HENDY SCHOOL, FFOREST ROAD CARMARTHENSHIRE:
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

SN 58495 04473

Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Carmarthenshire County Council

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DYFED
archaeological trust

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By

Luke Jenkins

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Client	Carmarthenshire County Council
Event Record No	126329
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Report Prepared By	Luke Jenkins
Site-visit Undertaken By	Luke Jenkins
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Carmarthenshire County Council to prepare an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for a proposed new school development at Fforest Road, Hendy, Carmarthenshire (SN 58495 04473). The desk-based assessment has established that the proposed development will have a low/negligible impact upon the surrounding historic environment.

However, it is suggested that further archaeological mitigation could include geophysical survey within the area proposed for development. This could help identify whether unknown buried archaeological features survive within what is a large parcel of undeveloped pastureland.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD gan Gyngor Sir Caerfyrddin i baratoi Asesiad Ddesg yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol ar gyfer datblygiad arfaethedig I'r ysgol Newydd yn Heol Fforest, Hendy, Sir Gaerfyrddin (SN 58495 04473). Mae'r asesiad desg wedi sefydlu y bydd y datblygiad arfaethedig yn cael lefel effaith isel ar yr amgylchedd hanesyddol o gwmpas.

Fodd bynnag, awgrymir y gallai lliniaru archeolegol pellach gynnwys arolwg geoffisegol yn yr ardal y cynigir ei datblygu. Gallai hyn helpu i nodi a yw nodweddion archeolegol claddedig anhysbys wedi goroesi o fewn parsel mawr o dir pori heb ei ddatblygu.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Carmarthenshire County Council to prepare an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for a proposed new primary school at Fforest Road Carmarthenshire, SA4 0TW. The proposals are currently in the pre-planning stages of development.

1.1.2 The purpose of this assessment, which is detailed in the following report, is to provide the local planning authority with the information they have requested in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (revised edition 10, December 2018), Section 6, and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).

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, 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 may not have 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 historic assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of historic 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 proposed 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 (RCAHMW) (where accessible).

- 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 site (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.

1.2.6 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced by DAT Archaeological Services, this was submitted to, and approved by, DAT-DM in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. A copy is included in Appendix I. 1.2.7. 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)*.

1.2.7 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)*.

1.2.8 This report contains information about the historic environment and historic assets in the vicinity of the proposed development site, 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). Scheduled Monument (SM). 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	

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[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 (Ed.11, 2021) 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 refer 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) 2006-2021. A revised LDP 2018-2033 has yet to be ratified.

3.1.2 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. 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.

3.1.3 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 in the LDP 2006-2021 are outlined in the Strategic Policy 13 Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment:

5.9.102 Carmarthenshire has a rich and diverse historical and cultural built heritage with some 27 designated conservation areas, 7 Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest that either fall wholly or in part within Carmarthenshire, 19 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, 470 Scheduled Ancient Monuments ranging from Prehistoric to post-Medieval/Modern features of cultural historic interest as well as 1,853 listed buildings (as at February 2013). The aims of the LDP in respect of the built environment and historic buildings is, in conjunction with primary legislation, to safeguard the cultural integrity of the historic settlements, features and buildings within the Plan area, and where applicable contribute to the enhancement of the historic and built environment.

5.9.103 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. The special and often diverse character of the County, with its unspoilt countryside, industrial heritage and wealth of historic towns and villages, reflects the changes experienced through the ages, linking the past to the present and maintaining the area's distinct cultural identity.

5.9.104 The Council will continue to promote the positive enhancement of its existing Conservation Areas and will review the possibility of designating further Conservation Areas as appropriate. It will aim to enhance and preserve their special historic or architectural character. In this regard, the Council will continue to monitor these areas, and will review boundaries and designate when and where considered necessary. Management plans/Appraisal reports setting out the special architectural or historic interest and/or clarification on design parameters will be prepared as appropriate.
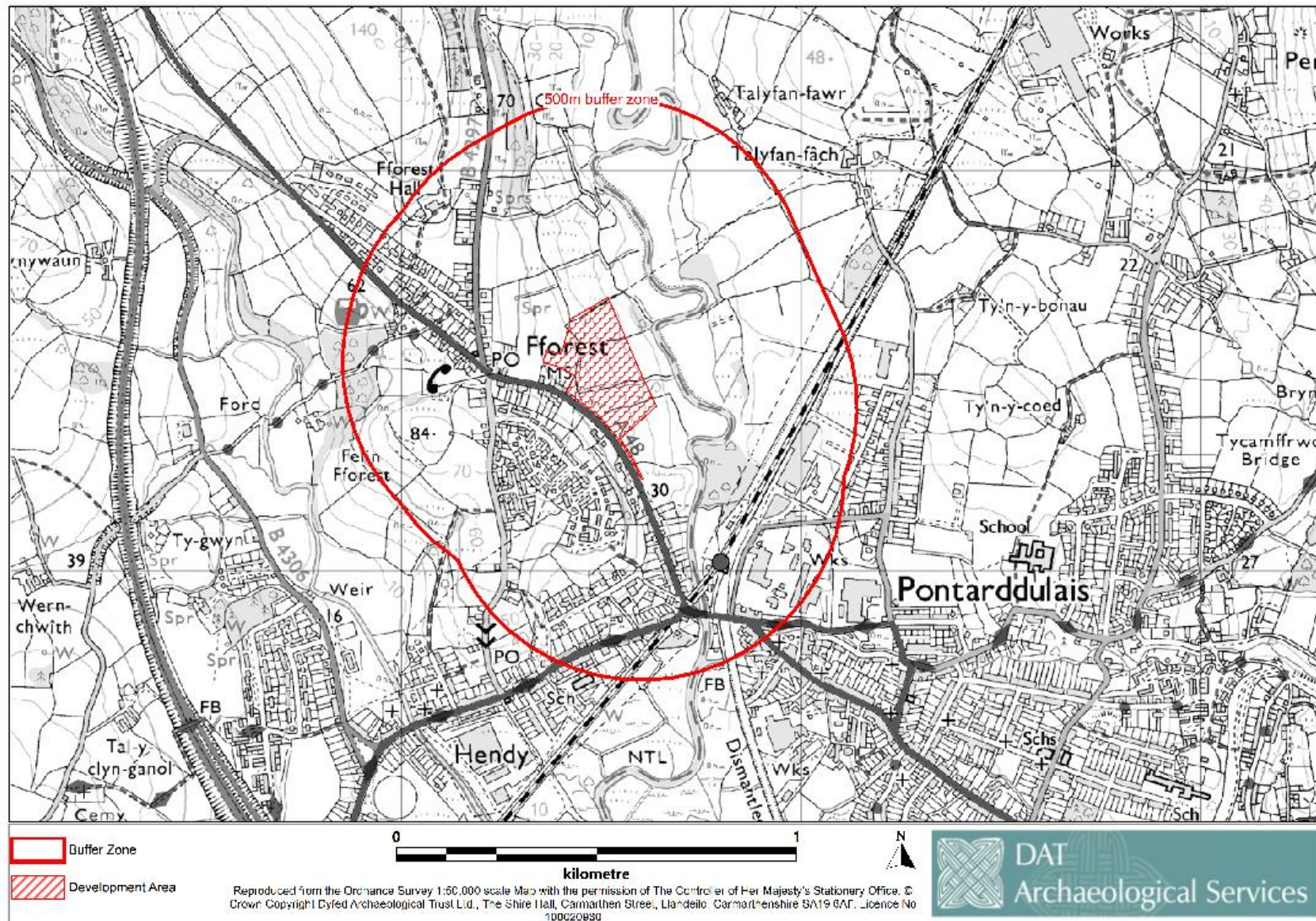
5.9.105 Any proposals in respect of conservation areas will be assessed against their effect on the character and appearance of the area, with conservation appraisal reports utilised (where available) in determining

any planning applications. New developments should accord with the special architectural and historic interest of the area. The LDP in accordance with guidance will not seek the designation of new conservation areas. Designated conservation areas are shown on the Proposals Map.

5.9.106 Clear guidance and legislation in respect of the following is contained within Chapter 6: Conserving the Historic Environment of PPW: Edition 7 with policy SP13 – Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment, recognising the importance of such areas and features to the County:

- *Historic Parks and Gardens: These are identified on the Proposals Map;*

- *Listed Buildings: preservation and optimum viable, proposals affecting a listed building or its setting and demolition consent;*

- *Scheduled Ancient Monuments: These are defined on the Proposals Maps; and,*

- *Conservation Areas: In terms of national guidance regard should also be had to Circular 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology and Circular 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas.*

5.9.107 The potential for new development across settlements within the County must be recognised, and as such it is important that a balance be struck between the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and the potential need for new development. The LDP will seek to direct and manage potential growth in a way which respects the importance of the built and historic environment. The broader impacts of development also need to be considered. In this respect, sites at risk from air quality will be monitored utilising the buildings at risk register. The outcomes will inform future requirements from development proposals (over a wider area) towards their repair and maintenance. This reflects the absence of detailed evidence to inform any potential planning obligations with future policy being explored following the outputs of the monitoring. The Council will produce SPG for Archaeology in accordance with the Schedule set out in Appendix 3 – Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Figure 1: Location and development area.

Figure 2: Site plan (provided by client).

4.   LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY (Figure 1 and 2)

4.1   The development area lies to the north of Fforest Road in Hendy, Carmarthenshire, West Wales (SN 58495 04473). The nearest town is Pontarddulais located a few hundred metres to the south of the development area.

4.2   The development area is roughly rectangular in shape with a total area of approximately 0.43ha and sits midway down the western slope of the valley of the River Loughor.

4.3   The land is in Carmarthenshire County Council ownership and provides an opportunity to build a new primary school for the Hendy area. Currently the site is unoccupied and laid to grass.

4.4   The underlying bedrock geology consists of Swansea Member - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 308 to 310 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. (BGS 2020). The superficial geology consists of Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (BGS 2020).
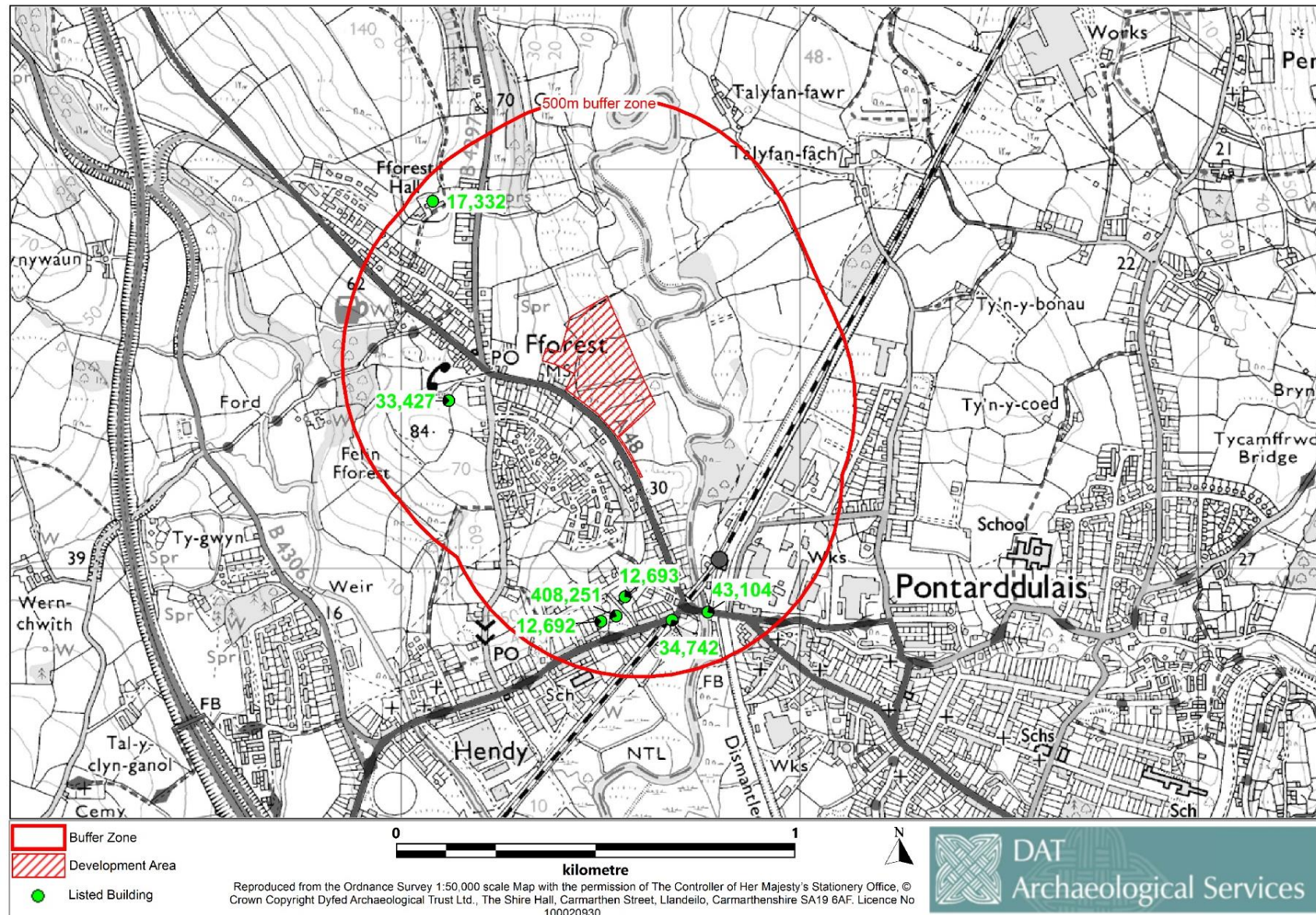
Figure 3: Grade II Listed Buildings within 0.5km of the development area.

Table 2: Grade II Listed Buildings within 0.5km of the development area, shown in Figure 3.

Listed Building Number	Name	Description	Period	Grid Reference
12692	ST DAVID'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL, CLAYTON ROAD, HENDY	St David's Church is located on the site of the old St David's school. It was constructed in 1980 to replace the old St David's Church (NPRN 12693) which was destroyed by fire in 1977. The original church was situated some 60m to the north-east. The church was rebuilt from proceeds of sale of land & members contributions. It is constructed of pale brick, to the designs of John Davies, Swansea. The building has a large glazed gabled side entry, and its roof is low over the feet of concrete A-frames. The church's octagonal font is of Old Red Sandstone and is thought to be medieval in date. The church had three stained glass windows, and one in the south wall (above the porch), by Timothy Lewis, is considered one of the best late twentieth century pieces in the region.	20th Century	SN58502038 67
12693	ST DAVID'S CHURCH, HENDY, PONTARDULAIS	St David's Church was constructed in 1902-1904, to replace an earlier church close by (NPRN 421344). The 'new' church was destroyed by fire in 1977 and was subsequently demolished. The present St David's Church (NPRN 12602) was built on the site of the old St David's School, some 60m south-west of the original building. The original site has subsequently been developed. It is now a cul-de-sac, St David's Close, and two houses now stand on the site of the church itself.	20th Century	SN58562039 28
43104	LOUGHOR BRIDGE, PONTARDULAIS	Bridge with 32 yds. span.	Post Medieval	SN58770389
34742	PONTARDDULAIS RAILWAY TUNNEL	The Pontarddulais Tunnel is the oldest surviving railway tunnel in Wales, dating from circa 1839, the era of the horse-drawn tram. It was lowered at the invert to accommodate the standard-gauge-line. The tunnel is 72 metres in length and about 4 metres in width. Construction is in masonry, with a segmental arch supported by vertical walls. Apparently there have been long standing drainage	Post Medieval	SN58680387

		problems arising from the lowering of the invert and in 1984 a new concrete bed and drains were laid through the tunnel.		
33427	W COLLIERY, HENDY	This colliery is located on the edge of the village of Fforest in the Loughor valley near Pontarddulais. It was a late nineteenth-century mine which first appears on Ordnance Survey maps in 1899, and on the second-edition plan, which indicates that coal was extracted through slant mining (inclined shafts). The colliery appears to have gone out of use in the mid-twentieth century. Its site is now overgrown with trees, though air photos show structural features in the pasture field immediately above the mine site.	Post Medieval	SN58120442
17332	FFOREST HALL	Fforest Hall, Llanedi, is a large 2-storey building with sash windows and stone-built arches set in walls extending out from either side of the front. There is a small, steeply pitched slate-roofed porch with arched entrance. The house is thought to date from the late 18th century.	Post Medieval	SN58080492
408251	NEUADD FACH; NOYADD FACH, 125 ISCOED ROAD, HENDY	Neuadd Fach is an early C19 Regency style villa. It has an elegant south front, which is painted stucco with simulated stone joints and a hipped slate roof with a rebuilt central brick stack. It is a symmetrical building with a two-storey front with a veranda. The wall surface is broken by three tall, Tudor-arched recesses which rise from the ground level to just below the eaves. On the first floor, the centre recess has a blind window opening, whilst those to the left and to the right have fifteen-pane sashes, all with painted stone sills. Once again, on the ground floor the centre is blind, with tall eight-pane double-doors on the left and the right opening on to the veranda. The veranda has a hipped glass roof supported by six slender cast-iron columns which all have: octagonal moulded bases, reeded shafts with tiny capitals and delicate honeysuckle decoration in the spandrels. The east wall has a large modern semi-circular arched fanlight window on the ground floor with an entrance porch. The west wall has a twelve-pane sash on the ground floor and a later C19 sash with marginal side lights above at the first floor level . This wall extends into the rear outshut, which has a C20 glazed door with a side window and a twelve-pane sash window above.	Post Medieval	SN58540388

5. DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Table 2 and Figure 3)

5.1 General

5.1.1 A search of data held on several databases was made of historic assets within the 0.5km radius search area. This included both designated and non-designated heritage assets. Designated assets from a wider area were examined in order to analyse the potential indirect impacts from proposed development, detailed below.

5.2 Scheduled Monuments

5.2.1 There is no Scheduled Monument within 0.50km of the development area. The closest Scheduled Monument is Hendy Castle Mound (CM096) that lies approximately 1.3km to the southeast.

5.3 Listed Buildings

5.3.1 There are seven listed buildings within the 0.5km buffer zone. All are Grade II listed.

5.3.2 Two of these listings are ecclesiastical. St David's Church (LB 12693) located 0.41km to the south of the development area. This church is known to have been destroyed by fire in 1977 and will be subsequently excluded from discussion.

5.3.3 St David's Church Sunday School (LB 12692) located 0.43km to the south of the development area. This is the site of the current church constructed after 1977 to replace a former church (above) that had burnt down in 1977. This is the site of the former Sunday School some 60m to the southwest of the former church. The church is of 20th century design and features a notable stained-glass window by Timothy Lewis.

5.3.4 Three of the entries are associated with industry or infrastructure. They include Loughor Bridge (LB 43104), a post-medieval bridge that crosses the river Loughor with a 32-yard span located 0.45km to the southeast of the development area.

5.3.5 Pontarddulais Railway Tunnel (LB 34742) located 0.45km to the southeast of the development area. The tunnel dates from 1839 and is thought to be oldest surviving in Wales. The tunnel is of masonry construction and measures 72m in length. It is thought to have been modified several times in its history.

5.3.6 West Colliery (LB 33427) located 0.27km to the southwest of the development area. The colliery dates to the late nineteenth century with mapping indicating that it was a shaft mine that had likely gone out of use by the mid-20th Century. Structural remains are thought to survive.

5.3.7 Two of the entries are residential and are post Medieval in date. Firstly, Fforest Hall (LB 17332) a large late 18th century house located 0.47km to the northwest of the development area. Secondly, Neuadd Fach (LB 408251) a 19th Century Regency style villa located 0.41km to the southeast of the development area.

5.4 Other

5.4.1 There are no Registered Historic Landscapes, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, or Conservation Areas within or near to the study area.
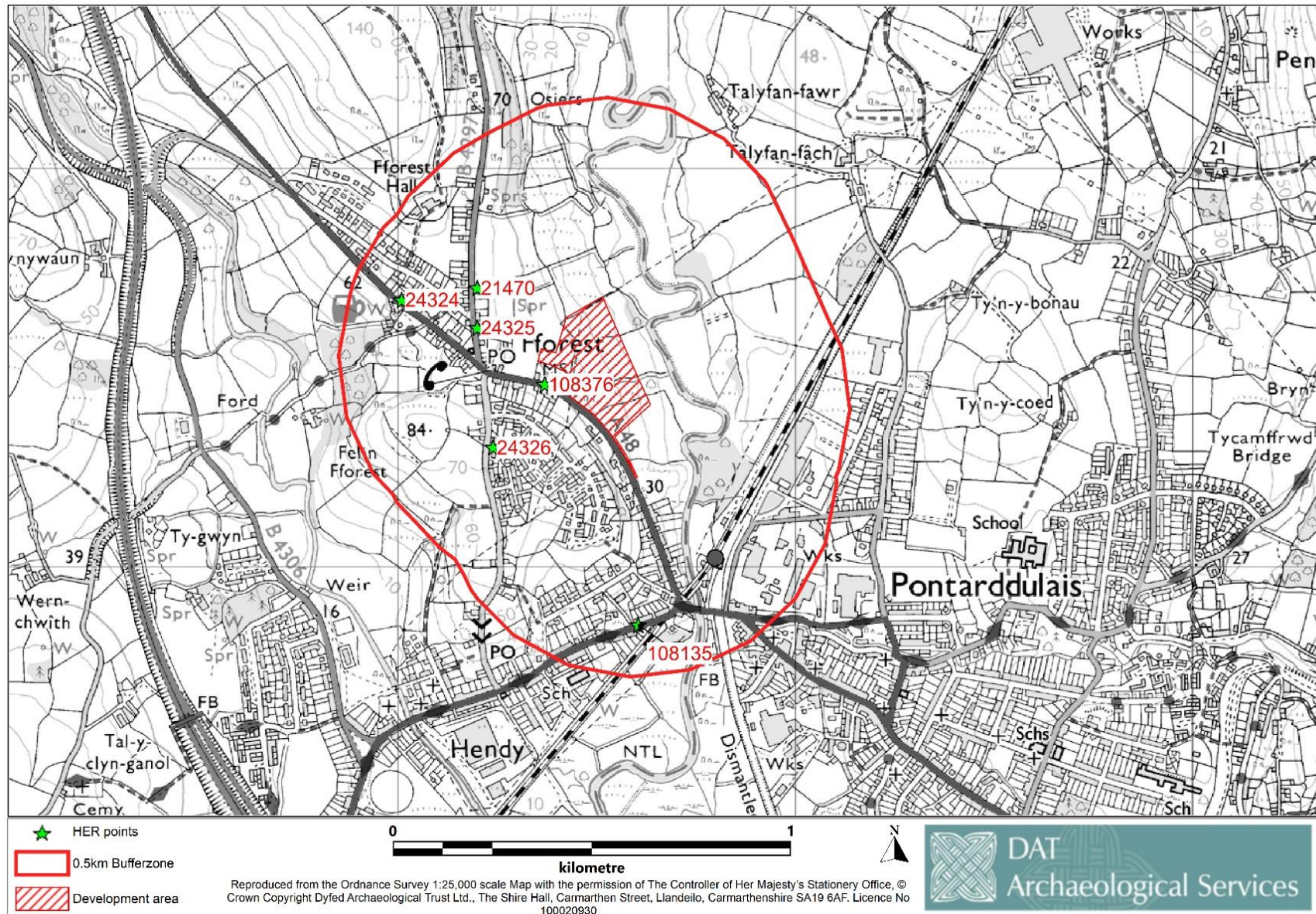
Figure 4: HER points within 0.5km of the development area.

Table 3: HER points within 0.5km of the development area, shown in Figure 4.

PRN	Name	Type	Description	Grid reference
108135		Milestone	A milestone on the Llanelli to Pontarddulais turnpike road. Appears on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1906 labelled as "Llanelly 6 Miles" and "Pontardulais Bridge 198 Yds".	SN5860503854
108376		Milestone	A milestone on the Carmarthen to Swansea turnpike road. Appears on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1906 labelled "Carmarthen 17" and "Swansea 9 1/2". Also bears a benchmark value given as 172.4 (H. Pritchard, 2016)	SN5837004458
24326	BWLCH-Y-GWYNT	Cottage	Cottage shown on early 20th century maps. RPS July 2001	SN58240430
21470	FFOREST	Village	General listing.	SN58200470
24325	FFOREST	Blacksmiths Workshop	Blacksmith's workshop marked on 2nd edition OS Historic Mapping	SN58200460
24324	THE BIRD IN HAND	Public House	Public House marked on 2nd edition OS Historic Mapping. Still in use as a pub and restaurant in 2020.	SN58010467

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

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 0.5km radius area around the development area. Where historic assets are described previously or are duplicated, they are not repeated.

6.1.2 The HER recorded six non-designated heritage assets within the search area. No other databases yielded any further information on historic assets. All the recorded historic assets were post-medieval or modern in date, however it is still possible that significant unknown archaeological features of an earlier date could exist within the development area.

6.2 Post Medieval & Modern Period

6.2.1 Two milestones were recorded within 0.5km of the development area (PRN 108135 and 108376). One on the Carmarthen/Swansea turnpike road immediately to the south of the development area (PRN 108376), the second on the Llanelli/ Pontarddulais turnpike road (PRN 108135).

6.2.2 There is one residential building listed on the HER within 0.5km of the development area: Bwlch Y Gwynt cottage (PRN 24326) is located 0.29km to the southwest of the development area and is noted on 20th Century mapping.

6.2.3 There is a general listing for the village of Fforest (PRN 21470).

6.2.4 There are two historic assets associated with trade. The first, a blacksmiths workshop noted on 20th Century mapping (PRN 24325) 0.19km to the west of the development area. The second a public house called 'The Bird in Hand' (PRN 24324) shown on the same mapping 0.41km to the west of the development area. The public house is still in use as a restaurant today. The status of the blacksmiths shop is unknown.

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 Work

7.2.1 No intrusive archaeological investigations (excavations, evaluations or watching briefs) have previously been undertaken within the study area.

7.3 Historic Mapping

1839 Tithe Map of Llanedy Parish (Figure 5)

7.3.1 The 1839 tithe map of Llanedy parish in the County of Carmarthen shows a field-scape like that of today. The village of Fforest is visible to the west of the development area and Hendy is visible to the south.

7.3.2 According to the accompanying tithe apportionment field 411 (the area of the development) was occupied by a Thomas Thomas, tenant of Pen Y Rallt farm located approximately 300m to the west of the development area. The owner was a Reverend William Berrington who owned much of the surrounding farmland.

7.3.3 None of the Listed Buildings described in section 5 are included in this map, both presumably being built after 1839. A bridge is visible crossing the river Loughor, it is not clear whether this is the current Listed example (LB 43104).

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1890 (Figure 6).

7.3.4 Little change of note is marked within the development areas on the detailed Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th century. The development still appears as pasture with the basic fieldscape remaining to the north of Fforest Road. The map does suggest that houses have developed to the south of Fforest connecting the villages of Hendy and Fforest together. The field at this stage is likely still a part of Pen Y Rallt farm to the west of the development area.

7.3.5 One notable edition in this mapping is the addition of the railway to the east of the development area. This implies that the Pontarddulais Railway Bridge (LB 34742) is likely in use.

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1907

7.3.6 The West Colliery (LB 33427) is marked on this map but is marked as 'old quarry' so is presumed to have already gone out of use. No other major change is noted.

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map 1953 & 1964.

7.3.7 No significant change is noted beyond the gradual expansion of development to the south of the development area.

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1977.

7.3.8 The site is much as it appears today.
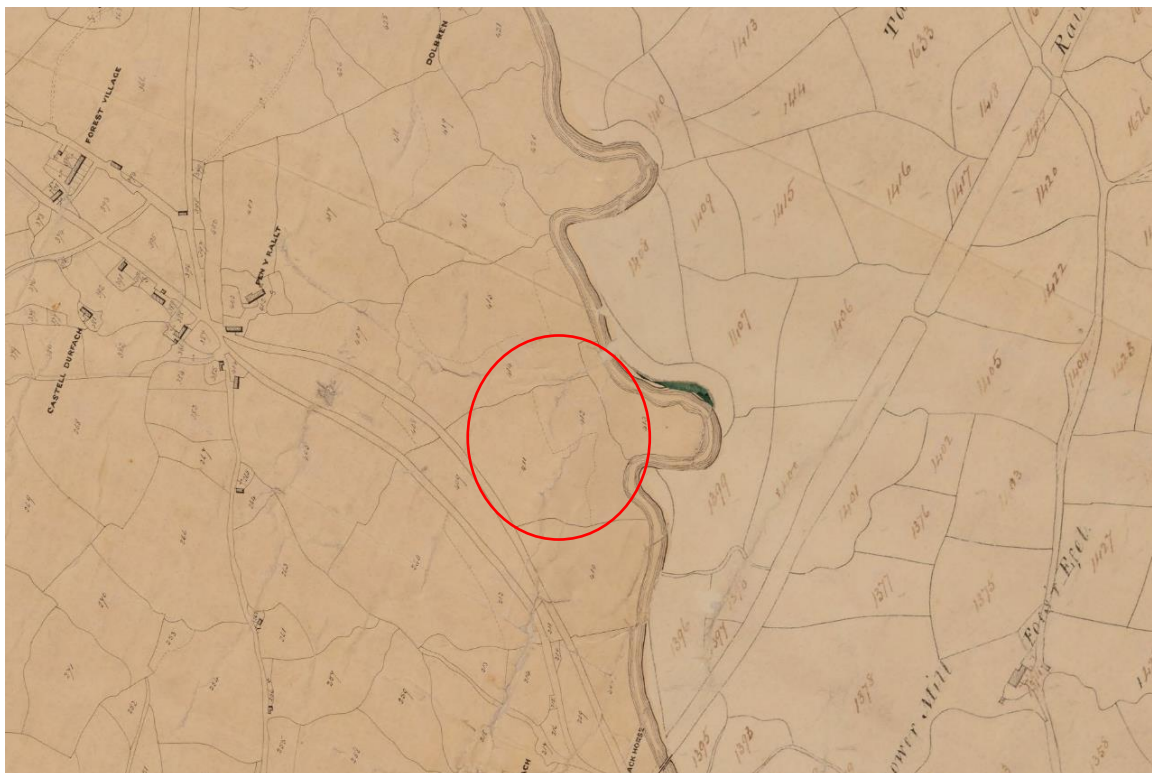
Figure 5: Extract of the 1839 Llanedy parish tithe map. Approximate location of development site outlined in red.
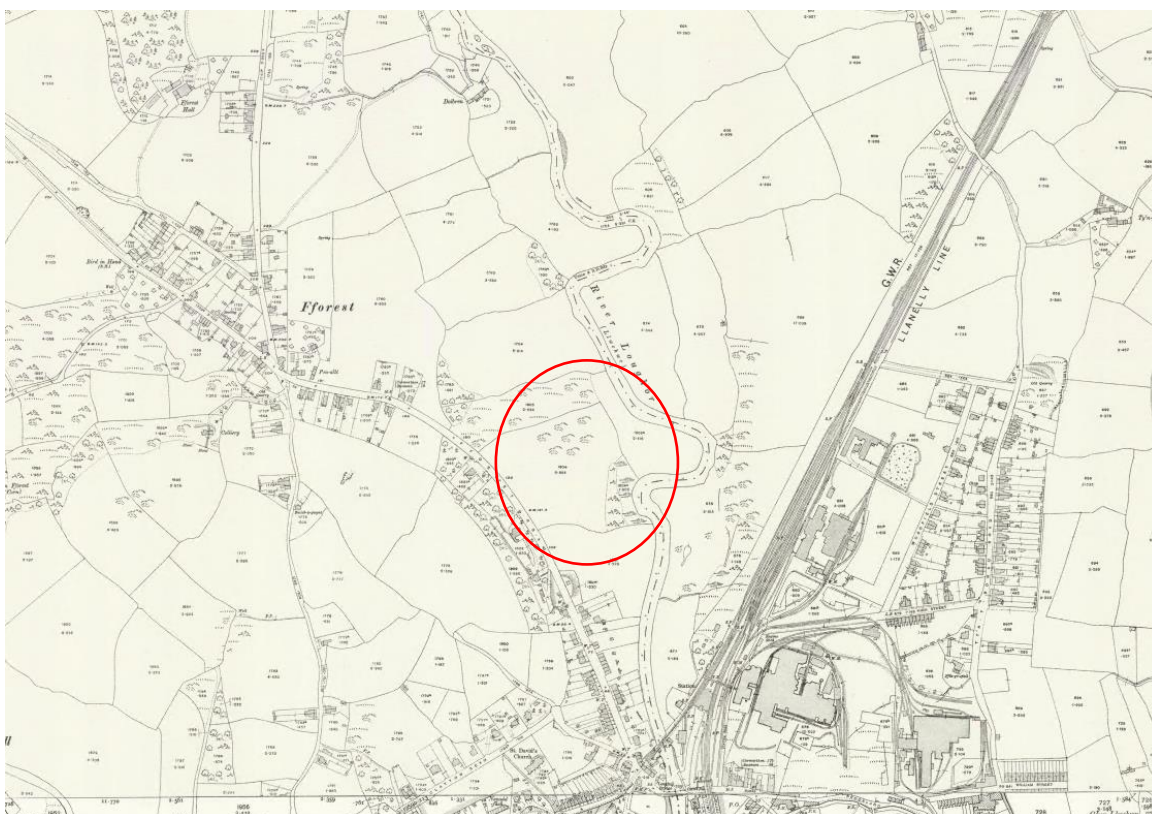
Figure 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1890 (25 inch). Approximate location of development site outlined in red.

7.4   Aerial & Historic Photography

7.4.1   A search was made of available historic aerial photographs and modern aerial photographs. Historic aerial photographs of this area are limited, although images taken by the RAF in 1946 are available. These images show a landscape very similar to the present day.

7.4.2   Modern satellite imagery from 2013 onwards clearly shows the site much as it looks today. No potential archaeological features were identified within the proposed development area in these photographs.

7.5   LiDAR

7.5.1   LiDAR data at 1mDTM/DSM is available for the site area.

7.5.2   Inspection of the LiDAR data revealed no further indications of any features of archaeological significance within the proposed development area

7.6   Site Visit (Photos 1-7)

7.6.1 A site visit was undertaken on Friday the 4th of June. The weather conditions were fair but dry with good visibility.

7.6.2 The site was accessed from the south from the A48 which forms the southern boundary of the development area. Access was possible from a gate mid-way along the southern boundary of the development area (Photograph 1).

7.6.3 Upon arrival the development area was visible as sloping pastureland with views over the River Loughor to the east of the development area (Photographs 2, 3, and 4).

7.6.4 A field boundary ran roughly north/south through the middle of the development area (Photograph 5). This is likely the field boundary recorded on historical mapping and is of limited archaeological significance. No other heritage assets were recorded within the development area.

7.6.5 The milestone for the Carmarthen to Swansea turnpike road (PRN 108376) reported to be immediately west of the development area was not seen during this visit.

7.6.6 To the west of the development area the land continued to rise preventing any intervisibility with any historic assets in this direction. Intervisibility was only thought to be possible with historic assets recorded to the southeast of the development area (Photograph 3). These heritage assets were investigated further for intervisibility.

7.6.7 Two designated historic assets were located to the south of the development area and therefore had the potential to be intervisible with the development area; Loughor Bridge (LB 43104) and Pontarddulais Railway Tunnel (LB 34742) both of which are located approximately 0.45km south of the development area. Upon visitation neither of these heritage assets were intervisible with the development area (Photographs 6 and 7).

Photograph 1: Looking east across the development area from gated entrance.

Photograph 2: Northern part of development area. Looking approximately east.

Photograph 3: Central part of development area. Looking south towards Pontarddulais.

Photograph 4: Southern part of development area. Looking southeast. Note sloping ground to the south.

Photograph 5: Field boundary running across the middle of the development area. Looking north.

Photograph 6: View from approximate area of Pontarddulais Railway tunnel (LB 34742) towards development area. Looking northeast.

Photograph 7: View from Loughor Bridge (LB 43104) towards development area. Looking northeast.

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.   ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

8.1.   No previously recorded historic assets lie within the development area.

8.2   An examination of various documentary sources outlined in this assessment did not identify any known or previously unrecorded historic assets within the development area. The nearest recorded assets within the 0.5km study area are documentary sources for post-medieval buildings. Therefore, the known archaeological potential within the development area is considered to be low/negligible.

8.3   However, given the proven undeveloped nature of the site and its size it is possible that significant unknown archaeological features could exist within the vicinity of the development area and that this possibility should not be excluded.

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 No development details are currently in place but the land is being considered as a potential site for a new primary school for Hendy.

9.3   Direct impacts upon the historic assets

9.3.1 No known archaeological remains/historic assets will be directly impacted upon by the development.

9.4   Indirect Impacts to Historic Assets

9.4.1 None of the described designated heritage assets (Section 5) are thought to be intervisible with the development area. Accordingly, there is thought be no significant indirect impacts upon historic assets within the surrounding area.

9.5   Mitigation

9.5.1 Further mitigation could include geophysical survey within the area proposed for development. Documentary sources show that the development area has remained as undeveloped pasture for nearly 200 years, and it is possible that below ground archaeological features may survive within the area. Geophysical survey is a non-intrusive method of investigation that could help identify whether archaeology survives and inform whether any further mitigation might be required prior to or during development.

10. CONCLUSIONS

10.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Carmarthenshire County Council to prepare an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for a proposed new primary school on Fforest Road, Hendy, Carmarthenshire. The proposals are currently in the pre-planning stages of development.

10.2 The development is still in the pre-planning stage and no development details are currently in place but the land is being considered as a potential site for a new primary school for Hendy.

10.3 An examination of various documentary sources outlined in this assessment did not identify any known or previously unrecorded historic assets within the development area. Therefore, the archaeological potential within the development area is considered to be low/negligible.

10.4 No designated heritage assets were identified within the development area. Seven designated heritage assets were located within the 0.5km buffer zone all of which were Grade II listed buildings. None of the designated heritage assets were intervisible with the development area, and no indirect or direct impacts upon them were identified as a part of this assessment.

10.5 Although the archaeological potential within the development area has been demonstrated to be low/negligible based on known information, it is suggested that further mitigation could include geophysical survey within the area proposed for development. This could help identify whether unknown buried archaeological features survive within what is a large parcel of undeveloped pastureland, as well as inform whether any further mitigation might be required prior to or during development.

11.   SOURCES

Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record

National Monument Records for Wales, housed with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Aberystwyth.

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