

MARLOES MERE, MARLOES, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Harries Planning Design Management



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO. 2023-20
PROJECT NO. 129781

July 2023
Gorffennaf 2023

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by

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MARLOES MERE, MARLOES, PEMBROKESHIRE

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Client

Harries Planning Design Management

Event Record No

129781

Report No

2023-20

Project Code

FS23-013

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Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
1	Draft V1	PP		
2	Final	PP/CR	FM	02/08/23

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MARLOES MERE, MARLOES, PEMBROKESHIRE

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for proposed wetland restoration at Marloes Mere, Trehill Farm, Marloes, Pembrokeshire (SM 7753 0803).

A wide-ranging archaeological potential has been identified in the general area, more specifically for possible prehistoric settlement remains and a historic trackway within the development area itself. These sites range in importance but a slight to moderate adverse impact has been identified. A neutral to slight adverse impact upon the setting of PE194 Watery Bay Rath is also discussed. Proposals to mitigate the impact upon the archaeological resource are suggested.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archaeolegol YAD i baratoi Asesiad Desg Amgylchedd Hanesyddol ar gyfer gwaith adfer gwlyptir arfaethedig ym Chors Marloes, Fferm Trehill, Marloes, Sir Benfro (SM 7753 0803).

Mae potensial archeolegol eang wedi'i nodi yn yr ardal gyffredinol, gyda'r potensial ar gyfer olion aneddiadau cynhanesyddol posibl a llwybr hisotr5ig o fewn yr ardal ddatblygu ei hun. Mae'r safleoedd hyn yn amrywio o ran pwysigrwydd ond mae effaith andwyol fach i gymedrol wedi'i nodi. Trafodir hefyd effaith andwyol niwtral i fach ar leoliad PE194 Watery Bay Rath. 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 Harries Planning Design Management, on behalf of their clients, to prepare an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for proposed wetland restoration work at Marloes Mere, Trehill Farm, Marloes, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (roughly centred on SM 7753 0803).
- 1.1.2 The area currently comprises a semi-natural wetland habitat, designated as its own SSSI, bounded by public footpaths and agricultural land. The natural hydro-topography of the wetland has been disrupted by agricultural practice, most notably by two irrigation reservoirs installed in the 1970s. The proposals include the removal of the southern reservoir bunds to increase the wetland area, the relocation of a public footpath and the establishment of a new hedgerow. A planning application for the works has been submitted (planning application no. NP/23/0233/FUL) to the local planning authority, the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.
- 1.1.3 The site lies in an area of historic and archaeological interest, with Mesolithic flint scatters, possible prehistoric settlement and an Iron Age promontory fort in close proximity. As a result, an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment was recommended by Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management (DAT-DM) in response to the planning application, in their role as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.
- 1.1.4 This Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment is a primarily desk-based study of the site area and provides an indication of the archaeological potential of the development area, highlighting possible issues in relation to the impact of the development on the historic environment.

1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology

- 1.2.1 The scope of the assessment follows the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The standard is stated by CIfA as:

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

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

.....a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely historic assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of

the settings of historic assets. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

- 1.2.3 The desk-based study of the area identifies known archaeological sites within the proposed development area and its environs and assesses the potential for hitherto unknown remains to be present within that area. This will help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies, including the potential for further archaeological works.
- 1.2.4 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).
- 1.2.5 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 proposed development site (Cadw, DAT, NRW);
 - Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area;
 - Assessment of the likely impact upon the settings of surrounding features of the historic environment; and
 - Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains within the development site (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.
- 1.2.6 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced and submitted to DAT-DM for comment in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority. An initial search area of 1km from the boundary of the development area was used to identify sites recorded on the HER and other sources, and was also used to examine the potential impact on the setting of high status, designated historic assets in the surrounding landscape.
- 1.2.7 For the purposes of planning policy in Wales, the historic environment is defined as:

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed (Welsh Government 2017).

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 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).

Additional sites identified during the course of this assessment have been given the site-specific prefix MM.

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

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

1.4 Illustrations

- 1.4.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale. North is towards the top of the page unless otherwise indicated.

1.5 Timeline

- 1.5.1 The following timeline gives date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within this report.

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic	c.10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) period	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / early medieval period	c.AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval period	1086 – 1536	
Post-medieval period ¹	1536 – 1750	
Industrial period	1750 – 1899	
Modern	20th century onwards	

Note: ¹The 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 more recently been amended by *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016* which has three main aims as defined by Cadw:

- To give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- To improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- To introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

2.1.2 The Act amends both the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It is supported by a number of planning guidance documents and, 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 will also make reference to other guidance documents published by Cadw, namely: *Conservation Principles* (March 2011); *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (May 2017); *Managing Historic Character in Wales* (May 2017); and *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (May 2017).

2.4 Local Development Plan

- 2.4.1 The site lies within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP). The PCNP Authority Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in September 2020 (end date 2031) and sets out the planning development strategy for the area. The LDP policies are set out in line with national policy and guidance outlined above but also set out policies and proposals to meet the long-term vision for the Park.
- 2.4.2 The historic environment is seen as a special quality of the National Park and the LDP states one of its aims is:
To conserve, enhance and promote the historic environment of the National Park, its archaeological resource, historic buildings and landscapes, parks and gardens (Policy 8).

3 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1 Marloes Mere is located on a coastal headland to the west of Marloes in southwest Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 7753 0803; Figs 1-2).
- 3.2 The site comprises an area of semi-natural wetland, covered in grasses and other vegetation, containing two irrigation reservoirs and enclosed by post-and-wire fencing. The reservoirs are contained by earth bunds sat on top of the wetland habitat. A stone-laid footpath runs along the southern edge of the wetland.
- 3.3 The wetland area is surrounded by enclosed agricultural land spread across the headland. This area forms part of Trehill Farm which lies just over 500m to the north, one of several small dispersed farmsteads across the headland. The footpath connects a small local road to the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, accessing the coastline around 400m to the west. The former farmstead of Runwayskiln sits on this track to the east of the site, converted for use as a café and other amenities for the National Trust. Trehill Farm sits on the main road running east – west across the ridge of the headland which connects Martin's Haven to the west to the village of Marloes to the east and beyond. Marloes is the closest settlement, 1.5km to the east, Milford Haven lies 12km to the east and Haverfordwest is 19km to the northeast.
- 3.4 The headland juts westward into the Celtic Sea surrounded by cliffs, rocky coves with sandy beaches and small islands, such as Gateholm and Skokholm to the south and Skomer to the west. The land around the mere is relatively level at around 50mOD, with the land rising to an undulating ridge of between 69mOD to 72mOD along the northern edge of the headland.
- 3.5 The geology of the headland is a relatively complex one. Underlying the mere and much of the southern part of the headland is a band of hard green-grey sandstone; the Grey Sandstone Series. To the north lie interbedded bands of argillaceous rocks, sandstones and conglomerates of the Coraliferous Group and Skomer Volcanic Group, rising to a ridge of igneous rock including basalt, felsite and albite of the Skomer Volcanic Group. The lower-lying southern part of the headland is overlaid with diamicton going to sands and gravels to the southeast, with peat forming in the Marloes Mere area (BGS 2023).

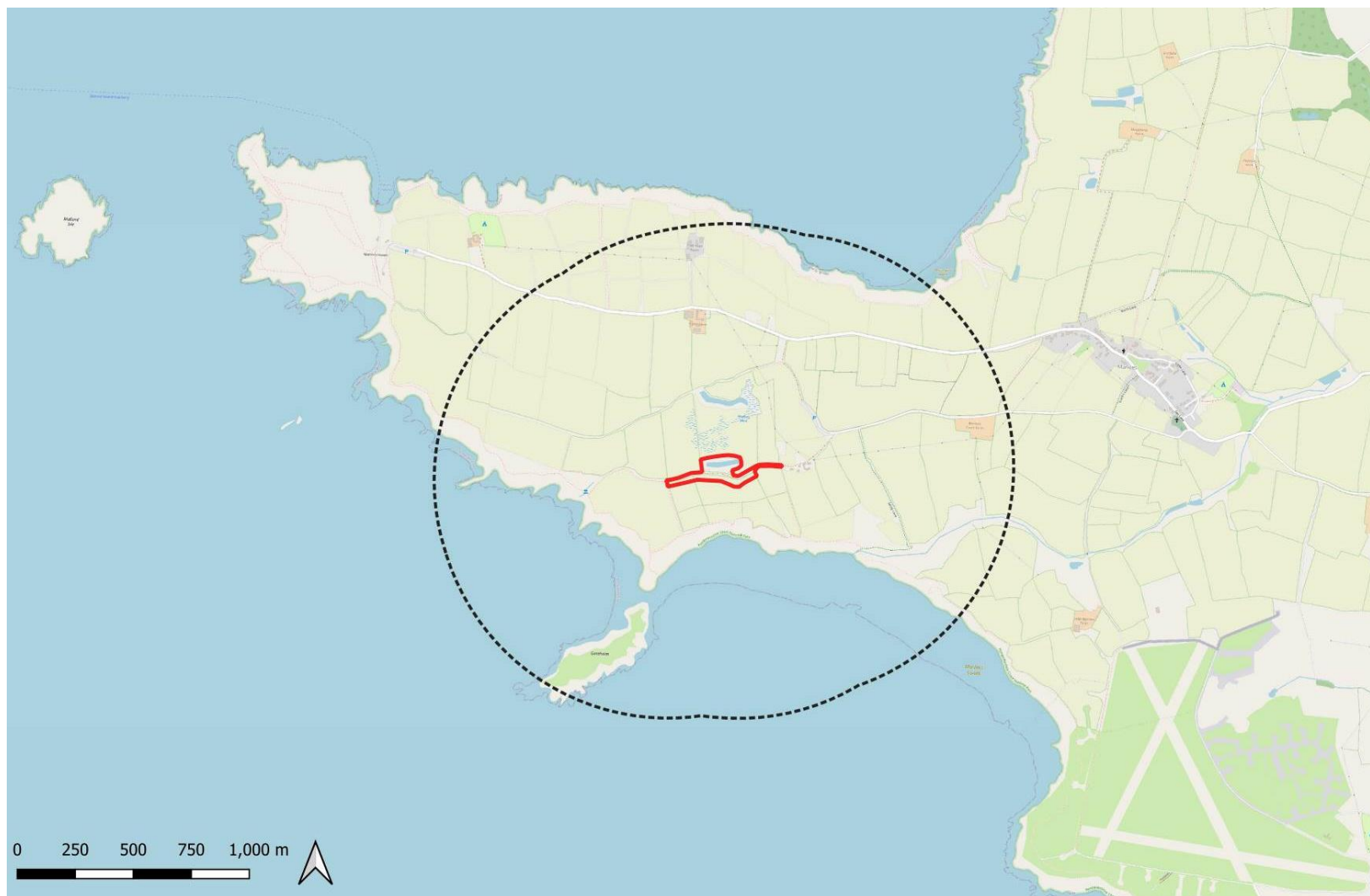


Figure 1: Location of development area showing the proposed development site in red, with the dotted line representing the 1km study area.

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 07/07/2023.

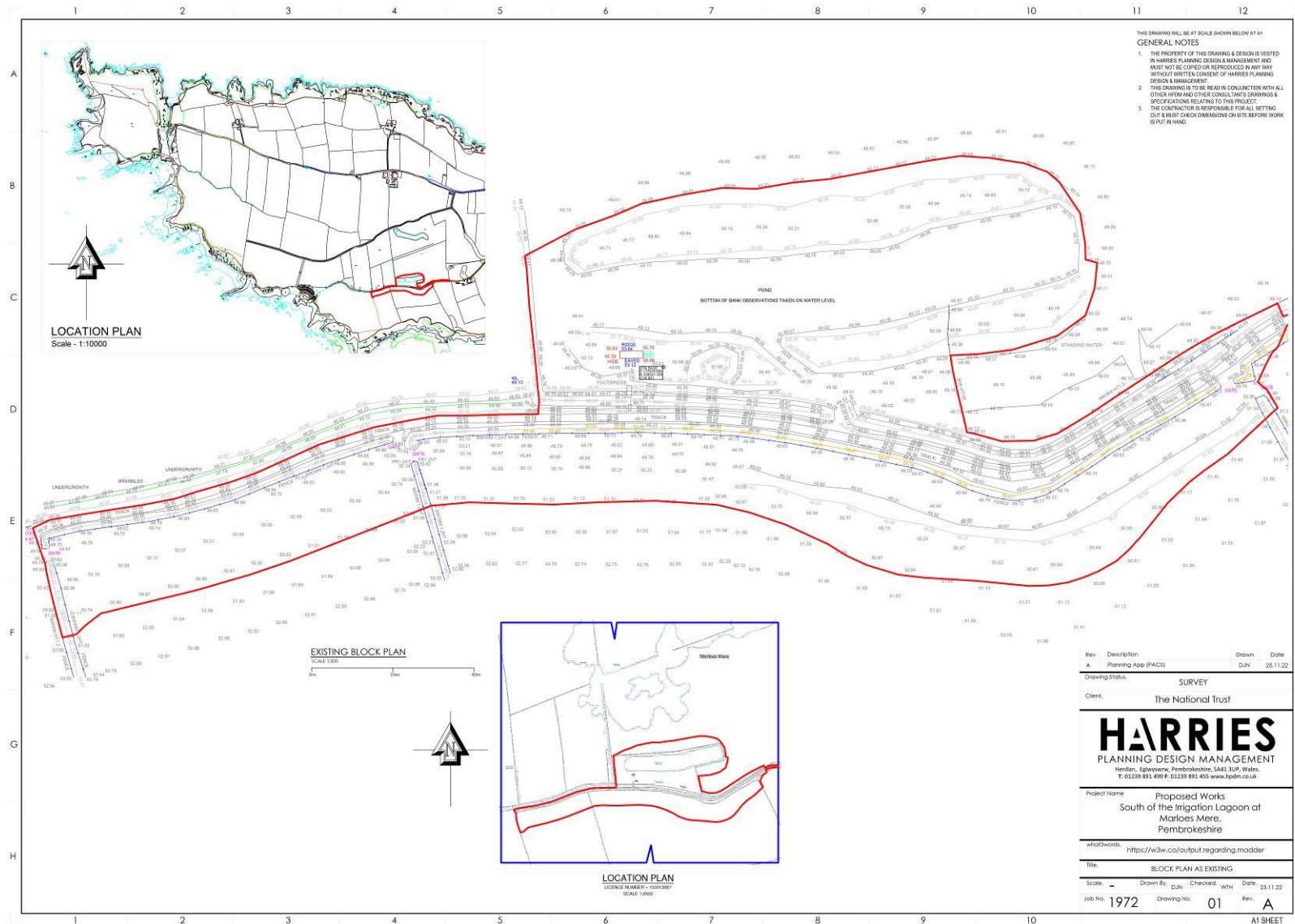


Figure 2: Detailed site and development location plan. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to original scale.

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 the 1km radius search area. Designated assets within this dataset are described first, as they largely comprise sites with some form of statutory protection.

4.2 Scheduled Monuments (SMs)

- 4.2.1 Scheduled monuments are historic and archaeological sites deemed to be of national importance. These sites are given legal protection and consideration of the impact of development upon them, and their settings, is an element of the planning process.
- 4.2.2 There are no scheduled monuments within the proposed development area.
- 4.2.3 There are two scheduled monuments (SM) within the 1km search area surrounding the proposed development site.
- 4.2.4 Lying around 400m to the west, at the end of the footpath through the site, lies **PE194 Watery Bay Rath**. The following is the SM description:

The monument comprises the remains of a defended enclosure, which probably dates to the Iron Age period (c.800 BC - AD 43). The enclosure is located on a narrow coastal promontory above the sea that marks part of the defensive circuit. The construction of one or more ramparts placed across the neck of the promontory divide it from the mainland. Watery Bay Rath is defended on the landward side by triple banks and ditches.

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, layout, building techniques and functional detail.

- 4.2.5 Just over 500m to the south of the site lies **PE180 Hut Groups of Gateholm Island**. The following is the SM description:

The monument consists of an enclosed settlement probably dating from the Iron Age to the Romano-British period and located on a half-tidal islet. Most of the summit area, measuring roughly 500m by 100m, has evidence of settlement comprising around 110 rectangular hut structures organized into rows and yards or paddocks, with, at the islet's north-western tip facing the mainland, a rampart and gate to control access. A further stretch of bank occurs along the northern edge of the summit area. Huts are typically formed of turf walls 0.6-1.0m wide by 0.3 to 0.5m high enclosing small spaces no more than c.6m by c.4m. A typical yard is a series of small cells surrounding an open space bounded by further turf banks. Limited excavation has indicated at least some of the hut banks were faced with undressed stones, arranged in courses of dry walling, and had entrances defined by large stone slabs set on edge that may have carried wooden lintels. Posthole arrangements indicate roofs could have been supported on ridge poles and internal structures found include hearths and areas of paving. The range of finds, apart from an earlier prehistoric presence that pre-dates the settlement, includes diagnostic pottery and metalwork. Later occupation is also indicated as the north west gateway appears to have been a mortared-stone structure.

The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of settlement organization. The well-preserved archaeology means that the evidence for the chronology, longevity and eventual abandonment of settlement on the island is also likely to survive.

It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits.

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* and 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 or within 1km of the site. The closest listed buildings are the Grade II listed farmhouse of West Hook, a Grade II listed deer park wall at Martin's Haven to the west and structures within the village of Marloes to the east.

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 1km of the site. The closest such sites lie around 10km to the east.

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 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 proposed development area or the wider search area. The closest such site is St. Bride's Castle which lies over 3km to the northeast.

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 help 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 area does not lie within a registered historic landscape, nor does a registered historic landscape extend to within 1km of the site.
- 4.6.3 The site does however lie midway between the Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW(D)3), 2.5km to the east, and the Skomer Island Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW(D)6), 2.5km to the west. In order to better characterise the historic

environment of the Historic Landscapes, they have been sub-divided into a number of Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA). These HLCAs can extend beyond the given boundaries of the registered landscapes, and one such area (**HLCA 350 Dale to St Brides Coastal Strip**) extends beyond the Milford Haven Waterway landscape incorporating the coastal fringe around the headland, at its closest coming within 125m of the proposed development area.

- 4.6.4 HLCA 350 is a coastal strip of marginal land, largely used as rough grazing outside the boundaries of cultivation. The area includes many former occupation sites ranging from prehistoric settlements to World War 1 defence posts. Gateholm Island to the south is a particularly noted site, with a long history of occupations including a significant area of Roman and post-Roman turf-walled huts. This is a distinct and well-defined area, bounded by farmland to one side and the sea to the other.

Table 2: *Scheduled monuments and historic landscapes within the study area*

Record No.	Name	Designation	Brief description	NGR
PE194	Watery Bay Rath	Scheduled Monument	Iron Age defended enclosure	SM 7689 0795
PE180	Hut Groups of Gateholm Island	Scheduled Monument	Enclosed settlement dating from the Iron Age to Roman and post-Roman periods.	SM 7699 0722
HLCA 350	Dale to St Brides Coastal Strip	Historic Landscape Character Area	Coastal strip with archaeological sites ranging from Prehistoric settlement to WW1 defence posts.	-

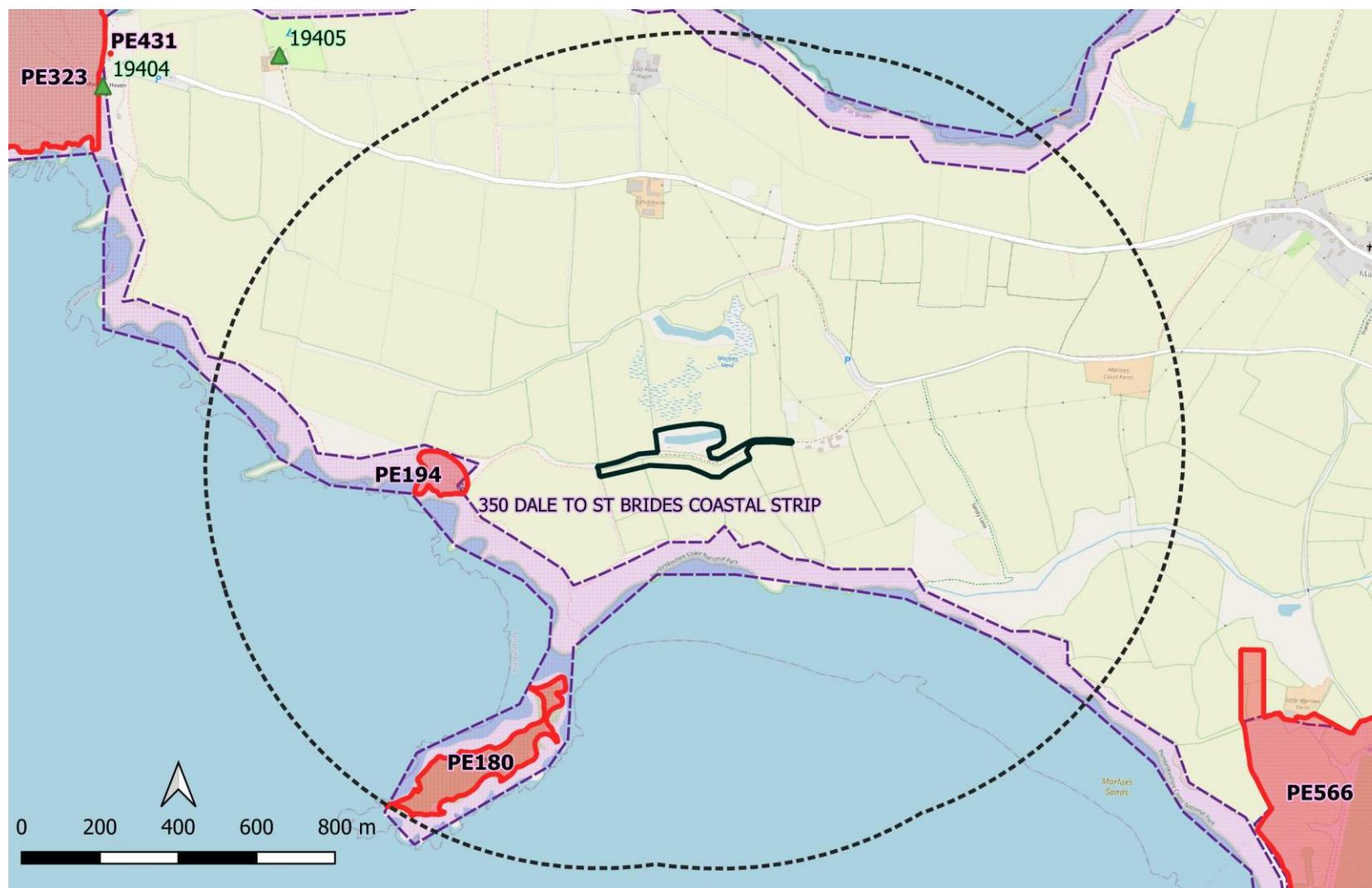


Figure 3: Map showing the proposed development site and all designated assets within the 1km radius study area (dotted line). Scheduled monuments are marked in red, listed buildings in green, and the Historic Landscape Character Areas in purple.

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 10/07/2023.

5 NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Tables 3 - 8 and Fig 4)

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 A search of the regional HER and other databases highlighted 44 assets within the 1km search area around the proposed development. Whilst there are no previously recorded sites within the bounds of the development area on record, a number do lie in relatively close proximity. Other sites, such as PRNs 2936 and 2937 that relate to flint scatters near Runwayskiln, are not precisely located, and PRN 11768 is merely an indicative point in a former open field system that covers a wide area.
- 5.1.2 A smaller number of assets are recorded on the National Monuments Record (NMR) database, held and maintained by the RCAHMS, which includes one additional site to those recorded on the HER; NPRN 409859. This references a series of cropmarked features that may depict prehistoric settlement remains, lying on the edge of, and potentially extending into, the proposed development area.
- 5.1.3 In addition to these sites there are a large number (169) of artefacts recorded in the study area on the National Museum of Wales database. Many of these include artefacts recovered from Gateholm Island and a large number of worked flint fragments from along the southern coastline. The occasional flint artefact is also recorded in the Runwayskiln area. None of these artefacts have been recovered from within the proposed development area.
- 5.1.4 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 and Neolithic (Table 3)

- 5.2.1 There are no recorded Palaeolithic sites within either the study area or the wider landscape.
- 5.2.2 During the Mesolithic period nomadic groups appear to have been moving through this coastal landscape and a relatively high number of artefacts have been recorded from this time. A total of five sites of individual findspots or scatters of flints (PRNs 2936, 2937, 2948, 11746 and 12220) are recorded as Mesolithic, with some potentially Neolithic in date. Alongside this, a total of 78 artefacts are recorded as Late Mesolithic on the National Museum of Wales database, with a larger number generally described as prehistoric but not closely dated. These artefacts are largely flint objects and comprise a mix of worked tools such as flint blades, scrapers and microliths, together with flint cores and debitage from tool manufacture. Such relatively large numbers of artefacts indicate groups were using the area to stop and manufacture tools, presumably drawn to the area because flint was available on the shoreline.
- 5.2.3 Due to the generally nomadic nature of human populations during this period, it is rare to find sites where such groups settled or stopped to carry out other activities in their day-to-day lives. The number and spread of the objects would suggest repeated visits, and a general area of some significance during this, albeit broad, period. The areas of working appear to be concentrated both along the coastline and slightly further inland around Runwayskiln. The landscape at the time would have been very different, with no agriculture and a differing climate possibly affecting present day areas of wetland and coastal access. The proposed development area therefore lies in an area of heightened potential for Mesolithic archaeological remains. The presence of

peat in the locality also raises the potential for excellent preservation conditions, increasing opportunities to obtain radiocarbon dating and rare paleoenvironmental material.

- 5.2.4 As noted above, many of the flint artefacts may also be Neolithic in date, and the HER records some flint sites as more positively Neolithic in form, such as PRNs 2930 and 11202 on Gateholm to the south, and PRN 11180 at East Hook Farm to the north. The similarity in the assemblages of artefacts may suggest a general continuation of the same types of activity from the late Mesolithic into the Neolithic period in this area. Generally, the Neolithic is considered to be a period when agricultural practices were being introduced with populations beginning to settle in one location, although there is little positive evidence of that in the immediate area. Neolithic material has been recovered from Gateholm Island where extensive settlement remains have been recorded, but they are generally considered to be substantially later in date.

Table 3: Sites of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic date recorded on the HER

PRN	Site Name	Period	Type	NGR
2930	Gateholm Island	Neolithic	Findspot: Flint leaf-shaped arrowhead	SM 7690 0715
2931	Gateholm Island	Prehistoric	Findspot: Flint flakes, cores and waste material	SM 7690 0715
2934	Gateholm Island	Unknown	Findspot: Several artefacts	SM 7690 0715
2936	Runwayskiln	Mesolithic	Lithic Scatter: 90 fragments	SM 7775 0778
2937	Runwayskiln	Mesolithic; Neolithic	Lithic Working Site: 90 fragments of flint cores, nodules, flakes and waste material	SM 7775 0778
2938	Watery Bay Rath	Mesolithic; Neolithic	Lithic Scatter: Flint scrapers, borer, cores, flakes, worked microlith and stone pot boiler	SM 7687 0794
2948	Marloes Mill	Mesolithic; Neolithic	Findspot: Flint cores	SM 7840 0766
2956	Marloes Court	Prehistoric	Findspot: Flint scrapers and flakes	SM 7850 0843
11180	East Hook Farm	Neolithic	Lithic Working Site: Large collection of flint cores, flakes, blades and stone rubbers	SM 774 090
11202	Gateholm Stack	Neolithic	Findspot: Flint waste flake	SM 773 075
11746	Hopgang	Mesolithic; Neolithic	Findspot: Worked flint	SM 778 087
12220	Gateholm Island	Mesolithic	Findspot: Flint microlith	SM 770 072

5.3 Bronze Age (Table 4)

- 5.3.1 The HER records only one possible Bronze Age site within the study area, PRN 2944. Around the mid-20th century W.F.Grimes identified a possible Bronze Age barrow on Gateholm Island, but this was later dismissed as more likely to be one of the many later hut sites recorded on the island. A sherd of possible early Bronze Age pottery was however recovered from small-scale excavations on the island in 2011 (Flaherty 2011).
- 5.3.2 Further afield more definitive sites were identified on Skomer Island, and this appears to have been a focus of funerary and ritual activity in the Bronze Age. A group of possible burial cairns lie on the north side of the island, a barrow on the south side, and a standing stone on the east side. At present however, there is little positive evidence of any increased potential for Bronze Age archaeological remains within the development area.

Table 4: Sites of Bronze Age date recorded on the HER database.

PRN	Site Name	Period	Type	NGR
2944	Gateholm Island	Bronze Age	Round Barrow	SM 770 072

5.4 Iron Age (Table 5)

- 5.4.1 The coastal headland is noted for its Iron Age archaeological remains, one of the potentially more significant sites being Gateholm Island to the south (PRN 2929). The site was surveyed and partially excavated in the early 20th century (Cantrill 1910) and again in 1930 (Lethbridge and David 1930). Further detail was revealed by survey works in the 1970s (Davies et al 1972) and more recently the site has been the subject of both a Time Team investigation (Flaherty 2011) and a LiDAR survey (Davis 2011). A settlement has been recorded spread across the level summit of the island, comprising around 120-130 rectangular structures, the limited excavation of which have revealed the structures to have turf built, stone-revetted walls. The structures are laid out in rows and courts, with access to the site possibly controlled by a bank and gateway facing the mainland at the northwest tip of the island. Artefacts recovered from the archaeological investigations suggest the settlement is largely late Roman to early medieval in date. However, the presence of possible Iron Age material recovered from the surface of the island, and the location of the site, suggest potential Iron Age origins to settlement and occupation on the island.
- 5.4.2 To the northwest of Gateholm and located at the west end of the footpath through the proposed development site, lies Watery Bay Rath (PRN 2939). A rocky promontory has been enclosed by three lines of defensive banks and ditches, and recent excavation (Flaherty 2011) has revealed at least one round house structure within the enclosure. Such defended enclosures are common features of Iron Age activity in Southwest Wales, although the full nature of the site is little understood. These defended enclosures likely performed a variety of functions, from military sites to ritual, settlement and agricultural enclosures, although clearly the defensive feature required a significant investment of time and effort. The association with the footpath through the proposed development may be of significance as it roughly lines up with a simple entrance through these defences on the northeast side of

the enclosure. The presence of Iron Age artefacts further inland is demonstrated by PRN 11921, and further Iron Age activity may be expected in the locality.

- 5.4.3 Aerial reconnaissance by the RCAHMW in 2006 recorded cropmarks (NPRN 409859) forming a small curvilinear enclosure, fragments of a possible larger enclosure and other linear and pit-like features, spread across the fields immediately south of the Marloes Mere site. The nature and date of the site is uncertain. The cropmarks appear to be spread over three fields and appear earlier than the field system. The curvilinear nature of some of the features suggests a prehistoric date, and it is possible this relates to a general concentration of Iron Age activity in the area, but it may be even earlier in date. No definitive enclosure ditch for the entire site has been identified, it may represent unenclosed activity and therefore spreading into the Marloes Mere area.

Table 5: Sites of Iron Age date recorded on the HER and NMR databases.

PRN	Site Name	Period	Type	NGR
2929	Gateholm Island	Iron Age; Roman; Early Medieval	Enclosed Settlement; Monastery 120-130 huts laid out across the island	SM 7690 0718
2939	Watery Bay Rath; South Castle Rath	Iron Age	Promontory Fort: Multivallate coastal promontory fort	SM 7687 0794
11921	Sandy Lane	Iron Age; Roman	Findspot: Possible stone spindle whorl	SM 7830 0769
NPRN 409859	Runwayskiln	Prehistoric	Unenclosed settlement: Cropmark enclosures, linears and pitting	SM 77600 07940

5.5 Roman Period (Table 6)

- 5.5.1 As noted above (5.4.1), an extensive settlement site is recorded on Stockholm Island (PRN 2929), comprising around 120-130 hut sites. Pottery and coinage recovered from archaeological investigations and surface finds (PRN 2932) suggest at least some of these huts may have been constructed in the mid to late Roman period, and were occupied into the post-Roman, early medieval period. The pottery was identified by Cantrill (Cantrill 1910) as 2nd to 3rd century but later re-dated to the 3rd to 4th century (Davies et al 1972); the coinage was late 3rd century in date. It has been suggested (Davies et al 1972) that the site was, or became, an enclosed monastic settlement.
- 5.5.2 Aerial reconnaissance by the RCAHMW following a drought in 2018 revealed a sub-square defended enclosure with a circular internal feature (PRN 126405) close to Trehill Farm. As also noted above (5.4.2) defended enclosures can be a feature of Iron Age settlement, and circular roundhouses are typical of the period. Many of these enclosures however appear to have

been continually occupied into the Roman period and the sub-square nature of the enclosure has been suggested as potentially more Roman in date. Similar such enclosures have been excavated at Whitland in Carmarthenshire (Enright et al 2020) and Whitton in the Vale of Glamorgan (Jarret and Wrathmell 1981) and identified as largely Romano-British farmstead enclosures with possible late Iron Age origins.

- 5.5.3 The presence of these settlement sites within the study area increases the general potential for archaeological remains of this period within the proposed development area.

Table 6: Sites of Roman date recorded on the HER.

PRN	Site Name	Period	Type	NGR
2929	Gateholm Island	Iron Age; Roman; Early Medieval	Enclosed Settlement; Monastery 120-130 huts laid out across the island	SM 7690 0718
2932	Gateholm Island	Roman	Finds: Late 3 rd century coins	SM 7690 0715
2933	Gateholme Island	Medieval; Roman	Finds: Romano-British and medieval pottery fragments	SM 7690 0715
11921	Sandy Lane	Iron Age; Roman	Findspot: Possible stone spindle whorl	SM 7830 0769
126405	Trehill Farm	Roman	Enclosed settlement: Sub-square univallate enclosure with central gateway and internal circular feature	SM 7746 0850

5.6 Early Medieval and Medieval Period (Table 7)

- 5.6.1 As has been discussed above, the settlement on Gateholm Island (PRN 2929) was occupied in the early medieval period. This is largely dated through a ringed pin, initially dated to the 6th century (Lethbridge and David 1930), found within one of the excavated structures and indicating occupation subsequent to the Roman period. More recently a date of around the 9th century has been suggested for the pin (Davis 2011). The apparent isolated nature of the settlement, enclosed at the landward side by a bank and gate, has led to the suggestion that this may represent a monastic community, which would make it one of the largest early medieval monastic communities recorded in Britain (Davies et al 1972). The site however lacks an obvious church structure amongst its layout, and a more secular origin to the settlement has also been suggested (Redknap 2010). Medieval pottery, dated to the 13th century, has also been recovered from the site, although the small quantity of medieval material is not a particular indicator of continued use into this period. The name 'Gateholm' has Norse origins and may reference an island of goats, which would suggest that by the time the Vikings were

active in the area in the 9th and 10th centuries the island was no longer inhabited.

- 5.6.2 By the medieval period the recorded archaeological sites would suggest much of the headland around Marloes Mere was being farmed. An open field system (PRN 11768) has been identified from 18th and 19th century mapping, with remnants of strip fields arranged along the main road across the headland, including the track through the proposed development area. Such field systems, with narrow strips of land divided between local farmers, have their origins in the medieval period. Three of the farms within the study area have been identified as medieval manor sites; Runwayskiln (PRN 11767) and Marloes Court (PRN 12492) to the east, and East Hook (PRN 7580) to the northwest. The provenance of some of these sites as medieval manor houses however appears a little uncertain. Runwayskiln is marked on an 18th century map as originally sited further to the east, and the other two sites are recorded on Rees's reconstructed map of Wales in the 14th century (Rees 1932). It is assumed therefore that there are medieval references to these sites, but the sources used by Rees remain unclear. Earthwork platforms (PRN 7580) have been identified adjoining the current East Hook farmstead, which may indicate abandoned medieval remains, and one of the current farmstead structures is thought to derive from an original longhouse form. Rees also depicts a water mill (PRN 12491) on the headland. A precise location is unclear, but a later mill is recorded at Sandy Lane to the east (PRN 32632) and a Nesshook Mill is referenced in the 17th century, which is an earlier name ascribed to East Hook farm (NPRN 419404).
- 5.6.3 Despite the vagaries surrounding some of the potential medieval sites, the presence of medieval pottery on Gateholm, the layout of the enclosure pattern across the headland and the remains at East Hook Farm do suggest a well-used landscape during the medieval period.

Table 7: Sites of medieval date recorded on the HER.

PRN	Site Name	Period	Type	NGR
2929	Gateholm Island	Iron Age; Roman; Early Medieval	Enclosed Settlement; Monastery 120-130 huts laid out across the island	SM 7690 0718
2933	Gateholm Island	Medieval; Roman	Finds: Romano-British and medieval pottery fragments	SM 7690 0715
2955	Marloes Beacon	Medieval	Beacon: Recorded on later mapping	SM 7850 0843
7580	East Hook Farm	Medieval	Manor House; Earthwork remains and longhouse origins to current farmstead	SM 77346 09049
11767	Runawayskill	Medieval; Post Medieval	Manor House	SM 7815 0805

Marloes Mere, Pembs:
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PRN	Site Name	Period	Type	NGR
11768	Marloes and Runawayskill	Medieval	Open Field System	SM 780 080
12491	Marloes	Medieval	Water Mill	SM 772 078
12492	Marloes Court	Medieval	Court House; Manor House	SM 786 082

5.7 Post-Medieval and Modern (Table 8)

- 5.7.1 The post-medieval records provide an indication of the agricultural landscape of the headland, much of which survives today. Several farmsteads are noted largely because they feature on 18th and 19th century map sources (PRNs 53272, 53273, 53275, 63215, 120457 and 120847). Additional cottages are also recorded (PRNs 47015, 53272 and 53274) which are no longer extant. These cottages are likely to have housed additional agricultural workers and were abandoned during the later 19th and 20th centuries as rural agricultural populations declined. The open field system (PRN 11768) continued in use well into the post-medieval period. The area of Marloes Mere appears traditionally to have been separated from agricultural activity during this period, forming an area of common grazing during the drier summer months, with a trackway (PRN 53194) marking its northern extent. It was also noted for its leeches, as recorded by Samuel Lewis in 1833 which 'are found in great numbers in a sheet of water...called Marlais Mere'.
- 5.7.2 Alongside traditional farming, other activities noted include small-scale quarrying (PRN 32746), a water mill (PRN 32632) and a possible limekiln (PRN 16930). It is assumed the limekiln was processing imported limestone as an agricultural fertiliser. There are no formal quays or harbour structures identified along the coastline but material may have been imported by boat. The HER records one shipwreck (PRN 32756), that of the Albion, but the NMR records numerous other wrecks (NPRNs 272170, 272904, 272987, 272995 and 544536), although the majority of these ships were attempting to carry cargoes around the headland but were forced onto the rocks in stormy weather.
- 5.7.3 The headland was clearly a well-used landscape during the post-medieval period, and generally more populous within the study area than today. The presence of Runwayskiln Farm at the eastern end of the proposed development area also adds to the potential for post-medieval archaeological remains within the area.
- 5.7.4 Two of the HER records are modern in date. One concrete platform (PRN 53196) lies close to the edge of the proposed development area, on the western edge of Runwayskiln Farm. The function of the feature is uncertain, but it may represent the base for a defensive feature from World War 2. The wartime Dale Airfield lies a short distance to the southeast, which would have been defended by a spread of gun emplacements and searchlight batteries within the surrounding landscape. To the north lies a former bombing decoy (PRN 28644) at Trehill Farm, since removed.

Table 8: Sites of post-medieval and modern date recorded on the HER.

PRN	Site Name	Period	Type	NGR
2942	Tump Park; Hook Tump	Post Medieval	Manor House: Earthwork mound	SM 7717 0870
11767	Runawayskill	Medieval; Post Medieval	Manor House	SM 7815 0805
16930	Runwayskiln	Post Medieval	Lime Kiln	SM 779 080
28644	Trehill Farm	Modern	Bombing Decoy: Built 1941-3, now demolished	SM 77202 08681
32632	Marloes Sands; Greatmire Mill	Post Medieval	Mill: Possibly the same site as medieval mill PRN 12491	SM 78119 07667
32641	Marloes Sands	Post Medieval	Earthwork: Possibly field banks and building platforms	SM 7819 0775
32746	Hopgang	Post Medieval	Quarry: Small coastal quarry	SM 77910 08878
32756	Albion Sands	Post Medieval	Wreck: The 'Albion', paddle steamer, wrecked c.1840.	SM 7701 0750
47015	Cants Cottage	Post Medieval	Cottage	SM 7864 0780
53194		Post Medieval	Trackway: Historic boundary between strip fields and the mere.	SM 77330 08324
53195		Post Medieval	Dam: Stone and earth dam wall and stone sluice	SM 78129 07706
53196		Modern	Platform: Rectangular concrete base [later shown to be a post- war feature of little	SM 77783 08025

Marloes Mere, Pembs:
Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

PRN	Site Name	Period	Type	NGR
			archaeological interest – see 6.4.3]	
53272	Treehill Cottages; Murchin Cottages	Post Medieval	Cottage	SM 77782 08578
53273	Trehill Farm; Treehill Farm	Post Medieval	Farmstead	SM 77430 08690
53274	Boggy Lodge	Post Medieval	Cottage	SM 77222 08286
53275	Runwayskiln; Runnesken; Ramaskell; Runawayskill	Post Medieval	Farmstead: Late 18 th to early 19 th century	SM 77884 08040
53276		Post Medieval	Structure: Rectangular, unknown function	SM 77199 07969
63215	East Hook Farm	Post Medieval	Farmstead	SM 7740 0898
120457	Marloescourt	Post Medieval	Farmstead	SM 78643 08209
120847	Runwayskiln	Post Medieval	Farmstead: Appears to be a duplication of PRN 53275	SM 77879 08035

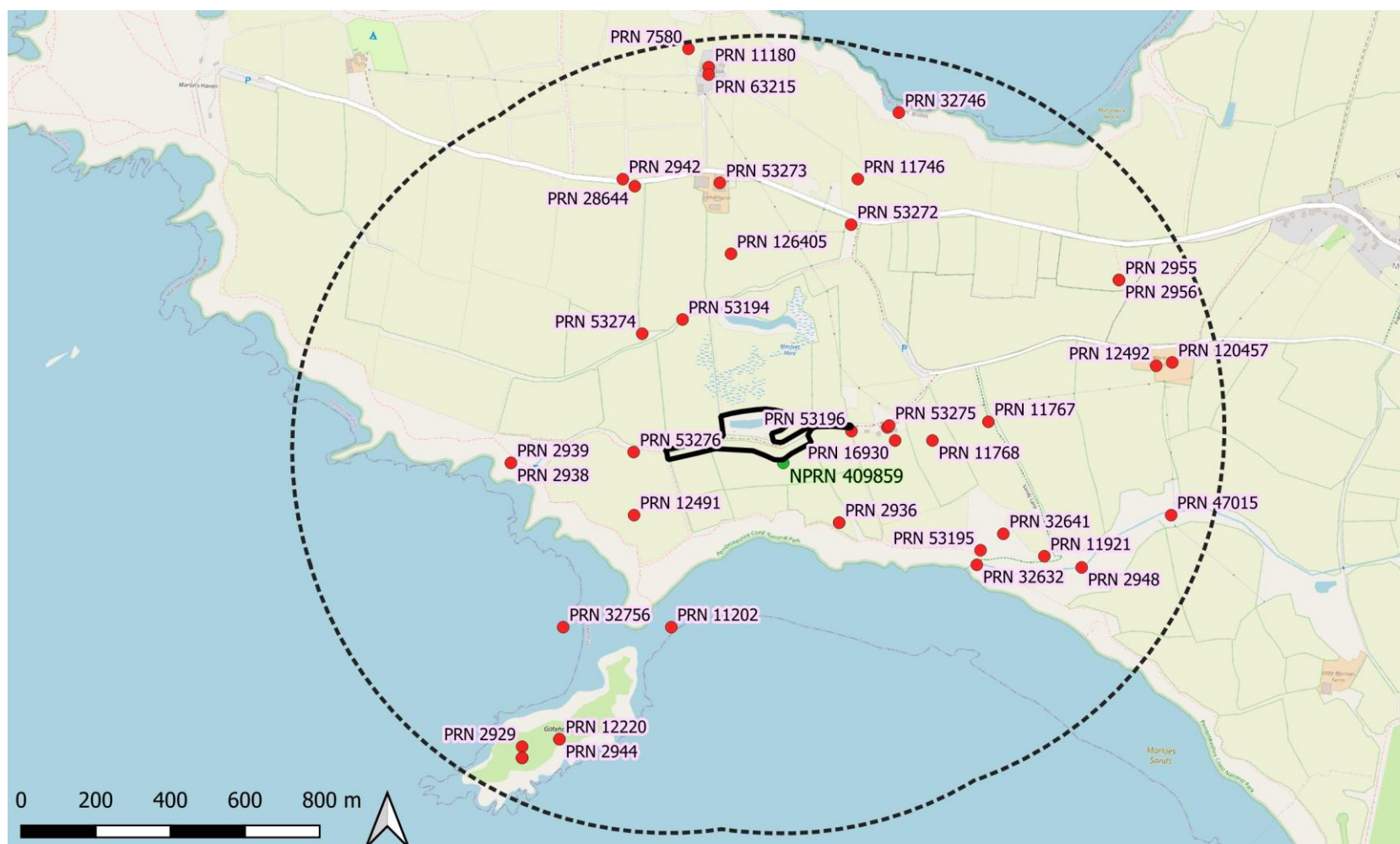


Figure 4: Map showing the proposed development site and the 1km radius study area (dotted line), together with non-designated assets recorded on the regional HER, labelled by PRN and the additional site recorded on the NMR, labelled by NPRN.

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 11/7/2023

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. Any new assets are labelled with the project-specific prefix 'MM'.

6.2 Previous Archaeological Work

- 6.2.1 No intrusive archaeological investigations (excavations, evaluations or watching briefs) have previously been undertaken within the proposed development area.
- 6.2.2 Across the study area there have been multiple archaeological studies and investigations undertaken, the results of which have been fed back into the regional HER and are included within the archaeological background outlined in Section 5.
- 6.2.3 These studies include three previous walkover surveys of the area. In 1991 John Latham undertook a survey for the National Trust (Latham 1991) which was repeated in the early 2000s by Salvatore Garfi. Individual sites are recorded on both the National Trust database of records and in the current HER. In 2005 a walkover survey was undertaken on the lands of Trehill Farm as part of the Tir Gofal Agri-Environmental Scheme (Pyper 2005). This visited known sites and identified some new features around Runwayskiln Farm which have now been included in the HER.
- 6.2.4 The nearby sites of Gateholm Island (PRN 2929) and Watery Bay Rath (PRN 2939) have been subject to a variety of archaeological investigations. For Gateholm Island this involved a visual survey in 1910 (Cantrill 1910), archaeological excavation in 1930 (Lethbridge and David 1930), another landscape survey in the 1970s (Davies et al 1972) and a Time Team investigation in 2011 which included geophysical survey and trench excavation (GSB 2011, Flaherty 2011). The latter works also included investigations of Watery Bay Rath (PRN 2939).
- 6.2.5 More recently, a detailed study of new LiDAR data was carried out across the Marloes peninsula, including the proposed development area (Davis 2012). This noted particular detail on nearby sites such as Gateholm and Watery Bay Rath but nothing was noted within the proposed development area.

6.3 Historic Mapping

A survey of Marles and Runawayskill (Henry John) – 1767

- 6.3.1 The National Library holds a copy of an early estate map for the area, dated to 1767. This shows Marloes Mere, labelled 'The Mare', extending from its current eastern boundary, occupying all the area between the current footpath to the south and the trackway to the north (PRN 53194), as far as Watery Bay Rath PRN 2939, and then continuing west to include all the land between the coast and the line of a stream to the north. This land is marked as undivided land, presumably therefore comprising unenclosed common land. This open land is surrounded to the north and south by narrow strip fields, remnants of an open field system (PRN 11768).

- 6.3.2 The footpath through the development area appears to broadly correspond to the southern boundary of the mere as depicted on the estate map, indicating a traditional routeway or boundary (MM01) that is respected by the common land to the north and the open field system to the south, and suggesting possible medieval origins to the route/boundary. The trackway is only depicted as far as the eastern end of the proposed development area, although up to that point enclosed fields lie to either side, so perhaps the route did not need to be depicted as it ran along open common land. At the eastern end, the field immediately to the south is subdivided into seven individual strips running broadly north - south. West of this is roughly one field between path and coast, with further strips then marked towards the western end of the development area. This large field is called 'Halfin Piece' and would indicate the current north - south field boundaries south of the track were likely well-established by the mid-18th century.
- 6.3.3 The nearest farm appears to be that of 'Runawayskill', although located further to the east (PRN 11767) and described on the map as ruins. The name is a curious one and a slight variation on the present name, although 'kill' could easily be an earlier spelling of kiln. Prior to its modern usage, 'runway' was used to describe an animal track, particularly that of a deer, which may be of note given the western end of the headland was formerly enclosed and used as a deer park. 'Runaway' however has a different meaning which has not changed much since late medieval references. Trehill Farm (PRN 53273) does not appear to be marked.

Marloes, belonging to John Gwynn Esq (G.Morris) – 1803

- 6.3.4 The next estate map, also held in the National Library, is less detailed and does not depict any buildings outside of Marloes, but it does appear to depict the early stages of the amalgamation of the former strip fields into larger units under single ownership. The boundaries of the Mere (labelled 'Mier Common') appear unchanged from the previous map, the suggestion being that it is still unenclosed land at this time. Much of the strip field area to the north is now in the ownership of Lord Kensington (William Edwardes, also MP for Haverfordwest), and Trehill Farm is mentioned for the first time. The fields to the east and southwest of the mere are also under Kensington ownership. The larger field to the south and the strip field area to the southeast is under the ownership of Joshua Allen Esq, of 'Renniskell', presumably an alternative spelling to Runawayskill/Runwayskiln.

Ordnance Survey drawings – Milford Haven (T.Budgen) – 1809

- 6.3.5 Field divisions are not depicted on this map but the boundaries of the Mere are shown, remaining consistent from the previous maps. To the northwest, the cottage of Boggy Lodge (PRN 53274) is shown, as is a cottage on the track to the east and 'Drain Hill' (Trehill) Farm to the north (PRN 53273).

Marloes Parish tithe map 1843 (Fig 5)

- 6.3.6 The tithe map shows the area in detail, and after a period of enclosure and wetland drainage. Letters to Lord Kensington in the National Library mention drainage works on Marloes Mere in 1822, and it is presumably around this time that the land is subdivided into the fields visible on the tithe map.
- 6.3.7 The Mere had been subdivided into a number of regular fields of various sizes, largely under the ownership of Lord Kensington, with other areas owned by 'Nash' and the Reverend Thomas Leeke, but all farmed by a number of different farmers. The subdivision of the Mere as it appears on modern mapping was established by this time, with some boundaries

subsequently abandoned. The southern pond lay in a larger field named 'South Mier', farmed by James Dean Wathan of Marloes Court. To the south of the trackway the former large field named 'Halflin Piece' on the 1767 estate map is now subdivided into 'Bramble Hoffland' 'North Hoffland' and 'South Hoffland', all owned by 'Allen' and farmed by William Bevan of 'Raniskel'. The field to the southeast was still part of Lord Kensington's land, farmed from Marloes Court.

- 6.3.8 The track (MM01) is shown throughout the development area and is possibly marked because land on the Mere to the north has been enclosed. The route is marked as far as the western end of the development area. The line beyond that point is suggested by a narrow strip of land on the approach to Watery Rath which is labelled 'No.109 – Slang' (an old English word referring to a narrow piece of land).
- 6.3.9 To the east, the farmstead of 'Raniskel' is shown (PRN 53275) as is Trehill Farm (PRN 53273) to the north, with some remnants of the strip field surviving to its south. Varna Cottage is marked on the east side of the Mere as is the cottage further to the north which was also indicated on the previous map (occupied at this time by John Morris). To the northwest Boggy Lodge (PRN 53274) is indicated, home to Margaret Phillips.

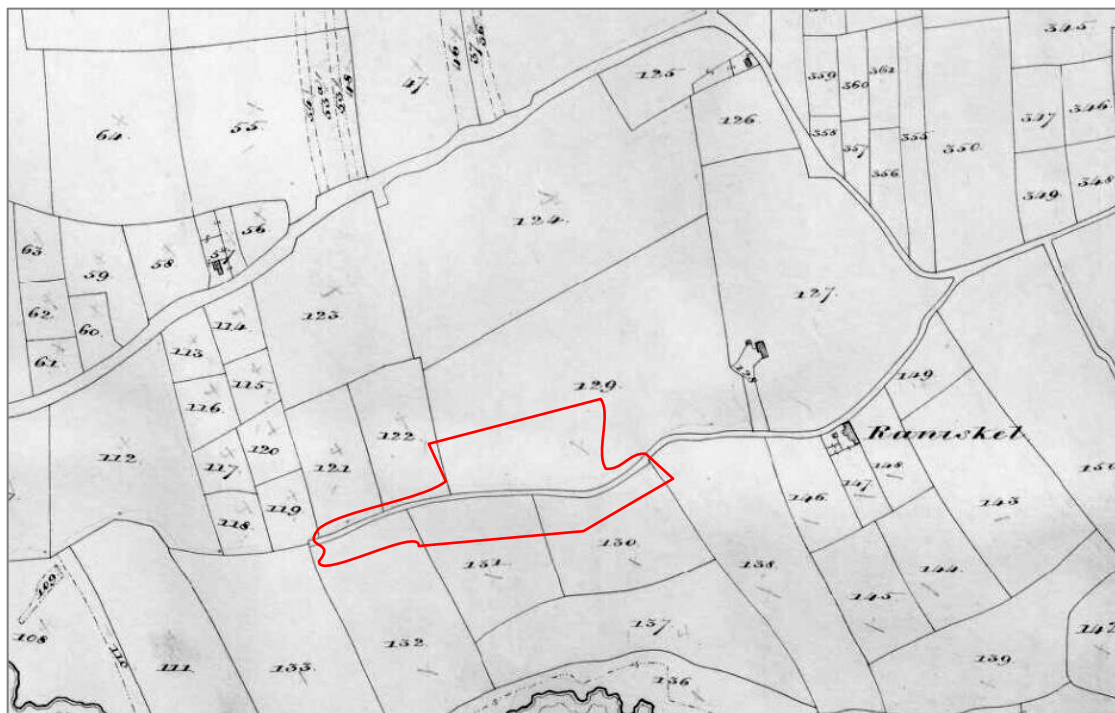


Figure 5: Extract from the 1843 parish tithe map. Approximate location of development site in red.

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1875 (Fig 6)

- 6.3.10 The detailed Ordnance Survey map of 1875 shows little change within and around the proposed development area during the latter part of the 19th century. The enclosure pattern remains the same, with some further amalgamation of smaller fields to the north and northeast of the Mere. The large fields of the Mere are still marked as rough, presumably boggy, ground. The track (MM01) around the southern edge is depicted as it appears on the tithe map. Immediately to the west of the development area

it appears to sit in a slight cutting. It stops as it reaches the rough coastal fringes, but a water channel continues the line to Watery Bay Rath (PRN 2939). This would appear to line up with a possible entrance in the defences around the site, however this last stretch of water channel is very straight and is presumably an artificial drain. It lines up with boundaries down the centre of the Mere and is presumably therefore part of the 19th century attempts to drain the Mere. A small rectangular structure or enclosure is marked on the south side of the lane (PRN 53276), of unknown function.

6.3.11 The surrounding settlement pattern remains the same. 'Ramaskell' farmstead (PRN 53275) comprises a linear range of buildings, presumably with the farmhouse in the centre and a threshing barn to the north with a circular horse gin on the east side. To the north lies Varna Cottage, Boggy Cottage (PRN 53274) is to the northwest and Trehill Farm (PRN 53273) to the north. However, the little cottage along the lane to the northeast has gone. Green Mire Cottage on Sandy Lane is shown for the first time.

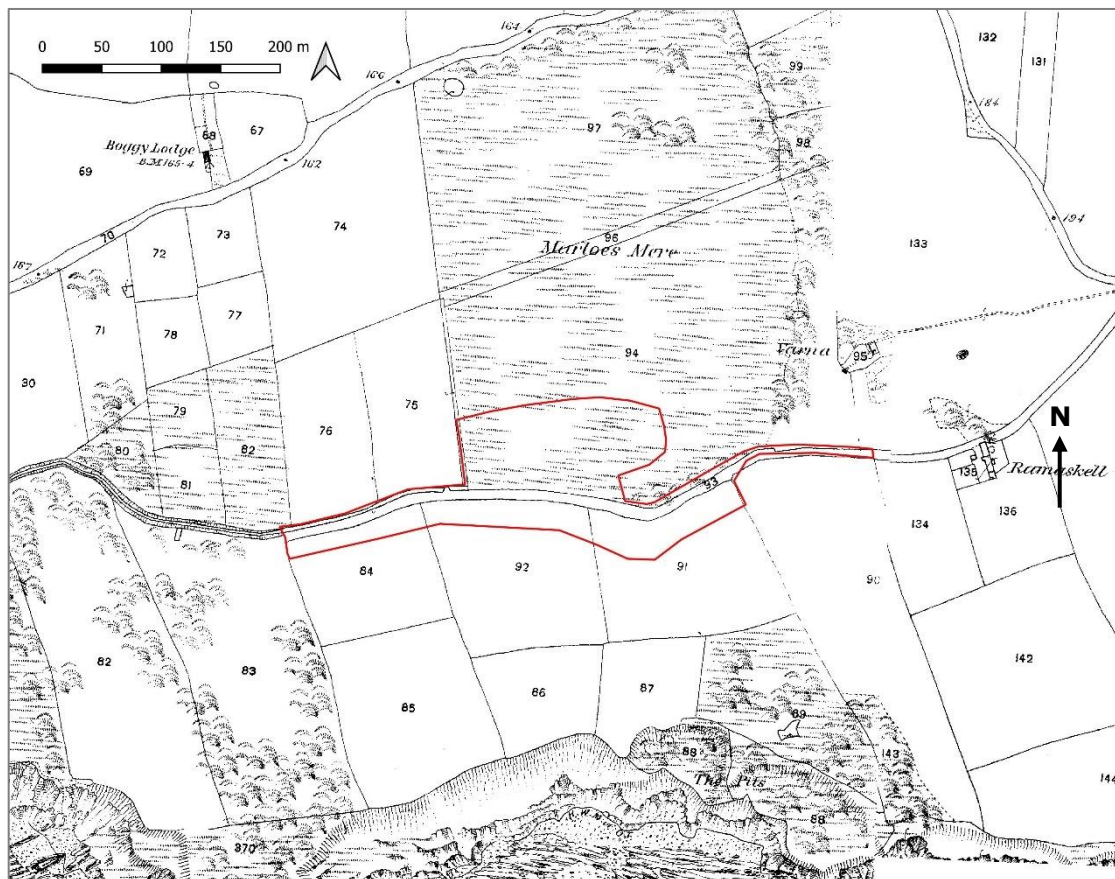


Figure 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1875. Site boundary shown in red.

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map 1907

6.3.12 No significant change is noted within the proposed development area or its surrounds. To the east the farmstead (PRN 53275) is labelled as 'Runwayskiln' for the first time and has expanded. The original range now forms the west side of a courtyard arrangement with a new farmhouse built to the east and a hayloft added to the west.

6.4 Aerial and Historic Photography (Photos 1 to 3)

- 6.4.1 A search was made of available historic and modern aerial photographs; several aerial photographs taken by the RAF between 1941 and 1950 show the area in some detail. More recently the RCAHMS have taken some aerial images of note covering the area, available to view online via Coflein, and recent satellite imagery also depicts some features of note.
- 6.4.2 The initial RAF images from 1941 (Photo 1) show the Mere as sub-divided land, but generally rough and presumably boggy ground, prior to the construction of the reservoirs in the 1970s. The trackway around the southern edge (MM01) is well-defined by hedgerows, extending between the enclosed land to the coastal fringe immediately in front of Watery Bay Rath (PRN 2939). The land to the south of the trackway is cultivated, but otherwise nothing of archaeological interest is noted. The rectangular structure (PRN 53276) to the west is visible as a built structure, presumably an outlying agricultural building.



Photo 1: Aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1941. Showing the full length of the trackway from Runwayskiln to Watery Bay Rath, approximate site area shown in red.

- 6.4.3 Subsequent RAF images up to 1950 show little change in the layout of the area. The Mere remains subdivided but clearly wetland, as visible on images from 1946 (Photo 2). Cropmark shadows can be seen in the field to the south of the track, but linear marks appear to line up with field entrances and are likely related to vehicle tracks. More amorphous shapes are similar to the wetlands to the north and are presumably part of the same natural

development. These images also demonstrate that structure PRN 53196 to the east had not been built in this period and therefore does not relate to a wartime structure.



Photo 2: Aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 showing Marloes Mere, approximate site area outlined in red.

6.4.4 The RCAHMW (T Driver) flew over the site in 2006 and identified a spread of features recorded as NPRN 409859; the aerial images are available to view on Coflein. Of particular note are features in the field to the south of the pond. At the eastern end of the field, two sides of a possible enclosure are visible and in the centre of the field a smaller curvilinear feature can also be clearly seen. Alongside these a number of other less readily identifiable features are visible, largely clustered on the rising ground that defines the southern edge of the proposed development area and beyond, spreading into the fields to the east and west. These features do appear to have characteristics similar to some prehistoric settlement sites. The larger eastern enclosure is also visible on later satellite imagery (Photo 3).



Photo 3: Google Earth satellite image taken in 2018. The cropland enclosure, forming part of NPRN 409859, is marked to the east. © 2023 CNES/Airbus

6.5 LiDAR

- 6.5.1 LiDAR data at 50cmDTM is available for the site area. This data has been examined in detail as part of a previous LiDAR survey (Davis 2011) and no features of interest were noted within the proposed development area.

6.6 Site Visit (Photos 4-19)

- 6.6.1 A site visit was undertaken on the 17 July 2023. Public access along the trackway to the south and the Mere itself was possible, with the proposed development area on the south side of the track readily visible from the publicly accessible areas. The weather conditions were bright and dry with excellent visibility. Vegetation levels were however close to their maximum given the time of the year.
- 6.6.2 The Mere lies in a shallow saddle of land between raised ground to the east, rising terrain to the north and the trackway (MM01) along the southern side (Photos 4-7). The trackway sits within this saddle, with ground beginning to rise slightly in the fields to the south, suggesting the original natural extent of the wetlands may well have extended a short distance to the south of the track before the terrain rises again and dries out. Field boundaries within the mere, as depicted on 19th and 20th century maps and mid-20th century aerial photographs, are no longer readily identifiable, and the wetland area now extends further west, covered in low wetland vegetation and (at the time of the visit) grazed by a small number of cattle. The southern reservoir is a rectangular pond, retained by embanked material to all sides, with a wooden bird-hide hut on the southern bank. The wetland is contained by post-and-wire fencing and grown-out hedgerows.



Photo 4: View west across the proposed development area with wetland area on the right, the current footpath in the centre, and fields to the left.



Photo 5: View east across the Mere and the southern reservoir, with Varna Cottage and Runwayskiln (PRN 53275) in the background.



Photo 6: View west across the southern reservoir with the Mere extending beyond.



Photo 7: View east across the proposed development area to the south of the trackway, showing the rising ground to the south.

- 6.6.3 The trackway (MM01) runs to the south of the wetlands (Photos 8 and 9). The route is tarmacked up to Runwayskiln Farm (PRN 53275), with stone packing beyond, up to the western edge of the proposed development area. The track is approximately 4m to 8m wide (enough for farm vehicle access), enclosed by hedgerows and some banking. Drainage trenches are partially visible alongside the track. At the western end the visible line of the track disappears (Photo 10) but the public footpath access continues across the field both west to Watery Bay Rath (PRN 2939) and south to the coastal path.



Photo 8: View southwest along the current trackway (MM01) through the proposed development area.



Photo 9: View northeast along the current trackway (MM01) through the proposed development area, with Varna Cottage in the background.



Photo 10: View west from the western end of the proposed development site. Trackway MM01 runs around the field boundary in the greener grass to the right, with Watery Bay Rath PRN 2939 on the horizon left of centre.

- 6.6.4 The fields to the south lie on gently rising land to a low ridgeline along their southern end (Photo 11), parallel to the slight kink in the trackway line and meeting the slightly rising ground immediate to the east of the proposed development area. The fields were under a light crop and low meadow vegetation, enclosed by hedgerows, but no features of archaeological interest were visible at ground level.



Photo 11: View southwest across the proposed development area on the south side of the track.

- 6.6.5 To the east of the Mere the ground rises to a slight knoll, on which Varna Cottage has been built, overlooking the wetlands (Photo 12). This is a small single-storey, masonry-built cottage with slate gable roof. Runwayskiln farmstead (PRN 53275) lies on the track to the east (Photos 13 and 14). The farmhouse lies on the east side of the farmstead complex, two-storey white-washed masonry with brick gable-end chimney stacks through the lime-washed slate roof which extends over a single storey extension on the north side. The farmstead lies to the west, enclosed by an L-shaped arrangement of two ranges. The western range comprises three adjoining single-storey masonry building, a lime-rendered roof to the north, corrugated panelled roofing to the south. The southern range is single-storey masonry building with a slate gable roof. To the west lies a detached two-storey masonry threshing barn with hay loft and the remains of a former building on its west side. A modern wooden agricultural shed lies to the south. All buildings have been converted for various use by the National Trust. The concrete footings for a structure to the west (PRN 53196) are used for car parking (Photo 15). There is no clear indication at ground level in the surrounding fields of former field boundary remnants of the open field system (PRN 11768).



Photo 12: View northeast of Varna Cottage.



Photo 13: View southwest of the farmhouse at Runwayskiln farm PRN 53275.



Photo 14: View southeast of a farm building range at Runwayskiln Farm PRN 53275. This would appear to be the original range of the farm, with domestic accommodation to the centre.



Photo 15: View east across the concrete footings for PRN 53196, with Runwayskiln Farm PRN 53275 in the background.

- 6.6.6 To the west the footpath continues to Watery Bay Rath (PRN 2939). The site is readily identifiable by the prominent banks and ditches that enclose its landward side (Photo 16). There appears to be an entrance through these defences to the northeast, roughly lining up to the end of the trackway, although the trackway itself is not a visible feature in this area (Photo 17).



Photo 16: View southeast across the defensive banks and ditches of Watery Bay Rath PRN 2939.



Photo 17: View northeast along the outer ditch and entrance to Watery Bay Rath PRN 2939.

6.6.7 To the south lie enclosed agricultural fields up to the coastal fringe, along which runs the coastal path (Photo 18). Modern footpaths cut back through these fields to the trackway around Runwayskiln. The coastal path descends to sea level at Marloes Sands. A path then cuts back up a stream valley (Sandy Lane), past a small 19th century cottage (Green Mire Cottage, Photo 19) and back up to the local road to the east of Runwayskiln.



Photo 18: View southwest from the coastal path looking at Gateholm Island with Skokholm in the background.



Photo 19: View southwest of Green Mire Cottage on Sandy Lane.

6.6.8 To the north of the Mere, the land rises onto a low ridge. Enclosed farmland covers the rising ground and Trehill Farm (PRN 53273) lies on this ridge (Photo 20). This area was not visited.



Photo 20: View northwest across Marloes Mere with Trehill Farm PRN 53273 in the background.

7 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL, IMPORTANCE AND SETTING

Table 9: Site potential definitions

Archaeological Potential	Definition
High	Known archaeological remains of the period within the site area or an abundance of remains of the period within the near vicinity
Medium	A number of archaeological remains of the period are present in the vicinity or wider area and/or the topography or location of the site would be typical for remains of that period
Low	Few sites of a specific period are known in the wider area or where the topography of the site is unlikely to contain remains of that period or where no archaeological records of a certain period are present but the location of the site is one that would be considered suitable or typical for remains of that period to exist
Negligible	Where there is no evidence for archaeological remains of a certain period to be present and the location/topography is most unlikely to contain remains of that period or where a site area has already been totally disturbed

Table 10: Site importance definitions

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

7.1 Potential

- 7.1.1 As identified in the archaeological and historical background (Section 5) the site lies in an area of notable archaeological potential that may span a wide period of time.
- 7.1.2 A relatively large number of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint artefacts have been recovered from the locality. The nature of activity during this period means that beyond stone artefacts, the nature of the archaeology may be rather ephemeral, with areas of activity often temporary in nature. The potential for waterlogged deposits within the wetland areas contemporary to this activity is also of significance.
- 7.1.3 The Iron Age is another period of significance, with the presence of Watery Bay Rath (PRN 2939) in the locality and the potential association of that site with the footpath through the development area. Potential Iron Age activity on Gateholm Island and other sites and finds in the area, including NPRN 409859, indicate a well-used landscape. There is therefore considered to be **Medium potential** for general prehistoric archaeological remains within the locality, with a particular focus on the Mesolithic and Iron Age. The nature of this potential archaeology is unknown and would typically therefore have an uncertain importance. However, the potential for waterlogged deposits in such wetland areas means that should any such remains exist, they would likely be of **Medium to High importance**.
- 7.1.4 The archaeological potential is not confined to the prehistoric period however. Romano-British settlements have been recorded nearby at Gateholm Island (PRN 2929) and Trehill Farm (PRN 126405), with Gateholm occupied into the early medieval period. By the medieval period it is likely much of the area was being actively farmed, with the Mere being grazed and a series of manor houses or small farms dotting the headland. The proximity of these sites would suggest increased potential for Roman through to medieval archaeological remains in the locality, although no specific associated features have been identified. There is therefore considered to be a **Low to Medium potential** for Roman to medieval archaeological remains, with an **Uncertain importance**.
- 7.1.5 The area was perhaps more intensively farmed during the post-medieval period, with the nearby farmsteads of Runwayskiln (PRN 53275) and Trehill (PRN 53273) built in the late 18th to mid-19th centuries. The field boundaries are recorded from the mid-18th century at least, and many boundaries have since been lost. In the early 19th century, attempts were made to drain the Mere and increase the area of agricultural production, and a number of small 18th and 19th century cottages also dot the landscape, indicative of a larger local population. There is therefore a **High potential** for post-medieval archaeological remains, although given these are likely to be in the form of field boundaries, drainage trenches and tracks they are considered to be of **Low importance**.
- 7.1.6 Two individual sites of note are recorded within the proposed development area. Perhaps the most significant is the possible prehistoric settlement identified by the RCAHMS (NPRN 409859) across the land to the south. The site appears expansive, spread across at least three fields, but the boundaries of this potential activity have not been established. The prehistoric development of the wetlands is not understood, but it is assumed the focus of this potential prehistoric settlement activity is likely to have been on the drier rising ground to the south. However, given the immediate proximity there is a **Medium to High potential** for remains to extend at least partially into the proposed development area. The nature of the site is

uncertain, but it is potentially of **Medium importance** if it represents a prehistoric settlement.

- 7.1.7 The other site is the trackway itself, MM01. As an extant trackway there is obviously a **High potential** for remains within the proposed development area. This track has not previously been recorded as an archaeological feature but a similar track (PRN 53194) to the north has been so documented. Both tracks acted as boundaries to the Mere from at least the 18th century and potentially back into the medieval period. The potential alignment with the Iron Age site of Watery Bay Rath (PRN 2939) to the west may also be of significance for trackway MM01. The current track surface and trackside drainage as it passes through the proposed development area is probably relatively recent however and therefore in its current condition is considered to be of **Low importance**.

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 The designated heritage assets that have been examined within this study area are described in Section 4 and include scheduled monuments and historic landscape areas. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been carried out by Haire Landscape Consultants (2023), which considered the visual impact on the nearby scheduled monument of Watery Bay Rath and the historic landscape.

Scheduled monuments

- 7.2.3 **PE194 Watery Bay Rath.** This is a coastal promontory fort, likely Iron Age in date based on its form and location, defended by three lines of bank and ditch on the landward side, and by the coastal slopes on its western and southern sides. Despite partial excavation in 2011 (Flaherty 2012) little is clearly understood about its internal layout and function. One possible roundhouse has been recorded within the enclosure, although elements are likely to have been lost to coastal erosion since its abandonment. The coastal siting is an important element and provides the distinctive setting for a number of similar monuments throughout Wales. Direct access to the sea appears less important than the defensive advantages of the location. The links to the land are less clear, few sites are found with direct associations beyond their defensive boundaries and no clear associated archaeological remains have been identified immediately around this site. Throughout much of its more recent history the site has been located on a coastal fringe on the edge of an area of open marshy common land to the north. The area immediately to the north was enclosed and drained in the 19th century when the current setting was established but the site remained within the coastal fringe, separated from the enclosed agricultural land. The site is noted on the earliest 18th century estate maps of the area and has

therefore clearly been a visible and identifiable archaeological feature up to the present day, although there appears to have been little recorded interest in the site until archaeological surveys of the early 20th century. Contemporary sites are uncertain, although it is thought that Gateholm Island to the east and the large Deer Park promontory to the northwest may be important Iron Age sites. There are potential links to a nearby unenclosed settlement identified by the RCAHMS through aerial reconnaissance (NPRN 409859), although any links remain untested. The trackway access (MM01) also forms an element of the setting to this monument, both as a potential contemporary access to the site as it may align with the northeast entrance through the defences, and through the present-day direct access to the site.

- 7.2.4 **PE180 Hut Groups on Gateholm Island** has quite a clearly defined setting as a coastal island. The isolation both in terms of topography and access are likely deliberate elements in the choice of location, whether it be for defensive, religious or other practical purposes. The lack of development in the surrounding area may also have been important in adding to the sense of isolation, although the contemporary settlement of the surrounding area during the late prehistoric and early medieval period is not fully understood. The part agricultural, part wetland nature of the proposed development area has likely long been a part of the general setting of the nearby landscape. The main access point to the island, and views of it, are from the coastal path around the southern side of the headland.

Historic landscapes

- 7.2.5 HLCA 350 is a coastal strip of marginal land, largely used as rough grazing and noted for its prehistoric archaeological remains. The proposed development area lies within the partly enclosed agricultural land that provides the distinct boundary to this area and is therefore a notably separate area. The proposed development area and areas immediately adjacent do include access routes to this coastal strip.

8 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 Development Details (Fig 7)

- 8.1.1 The development proposals are illustrated in Figure 7, their purpose being to restore and improve the wetland habitats in the locality. This will be achieved through the removal of the southern reservoir's bunds, the relocation of the existing trackway onto higher ground to the south, bounded by a new hedgerow, with a new causeway path linking to an existing bird hide and the installation of a new gateway.
- 8.1.2 A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) has been produced outlining the order of development. Initially a constructor's compound will be established, likely at the eastern end of the site adjacent to the existing track, with areas for storage, welfare facilities and parking. The reservoir bunds will be removed by machine, and this material will be used to form the new hedgebank and any raised areas. The new hedgebank will be accompanied by a drainage ditch. The existing roadway will be dug out and a new farm track/footpath established. Landscaping, swales, fencing and gates will be carried out. A new tractor gate will be installed, and the compound area will be reinstated to its original appearance upon completion of the work.
- 8.1.3 Generally, any of the following activities associated with the proposals could have a physical impact upon historic assets by potentially exposing, damaging or destroying archaeological remains:
- Establishing the site compound, namely through topsoil stripping and levelling activities;
 - Surface stripping and levelling to establish new paths and other landscaping works;
 - Excavation of swales and drainage trenches;
 - Excavation of existing trackway;
 - Any other ground disturbing works
- 8.1.4 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.

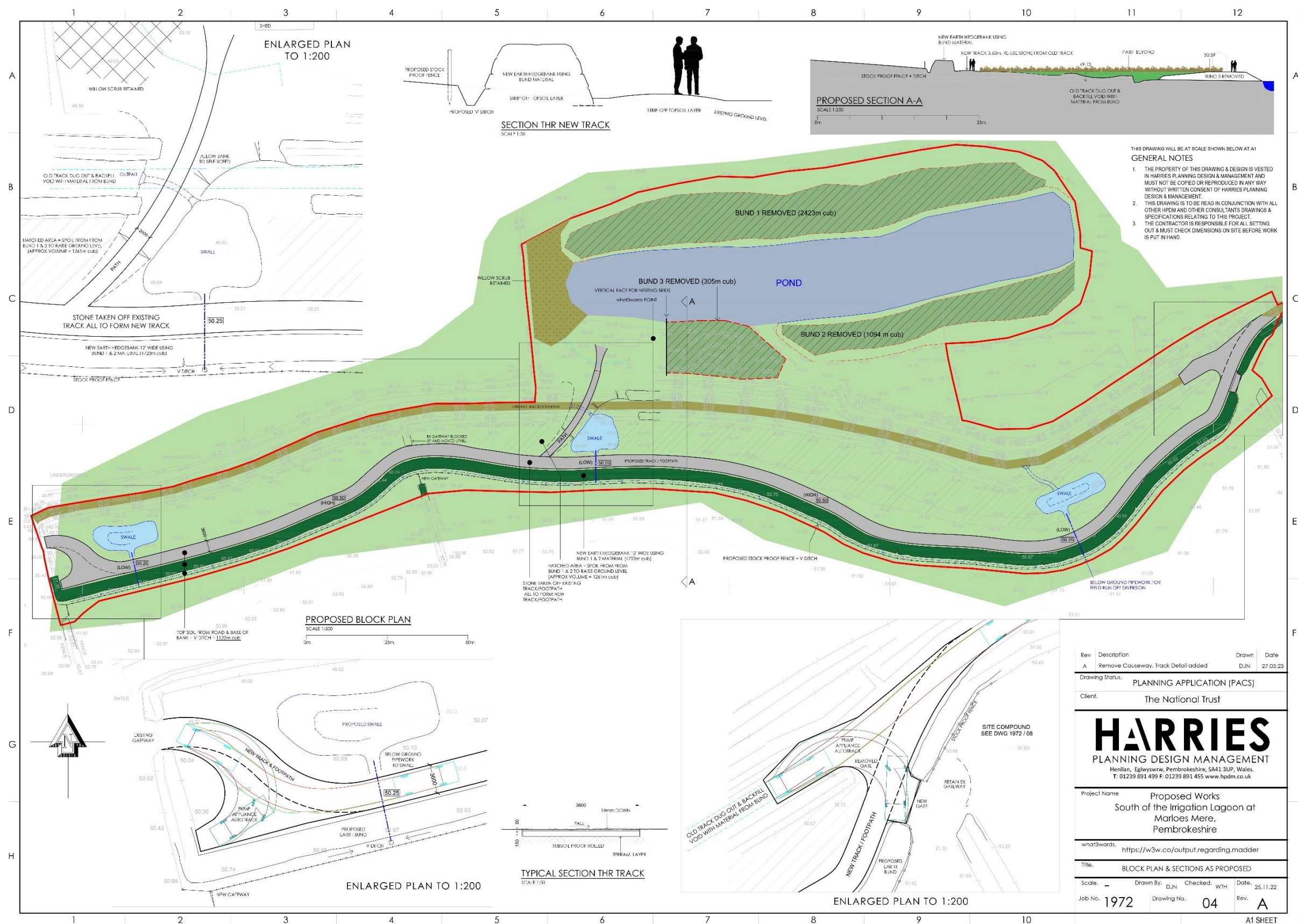


Figure 7: Proposed block plan, showing the development layout and details. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to scale.

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 also 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 As outlined in Section 7.1 there is considered to be medium potential for general prehistoric archaeological remains within the locality which will likely be of medium to high importance given the potential for waterlogged deposits to be present. A low to medium potential for Roman to medieval archaeological remains, with an uncertain importance and a high potential for post-medieval archaeological remains of low importance, have also been identified in the general area. Given that the potential existence, extent and nature of any such archaeological remains are at present unknown, the potential impact upon them is also difficult to verify. Groundworks in general are likely to be relatively minimal with surface stripping of agricultural soils and imported trackway deposits, but there remains the potential to expose archaeological remains, and for deeper excavation to disturb and damage any remains should they be present, which is likely to be an adverse impact. Excavations into waterlogged deposits are however more unlikely, the bund material to be excavated comprises modern material sitting above the wetland deposits and therefore the potential to expose significant paleoenvironmental deposits are minimal. Overall, the potential impact is considered to be **Slight Adverse** upon these general areas of archaeological potential; impacts to specific archaeological features are discussed below.
- 8.3.2 **NPRN 409859** is a possible unenclosed prehistoric settlement, likely spread over the rising ground along the southern edge of the development area and beyond. No earthwork remains have been identified but the appearance of features on aerial photography suggest buried remains are likely; the full extent of the site is not understood. Identified remains largely appear to lie just beyond the proposed development area but associated remains may extend into the area of the proposed new trackway, hedgerow and swales. As stated above, groundworks in general are likely to be relatively minimal with surface stripping of agricultural soils and building up of hedgebanks and track material, but any surface stripping and excavations associated with these developments, such as swales and drainage ditches, therefore have the potential to have an adverse impact upon associated archaeological remains. These works could potentially have a **Slight to Moderate Adverse impact**.

- 8.3.3 **The trackway MM01** is considered an historic feature, in existence as a routeway since at least the 18th century, with potential earlier origins suggested by its association with Watery Bay Rath PRN 2939 to the west. Proposals are to remove the existing trackway. It is likely that much of the trackway material is in fact modern imported stone to make the track suitable for agricultural vehicles, but there is the potential for the removal of this material to impact on earlier track deposits which could have a **Moderate Adverse impact**.

8.4 Impacts to the Settings of Surrounding Designated Assets

- 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, there are two scheduled monuments and an historic landscape character area in the study area whose settings may incorporate some element of the proposed development area.
- 8.4.3 As identified in the LVIA, the visual impact on **PE194 Watery Bay Rath** will be negligible. However, there is the possibility of impact through the removal of a section of the main access track to the site, affecting potentially contemporary archaeological remains and disrupting both the main access to the site and an element of its appreciation. This appreciation is perhaps limited at present as the route fades before it reaches PE194. Access will also be maintained as the footpath will be rerouted, but on a slightly different alignment. There is also the possibility that NPRN 409859 (the cropmark features) may represent a contemporary prehistoric settlement and disturbance of its remains may also affect the wider setting. However, this connection has not been positively established, and the extent of the disturbance is unknown. Overall, therefore there is the potential for the impact to the setting to increase from a negligible visual impact to a **Neutral to Slight Adverse impact** on the setting of PE194.
- 8.4.4 No visual impact to **PE180 Hut Groups on Gateholm Island** has been identified within the LVIA and the alteration to the nearby landscape and access arrangements within the proposed development area is considered to have a **Neutral impact** on the setting for this site.
- 8.4.5 The proposed development will not impact on the historic landscape character area HLCA 350, which comprises the coastal fringe beyond the agricultural boundaries. These boundaries will be unaffected, access to the HLCA will be maintained and the visual change to and from the HLCA will be minimal. It is therefore considered to have a **Neutral impact** on this area.

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Archaeological Potential and Impact Assessment (Table 11)

- 9.1.1 The assessment has identified a general low to medium potential for Roman and medieval archaeological remains, medium potential for prehistoric archaeological remains and a high potential for post-medieval archaeological remains in the locality. The nature of the potential prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology is largely unknown, and therefore the importance of any such remains is uncertain, although the potential for waterlogged material associated with the prehistoric archaeological remains would increase this to a medium to high importance due to the value of any paleoenvironmental remains from this period. Post-medieval archaeological remains are likely to be associated with field boundaries, drainage and trackways, generally considered to be of a low archaeological importance. Groundworks associated with the development may adversely affect these areas of general archaeological potential, considered to be a Slight Adverse impact.
- 9.1.2 A possible prehistoric settlement site (NPRN 409859) lies in very close proximity with a medium to high potential for associated archaeological remains within the proposed development area, considered to be of medium archaeological importance. Groundworks associated with the development may have a Slight to Moderate Adverse impact upon these remains.
- 9.1.3 The current trackway through the site is considered to be an historic feature in itself (MM01), although due to the likely import of modern surface materials and management it is deemed to be of low archaeological importance. The removal of track material is therefore believed to have a Moderate Adverse impact on the feature.
- 9.1.4 The potential impact upon the settings of surrounding high value historic assets was considered. A possible Neutral to Slight Adverse impact on the setting of PE194 Watery Bay Rath was identified, largely due to changes in the access track to the site and possible disturbance of potential contemporary archaeological remains.

Table 11: Summary of impacts

Site Name and Type	Reference	Potential	Importance	Physical Impact	Setting Impact
Runwayskiln prehistoric settlement cropmarks	NPRN 409859	Medium to High	Medium	Slight to Moderate Adverse	-
Marloes Mere trackway	MM01	High	Low	Moderate Adverse	-
Archaeological potential – prehistoric	-	Medium	Medium – High	Slight Adverse	-
Archaeological potential –	-	Low – Medium	Uncertain	Slight Adverse	

Site Name and Type	Reference	Potential	Importance	Physical Impact	Setting Impact
Roman to medieval					
Archaeological potential – post medieval	-	High	Low	Slight Adverse	-
Water Bay Rath – Iron Age promontory fort	PE194	-	High (scheduled monument)	-	Neutral to Slight Adverse

9.2 Mitigation

- 9.2.1 Due to the archaeological potential and known archaeological sites identified within the proposed development area, further archaeological mitigation may be required during the development process. Any requirements for archaeological mitigation rests with the local planning authority and will be based on recommendations from their archaeological planning advisors.
- 9.2.2 Cropmarks visible on aerial photography have suggested the presence of archaeological remains associated with NPRN 409859 that may extend into the proposed development area. The full extent of these features is unclear at present. Geophysical surveying may offer a technique through which further remains could be identified. It should be noted however that the relatively limited area available between the existing trackway boundary and the edge of the proposed development area would make any results from such a survey difficult to interpret.
- 9.2.3 It is anticipated that groundworks associated with the development will be relatively minimal, but they still have the potential to reveal, damage and disturb potential archaeological remains. An archaeological watching brief during such groundworks should help identify and record any such remains, with appropriate contingencies in place were any significant remains or areas of impact to be revealed.

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