

LLANDOVERY PLAYING FIELDS, CARMARTHENSHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Carmarthenshire County Council



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**LLANDOVERY PLAYING FIELDS,
CARMARTHENSHIRE:
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED
ASSESSMENT**

By

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LLANDOVERY PLAYING FIELDS, CARMARTHENSHIRE

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

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LLANDOVERY PLAYING FIELDS, CARMARTHENSHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL	1
1 INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Project Proposals and Commission	2
1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology	2
1.3 Abbreviations	3
1.4 Illustrations	4
1.5 Timeline	4
2 NATIONAL POLICES AND GUIDANCE	5
2.1 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act	5
2.2 Planning Policy Wales	5
2.3 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment	5
3 LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES	6
3.1 Carmarthenshire County Council Policies	6
4 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	7
5 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS	9
5.1 General	9
5.2 Scheduled Monuments	9
5.3 Registered Parks and Gardens	9
5.4 Listed Buildings	9
5.5 Registered Historic Landscapes	10
5.6 Conservation Areas	11
6 UNDESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS	15
6.1 General	15
6.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic	15
6.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age	15
6.4 Iron Age	15
6.5 Roman Period	15
6.6 Early Medieval & Medieval Period	16
6.7 Post-Medieval & Modern Period	16
7 ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE	20
7.1 Previous Archaeological Work	20
7.2 Llandingat tithe map 1839	21
7.3 Ordnance Survey map 1888	21
7.4 Ordnance Survey map 1906	21
7.5 Ordnance Survey map 1950	21
7.7 Aerial & Historic Photography	25

7.8	LiDAR	28
7.9	Site Visit	28
8	ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND IMPORTANCE, AND ASSESSMENT OF SETTING	35
8.1	Potential	35
8.2	Setting	36
9	IMPACT ASSESSMENT	37
9.1	Impact Assessment Criteria	37
9.2	Development Details	37
9.3	Direct Impacts upon Historic Assets	37
10	CONCLUSIONS	37
10.1	Archaeological Potential and Impact Assessment	37
10.2	Mitigation	37
11	SOURCES	38

FIGURES

Figure 1:	Location of development area	8
Figure 2:	Map of study area and designated sites	14
Figure 3:	Map of study area and undesignated sites	19
Figure 4:	Extract from the 1842 tithe map	22
Figure 5:	Extract from the Ordnance Survey map 1888	23
Figure 6:	Extract from the Ordnance Survey map 1906	24

TABLES

Table 1:	Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales	4
Table 2:	Designated historic assets in the study area	12
Table 3:	Undesignated historic assets recorded on the HER	17
Table 4:	Site potential definitions	35
Table 5:	Site importance definitions	35

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1:	Aerial photograph taken by the RAF in May 1946 depicting the development area and the surrounding landscape.	25
Photo 2:	Aerial photograph taken in 1989 depicting the faint traces of Roman road cropmark (PRN 13152) found east of the development area (© DAT).	26
Photo 3:	Aerial photograph taken in 1989 depicting the faint traces of Roman road cropmark (PRN 13152) found east of the development area (© DAT).	26
Photo 4:	Aerial photograph taken in 1993 showing the development area at the top right corner of the photo. Llanfair-ar-y-bryn church is at	

	the centre which is enclosed within earthworks belonging to the Roman Fort (© DAT).	27
Photo 5:	Aerial photograph taken in 1993 showing the development area on the right of the photo and the surviving earthworks of the Roman fort in the centre (© DAT).	27
Photo 6:	View northeast across development area	29
Photo 7:	View south along western edge of development area.	29
Photo 8:	View northwest of semi-circular raised platform.	30
Photo 9:	View southwest from Llandovery Roman Fort (CM188 towards) the development area.	30
Photo 10:	View northeast from the development area towards the position of Llandovery Roman Fort (CM 188) showing the intervening woodland.	31
Photo 11:	View west of listed building (LB 11028) in Llandovery town.	31
Photo 12:	View north towards the development area from listed building LB 11028.	32
Photo 13:	View north from William Williams monument (LB 10969) showing how views towards the development area are blocked by St Marys church.	32
Photo 14:	View south east of St Marys church lychgate (LB 82891).	33
Photo 15:	View south east from St Mary's church lychgate (LB 82891) towards the development area.	33
Photo 16:	View northeast of St Marys Church (LB 10967).	34
Photo 17:	View southwest from St Marys Church (LB 10967) towards proposed development that is obscured by woodland.	34

LLANDOVERY PLAYING FIELDS, CARMARTHENSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for prospective development at Llandovery playing fields, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire (SN 76626 35032).

The desk-based assessment established that the archaeological potential of the development area is medium/high due to the presence of well-preserved Roman and Medieval archaeological remains recorded in close vicinity to the development area. Any proposed development in this area is likely to have a large adverse impact on any surviving below ground archaeological remains or deposits.

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Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD i baratoi Asesiad Ddesg yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol ar gyfer ddatblygiad darpar ar gaeau chwarae Llanymddyfri, Llanymddyfri, Sir Gaerfyrddin (SN 76626 35032).

Sefydlodd yr asesiad desg fod potensial archeolegol yr ardal ddatblygu yn ganolig / uchel oherwydd presenoldeb gweddillion archeolegol Rhufeinig a Chanoloesol sydd wedi'u cadw'n dda ac a gofnodwyd yn agos at yr ardal ddatblygu. Mae unrhyw ddatblygiad arfaethedig yn yr ardal hon yn debygol o gael effaith andwyol fawr ar unrhyw weddillion neu ddyddodion archeolegol sydd wedi goroesi o dan y ddaear.

LLANDOVERY PLAYING FIELDS, CARMARTHENSHIRE

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Carmarthenshire County Council to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for a proposed housing development at Llandovery playing Fields, Llandovery, Carmarthenshire (SN 47297 01275).
- 1.1.2 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.
- 1.1.3 The assessment has been a primarily desk-based study of the site area, identifying any known archaeological or historical sites within the site and its environs, 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 Standard And Guidance For Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The standard is stated by CIfA 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 of the area identifies known archaeological sites within the site and its environs, and assesses the potential for hitherto unknown remains to be present within the development area. This will

help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigations strategies, including the potential for further archaeological works.

- 1.2.4 The scope of the report also includes an assessment of the impact on the settings of surrounding designated historic assets, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic landscape character areas and undesignated archaeological sites. This utilises the best practice guidance in *Setting of Historic assets in Wales* (2017). This guidance sets out a four stage approach. Stage 1 being the identification of the historic assets that may be affected by development. Stage 2 defines and analyses the setting of the assets. Stage 3 evaluates the potential impact of the development upon the setting. Stage 4 considered mitigation options.
- 1.2.5 The report presents relevant information from a number of sources including:
- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record data;
 - Map regression exercise using earlier cartographic sources;
 - Available and relevant reports on any archaeological work undertaken in the area that affects the site or its setting;
 - Archive records held at the County Archive, the National Library of Wales (NLW) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMS);
 - Aerial photography, satellite imagery and Lidar data;
 - Relevant records held by the developer;
 - Identification of any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Historic Landscapes, Historic Landscape Character Areas or Conservation Areas within or in the vicinity of the site area (Cadw, DAT, NRW);
 - Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area;
 - Assessment of the likely impact upon the settings of surrounding features of the historic environment; and
 - Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains within the development area (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.
- 1.2.6 Carmarthenshire county council require a study area of 0.5km from the centre of the proposed development to ascertain the known archaeological and historical resources.
- 1.2.7 This report contains information about the historic environment and historic assets in the vicinity of the development area, which will assist the archaeological advisors to the planning authority in their decision about what, if any, archaeological mitigation will be required. 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). Listed Buildings (LB). Altitude is expressed to a height above Ordnance Datum (aOD). 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 gives date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within this report.

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

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

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 Carmarthenshire County Council Policies

- 3.1.1 The Historic Environment is subject to the relevant policies and procedures as laid out in the Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018 – 2033.
- 3.1.2 The historic environment is referenced throughout the document in numerous policies, emphasising its significance to the county. The main policy references to the Historic Environment are outlined in the strategic policy SP14:

SP 14: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment:

Development proposals should preserve or enhance the built and historic environment of the County, its cultural, townscape and landscape assets, and, where appropriate, their setting. DAT Archaeological Services 10 Report No. 2020/42 Proposals will be expected to promote high quality design that reinforces local character and respects and enhances the cultural and historic qualities of the plan area.

- 11.445 *Carmarthenshire has a rich and diverse historical and cultural built heritage with a range of Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, and Scheduled Monuments. The recognition of the Plan area's built heritage and its conservation is essential in providing a sense of history, character, and a sense of place.*
- 11.446 *The Plan area also contains discovered, and yet to be discovered archaeological sites and features. The Policy and the Plan aims, in conjunction with primary legislation on the built environment and historic buildings to safeguard the cultural integrity of the historic settlements, features and buildings within the Plan area. Where applicable, it also looks to contribute to the enhancement of the historic and built environment. This recognises that our historic assets are irreplaceable resources and their conservation provides social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits.*
- 11.447 *The County's historic buildings, townscape and landscape should be regarded as assets and positively conserved and enhanced for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. These are not only affected by change and neglect, but also by changes to their setting. As such, this is an important consideration in making decisions on proposals which may have an effect.*
- 11.448 *Many elements of the County's built and historic environment are protected through legislation or other policy provisions, and as such do not require policies in the revised LDP. The Plan does not therefore include policies in relation to facets of the built heritage such as Scheduled Monuments as they are adequately protected elsewhere.*
- 11.451 *Environment which recognises the importance of such areas and features of the County:*
- *Historic Parks and Gardens[38] - Many parks and gardens are historically significant and are listed in the Historic Parks and Gardens in Wales*

*Register. These areas are also defined on the LDP Proposals Map; •
Historic Landscapes[39]*

- *Archaeological Remains[40]*
- *Enabling Developments[41] - PPW sets out the provisions through which an enabling proposal would be considered*
- *Scheduled Monuments - These are defined on the Proposals Map*

4 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 4.1 The development area lies on the northern edge of Llandovery town; between the upper course of the Afon Twyi to the west and the Afon Bran to the east. The present day Heart of Wales main railway line borders the development area to the northwest, with residential housing and Llandovery Hospital to the south.
- 4.2 The development area comprises open short pasture currently being used as a sports field. The site lies on a plateaued area on the valley floor at approximately 70m OD.
- 4.3 The underlying solid geology of the site comprises of the Yr Allt formation - Mudstone – sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 444 to 449 million years ago in the Ordovician period. The overlying superficial deposits comprise of sands and gravels deposited around 3 million years ago during the Quaternary period (British Geological Survey mapping portal).

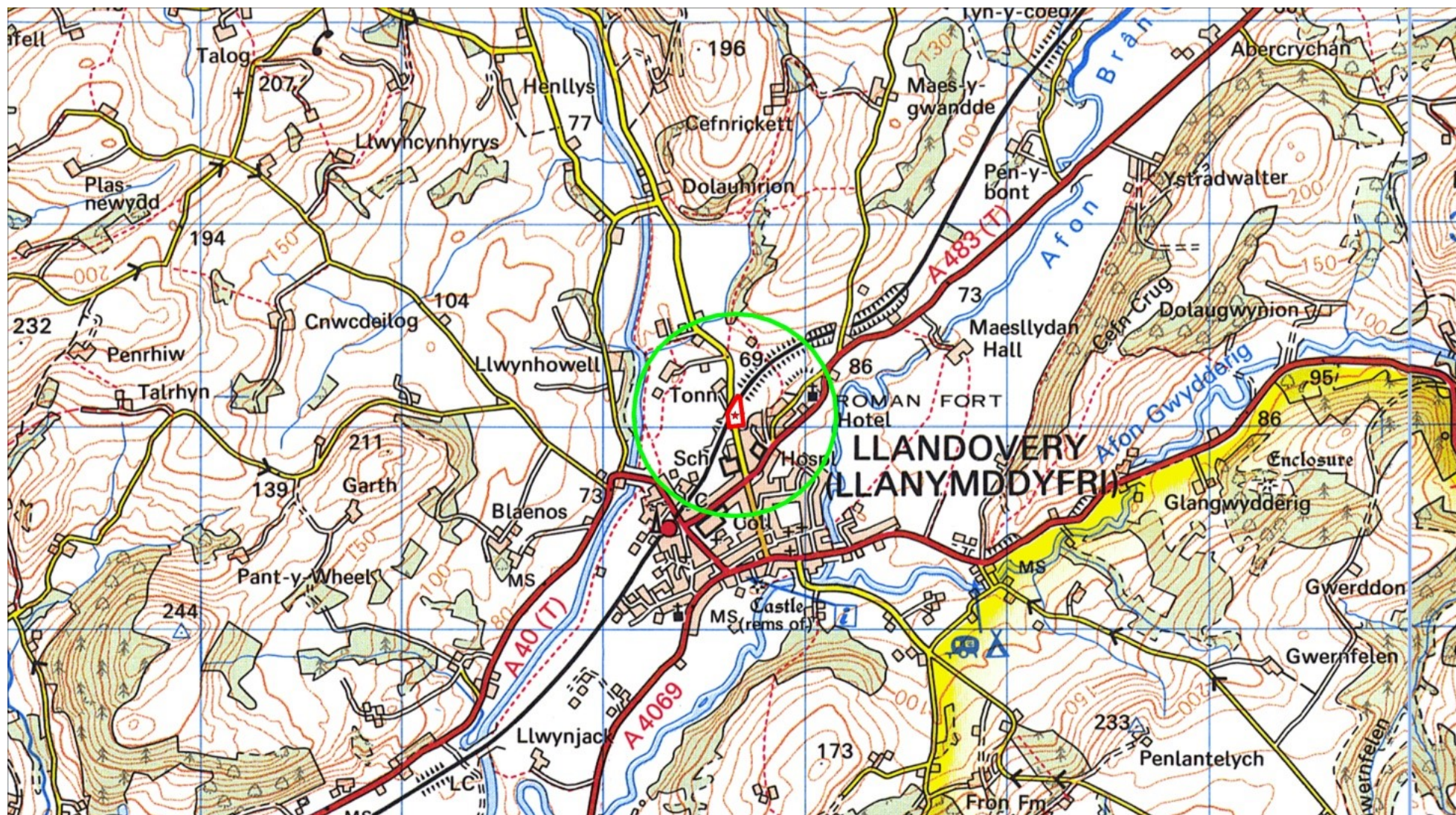


Figure 1: Location of development area, showing the development area (red) and the 500m radius study area (green)

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5 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Table 2 and Figure 2)

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 A search of data held on several databases was made of historic assets within the 500m radius search area. This included both designated and undesignated assets.

5.2 Scheduled Monuments

- 5.2.1 There are no scheduled monuments within the boundary of the development area. There is one scheduled monument in the 500m radius study area: CM188 Llandovery Roman site (PRN 4072). The following summary is taken from the Cadw website Cof Cymru:

This Roman site, thought to that of an auxiliary fort, is located at a critical point in the mid-Wales road system, where the Roman roads from Trawscoed, Castell Collen, Carmarthen and Brecon meet. The fort is thought to be that of Alabum, established in the 70s AD during the Flavian advance. Two later phases are represented by a reduction in its size before abandonment around AD 130. Possible traces of an extramural settlement have been recorded to the north-east and placenames below the fort to the south-east include 'Cae Bricks' and 'Tre Goch'. A possible Roman fortlet (NPRN 309669) has been recorded at Blaenos, about 1.75km to the west.

The site comprises a rectangular enclosure, measuring some 180m north-east to south-west by 140m. The enclosure comprises two sections separated by a road which branches north from the A483 and joins it again some 400m further north-east. The enclosure's well preserved western section is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, defined by scarped banks. It is located mainly to the north and west of St Mary's Church. The eastern section extends some 70m south of St Mary's church, and is delineated by the A483 to the east. It extends north to the point where the diverged road rejoins the A483. Historic (1888 and 1905) Ordnance Survey mapping depicts scarped banks also delineating the eastern section, with the A483 appearing to run along the top of the scarp. Historic Ordnance Survey mapping also depicts (with scarped banks) a further, smaller rectangular enclosure extending from the south-west end of the main enclosure. Modern development appears to obscure this feature. Modern Ordnance Survey mapping depicts the original line of the Roman road leaving the A483 (branching east of the current road) some 50m south-south-east of St Mary's Church, and continuing on a straight course for some 400m, before joining the A483 again. A third century pottery sherd from the fort and fourth century material from the vicinity suggest later Roman activity in the area, though this may simply be the result of casual losses along the road. There are fragments of Roman tile in the walls of the church.

5.3 Registered Historic Parks & Gardens

- 5.3.1 There are no registered historic parks and gardens in the 500m radius study area. The closest historic park being Llynymwormwood Park located 2.8km to the south of the proposed development.

5.4 Listed Buildings

- 5.4.1 There are no listed buildings within the boundary of the development area. There are eight listed buildings within the 500m radius study area; details of which are listed in Table 2.

5.5 Registered Historic Landscapes

- 5.5.1 The proposed development lies within the Tywi Valley Registered Historic landscaped (REF_NO: HLW (D) 5) which is classed as a landscape of outstanding historic interest. The following summary is taken from the Cadw website Cof Cymru:

The Tywi valley extends south westwards from the source of the river in the south of the Cambrian Mountains, through Mynydd Mallaen and the low, rolling hills and ridges of Carmarthenshire, to its estuary mouth in Carmarthen Bay. The valley is some 90km in length and of varying widths, but rarely more than a kilometre wide across the valley floor. The Vale of Towy or Dyffryn Tywi is generally understood to extend from Llandovery to Carmarthen, but the area identified here is the geographical entity of the valley, valley floor, flood plain and hills on either side, which extends from the Llyn Brianne reservoir near the headwaters, to the estuary. The principal significance of the valley is as setting for a unique group of planned parks and gardens, and its historic, artistic associations with the Picturesque which are best summarised in John Dyer of Aberglasney's loco-descriptive poem Grongar Hill published in 1726: 'Now, I gain the mountain's brow, What a landskip lies below! No clouds, no vapours intervene, But the gay, the open scene Does the face of nature show, In all the hues of heaven's bow! And, swelling to embrace the light, Spreads around beneath the sight. Old castles on the cliffs arise, Proudly tow'ring in the skies! Rushing from the woods, the spires Seem from hence ascending fires! Half his beams Apollo sheds On the yellow mountain-heads! Gilds the fleeces of the flocks: And glitters on the broken rocks!' This descriptive tradition continued through the 19th and into this century, and as a result there is a widespread popular sense of the Tywi valley as a cherished landscape. Late 17th and early 18th centuries artistic and poetic perceptions were fostered by their patrons, the county gentry. The area was dominated, but not exclusively, by the Vaughans of Gelli Aur and their many cadet branches who increasingly preferred to site their houses and mansions to take advantage of the scenic prospects of the valley. The 18th and 19th century's gentry families were in many cases descended from the Welsh uchelwyr (noblemen) of the 15th to 17th centuries, whose ancestry, descent and houses have been chronicled by the late Major Francis Jones, the Wales Herald. Jones makes constant use of the descriptions of houses and their settings by such late medieval bards as Lewis Glyn Cothi whose cywyddau (stanzas) give a sense of medieval landscape values in this area. Despite destruction and neglect, the area still contains many important houses and mansions, and new discoveries continue to be made. The area was also the heartland of Ystrad Tywi. Much of this territorial unit remained in Welsh control under Lord Rhys and his descendants until late in the 13th century, albeit one heavily fought over. The legacy of stone castles as well as earth and timber mottes and planted medieval boroughs still dominate the landscape. Some survived and developed, but others, like Dryslwyn and Dynevor Newton, did not. The siting of castles and boroughs, like the earlier Roman military strongpoints of forts, have been dictated by that constant necessity in river valleys of communications, and the consequent desire both to establish and to control them. The River Tywi is a particularly active one and subject to radical course changes across its valley floor. This has affected both linear and crossvalley roads, fords and bridges, and gives depth and complexity to the surviving pattern of Roman and medieval routes, and to early modern turnpike, road and rail lines. The heavy concentration on grazing of modern and early modern farming in the valley floor, in what the Land Utilisation Survey of Britain described in 1946 as 'the best quality dairying land in the county', may overlay relict landscape and buried palaeo-

environmental evidence for more diversified, earlier agricultural régimes. Certainly surviving areas of ancient woodland and medieval documentary evidence on forest-based economic régimes suggest heavily wooded valley sides. The prehistoric environment and settlement patterns of the Tywi valley are the least known. It is however apparent from small-scale, ad hoc, archaeological work that there are glacially deposited raised areas of ground on the valley floors, with potential prehistoric settlement and land use information. Evidence for Iron Age occupation on the lower valley sides and valley floors is at present lacking to complement the pattern of large, infrequently sited hillforts such as Carn Goch and Merlin's Hill overlooking the valley.

5.6 Conservation Areas

- 5.6.1 The development does not lie within a conservation area. The Llandovery conservation area designated on the 25/05/1971 lies over 300m south of the development area.

Table 2: Designated historic assets within the study area

Site/Building Name	Cadw Ref.	Description	PRN	NGR	Designation
Llandovery Roman site (Roman Fort)	CM188	The Roman fort at Llandovery (Alabum?) was possibly established in the AD50s, based on ceramic and stratigraphic evidence. The fort is located on high ground immediately to the north of Roman road RR623 (PRN 3419). Parts of the northeast and northwest sides of the fort survive as earthwork banks in pasture, but much of the rest of the fort has been built upon. It appears to measure approximately 170m by 120m. A modern minor road runs through the fort, probably on the line of a Roman street. Following recent geophysical survey, there is evidence of a possible second fort, annexe or reduced fort on the same site. There is also evidence of a vicus (PRN 8505) running along the north side of the A483.	4072	SN76963517	Scheduled Monument
Church of St Mary	LB 10967	Medieval church, possibly sometime parochial but part of Llandinog parish by 1291, later a parish church and now in Llandovery parish. A medium sized church, comprising chancel/nave, without structural division, and west tower (and former south chapel). The south porch is 18th century and the vestry and organ chamber are 19th century. See churchyard PRN 49281 for description of site and management recommendations. NDL 2003	3856	SN76983 35161	Grade I listed building
Monument and memorial of William Williams in St Mary's Church churchyard	LB 10969	Red granite memorial erected to the Rev. William Williams (1717-91), the great hymnist and preacher, replacing, but in part reproducing the original inscription from the stone slab which lies flat in front of the memorial	60743	SN76996 23170	Grade II listed building
Ty Cerrig	LB 11027	House, probably later C18, former residence of owners of Llandovery Brewery. Ty Cerrig or Tir y Cerrig was a gentry estate held in the early C17 by the Berkeley family. The house became divided from the lands, and was probably rebuilt in front of the old farmhouse by John Rolley owner in the late C18.	7136	SN 76715 34576	Grade II listed building
Windemere House	LB 11028	House formerly with attached stable and coach-house at No	20190	SN76684 234711	Grade II listed

		84, probably rebuilt after 1836 and before 1866. In 1866 owned by David Jeremy, rented by William Morgan, land surveyor. Owned in 1890s by Mrs C P Lewis of Llandingat, let to Bartlett Thomas and then T and S Brabant.			building
60 Stone Street	LB 82868	Former White Hart inn, probably late C18 to early C19 with details added in mid C19. It may have been a farmhouse on the edge of the town, with outbuildings, but was the White Hart by 1810. Across back yard is the Long Room where Thomas Price kept a school in the 1830s and 1840s. It remained an inn until c2000.		SN76701 34646	Grade II listed building
-Lychgate to Church of St Mary	LB 82891	Lychgate probably of earlier to mid C19 date but reusing 2 lintels. The gates are said to have been made by a local blacksmith, Henry Lewis, in 1886.	61786	SN76956 35144	Grade II listed building
Upton House	LB 82910	House in terrace of earlier C19 origins altered in later C19.	61804	SN76719 34567	Grade II listed building

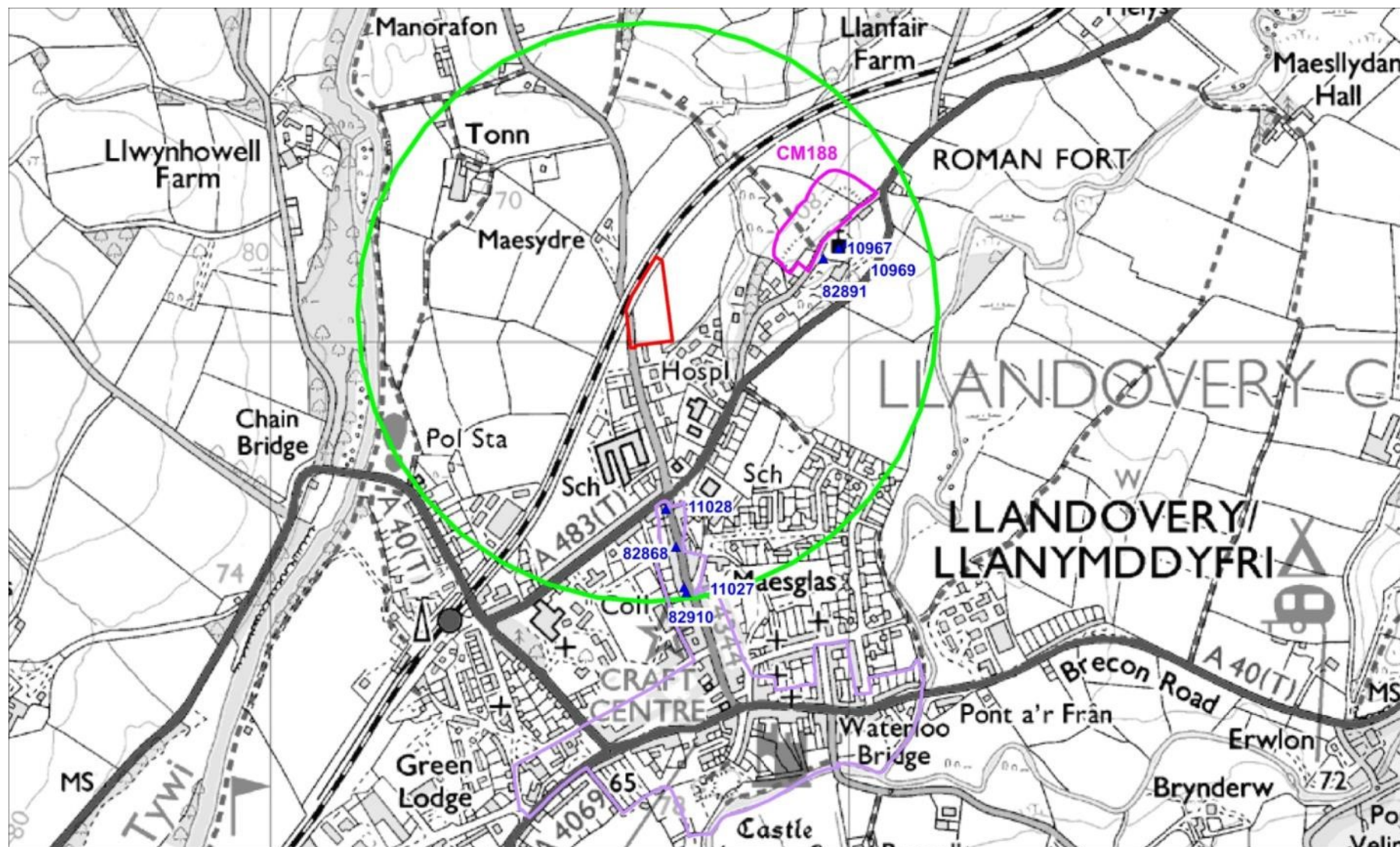


Figure 2: Map showing the development area (red line), the 500m radius study area (green circle), scheduled monument (pink line), listed buildings (blue triangle) and conservation area (purple line).

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6 UNDESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Table 3 and Figure 3)

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 A search of data held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER) and other databases was made within a 500m radius from the centre of the development area.
- 6.1.2 The HER records forty historic assets within the search area but no assets are recovered within the boundary of the development area itself.
- 6.1.3 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 recorded within the 500m study area. Evidence of such activity in the wider landscape also appears sparse.

6.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

- 6.3.1 There are no Neolithic or Bronze Age sites recorded within the 500m study area.

6.4 Iron Age

- 6.4.1 There are no Iron Age sites recorded within the 500m study area, although, listed within the Portable Antiques Scheme records the find of an Iron Age silver coin (PAS Ref 362,894) found just outside Llanfair-ar-y-bryn Church at SN7696035170.

6.5 Roman Period

- 6.5.1 There are numerous Roman historic assets recorded within the 500m study area, including the scheduled site of Llandovery Roman Fort, previously discussed, and Caefelin Cie-Roman cemetery (PRN 4087) located southwest of the development area.
- 6.5.2 Also recorded within the study area are five separate segments of Roman road. To the immediate northeast of the development area is a cropmark (PRN 13152) indicating the probable line of a Roman road between Llandovery and Pumpsaint (Photo 3). A study of available evidence (Schlee 2005) identified a further two segments of this connecting Roman road between Llandovery and Pumpsaint (PRNs 33983 and 33984), both of which lie in the study area. Evidence for Roman roads in the study area is also recorded by the RCAHMW (NPRN's 303528 & 304504). NPRN 303528 records a Roman road thought to link Llandovery with Llanfair Clydogau and NPRN 304504 records a road heading eastwards linking Llandovery with the fort at Brecon Gaer.
- 6.5.3 During the 18th and 19th centuries small excavations undertaken by members of the local clergy recovered Roman finds including coins, pottery and an altar base; many from the site of vicarage (PRN 7125) that lies east of the development area. One former 18th century vicar proposed that the remains of a bath house had been found, however, the RCAHMW have suggested that the grounds east of the fort next to the Afon Bran are a far more suitable location for a Roman bath house.
- 6.5.4 The Portable Antiques Scheme also records 4 individual coins found to the southwest of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn churchyard. These include a nummus of Constantine I (307-337) (PAS Ref 362,897), a denarius of unclear republic

(200-27) (PAS Ref 362,896), an uncertain of Claudius I (41-54) (PAS Ref 362,895) and a nummus of Constantine I (307-337) (PAS Ref 362,898).

6.6 Early Medieval & Medieval Period

- 6.6.1 There are 4 sites within the 500m study area, including the church of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn which is located northeast of the development area. The church is of medieval date (PRN 3856), with a possibility that it is an early medieval foundation (PRN 49281) due to its possible link with the Celtic saint St Paulinus. It has also been suggested that a medieval priory once stood within the church grounds although there little or no real evidence to uphold this theory (PRN 4071).
- 6.6.2 Also located northeast of the development area are references to Llanfair Grange (PRNs 10410 & 12284); though to be agricultural land set aside by the church for clergy to tend and to obtain subsistence from.

6.7 Post-Medieval & Modern Period

- 6.7.1 During the late post-medieval and early industrial period Llandovery remained a small agricultural market town. Little expansion is recorded within the northern limits of the town until the post war period.
- 6.7.2 A small number of public, educational and ecclesiastical buildings were constructed during the post-medieval period within the 500m study area.
- 6.7.3 These buildings include Vicarage House (PRN 7125), Llandovery Cottage Hospital (NPRN 493) formally the Llandovery Union Workhouse Llandovery Intermediate School (NPRN 417969) and Llandovery cCunty Primary School (NPRN 417870).

Table 3: Undesignated historic assets recorded on the HER

PRN	NPRN	Site Name	Period	NGR
3856	103828	LLANFAIR-AR-Y-BRYN PARISH CHURCH; ST MARY'S	Medieval, Post medieval	SN7698335161
4071		PRIORY OF ST MARY'S CHURCH	Medieval	SN769351
4072	92853	LLANDOVERY; ALABUM; LOVENTIUM(?); TRE-GOCH-Roman Fort	Roman	SN76963517
4087		CAEFELIN CIE-Roman Cemetery	Roman	SN77003473
4084		Llandovery-Mound of unknown significance	Unknown	SN77003476
7125	17599	VICARAGE HOUSE- Built between 1602-20. In 1913 part of the gable wall only remained.	Post medieval	SN768351
10409		GILFACH- Findspot for Roman items which include a quern stone, tile and brick.	Roman	SN76903545
10410		LLANFAIR GRANGE	Medieval	SN7700035000
10562		LLANDOVERY- This PRN applies to a group of Roman finds discovered during the 18th and 19th centuries by successive vicars of Llandovery. One, in the 18th century, was said to have detected baths. The location given to this site is the grid reference for Llandovery	Roman	SN768351
10568		LLANDOVERY- Findspot for a stone phallic object, and an Upper stone of a quern stone, both found in 1976.	Roman	SN7700035000
10598	301061	A supply or buffer depot located adjacent to and on the west side of the railway and north of Tywi Avenue in Llandovery. Built during the Second World War by the Ministry of Food to store foodstuffs. Consists of 4 Nissen corrugated iron huts and a ware	Modern	SN76373469
11658		VICARAGE HOUSE Findspot for several finds including a whetstone, a iron hilt of a dagger, fragments of an amphora, mortarium and other pottery (including Samian) and a flue tile.	Roman	SN769351
12284	120138	LLANFAIR GRANGE	Medieval	SN770350
13152		GILFACH-A cropmark identified from aerial photographs and possibly indicating the line of Roman road/s between Llandovery and Pumsaint (PRN51972).	Roman	SN766352
19538		VICARAGE- Vicarage shown on 1st and 2nd edition OS maps, however no longer appears on modern OS.	Post medieval, Modern	SN7685135216

20180	17870	STONE STREET NO.42- House in Llandovery town.	Post medieval	SN7671534576
20488		LLANFAIR GRANGE Built in the 19th Century. It was shown on a surveyors drawings for 1811-19. Also called (formerly) St. Mary's Cottage. Cross ref. 10410. F. Jones 1987.	Post medieval	SN76993510
20928	17852	TONN- A house or mansion, mentioned in 1759, rebuilt in the later nineteenth century and burnt down in 1916.	Post medieval	SN76323527
20976		GILFACH-1989 OS Pathfinder map gives the impression that this house is either lost or much reduced. A small building alongside a footpath is shown.	Post medieval	SN76723542
20121		Tomb to Sir John Rolland's	Post Medieval	SN7698935143
33983		GILFACH- Possibly a short section of Roman road RR62c between Llandovery and Pumsaint identified as a hollow way from aerial photographs, but also visible on the ground as a terrace into the base of the hill slope on the east side and a bank and hedge on the west	Roman	SN76793534
33984		GILFACH- A section of possible Roman road RR62c (PRN51972) between Llandovery and Pumsaint, identified as a parchmark from aerial photographs but also visible as a terrace into the hill slope.	Roman	SN76683545
49281		LLANFAIR-AR-Y-BRYN PARISH CHURCH;ST MARY'S- Early Medieval B site enclosure, considered to have a medium probability of early medieval origins.	Early Medieval	SN76983517
61765		LISTED BUILDING IN LLANDOVERY COMMUNITY Grade II listed house	Post medieval	SN7670134646
	493	LLANDOVERY COTTAGE HOSPITAL	Post medieval	SN7675134871
	310061	BUFFER DEPOT, TYWI AVENUE;TOWY AVENUE, LLANDOVERY	Modern	SN7639034690
	303528	SARN HELEN, ROMAN ROAD, LLANDOVERY-LLANFAIR CLYDOGAU, (RR62C)	Roman	SN76983516
	304504	ROMAN ROAD FROM LLANDOVERY TO BRECON GAER	Roman	SN76983516
	86168	LLANFAIR HOUSE;LANFAIR AR Y BRYN, GARDEN, LLANDOVERY	Post Medieval	SN7703835210
	86189	TONN, FORMER GROUNDS AND GARDENS	Post Medieval	SN7634435276
	120138	LLANFAIR GRANGE-Building	Post Medieval	SN7698735116
	417969	FORMER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, LLANDOVERY	19th Century	SN7664134804
	417970	LLANDOVERY COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL;YSGOL RHYS PRICHARD	20th Century	SN7677434727
	419236	FORMER BRITISH SCHOOL, VICTORIA CRESCENT, LLANDOVERY	19th Century	SN7673934618

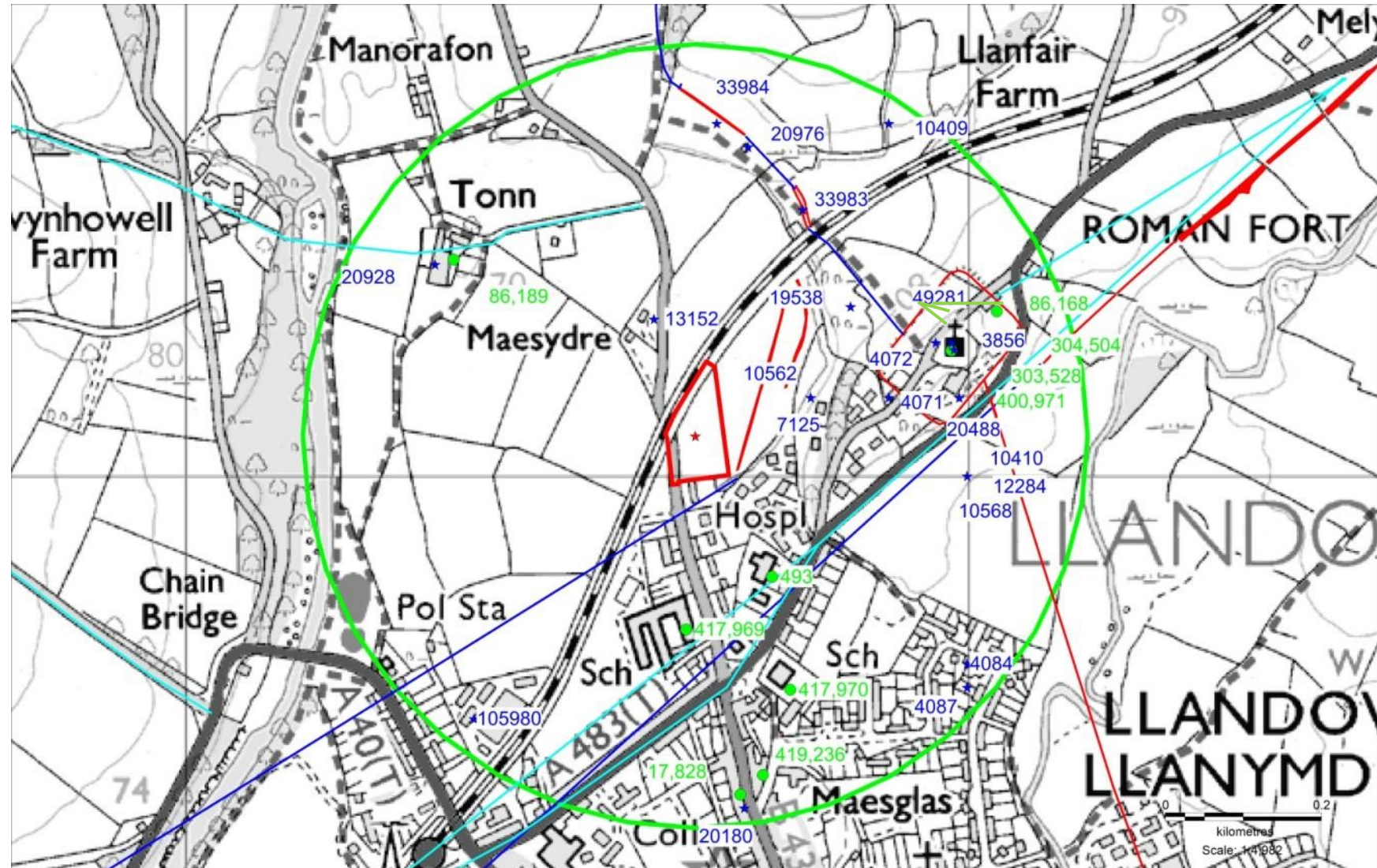


Figure 3: Map showing the development area (red boundary line), the 500m radius study area (green circle), HER points (blue stars), certain Roman cropmarks (red lines), suggested Roman cropmarks (light blue), NPRN'S (Green circles)

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7 ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE

7.1 Previous Archaeological Work

- 7.1.1 No previous archaeological work has been carried out within the development area.
- 7.1.2 Within the surrounding study area several episodes of archaeological investigation have documented good surviving evidence of Roman occupation in close vicinity to the development area.
- 7.1.3 Within the Roman Fort archaeological excavation was carried out in 1961 and 1962 under the supervision of the late Prof Mike Jarrett, although the results of his work were never fully published. However, brief entries about his investigations appeared in the *Journal of Roman Studies* (later to become *Britannia* in 1970) in both 1962 and 1963. Jarrett suggested four phases of construction for the fort, with the earliest having been of earth and timber, and he suggested that some of the internal buildings associated with this phase had been destroyed by fire.
- 7.1.4 Two watching briefs were carried out at the fort: one by Jarrett in 1969 and one in March 1983 by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, both in response to trenches dug by Welsh Water. Jarrett's observations were briefly noted in *Britannia* (vol.1, 1970). In March 1983 a trench was cut across part of the fort from the reservoir located opposite the church at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn. The trench ran in a northwest direction towards the railway cutting, and four major phases of occupation were recorded from the deeply stratified deposits visible (James, Murphy and Davies 1983).
- 7.1.5 During 2004 the Roman Fort Environs Project commissioned a geophysical survey at Llandovery Roman Fort (Hopewell 2004) northeast of the development area. Another geophysical survey was undertaken in advance of A483 road improvement works at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn, Llandovery (Hopewell 2005) to the east of the Roman Fort.
- 7.1.6 The 2004 survey revealed a great deal of activity, including the outline of the fort and internal buildings including a possible granary and barracks, as well as a substantial annexe to the east.
- 7.1.7 The 2005 survey detected a range of features associated with the nearby Roman fort and the roads connecting with it. An enclosure with an array of three defensive ditches may indicate the presence of a larger earlier fort beneath the current visible earthworks.
- 7.1.8 Following the 2005 geophysical survey a programme of archaeological trial trenching (Cook 2006) was carried out by Cambria Archaeology (now Dyfed Archaeological Trust). The evaluation comprised seven trenches, which were strategically placed using the results from the 2004 and 2005 geophysical surveys. Excavation showed that both the quality and the quantity of archaeological remains across the whole site was extremely high, and that the construction of a new stretch of road along its then proposed route would have a significant impact on those remains.
- 7.1.9 A watching brief undertaken at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn northeast of the development area (NGR SN 77026 35221) following groundworks associated with the erection of an extension (Meek 2011) indicated that a considerable amount of archaeology survived, including the remains of timber beam slots and post holes considered to be evidence of timber buildings relating to the initial phase of the Roman fort.

7.2 Llandingat tithe map 1842 (Fig. 4)

- 7.2.1 The Llandingat parish tithe map published in 1842 shows an agricultural landscape surrounding the development area. The church of Llan-ar-Y-bryn is shown along with its enclosing D-shaped churchyard to the east of the proposed development. The post medieval mansion known as Tonn (PRN 20298) is depicted to the northwest, as is the Vicarage (PRN 19358) to the northeast.
- 7.2.2 The development area lies within a field listed on the accompanying apportionment (1839) as owned by a Mr David Kirby and occupied by Mr John Powell. To the east of the development area a curvilinear trackway is depicted which links the Vicarage to Glanbrane road which is now the present A483 main trunk road.

7.3 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1888 (Fig. 5)

- 7.3.1 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map published in 1888 shows a similar landscape to that of the tithe map, although the railway line labelled 'CENTRAL WALES EXTENSION' along the northwest edge of the development area is now shown. Northeast of the development area the surviving earthworks of Llandovery Roman fort are depicted and labelled 'Loventium Roman Station'. Also noted on the first edition map is a school and two separate breweries which are all situated on the northern edge of Llandovery town.

7.4 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1906 (Fig. 6)

- 7.4.1 Little change is seen in the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map published in 1906 from the first edition, except for an intermediate school shown southeast of the development area, as well as a row of terraced housing along the western side of 'New Road' to the south.

7.5 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, 1950

- 7.5.1 Very little has changed by the time of the publication of the Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map in 1950. The only noticeable change is the construction of Llandovery Hospital south of the development area and southeast of the Union Work House. This map is not illustrated.



Figure 4: Extract of the 1842 tithe map. Approximate location of development area outlined in red.

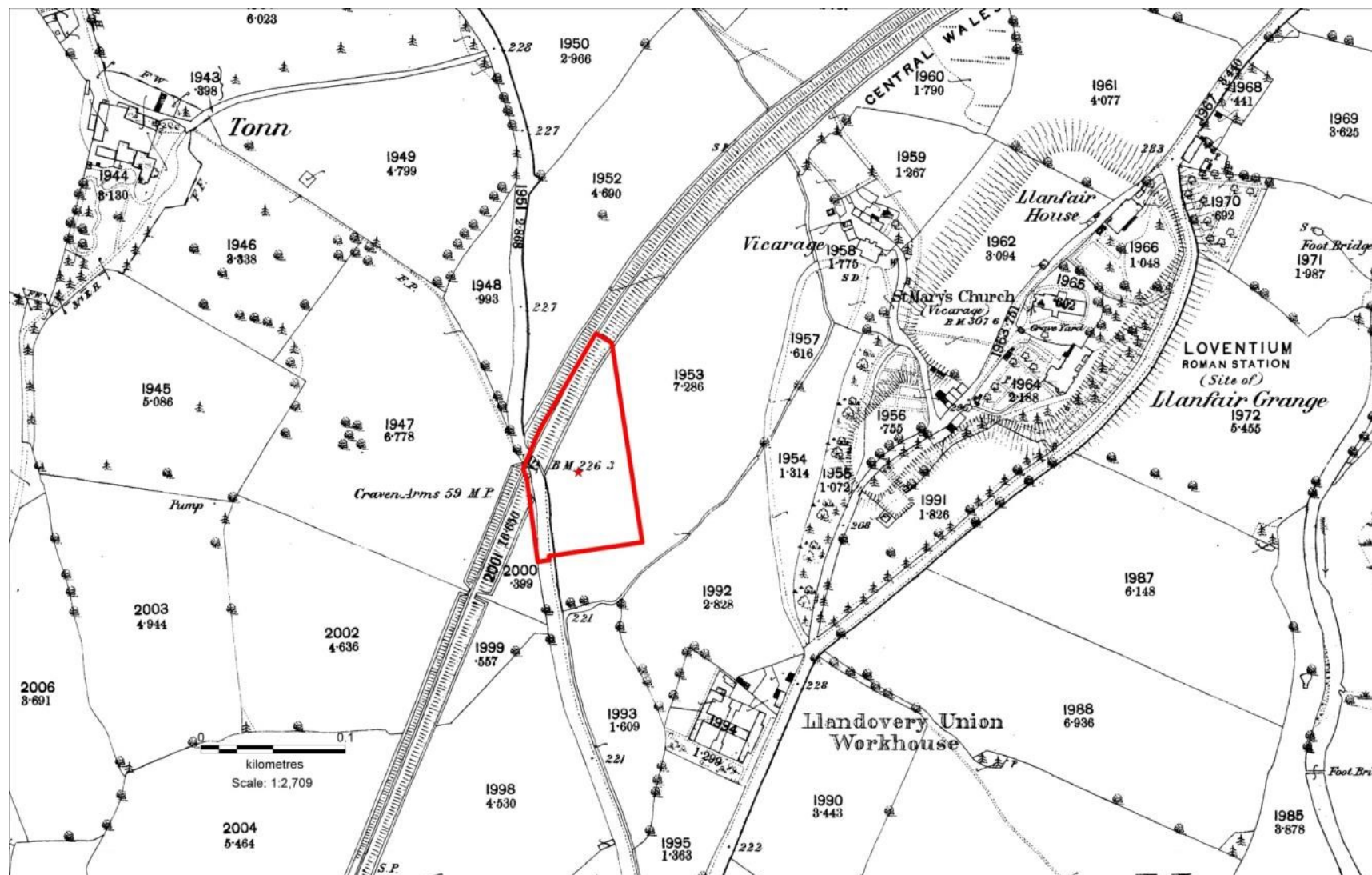


Figure 5: The 1888 Ordnance Survey map showing the development area outlined in red.

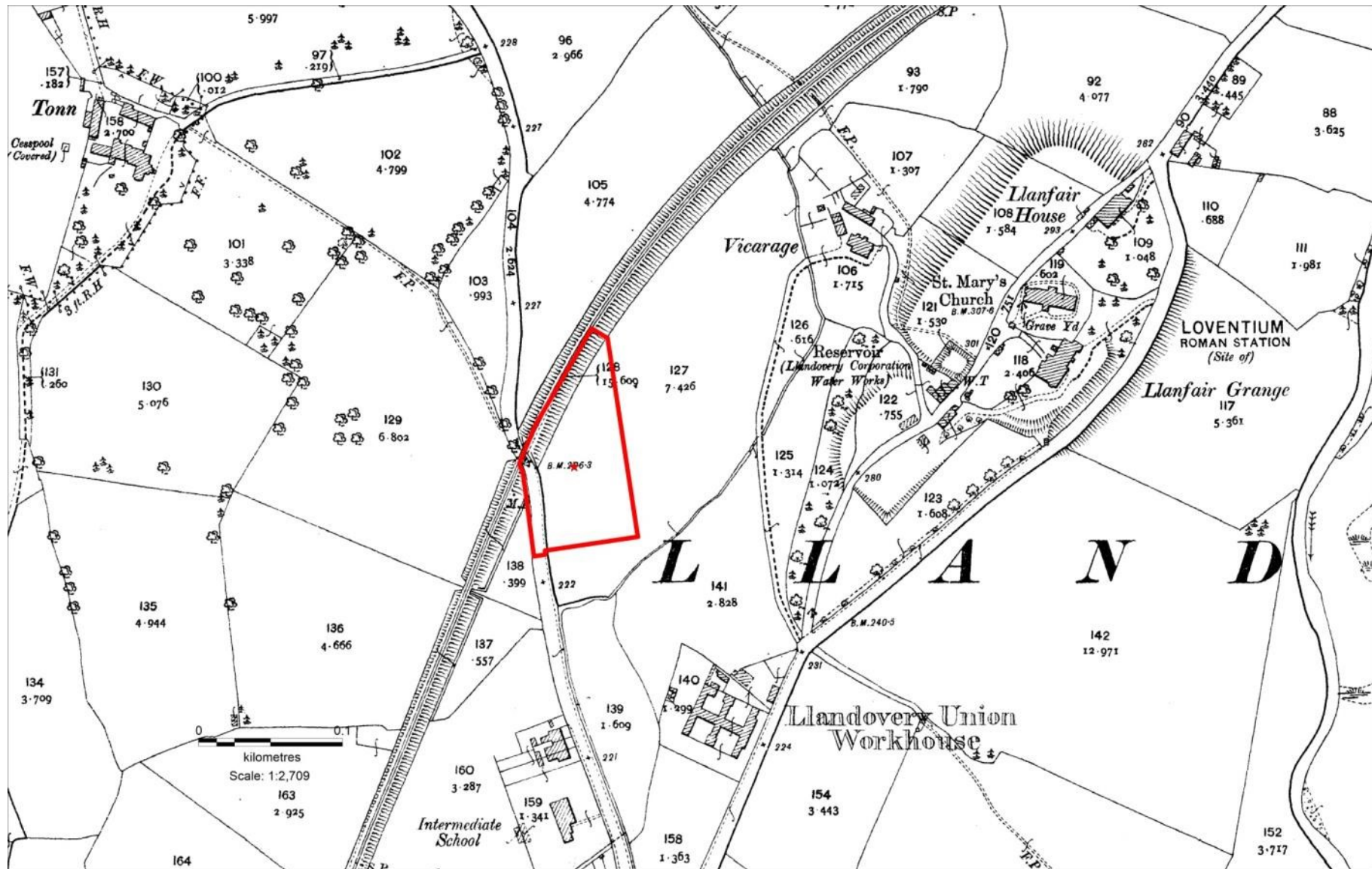


Figure 6: The 1906 Ordnance Survey map showing the development area outlined in red.

7.6 Aerial Photography

- 7.6.1 A search was made of both available historic and modern aerial photographs which depict the development area and its surroundings.
- 7.6.2 The earliest available aerial photographs dated to 1946 show no evidence for previously unknown archaeological remains within the boundaries of the development area, although a semi-rectangular shaped area that has a track leading to it from the road, visible in the field as a lighter coloured area, may relate to either a military installation or a possible sports field (Photo 1). Modern day housing found to the south has not yet been constructed.



Photo 1: Aerial photograph taken by the RAF in May 1946 depicting the development area and the surrounding landscape.

- 7.6.3 Later aerial photographs taken in 1989 again depict the development area and surrounding environment in some detail; although the development area itself remains unchanged as a pasture field. By this date residential development immediately south east is under construction and a pair of curvilinear cropmarks is discernible just to the east (PRN 13152) (Photos 2 & 3).
- 7.6.4 A set of aerial photographs taken during May 1993 show the earthworks of the Roman Fort visible within agricultural fields the north of Llan-ar-y-Bryn church (Photos 4 & 5).



Photo 2: Aerial photograph taken in 1989 depicting the faint traces of Roman road cropmark (PRN 13152) found east of the development area (© DAT).



Photo 3: Aerial photograph taken in 1989 depicting the faint traces of Roman road cropmark (PRN 13152) found east of the development area (© DAT).



Photo 4: Aerial photograph taken in 1993 showing the development area at the top right corner of the photo. Llanfair-ar-y-bryn church is at the centre which is enclosed within earthworks belonging to the Roman Fort (© DAT).



Photo 5: Aerial photograph taken in 1993 showing the development area on the right of the photo and the surviving earthworks of the Roman fort in the centre (© DAT).

7.7 LiDAR

- 7.7.1 Nothing of archaeological significance was noted on LiDAR data within the development area boundary. The pair of curvilinear cropmarks (prn 13152) are not discernible within the LiDAR data and may have been infilled and landscaped recently due to the ground being used as a cricket pitch. Within the 500m search area Llandovery Roman Fort is clearly defined within the fields to the north of the church.

7.8 Site Visit (Photos 6 - 17)

- 7.8.1 A site visit was undertaken on 14th of December 2020, weather conditions were overcast, with persistent heavy outbreaks of rain, but visibility from the site and surrounding designated historic assets was generally good.
- 7.8.2 The development area comprises a field of level improved pasture, bounded by post and wire fencing and hedgerows (Photos 6-8). The access to the field is via an agricultural gate located at the southwest corner of the field on the adjacent minor road. During the site visit the field was occupied by a flock of sheep.
- 7.8.3 A walkover of the development area did not identify any potential archaeological remains on the ground. The cropmarks visible on aerial photographs in the eastern portion of the development area and within its surroundings were not visible on the ground. Within the northern portion of the field a semi-circular slightly raised platform was noted which was of a concrete construction and may relate to the adjacent main railway line situated just to the north (Photo 8).
- 7.8.4 Most views from the development area are compromised due to its low setting and being bounded by town development. The clearest view from the development area is of the small hamlet of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn to the northeast which is positioned upon a rise but is partially shrouded by dense woodland which grows along its south eastern edge.
- 7.8.5 Views to and from scheduled monuments were considered. Inter-visibility between Llandovery Roman Fort (CM188) and the development area is obscured by woodland (Photos 9 and 10).
- 7.8.6 Views of the development area from the Roman Fort might be obtained from the monument's south western corner. However, this could not be accessed upon the day of the site visit as it is private property.
- 7.8.7 There are eight listed buildings within the 500m search area. Five are located within Llandovery town and have no inter-visibility with the development area because of surrounding development within a very level landscape (Photos 11 and 12). The remaining three listed buildings are located in the small hamlet of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn and comprise St Marys Church (LB 10967), its lychgate (LB 3548) and the monument to Reverend William Williams (LB10969) within the churchyard. Both the lychgate and monument have no inter-visibility with the development area (Photos 13-15). The church tower of St Marys Church can be seen from the development area but (Photo 10) but there is no inter-visibility with the main church building at ground level (Photos 16 and 17).



Photo 6: View northeast across development area.



Photo 7: View south along western edge of development area.



Photo 8: View northwest of semi-circular raised platform thought to be a modern infrastructure feature relating to the adjacent railway line.



Photo 9: View southwest from Llandovery Roman Fort (CM188 towards) the development area, showing how views are obscured by woodland.



Photo 10: View northeast from the development area towards the position of Llandovery Roman Fort (CM 188) showing the intervening woodland. The tower of St Marys Church can just be seen (approximate location represented by arrow).



Photo 11: View west of listed building (LB 11028) in Llandovery town.



Photo 12: View north towards the development area from listed building LB 11028.



Photo 13: View north from William Williams monument (LB 10969) showing how views towards the development area are blocked by St Marys church.



Photo 14: View south east of St Marys church lychgate (LB 82891).



Photo 15: View south east from St Mary's church lychgate (LB 82891) towards the development area.



Photo 16: View northeast of St Marys Church (LB 10967)



Photo 17: View southwest from St Marys Church LB (10967) towards proposed development that is obscured by woodland

8 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND IMPORTANCE, AND ASSESSMENT OF SETTING

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 No previously recorded archaeological sites lie within the development area. However, well-preserved deeply stratified archaeological deposits associated with Llandovery Roman Fort only lie 200m northeast of the development area, and suggested lines of Roman roads that connected the fort to elsewhere in Wales lie even closer. Therefore, the potential for significant archaeological deposits, particularly of Roman and Medieval date, to extend into the development area is considered medium/high.

8.2 Setting

- 8.2.1 At the time of writing this report there are no design proposals for the proposed housing development so it is not possible to accurately assess the impacts of the development on the setting of the surrounding historic environment. Due to the vicinity of designated historic assets it is suggested that such an assessment should accompany a detailed planning application.
- 8.2.2 The Setting of Historic assets in Wales (Cadw 2017) offers guidance on defining and analysing the setting of designated historic 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, and historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations.
- 8.2.3 Llandovery Roman Fort (CM188) is not visually prominent due to its low surviving earthworks, but during the Roman period the fort would have been the central administrative focal point for the area and would have had a series of connecting road systems and outlying public and administration buildings which would have been dispersed in and around the present hamlet of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn. Also present would be civil sites such as the Caefelin Cie-Roman cemetery (PRN 4087) found to the south west of the fort. In total five separate segments of Roman road are present within the study area. These are PRN 304504, PRN 33983, PRN33984, PRN 303528 and PRN 13152 which is a suspected segment of road which runs just outside and to the east and south of the development area.
- 8.2.4 The listed buildings throughout the area are likely to have a range of factors associated with their individual settings, including links to associated hospitality, accommodation and ecclesiastical purposes.
- 8.2.5 The Church of Llanfair-ar-y-bryn LB 10967 is the only listed building which has some, albeit limited inter-visibility, with the development area.

9 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 Impact assessment criteria

- 9.1.1 The criteria for the assessment of impacts, both direct and indirect, on historic 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 The proposed development is for residential housing but there are as yet no detailed design proposals.

9.3 Direct impacts upon historic assets

- 9.3.1 No known historic assets will be directly impacted upon by the development.

10 CONCLUSIONS

10.1 Archaeological potential and impact assessment

- 10.1.1 The archaeological potential of the development area is considered medium/high due to the presence of known well-preserved Roman and Medieval archaeological remains in close vicinity to the development area. Any proposed development in the development area would have a large adverse impact on surviving below ground archaeological remains or deposits.

10.2 Mitigation

- 10.2.1 Archaeological mitigation prior to development is recommended as the archaeological potential of the development area is considered medium/high.
- 10.2.2 In the first instance it is suggested that geophysical survey is carried out within the development area to help ascertain the presence or absence of possible archaeological remains which may be present within the area.
- 10.2.3 If archaeological features are identified by the geophysical survey then subsequent archaeological trial trenching should be employed to ascertain the character and form of the potential buried archaeological remains prior to development.
- 10.2.4 The current development area only occupies around a third of the field area in total. It should be noted that further expansion of the development eastwards could have greater direct and indirect adverse impacts on designated historic assets at Llanfair-ar-y-bryn such as Llandovery Roman Fort. The potential for buried archaeological remains to exist would also increase towards the east and the location of the Roman Fort.
- 10.2.5 Ultimately decisions on the requirement and scope of any programme of archaeological mitigation lies with the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Development Management).

11 SOURCES

Database

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