

# **POYSTON FARM, RUDBAXTON, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services  
For: Mr & Mrs Rees



**DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

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**POYSTON FARM, RUDBAXTON, HAVERFORDWEST,  
PEMBROKESHIRE:  
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

By

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**POYSTON FARM, RUDBAXTON, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE**  
**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK BASED ASSESSMENT**

**Client**

Mr & Mrs Rees

**Event Record No**

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**POYSTON FARM, RUDBAXTON, HAVERFORDWEST, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
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**POYSTON FARM, RUDBAXTON, HAVERFORDWEST,  
PEMBROKESHIRE:  
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment of proposed development at Poyston Farm, Rudbaxton, Pembrokeshire (SM 96975 19246). No specific archaeological remains have been identified within the development area but a possible moderate adverse impact upon a low potential for Bronze Age archaeological remains has been identified. No designated archaeological assets will be impacted. Proposals to mitigate the impact upon the archaeological resource are suggested.*

**CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL**

*Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeoleg YAD i baratoi Asesiad ar Ddesg yr Amgylchedd Hanesyddol o datblygiad arfaethedig yn Poyston Farm, Rudbaxton, Sir Benfro (SM 96975 19246). Nid oes unrhyw olion archeolegol penodol wedi'u nodi ond mae effaith andwyol gymedrol bosibl ar botensial isel ar gyfer olion archeolegol cyffredinol wedi'i nodi. Ni fydd unrhyw asedau archeolegol dynodedig yn cael eu heffeithio. Awgrymir cynigion i liniaru'r effaith ar yr adnodd archeolegol*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

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

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Rees of Poyston Farm to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for a proposed new nutrient store at Poyston Farm, Rudbaxton, Haverfordwest (NGR SM 96975 19246).
- 1.1.2 The site area currently comprises a field of improved pasture to the north of the farmstead complex of Poyston West (Figs 1 and 2). The site lies in an area of historic and archaeological interest, with a Bronze Age round barrow and Iron Age defended enclosure lying within 300m of the proposed site. The round barrow is also a scheduled monument (PE356).
- 1.1.3 A planning application for the proposed development has been submitted (planning application no. 22/0707/PA) to the local planning authority, Pembrokeshire County Council. Due to the potential archaeological sensitivity of the area Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM), in their role as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment should be prepared and submitted with the planning application.
- 1.1.4 This Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment provides an indication of the archaeological potential of the development area and highlights possible issues in relation to the impact of the development on the historic environment and what potential mitigation may be required.
- 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.

### **1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology**

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced, detailing the methodology by which this assessment would be carried out. This WSI was submitted to DAT-DM for comment and approval in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.
- 1.2.2 The scope of the assessment follows the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The standard is stated by CIfA as:

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

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

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

1.2.4 The desk-based study of the area identifies known archaeological sites within the proposed development area and its environs and assesses (Fig 3) 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 also includes a brief assessment of the impact on the settings of surrounding designated historic assets, including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, historic landscape character areas and undesignated archaeological sites. This utilises the best practice guidance in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017).

1.2.6 The report presents relevant information from a number of sources including:

- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER) data;
- Map regression exercise using earlier cartographic sources;
- Available and relevant reports on any archaeological work undertaken in the area that affects the site or its setting;
- Archive records held at the County Archive, the National Library of Wales (NLW) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW);
- Aerial photography, satellite imagery and LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data;
- Relevant records held by the developer;
- Identification of any scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, registered historic landscapes, historic landscape character areas or conservation areas within or in the vicinity of the site area (Cadw, DAT, NRW);
- Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area;
- Assessment of the likely impact upon the settings of surrounding features of the historic environment; and
- Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains within the development site (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.

1.2.7 An initial search area of 1km from the boundary of the development area has been used to identify sites recorded on the HER and other sources and examine the potential impact on the setting of high status, designated, historic assets in the surrounding landscape. Where potential wider ranging impacts on designated historic assets beyond the 1km search area have been identified, these have been included within the assessment as well.



- 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).*

A historic asset is:

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

### **1.3 Abbreviations**

- 1.3.1 All sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their 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). 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	<b>Prehistoric</b>
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	<b>Historic</b>
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	

Note: <sup>1</sup>The post-medieval and Industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the regional HER, as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

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

### **2.2 Planning Policy Wales**

2.2.1 *Planning Policy Wales* (Ed.11, 2021) sets out the Welsh Government's land use planning policies. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the *Planning (Wales) Act 2015*, the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* and other key legislation.

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

### **2.3 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment**

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

- Scheduled monuments
- Archaeological remains
- Listed buildings
- Conservation areas
- Historic parks and gardens
- Historic landscapes
- Historic assets of special local interest
- World Heritage Sites

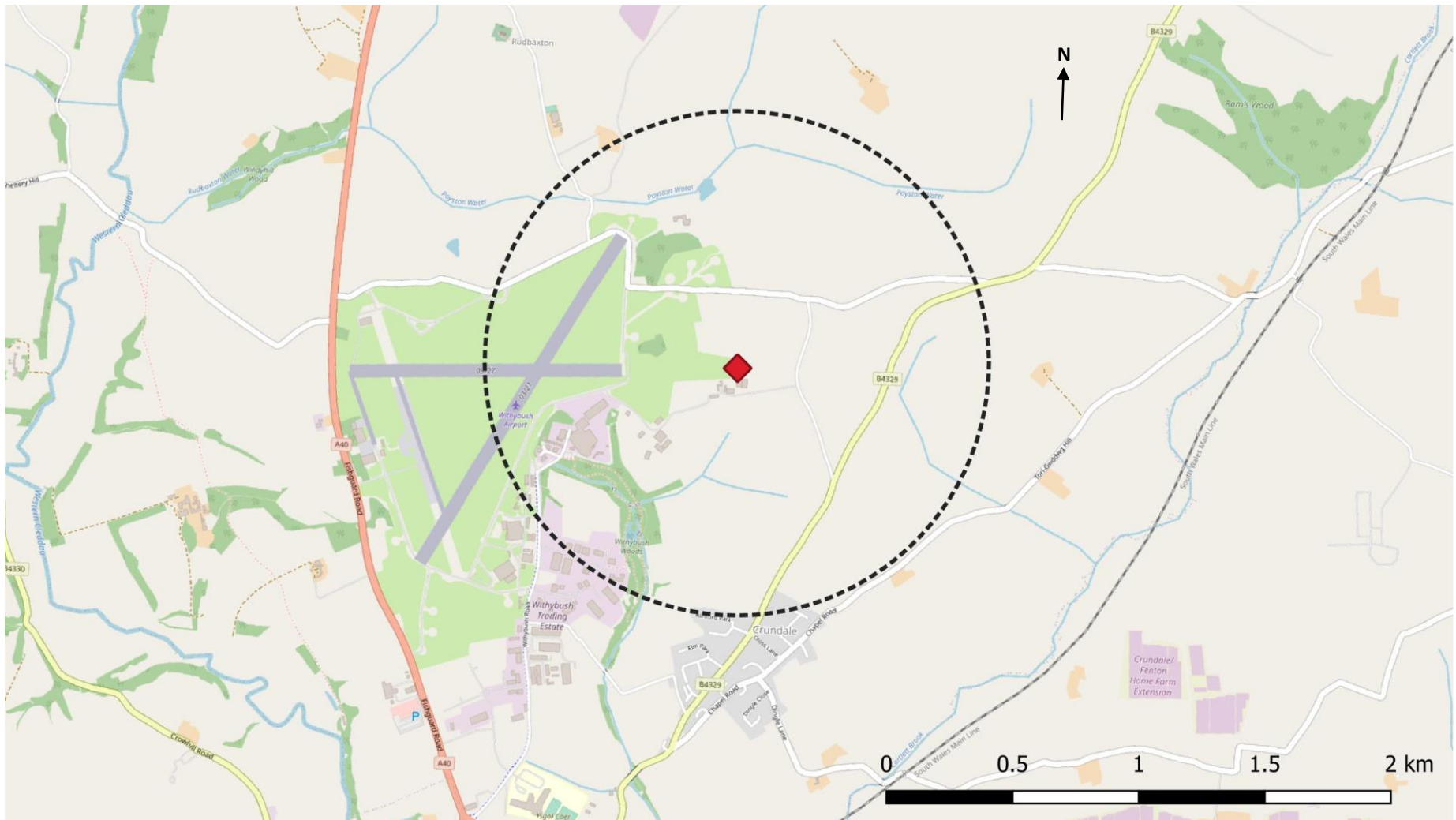
- 2.3.2 The technical advice note usefully gathers together the selection criteria employed in the designation of scheduled monuments and listed buildings and the registration of historic parks and gardens, and historic landscapes.
- 2.3.3. Advice and decisions on planning applications affecting nationally significant historic environment features (or designated historic environment assets) is provided by Cadw acting on behalf of the Welsh Government.
- 2.3.4 This report also makes 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 Local Development Plan**

- 2.4.1 The Historic Environment is subject to the relevant policies and procedures as laid out in the Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) *Local Development Plan* (LDP). A revised LDP is currently being prepared but the date when this will be published for public consultation is not currently available. Until the revised LDP is adopted, the version adopted on 28.02.2013 remains in place.
- 2.4.2 The historic environment is referenced throughout the document in numerous policies, emphasising its significance to the county. The main policy references to the historic environment are outlined in the general policy GN 38: Protection and Enhancement of the Historic Environment. This states that: '*Development that affects sites and landscapes of architectural and/or historical merit or archaeological importance, or their setting, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it would protect or enhance their character and integrity*' (PCC 2013, 127).

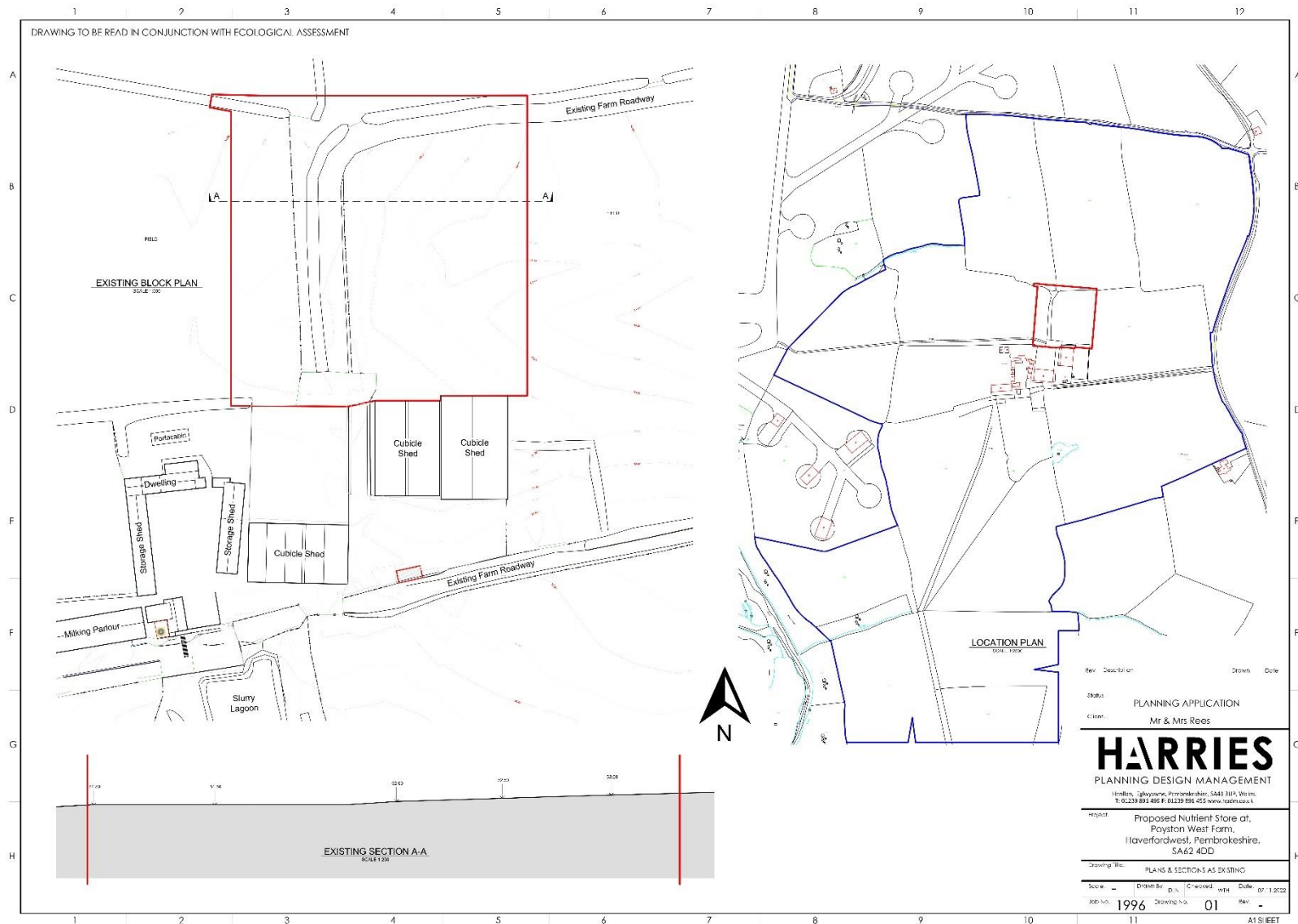
### **3 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

- 3.1 The proposed development site (SM 96975 19246) lies immediately to the north of Poyston West Farmstead, which itself lies 1km to the north of Crundale, 1.4km southeast of Rudbaxton and 3.6km north of Haverfordwest in central Pembrokeshire.
- 3.2 The development site lies on relatively level ground at around 53mOD, within a field of improved pasture bounded by hedgerows. The land gradually falls both to the southwest into a small stream valley running through Withybush and to the northwest into the small, wooded valley of Poyston Water, alongside which lies Poyston Farm and Hall (580m to the north of the site).
- 3.3 The surrounding landscape is largely an agricultural one; mainly pastoral, with dispersed farmsteads and villages. Haverfordwest, the county town, is the largest settlement in the area. Just over 400m to the west of the site lies Haverfordwest (Withybush) airfield. The area is crossed by a series of local roads and farm trackways, the main routes through the area being the north – south A40, 1.5km to the west and the B4329 to the east, which runs from Haverfordwest to the northeast.
- 3.4 The underlying geology comprises mudstones of the Slade and Redhill Formation (BGS Viewer 2023).



**Figure 1:** Location of development area, showing the proposed development site (red dot).

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 14/05/2023.



**Figure 2:** Detailed location plan of the proposed development area. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to original scale.

## **4 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Table 2 and Fig 3)**

### **4.1 General**

- 4.1.1 A search of data held on several databases was made of historic assets within a 1km radius search area from the edge of the proposed development boundary. Designated assets beyond this search area were also considered for potential wide-ranging impacts, as outlined below. These designated assets are described first, as they largely comprise assets with some form of statutory protection.

### **4.2 Scheduled Monuments**

- 4.2.1 Scheduled monuments are historic and archaeological sites considered to be of national importance. These sites are given legal protection, and consideration of the impact of development upon these sites and their settings are requirements of the planning process.
- 4.2.2 There are no scheduled monuments within the proposed development area.
- 4.2.3 There is one scheduled monument within the 1km radius study area, that of Leachpool Round Barrow PE356. In addition, Rudbaxton Rath PE101 occupies a prominent position 1.5km to the east. Both the Pit Circle PE462 northeast of Cottesmore Farm and Round Barrow Pair PE114 northeast of Ramswood House may be contemporary to the Leachpool Round Barrow and potentially intervisible, despite being 2km and 2.2km from the proposed development site respectively.
- 4.2.4 The closest scheduled monument, **Leachpool Round Barrow PE356** is also recorded on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record as PRN 3314. The following is the SM description:

*The monument comprises the remains of an earthen built round barrow, which probably dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC). The barrow is circular in shape on plan and has a rounded profile, measuring 31m in diameter and 1.4m high. Another barrow, showing as a low rise in the field, lies some 70m to the north east.*

*The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. The features are an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retain significant archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of both intact ritual and burial deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. Barrows may be part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value.*

- 4.2.5 **Rudbaxton Rath PE101** is described in the SM description as:

*The monument comprises the remains of a hillfort, which probably dates to the Iron Age period (c. 800 BC - AD 74, the Roman conquest of Wales). Hillforts are usually located on hilltops and surrounded by a single or multiple earthworks of massive proportions. Hillforts must have formed symbols of power within the landscape, while their function may have had as much to do with ostentation and display as defence. It occupies the summit of a low rounded hill, falling steeply on the east to the Carlett Brook, on the other sides the land falls more gently. Two defensive ramparts run around the contours of the hill enclosing an area of c 100m in diameter. These are quite widely spaced on the west side though run closer together elsewhere. On the east side the bank stands up to 2.8m above the interior and 6.5m above the ditch. The outer bank is slighter and stands to an average of 1.5m. The original entrance appears to have been on the north side. Two twisted iron*



*rings, about 20cm in diameter, possibly torcs and an approx. half-sized iron model of a hand, found about 1865 in the hillfort and now in the collection of the British Museum are thought to be Iron Age, or possibly Roman.*

*Within the western part of the hillfort is an elliptical enclosure measuring c 50m north north west by 32m south south east showing as a step up of 1.5m in the otherwise ploughed down interior, aerial photographs show an accompanying crop mark ditch and on early maps these are shown accompanied by a north-east-facing causeway, the earthworks are thought to represent the later medieval Symon's Castle.*

*On the north-east side of the hill fort and set into the main rampart is St Leonard's Well now within a restored chamber measuring 1.3m high and 1.4m wide externally. The well is associated with the site of medieval chapel just outside the ramparts to the east apparently first mentioned in 1398 and conferred upon Slebech Commandery along with the parish church in 1152-76.*

*The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of later prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement. The site forms an important element within the wider later prehistoric context and within the surrounding landscape. The site is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, building techniques and functional detail. The site is further enhanced by the presence of the medieval motte and well.*

- 4.2.6 The **Pit Circle NE of Cottesmore Farm PE462** is described in the SM description as:

*The monument consists of the remains of a pit circle, dating to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. The site forms an enclosure, related to henges, defined by a circular arrangement of pits, probably none of which originally held posts. More than one circle, concentrically arranged, may be present. The circle is around 20m in diameter and stands on a very low ridge of ragstone running E - W across the field. A total of 30 pits form the outside circle and there are two larger and more diffuse circular cropmarks in the SE quadrant.*

*The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric ritual practices. The monument retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of ritual deposits and environmental and structural evidence. The monument forms an important element in the wider prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape. Pit circles may be part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value.*

- 4.2.7 The **Round Barrow Pair NE of Ramswood House PE114** is described in the SM description as:

*The monument comprises the remains of a prehistoric round barrow pair, probably dating to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 BC - 800 BC). The barrows are situated in a field of pasture. Barrow 'A' is circular in shape on plan except on the N side where it meets the SW-NE aligned fence. It measures c. 25m in diameter. It has a shallow rounded profile and measures c. 0.3m in height. Barrow 'B' is circular in shape on plan except on the E side where it meets the NNW-SSE aligned fence. It measures c. 26m in diameter. It has tall rounded profile, measuring c. 1.4m in height.*

*The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. The features are*

*important relics of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retain significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both intact burial or ritual deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. The importance of the monument is further enhanced by the group value formed by the association between the barrow pair components.*

#### **4.3 Listed Buildings**

- 4.3.1 Listed buildings are buildings and structures of national importance given legal protection by being placed on a 'List' of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Buildings on the list are given one of three grades which denote their level of importance (Grade I, II\* & II), Grade I being the highest. A listed building may not be demolished, extended or altered without special permission from the local planning authority.
- 4.3.2 There are no listed buildings within the proposed development area.
- 4.3.3 Only one building lies within the 1km search area, **Poyston (Ref. 12010)**, a Grade II\* listed country house with mid-18<sup>th</sup> century origins. The site is recorded from the 15<sup>th</sup> century, described as a gentry house by the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The house was home to the Picton family, one of the most prominent of which was General Sir Thomas Picton, killed at Waterloo in 1815. The house was sold to William Owen, architect and mayor of Haverfordwest, in c. 1850.

#### **4.4 Conservation Areas**

- 4.4.1 Conservation areas are designated to preserve and enhance the special character of areas of architectural or historic interest. The purpose of designating a conservation area is to provide the Planning Authority with an additional measure of control over an area that they consider to be of special historic and/or architectural value.
- 4.4.2 There are no conservation areas within the search area.

#### **4.5 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens**

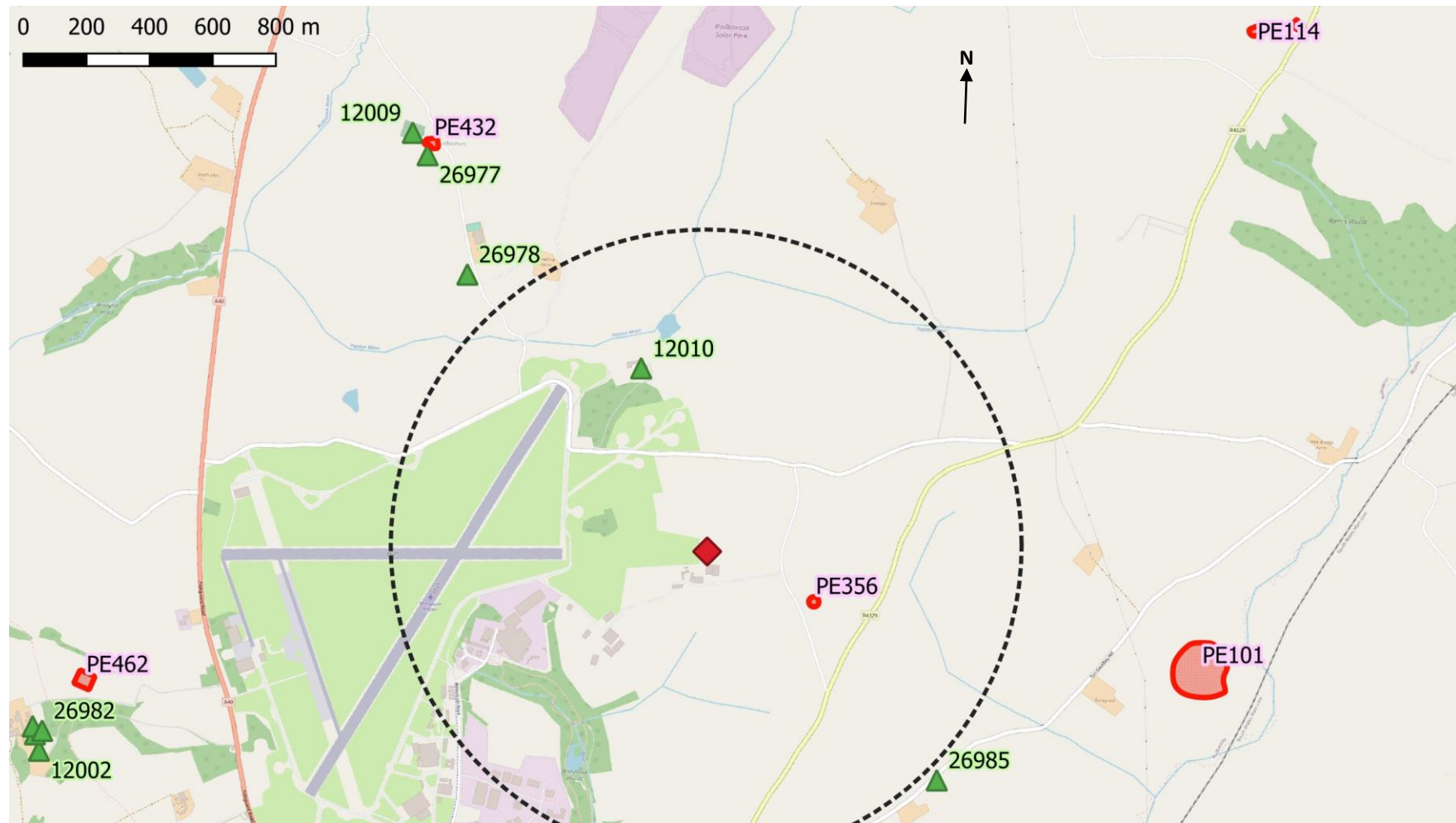
- 4.5.1 Parks and gardens of special historic interest in Wales are included on a Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, designed to provide comprehensive information to assist decision makers to help protect and preserve essential features of these parks and gardens, and enable their significance and character to be protected through the planning system.
- 4.5.2 There are no historic parks and gardens within the search area.

#### **4.6 Registered Historic Landscapes**

- 4.6.1 Registered historic landscapes are landscapes of historic interest included on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw 1998). The landscape boundaries and associated details have been created as non-statutory advice to assist decision makers and landscape managers ensure that the historic character of the landscape is sustained, and that where change is contemplated, it is well-informed.
- 4.6.2 The proposed development site does not lie within a registered historic landscape and no such landscape lies within the wider search area.
- 4.6.3 Listed buildings outside the 1km radius are shown in Figure 3 but have not been considered in this assessment.

**Table 2:** *Designated historic assets within the study area*

Site / Building Name	Cadw Ref.	NGR	Designation
Leachpool Round Barrow	PE356	197296 219077	Scheduled Monument
Rudbaxton Rath	PE101	198521 218858	Scheduled Monument
Pit Circle NE of Cottessmore Farm	PE462	194984 218829	Scheduled Monument
Round Barrow Pair NE of Ramswood House	PE114	198753 220891	Scheduled Monument
Poyston including attached service ranges to NW	12010	196751 219815	Grade II* Listed Building



**Figure 3:** Map showing the proposed development site (red dot) and the 1km radius study area (dotted line). Also showing designated assets including scheduled monuments (red outline) and listed buildings (green triangles).

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 14/05/2023.

## **5 NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Table 3 and Fig 4)**

### **5.1 General**

- 5.1.1 A search of the HER and other databases was made within the 1km search area around the proposed development. There are no recorded sites within the proposed development area.
- 5.1.2 The HER records 49 assets within the search area and on the fringes of the search area, the closest being Poyston West Farm itself (PRN 118272). A smaller number of assets are recorded on the NMR database, held and maintained by the RCAHMW, but all of these sites are also recorded on the HER. No additional sites have been recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database or National Museum Wales database.
- 5.1.3 The following information is laid out chronologically to provide a brief archaeological and historical background for the development area and its environs for each period, along with the relevant HER entries pertaining to that period.

### **5.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic & Neolithic**

- 5.2.1 No sites dating from the Palaeolithic or Mesolithic are recorded within the 1km radius study area. Such sites are also relatively sparse in the wider landscape, although some Mesolithic activity has been recorded in northern Haverfordwest and along the ridgeline to the east.
- 5.2.2 There is one recorded Neolithic site within the study area, namely PRN 4535 Stone Park. This site was first described by the RCAHMW, who visited the site in 1920 and described 'a few large stones on North Stone Park may denote the remains of a ruined cromlech' (RCAHMW 1925; 316). The 'cromlech' refers to a possible Neolithic chambered tomb, where small chambers would be built of stone and capped, often with large capstones, before being buried in a mound of stone and earth. The chambers might contain a number of burials. No remains of this site were discovered when it was re-examined more recently (Cook 2004) and in general no concentration of Neolithic activity is apparent in the known record. The general potential for archaeology relating to these periods around the development area appears very low.

### **5.3 Bronze Age**

- 5.3.1 Around 300m to the southeast lies Leachpool Round Barrow PRN 3314, also a scheduled monument PE356. Approximately 70m to the northwest a second, more denuded round barrow was identified by the RCAHMW in an aerial survey. Round barrows are typically mounds of earth and stone raised over a burial site and can contain multiple burials and other features both below and cut into the mound. The Leachpool barrow was partially excavated in 1935 but this excavation recorded only a single 'grave'. These funerary and ritual sites are also typically Bronze Age in date. Further barrow sites are recorded in the wider landscape. To the northeast, further along the lie of the B4329, lies a collection of barrows known as The Tumps. The RCAHMW survey in 1920 (RCAHMW 1925) notes several sites in the parish referred to by this name and representing barrow sites, and one such place name is also recorded to the southwest (PRN 4539). These sites are located in relatively prominent locations, and it is generally assumed that the visibility, and inter-visibility between them, was an important factor in their siting.
- 5.3.2 The only other evidence of contemporary settlement or other activity identified in the study area is a burnt mound PRN 2450 on Poyston Water, just under 900m to the northeast of the proposed development site. Little is

recorded about this site, but such features are often mounds of heat-affected stone and charcoal, the apparent by-product of using hot stones to heat water and typically (but not exclusively) Bronze Age in date.

#### **5.4 Iron Age**

- 5.4.1 During the Iron Age a larger number of potential settlement sites have been recorded in the wider landscape. These sites generally take the form of enclosures surrounded by defensive banks and ditches. One of the most prominent in the locality is Rudbaxton Rath, a scheduled monument (see section 4.2.5), with a collection of similar defended enclosures along the ridgeline to the east around Little Hare's Head and Big Hare's Head farms. These sites indicate the landscape was being settled and managed during this period.
- 5.4.2 Just over 200m to the northwest of the proposed development site lies PRN 35766 which is described as a small, oval, defended enclosure, visible on the ground as a shallow depression, with aerial photographs suggesting an enclosing ditch and entrance to the west. This has been assumed to represent another of these Iron Age enclosures, however, earlier aerial photographs examined as part of this assessment would appear to suggest the site is in fact related to modern activity around the airfield (see section 6.4).

#### **5.5 Roman Period**

- 5.5.1 There are no records from the Roman period within the study area, and records in the wider area are also very sparse. However, some distance to the east a section of Roman road has been identified passing Wiston Roman fort and continuing in a westerly direction. The line of this road is lost nearly 4km to the east of the proposed development site, however, a projection of this line westward would take it through the study area. It is possible this road may run along the ridge and close to Rudbaxton Rath and the collection of defended enclosures around Little and Big Hare's Head as this would appear to be an area of significance during the Iron Age. Alternatively, the road may have followed the course of the current local road into New Bridge and then westward from there. This is speculative at present; as mentioned, no Roman archaeological remains have yet been identified within the study area.

#### **5.6 Early Medieval & Medieval Period**

- 5.6.1 There are no records of activity in the study area during the early medieval period, although such records are often scarce. Further afield there is some suggestion that Rudbaxton Rath may have been reoccupied during this period. It was the site of a later medieval castle but also included a chapelry, cemetery and well, which may pre-date the establishment of the castle.
- 5.6.2 There is similarly little evidence of activity in the study area during the medieval period. As previously noted, Rudbaxton Rath to the east became a local power centre with the establishment of a castle and chapelry. Rudbaxton to the northwest also appears to have been a local power centre, with its own castle, church and settlement remains. Remnants of possible strip field agriculture also suggests Crundale to the south could have been a settlement by the medieval period. At present, however, there are no records of medieval activity within the vicinity of the proposed development site.

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

- 5.7.1 Many of the sites recorded within the HER relate to the establishment of much of the current agricultural landscape in the post-medieval period. Several farmstead sites are recorded, largely recorded from early 20<sup>th</sup>

century mapping and most of which still appear to be occupied. This includes Poyston West farmstead PRN 118272. The site has been identified from historic mapping but otherwise there are few other records relating to the site. In plan form Poyston West appears typical of a late 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century planned farmstead, with a U-shaped range of adjoining farm buildings around a central yard.

- 5.7.2 To the north lies Poyston Hall (PRN 7259), which has been recorded as a dwelling since the 15<sup>th</sup> century and described as a gentry house in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, although the current building has mid-18<sup>th</sup> century origins. By that time the house belonged to the Picton family. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century it was described as a respectable mansion (Fenton 1811) although it was no longer the Picton's main residence. Given the proliferation of the Poyston name in many of the local farms it is likely much of the study area was part of the estate and the Pictons were responsible for the establishment of many of the farms and current landscape in the later 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.7.3 The remaining post-medieval sites include some small quarry sites and a school building PRN 17765 lying around 300m to the southeast.
- 5.7.4 The majority of records within the HER for the study area relate to the establishment of RAF Haverfordwest (PRN 28498) during the Second World War. Construction of the airfield began in 1941 but it did not become fully operational until 1943 when it was used mainly for the training of pilots and reconnaissance. The airfield consisted of three concrete runways with 34 frying pan hard-standings dispersed around the airfield where aircraft could stand. Bomb stores were located to the north of the airfield and technical and training areas including the watch office / control tower to the east. Accommodation was located to the south. There was a particular concentration of airfield structures and ancillary services towards the southern end around Withybush Farm and these sites account for most of the HER records in the study area. The current runways have been shortened from their wartime length and remnants of the airfield did extend beyond their current visible limits, coming close to Poyston West farm with some outlying features recorded, such as the former latrine PRN 28544 to the north.

**Table 3:** Sites recorded on the Historic Environment Record within the 1km study area.

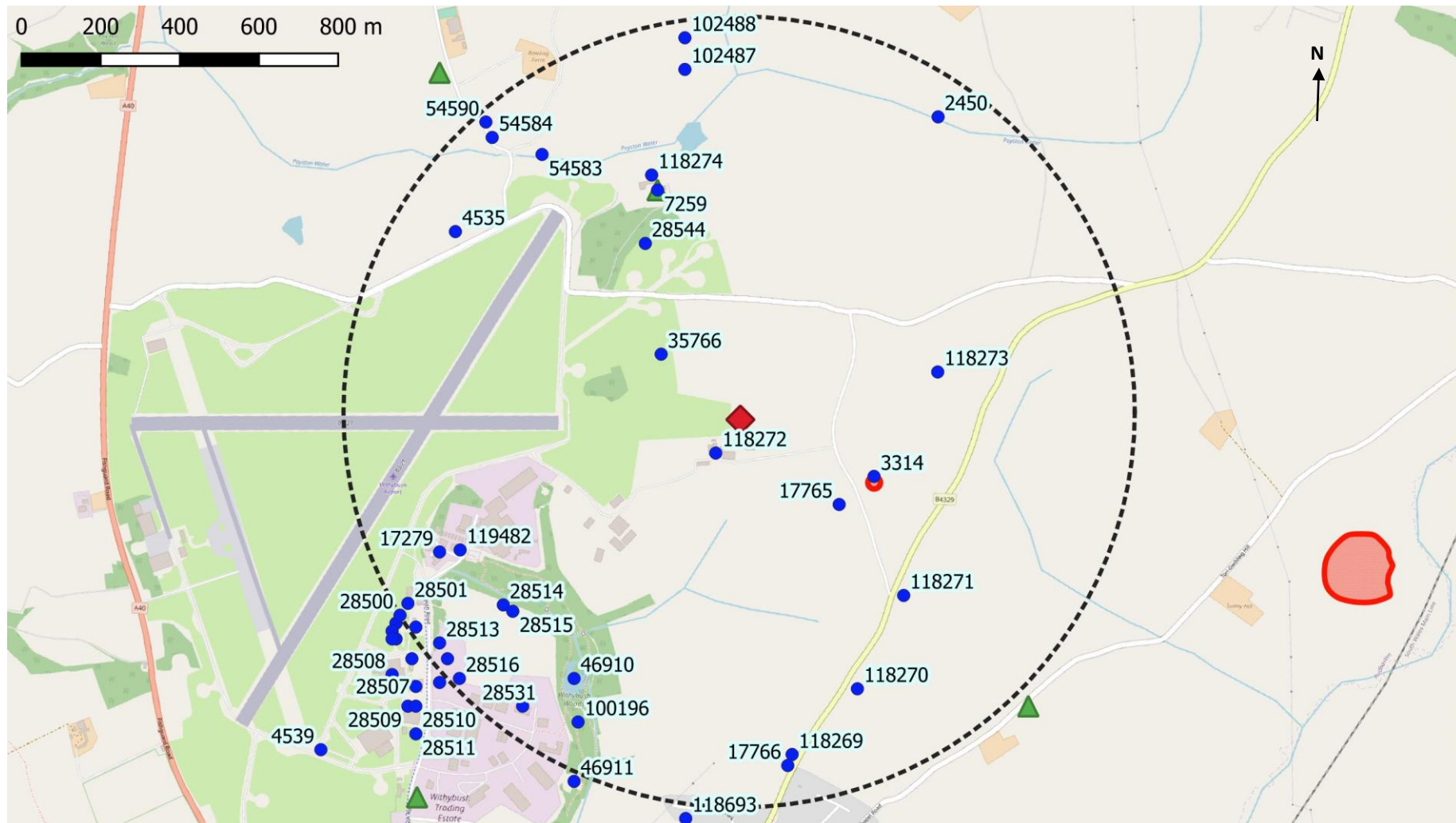
Prn	Site name	Type	Date & Summary	NGR
2450	Stember Wood	Burnt Mound	Prehistoric (Bronze Age?)	SM97462000
3314	Leech Pool Round Barrow	Round Barrow	Bronze Age, scheduled barrow site	SM9729819091
4535	Stone Park	Chambered Tomb	Neolithic, possible chambered tomb	SM96241971
4539	Tangiers	Round Barrow	Bronze Age, "Tump" place-name, possible round barrow	SM959184

7259	Poyston	Mansion	Post-medieval, 18th century mansion	SM9675119815
17279	Withybush	Dwelling	Post-medieval, lost mansion house site.	SM962189
17765		School	Post-medieval	SM97211902
17766	Lodge Farm	Lodge	Post-medieval	SM97081836
28498	RAF Haverfordwest	Airfield	Modern (WWII), Airfield constructed 1941, operational in 1943. Coastal Command, Operational Training Unit	SM96091872
28499	RAF Haverfordwest	Control Tower	Modern (WWII), brick building control/watch tower.	SM96091872
28500	RAF Haverfordwest	Fire Engine Shed	Modern (WWII)	SM96101874
28501	RAF Haverfordwest	Gas Defence Centre	Modern (WWII)	SM96121877
28502	RAF Haverfordwest	Military Building	Modern (WWII), Former 'Speech Broadcasting Building'	SM96081870
28503	RAF Haverfordwest	Shed	Modern (WWII), Former floodlight trailer and tractor shed	SM96091868
28504	RAF Haverfordwest	Storehouse	Modern (WWII), Former 'Night Flying Equipment' store	SM96081868
28505	RAF Haverfordwest	Workshop	Modern (WWII), Former maintenance block	SM96141871
28506	RAF Haverfordwest	Armoury	Modern (WWII)	SM96131863
28507	RAF Haverfordwest	Workshop	Modern (WWII), Former 'Main workshops'	SM96141856



28508	RAF Haverfordwest	Hangar	Modern (WWII), Former Aircraft Hangar, T2 type.	SM96081859
28509	RAF Haverfordwest	Storehouse	Modern (WWII), Former 'Towed Target Store'	SM96121851
28510	RAF Haverfordwest	Parachute Store	Modern (WWII).	SM96141851
28511	RAF Haverfordwest	Electricity Sub Station	Modern (WWII)	SM96141844
28512	RAF Haverfordwest	Stores	Modern (WWII), Former 'Main stores'	SM96221863
28513	RAF Haverfordwest	Storehouse	Modern (WWII), Former 'Gas clothing, Respirator store and workshop'	SM96201867
28514	RAF Haverfordwest	Latrine	Modern (WWII), Officers Latrine,	SM9636118766
28515	RAF Haverfordwest	Latrine	Modern (WWII), Airmen's Latrine	SM9638518750
28516	RAF Haverfordwest	Produce Compound	Modern (WWII),	SM96251858
28517	RAF Haverfordwest	Workshop	Modern (WWII), Former 'Work service hut and yard'	SM96201857
28531	RAF Haverfordwest	Operations Block	Modern (WWII), Operations Block/Ops Room	SM96411851
28544	RAF Haverfordwest	Latrine	Modern (WWII)	SM96721968
35766	Poyston	Defended Enclosure	Iron Age, oval enclosure.	SM96761940
46910	Withybush	Fishpond	Post-medieval, Fishponds associated with Withybush House.	SM96541858
46911		Quarry	Post-medieval late 19th century quarry	SM96541832

54583		Fishpond	Post-medieval Fishpond, associated with Poyston Mansion.	SM9645919905
54584		Quarry	Post-medieval quarry, out of use by late 19th century.	SM9633319948
54590		Well	Post-medieval, roadside well	SM9631719987
100196		Fishpond	Post-medieval Fishpond, associated with Poyston Mansion.	SM96551847
102487	RAF Haverfordwest	Building	Modern (WWII)	SM96822012
102488	RAF Haverfordwest	Beacon	Modern (WWII), beacon associated with picket post.	SM96822020
102559	RAF Haverfordwest Site No. 7	Military Camp	Modern (WWII), RAF Haverfordwest Site No 7, barrack huts for airmen, sergeants and officers.	SM96781813
118269	Lodge Farm	Farmstead	Post-medieval	SM9709118388
118270	Harding's Causeway	Farmstead	Post-medieval	SM9725618554
118271	Mountain Farm	Farmstead	Post-medieval	SM9737318790
118272	Poyston West	Farmstead	Post-medieval	SM9689819150
118273	Lands End	Farmstead	Post-medieval	SM9745919355
118274	Poyston	Farmstead	Post-medieval	SM9673619853
118693	Cardigan Slade	Farmstead	Post-medieval	SM9682218226
119482	Withybush	Farmstead	Post-medieval	SM9625218905



**Figure 4:** Map showing the proposed development site and the 1km radius study area (dotted line), together with assets recorded on the regional HER (in blue), labelled by PRN.

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 14/05/2023.

## **6 ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE**

### **6.1 General**

- 6.1.1 Sections 4 and 5 have described 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.

### **6.2 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 6.2.1 No intrusive archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the proposed development area or immediate locality.
- 6.2.2 In 2002 Border Archaeology carried out the assessment of a proposed gas pipeline that passed to the west of the proposed development area. The assessment included a walk-over survey but no new sites of relevance to the proposed development area were identified (Border Archaeology 2002).
- 6.2.3 In 2012 an analysis and assessment of what has survived of airfields, associated technical sites and aviation sites dating from the First World War to the end of the Cold War era in 1989 was carried out (Pyper & Page 2012). RAF Haverfordwest was examined during this assessment, which resulted in many of the HER records included in Section 5. No new sites affecting the proposed development area not included in the HER are identified.

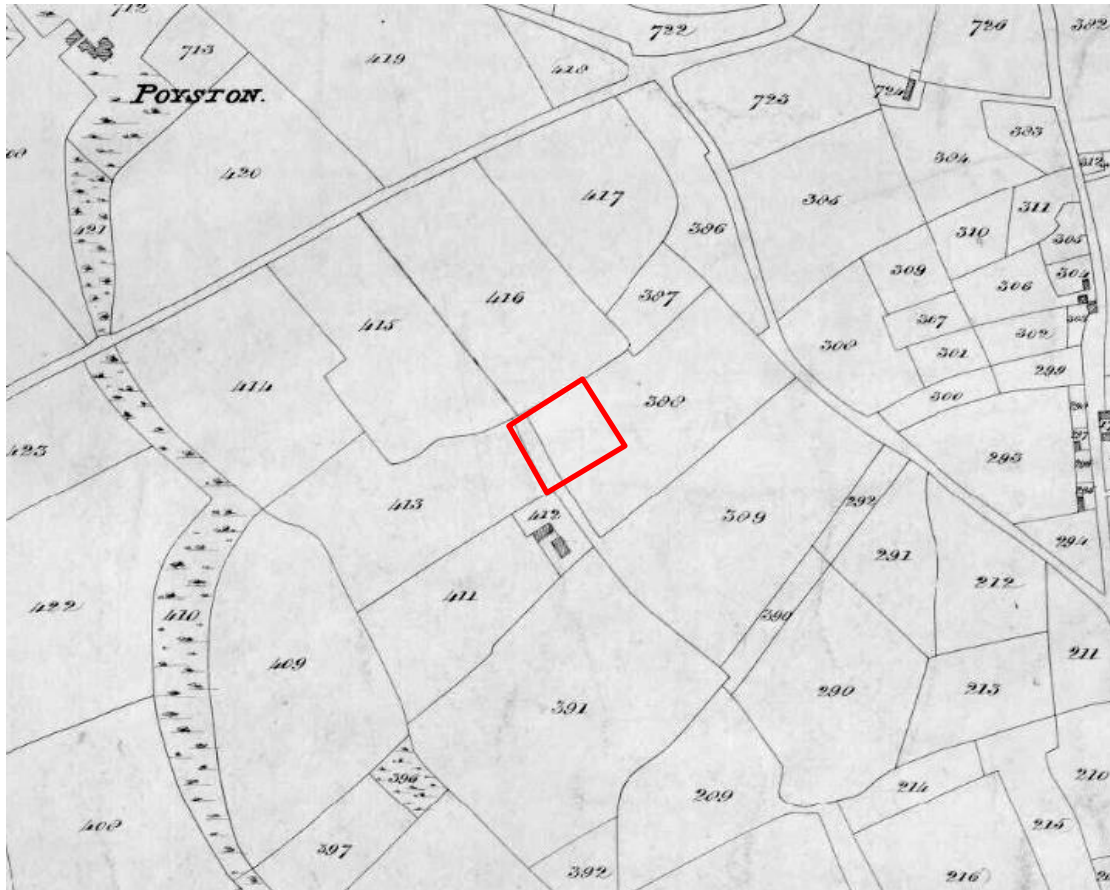
### **6.3 Historic Mapping**

Ordnance Survey original surveyors' maps – T. Budgen (Haverfordwest) 1810

- 6.3.1 Although lacking precise detail, these early 19<sup>th</sup> century maps do show that Poyston West farmstead had been established, with the suggestion of surrounding enclosed fields, and was approached by a trackway from the road to the east as it still is today. No specific features of archaeological interest are noted within the proposed development area, however.

Tithe Map of Rudbaxton 1842 (Fig 5)

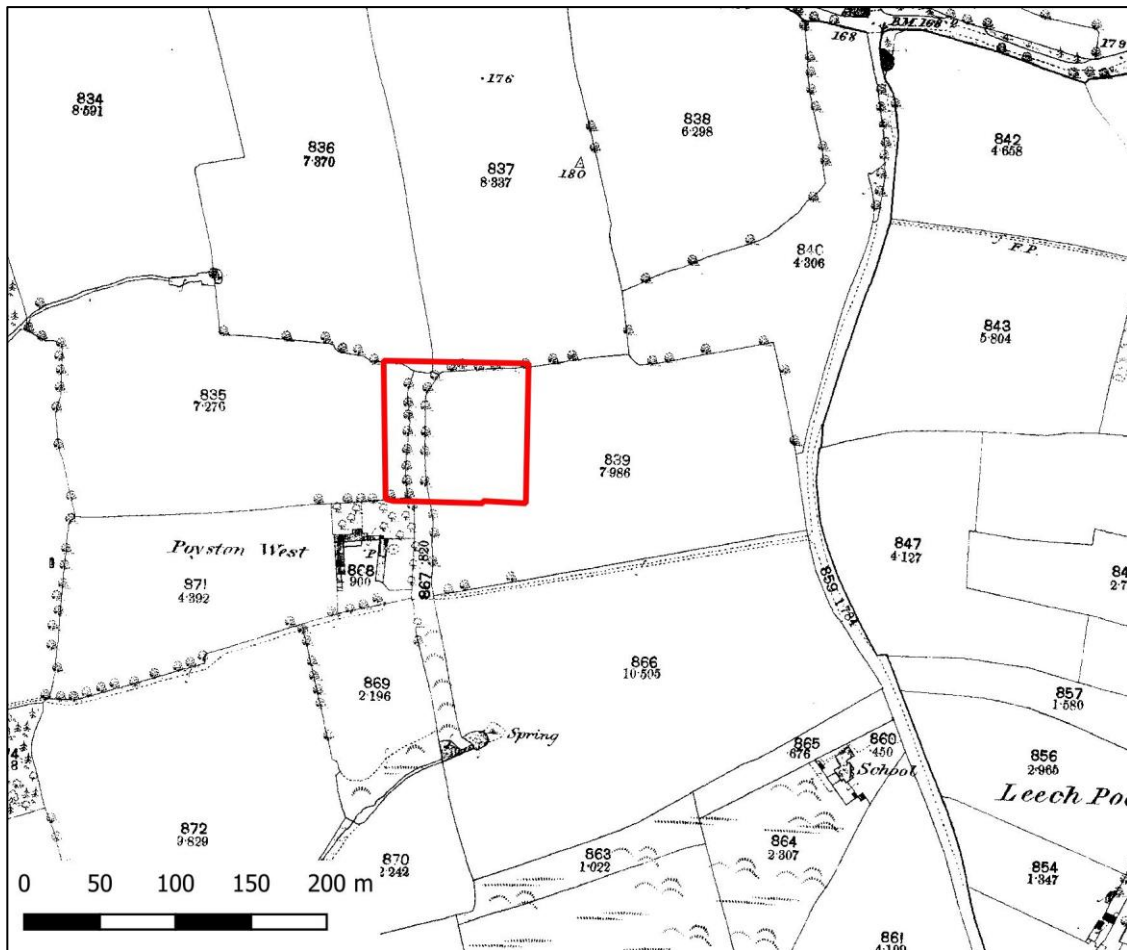
- 6.3.2 The parish tithe map gives a clear and relatively accurate depiction of the area towards the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The layout of fields visible today had been established by the time of the tithe map. The field containing the proposed development site is labelled as 'Upper New Park'. The name, and the regular nature of the field boundaries, suggest this might be a later post-medieval (18<sup>th</sup> century) enclosure of former open moorland.
- 6.3.3 The nearby farmstead of Poyston West is shown as two detached buildings, although it is not clear how accurate this depiction is as the focus of the map was on the land divisions rather than the structures within it. The farm is occupied by John Philpin (Senior), the land being part of the Poyston Estate which had been bought by the Reverend Thomas Martin by the mid-1840s. Reverend Martin also owned the adjacent Withybush Estate. No features of specific archaeological interest are noted within the proposed development area.



**Figure 5:** Extract from the tithe map of 1842. The approximate location of the proposed development area is marked in red.

*Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1889 (Fig 6)*

- 6.3.4 The more detailed Ordnance Survey map of 1889 shows the same field layout, with trees depicted along the boundaries suggesting hedgerows. The layout of Poyston West farmstead also shows the traditional buildings as they currently appear, in a U-shaped layout. The main dwelling sits at the northern end of the farmstead, flanked by two farm ranges enclosing either side of the farmyard to the south. A water pump lay in the farmyard and a circular feature to the east likely marks a horse gin attached to a threshing barn forming the east side of the farmstead. A trackway extends to the north of the farmstead, enclosing the west side of the field, much as it does today.
- 6.3.5 No features of specific archaeological interest are noted within the proposed development area.



**Figure 6:** Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1889. Proposed development site boundary shown in red.

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1907

6.3.6 No change of note is marked on the subsequent Ordnance Survey map of 1907.

**6.4 Aerial & Historic Photography**

6.4.1 A search was made of available historic aerial photographs and modern aerial photographs. Several aerial photographs taken by the RAF in the 1940s and 1950s are of particular note for the general area.

6.4.2 The earliest RAF images of 1942 show the nearby airfield under construction and depict the proposed development site and surrounding fields and farmstead much as they appear on the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century mapping. Subsequent images from 1946 show much the same picture for the proposed development area, with no features of archaeological interest noted. However, to the northwest they show the completed airfield and what seems to be an additional, but now redundant, frying pan hard standing that appears to correspond to the location of PRN 35766 (Photo 1), described in the HER as an Iron Age defended enclosure. The site is visibly similar to nearby hard standings, presumably therefore also constructed of hardcore and concrete. The feature is oval in appearance and approached by a track to the west that would appear to tie into the access track for the other hard standings. This layout would also appear to tie in closely to the description of an oval enclosure with possible



west entrance in the HER, which was describing a cropmark visible in 1991. On this evidence therefore, it would appear more likely that this feature is related to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century airfield construction work rather than Iron Age activity.

- 6.4.3 Subsequent images from the 1940s and 1950s show no further features of note. Modern satellite images are available from 2006 onwards and capture the site during different periods of vegetation growth, including periods of parched ground. By this time the larger modern agricultural sheds had been added to the east of the traditional farmstead with field boundaries visible as well-maintained hedgerows. No features of archaeological interest are noted within the proposed development area, however.



**Photo 1:** Aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946. Approximate development site area shown in red and modern hard standing potentially denoting the site of PRN 35766 is shown in orange.

## 6.5 LiDAR (Fig 7)

- 6.5.1 LiDAR data at 1m DSM is available for the site area. No features of note are visible within the proposed development area.
- 6.5.2 In the wider landscape the airfield hard standing/defended enclosure PRN 35766 is visible as an earthwork feature to the northwest and the round barrow PRN 3314/PE356 is clearly visible as a circular mound. A denuded smaller barrow to the northwest, noted by Cadw though not scheduled nor logged on the HER, has been recorded during RCAHMW aerial reconnaissance in 2007 in low light (image ref: AP\_2007\_3541) under NPRN 407871 <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/407871>
- 6.5.3 A smaller, less distinct circular feature is visible to the west, potentially another ploughed-out barrow site. However, there are no visible indications of similar earthworks within the proposed development area.



**Figure 7:** Lidar data at 1mDSM showing the proposed development site area in red, with PRN 35766 in orange, PRN 3314/PE356 in blue. The nearby barrow is shown to the north, with a smaller circular feature to the west (both in purple).

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.  
Visible at <https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/new#/>.

## 6.6 Site Visit (Photos 2-13)

- 6.6.1 A site visit was undertaken on 04 May 2023. The weather conditions included heavy but high cloud, dry with moderate to good visibility. Access to the entire site was possible, although the nearby farmstead of Poyston West was not closely examined due to stock management activities around the farm buildings at the time of the visit.
- 6.6.2 The proposed development site occupies the corner of a field of pasture, grazed by cattle, on relatively level ground (Photos 2 and 3). The field is bounded by low, regularly maintained hedgerows. A wide modern hardcore trackway runs around the northern edge of the field, partitioned by post-and-wire fencing. The field is accessed directly from a farmstead enclosure to the south and from the main farm access track in the southeast corner. The trackway gives direct access to the road to the east, as well the farmstead and neighbouring fields. No surface features were noted within or around the proposed development area.
- 6.6.3 To the north and west the field is bounded by further enclosed pasture (Photos 4 and 7). To the east the field is bounded by a local, single-track road (Photo 5). To the south the field is bounded by the farm access track



with further agricultural land beyond (Photo 6). Immediately south of the proposed development area, two large agricultural livestock sheds have been built into the former corner of the field (Photo 6). The sheds are steel-framed structures with corrugated steel cladding and concrete foundations and have low gable roofs. Concrete walled cattle enclosures lie around these sheds. To the west stands the U-shaped arrangement of traditional farm buildings of farmstead PRN 118272 (Photos 8 and 9). As noted, these were not examined closely but at the northern end stands the farmhouse: two-storey, rubble built with concrete rendered walls and a partly replaced gable roof with three stone-built chimneys. Masonry walling to the east connects to the eastern range, comprising two rubble-built, slate-roofed farm buildings, the northernmost being one-and-a-half storeys with a hay-loft entrance in the gable wall. The opposing range appears largely single storey with corrugated panelled roofing. Further large modern agricultural sheds stand to the south, with the current slurry tank on the south side of the farmstead.

- 6.6.4 The elevation of the field and gradually falling ground offers relatively distant views in most directions across the open fields, although obscured by surrounding hedgerows, and farm buildings to the southwest (Photos 4 – 7). Slightly rising ground to the east limits distant views in that direction. The nearest scheduled monument, PE356 is not distinguishable from ground level within the proposed development area. No other surrounding designated assets are visible from the site.
- 6.6.5 PE356 was visited and comprises a prominent round barrow, currently under pasture, traversed by post and wire fencing (Photo 10). Erosion noted during a previous visit in 2004 (Cook 2004) is no longer apparent. The mound offers good views in all directions, with distant views north towards the prominent outcrop of Treffgarne Mountain particularly notable (Photo 12). The proposed development site, and Poyston West farmstead, are both visible from the summit of the barrow (Photo 11).
- 6.6.6 The nearby site of PRN 35766 was also visited (Photo 13). It lies in a field of pasture and comprises a shallow bowl but with no distinct bank, ditch or other distinguishing features visible at ground level.



**Photo 2:** View west looking towards the proposed development area (arrow), with Poyston West farmstead on the left and Haverfordwest (Withybush) airfield behind.



**Photo 3:** View northwest towards the proposed development area (arrow) with Poyston West farmstead on the left and Poyston Woods to the rear.



**Photo 4:** View north from the centre of the proposed development area, the trees marking the edge of Poyston Woods around Poyston Hall.



**Photo 5:** View east from the centre of the proposed development area showing the slightly rising ground in that direction.





**Photo 6:** View south from the centre of the proposed development area showing the large agricultural sheds that mark the eastern end of Poyston West farmstead.



**Photo 7:** View west from the centre of the proposed development area looking out over Haverfordwest (Withybush) Airfield.



**Photo 8:** View southwest from the proposed development area looking at Poyston West farmstead.



**Photo 9:** View southwest of the traditional buildings that comprise Poyston West farmstead (PRN 118272) with the farmhouse to the right showing the part-replaced roof and the former small threshing barn immediately behind the telegraph pole.





**Photo 10:** View northwest showing the earthwork mound of PRN 3314 / PE356 (arrow) and the rooftops of Poyston West farm on the left.



**Photo 11:** View WNW from the summit of PRN 3314 / PE356 looking towards the proposed development area in the field behind the hedgerow (arrow). Poyston West farmstead lies on the left.



**Photo 12:** View north from PRN 3314 / PE356 with the rocky outcrop of Treffgarne Mountain in the background.



**Photo 13:** Looking southeast across the site of PRN 35766, visible as a slight earthwork (arrow), with the rooftops of Poyston West farm in the centre.

## 7 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL, VALUE AND SETTING

**Table 4:** Site potential definitions

Archaeological Potential	Definition
<b>High</b>	Known archaeological remains of the period within the site area or an abundance of remains of the period within the near vicinity
<b>Medium</b>	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
<b>Low</b>	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
<b>Negligible</b>	Where there is no evidence for archaeological remains of a certain period to be present and the location/topography is most unlikely to contain remains of that period, or where a site area has already been totally disturbed

**Table 5:** Site value definitions

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



## 7.1 Potential and Value

- 7.1.1 No sites have previously been recorded within the proposed development area and no new sites have been identified within the proposed development area during the course of this assessment.
- 7.1.2 To the southeast lies the site of a Bronze Age round barrow PRN 3314 / PE356, a second barrow lies approximately 70m to the north and LiDAR data suggests the possibility of further denuded monuments in the locality. Barrow sites can appear as clusters and sometimes form focal points within a larger site of funerary and ritual activity. No such site or activity has been identified in closer proximity to the proposed development area but the presence of these features does suggest a **low potential** for Bronze Age archaeological activity in the local area. The nature of this activity is unknown, therefore the potential value of any archaeological remains, should they exist, is **uncertain**.
- 7.1.3 An Iron Age site PRN 35766 has been recorded to the northwest. However, this assessment has shown that the site is more likely to be modern in origin and related to the nearby World War II airfield. The remains of the airfield appear relatively well-documented from aerial photography and site surveys. There is no indication of associated features extending into the proposed development area.
- 7.1.4 The closest site to the proposed development is that of Poyston West farmstead itself (118272). Possibly late 18<sup>th</sup> century in origin, it is still in use and has been greatly expanded but retains traditional buildings at its core. The layout of this farmstead seems relatively well mapped and appears to have been built as a relatively compact and purposely designed unit at its centre with no indication of associated features extending into the proposed development area.
- 7.1.5 The proposed development site appears to have been undeveloped agricultural land, possibly enclosed from open moorland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but no further features or areas of archaeological potential have been identified.

## 7.2 Setting

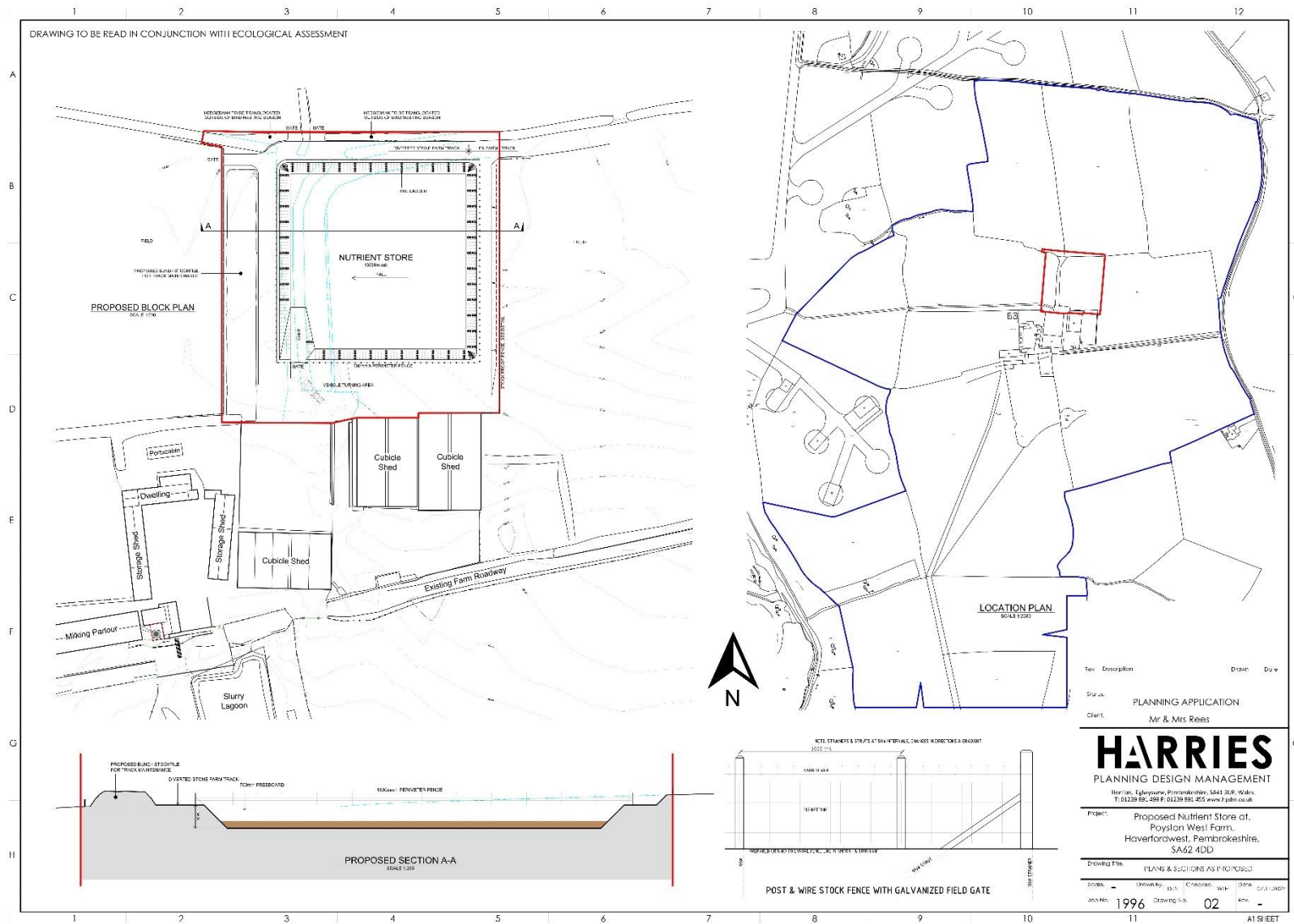
- 7.2.1 *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017) offers guidance on defining and analysing the setting of designated heritage assets to allow the impact of development to be appropriately assessed. The setting of such assets includes “the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve” (Cadw 2017). As such it often extends beyond the physical boundaries of the monument itself. This may include physical elements in its surroundings, such as boundaries and other monuments, relationships with other historic assets and natural features or associated agricultural, industrial or other surroundings. Less tangible elements are also included, such as function, sensory perceptions, historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations.
- 7.2.2 Of the four scheduled monuments initially identified as having the potential to have elements of their setting extending into the proposed development area (based on visual connections and intervisibility between monuments), only Leachpool Round Barrow PE356 shares any potential visual links to the proposed development area. Such barrow sites often appear in prominent locations and the regularity of this positioning suggests this prominence was a deliberate choice by the initial builders and therefore an important element of their setting. This prominence allowed the monuments to be

visible over some distance and allows intervisibility between similar and contemporary monuments. This barrow has good all-round views, although apart from the adjacent barrow site 70m to the north, other contemporary sites to the northeast (near Bethlehem), northwest (beyond Rudbaxton), southwest (near Park House) and south (near Shoals Hook) are not distinct features in views from this monument. The intervisibility between this barrow and the site 70m to the north is a significant part of the setting, particularly as views north from Leachpool Round Barrow also take in the very distinct rocky outcrops of Treffgarne Mountain and the presence of the nearby barrow in this view may be of particular significance. Leachpool Round Barrow itself is potentially more visible in distant views from the south and east and closer views from the west, due to the slight but gradually rising ground to the north. As previously mentioned, although primarily a burial site, such monuments could also have been the focus of, or part of, a wider funerary and ritual landscape. Along with the barrow to the north, LiDAR data has suggested the potential for further denuded barrow sites to the west which may all form part of the original setting of this monument, although the site to the west is uncertain.

## **8 IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

### **8.1 Development Details (Figs 8 and 9)**

- 8.1.1 The proposed development is for a nutrient store, comprising a square tank measuring 67m by 67m and 3.6m deep, cut into the existing topography. The tank will be accessed via a ramp to the south and surrounded by a 1.8m high perimeter fence. A stockproof fence will enclose the site to the east and the modern track will be slightly diverted around the north and west sides, with the hedgerow translocated north and west of this. On the west side a bund/stockpile for track maintenance is proposed.
- 8.1.2 Generally, any of the following activities typically associated with a development on this scale could have a physical impact upon historic assets by potentially exposing, damaging or destroying archaeological remains:
- Surface stripping and levelling;
  - Landscaping and terracing works;
  - Tank excavations;
  - Enabling works such as the construction of access roads, parking and storage areas, associated services;
  - Buried pipework to the slurry pond;
  - Any other ground disturbing works.
- 8.1.3 Development in this area also has the potential to generate indirect impacts upon historic assets by altering elements of the setting as discussed in section 7.2.



**Figure 8:** Development proposals, showing plan and section of the nutrient store. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to scale.

## 8.2 Impact Assessment Criteria

8.2.1 The criteria for the assessment of impacts, both direct and indirect, on historic assets is based on The Department for Transport 'Transport Analysis Guidance' (TAG), Unit A3 'Environmental Impact Appraisal: Section 8 Impacts on the Historic Environment', of May 2019, with additional information based on professional judgement. In addition, the guidance offered in the Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017) has been utilised.

8.2.2 The TAG criteria divides the impacts into seven categories:

- Large Adverse (negative)
- Moderate Adverse (negative)
- Slight Adverse (negative)
- Neutral
- Slight Beneficial (positive)
- Moderate Beneficial (positive)
- Large Beneficial (positive).

## 8.3 Physical Impacts upon the Historic Assets

8.3.1 No specific archaeological remains have been identified within the proposed development area but a low potential for Bronze Age archaeological activity has been highlighted. Should such remains exist then groundworks associated with the development could have a **Moderate Adverse** impact.

## 8.4 Impacts to the Settings of Surrounding Designated Features

8.4.1 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. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive, negative or neutral contribution to the significance of an asset.*

8.4.2 As illustrated in Section 7.2, only the nearby scheduled monument of Leachpool Round Barrow PE356 could be affected by proposed development. The main setting elements of PE356 include its immediate location, relationship to the nearby barrow 70m to the north and significant views from and of the monument. There is the potential that the original setting of the monument may have been more expansive but there is currently no evidence to suggest this original setting extended towards the proposed development area. In terms of significant views, the main view from the monument would appear to be north towards the adjacent barrow and on to Treffgarne Mountain. The proposed development site would be visible from the summit of the barrow but this is not a significant view and the visual impact would be diminished by the sunken nature of the bulk of the development, intervening hedgerows and the clear association with the adjacent farmstead complex. The proposed development does not affect any significant views of this monument. Therefore, it is considered that there will be a **Neutral** impact on the setting of Leachpool Round Barrow PE356.

## **9 CONCLUSIONS**

### **9.1 Archaeological Potential and Impact Assessment**

- 9.1.1 No specific archaeological sites have been identified within the proposed development area. The assessment has identified a low potential for archaeological activity from the Bronze Age within the local area of **uncertain archaeological value**. Groundworks associated with the proposed development do have the potential for a **Moderate Adverse** impact, should archaeological remains be present.
- 9.1.2 No impacts on the settings of surrounding designated archaeological assets (scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens, historic landscapes) have been identified.
- 9.1.3 No other significant impacts has been identified.

### **9.2 Mitigation**

- 9.2.1 The general archaeological potential identified within the proposed development area may require further archaeological mitigation, although this potential is generally assessed as low. Any recommendation for archaeological mitigation rests with the archaeological advisor to the local planning authority.
- 9.2.2 An archaeological watching brief during ground disturbing works associated with the proposed development could assist in identifying and recording archaeological remains should they be present. Development plans would need to accommodate, particularly in terms of time and resources, the potential requirement for further archaeological works if significant remains come to light during an archaeological watching brief, should one be required.

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