

**HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT THE
FORMER RAF CAREW CHERITON
AIRFIELD, SAGESTON,
PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
PLANNING APPLICATION 19/0224/PA**



Looking east along road-cut after completion of watching brief in May 2021.



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust
For: Morgan Construction Wales



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archaeological trust

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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**HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT THE FORMER RAF CAREW
CHERITON AIRFIELD, SAGESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
PLANNING APPLICATION 19/0224/PA**

by

Hubert Wilson

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**HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT RAF CAREW CHERITON
AIRFIELD, SAGESTON, PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Client	Morgan Construction Wales
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Event Record No 129712

Report No	2022-50
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Project Code FS20-093

Report Prepared by	Hubert Wilson
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Fieldwork Undertaken by Hubert Wilson

Illustrated by	--
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Report Approved by Fran Murphy

Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
_V1	First draft	HW	FM	02/08/2023
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**RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT RAF CAREW CHERITON, SAGESTON,
PEMBROKESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake a watching brief during the construction of an access road for a new housing development on land at Sageston, Pembrokeshire. The development area was formerly occupied by the 20th century RAF Carew Cheriton Airfield. The road had the potential to uncover a possible midden associated with the ancillary and domestic part of the airfield.

A small amount of modern refuse was uncovered but no evidence of a midden was recorded.

A second watching brief in the approximate vicinity of a previously recorded air raid shelter found no evidence or remains associated with such a structure.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed - Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol i ymgymryd â brîff gwylio yn ystod y gwaith o adeiladu ffordd fynediad ar gyfer datblygiad tai newydd ar dir yn Sageston, Sir Benfro. Arferai'r ardal ddatblygu gael ei meddiannu gan Faes Awyr RAF Carew Cheriton o'r 20fed ganrif. Roedd gan y ffordd y potensial i ddatgelu tomen bosibl yn gysylltiedig â rhan atodol a domestig y maes awyr.

Darganfuwyd ychydig o sbwriel modern ond ni chofnodwyd unrhyw dystiolaeth o domen.

Ni chanfu ail friff gwylio yng nghyffiniau lloches cyrch awyr a gofnodwyd yn flaenorol unrhyw dystiolaeth nac olion yn gysylltiedig â strwythur o'r fath.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

- 1.1.1 Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) - Archaeological Services were commissioned by Morgan Construction Ltd to undertake two archaeological watching briefs during groundworks associated with a residential development at the former RAF Carew Cheriton Airfield, Sageston, Pembrokeshire (Planning Application 19/0224/PA) centred on NGR SN 0532 0317 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Figure 3 shows the locations of the watching briefs; the first was associated with the construction of an access road to the north of the site and the second (much smaller in scope) was in the southeast corner of the development area where an air raid shelter (PRN 26125) was recorded by Roger Thomas in 1993 during a site visit.
- 1.1.3 The development site is located in that part of RAF Carew Cheriton that once contained the ancillary and domestic buildings. The watching brief undertaken at the time of the access road being built was specifically concerned with a possible midden associated with the 'Destructor House' (an open building where refuse was processed) as this structure was deemed to be in close proximity to the proposed route of the road (Figure 4).

1.2 Scope of the Project

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works (Appendix 1). The WSI outlined the project objectives as:
 - Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology for the watching brief which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake:
 - To monitor ground works in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
 - To establish the state of preservation, character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits identified.
 - Production of a report and an archive of the results.
- 1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as:

Archaeological attendance during groundworks associated with a proposed access road for a residential development on the former RAF Carew Cheriton Airfield, Sageston, Pembrokeshire (centred on NGR SN 0532 0317).
- 1.2.3 The groundworks associated with the access road are possibly close to a rubbish midden associated with a nearby 'Destructor House'. This building would have processed the refuse produced at the airbase and its midden would therefore contain numerous artefacts associated with the everyday life of servicemen and women. These artifacts would be of social significance and local importance.
- 1.2.4 The archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and their codes of conduct (CIfA 2014).

1.3 Abbreviations

- 1.3.1 All sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by a Primary Reference 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 Reference Number (NPRN). Coflein is the online site database and archive catalogue of the NMR for Wales.

Altitude is expressed to a height above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources are given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

1.4 Report Outline

- 1.4.1 This report provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results.

1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale. On maps, north is towards the top of the page unless otherwise indicated.

1.6 Timeline

- 1.6.1 The following timeline (Table 1) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic	c.10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period	c.AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period*	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period	1750 – 1899	
Modern	20th century onwards	

*The post-medieval and Industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional HER as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

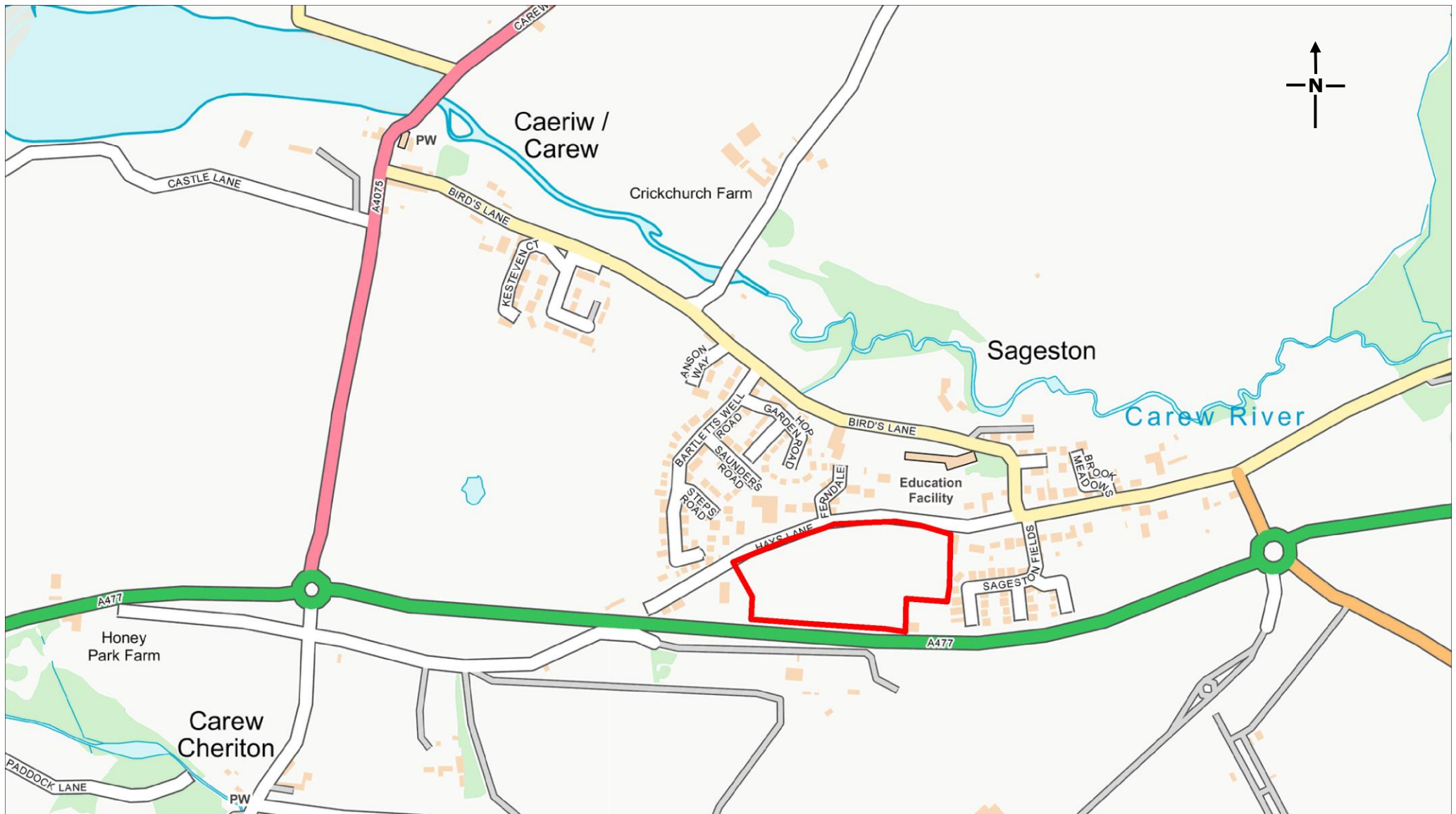


Figure 1: Site location map showing development area shaded in red.

Map data from OS OpenMap - Local <https://osdatahub.os.uk/downloads/open/OpenMapLocal> 13/07/2023



Figure 2: Outline development proposals layout. Plan supplied by client.

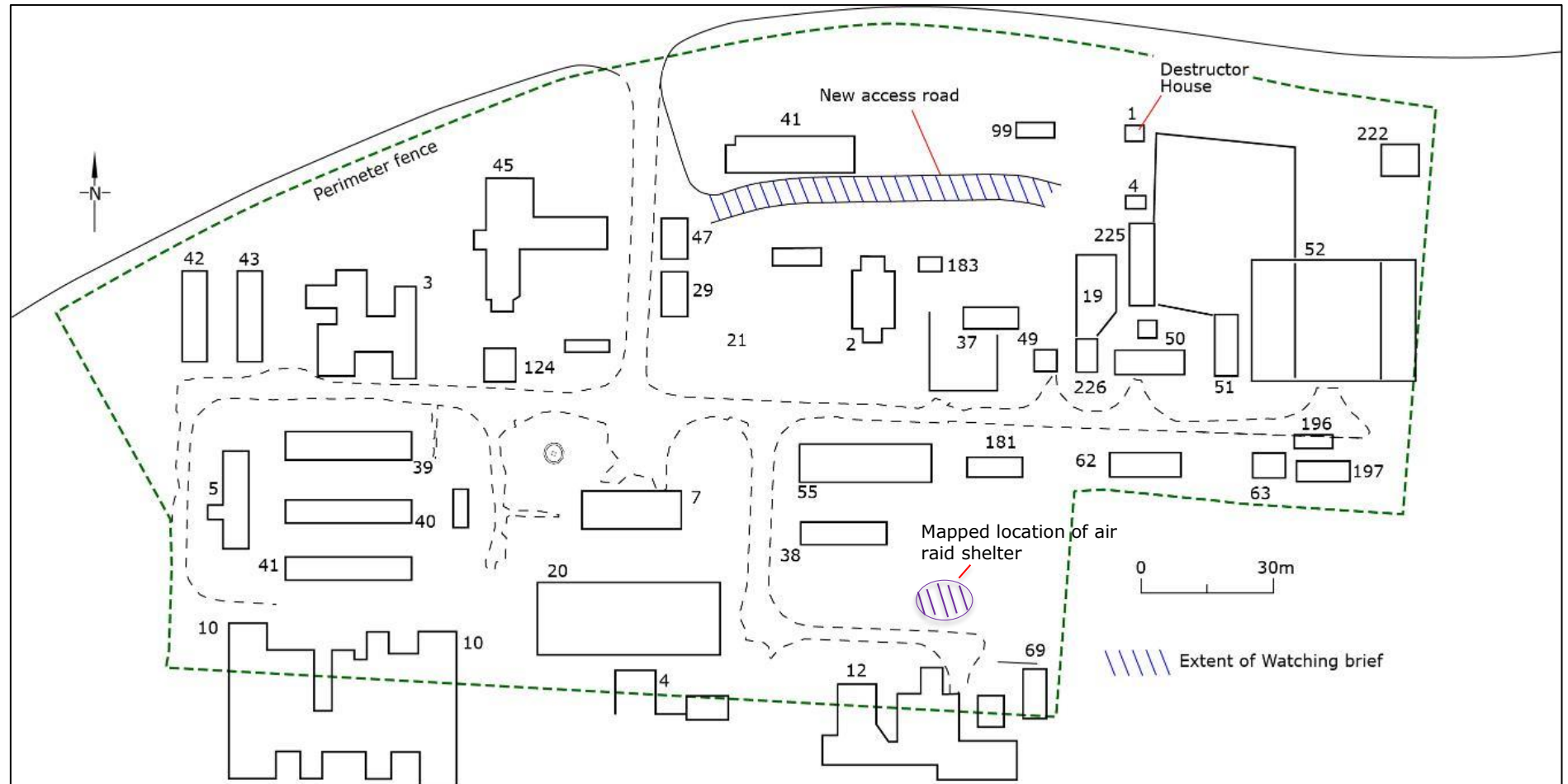


Figure 3: Extent of archaeological watching brief (based on Hubert 2019).



Photograph 1: Remains of Destructor House - photograph taken during archaeological assessment in 2011 (Ramsey and Meek 2010).



Photograph 1a: Remains of derelict air raid shelter (PRN 26125) as photographed in 1993 during a site visit by Roger Thomas.

2. THE SITE

2.1 Location and Topography

- 2.1.1 The village of Sageston is a largely modern settlement that lies either side of the old A477(T) road centred on NGR SN 0550 0325, approximately 7km due east of Pembroke town in south Pembrokeshire (Figure 1). The landscape is characterised by undulating ground on a gentle north facing slope down to an east-west running tributary of the Carew River, which is itself a tributary of the Milford Haven waterway. The development area (centred on NGR SN 0529 0317, at 15m OD) comprises a 3.47-hectare plot of land located between the old A477(T) road and the new A477(T) bypass at the southwest edge of the village. The development area lies on the site of former World War II RAF Carew Cheriton airfield.
- 2.1.2 The underlying solid geology of the area is represented by Carboniferous Limestone of the undivided Dinantian series (British Geological Survey 1994), and beyond the project area to the east this gives way first to Millstone Grit and then the Coal Measures of the Pembrokeshire (anthracite) Coalfield. To the west of the project area the underlying geology is represented by the Devonian Lower Old Red Sandstone (ORS) which also forms the higher land of The Ridgeway some 2.5 km to the south. The soil in both the limestone and ORS areas affords good, fertile, well drained farmland which contrasts starkly with the less fertile soils of the Millstone Grit and Coal Measure areas to the east.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.2.1 The majority of known archaeological and historical records recorded on Coflein and the HER date from the 20th century period and specifically the airfield.
- 2.2.2 During 1915, the construction of RNAS Pembroke was started occupying a 300-acre site located on the same area as the later World War II airfield (PRN 26172). The earlier airfield operated two types of airships, SSZ (Submarine Scout Zero) and C (coastal) (Evans 1994). Aeroplanes were also flown from the station in 1917 and it remained operational into 1919 before closing in 1920 (*ibid*). The layout of the airfield included hangars and sheds for the aircraft located in the centre of the airfield and to the south, and at most c.350 men and c.150 women were stationed there (*ibid*). Although the location of associated barracks or accommodation blocks is unclear, Evans (1994) states that at the later airfield, 'huts were standing again on the same area as in the First World War', suggesting some would have been located within the proposed development area. Aerial photographs held by the HER from 1916 indicate a series of round structures located in the eastern part of the site area, although their function is not known. The land and buildings were sold off during the 1920s and the land reverted back to agricultural usage.
- 2.2.3 In 1938 the airfield was re-acquisitioned by the RAF and construction started on another airfield soon after (PRN 26123; NPRN 309962). The airfield originally had grass runways (later replaced with concrete ones, as exist today) and the various buildings and structures of the base were erected at that time, many of which lie within the proposed development area. The HER records many of the structures that were formally positioned within the airfield.
- 2.2.4 An Air Ministry plan from November 1946 lists the buildings that were present within the airfield at the end of the war. Those within the proposed development area are transcribed in Table 2 below. The buildings that

formerly stood within the area indicate the diversity of structures that would be expected in the main barracks area of an airfield, barracks, latrines, stores, canteens and recreational buildings. No records of bomb stores within the site area are recorded, and it is unlikely for any heavy ordnance to have been stored in close proximity to accommodation blocks. As noted in the desk-based ordnance survey undertaken by Ordnance Consultancy Services (Geeer 2008), small arms and possibly grenades may have been stored within the proposed development area. The armoury is in the southeast corner (Building 14).

Table 2: *Buildings listed on 1941 Air Ministry Plan lying within the proposed development area.*

Building No	Description
1	Destructor House (Open Type)
2	Decontamination Annexe - now AMWD (Air Ministry Works Department) Workshops
3	Sergeants' Mess
4	Latrine
5	Bath Block and Drying Room
6	WAAF Latrines
7	SHQ Offices
10	Dining Room and Institute
12	Officers Mess
14	Armoury and WT Repairs (Old Main Store)
20	Car Park and Bus Shelter
29	Guards' Sleeping Quarters
37	Medical Inspection Block
39	Aircrew Intelligence – Barber and Shoemaker
40	Accounts Office
41	NAAFI Quarters and Store
42	Sergeants' Quarters and Ablutions ("Y" Type)
43	Sergeants' Quarters and Ablutions ("Y" Type) and NAAFI Kiosk
45	YMCA Building
47	Picket Post and Prophylactic Room

Building No	Description
48	Transformer Plinth
49	Station Contractors' Workshop and Yard
50	AMWD Office
51	AMWD Garage and Store
52	MT Sheds (14 Bays)
55	PBX
59	Battery Charging and "A" Flight EL Section
60	Sub-Station
61	Decontamination Centre (Type "G")
62	Gas Defence Centre
63	MT Office and WAAF Rest Room
69	Officers Barrack Hut
124	Reserve Storage Tank (10,000 Gallons)
125	Reserve Storage Tank (10,000 Gallons)
167	Switch Room
181	Post Office (86' x 16')
182	Squash Court
187	Anderson Shelter
188	Fire Pump Trailer Shelter
195	Gun Post
196	Fire Pump Trailer Centre
197	Bulk Oil Compound
198	Transformer Plinth
222	Stand-by Set House
225	AMWD Stores
226	AMWD Latrine

- 2.2.5 The airfield was subject to German bombing on several occasions during the war, most notably on April 15, 1941. During this raid it is recorded that extensive damage occurred to the YMCA, guardroom, and sick bay, and that several servicemen were killed (Gear 2008); as many as 12 fatalities in the sick bay are recorded in one source (Brock 1989). The location of the sick bay where the majority of fatalities is thought to have occurred, is unclear. By 1946 there is no sick bay within the proposed development area, although a 'Medical Inspection Block' is recorded in the northeastern quarter. The 'Sick Quarters' (No. 84) lay to the west of the site area. The YMCA building does lie within the site area and as recorded above was subject to extensive damage (potentially fatalities may have occurred here although it is not clear). As noted in the ordnance survey, 'the presence of any live ordnance of UK origin is unlikely, but not impossible. There is a possibility of items of enemy dropped explosive ordnance remaining on site at RAF Carew Cheriton and the surrounding area' (Gear 2008).
- 2.2.6 Following the closure of RAF Carew Cheriton airfield in December 1945, many of the RAF buildings were converted to other uses and retained (Evans, 1994). The buildings in the proposed development area have been demolished over a long period since the 1950s, such that now only a single structure, the former YMCA building, remains. This is in use by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority as a storage shed, and other parts of the site are used as storage areas.
- 2.2.7 Modern development has been undertaken across much of the north of the development area, on land that formerly occupied RAF buildings. The A477 Redberth to Sageston bypass was constructed in the early 2000s and subsequently newer housing schemes have been constructed to the east, west and north of the proposed development area.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 2.3.1 In 1993, during a site visit Roger Thomas recorded an air raid shelter (PRN 26125) in the southeast of the development area as follows:
- Derelict Air Raid Shelter, 1938-45. Semi-sunken, parabolic, pre-cast concrete panels, earth covered, doorway in eastern wall protected by a brick blast wall adjacent to steps (HER Record PRN 26125).*
- 2.3.2 The derelict air raid shelter is shown in Photograph 1a.
- 2.3.3 In March 2011, an Archaeological Assessment of Carew Cheriton Airfield was undertaken (Ramsey and Meek 2011). The assessment identified surviving remains of known archaeological sites within the proposed development area recorded on the local HER, including a World War II YMCA building, an air raid shelter and the footings of numerous RAF Carew Cheriton domestic and ancillary buildings (Photograph 1).
- 2.3.4 In April 2019, an archaeological scheme of historic building recording was carried out at the development site (Wilson 2019). This entailed a photographic and TST (Total Station Theodolite) survey of all the visible ancillary and domestic structures associated with RAF Carew Cheriton, particularly the YMCA building (Figure 4).

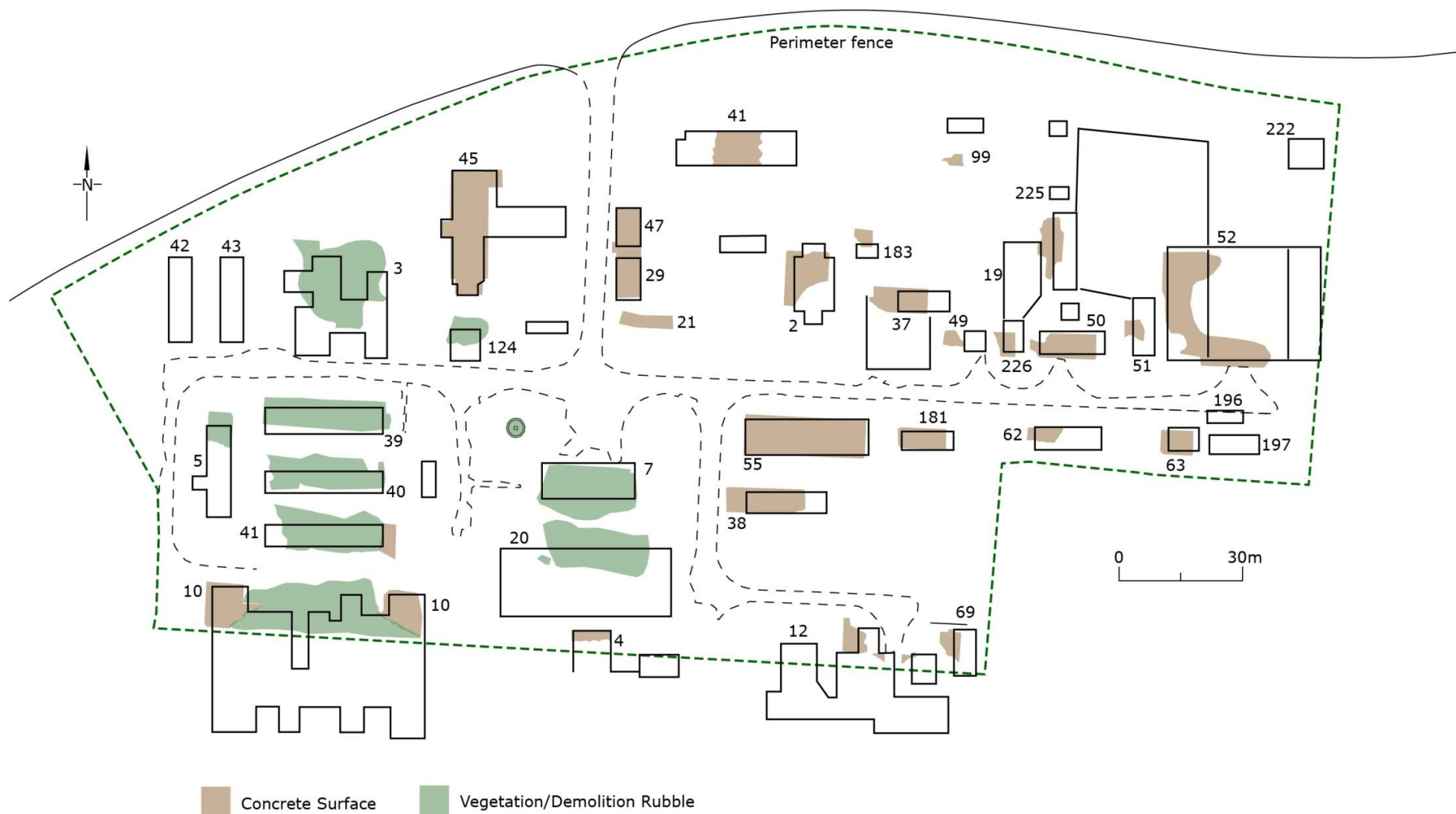


Figure 4: Extent of visible remains of buildings (green/brown) superimposed upon the 1946 Air Ministry Plan (Wilson 2019).

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The watching briefs were undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014).
- 3.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the proposed archaeological works in association with the building of the access road was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services (Appendix 1).
- 3.1.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual used by DAT Archaeological Services (adopted from the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology, a copy is always available on-site for inspection). A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout the watching briefs and all contexts encountered were recorded.
- 3.1.4 The two areas were excavated by 26 tonne 360° mechanical excavator, with a grading bucket.

3.2 Timetabling of Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 The watching briefs took place as follows:
 - 18 and 19 May 2021: Two days to the north of the development area where the access road was built.
 - 03 July 2023: One day in the southeast of the site in an area 17m by 8m.

The weather was dry and sunny.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving

- 3.3.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork was collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.3.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.3.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

4. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 18 and 19 May 2021

- 4.1.1 Prior to the watching brief, the concrete bases and wall remnants of former buildings associated with the airbase had been removed (Photos 2, 3 and 4).
- 4.1.2 The watching brief monitored an east-west road-cut, approximately 65m long and 7m wide. It averaged 0.35m deep for the majority of its length, rising gently to 0.7m deep at the eastern end of the cut (Photograph 5).
- 4.1.3 The soil profile for the first 45m from the west end of the cut consisted of c.0.15m of dark brown mixed soils below which stood 0.2m of brown, silty-clay. At the base of this section of the road-cut, the remains of a field drain were uncovered; a 0.65m wide linear fill of yellow clay, diagonally crossing the cut (Photograph 6).
- 4.1.4 At the east end of the cut, the final 19m revealed a 0.3m deep layer of burnt material consisting of brown/black silty-clay, ash, cinder and small sherds of white crockery, glass. Below this stood 0.4m of medium brown, silty-clay (Photographs 7 and 8).
- 4.1.5 After approximately 65m the road-cut turned south, away from the Destructor House and the possible midden, and the watching brief was terminated. The road-cut did not reveal the underlying geology (Photographs 9).

4.2 03 July 2023

- 4.2.1 On this day a watching brief took place in the southeast corner of the development area in the approximate location of where a derelict air raid shelter (PRN 26125) had been recorded during a site visit in 1993 (Photograph 1a).
- 4.2.2 Photographs 11-17 show the results of this site visit.
- 4.2.3 The area measured 17m x 8m and within this area the ground was reduced by 0.5m.
- 4.2.4 The mid-brown, silty-clay soil that was removed contained no finds, and no remains or cuts associated with the air raid shelter were seen during the watching brief.

Watching Brief 18 and 19 May 2021



Photograph 2: Looking north across development area after clearance of building remains. Destructor House was located close to trees in centre of photograph.



Photograph 3: Looking east along proposed route of new access road. Destructor House seen in 2011 was located below trees. 1m scale.



Photograph 4: Looking west along proposed route of new access road.



Photograph 5: Looking east along cut for new access road.



Photograph 6: Fill of land drain crossing base of road-cut. Looking east.



Photograph 7: Showing layer of burnt material – ash, cinders, odd pottery sherd and glass - at east end of cut. Looking south. 1m scale



Photograph 8: Detail of burnt layer in south facing section – note white glazed pot sherd. 0.5m scale



Photograph 9: Looking west along road-cut from eastern end of watching brief.



Photograph 10: Collection of 20th century artefacts recovered from area of burning during watching brief. 0.5m scale

Watching Brief 03 July 2023



Photograph 11: General shot from SE corner of site looking northwest.



Photograph 12: General shot towards southeast corner of the site



Photograph 13: View of watching brief area looking east. 1m scale.



Photograph 14: View of watching brief area looking northeast. 1m scale.



Photograph 15: View of watching brief area looking west. 1m scale.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of an access road at a residential development in Sageston, Pembrokeshire on land formerly RAF Carew Cheriton Airfield.
- 5.2 The watching brief targeted the remains of two structures associated with the former airfield.
- 5.3 The first structure to be targeted was a possible rubbish midden associated with the Destructor House - used by the airbase to process its refuse. The cut for the access road came into proximity of the Destructor House, therefore, it was considered likely that deposits relating to a possible midden associated with the Destructor House could be present within the area, with the potential that they might be damaged or destroyed by intrusive activity. As a result, Pembrokeshire County Council requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the groundworks.
- 5.4 At the eastern end of the cut a layer of burnt material was seen at the top of the soil profile. This contained a sherd of white glazed pottery with 'G VI R, 1945, Tams, England' stamped on its base. This would place the sherd in the final year of the airfield's existence (it closed in December 1945) but one sherd is scant evidence for a midden and other finds in the layer suggests a later date; the jars in Photograph 10 are difficult to date but the tobacco tin clearly states 'By Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen, Tobacconists, Benson and Hedges'. This would date the burnt layer to no earlier than 1953, the pot sherd being a residual find. It is possible that the area around the Destructor House, having been established as a place to incinerate rubbish, continued to be used as such after the airbase had closed, possibly when it was a caravan site.
- 5.5 No evidence for a midden was uncovered during the watching brief. It is possible that it lies approximately 10m to the north of the burnt area. This is where an old quarry is situated and would be an ideal place to dump rubbish.
- 5.6 The second feature to be targeted was a derelict air raid structure in the southeast corner of the development area. However, no evidence of the building was recorded during the watching brief.

6. SOURCES

CIfA. 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Ramsey, R and Meek, J. 2010, *Carew Cheriton Airfield, Sageston, Pembrokeshire SN 0529 0317: Archaeological Assessment*, Unpublished DAT Report no 2011/06

Wilson, H 2019, *National Park Caravan Site, Sageston, Pembrokeshire: Historic Building Recording*, Unpublished DAT Report no 2020/06

APPENDIX I:

NATIONAL PARK CARAVAN SITE, SAGESTON: PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 11/0485/PA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCHEME OF WORKS: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI or specification) has been prepared by DAT Archaeological Services (the contracting arm of Dyfed Archaeological Trust) following commission by Ateb Group Limited for a proposed residential development site at Sageston, Pembrokeshire (roughly centred on SN 0532 0317; Figure 1). The proposed development area once formed part of the Second World War airfield of RAF Carew Cheriton (PRN 26123; Figure 4). This in turn occupied the site of the earlier First World War Royal Naval Air Station Pembroke (PRN 26172). An archaeological desk-based assessment was previously prepared for the site area by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Ramsey, R & Meek, J, 2011. *Carew Cheriton Airfield, Sageston, Pembrokeshire: Archaeological assessment*, DAT Report No. 2011-06)
- 1.2 Outline planning permission has been granted for the development by Pembrokeshire County Council (Planning reference 11/0485/PA) which includes a number of conditions, one of which relates to archaeology. Condition number 5 states: *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This shall be in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure the recording of any items of archaeological interest to accord with Policy 84 (Archaeological Remains) of the Joint Unitary Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (adopted 13 July 2006).*
- 1.3 The aim of this document is to outline a scheme of archaeological works to be undertaken prior to and during residential development at the site in order that archaeological remains within the site area can be appropriately recorded. The archaeological assessment prepared in 2011 (Ramsey and Meek) concluded that the main archaeological potential for the site area would be for remains associated with the Carew Cheriton Airfield.
- 1.4 The remains of the footprints of RAF Carew Cheriton buildings and structures survive within the proposed development area. Only a single building still survives relatively intact, the former YMCA building. All other structures survive only as footings and concrete bases. Two well preserved air raid shelters have been previously indicated within the site area, although no sign of these was recorded during the site visits undertaken in 2011. The site area was quite overgrown at the time of the site visit in 2011 and has not been cleared since, obscuring the full extent of the surviving remains of the World War II buildings.
- 1.5 An Air Ministry plan from November 1946 (Figure 3) lists all of the former World War II buildings that were present within the airfield at the end of the war. Those within the proposed development area are transcribed in the

table below. The buildings that formerly stood within the area indicate the diversity of building uses that would be expected in the main barracks area of an airfield, with barracks, latrines, stores, canteens and recreational buildings. No record for bomb stores within the site area are recorded, and it is unlikely for any heavy ordnance to have been stored in close proximity to accommodation blocks. An armoury was located in the southeast corner which could have contained small arms and potentially grenades (Building 14). The concrete bases of these buildings, some limited areas of superstructure, associated services and two possible air raids shelters lie within the site area.

Table 1: Buildings listed on 1941 Air Ministry Plan lying within the proposed development area.

Building No	Description
1	Destructor House (Open Type)
2	Decontamination Annexe (now AMWD Workshops)
3	Sergeants Mess
4	Latrine
5	Bath Block and Drying Room
6	WAAF Latrines
7	SHQ Offices
10	Dining Room and Institute
12	Officers Mess
14	Armoury and WT Repairs (Old Main Store)
20	Car Park and Bus Shelter
29	Guards Sleeping Quarters
37	Medical Inspection Block
39	Aircrew Intelligence – Barber and Shoemaker
40	Accounts Office
41	NAAFI Quarters and Store
42	Sergeant's Quarters and Ablutions ("Y" Type)
43	Sergeant's Quarters and Ablutions ("Y" Type) and NAAFI kiosk
45	YMCA Building
47	Picket Post and Prophylactic Room
48	Transformer Plinth
49	Station Contractors Workshop and Yard
50	AMWD Office
51	AMWD Garage and Store
52	MT Sheds (14 Bays)
55	PBX
59	Battery Charging and "A" Flight EL Section
60	Sub-Station
61	Decontamination Centre (Type "G")
62	Gas Defence Centre
63	MT Office and WAAF Rest Room
69	Officers Barrack Hut
124	Reserve Storage Tank (10,000 Gallons)
125	Reserve Storage Tank (10,000 Gallons)
167	Switch Room
181	Post Office (86' x 16')
182	Squash Court
187	Anderson Shelter
188	Fire Pump Trailer Shelter
195	Gun Post
196	Fire Pump Trailer Centre
197	Bulk Oil Compound
198	Transformer Plinth
222	Stand-by Set House
225	AMWD Stores
226	AMWD Latrine

- 1.6 Following discussions with the archaeological advisor to the planning authority the Development Management section of Dyfed Archaeological Trust, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority, it is understood that the required archaeological works at the site will include a programme of historic building recording, followed by an archaeological watching brief during groundworks required for the development proposals.
- 1.7 This written scheme of investigation provides a method statement for the above programme of historic building recording, archaeological watching brief and appropriate reporting and archiving. The building recording will map the surviving remains of the buildings and create a photographic and written description of them prior to groundworks commencing. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks for the new development, presumably at initial clearance stages and possibly during foundation and service excavation. It follows the Historic England guidance for Historic Building Recording and the relevant standard and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).
- 1.8 DAT Archaeological Services have their own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of can be made available on request.
- 1.9 DAT Archaeological Services are a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).
- 1.10 DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS¹ certificated.

¹ *Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)*

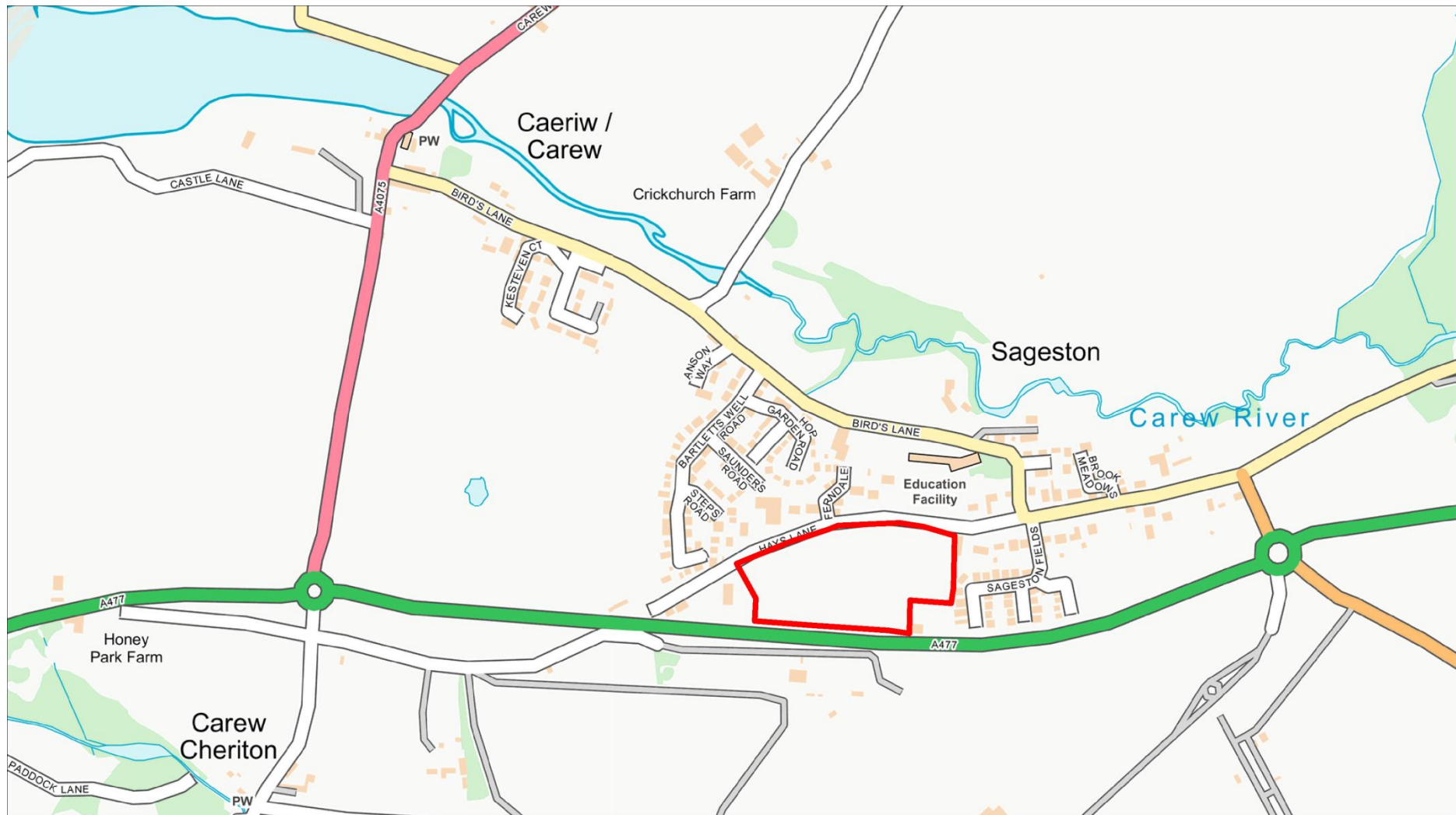


Figure 1: Site location map showing development area outlined in red.

Map data from OS OpenMap - Local <https://osdatahub.os.uk/downloads/open/OpenMapLocal> 13/07/2023



Figure 2: Outline development proposals layout (plan supplied by client)

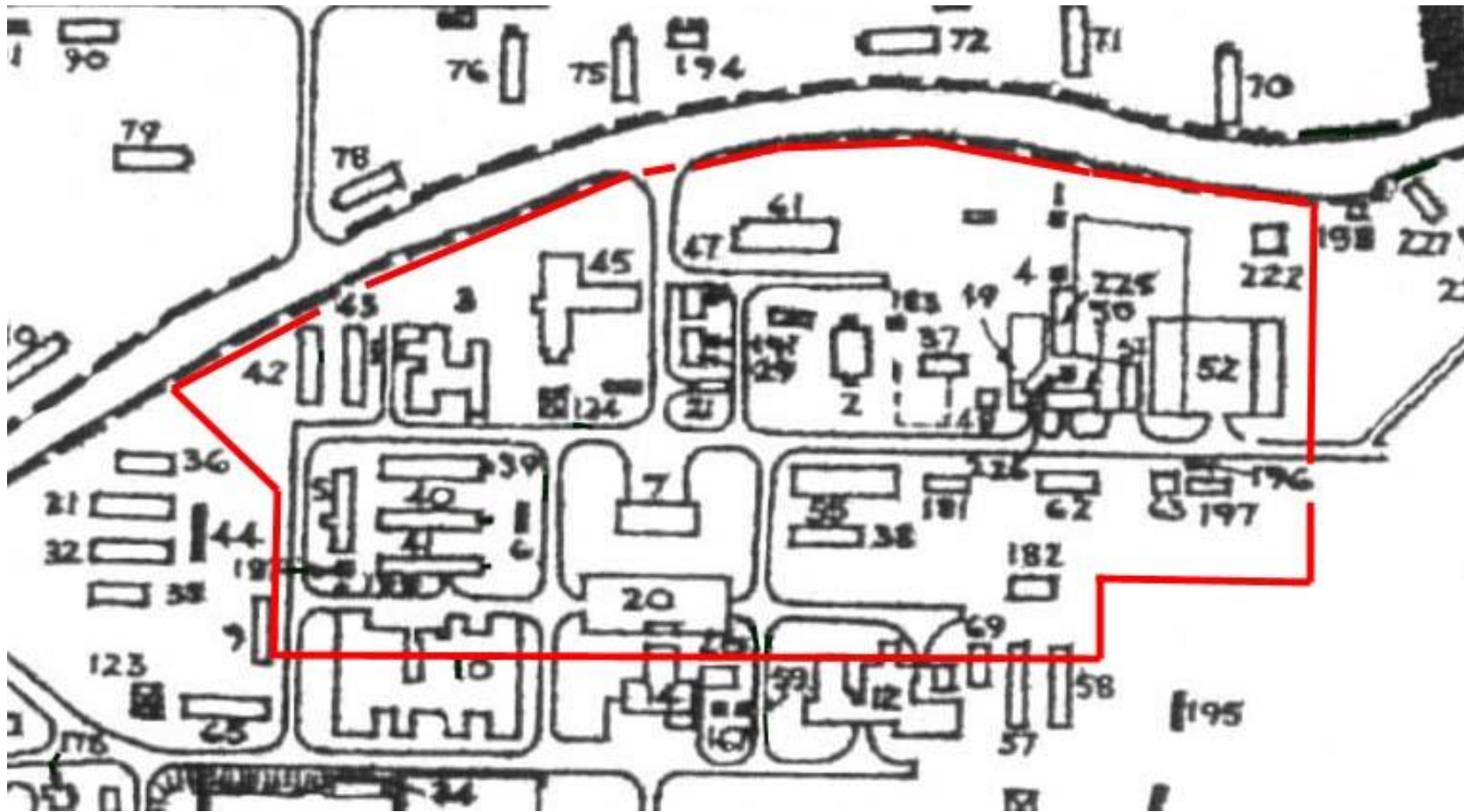


Figure 3: Detailed extract from Air Ministry Map of RAF Carew Cheriton Airfield 1946 showing the domestic and ancillary buildings within the development area (approximate boundary marked in red)

2 AIM AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

2.1 This document provides a scheme of works for:

The implementation of a scheme of archaeological recording, including historic building survey and archaeological watching brief in advance of and during works associated with the residential development of the former National Park Caravan site at Sageston, Pembrokeshire. A scheme of Historic Building recording will be implemented prior to the development commencing to record the surviving remains of the former World War II Carew Cheriton Air Field buildings which stood within the site area. The watching brief will be implemented during groundworks associated with the residential development where below ground disturbance is proposed. A report shall be prepared on the results of the historic buildings survey and archaeological watching brief and an archive created of all records and finds. Further mitigation may possibly need to be implemented where significant archaeological remains are identified, the scope of which (if required) will be determined during the watching brief.

2.2 The following tasks will be completed:

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology for the historic buildings survey and archaeological watching brief which the appointed archaeological contractor will undertake (this document);
- Historic buildings record of the remains of the former Carew Cheriton airfield buildings to Level 2 standard;
- Implementation of an archaeological watching brief during all groundworks where there is a potential that archaeological remains could be exposed, damaged or destroyed, including both internal and external works;
- Production of a report on and an archive of the results of the historic buildings survey and the watching brief.

3 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

3.1 The historic building recording scheme will be undertaken to a Level 2 standard as defined in the Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2016). Due to the nature of the buildings and the fact that all remains will be removed, plans will be made of the remains of the structures (a slightly more detailed survey than typically required for Level 2, which is described thus:

Level 2 is a descriptive record, made in circumstances similar to those of Level 1 (basic photographic survey) but when more information is needed. ... The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use, but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made In this case it is proposed that full footprint plans of the buildings will be recorded.

3.2 It is assumed that full access to the building remains will be possible following surface vegetation clearance (the site is presently overgrown with brambles and buddleia etc). Any restrictions to access should be made known to DAT Archaeological Services prior to the survey commencing. If air raid shelters are found, these will not be accessed at this stage until they have been confirmed safe by a structural engineer.

- 3.3 Based on the Level 2 record as defined in the Historic England (2016) the following will be undertaken (where safe to do so):

Drawn Record

- Measured plans (to scale) as existing.
- A site plan, typically at 1:500 or 1:1250, relating the building to other structures and to related topographical and landscape features. *The 1946 plan of the airfield can be used to identify what the former structures were used for.*
- A site plan relating the building to other structures and to any related topographical and landscape features.
- A plan or plans identifying the location and direction of accompanying photographs.
- Copies of earlier drawings throwing light on the building's history.

Photographic Record

- A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape).
- The building's external appearance. Typically a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building, and give an overall impression of its size and shape.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas of the building, where safe to do so.

Written Record (expanding upon a simple Level 2 record due to existing information known about the buildings)

- The building's precise location, as a National Grid reference and in address form.
- A note of any statutory designation (listing, scheduling or conservation area). Non-statutory designations (historic parks and gardens registers, local lists etc) may be added.
- The date of the record, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and, if an archive has been created, its location.
- A summary of the building's type or purpose, historically and at present, its materials and possible date(s). The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners should be given if known.
- An introduction briefly setting out the circumstances in which the record was made, its objectives, methods, scope and limitations, and any constraints. Where appropriate the brief for the work or the project design should be stated or appended.
- Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures or removed plant associated with the building
- Copies of historic maps, drawings, views or photographs illustrating the development of the building or its site (the permission of owners or copyright holders may be required).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

- 4.1 A watching brief during groundworks will be maintained at the site where there is a potential that archaeological remains could be exposed damaged or destroyed. This will include removal of the footprints of the World War II buildings as well as any further ground reduction works, foundation excavation and service installation where there remains a chance that archaeological deposits could become exposed or damaged. It is considered likely that the construction of the World War II airfield buildings will have removed any earlier archaeology, but this would need to be confirmed.
- 4.2 It was also noted during the site visit in 2011 that a rubbish midden lies in the northeastern part of the site containing artefacts associated with occupation of the airfield. This should not be removed without an archaeologist being present. As the desk-based assessment stated *'Although many of these may seem mundane, such as bottles and jars, they do provide an insight into the life of the servicemen and women at RAF Carew Cheriton. Potentially any remains of greater significance could be donated to the Carew Cheriton Control Tower museum for display.'* (Ramsey and Meek 2011)
- 4.3 The archaeologist would monitor the groundworks and aim to identify any archaeological remains. They will have the authority to halt groundworks in areas where archaeological remains are identified until they have been further investigated and recorded. Areas of archaeological interest will be demarcated and made known to site contractors.
- 4.4 Adequate time must be made available to the visiting archaeologist to ensure that appropriate recording can be undertaken of any archaeological features or deposits exposed during ground works.
- 4.5 Features containing deposits of environmental significance will be sampled. The samples will be retained in stable conditions until analysis can be arranged.
- 4.6 All deposits will be recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks. All individual deposits will be numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with a recognised system, such as the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual. Significant deposits will be recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans will be related to Ordnance Datum and, where possible, known boundaries. A digital photographic record will be maintained as a minimum using a high resolution camera, with photographic information recorded for all photographs taken.
- 4.7 All archaeologically significant artefacts, ecofacts and samples will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Sensitive materials will be stored in appropriately stable conditions. Finds will be temporarily stored by the appointed archaeological contractor in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure, will remain the property of the landowner, but it is assumed that permission will have been given by the landowner for these to be stored as part of the archive in a suitable repository (ownership will still be with the landowner).
- 4.8 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "treasure" can be summarised as:
- Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
 - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;
 - Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;

- Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
 - Any object which would have been Treasure Trove before the 1996 Act but not covered above.
- 4.9 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, or where unexpected archaeological remains of high significance are exposed, DAT Archaeological Services will have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the client and Development Management – Dyfed Archaeological Trust, and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by all parties, if required, a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features may need to be implemented. This event would need to be covered by contingency financial arrangements within the project budgets.
- 4.9 As noted in the desk-based assessment, the airfield was bombed in World War II and personnel of the airfield were killed. It is uncertain if any bombs fell within the area of the proposed development, but there remains a potential for disarticulated human remains to be present within the development area. In the event of the discovery of human remains, they will be left *in situ*. If removal is necessary it will only take place following the granting of all permissions in writing by the relevant authorities and at a later stage of any necessary archaeological works (a burial licence granted from the Ministry of Justice and following advice from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission).
- 4.10 There is a limited potential for ordnance to be present within the site area. Should any such items be revealed during the works, the attending archaeologist will seek the advice of a registered ordnance specialist.

5 POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

- 5.1 All data recovered during the building recording and watching brief will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. The *National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives* produced by the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales will also be adhered to. Digital archives will be collated using the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales systems (2015) and deposited with the RCAHMW.
- 5.2 A single report will be produced covering the results of both the historic building survey and the watching brief. The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.
- 5.3 The report will include a desk-based assessment element to place the site into its wider context within the area.
- 5.4 The project archive, including all significant artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner.
- 5.5 The appointed archaeological contractor will arrange for the deposition of finds, and ascertain the costs of storage and deposition, with an approved body before the project commences and inform the curator of the arrangement which has been made (it is anticipated that the archive will be mostly in digital format and will be stored with RCAHMW).

- 5.6 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).
- 5.7 A digital copy and two bound copies of the reports will be produced for the client. Digital copies of the report will be supplied to Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management and the regional Historic Environment Record.

6 STAFF

- 6.1 The project will be managed by James Meek a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 6.2 The on-site works will be undertaken by appropriately experienced archaeological staff from DAT Archaeological Services.

7 MONITORING

- 7.1 The archaeological works may need to be monitored by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management and they should be given at least one week's notice prior to the start of the watching brief.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 8.1 All staff should be CSCS² registered.
- 8.2 The appointed archaeological contractor must carry out a health and safety risk assessment to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 8.3 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed.
- 8.4 All site inductions, H&S procedures, H&S constraints and site rules of the client will be made known to the appointed archaeological contractor at the start of the works.
- 8.5 The attending archaeologist will ensure that they are made aware of any unsafe areas within the structure, if present, and not access them.
- 8.6 Attending archaeological staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site staff and that any site rules, access restrictions etc are adhered.
- 8.7 The low potential for ordnance to be present within the site area has been highlighted and the attending archaeologist will ensure they know the procedures for reporting any such items to the appropriate bodies should they be found on the site.

² *Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)*

