

# **PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL FEED SHED AT MERRYBOROUGH FARM, WISTON, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**



Prepared by  
DAT Archaeological Services  
For: David Nash



**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

REPORT NO. 2021-68  
PROJECT NO. 126605

July 2021

**PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL FEED SHED AT  
MERRYBOROUGH FARM,  
WISTON, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED  
ASSESSMENT**

By

**Luke Jenkins**



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

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol  
Dyfed Cyf, Corner House, 6 Stryd  
Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir  
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AE  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol  
01558 823121  
[info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Gwefan:  
[www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk](http://www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk)

*Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited*  
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen  
Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire  
SA19 6AE  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558  
823121  
[info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Website:  
[www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)

*Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth.  
The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)*

CADEIRYDD CHAIR: Judith Wainwright MA MSc FIC FRSA CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K Murphy BA MCIfA

**PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL FEED SHED AT MERRYBOROUGH FARM,  
WISTON, PEMBROKESHIRE:**

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

Client David Nash

**Event Record No** 126605

**Report No** 2021-68

**Project Code** FS21-019.

**Report Prepared by** Luke Jenkins

**Site-visit Undertaken by** Luke Jenkins

**Illustrated by** Luke Jenkins

**Report Approved by** Fran Murphy

| Rev Number | Description | Undertaken | Approved | Date       |
|------------|-------------|------------|----------|------------|
| _V1        | Draft_V1    | LJ         | FM       | 20/08/2021 |

**PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL FEED SHED AT MERRYBOROUGH FARM,  
WISTON, PEMBROKESHIRE  
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

**CONTENTS**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/ CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL</b>         | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>                                 | <b>2</b>  |
| 1.1 Project Proposals and Commission                   | 2         |
| 1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology               | 2         |
| 1.3 Abbreviations                                      | 4         |
| 1.4 Illustrations                                      | 5         |
| 1.5 Timeline   | 5         |
| <b>2. NATIONAL POLICIES AND GUIDANCE</b>               | <b>6</b>  |
| 2.1 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act               | 6         |
| 2.2 Planning Policy Wales                              | 6         |
| 2.3 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment | 6         |
| 2.4 Designated Heritage Assets                         | 7         |
| <b>3. LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES</b>                      | <b>7</b>  |
| 3.1 Local Development Plan                             | 7         |
| <b>4. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY</b>             | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>5. DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS</b>                   | <b>11</b> |
| 5.1 General  | 11        |
| 5.2 Scheduled Monuments                                | 11        |
| 5.3 Listed Buildings                                   | 11        |
| 5.4 Conservation Areas                                 | 11        |
| 5.5 Registered Historic Landscapes                     | 13        |
| 5.6 Registered Historic Parks & Gardens                | 13        |
| <b>6. NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS</b>               | <b>13</b> |
| 6.1 General  | 13        |
| 6.2 Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age               | 13        |
| 6.3 Iron Age   | 13        |
| 6.4 Roman Period                                       | 14        |
| 6.5 Medieval Period                                    | 14        |
| 6.6 Post-Medieval & Modern Period                      | 14        |
| 6.7 Unknown  | 14        |

|            |  |           |
|------------|--|-----------|
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE</b>                                  | <b>18</b> |
| 7.1        | General  | 18        |
| 7.2        | Previous Archaeological Work                                   | 18        |
| 7.3        | Historic Mapping   | 19        |
| 7.4        | Aerial Photography and LiDAR                                   | 20        |
| 7.5        | Site Visit   | 24        |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL &amp; IMPORTANCE</b> | <b>32</b> |
| 8.1        | Potential  | 32        |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>                                       | <b>33</b> |
| 9.1        | Development details  | 33        |
| 9.2        | Impact assessment criteria                                     | 37        |
| 9.3        | Material impacts upon the historic assets                      | 37        |
| 9.4        | Impacts to the Settings of Surrounding Designated Features     | 37        |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>CONCLUSIONS</b>   | <b>42</b> |
| 10.1       | General Conclusions  | 42        |
| 10.2       | Mitigation   | 43        |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>SOURCES</b>   | <b>44</b> |

|                    |  |           |
|--------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>APPENDIX I:</b> | <b>WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION</b> | <b>46</b> |
|--------------------|--|-----------|

## **TABLES**

|                 |  |    |
|-----------------|--|----|
| <b>Table 1:</b> | Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.          | 5  |
| <b>Table 2:</b> | HER and NMR entries within 0.55km of the development area. | 16 |
| <b>Table 3:</b> | Site potential definitions                                 | 31 |
| <b>Table 4:</b> | Site importance definitions                                | 31 |

## **FIGURES**

|                  |   |    |
|------------------|---|----|
| <b>Figure 1:</b> | Location map, showing the proposed development area.                                    | 9  |
| <b>Figure 2:</b> | Detailed location plan of the site (Provided by Client).                                | 10 |
| <b>Figure 3:</b> | Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings within 0.55km of the proposed development area | 12 |
| <b>Figure 4:</b> | Non designated heritage assets within 0.55km of the development area.                   | 18 |
| <b>Figure 5:</b> | Map by Thomas Budgen 1810.  | 21 |
| <b>Figure 6:</b> | 1842 Wiston parish tithe map.   | 22 |
| <b>Figure 7:</b> | Showing the 1897 6inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping of Haverfordwest.            | 23 |
| <b>Figure 8:</b> | Plan of proposed development.   | 34 |
| <b>Figure 9:</b> | north and west elevations of proposed development.                                      | 35 |

**Figure 10:** South and east elevations of proposed development. 36

## PHOTOGRAPHS

|                       |  |    |
|-----------------------|--|----|
| <b>Photograph 1:</b>  | Approach to Merryborough Farm from the south   | 25 |
| <b>Photograph 2:</b>  | Looking north entering the current modern Merryborough Farmyard  | 25 |
| <b>Photograph 3:</b>  | 19th century cow shed in SE part of farmyard   | 26 |
| <b>Photograph 4:</b>  | Possible old stable on western part of farmyard  | 26 |
| <b>Photograph 5:</b>  | Modern farmhouse   | 27 |
| <b>Photograph 6:</b>  | Proposed development area  | 27 |
| <b>Photograph 7:</b>  | Proposed development area  | 28 |
| <b>Photograph 8:</b>  | Proposed development area from the north   | 28 |
| <b>Photograph 9:</b>  | Looking northwest towards Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465) from proposed development area          | 29 |
| <b>Photograph 10:</b> | Looking northeast towards proposed development area  | 29 |
| <b>Photograph 11:</b> | Towards Fenton enclosure (red arrow) behind solar farm and chicken sheds                                 | 30 |
| <b>Photograph 12:</b> | View from the proposed development towards the pasture field that contains Merryborough Moated Farmstead | 40 |
| <b>Photograph 13:</b> | Looking northwest across earthworks of Merryborough Moated Farmstead                                     | 40 |
| <b>Photograph 14:</b> | View southeast towards development area from within earthworks of Merryborough Moated Homestead          | 41 |
| <b>Photograph 15:</b> | View of solar farm approximately 50m to the north of Merryborough Moated Farmstead.                      | 41 |

**PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL FEED SHED AT MERRYBOROUGH FARM,  
WISTON, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment on a proposed new agricultural feed shed at Merryborough Farm, Wiston, Pembrokeshire

The proposed development area was found to have negligible archaeological potential.

A potential Slight Adverse impact upon the Scheduled Monument of Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465) was suggested. However, given previous development surrounding site the impact was thought to be negligible. No further mitigation was suggested.

**CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL**

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD i gynnal Asesiad Ddesg yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol ar sied porthi amaethyddol arfaethedig ar Fferm Merryborough, Cas-Wis, Sir Benfro.

Canfuwyd bod potensial archeolegol dibwys yn y safle datblygu arfaethedig.

Awgrymwyd effaith niweidiol fach bosibl ar Heneb Rhestredig Fferm Ffoss Merryborough (PE 465). Fodd bynnag, o ystyried datblygiad blaenorol o amgylch y safle, credwyd bod yr effaith yn ddibwys. Ni awgrymwyd lliniaru pellach.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

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

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by David Nash, to prepare an historic environment desk-based assessment on a proposed new agricultural feed shed at Merryborough Farm, Wiston, Pembrokeshire (centred on SM 9969 1711; Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.1.2 In response to a pre-application enquiry the local planning authority, Pembrokeshire County Council, requested that the impact upon the historic environment should be assessed, and recommended further consultation with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM). The proposed development lies in an area of historic and archaeological interest and is situated near a Scheduled Monument: Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465). Consequently, DAT-DM recommended that a historic environment desk-based assessment should accompany the planning application to better assess the potential impact upon the historic environment.
- 1.1.3 This historic environment desk-based assessment provides an indication of the archaeological potential of a proposed development area and highlights possible issues in relation to the impact of the development on the historic environment.
- 1.1.4 Additionally, as a part of this report Cadw requested an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the setting of the Scheduled Monument Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465). This was to be undertaken by a competent and qualified historic environment expert in accordance with the methodology outlined in the Welsh Government's best-practice guidance Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017).
- 1.1.5 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:
- 1.2.2 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.



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

*.....a programme of study of the 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.*

1.2.4 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.

1.2.5 The report presents relevant information from several 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) (where accessible);
- Aerial photography, satellite imagery and Lidar data;
- Relevant records held by the developer;

1.2.6 The report aims will also include:

- The 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;
- An assessment of the archaeological potential of the area;
- An assessment of the likely impact upon the settings of surrounding features of the historic environment; and
- An 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.

1.2.7 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared 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**.

1.2.8 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).*

1.2.9 An 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).*

- 1.2.10 This report contains information about the historic environment and historic assets in the vicinity of the proposed development area, which will assist the archaeological advisors to the planning authority in their decision about what, if any, archaeological mitigation will be required.
- 1.2.11 Cadw also responded to a pre-application consultation, requesting further information in relation to the proposed development. Cadw identified a Scheduled Monuments 90m to the northwest of the development area that could potentially be impacted upon by the proposed development: Merryborough Moated farmstead (PE 465).
- 1.2.12 Therefore, this assessment will also examine the potential impact upon the setting of the highlighted historic asset in order to provide Cadw and 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). This utilises the best practice guidance in Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017). This guidance sets out a four-stage approach:
- **Stage 1:** Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.
  - **Stage 2:** Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated, and experienced.
  - **Stage 3:** Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.
  - **Stage 4:** If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.
- 1.2.13 Following consultation with DAT-DM, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, a search area of 550m from the boundary of the development area has been used to examine designated and non-designated heritage assets. Given the area and height of the development this is considered to encompass the potential visual impact of the development as well, as suggested in the criteria for consulting Cadw within the Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017).

### **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 Monuments and Listed Buildings are abbreviated as SM and LB accordingly. 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 <sup>1</sup> –  | 1536 – 1750           |             |
| Industrial Period –                  | 1750 – 1899           |             |
| Modern –                             | 20th century onwards  |             |

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

## **2. 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 latest 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 consider 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 Conservation Area 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).

## **2.4 Designated Heritage Assets**

- 2.4.1 At a national level the safeguards for the protection of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Historic Parks and Gardens are incorporated into The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which amends the previous Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and also the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The historic environment in the planning system is detailed in Chapter 6, 'Distinctive and Natural Places', within Planning Policy Wales (Ed.11, 2021), as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation. Guidance on how the planning system considered the historic environment is included in Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment, which references the guidance used in the creation of this assessment.
- 2.4.2 At a regional level the local government strategy regarding the historic environment is included in the Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan (LDP), adopted in February 2013, running up to 2021, with the replacement LDP currently being reviewed. The historic environment is specifically dealt with in policy GN.38 – Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment.

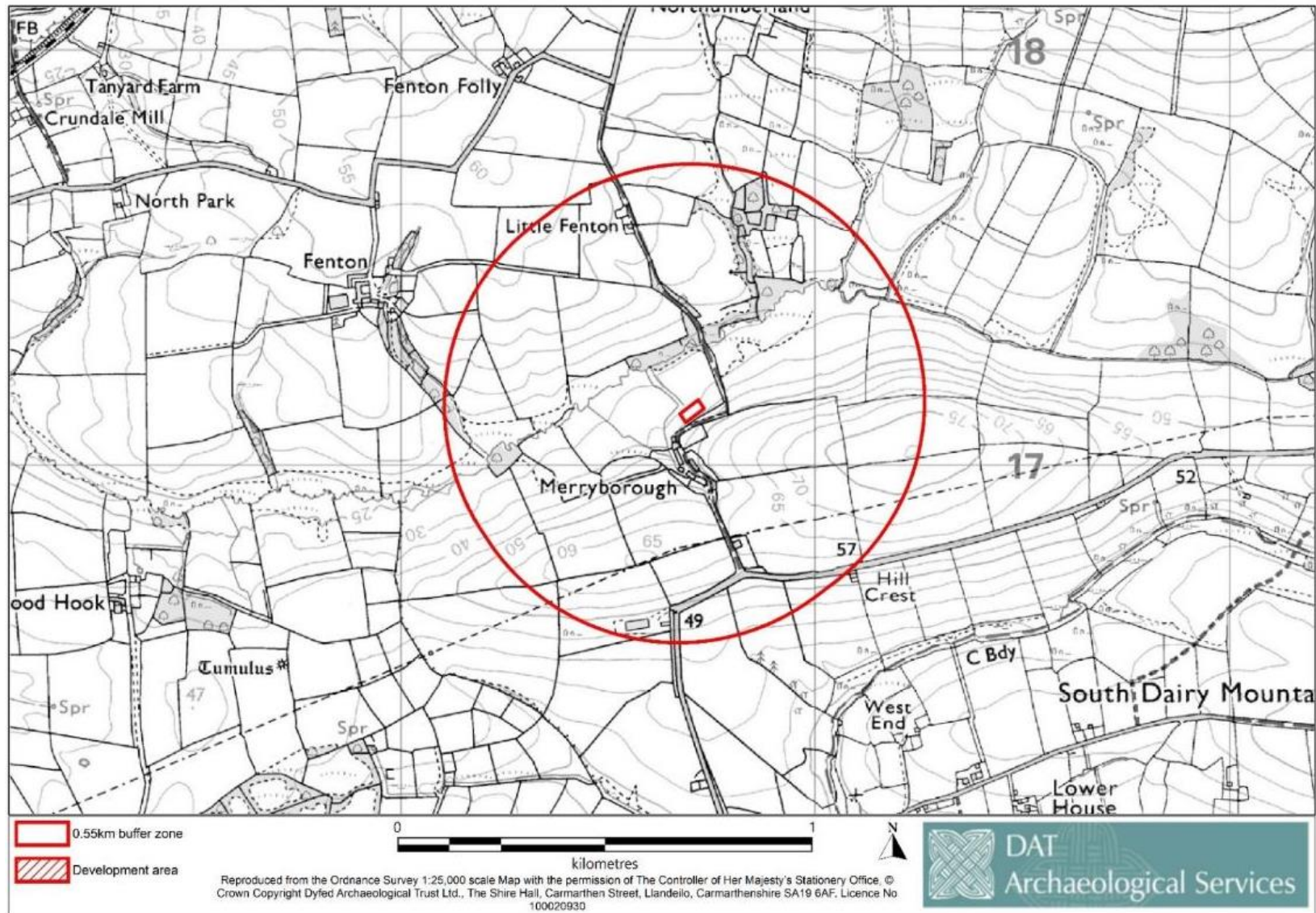
## **3. LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES**

### **3.1 Local Development Plan**

- 3.1.2 The Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in February 2013 and runs up to 2021. The replacement LDP is currently being reviewed, and has reached deposit stage, and is therefore to be considered. The LDP sets out the planning development strategy for the area. The LDP policies are set out in line with national policy and guidance outlined above but applies a rational and consistent basis for decision making at local level. Of particular relevance to the historic environment is policy *GN.38 – Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment*.

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

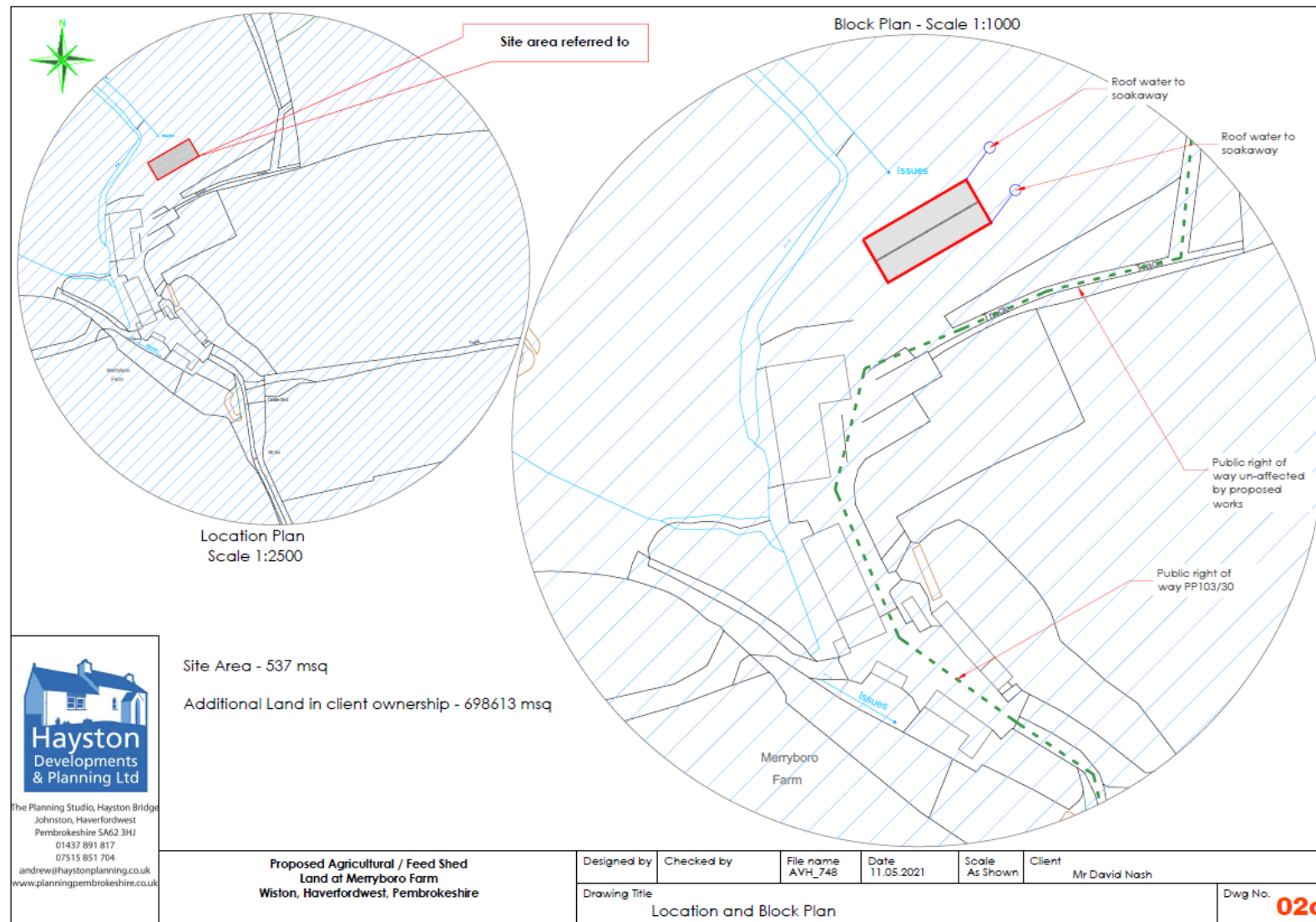
- 4.1 Merryborough Farm is situated in southern Pembrokeshire in West Wales. It is located 4.6km northeast of the county town of Haverfordwest and 2.6km southwest of the small village of Wiston.
- 4.2 The site lies along a private track accessed from an unnamed road approximately 1km from the A40 between Haverfordwest and Slebech. Broadly speaking, the farm sits along the southern slopes of the valley of Fenton Brook, a small stream that defines the northern edge of the farm
- 4.3 The development area is immediately northeast of the current farmyard which sits on a small plateau mid-way down the slope of the valley. Currently, the development area comprises an area of raised flattened hardstanding/made ground.
- 4.4 The current farm is approximately 71 hectares in size comprising mostly pasture fields for the h=grazing of sheep and cows.
- 4.5 The bedrock at the site consists of mudstones (S Slade and Redhill Formation - Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 444 to 449 million years ago in the Ordovician Period. Local environment previously dominated by deep seas). No overlying superficial deposits are recorded as being present (BGS 2021).



**Figure 1:** Location map, showing the proposed development area.



Proposed Agricultural Feed Shed at Merryborough Farm,  
Wiston, Pembrokeshire:  
Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment



**Figure 2:** Detailed location plan of the development area (Provided by Client).



## 5. DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

### 5.1 General

- 5.1.1 A search of data held on several databases was made of historic assets within the 0.55km radius search area. This included both designated and non-designated assets. Designated assets from a wider area were examined to analyse the potential impacts to their setting from proposed development, detailed below.

### 5.2 Scheduled Monuments (Figure)

- 5.2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the proposed development area. There is one Scheduled Monument within the 0.55km buffer zone.
- 5.2.2 **(PE 465) Merryborough Moated farmstead** is approximately 0.09km to the northwest of Merryborough Farm (centred on SM 99539 17100). It thought to be the remains of a well-preserved medieval moated homestead.
- 5.2.3 The full description of PE465, as provided in the Cadw Scheduled Monuments Report (available on Cof Cymru - <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru>) is as follows:

*The monument comprises the remains of a well-preserved medieval moated homestead.*

*The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval settlement. The monument is well preserved and is an important relic of the medieval landscape. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of intact archaeological deposits and structural evidence.*

*The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive. It is a square, with sides 70m in length.*

- 5.2.4 A further description of this monument is included on the HER and is as follows:

*Moated platform in broad valley bottom. It is 37m square with a centre ditch on average 3.5m wide. There are outer and inner banks to the ditch measuring between 2.5-3.5m wide and standing up to 1m high. CADW 1994. A small stream that ran into the ditch at the southwest corner has been re-routed away from the monument and the erosion scars caused by the stream have grassed over.*

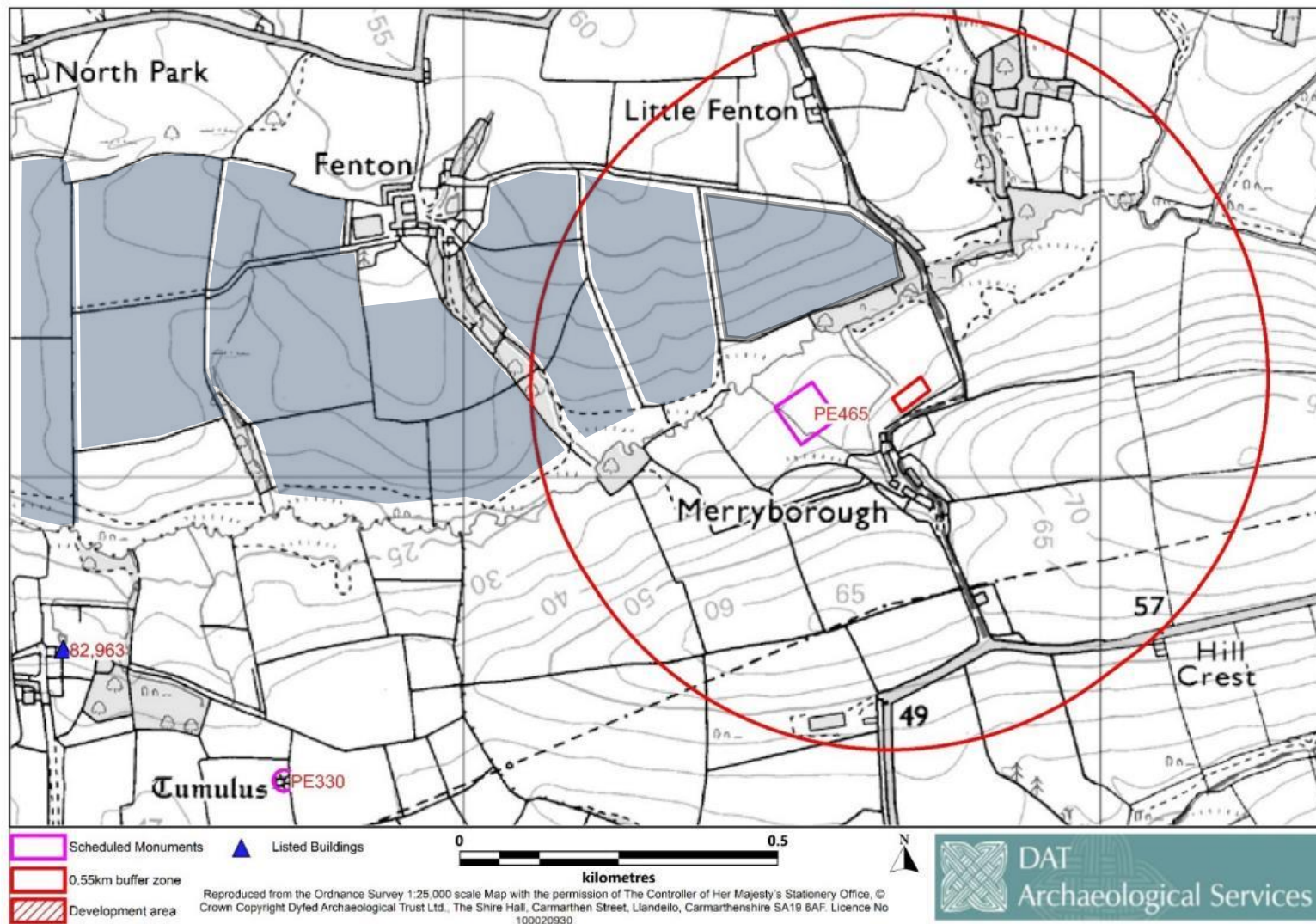
- 5.4.5 The second closest Scheduled Monument is an earthen Round Barrow called the Good Hook Round Barrow (PE 330). It is located approximately 1km to the southwest of the development area.

### 5.3 Listed Buildings (Figure 3)

- 5.3.1 There are no Listed Buildings within the proposed development area or the wider 0.55km buffer zone.
- 5.3.2 The nearest Listed Building (LB Ref 82963) is Good Hook House, a small gentry house with 17<sup>th</sup> century origins located approximately 1.1km to the southwest of the development area.

### 5.4 Conservation Areas, Registered Historic Landscapes, Registered Historic Parks & Gardens

- 5.4.1 There are no Conservation Areas, Registered Historic Landscapes, Registered Historic Parks & Gardens within the proposed development area or the wider 0.55km buffer zone.



**Figure 3:** Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings within 0.55km of the proposed development area.  
The extent of the existing solar farm is shaded in grey

## 6. NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Figure 4; Table 2)

### 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 0.55km radius area around the proposed development.
- 6.1.2 No assets were recorded within the proposed development area. The HER records 12 assets within the wider buffer zone (Table 2). A further asset not recorded on the HER was recorded on the NMR held and maintained by the RCAHMW (Table 2). No finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme database were recorded within the buffer zone.
- 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 recorded assets pertaining to that period. Any entries previously mentioned or that are duplicated are only referred to in the first instance.

### 6.2 Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age

- 6.2.1 There are no entries found dating to these periods within the proposed development area. There are two entries pertaining to these periods within the 0.55km buffer zone. Both were findspots recorded by Cotswold Archaeology (2015) and will be discussed in previous work below.

### 6.3 Iron Age

- 6.3.1 There are no sites within the proposed development area dating to the Iron Age. There are three entries pertaining to the Iron Age within the 0.55km buffer zone. All of these entries are defended enclosures, a form of Iron Age settlement, and were identified using aerial photography.
- 6.3.2 The first, **Hill Crest (PRN 35768)** recorded on the HER is located 0.55km to the southeast of the development area. It's description on the HER is as follows:

*Aerial photographs show a crop-marked ditch defining an oval area c.53m E-W and 42m N-S - a defended enclosure. There is no obvious entrance. The enclosure is located on a gentle south-facing slope at 60m above sea level. There is no earthwork or other surface evidence for this site. In 2006, the site was under improved pasture.*

- 6.3.3 This enclosure was investigated by Cotswold Archaeology in 2006 (Darvil et al 2020) the results of which are discussed below.
- 6.3.4 The second, **Merryborough Camp (PRN 14246)** also recorded on the HER located 0.33km to the south of the development area. It's description on the HER is as follows:

*Merryborough is a small, sub-circular, crop-marked enclosure with a ditched track-way approach and concentric annexe. Aerial photographs show a crop-marked ditch c.5m wide defining a sub-circular inner enclosure c.50m diameter. An entrance on the south side is approached by a 15m wide and 20m long trackway defined by two flanking ditches. These ditches fan out at their south ends to form the ditch around the perimeter of the concentric annexe. This ditch is very well defined on the south side of the annexe, but poorly defined elsewhere. The annexe measures c.150m E-W and 120m N-S.*

- 6.3.5 The third, **Fenton enclosure (NPRN 304,091)** recorded on the NMR is located 0.42km to the northwest of the development area. It's description by the RCHAMW is as follows:

*The site lies on very gentle east-facing slope. In 2006 the site was under improved pasture. Apart from a barely perceptible linear depression marking the line of the ditch of the inner enclosure on the east and north sides there is no trace of this site on the ground.*

- 6.3.6 This enclosure was investigated by Archaeology Wales in 2014 (Poucher 2014) the results of which are discussed below.

#### **6.4 Roman Period**

- 6.4.1 There are no entries pertaining to this period recorded within the proposed development area or the wider 0.55km buffer zone. However, the site is located 3.22km to the southwest of Wiston Fort, one of the few known major sites dating to this period in this region. Consequently, Roman activity in the area is a possibility.

#### **6.5 Medieval Period**

- 6.5.1 There are no entries from the Medieval period within the proposed development area. There is one entry pertaining to the Medieval period recorded during an excavation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2006 discussed below (PRN 106752).

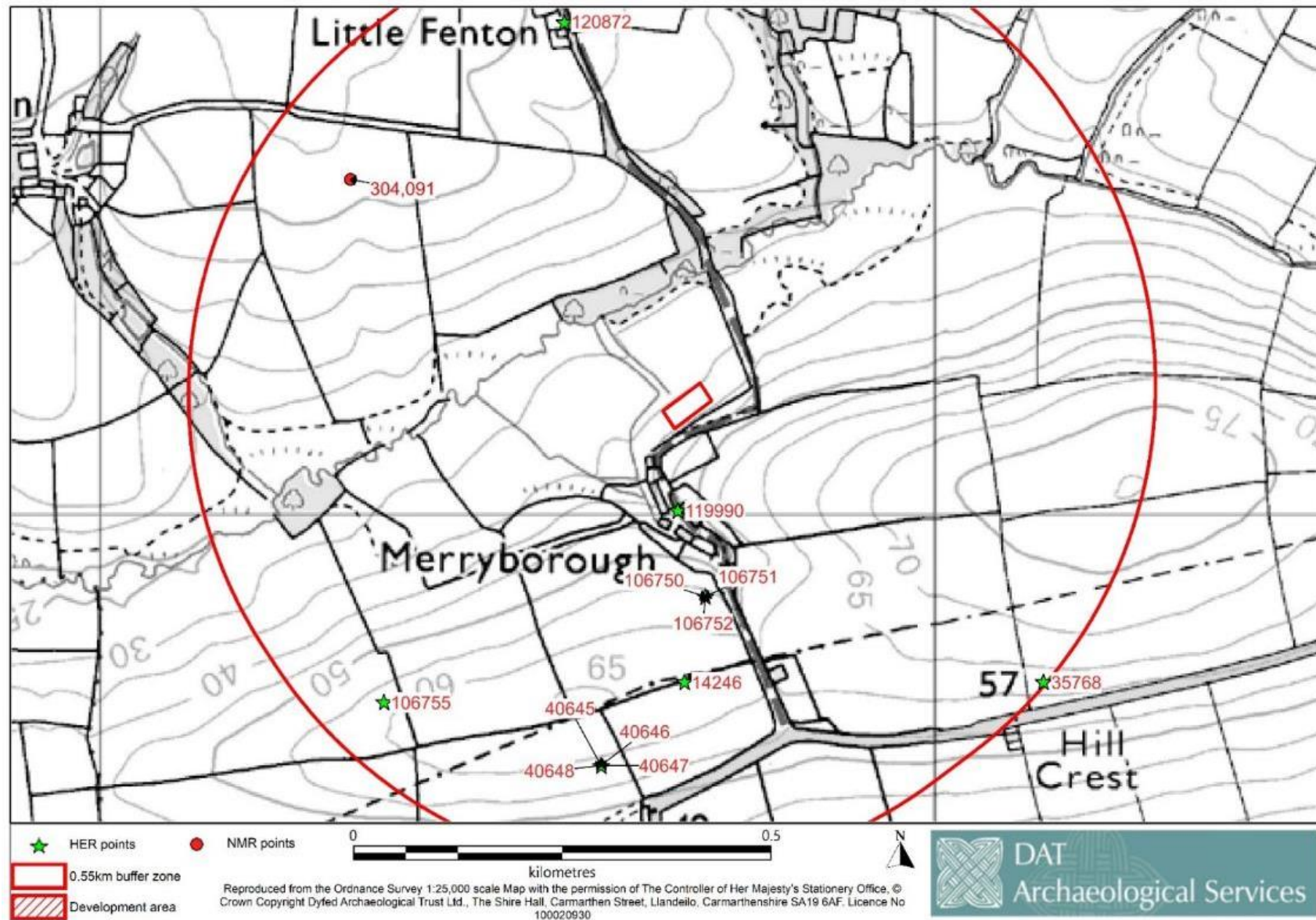
#### **6.6 Post-Medieval & Modern Period**

- 6.6.1 There are no entries from the post-medieval period within the proposed development area. There are six entries pertaining to the post-medieval period within the 0.55km buffer zone.
- 6.6.2 Two refer to post medieval farmsteads recorded on the Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition mapping. Little Fenton (PRN 120872) is located 0.48km to the north-northwest of the development area. Merryborough Farm (PRN 119990) records the location of the current farmyard.
- 6.6.3 A further four entries refer to general listings for Merryborough Farm (PRN 40645-8). One of these listings refer to the farm in general (PRN 40645) noting that the current farm seen today is approximately half the size of the farm reported on the 1840's Tithe map. A further three of these listings refer to specific farm buildings; two cow sheds PRN 40646+8, and a stable PRN 40647. The location of these entries is not thought to be accurate with the location in fact being in the area of the current farmyard slightly to the south of the development zone.

#### **6.7 Unknown**

- 6.7.1 There are no entries from undated periods within the development area. There is one entry pertaining to an undated pit (PRN 106755) recorded during an excavation undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in 2006 (PRN 106752).





**Figure 4:** Non designated heritage assets within 0.55km of the development area.

**Table 2:** HER and NMR entries within 0.55km of the development area shown in Figure 4.

| PRN    | Name         | Period                | Type               | Description   | Grid Reference |
|--------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---|----------------|
| 14246  | Merryborough | Iron Age              | Defended Enclosure | Merryborough is a small, sub-circular, crop-marked enclosure with a ditched track-way approach and concentric annexe. Aerial photographs show a crop-marked ditch c.5m wide defining a sub-circular inner enclosure c.50m diameter. An entrance on the south  | SM99701680     |
| 35768  | Hill Crest   | Iron Age              | Defended Enclosure | Aerial photographs show a crop-marked ditch defining an oval area c.53m E-W and 42m N-S - a defended enclosure. There is no obvious entrance. The enclosure is located on a gentle south-facing slope at 60m above sea level. There is no earthwork.          | SN00131680     |
| 40645  | Merryborough | Post Medieval         | Farm               | Modern Merryborough is roughly 172 acres (70ha) which is approximately half the size it was when the tithe map was produced in the 1840s. It occupies a gently sloping location dropping north from a high point of c.80m OD in the southeast corner to its l | SM996167       |
| 40646  | Merryborough | Post Medieval         | Cow Shed           | Two-storey cowshed with loft over constructed from uncoursed random rubble with a corrugated asbestos gable roof. This is the surviving south end of a longer building first shown on the tithe map of 1843: the rest of the building was rebuilt in the 1950 | SM996167       |
| 40647  | Merryborough | Post Medieval         | Stable             | A small stone built and whitewashed stable with a slate gable roof. This originally formed the south end of a long cowhouse which has been demolished and replaced with modern cattle shed. The stable/cowhouse was first shown on the OS 1st edition 1:105   | SM996167       |
| 40648  | Merryborough | Post Medieval         | Cow Shed           | Late 19th century single-storey stone-built cowshed with a cement washed slate gable roof. The south gable wall has been removed. The slates are attached by a wooden peg that is hooked over thin withytype batons.  | SM996167       |
| 106750 |              | Neolithic; Mesolithic | Findspot           | Residual Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic flints found in 2006. Cotswold Archaeology 2015  | SM9972516902   |
| 106751 |              | Bronze Age            | Occupation Site    | Evidence for a possible Bronze Age occupation site discovered in 2006. Cotswold Archaeology 2015.   | SM9972516902   |

|             |                  |               |                 |   |              |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|---|--------------|
| 106752      |                  | Medieval      | Occupation Site | Medieval pits, furrows, and ditches. Cotswold Archaeology 2015  | SM9972516902 |
| 106755      |                  | Unknown       | Pit             | An undated pit recorded in 2006. Cotswold Archaeology 2015  | SM9934016776 |
| 119990      | Merryborough     | Post Medieval | Farmstead       | Farmstead recorded on 2nd edition, 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.  | SM9969217005 |
| 120872      | Little Fenton    | Post Medieval | Farmstead       | Farmstead recorded on 2nd edition, 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map.  | SM9955617588 |
| NPRN 304091 | Fenton Enclosure | Iron Age      | Enclosure       | Cropmark enclosure discovered during RCAHMW aerial reconnaissance on 18th July 2000, probably bivallate (although cropmark incomplete in places), with well-defined simple entrance facing south (downhill towards stream). No indication of antenna structure. | SM993174     |

## **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 development area. Two archaeological investigations have taken place within the wider 0.55km buffer zone.

*South Wales Pipeline Project 2005-2007 (Darvil et al 2020, ERN 108876).*

- 7.2.2 Between 2005 and 2007 Cotswold Archaeology undertook an archaeological excavation as a part of the South Wales Pipeline Project (Darvil et al 2020). The project investigated a 216km-long section of pipeline from Milford Haven (Pembrokeshire) to Brecon (in Powys). Three sites were investigated at Merryborough Farm (centred on NGR: SM 9960 1690 (Site 504); SN 0031 1706 (Site 249); SM 9933 1677 (Site 250.1) approximately 0.3km south of the development area. Findings from these excavations are recorded on the HER as PRN's 106750-2 (Figure 4, Table 2), however their location is not accurate with the excavations being spread east/west through the buffer zone.

- 7.2.3 The earliest evidence for activity found as a part of this excavation was in the form of residual Mesolithic flint cores and undiagnostic flint flakes (site 504). Several early Neolithic cut features thought to be either a segmented ditch or an alignment of Neolithic pits. Finds within these features included a sherd of early Neolithic pottery, burnt flint and clay likely to have derived from a hearth or oven.

- 7.2.4 A small section of ditch was also excavated through the outermost ditch of the Hill Crest enclosure (PRN 35768). The ditch was recorded as a broad U-shaped ditch approximately 1.8m wide and 0.6m deep. Whilst no dating material was recovered the excavation confirmed the presence of the enclosure and confirmed its interpretation as an Iron Age defended enclosure.

- 7.2.5 A third period of activity dating to the Medieval/post-medieval period was also detected during the excavation. All pertained to an agricultural landscape and included furrows, field boundaries and quarries likely for local construction.

- 7.2.6 Several undated features such as pits were also recorded during the excavation such as pits and ditches. These are mostly presumed to be Medieval or post-medieval

*Fenton Home Farm (Wessex Archaeology 2013, Poucher 2013, Poucher 2014, ERN 112215)*

- 7.2.7 In 2013 a historic environment desk-based assessment was undertaken by Wessex archaeology at Fenton Home Farm near Crundale ahead of a proposed solar farm (Wessex Archaeology 2013). This assessment looked at the field immediately to the north of Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE465) and established that the development would have a minor adverse impact on the setting of the monument (PE465) and identified the need for



further archaeological works to be undertaken due to the presence of a cropmark thought to represent an Iron Age enclosure. This enclosure called Fenton Enclosure (NPRN 304091) had previously been identified through aerial photography.

- 7.2.8 As a result of the findings from this work a geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeology Wales (Poucher 2013, ERN 112215), this confirmed the presence of an enclosure to the north of the development area (NPRN 304091) and an archaeological evaluation was requested ahead of any further development (Poucher 2014).
- 7.2.9 The archaeological evaluation (Poucher 2014) identified the circular enclosure and surrounding ditches. It confirmed that the enclosure was circa 27m across and had several annex ditches running from it. A possible kiln was also detected within the enclosure. No datable evidence was recovered but it was thought to be distinctly prehistoric in character.

### **7.3 Historic Mapping**

#### Map by Thomas Budgen 1810 (Figure 5)

- 7.3.1 The earliest mapping found of Merryborough Farm was by Tomas Budgen in 1810. This map shows the farmyard in its current form. Nothing is depicted in the area of the Merryborough Moated Homestead (PE 465) or in the proposed development area. The surrounding landscape is seen as a field-scape not dissimilar to that seen today.

#### 1844 tithe map of Wiston parish (Figure 6)

- 7.3.2 The development area is detailed in the 1844 tithe map of Wiston parish in the county of Pembroke. This map shows the development area situated in a similar landscape as today, with the road to the farm in its current position. The apportionment for this map details Merryborough Farm as a homestead being approximately twice its current size of 71ha, belonging to a Mr Greville Honble Ropbert Fulke and occupied by a Joseph Tombs. Three farm buildings are shown, likely the two cow sheds and stables detailed on the HER (PRN 40446-8).
- 7.3.3 The field names are mostly descriptive English names such as 'Hayguard Meadow'. A few are of note. Moory Meadow located immediately to the northwest of the development area indicates this field is likely to be wet, at least in part because of the former moated farmstead (PE 465) in this area. Two fields immediately to the south of the current farmyard are called 'Great West Park' and 'Orchard Park' perhaps indicating their function or form in relation to the earlier moated homestead.

#### 1897 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map of England and Wales (Figure 7)

- 7.3.4 The 1897 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map shows a landscape not dissimilar to that of today. The development area is still under pasture with the farmyard and field boundaries in a similar location too today.
- 7.3.5 The map shows two additional buildings have been built since the tithe map was drawn up. One building is in the location of the present farmhouse indicating its likely late Victorian origins.
- 7.3.6 Two quarries can be seen on the map that were not recorded in previous mapping. It is possible that these are associated with the construction of the further farmer buildings.

1907 25-inch 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Map

- 7.3.7 Little if any change has occurred between the publication of the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> edition mapping (1897) and the Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" map published in 1907.

1939 6-inch 4<sup>th</sup> edition Ordnance Survey Map

- 7.3.8 The area appears as it does today.

1966-7 25-inch Ordnance Survey Map

- 7.3.9 The area appears as it does today.

#### **7.4 Aerial Photography and LiDAR**

- 7.4.1 Modern aerial photography clearly shows the Medieval moated farmstead (PE 465) to the northwest of the development area. As well as the route of the South Wales pipeline to the south of the current farmyard. The solar farm to the north of the development area is also noted (Figure 3). No additional sites were identified as a part of this search.
- 7.4.2 Online LiDAR mapping was not available for this area.



**Figure 5:** Map by Thomas Budgen 1810. Approximate location of development area shown in red.



**Figure 6:** 1842 Wiston parish tithe map. Approximate location of development area shown in red.



**Figure 7:** Extract of the 6inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1897.  
Approximate location of development area shown in red.

## **7.5 Site Visit (Photographs 1-11)**

- 7.5.1 A site visit was undertaken on the Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2021. The weather conditions were fair and dry with good visibility.
- 7.5.2 The farm is accessed along a private track running from an unnamed road, not far to the north of the A40 (Photograph 1). This track runs over the crest of a ridge before gradually falling into the small valley of Fenton Brook which runs east/west across the northern boundary of the farm.
- 7.5.3 Approximately 0.2km along the descending track is a slight plateau in which the current Merryborough farmyard is situated approximately 20m above the valley bottom (Photograph 2).
- 7.5.4 The farmyard is somewhat linear in nature running approximately north/south (Photograph 2). The southern part of the present farmyard is made up of older buildings including the current house and two likely 19<sup>th</sup> century sheds (Photographs 2, 3 and 4). It is possible that the two older farm buildings are those shown and described in the Wiston Parish tithe map described in Section 7.4. The current farmhouse is thought to be modern in date. The northern part of the farmyard is made up of modern cow/machinery sheds along its western edge and a silage clamp to the east (Photograph 2).
- 7.5.5 The proposed development area can be accessed through the current farmyard to which it would act as a northern extension (Photographs 6, 7, and 8). Currently the proposed development area comprises a roughly rectangular area of made ground sitting approximately 20m above the valley floor.

### *Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465)*

- 7.5.6 Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465) is located approximately 0.09km to the northwest of the development area (Photograph 9).
- 7.5.7 It is situated in the valley bottom close to Fenton brook. There is some intervisibility between the scheduled site and the proposed development (Photograph 10).

### *Non-Designated Heritage Assets*

- 7.5.8 Intervisibility with any of the recorded heritage assets described in Section 6 and 7 to the south of the development area is limited, and it is at least partially obscured by previous modern development, namely the modern cow/machinery sheds that make up the northern part of the current farmyard or topographical features.
- 7.5.9 One un-designated heritage asset is intervisible with the development area: Fenton Enclosure (NPRN 304091, Photograph 11). However, this asset lies behind the large solar farm and chicken sheds to the north of the farm.
- 7.5.10 No unrecorded potential archaeological features were identified during the site visit.



Proposed Agricultural Feed Shed at Merryborough Farm,  
Wiston, Pembrokeshire:  
Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment



**Photograph 1:** Approach to Merryborough Farm from the south over crest of hill. Also, approximate location of Hillcrest enclosure (PRN 35768)



**Photograph 2:** Looking north entering the current modern Merryborough farmyard. Modern farm buildings in the distance. Proposed location of feed store marked by red arrow.





**Photograph 3:** 19<sup>th</sup> century cow shed in south-eastern part of farmyard. Looking east.



**Photograph 4:** Possible old stable on western part of farmyard. Looking west.



Proposed Agricultural Feed Shed at Merryborough Farm,  
Wiston, Pembrokeshire:  
Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment



**Photograph 5:** Modern farmhouse. Looking west.



**Photograph 6:** Proposed development area. Currently a hardstanding of made ground. Looking northeast.

Proposed Agricultural Feed Shed at Merryborough Farm,  
Wiston, Pembrokeshire:  
Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment



**Photograph 7:** Proposed development area. Looking northwest.



**Photograph 8:** Proposed development area from the north. Note raised hardstanding area approximately 20m above valley bottom.





**Photograph 9:** Looking northwest towards Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465) from proposed development area. Location of moated farmstead marked by red arrow.



**Photograph 10:** Looking northeast towards proposed development area (red arrow) from approximate location of Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465).



**Photograph 11:** Towards Fenton enclosure (red arrow) behind solar farm and chicken sheds. Looking northwest.

**Table 3:** Site potential definitions

| <b>Archaeological Potential</b> | <b>Definition</b>   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 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 4:** Site importance definitions

| <b>Site Importance (SI)</b> | <b>Definition of Site Category</b>  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 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, IMPORTANCE AND SETTING**

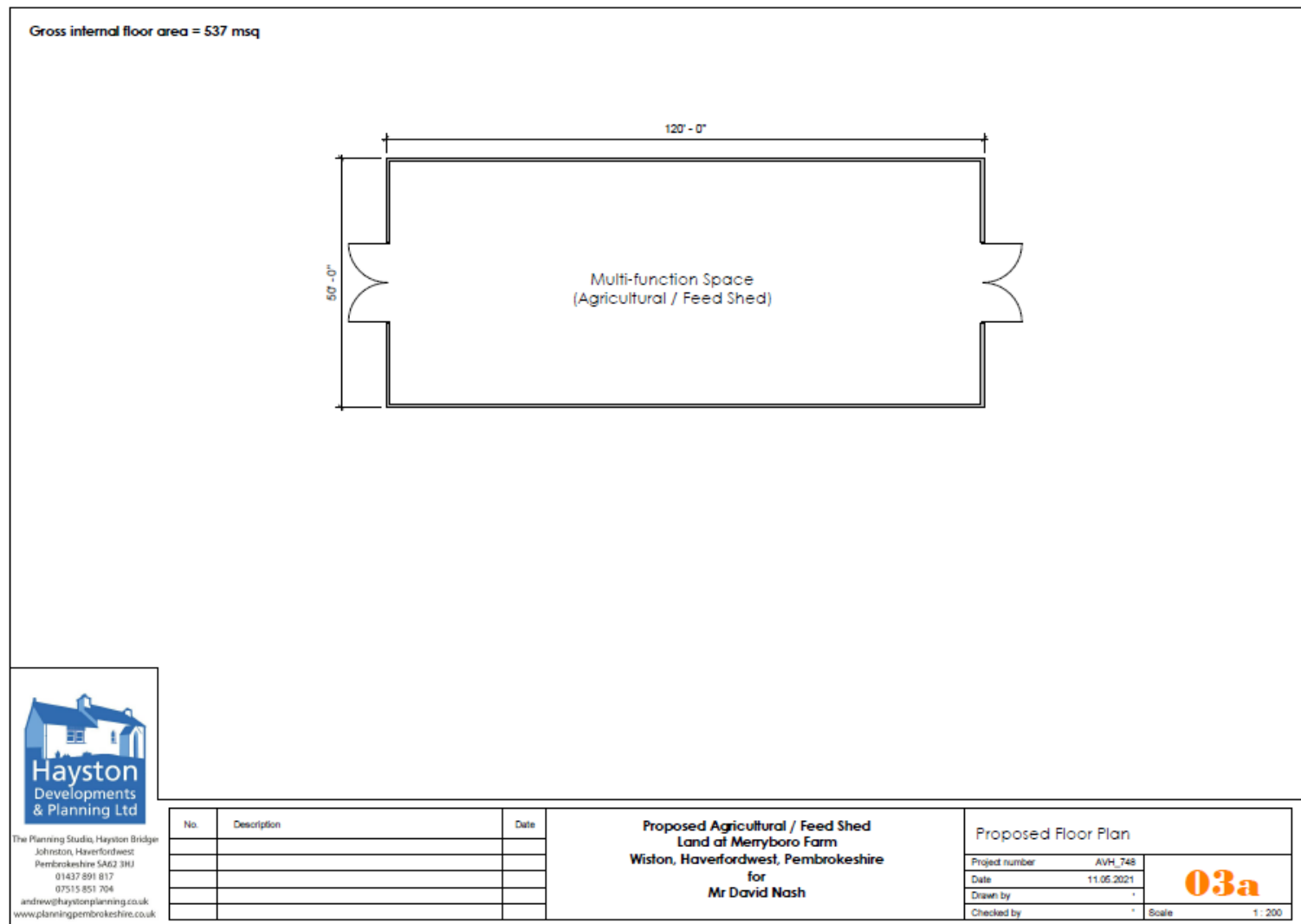
### **8.1 Potential**

- 8.1.1 A general **low** Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age potential for the development area is suggested due to the low number of recorded sites from these periods in the surrounding area of the development. Any potential remains within the area are likely to be of **high** significance.
- 8.1.2 A general **medium** Iron Age potential is suggested for the development area. This is due to the three Iron Age defended enclosures within the general locality (PRN 35768, PRN 14246, NPRN 304091). Any potential archaeological remains within the area are likely to be of **medium** significance.
- 8.1.3 A general **medium** Medieval archaeological potential for the development area is suggested. This is due to the proximity of Merryborough Moated Homestead (PE 465) approximately 0.09km to the northwest of the development area. If present, any archaeological remains are likely to be of **medium** significance.
- 8.1.4 A general low archaeological potential for post-medieval remains is suggested. This is due to the development areas proximity to the post medieval farmstead of Merryborough Farm. If present, any archaeological remains are likely to be of **low** significance.
- 8.1.5 No above ground remains of archaeological interest are visible today within the development area. The archaeological potential of the proposed development area is reduced by the fact that any groundworks would be undertaken on made ground and are unlikely to penetrate to the depth of any surviving archaeological remains if they did exist. Therefore, the potential for the proposed development to disturb below ground archaeological remains is considered **negligible**.

## **9. IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

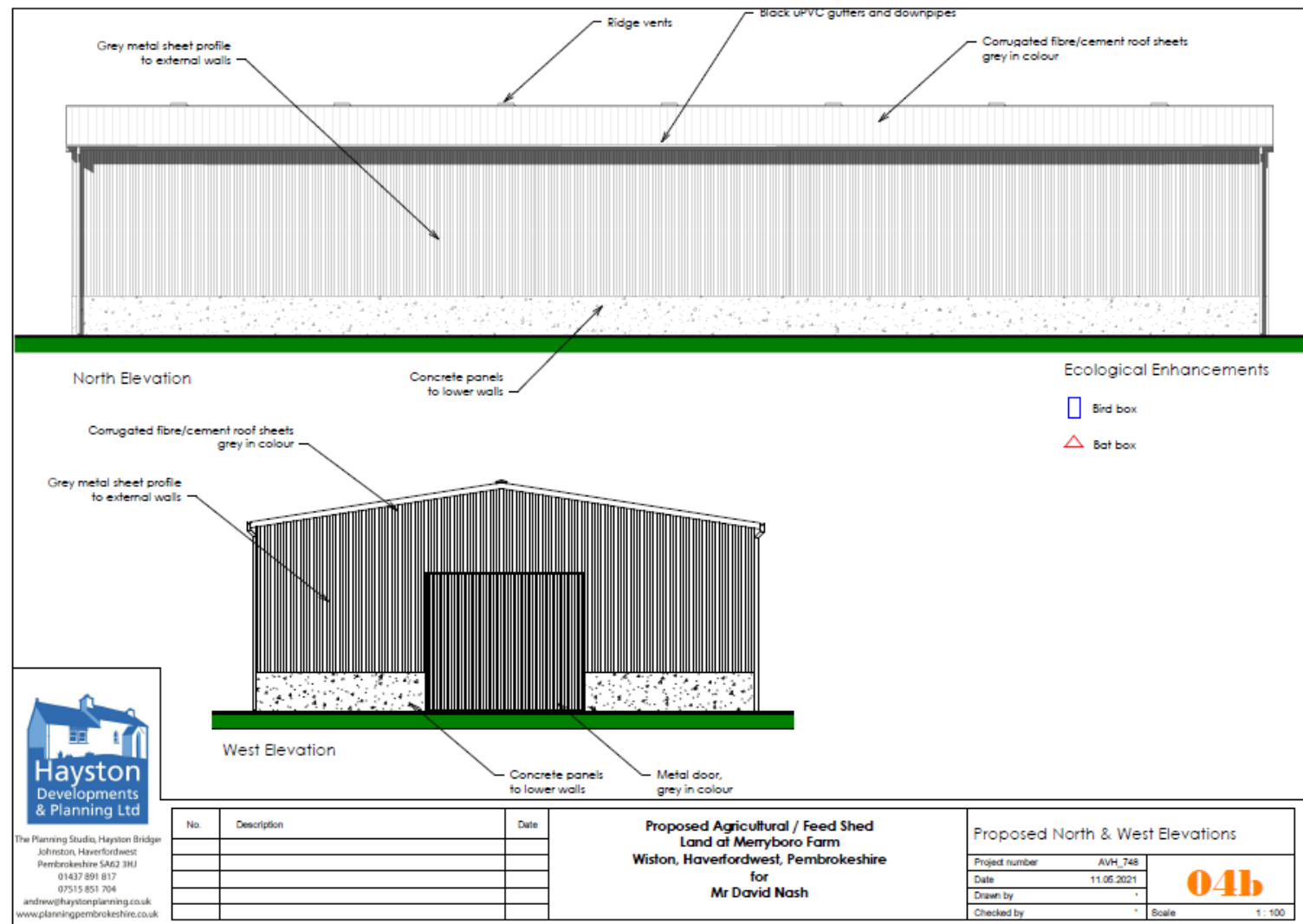
### **9.1 Development details**

- 9.1.2 The proposed development has been submitted for planning consideration and detailed plans are shown in Figures 8, 9 and 10.
- 9.1.3 The proposed development comprises a shed 15m wide and 35.2m in length. The height of the proposed development is designed to limit the height, and therefore, visibility of the building. The shed will be 5.3 m to the eaves and 5.9m to the ridges.
- 9.1.4 Both the west and east facing elevations will have three doors which are all sufficient size to accommodate large agricultural vehicles but with the centre door of increased width and height to permit transit of the largest vehicles and their load (for example straw delivered by artic and trailer). The shed will be constructed with grey metal sheet profile resting on concrete panels and with grey corrugated fibre / cement sheets for the roof. The doors will also be metal and grey in colour.
- 9.1.5 At present there is insufficient room within Mr Nash's existing sheds to accommodate storage of feed, equipment linked to the farm and livestock. An additional element is the increasing importance of keeping agricultural machinery under cover because of the cost of such equipment – tractors, trailers, JCB etc – and for security purposes.
- 9.1.6 Generally, any of the following activities typically associated with such potential developments could have a material impact upon historic assets by potentially exposing, damaging, or destroying archaeological remains:
- Landscaping and terracing works.
  - Enabling works, such as the construction of access roads, parking, and storage areas, associated services;
  - Surface stripping and levelling;
  - Construction of roads and infrastructure;
  - Foundation excavations;
  - Service installation;
  - Any other ground disturbing works
- 9.1.7 Development in this area also has the potential to impact upon historic assets by altering elements of their setting as discussed in section 9.4.



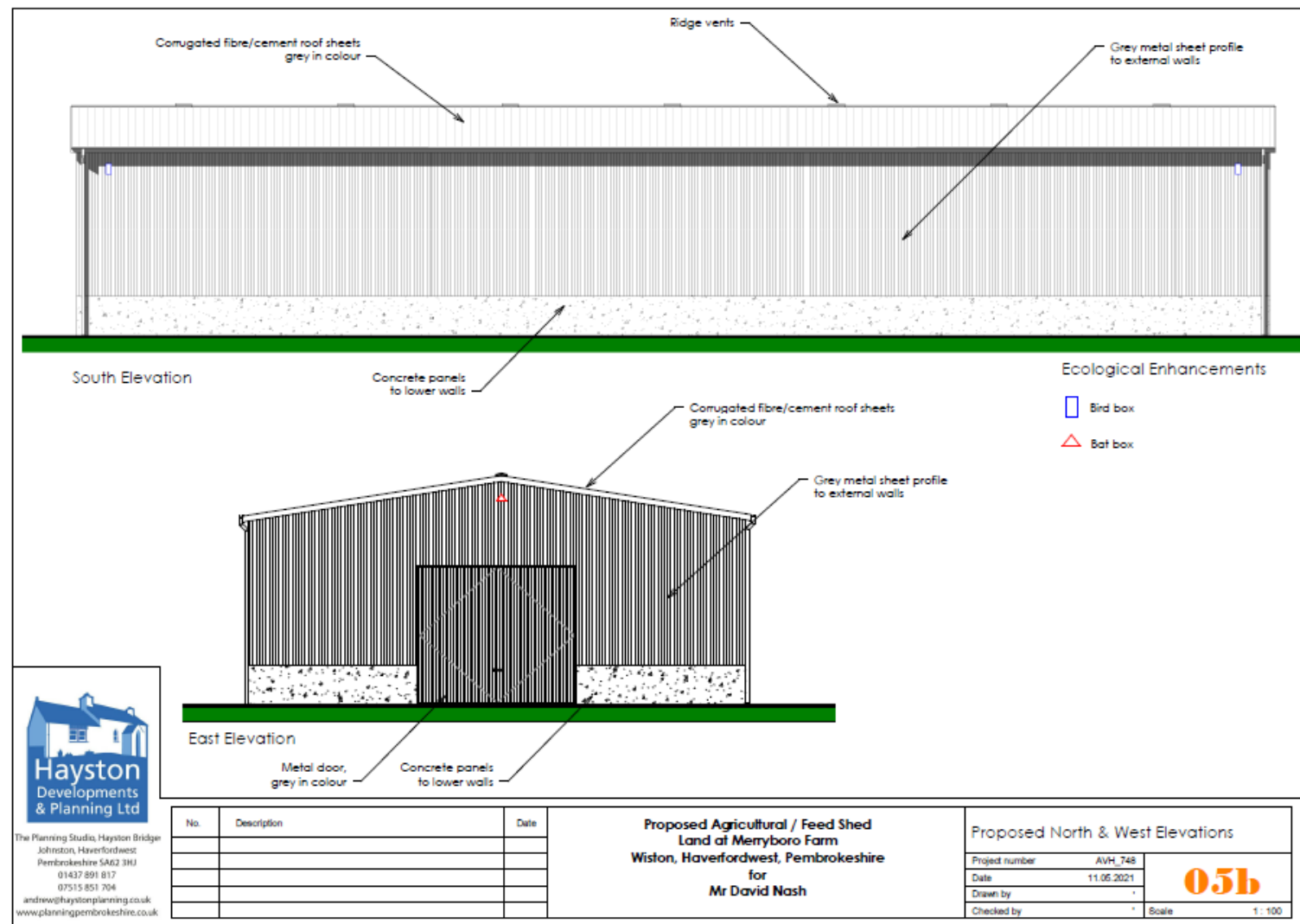
**Figure 8:** Plan of proposed development.





**Figure 9:** north and west elevations of proposed development.

Proposed Agricultural Feed Shed at Merryborough Farm,  
Wiston, Pembrokeshire:  
Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment



**Figure 10:** South and east elevations of proposed development.

## 9.2 Impact assessment criteria

- 9.2.1 The criteria for the assessment of impacts 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, the guidance offered in the Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017) has been utilised.
- 9.2.2 The TAG criteria divide 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).

## 9.3 Material impacts upon the historic assets

- 9.3.1 As stated above, the proposed development is to be constructed entirely upon made ground. Therefore, any direct impact upon historic assets is considered to be **negligible**.

## 9.4 Impacts to the Settings of Surrounding Designated Features

- 9.4.1 The definition of setting, how it contributes to the significance of a historic asset, and why it is important are outlined in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Welsh Government 2017a; available online) as follows:

*The setting of a historic asset includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced, and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape.*

- 9.4.2 Therefore, this assessment will also examine the potential impact upon the setting of highlighted historic assets to provide Cadw and the 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).
- 9.4.3 This utilises the best practice guidance in Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017). This guidance sets out a four-stage approach:

- Stage 1:** Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.
- Stage 2:** Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated, and experienced.
- Stage 3:** Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.
- Stage 4:** If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

### Stage 1: Identifying the Historic Asset

- 9.4.4 The proposed development comprises a new agricultural feed/machinery shed slightly to the northeast of the present farmyard (Figures 2, 8, 9, 10). At present the development area comprises an area of flattened, raised made ground to the northeast of the present farmyard.
- 9.4.5 This part of the assessment is primarily concerned with Scheduled Monument PE 465 Merryborough Moated Farmstead, as identified by Cadw

in their response to the pre-application consultation. This monument lies approximately 90m northwest of the proposed development area (Figure 3).

- 9.4.6 A full description of Merryborough Moated Farmstead is included in Section 5

Stage 2: Define and Analyse the Setting

- 9.4.7 The setting of 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 surrounding 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 of other monuments, relationships with other historic assets and natural features, or associated agricultural, industrial, or other surroundings. Less tangible elements are also included, such as function, sensory perceptions, historical, artistic, literary, and scenic associations.
- 9.4.8 To understand this setting, research has included an examination of the known archaeological record, based on data held in the regional Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record, as well as reports on relevant archaeological investigations. Research has also included an examination of readily available historical data, including mapping and modern data including aerial photographs and lidar, and finally a walkover survey of the site itself.
- 9.4.9 The scheduled area of Merryborough Moated Homestead (PE 465) encompasses a roughly square moat which is expected to include the most significant sub-surface remains of the site (Figure 3, Photographs 12,13 and 14). Nevertheless, earthworks likely to be field boundaries and/or secondary defences beyond the scheduled area were visible during the site visit. The location of the monument is closely tied into its topographical setting, slightly to the south of Fenton Brook which was probably the source of water for the moat. Today the monument is situated within a pasture field in a traditional field-scape not dissimilar that recorded in early mapping of the area (Section 7). Due to its location, lying low in the valley of Fenton Brook the monument does not have far reaching views, with its setting being restricted to the valley in which it lies.
- 9.4.10 The closest recorded archaeological remains to the monument are mostly prehistoric in date although some traces of medieval and post-medieval agricultural remains exist. These remains are not thought to be overly significant to the setting of this monument.
- 9.4.11 Two modern additions dominate the existing setting of the scheduled moated farmstead. Approximately 90m to the south of the monument is the farmyard of modern day Merryborough Farm (Photograph 14). The farmyard is located on a small plateau midway down the slope of the valley of Fenton Brook. Two large modern sheds are intervisible with the moated farmstead, both of which are closer than the proposed development. In addition, approximately 50m north of the proposed development area is a large solar farm which dominates much of the setting of the monument (Figure 3, Photograph 15). These modern features already significantly impact the setting of this monument.
- 9.4.12 In summary, the assessment suggests that the proposed development would not have a significant adverse impact on the setting of Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465) which has been more seriously compromised by existing modern development surrounding the monument, particularly to the north and south. However, the cumulative impact from modern

development on the setting of Merryborough Moated Farmstead would be increased by the construction of the feed store and therefore, the proposed development would have a **slight adverse impact** upon the setting of the scheduled monument.

Stage 3: Evaluation of The Potential Impact of Change/Development

9.4.13 The proposed development is described in Section 9.1. The proposals will introduce further built structures into an otherwise pastoral area. Any potential impact would be a visual one, and not likely to significantly affect the overall setting of Merryborough Moated farmstead (PE 465).

9.4.14 The impact of the proposed development upon the setting of the monument is thought to be minimal due to current farm buildings of Merryborough farm being closer to it and the solar farm to the north already significantly impacting its setting.

9.4.15 No further indirect impact upon the setting of Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465) has been identified.

9.4.16 In summary the main potential negative impact of the proposed development is considered to be:

A possible **slight adverse visual impact** on the views from Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465).

Stage 4: Mitigation Options

9.4.17 The main impact of the proposed development, although negligible, will be a visual impact on views from Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465). The choice of roofing and cladding materials and the height of the overall structure are likely to be the main elements that may affect this visibility; therefore, this potential visual impact should factor in the choice of roofing and cladding material.

9.4.18 Current designs for the proposed development suggest a roof height like those of the current modern farm buildings and a grey cladding/roofing. Both are likely to reduce the visibility of the structure further.

9.4.19 Further mitigation may include soft landscaping to partially obscure the structure over time.



**Photograph 12:** View from the proposed development towards the pasture field that contains Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465). Fenton brook beyond.



**Photograph 13:** Looking northwest across earthworks of Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE465). Fenton brook beyond. 1m scale





**Photograph 14:** View southeast towards development area from within earthworks of Merryborough Moated Homestead (PE 465). 1m scale.



**Photograph 15:** View of solar farm approximately 50m to the north of Merryborough Moated Farmstead.

## 10. CONCLUSIONS

### 10.1 General Conclusions

- 10.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by David Nash, to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment of a proposed new agricultural feed shed at Merryborough Farm, Wiston, Pembrokeshire (centred on SM9969 1711).
- 10.1.2 The proposed development comprises a shed 15m wide and 35.2m in length. At present there is insufficient room within Mr Nash's existing sheds to accommodate storage of feed, equipment linked to the farm and livestock. An additional element is the increasing importance of keeping agricultural machinery under cover because of the cost of such equipment – tractors, trailers, JCB etc – and for security purposes.
- 10.1.3 There are 13 non-designated heritage assets in the surrounding 0.55km buffer zone (Section 6). These principally comprise of three Iron Age defended enclosures (Hill Crest (PRN 35768), Merryborough Camp (PRN 14246) and Fenton enclosure (NPRN 304,091) as well as post-medieval remains consistent with an agricultural landscape. Less definite evidence of Mesolithic/Neolithic and Bronze Age remains were also identified.
- 10.1.4 The archaeological potential of the proposed development area is considered to be **negligible**, as the development area comprises a raised area of made ground through which groundworks are unlikely to disturb below ground archaeology if it exists.
- 10.1.5 One designated heritage asset lay within the 0.55km buffer zone of the proposed development. This was Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465) situated 0.09km to the northwest of the development area.
- 10.1.6 Due to the proximity of the proposed development area, at the request of Cadw this report also assessed the impact of the proposed development upon the site and its setting. This impact has been assessed using the guidance and methodology outlined in the 'Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales' (Cadw 2017), which outlines a four-stage approach:
- 10.1.7 **Stage 1** identified the historic asset. And gave comment on its form and character. Merryborough farmstead is an undated defended Medieval settlement.
- 10.1.8 **Stage 2** defined and analyses the setting of the monuments. For PE465 This included a field-scape and agricultural landscape and associated buildings. Evidence for multi-period prehistoric remains were noted in the surrounding area. The modern setting of the monument is significantly affected by a solar farm to the north, and the current farmyard to the south.
- 10.1.9 **Stage 3** evaluated the potential impact of the proposed development. Any impact upon the monument would be visible. However, due to the proximity of the solar farm approximately 0.05m to the north of the monument development as well as the current farm buildings being closer to the monument than the proposed development. A **negligible** negative impact for the setting of the monument was suggested by the assessment.
- 10.1.10 **Stage 4** suggested mitigation options associated with the proposed development. It is suggested that the careful consideration of type and location of roofing materials/cladding as well as the height of the proposed development not being significantly higher than the current modern farm buildings, as suggested in current proposals would reduce the impact of the development significantly. The impact of the proposed development could be further lessened through the introduction of soft landscaping.



## **10.2 Mitigation**

- 10.2.1 The development area was thought to have negligible archaeological potential, therefore no further archaeological mitigation within the proposed development area is suggested.
- 10.2.2 In terms of impacts upon the setting of Merryborough Moated Farmstead (PE 465). At present the design is of an acceptable height and uses appropriate materials, therefore if these remain part of the proposed design no further mitigation measures are suggested.
- .

## 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.

### Published

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

CIfA. 2014. *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*. Available at:  
[http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA\\_3.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA_3.pdf)  
[Accessed 14.05.2020]

Ordnance Survey, Historic edition 1:2500 maps, Pembrokeshire

Darvil, T, David, A, Griffiths, S, Hart, J, James, H, Murphy, K and Rackham, J, 2020, *The Archaeology of the South Wales Gas Pipeline*, Cotswold Archaeology Monograph No 13

Welsh Government. 2017. Planning Policy Wales: Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment. Cardiff: Cadw. Available at:  
<http://gov.wales/docs/desh/policy/170531tan-24-the-historic-environment-en.pdf> [Accessed 14.05.2020]

Welsh Government. 2017a. Setting of Historic Assets in Wales. Cardiff: Cadw. Available at:  
<http://cadw.gov.wales/docs/cadw/publications/historicenvironment/20170531Setting%20of%20Historic%20Assets%20in%20Wales%2026918%20EN.pdf> [Accessed 14.05.2020]

### Unpublished

Cook, N, 2004. Prehistoric Funerary & Ritual Sites Project: Pembrokeshire 2003-2004. Cambria Archaeology (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) Report 2004/85

Cook, N, 2013. Fenton Farm, Crundale, Pembrokeshire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment. Report No. 89230

Poucher, P, 2014, Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest: Archaeological Evaluation

Poucher, P, 2014, Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest: Geophysical survey

Poucher, P, 2014, Fenton Home Farm, Crundale, Haverfordwest: Archaeological Watching Brief

### Websites

Google Earth Maps satellite imagery.

British Geological Survey mapping portal. Available at:  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed 09.02.2020]

Natural Resources Wales LiDAR Composite Dataset. Available at:  
<http://lle.gov.wales/Catalogue/Item/LidarCompositeDataset/?lang=en>  
[Accessed 09.02.2020]

Proposed Agricultural Feed Shed at Merryborough Farm,  
Wiston, Pembrokeshire:  
Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment

Portable Antiquities Scheme. Available at: <https://finds.org.uk/> [Accessed 09.02.2020]

Welsh Tithe Map. Available at: <https://places.library.wales/> [Accessed 09.02.2020]

## **APPENDIX I:**

### **PROPOSED AGRICULTURAL FEED SHED AT MERRYBOROUGH FARM, WISTON, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by DAT Archaeological Services on behalf of David Nash to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a historic environment desk-based assessment for a proposed new agricultural feed shed at Merryborough Farm, Wiston, Pembrokeshire (centred on SM9969 1711; Figures 1 and 2).
- 1.2 In response to a pre-application enquiry the local planning authority, Pembrokeshire County Council, requested that the impact upon the historic environment should be assessed, and recommended further consultation with the archaeological advisors to the planning authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM). The proposed development lies in an area of historic and archaeological interest and is situated in close proximity to a scheduled monument; a medieval moated site (PE465). As a result, DAT-DM recommended that a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment should accompany the planning application to better assess the potential impact upon the historic environment.
- 1.3 This document outlines the proposed methodology that DAT Archaeological Services will use to undertake this desk-based assessment.
- 1.4 The desk-based assessment will identify any known archaeological or historical sites within the development area and its environs, identify potential setting impacts on significant historic assets in the vicinity, identify any historic landscape areas that may be affected by the proposals and assess the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains to be present within the proposed development area. An indication of what further archaeological works might be required in advance of or during the proposed development, if any, would also be prepared.
- 1.5 The scope of this 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 states that:

*A 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.*

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

*A desk-based assessment is 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....*

- 1.7 The Trust always operates to best professional practice. DAT Archaeological Services is the contractual arm of Dyfed Archaeological Trust that has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.
- 1.8 ***Dyfed Archaeological Trust is a CIfA Registered Archaeological Organisation.***
- 1.9 ***All permanent staff members of DAT Archaeological Services are CSCS<sup>2</sup> registered.***

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

- 2.1 This document provides a scheme of works for:

***The preparation of an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment of a new agricultural feed shed at Merryborough Farm, Wiston, Pembrokeshire This report will assess the potential impact that the development might have on any archaeological remains, if present, within the area, and an assessment of the impact of the development on the wider historic environment.***

- 2.2 Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the desk-based assessment.

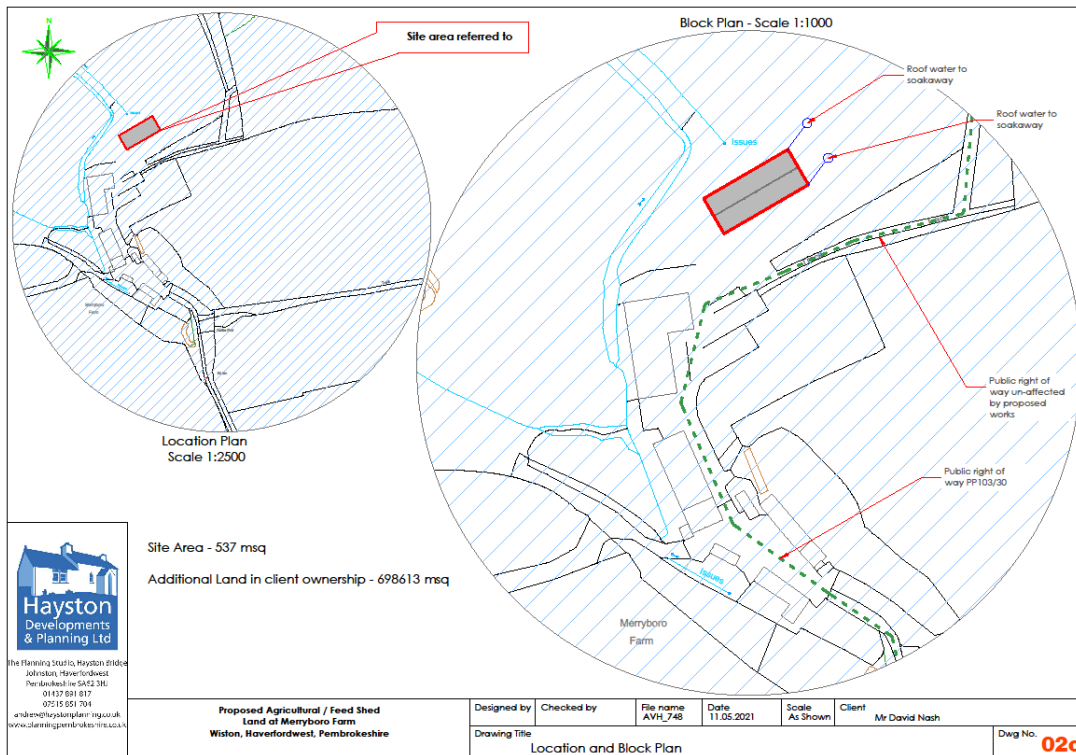


**Figure 1:** Map showing the location of Merryborough Farm (within red circle).

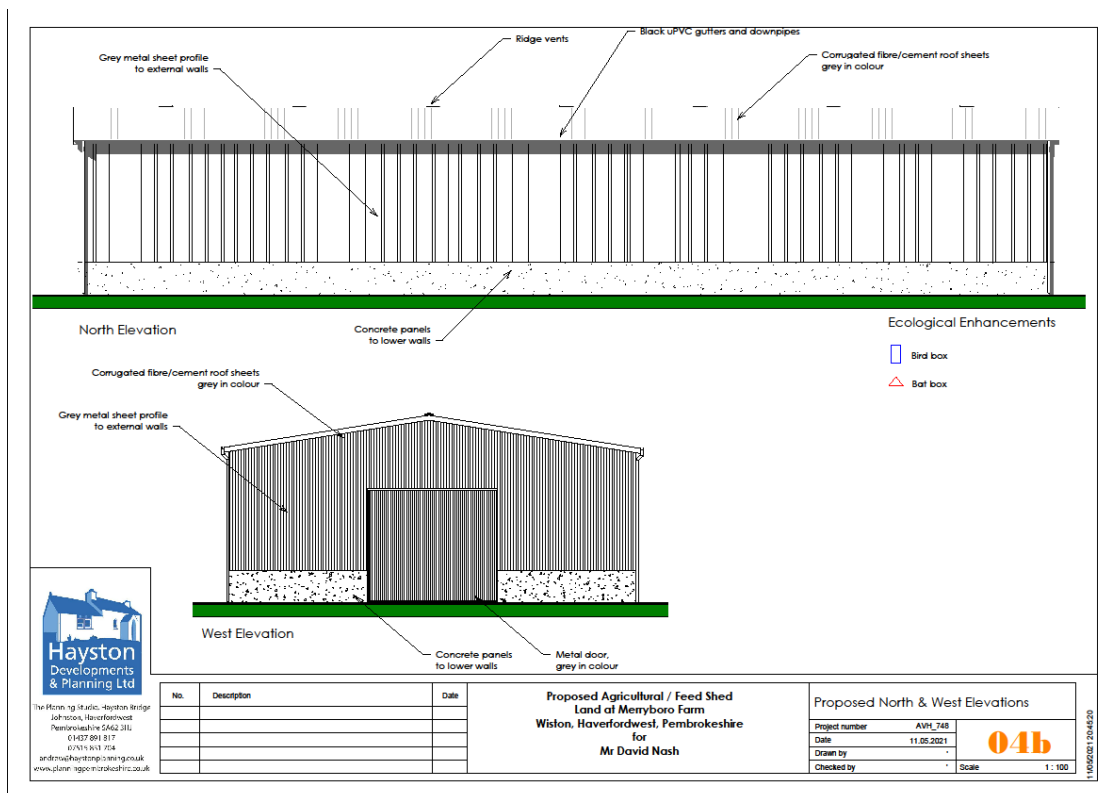
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE. Licence No 100020930

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

Proposed Agricultural Feed Shed at Merryborough Farm,  
Wiston, Pembrokeshire:  
Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment

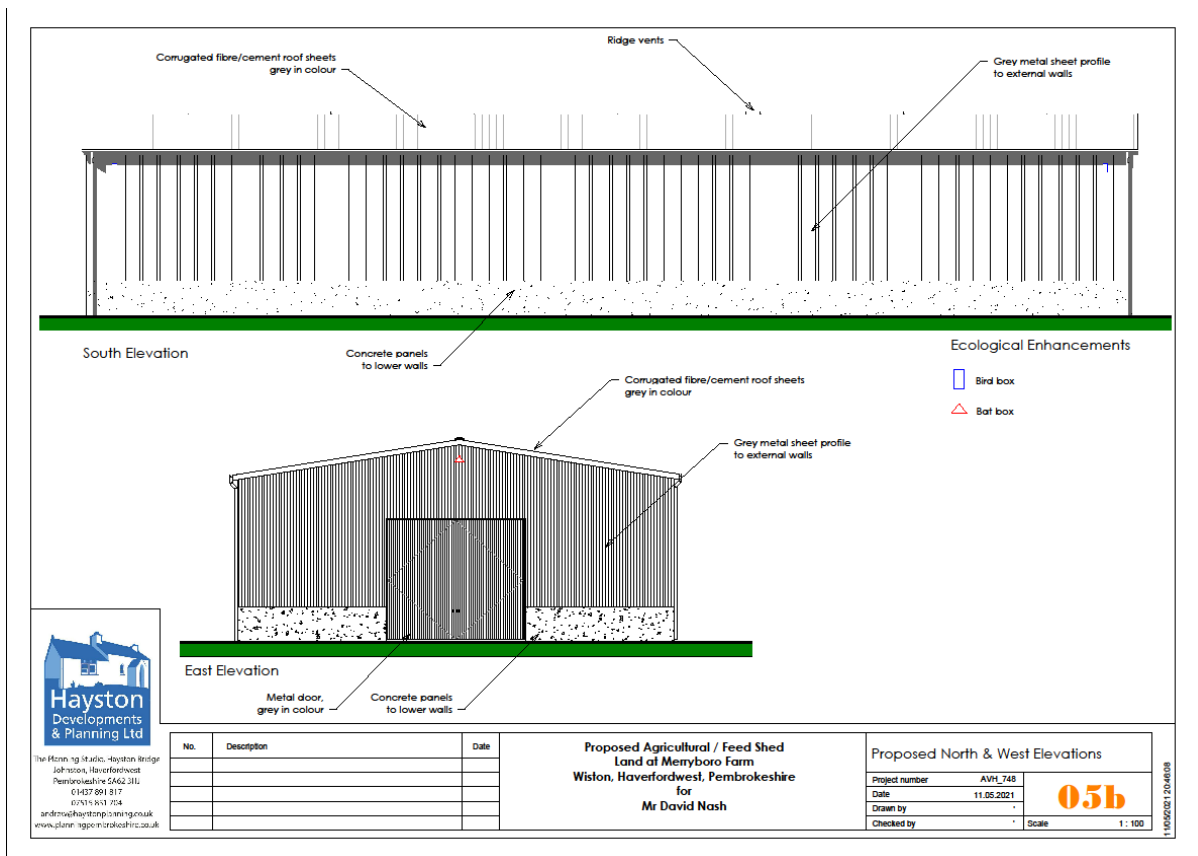


**Figure 2:** Location and block plan of the proposed agricultural feed shed. Plan supplied by client.



**Figure 3:** Proposed north and west elevation of agricultural shed. Plan supplied by client.

Proposed Agricultural Feed Shed at Merryborough Farm,  
Wiston, Pembrokeshire:  
Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment



**Figure 4:** Proposed south and east elevation of agricultural shed. Plan supplied by client.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The archaeological assessment will involve the preparation of a stand-alone report. The report will be prepared using relevant information from a number of sources, and will comprise a number of elements, including:
- Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) data and other relevant information;
  - National Monuments Record of Wales information as held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth (RCAHMW offices in Aberystwyth);
  - Accessible bibliographic, cartographic, and photographic information held at the National Library of Wales and potentially information held at the Local Studies Library;
  - Identification of any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens, Historic Landscape Character Areas, or Conservation Areas within or in the vicinity of the site area;
  - Relevant web-based information, including cartographic information, satellite imagery, geological information, and LiDAR data;
  - Relevant information held by the landowner/developer
  - Site visit and walkover survey;
  - Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area; and
  - Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.
- 3.2 A search radius buffer of 550m around the boundary of the proposed development area is proposed to identify the presence of designated historic assets including Scheduled Monuments, Historic Landscape Character Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens and Listed Buildings and non-designated archaeological sites recorded on the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 3.3 A site visit will be undertaken to provide an assessment of the presence of any visible archaeological remains, potential for further remains, and to assess potential indirect (visual) impacts. All located sites or finds will be located by means of GPS to ascribe an accurate NGR reference. The character, function, condition, and relation of any features will be recorded, and written, drawn and photographic records to an appropriate level of detail will be maintained.
- 3.4 The report will be fully representative of the information gained from the above methodology. The report will include the following:
- a) A concise non-technical summary of the appraisal results;
  - b) The report will contain plans showing the development area in respect to the local topography and surrounding archaeological sites;
  - c) The report will list all the sources consulted;
  - d) Where necessary, the report will also contain suitably selected plans and maps (including historic maps for map regression) of significant archaeological features;
  - e) Short written descriptions of all archaeological features observed during the site visit;
  - f) Statement of the local and regional context of the historic assets identified. Consideration, where appropriate, of the National Archaeological Research Agenda;
  - g) An assessment of the relative value or significance of each recognised historic asset;



- h) An impact assessment of the proposed development on the known and potential archaeological resource.
- 3.5 Once completed, a draft copy of the report will be submitted to the client for comment. Once the comments of this draft have been addressed, a final version of the report will be prepared and submitted. A further copy of the report will be provided to the Dyfed Archaeological Trust for deposition within the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER). A hard copy will also be supplied to the NMR. Digital copies will be supplied to all parties on suitable media.
- 3.6 Where appropriate, a summary report on any new significant archaeological discoveries will be submitted for publication to a national journal (e.g., *Archaeology in Wales*) no later than one year after the completion of the work.
- 3.7 Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality should be maintained, the report and the archive should normally be deposited in the appropriate repository not later than six months after completion of the work.

#### **4. QUALITY ASSURANCE**

- 4.1 DAT Archaeological Services has considerable experience of undertaking historic environment desk-based assessments and always operates to best professional practice; adhering to CIfA guidelines where appropriate. The Trust is a Registered Organisation with CIfA, and all staff abide by their code of conduct and adhere to their relevant standards and guidance.
- 4.2 DAT Archaeological Services operate robust internal monitoring procedures that ensure that the standard of each project is maintained from commencement to completion.

#### **5. STAFF**

- 5.1 The project will be managed by P Poucher, DAT Archaeological Services.
- 5.2 The report will be prepared by experienced members of staff from DAT Archaeological Services.

#### **6. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 6.1 All permanent members of DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS<sup>3</sup> registered.
- 6.2 DAT Archaeological Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment prior to the site walkover survey to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 6.3 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed, including compliance with Welsh Government guidelines on working practices during the current Covid-19 Pandemic, and guidance issued by CIfA.
- 6.4 CIfA advise that Registered Organisations should ensure they are familiar with the latest *Site Operating Procedures*, published by the Construction Leadership Council (Version 4, updated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020) and the latest *Covid-19 Working Advice Ver. 1.1*, published by Prospect (5<sup>th</sup> May 2020), which addresses potential issues relating to archaeological site work. These procedures will be attached to the project risk assessment. If any site-related work cannot be carried out in line with this guidance, then the project archaeologist will not be allowed to attend.
- 6.5 The project risk assessment will detail the precautions put in place to reduce the spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus during fieldwork.

---

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

