ref.20824).

5.4 Historic Landscape Areas

- 5.4.1 The proposed development area lies within the registered Historic Landscape of the Black Mountains and Mynydd Myddfai Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 1).
- 5.4.2 The full description of the Black Mountains and Mynydd Myddfai registered landscape is as follows:

The area comprises the foothills and slopes on the north west side of the Black Mountain, bounded by Mynydd Myddfai on the north at 440 m above OD and a ridge of slightly lower hills to the south west, which overlooks the Tywi valley east of Llandeilo. The area is heavily dissected by small, steep-sided valleys and is dominated by the summits along the Black Mountain watershed, the highest of which rise to about 800m above OD in the south east. The area contains rich and diverse evidence of land use exemplifying the dynamic interrelationship between

upland and lowland that is so typical of much of Wales, from the prehistoric period to the recent past. On the lower slopes and narrow valley floors of some, though significantly not all, the steep-sided valleys on the north west sides of Mynydd Myddfai and the Black Mountain, are small and large agglomerations of ruined, drystone-walled longhouses. These have recently been mapped, planned and studied in detail, but to date none has been excavated. Their date range is uncertain though conjectured, on broadly morphological grounds, to be medieval. Much earlier, Bronze Age use of the uplands is suggested however, during more favourable climatic conditions, by numerous large and prominently sited cairns, more localised standing stones and two groups of stone circles and, in some places, of regularly laid out field systems whose walls are partly sealed by peat. The transitional zone between the open moorland and enclosed fields and woodland is, in some parts of the area, marked by lengths of substantial bank and ditch, sections of which can be shown to be of at least 16th century in date. This boundary is breached by many roads and tracks which are the physical evidence of the dynamic interrelationship between the unenclosed uplands and the landscape of dispersed settlement and small enclosed fields on the lower slopes. In this context, it is uncertain whether the longhouses are permanent settlements or the summer dwellings of a transhumance régime. Although sheep have now replaced cattle as the main stock grazed on the open moorland, seasonal grazing is still part of the farming economy of the adjacent farms. A number of large regular, but now ruinous, drystone-walled sheepfolds are sited both on the edge of the open moorland and deep within it. Although no extensive survey has yet been undertaken, it is highly likely that the present vegetational pattern of the uplands has been heavily influenced by grazing practices and many slight but significant earthwork traces attest to the constant effort to improve that grazing. Whilst the open uplands are now perceived as a barrier to communication, in all earlier periods until the turnpike road era, they were criss-crossed by routes. Roman marching camps within the area at y Pigwn and Arosfa Garreg control two crossmountain roads which served as major routes from the Usk to the Tywi valleys until the 1790s. They focus in the foothills of the Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai on two nucleated settlements, Myddfai and Llangadog, whose economic raison d'être were seasonal fairs and markets for the surrounding region. (Llangadog is currently outside the area described here). In recent times, the most important impetus for exploitation of the uplands from adjacent areas was lime production, the main fertiliser from the late 17th until the mid-19th centuries. A palimpsest of deeply rutted cart tracks ascend to the quarry and kiln sites. The area contains hundreds of kilns from small, early, sod kilns to large drystone-walled structures. Areas of surviving ancient woodlands within the enclosed foothills suggest that many of the small, irregular fields originate as assarts (private holdings) from a more extensive forest cover. The area lies within the commote of Perfedd which came late under Anglo-Norman political control; Welsh language, tenure, law and social systems were never wholly superseded. Medieval documentation for holdings and land use is sparse, but folklore sources are revealing. The area contains the locus for the famous legends of the Lady of the Lake in Llyn y Fan Fach, ancestress of the hereditary Physicians of Myddfai (Meddygon Myddfai). The farms recorded in the legends still exist and may thus be of 12th century date, since the legends recorded in the 14th century Red Book of Hergest link Rhiwallon the Physician to the court of the Lord Rhys of Deheubarth.

- 5.4.3 In summary, the area offers rich and diverse evidence of the interrelationship of land use between upland and low land areas that is typical of much of Wales from the prehistoric period to modern era. Medieval remains can be found on the lower slopes whereas evidence of Bronze Age activity can be found on the uplands by the numerous cairns.

5.4.4 In order to better characterise the historic environment of the Historic Landscape it has been sub-divided into a number of Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA). These areas do not necessarily confine themselves to the illustrated limits of the registered Historic Landscape. The proposed development area lies within HLCA 240 The Black Mountain – Y Mynydd Ddu, a large area of open moorland consisting mostly of rough grazing and blanket peats that extends beyond the limits of the Registered Landscape, and includes the summits of Bannau Sir Gar/Fan Brycheiniog. There is a hard border with enclosed farmland for much of this area, suggesting a long history of open ground, although some encroachments and parliamentary enclosures are visible along the western edge. Although human use does not appear to be intense, five main themes are visible. Areas that have been used as upland pasture which have included woodland removal started during the Mesolithic, areas of prehistoric occupation and partial enclosure with associated funerary and ritual activities, areas of informal occupation with longhuts and partial post-medieval enclosure, and areas of 19th-20th century leisure activities.

5.5 Registered Historic Parks & Gardens

5.5.1 There are no registered historic parks and gardens within 2km of the proposed development.

5.6 Conservation Areas

5.6.1 There are no Conservation Areas within 2km of the proposed development.

Table 2: Designated historic assets within the study area.

Site Building Name /	Cadw Ref.	Site period & type	DAT PRN	NGR	Designation
Stone Setting on Waun Llwyd	CM260	Prehistoric Stone Circle	9997	SN 80855 24382	Scheduled Monument
Twyn yr Esgair Settlement	CM306	Prehistoric-medieval Rectangular Hut	35981, 35982, 35983, 35984, 35985	SN 80190 23745	Scheduled Monument
Blaensawdde	20823	17 th century gentry house	7119	SN 78413 23895	Listed Building II
Barn range at Blaensawdde	20824	Early 19 th century barn range	113680	SN 78374 23882	Listed Building II
Gorsddu	20825	17 th century farmhouse	61076	SN 78762 24084	Listed Building II
Black Mountains and Mynydd Myddfai	(HLW (D) 1)	Historic Landscape		-	Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

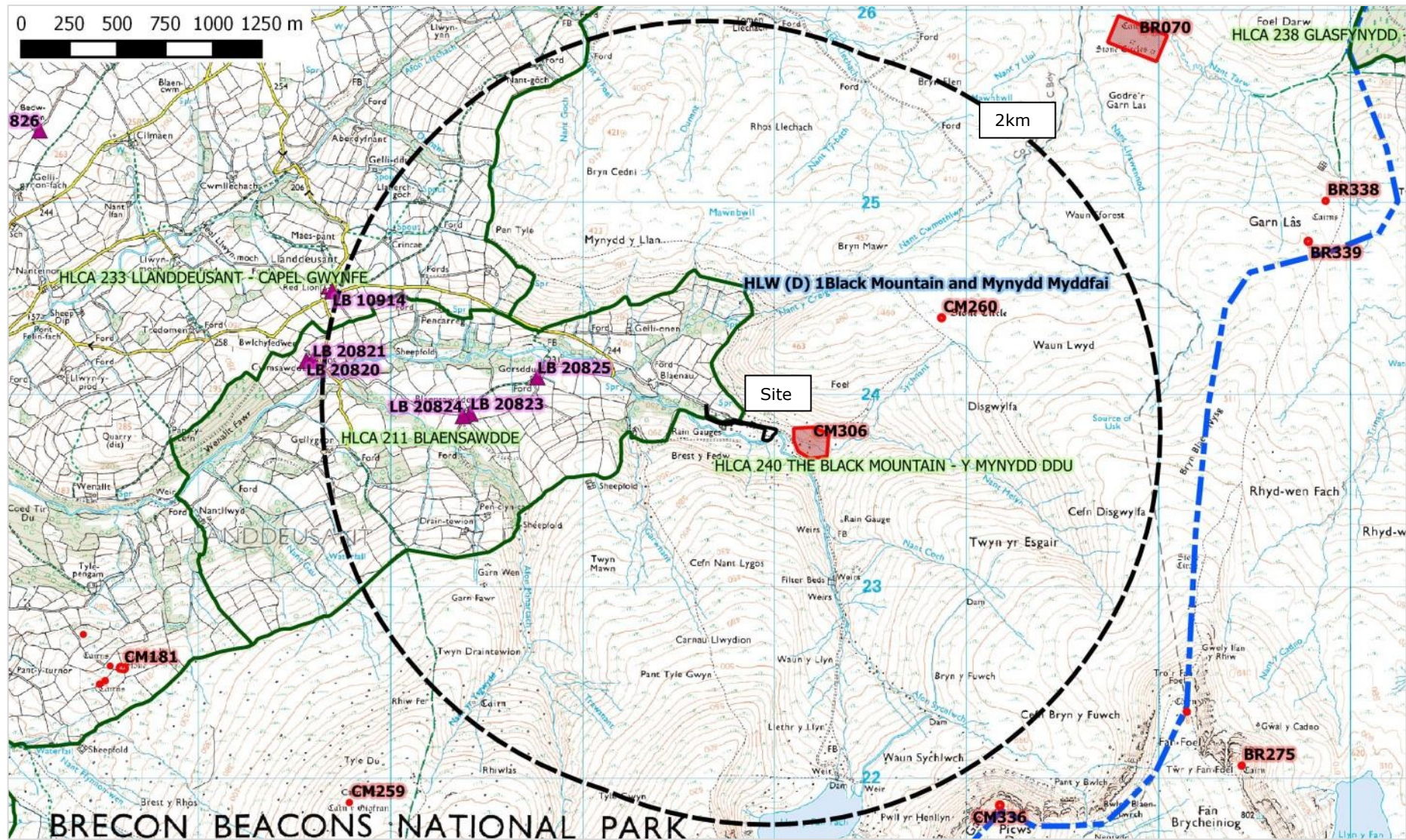


Figure 3: Designated archaeological sites within 2km of the proposed development scheme. Scheduled Monuments in red, Listed Buildings in purple, Registered Historic Landscape boundary in blue, HLCA boundary in green.

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6 NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Table 3; Figure 4)

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 The Dyfed Historic Environment Record (HER) records 29 assets within a 500m search area around the proposed development area, ten of which are also recorded in the National Monument Record (NMR). A further four sites historic assets are recorded only on the NMR.
- 6.1.2 The following information is laid out chronologically to provide a brief archaeological and historical background for the development area and its environs for each period, along with the relevant HER entries pertaining to that period.

6.2 Palaeolithic & Mesolithic

- 6.2.1 There are no sites of these periods within the search area. As noted in the Historic Landscape description woodland clearance across the upland regions began during the Mesolithic period, but there are no specific recorded Mesolithic sites within the wider landscape surrounding the site.

6.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

- 6.3.1 There are no sites of these periods recorded within the search area. However, in the wider landscape there is clearly a late Neolithic and Bronze Age presence in the surrounding landscape, as evidenced by the number of funerary and ritual sites of these periods in the surrounding hills. It is probably of note that one such site, now a scheduled monument (see Section 5.2) lies at the head of a footpath leading northeast from the proposed development area. This is a circular arrangement of stones on a flat saddle in the upland landscape, another similar site lies to the northeast, and they likely represent areas of ritual activity. Burial mounds and cairns also dot prominent high points in the surrounding landscape, but the settlement sites from which the builders of these monuments came have not been identified. Therefore despite the lack of recorded sites of this period within the search area, there remains a potential for such sites to exist. The nearby scheduled monument of CM306 is noted in the scheduling description as potentially of prehistoric date, and therefore may relate to such settlement activity. However, the arrangement of the settlement is more reminiscent of medieval and post-medieval settlement sites.

6.4 Iron Age

- 6.4.1 There are no sites of this period within the search area, and little evidence of such activity in the surrounding landscape.

6.5 Roman Period

- 6.5.1 There are no sites of this period recorded within search area. Over 2km to the north lies the site of a Roman marching camp, probably dating to the campaigns of AD74-77, built alongside a Roman road across the uplands. The camp was a temporary feature of the Roman conquest, and no further evidence of activity during this period is noted in the vicinity of the development area.

6.6 Early Medieval & Medieval Period

- 6.6.1 There is little recorded evidence of Early Medieval activity in the search area or the surrounding landscape, the closest potential site being the churchyard enclosure in Llanddeusant to the west.
- 6.6.2 A potential medieval date is suggest for the nearby scheduled settlement (CM306) a short distance to the east of the development area, located close to the confluence of a tributary stream Nant y Melyn and the Afon Sawdde. It is however of a form that could equally be post-medieval in origin, but an earlier prehistoric date would appear less likely. The various elements of this site are numbered individually both in the HER and the NMR, and descriptions vary slightly. The site is spread along the stream banks. To the east, on the south side of the Nant Melyn stream, lies the low tumbled wall remains of a rectangular house, or long hut, (PRN 35983 / NPRN 408378) with an adjacent shelter or food store (PRN 35984 / NPRN 408379). The NMR description notes possible former field boundaries extending to the southeast, and a possible sheep fold or animal pen is also noted to the southwest (NPRN 409250). On the opposite side of the stream to the north lies another sheep fold (PRN 35985 / NPRN 408385), although the NMR description suggests this may be a later feature due to the better state of preservation. At the western end of the scheduled area lies a further house/long hut platform (NPRN 408386), with a possible circular sheep fold on the stream bank to the north (PRN 35981 / NPRN 408376). A shelter is also recorded nearby (PRN 35982), although no specific shelter was identified by the RCAHMW inspector (NPRN 408377). On higher ground to the north of the stream another rectangular house platform was noted (NPRN 408387). This is within the scheduled area, but it is separated from the remainder of the settlement site by the stream, and the NMR notes that it appears different in character, and potentially older. As the site is spread out, the scheduled area is drawn around a broad area to include the main visible components. However, given the dispersed and denuded condition of these features, it is entirely possible it could cover a larger area, and indeed aerial photographs of the site suggest associated enclosures may straddle the modern pathway defining the western end of the scheduled area.
- 6.6.3 The potential for similar sites throughout the area is demonstrated by other identified house/long hut remains on the south side of the stream. These include PRN 35980 / NPRN 408445 and adjacent sheepfold remains PRN 35979 / NPRN 408439 to the southwest of the scheduled area, and the pair of house/long hut remains (PRNs 35992 & 35993 / NPRN 408446 & 408447) with associated field enclosure (PRN 35994) further to the west. A further possible settlement site lies at the western end of the search area close to the confluence of another stream with the Sawdde. This site (PRN 40674) largely comprises two main areas of stone boulders that appear to define walls of potential structures.

6.7 Post-Medieval & Modern Period

- 6.7.1 As discussed above, there is the potential for many, if not all, of these deserted settlement sites to date to the post-medieval period. There are a number of sheep folds in the area that are recorded on 19th century mapping, that could indicate an period of greater pastoral agriculture in the region. Relatively large numbers of these sheep folds appear to have been established on the periphery of the unenclosed uplands as it meets enclosed farmland.
- 6.7.2 The listed buildings to the west (see Section 5.3) indicate farmhouses were built in the area in the 17th century. Blaenau farm to the west, with its numerous constituent parts (PRNs 47110-2, 109837, 110687 & 113682) was in operation by the 19th century, and further cottage (PRN 47103) and complex communal sheepfold (PRN 47101) are also noted. To the north a field boundary (PRN

47108) was also in place by the 19th century, and appeared to mark a definitive break between open land to the east, and enclosed farmland to the west.

- 6.7.3 The HER also records another major focus of activity within the study area. An internment camp was established on the banks of the Sawdde during the First World War (PRN 110406) to house Conscientious Objectors used as labour in the construction of the Llyn y Fan Fach reservoir and water main to supply communities within the Llanelli Rural District Council. The camp has largely since been cleared, but structural remains are still visible, including building platforms PRNs 112062, 112063 & 111189 / NPRN 408388, and remains of the powder magazine (PRN 111180). Work started in 1914 with the use of Irish labour, the road through the site was created and wooden huts were built alongside to house the labourers. Retaining labourers in the harsh conditions proved difficult, but after the Military Service Act was passed in 1916 the first groups of Conscientious Objectors started arriving. Subsequently the camp was enlarged, and better facilities were provided (Pyper 2020). Photographs and drawings from the period depict a number of structures along the roadside.

Table 3: Non-designated historic assets within a 500m buffer zone around the proposed Llyn y Fan car park (Figure 4)

PRN	NMR Records (NPRN)	Name	Type	Period	Description	NGR
35979	408,839	Ffald Glan Sawdde	Sheep fold	Post-medieval	Drystone construction.	SN80022370
35980	408,445	Ffald Glan Sawdde platform	Platform	Post-medieval, medieval	A bare platform, 12m long x 5m wide. Small amount of stone present. 2m wide bank to the SW part of Brest y Fedw enclosure PRN 35994.	SN8002723690
35981	408,376	Twyn yr Esgair	Sheep fold, Hut circle	Medieval; post-medieval	PART OF SAM CM306	SN80122376
35982		Twyn yr Esgair	Shelter	Post-medieval, medieval	PART OF SAM CM306	SN80142373
35983	408,378	Twyn yr Esgair	Long hut	Post-medieval, medieval	Long hut, 7m x 4.1m. On a levelled terrace. Low wall bases on 3 sides less than 0.5m high generally. A lot of tumbled stone lies inside. 2m square extension at NW end. PART OF SAM CM306	SN80272371
35984	408,379	Twyn yr Esgair	Shelter	Post medieval, medieval	PART OF SAM CM306	SN80272370
35985	408,385	Twyn yr Esgair	Sheep fold	Post medieval, medieval	PART OF SAM CM306	SN80242373
35992	408,446	Brest y Fedw	Long hut	Post medieval, medieval	One of a pair of long huts. Measures 7m x 4m with boulder construction up to 1m high. Enclosed by field 35994.	SN7981623721
35993	408,447	Brest y Fedw	Long hut	Post-medieval, medieval	One of a pair of longhuts. 2-cell structure, of boulder construction with wall bases up to 1m high. 8m x 4m. Squarish structure attached to the E. side, 2.5m x 2.5m.	SN7980423728
35994		Brest y Fedw enclosure	Enclosure	Post medieval, medieval	Encloses both long huts PRNs 35992-3 as well as a long strip eastwards along the base of Brest y Fedw. Relationship between enclosure and structures enclosed unknown.	SN79802370
40674		Gorsddu farm	Deserted rural settlement?	Post-medieval, medieval	Area of large boulders and stones which may be the remains of a drystone structure, although, there is no clear evidence of any surviving structural elements.	SN79232397
47101		Blaenau farm	Sheep fold	Post-medieval	Complex communal sheepfold with long curving central wall, recently rebuilt. Dry stone construction.	SN79272382
47102		Blaenau farm	Road	Post-medieval	Stone surfaced road crossing over the Afon Sawdde to the west of Blaenau Farm.	SN79242396

47103		Blaenau farm	House	Post-medieval	Cottage site shown on the 1838 Tithe Map, labelled as 'Garnant'. Now an area of indistinct low stone walls.	SN79282391
47104		Blaenau farm	Wall	Post-medieval	An area of indistinct low stone walls and possible trackways along the southern bank of the Afon Sawdde.	SN79422393
47108		Blaenau farm	Boundary bank	Post-medieval	This is a low, irregular stony earth bank .	SN79742426
47109		Blaenau farm	Stable	Post-medieval	Two storey east - west gabled barn with stabling and cart sheds below, and accommodation above, relates to the construction, between 1914 and 1918, of the reservoir	SN79372406
47110		Blaenau farm	Shed	Post-medieval	Long low one storey range attached to the north end of Blaenau farmhouse (PRN 47111). It is now in use as a kennel.	SN79382405
47111		Blaenau farm	Farmhouse	Post-medieval	West facing farmhouse with uneven 'M'-shaped roof and large chimney stack at the south east corner. Extended in c.1870.	SN79382404
47112		Blaenau farm	Trackway	Post-medieval	Wide trackway bordered by hedgerows.	SN79382404
109837		Blaenau	Building	Post-medieval	Building appears on 2nd edition, 1:2500 1907 OS map	SN7936724059
110406		Llanddeusant water works	Internment camp	Modern	A camp in which during the First World War Conscientious Objectors were accommodated when building the reservoir and water main. The site has largely been cleared, but some hut platforms and below ground structures survive.	SN79772382
110687			Building	Post-medieval	Small building, rectangular in plan, 1 even smaller building. Possibly Blaenau farm outbuildings or cottage.	SN7935424038
111180		Llyn y Fan fach	Powder magazine	Modern	Stone building for storing explosives.	SN79912376
111189	408,388	Llyn y Fan fach	Building	Modern	Earthwork remains of a building.	SN80082376
111191		Llyn y Fan fach	Bridge	Modern	Stone bridge.	SN80102377
112062		Llyn y Fan fach	Industrial building	Modern	Concrete and brick base for a hut built during WWI.	SN79752382
112063		Llyn y Fan fach	Building platform	Modern	Possible earthwork remains of building base associated with Llyn Y Fan Fach waterworks.	SN79842384
113682		Blaenau	Farmstead	Post-medieval	Farmstead recorded on 2nd edition, 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.	SN7936924049
	275,719	Twyn yr Esgair settlement	Deserted rural settlement	Medieval	The remains of at least two long huts with associated folds and shelters, including a possible dairy food store. Stone-built. Probably of late medieval to post-medieval date, nearby	SN801237

					fold (NPRN 408385) may be more recent.	
	408,386	Nant Melyn, long hut 2	Long hut	Post-medieval, medieval	Not noted in the scheduling designation but the remains of a second long hut seem likely to be part of it. T-shaped stony bank incorporating boulders and facing stones. 7m (E-W) by 5.5m, 1.5m wide and about 0.4m high.	SN80122373
	408,387	Nant Melyn	House platform	Medieval	Building platform lies on a moderately steep south-facing slope above the north bank of Nant Melyn. 16m long (N-S) by 4.5m wide at its lower end, 7m wide at the upper end. It is cut back into rising ground to a depth of 1m and built out to 0.6m high.	SN80142381
	409,250	Nant Melyn, possible fold	Sheep fold (possible)	Post-medieval, medieval	Sub-rectangular structure defined by set, earthfast boulders up to 0.4m high enclosing an area measuring 2.2m (N-S) by 1.8m. Perhaps a fold or pen for small livestock.	SN80222368

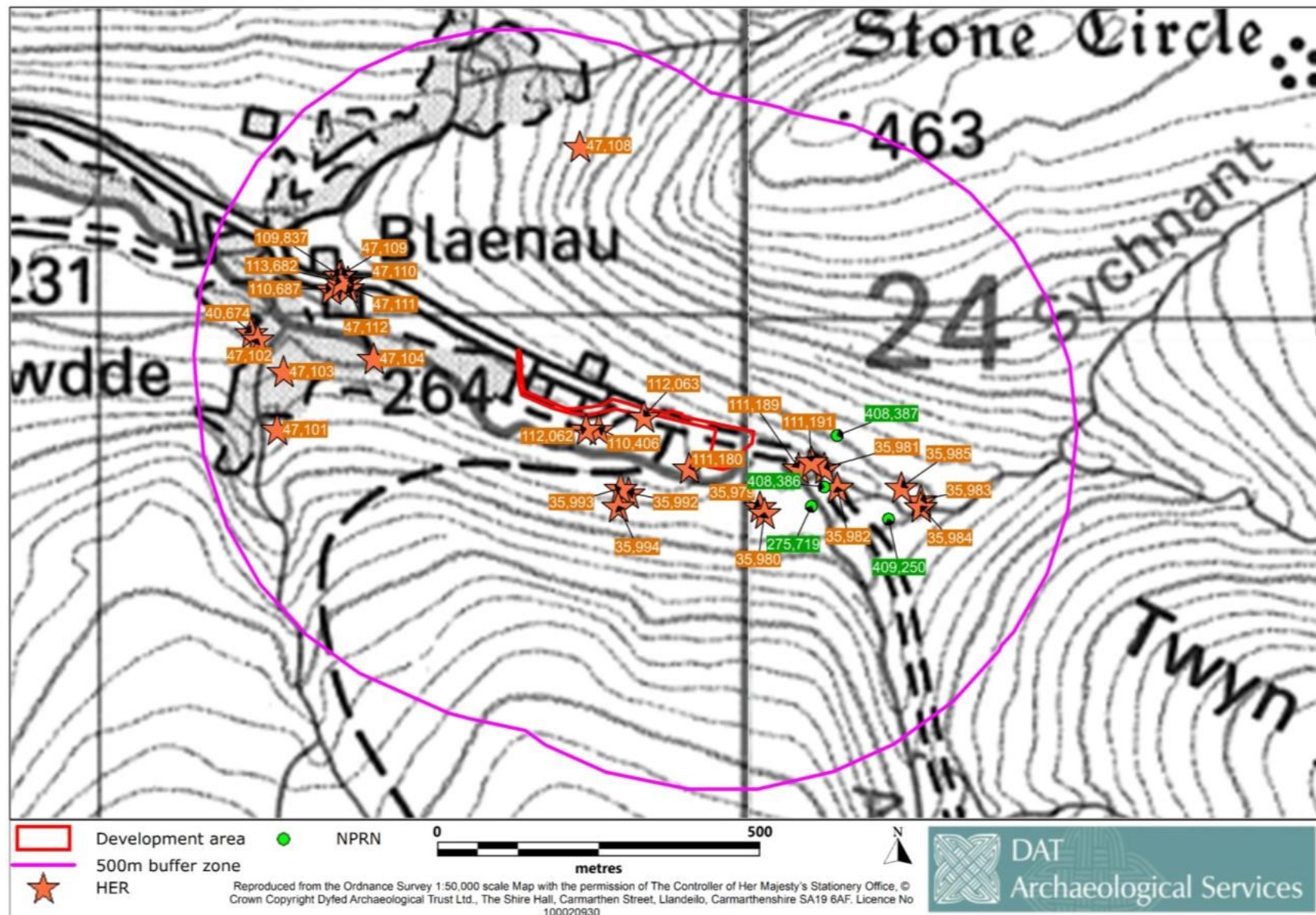


Figure 4: Historic Assets recorded in the HER (orange stars) and NMR (green dots).

7 ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 Sections 5 and 6 have laid out the known archaeological resource for the area, recorded on the regional databases of historic assets. The following section examines some of the main sources of information that could expand the current understanding of the archaeological resource and highlight previously unrecorded historic assets.

7.2 Previous Archaeological Studies

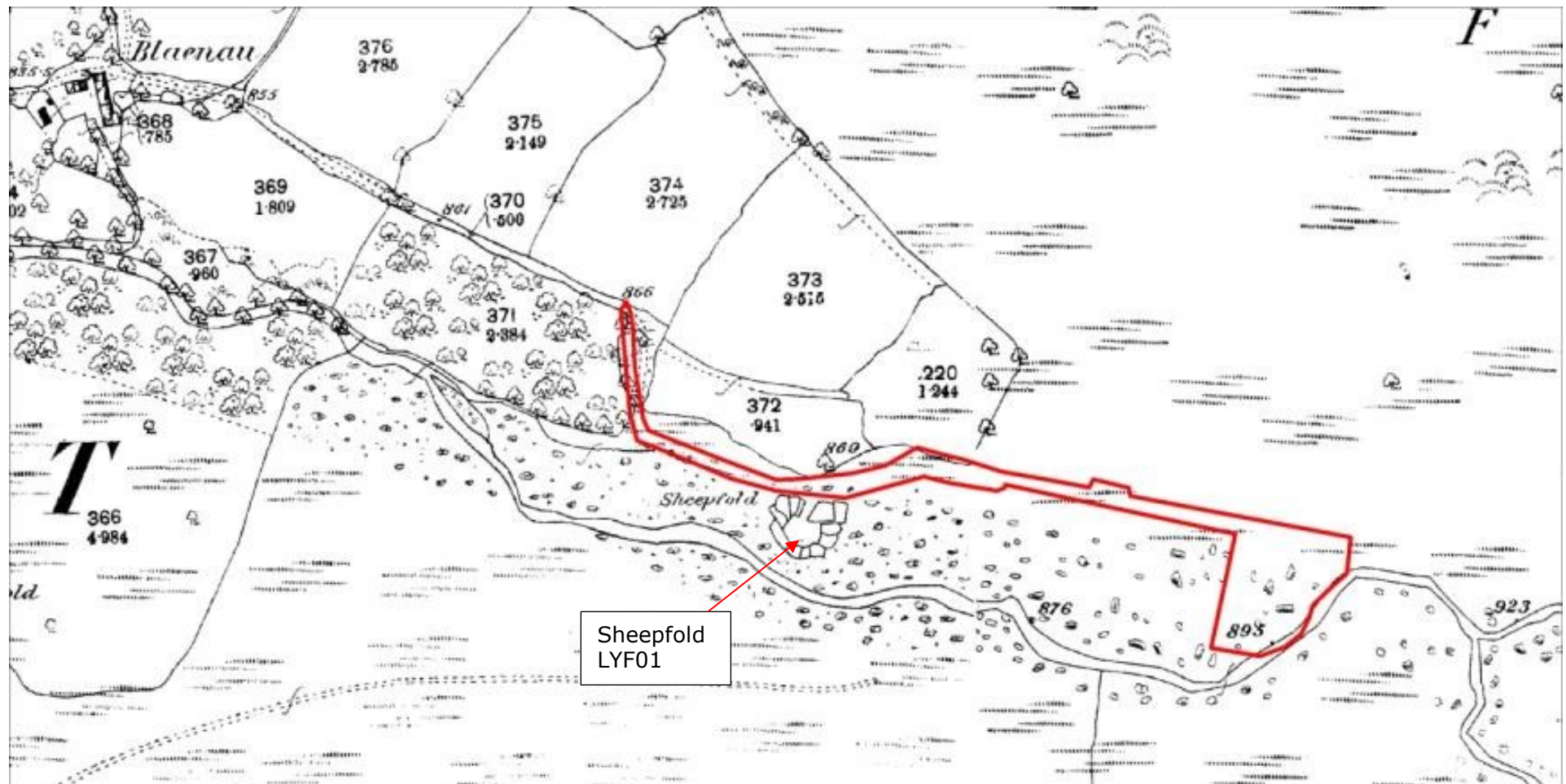
- 7.2.1 In 2017, as part of a Cadw-funded project looking at aspects of the First World War, survey work was undertaken examining the Conscientious Objectors camp on the site (PRN 110406). This work included a site survey and recording of remaining structures, along with historical research (Pritchard, Pyper & Rees 2017). These records have been incorporated into the HER previously described.
- 7.2.2 As a scheduled monument the Twyn yr Esgair settlement (CM306) has been visited and recorded by Cadw Inspectors, and the site has also been visited by inspectors from the RCAHMS. These records are also incorporated into existing HER and NMR records previously described.

7.3 Historic Mapping

- 7.3.1 Some of the earliest maps of this area lack detail for the study area. The Ordnance Survey original surveyor's drawings of 1813 (Budgen 1813 – Fig.5) show an open upland landscape, through which runs the Afon Sawdde, with enclosed farmland around Blaenau farm, the boundary between fields and open land appearing similar to the current one. No mid-19th century Tithe map is available for the immediate area given the unenclosed nature of the uplands area.
- 7.3.2 The first detailed map of the area is the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (Fig.6). This confirms the unchanged nature of the boundary between open land and enclosed fields. Within the open land, adjacent to the river, lies a sheepfold (LYF01), not recorded on the HER, that comprises a central circular enclosure surrounded by an irregular series of enclosure around the periphery. Similar complex sheepfolds are shown on the periphery of the unenclosed moorland to the south. The base of the river and stream valleys are marked as stony ground, but otherwise no further features are depicted. No change is noted on the subsequent 2nd edition map of 1906.
- 7.3.3 There is a subsequently a gap in the mapping until 1952/3. This map does show the enclosure on the north side of the development area had now been developed, and three buildings are shown, with a further building lying outside the enclosure to the east. It would appear however that this building is still extant, but that the surrounding enclosure has since expanded to include it. A trackway now runs through the area, established during the construction of the reservoir, passing in a straight line through the enclosure to the north, and then forming the line of the current track up to Llyn y Fan Fach. No other structures from the Conscientious Objectors camp are marked. This plan is also shown on maps of 1964, but by 1978-82 the current line of the track taking south of the enclosure is shown, as are the rain gauges to the east of the sheepfold.



Figure 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey drawings of 1813. Approximate location of site outlined in red.



7.4 Aerial & Historic Photography and LiDAR

- 7.4.1 As part of the research into the Conscientious Objectors Camp (Pritchard, Pyper & Rees 2017, Pyper 2020) copies of a number of historic photos from the area during the First World War were obtained. These include two photos of the camp itself (photo 1), which indicate that the main cluster of buildings was located along the trackside as it passes through the enclosure around the farmhouse immediately to the north of the development area (i.e. outside the development area). The buildings are single-storey structures, relatively light-weight in appearance and where discernible constructed of corrugated tin or timber. It is not clear from the angle of the photos how far along the structures extended along the trackway, but it is possible they extended to the east of the present enclosure and into the proposed development area. In the background one small structure is visible, with the appearance of a small timber pent shed, to the south and potentially within the proposed development area. The powder magazine (PRN 111180) is also visible to the rear but no other structures are clearly shown.



Photo 1: Image from 1917 of the Conscientious Objectors Camp, looking east. For reference, the currently extant dwelling is just visible on the left, with its protruding window, the camp building in the foreground lying within the enclosure to the north of the development area. Photo courtesy of Llanelli Local Studies Library.

- 7.4.2 A number of aerial photographs from the 1940s (1942-1948) are available, taken by the RAF. They generally offer little detail however until the 1948 photos (photo 2), but from these it is still difficult to pick out any detail of Camp structures on the site. The sheep fold complex (LYF01) is clearly visible however, showing a number of walled enclosures surrounding the central oval enclosure. No further features are clearly identifiable within the development area. To the east elements of Twyn yr Esgair settlement (CM306) are visible, with suggestions of possible further enclosure further east up the stream valley, on the north side of the stream. Elsewhere sheep fold PRN 35979 is visible, as

another complex of enclosure, although on a slightly smaller scale and with a more rectilinear arrangement than visible at LYF01.

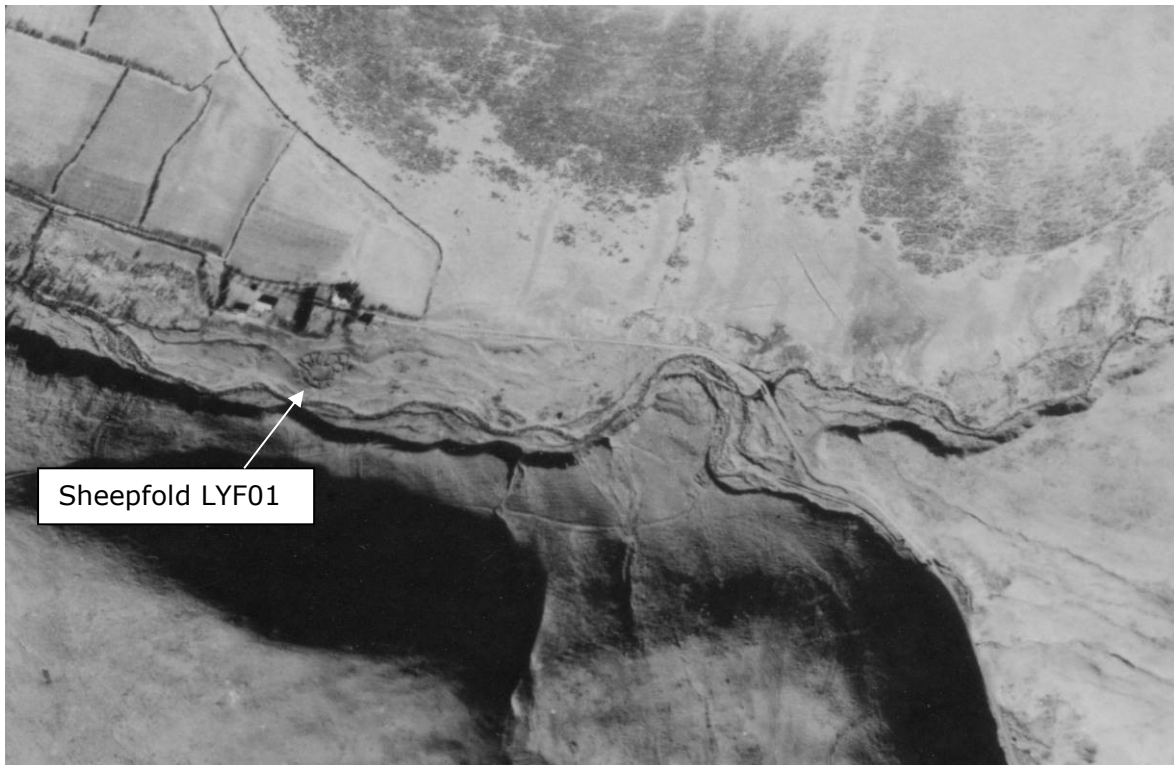


Photo 2: Aerial photographic image from 1946 showing the proposed development area.

- 7.4.3 Modern aerial photography (Google Earth and Bing maps) were referred to, including images from 2005 onwards. The main features of note include the ruined sheep fold site on the south side of the trackway (LYF01), and a number of potential internment camp bases on the south side of the track (recorded on the HER). A concentrated spread of stones lies adjacent to the ruinous sheepfold, at SN 7979 2383. No clear structural element can be defined, and the spread appears natural in origin, however it may be of note given areas of the scheduled settlement site to the east (CM306) also appear as ill-defined concentrations of stone on the satellite imagery. A series of short ditches are also shown running roughly perpendicular to the south side of the track, clearly modern features, appearing to correspond to modern drainage features along the north side of the track,
- 7.4.4 LiDAR imagery at a resolution of 1m was partially available for the site, but no notable features were observed within the study area.

7.5 Site Walkover Survey (Photos 3 - 22)

- 7.5.1 A site visit was undertaken on the 11th of December 2020. Weather conditions were damp and cloudy, but visibility was fair and no problems were encountered. The visit comprised a walkover survey of the proposed development area from the gateway and cattle grid off the tarmac road at the west end (photo 3) to the car park at the east end (photo 12), including the base of the river valley surrounding the site. The site and surrounds of the scheduled monument CM306 were also visited. Figure 7 shows the location and directions of photographs used in this report.

- 7.5.2 The current road comprises a compacted stone single track. As this curves around the enclosed buildings at the west end the track is bordered by grass and areas of reeds (photo 4), with a watercourse running in front of the well-defined boundary to the enclosure to the north. As it runs past the eastern side of the enclosure and continues towards the car park the south side opens into a wider area of turf-covered ground (photo 6-8), dropping slightly to demonstrate the track has been partly built up to create a level track. Initially a stone wall lines a grass verge on the northern side, before it opens out onto unenclosed rising ground. A series of rectangular, concrete-lined, drains lie on the north side of the track at the base of the rising ground to aid in drainage off the hillside (photos 9-10). These then run under the track and into channels running off toward the river, features that are visible on the modern aerial photographs. At the east end the car park area comprises a levelled area of hardstanding, with embanked material around the edge, presumably deposited from the artificial levelling of the car park (photo 11-12). The ground falls to the river to the east and south, and rises on the north side into a ridge along the northern edge of the adjoining tributary stream. An area of collapse to the east shows this ridge to be unstable and liable to small landslides. Beyond the car park the track continues to cross the river via a 20th century stone-built bridge.
- 7.5.3 The former sheepfold (LYF01) to the south of the track is still a clearly visible and relatively understandable structure (photos 5, 13-14). It comprises a central circular area 13m to 16m in diameter, enclosed in dry-stone walling surviving up to 0.9m high in places, with a splayed entrance to the north approximately 5m wide. This is surrounded by tumbled stone walls, some partly hidden in the reeds, outlining a series of small surrounding enclosures. There would appear to be a gap of approximately 2.5m from the current track edge, to the visible remains of the splayed entrance.
- 7.5.4 Only a small number of building remains relating to the former internment camp were visible. Adjacent to the sheepfold lies hut PRN 112062, a rectangular brick-built structure, surviving to a height of 0.7m (photos 15-16). The frogged bricks are stamped 'Ammanford Colliery'. These brickworks were established in the early 20th century, and continued in use until the 1960s, although 'Ammanford Colliery' bricks pre-date the nationalisation of the mine in 1947 (<http://www.terrnorm.ic24.net/>). Adjacent to this site lies a modern fenced enclosure surrounding rain gauges, as marked on current mapping. Further along, on the riverside, lies the former magazine PRN 111180 (photo 17), a roofless stone-built structure, as described in the HER. A building platform PRN 112063 closer to the roadside was not readily identifiable at the time of survey.
- 7.5.5 The development plans mark an existing drovers track. This is visible as a cutting on the south side of the river, with a simple ford to cross the river (photo 18), but becomes more ill-defined on the north side. An area of stone, identified from aerial photographs at SN 7979 2383 is visible at ground level, but no structural elements are discernible (photo 19). The stones are large, river-washed boulders, largely set into the turf and reeds. Running along the south side of this area is a slight bank with levelled area along the south side (photo 20). This may represent a former river channel, historic mapping suggests an active water channel in this area, alternatively it may represent a section of former trackway.
- 7.5.6 The remains of the building platforms and enclosures that comprise the scheduled area of CM306 (photos 21-22) are difficult to distinguish amongst the river boulders, turf and reeds, with the clearest feature being the rectangular building platform cut into the hillside to the north of the stream (NPRN 408387). Situated in the base of a valley views are largely channelled along the Sawdde valley, and that of the Nant Melyn tributary. Woodland limits views along the

valley base to the west of the development area, and ground generally begins to rise into the upland beyond the eastern end of the development area.



Photo 3: View south from the cattle grid at the start of the proposed development area.



Photo 4: View east-southeast as the track runs around the south side of the buildings towards the west end of the development area.



Photo 5: View west showing the track curving back round the north, and also showing the gap between the track and the part-buried remains of the sheepfold (LYF01) entrance immediately to the left of the 1m scale.



Photo 6: View west of area of proposed car parking and drainage.



Photo 7: As photo 4, views from further along the track.



Photo 8: View east along current trackway. 1m scale.



Photo 9: View north of a modern drainage channel cut under the current track.



Photo 10: View west showing one of the drainage features on the northern side of the track. 1m scale.



Photo 11: View north of current car park area. 1m scale.



Photo 12: View southwest looking down on the current car park area.



Photo 13: View south of the splayed entrance to sheepfold (LYF01). 1m scale.



Photo 14: View southeast of the central enclosure of sheepfold (LYF01).



Photo 15: View east-southeast of internment camp building PRN 112062. 1m scale.



Photo 16: Brickwork of building PRN 112062.



Photo 17: View west of Powder Magazine PRN 111180. 1m scale.



Photo 18: View south of the drivers track fording the Sawdde. 1m scale.



Photo 19: View west of concentrated area of stones visible on aerial photographs.



Photo 20: View east along possible former river channel or riverside trackway.



Photo 21: View west from the site of scheduled monument CM306, looking along the river valley and proposed development area.



Photo 22: View west from the highest point along the northern edge of the scheduled area of CM306 looking along the river valley. The current car park is visible in the centre of shot.

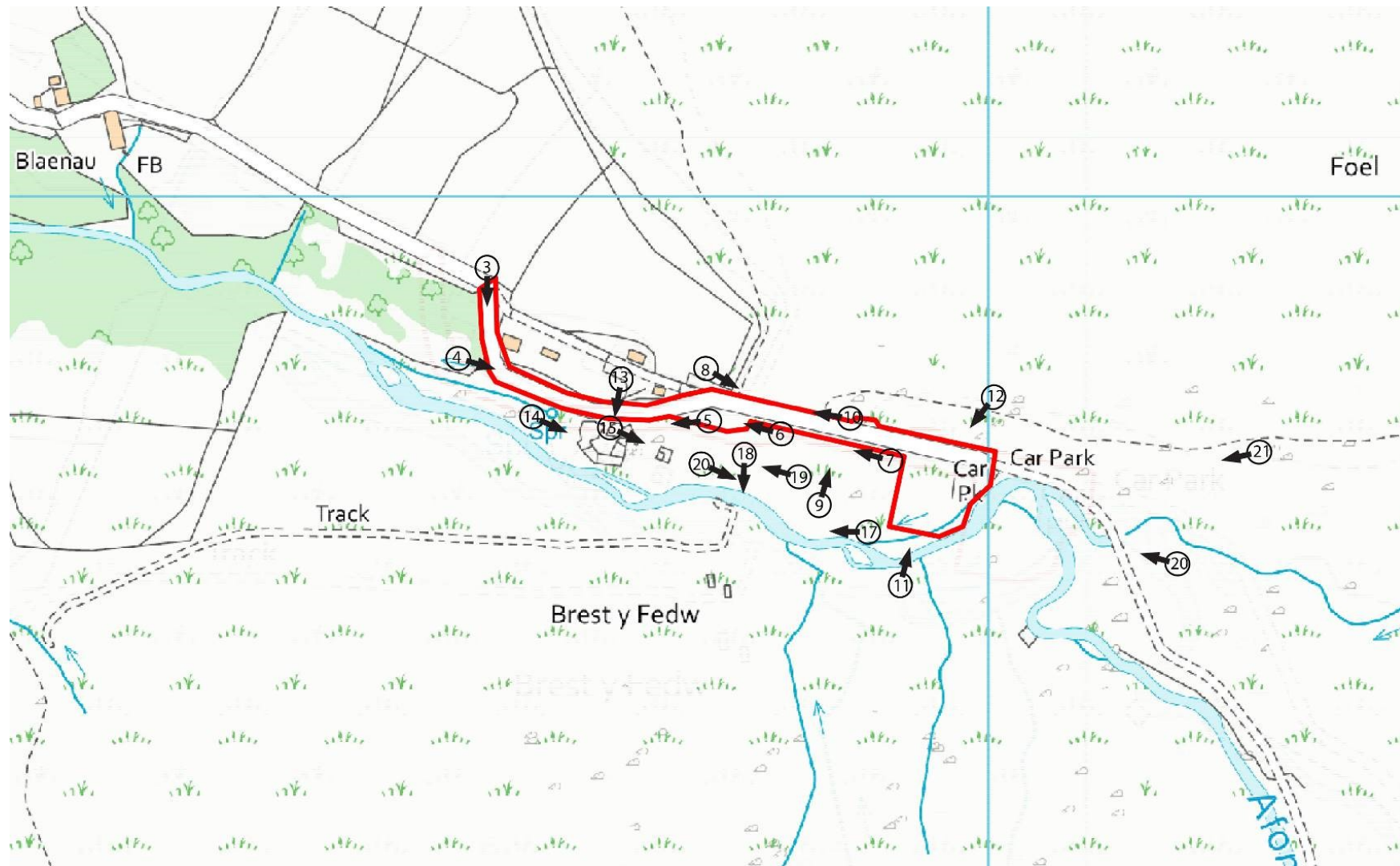


Figure 7: Locations and directions of photos. Underlying map provided by client.

8. ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL, IMPORTANCE AND SETTINGS

Table 4: Site potential definitions

Archaeological Potential	Definition
High	Known archaeological remains of the period within the site area, or an abundance of remains of the period within the near vicinity
Medium	A number of archaeological remains of the period are present in the vicinity or wider area, and/or the topography or location of the site would be typical for remains of that period
Low	Few sites of a specific period are known in the wider area, or where the topography of the site is unlikely to contain remains of that period. Or where no archaeological records of a certain period are present, but the location of the site is one that would be considered suitable or typical for remains of that period to exist
Negligible	Where there is no evidence for archaeological remains of a certain period to be present and the location/topography is most unlikely to contain remains of that period, or where a site area has already been totally disturbed

Table 5: Site importance definitions

Site Importance (SI)	Definition of Site Category
High	Features of national importance - Scheduled Monuments, Listed buildings Grade I and II*, well preserved historic landscapes, registered parks and gardens and historic battlefields
Medium	Non-scheduled sites of regional or county importance. Listed Buildings Grade II, reasonably preserved historic landscapes
Medium / Low	Features of district or local importance but generally common features at a national or regional level
Low	Minor sites or sites so badly damaged that too little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade
Uncertain	Features about which insufficient is known to attribute them to a higher rank, or which cannot be sufficiently accurately located to justify their consideration
Negligible	Where a site area has already been totally disturbed by previous development or natural processes

8.1 Potential

- 8.1.1 The proposed development runs through the site of a First World War Conscientious Objectors Camp (PRN 110406). The camp was established during the war, with occupants involved in the construction of the nearby reservoir. The current track was established at this point, with a number of light-weight huts built along it and in the area to the south. A detailed study of this camp has taken place, and identified remains recorded, which include a building platform (PRN 112063) close to the trackway, although this particular site was difficult to identify during the walkover survey as part of this current assessment. It is described as a levelled area, cleared of stones, but specific dimensions are not recorded. No further remains have been positively identified within the proposed development area, but given the temporary and light-weight nature of the structures, and the potentially dispersed nature of activity on the site, there is a medium potential of associated remains throughout this area. The main focus of activity is of **Medium** archaeological value, but this is likely to have been within the enclosure around the extant dwelling to the north of the development area, therefore any associated remains within the development area are likely to be of a **Low** archaeological value.

- 8.1.2 A complex sheep fold (LYF01) lies adjacent to the track, likely post-medieval in date. Above ground remains of the site survive, and the layout appears relatively well-understood from mapping and photographic sources. The site is a relatively complex structure, one of a number on the edge of the grazed open uplands, and is likely to be associated with well-used and developed trackways, and potentially shepherd huts and shelters as well, suggesting a Medium potential for associated archaeological remains in the vicinity. The nature of the sheep fold appears little understood, and the relationship to the management of the post-medieval landscape under-researched, as such this complex site is of **Medium** archaeological importance. Associated features in the surrounding area are likely to be of **Low** archaeological importance given their likely state of survival and relative information they may contain.
- 8.1.3 The presence of Twyn yr Esgair Settlement to the east (CM306) helps to highlight the potential for similar settlement activity along the valley base. The date of such activity remains unclear, with a general potential for similar prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity long the valley base. Given the lack of identified remains, previous development and the concentration of proposed development along and alongside the existing trackway, it is likely that any such potential will be low within the proposed development area. Any evidence of such activity is likely to be of **Medium** archaeological value however, given the scheduled nature of Twyn yr Esgair.

8.2 Setting

- 8.2.1 The *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017) offers guidance on defining and analysing the setting of designated heritage assets to allow the impact of development to be appropriately assessed. The setting of such monuments includes “the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve” (Cadw 2017). As such it often extends beyond the physical boundaries of the monument itself. This may include physical elements in its surroundings, such as boundaries and other monuments, relationships with other historic assets and natural features, or associated agricultural, industrial or other surroundings. Less tangible elements are also included, such as function, sensory perceptions, historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations.
- 8.2.2 Twyn yr Esgair Settlement (CM306) lies within 90m of the proposed development area. The location would suggest the setting is likely tied into the pastoral agricultural history of the area, as the settlement appears largely to comprise small dwellings, shelters and sheep folds. The location therefore suggests a close link to the surrounding areas of grazing, although some field boundaries have been suggested by RCAHMW inspectors. In terms of location, it has chosen a more sheltered site in the valley bottom, with access to water, although there appears a deliberate choice to choose the smaller stream of Nant Melyn rather than the larger, and presumably more energetic and unpredictable, Afon Sawdde, although easy access to this is still possible. Enclosed agricultural land, with presumably greater frequency of permanent dwellings, may have formed an important element of wider land management, as it does today, and the site maintain relatively easy access along the valley floor. The date of the settlement may have a significant bearing on which elements of the landscape, and which surrounding archaeological features, feature more prominently in the setting of this monument. For example, post-medieval sheep folds and building platforms lie along the lower valley slopes, with settlement areas to the west, whilst prehistoric sites of ritual significance are located in the upland regions to the east. In terms of visual setting, the site is not a prominent one as the features that comprise the site are difficult to see on the ground. Views instead

take in the rural upland setting up the Nant Melyn valley, flanked by rising ground on either side. The site itself is best viewed from relatively close up as the valley curves away slightly, or from raised ground to either side. From the site the most extensive views are down along the valley to the west. From the locality notable views exist up the main river valley to the south with dramatic upland backdrop.

- 8.2.3 The only other scheduled monument within the study area is the stone setting on Waun Llwyd. This lies close to the source of the Sychnant, a small tributary of Nant Melyn, and the area is approached by a footpath that is accessed from the proposed development area, but otherwise there is no clear element of the proposed development area that constitutes part of the setting of this monument.
- 8.2.4 The listed buildings within the study area all lie on the south side of the Sawdde valley, further downstream, within areas of enclosed farmland overlooking the wooded floor of the valley. There are no clear links, visual or otherwise, between these listed buildings and the proposed development area.
- 8.2.5 The proposed development area lies within the Historic Landscape Character Area of The Black Mountain – Y Mynydd Ddu (HLCA 240), part of the Black Mountains and Mynydd Myddfai Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 1). This is predominantly an open upland area with a hard boundary to enclosed fields. Five main themes are described (see Section 5.4), areas that have been used as upland pasture which have included woodland removal started during the Mesolithic, areas of prehistoric occupation and partial enclosure with associated funerary and ritual activities, areas of informal occupation with longhuts and partial post-medieval enclosure, and areas of 19th-20th century leisure activities. The proposed development lies both in close proximity to an area of informal occupation represented by the Twyn yr Esgair Settlement, but also now comprises an area of modern leisure activities, representing a well-used car parking area for leisure walkers into the Black Mountain area and therefore is recognised as a noted element of the historic landscape.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 Impact Assessment Criteria

- 9.1.1 The criteria for the assessment of impacts, both direct and indirect, on heritage assets is based on The Department for Transport 'Transport Analysis Guidance' (TAG), Unit A3 'Environmental Impact Appraisal: Section 8 Impacts on the Historic Environment', of May 2019, with additional information based on professional judgement. In addition however, the guidance offered in the Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017) has been utilised.
- 9.1.2 The TAG criteria divides the impacts into seven categories, ranging from Large Adverse (negative), Moderate Adverse (negative), Slight Adverse (negative), to Neutral, and then on to Slight Beneficial (positive), Moderate Beneficial (positive) and Large Beneficial (positive).

9.2 Development Details

- 9.2.1 Development proposals are illustrated in Figures 8 & 9. They include resurfacing the existing track, largely by overlaying it with additional material.
- 9.2.2 Close to the western entrance the track will be widened in two locations on the south side to provide passing places, with a third passing place excavated into the bank on the north side of the original line of the track further to the east. The bank will be further graded back beyond this passing place, and a new drainage ditch will be excavated along the northern edge of the track.
- 9.2.3 Along the southern edge of the track to the east of the dwelling the ground will be levelled or infilled as necessary to provide an addition row of parking spaces alongside the track. At the point the track diverges from the original line to run south of the dwelling a larger area will be levelled with stones removed to create an overflow car park for use during peak periods, the edge of which will be marked by large boulders to prevent parking on common land.
- 9.2.4 The existing car park access will be re-laid in tarmac, and new parking spaces created alongside, with the current bank surrounding the car park removed for use as fill material. This parking area will be reorganised in identified bays, to allow the area to be smaller than the existing parking area, the edges of which will be grubbed up and re-laid with topsoil and turf. Four tarmac disabled parking spaces will be provided on the east side alongside the track.
- 9.2.5 Existing drainage ditches will also be extended southward. Signage will be provided at passing places, and the overflow car park.

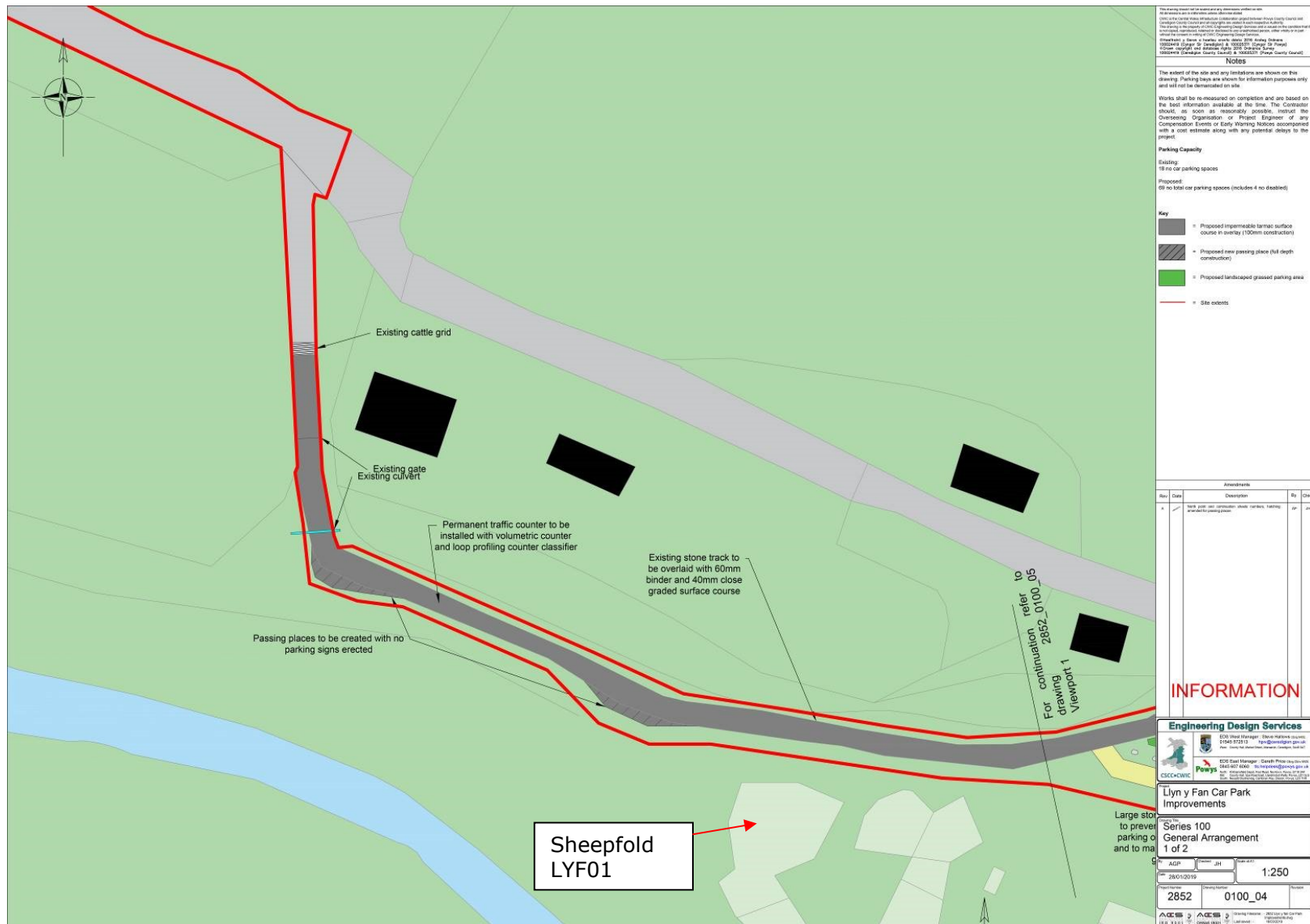


Figure 8: Proposed development plan 1 of 2 (provided by the client). Map not reproduced to original scale, and additionally marked with historic assets discussed in the assessment.

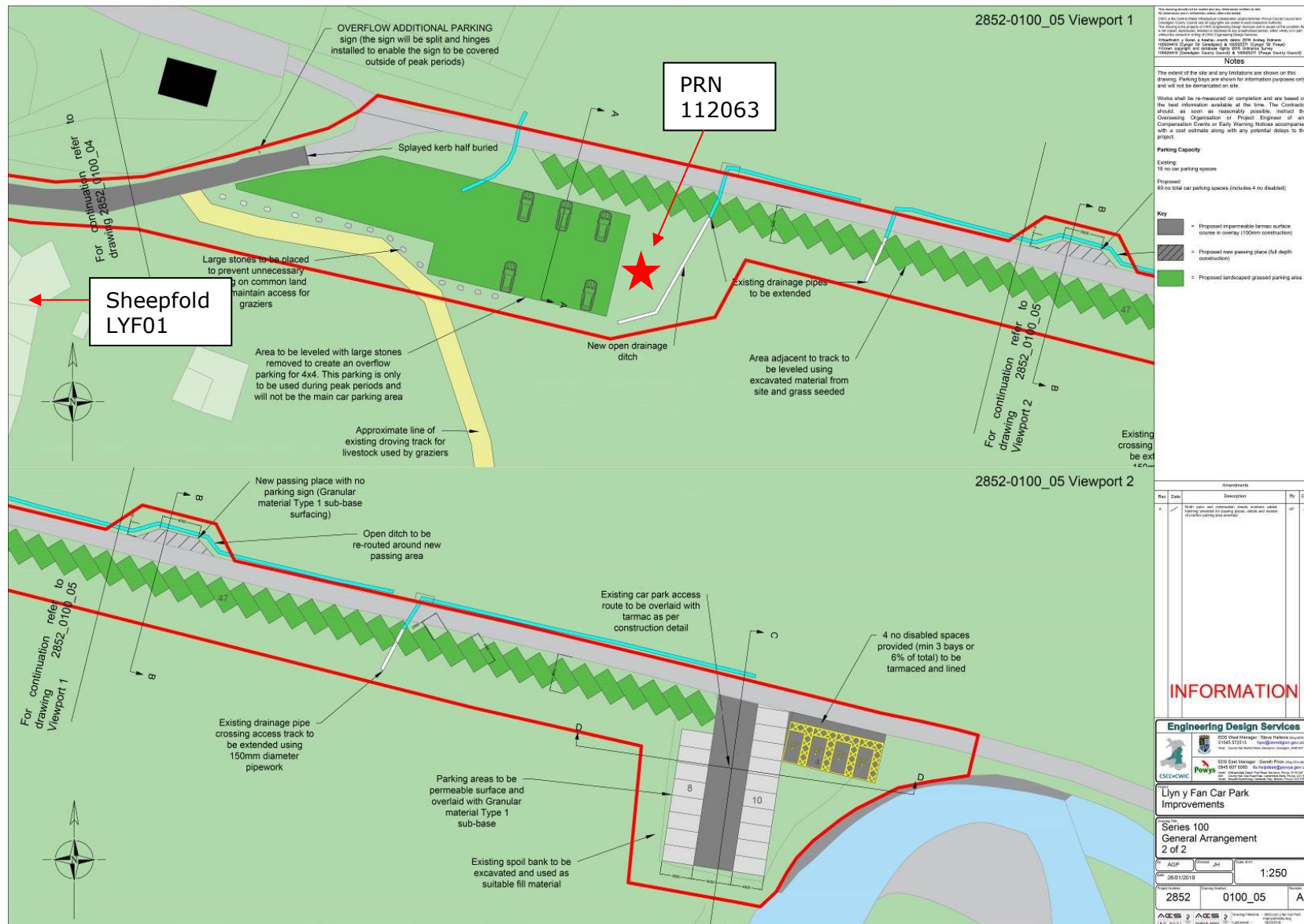


Figure 9: Proposed development plan 2 of 2 (provided by the client). Map not reproduced to original scale, and additionally marked with historic assets discussed in the assessment.

9.3 Direct impacts upon historic assets

- 9.3.1 Two specific assets have been identified within or adjacent to the proposed development area, with areas of archaeological potential also identified.
- 9.3.2 PRN 110406 is a First World War Conscientious Objectors Camp. Multiple individual features are identified within the camp as a whole, which includes a hut platform PRN 112063 on the southern side of the current track. The area of the camp has been subject to site visits and recording (Pritchard, Pyper & Rees 2017), and therefore the layout of visible archaeological remains is relatively well understood, although the potential for further below-ground remains is high (section 8.1.1). In terms of visible remains PRN 112063 is located between the overflow parking and an extended drainage ditch (figure 8), and is therefore vulnerable to being impacted upon by construction traffic, levelling and stripping works, and drainage ditch excavations. The track itself was also established as part of the camp, although it is likely to have been resurfaced a number of times since then. No other visible remains should be affected, but there is the potential for the passage of construction machinery, excavation of drainage ditches, and areas of infilled and levelling to damage potential below-ground remains. Overall this is considered to be a **Slight Adverse** impact upon the camp as a whole, with a potential **Moderate Adverse** impact upon PRN 112063.
- 9.3.3 LYF01 is a post-medieval sheep fold on the south side of the track. The site is defined by tumbled stone walls; therefore existing remains appear relatively well mapped. However, the entrance is on the northern side of the feature closest to the track, buried remains may extend beyond the current visible limits, and associated archaeological remains may be more extensive. Therefore, the current visible structure should remain unaffected, although the passage of construction machinery, storage of materials, and nearby levelling and construction work has potential to disturb associated remains. This is considered to be a **Neutral to Slight Adverse** impact.
- 9.3.4 A general potential for further settlement activity has been identified within the lower valley area that may consequently be affected by any ground-breaking activity associated with the proposed development. Such activity is relatively limited however, and as no positive remains have been identified, this is considered to be a potential **Slight Adverse** impact.

9.4 Impacts to the Settings of Surrounding Designated Assets

- 9.4.1 The proposed development will not have a direct impact upon any designated heritage asset. A number of designated sites lie in the surrounding landscape (see Section 5.2), and potential indirect impacts upon the settings of these assets are assessed.
- 9.4.2 The scheduled monument of Twyn yr Esgair Settlement CM306 lies within 90m east of the proposed development area. The rural setting of unenclosed upland, and its sheltered stream valley location, will remain unaltered. As the age of the asset is uncertain, the effect of proposed development upon potential associated archaeological remains extending down the main river valley is also uncertain, but no associated remains have been identified in the proposed development area and below-ground impacts upon potential archaeology is likely to be minimal. In terms of visual impacts the setting is likely to be little altered as much of the work will be concentrated on existing track and car park surfaces, with additional parking areas alongside the track retaining a similar appearance to the present turf cover. New signage is anticipated to be relatively minimal (passing place/no parking signs and overflow parking sign), with the overflow parking sign covered when not in use.

- 9.4.3 The main impact upon the setting of CM306 would appear to be the potential increase in footfall that improved parking facilities may bring to the area. The main track passes adjacent to the scheduled Area, and may bisect some of the settlement remains, and a footpath crosses higher ground along the northern edge of the scheduled Area. Increased footfall could result in an increase in erosion, particularly as the site is both open access and difficult to identify at ground level, as well as potentially altering the relatively quiet and isolated setting of the monument. The effect of this is difficult to establish at present. The site was visited at a quiet time (during the Covid pandemic), but it is clear the site does get busy and parking is an issue, but erosion of the site was not noted during the visit. Whether improved parking will therefore facilitate a noticeable rise in footfall is unknown. Overall it is expected that impact will be minimal, but the potential for increased erosion and general rise in activity around the site is considered to be a **Slight Adverse** impact.
- 9.4.4 The proposed development is not considered to impact upon the setting of other scheduled monuments in the area, nor is it considered to impact upon any listed buildings in the surrounding area.
- 9.4.5 The site lies within HLCA 240 The Black Mountain – Y Mynydd Ddu, part of the Black Mountains and Mynydd Myddfai Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 1). As the scale of proposed development is relatively minimal, and no change of use occurs, the impact on the setting of this Historic Landscape is considered **Neutral**.

10. CONCLUSIONS

10.1 Archaeological Potential and Impact Assessment

- 10.1.1 The assessment has identified a potential direct impact upon three historic assets. The site runs through a First World War Conscientious Objectors Camp PRN 110406. As a whole the camp is of **Medium** archaeological value, but most of the known features are likely to remain unaffected, and individual features within the proposed development area are of **Low** archaeological value. Hut platform PRN 112063 could be impacted by work on the overflow car park and drainage ditch excavations and further below—ground remains of the camp may also be affected by groundworks. This is considered to be a **Slight Adverse** direct impact.
- 10.1.2 A post-medieval sheep fold LYF01, of **Medium** archaeological value, lies adjacent to the track and may be affected by associated works. In general the site should be avoided, therefore there is considered to be a **Slight Adverse** direct impact.
- 10.1.3 A **Low** potential for archaeological remains relating to settlement activity from a wide potential date range has been identified; of **Medium** archaeological value. The scale of groundwork is considered to have a potential Slight Adverse direct impact.
- 10.1.4 The assessment has identified a potential indirect impact upon the setting of one nearby designated historic asset, Twyn yr Esgair Settlement CM306. Generally the potential impact is considered minimal but a possible increase to visitor erosion and an alteration to the tranquillity of the site is considered to be a **Slight Adverse** indirect impact.

Table 6: Assessment of impacts

Site Name	Ref. No.	Value	Site status	Direct impact	Indirect impact
WWI Conscientious Objectors Camp – potential features	PRN 110406	Low	None	Slight Adverse	-
Building Platform (WWI Camp)	PRN 112063	Low	None	Moderate Adverse	-
Sheep Fold	LYF01	Medium	None	Slight Adverse	-
Archaeological Potential – Settlement activity	-	Medium	None	Slight Adverse	-
Twyn yr Esgair Settlement	CM306	High	Scheduled Monument	-	Slight Adverse

10.2 Mitigation

- 10.2.1 Due to potential direct impacts upon archaeological remains associated with the Conscientious Objectors Camp (PRNs 110406/112063) and general archaeological potential of the site area, ground disturbing works could benefit from an archaeological watching brief during groundworks to record any associated archaeological remains should they be encountered. PRN 112063 in particular lies close to potential groundworks, and the specific extent of archaeological remains associated with this site is difficult to identify with any

precision. Development works in this area could benefit from an archaeological watching brief to record elements of this site should they become apparent during the works.

- 10.2.2 To minimise the potential direct impact upon the sheep fold LYF01 it may be necessary to temporarily fence the visible remains during development works to exclude them from accidental impact.
- 10.2.3 In order to reduce the potential indirect impact upon Twyn yr Esgair Settlement CM306 it may be necessary to monitor footfall on a regular basis during busy period to assess the extent of any erosion, and any requirements for further mitigation measures to reduce it.

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