

DDOL ISAF, LLANYCHAER, FISHGUARD, PEMBROKESHIRE:

PE349 CRONLLWYN EARTHWORK SETTING IMPACT ASSESSMENT



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Mrs Andrea Morgan



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO. 2023-21
PROJECT NO. 129782

July 2023
Gorffennaf 2023

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PEMBROKESHIRE:
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By

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SETTING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Client

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Event Record No

129782

Report No

2023-21

Project Code

FS23-014

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Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
_V1	Final	PP	FM	15/08/2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an assessment of the potential impact of proposed development at Ddol Isaf campsite, Llanychaer, Pembrokeshire, on the setting of scheduled monument PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork. A four-stage process was used, stage 1 identified the historic asset, stage 2 defined and analysed the setting, stage 3 evaluated the potential impact and stage 4 recommended mitigation measures. Overall, there was considered to be a slight negative impact upon the setting of PE349.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archaeoleg YAD i gynnal asesiad o effaith bosibl o datblygiad arfaethedig ar faes gwersylla Ddol Isaf, Llanychaer, Sir Benfro, ar osod o henebion rhesteredig PE349 Gwrthglawdd Cronllwyn.

Defnyddiwyd proses pedwar cam, nododd cam 1 yr asedau hanesyddol, diffiniodd a dadansoddodd cam 2 eu lleoliad, gwerthusodd cam 3 yr effaith bosibl a cham 4 yn argymhell mesurau lliniaru. Yn gyffredinol, ystyriwyd bod effaith bychan negyddol ar yr gosodiad o PE349.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Hayston Developments & Planning Ltd, on behalf of their client Mrs Andrea Morgan, to carry out an assessment of the impact of a proposed campsite expansion development on the setting of nearby designated historic assets. The proposed development includes the construction of a new meet and great building with shower and toilet facilities and a number of new holiday pods at the existing Ddol Isaf campsite in the village of Llanychaer, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire SA65 9TB, centred on NGR SM 98602 35455 (Figure 1). A planning application (ref. NP/23/0129/FUL) has been submitted to the local planning authority, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority.

1.1.2 The proposed development site lies within 60m of a Scheduled Monument PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork. Cadw responded to the planning application consultation on the 23rd March 2023, stating:

The proposed development is located some 60m north of scheduled monument PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork and is likely to be visible from it. This will be a material consideration in the determination of this application (see Planning Policy Wales 2021, section 6.1.23): However, no information on this issue has been submitted with the application and therefore we are currently not in a position to provide your authority with advice. Consequently, your authority should request more information on this issue to be provided. This will require an assessment of the impact to be prepared with the methodology outlined in the Welsh Government's best-practice guidance Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017).

1.1.3 This assessment examines the potential impact upon the setting of the highlighted historic asset. The purpose of this assessment, which is detailed in the following report, is to provide Cadw and the local planning authority with the information they have requested in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales (edition 11, February 2021), Section 6.1, and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).

1.1.4 This report includes a desk-based study of the site area along with a site visit, in order to gain a detailed understanding of the setting of the historic asset and identify potential impacts to the setting.

1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology

1.2.1 The scope of the assessment follows the guidance and methodology offered in 'Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales' (Cadw 2017). The assessment also considered guidance offered in 'Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales' (Cadw 2017), as well as making use of Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales' (Cadw 2011). This assessment also conforms to the Standard And Guidance For Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

1.2.2 The methodology within 'Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales' (Cadw 2017) sets out a four stage approach:

Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development and their significance. The site lies in relatively close

proximity to PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork, and Cadw have stated in their initial response that this is the primary site of interest.

Stage 2: Define and analyse the setting to understand how they contribute to the ways in which the historic assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on those settings.

Stage 4: Consider options to mitigate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on those settings.

1.2.3 The report utilises relevant information from a number of sources including:

- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record data;
- Map regression using earlier cartographic sources;
- Available and relevant reports on any archaeological work undertaken in the area that affects the site or its setting;
- Accessible 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 data;
- Relevant records held by the developer;
- Identification of any scheduled monuments, listed buildings, listed parks and gardens, registered historic landscapes and their character areas or conservation areas within or in the vicinity of the site area (Cadw, HER);

1.2.4 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).

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

2. POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

2.1 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act

- 2.1.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 was previously the primary legislation for protecting archaeological remains and Scheduled Monuments. This has been superseded by The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which has three main aims as defined by Cadw:

- to give more effective protection to Listed Buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and

- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.
- 2.1.2 The Act amends the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and also the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It is supported by a number of planning guidance documents. The Act most specifically provides better safeguards for the protection of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Historic Parks and Gardens. It will also include 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.
- 2.1.2 Chapter 6, 'Distinctive and Natural Places', explains how planning system 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 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 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 assets) is provided by Cadw acting on behalf of Welsh Government

2.4 Local Development Plan

- 2.4.1 The proposed development 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 STAGE 1: IDENTIFYING THE HISTORIC ASSETS

3.1 The Development Site

- 3.1.1 The proposed development site lies at its closest 60m to the north of the scheduled area of PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork. The development site currently comprises a single enclosed field lying on the northwest side of the village of Llanychaer in the Gwaun Valley.
- 3.1.2 The field slopes down for around 30m from approximately 50.5mOD along the southwest boundary to approximately 47.5mOD at the opposite development site boundary. The ground then levels off along the base of the valley. The field is enclosed by a wooden fenceline. Beyond this to the northeast lies a narrow band of open ground then the wooded fringes of the Afon Gwaun, which runs southeast to northwest down the Gwaun Valley towards Fishguard. To the northwest the fence fronts a low hedge, beyond which lies a paddock containing a mix of small garden and horticultural structures backed by mature trees further up the valley. To the southeast the fence is backed by sporadic tree planting but largely open, beyond which lies a channelled water course and road down to the river crossing, with the main dwelling of Ddol Isaf on the riverside immediately beyond the road, and the village of Llanychaer extending up the valley. To the southwest the fence is backed by a high mature hedgeline, beyond which lies Bridge Street (B4313) which runs along the base of the valley. The land then continues to rise up the valley side into enclosed pastoral agricultural fields, within which lies PE349. A small area of public open space lies to the south of the field.
- 3.1.3 The existing campsite lies within the more level area along the northeast side of the field, offering pitches for tents and caravans. The proposed development area occupies the slightly sloping ground along the southwest edge. There is currently no visible division between the two areas. The only access to the site is via Bridge Street/B3413 along the southwest edge, passing through the high hedgeline and crossing through the proposed development area.
- 3.1.4 The proposed development includes a new meet and greet building with surrounding parking areas, and five new camping pods with associated screening vegetation, along with improved access and drainage arrangements. These are described in greater detail in section 5.

3.2 The Historic Asset(s)

- 3.2.1 This assessment is primarily concerned with scheduled monument PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork, as identified by Cadw in their response to the planning application. The next closest scheduled site comprises PE228 Two Pillar-Crosses and PE229 Holy Well, both within St David's Churchyard around 500m to the north. These sites however share no visible or otherwise clear link to the proposed development site. No other scheduled monument is visible from the proposed development site or PE349.
- 3.2.2 There are two listed buildings within the locality. The nearest is the grade II listed Pont Llanychaer (ref.26805), an 18th century road bridge which lies 40m to the northeast of the site, and a grade II listed boundary stone (ref.26804), an early 19th century parish boundary marker, 50m to the southeast. These sites will be considered as part of the general archaeological and historic background to the area as discussed in section 4.2.

3.2.3 No archaeological site has been previously recorded within the proposed development area on either the Historic Environment Record (HER) or the National Monument Record (NMR), although multiple sites lie in the locality. These sites will be considered as part of the general archaeological and historic background to the area as discussed in section 4.2.

3.2.4 PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork lies in a sloping field of pasture, currently grazed by sheep, enclosed by mature hedgerows. The ground slopes down to the north towards the Afon Gwaun, and to the east towards the Afon Aer, becoming steeper along the western side of the field. PE349 occupies a gentler slope towards the eastern end of the field, and close to the southern boundary. Bridge Street/B3413 encloses the northern side of the field, the Afon Aer lies just beyond the eastern boundary. Further agricultural land extends to the south, a former quarry lies just beyond the field boundary to the southwest, and an access track lies beyond the western boundary, along which lie the modern dwellings of Hafod-y-dail and Porth-yr-hendre together with some agricultural buildings. The village of Llanychaer extends to the north and northeast of the field, with properties (The Bridgend Inn and Nos. 2-3 Bridge Street) bordering the northeast edge of the field.

3.2.5 The following is the description of PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork as available on Cof Cymru – National Historic Assets of Wales, an online service developed by Cadw (<https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru/>):

The monument comprises the remains of an earthwork/stone-built enclosure. The date or precise nature of the enclosure is unknown, but it is likely to be later prehistoric or medieval. It is located on sloping ground close to the stream and south of Llanychan Bridge. The earthwork is roughly circular, measuring 40yds in diameter from crest to crest. There is a ditch on the outside particularly well preserved on west side (up the slope), where it is 10ft wide and up to 6ft deep.

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

3.2.6 The site is further described in the regional Historic Environment Record as PRN 2572:

Cronllwyn is a univallate, egg-shaped defended enclosure lying towards the foot of a gentle northeast-facing slope at 60m above sea level and c.10m above the floodplain of the Afon Gwaun. It is defended by a plough-reduced bank and ditch. The bank survives to 0.2m internally and 1.2m-1.6m externally. The ditch is best preserved on the west side where there are also traces of a slight counterscarp bank. The location of the entrance is unclear, but aerial photographs seem to show a simple gap through the bank and ditch on the north side. The internal area measures c. 35m N-S and 30m E-W. The site is under improved pasture.

3.2.7 It is also recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) as NPRN 305159:

A ploughed-down, sub-oval enclosure, c.42m NW-SE by 32m, banked and ditched, set on NE facing slopes, having a terraced/levelled interior.

- 3.2.8 A brief appraisal of the significance of PE349 has been undertaken, based on the four component values as outlined in 'Conservation Principles' (Cadw 2011).
- 3.2.9 Evidential – Evidential value derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. There are no records of archaeological investigations relating to this monument, and no historical references have come to light during this assessment, therefore the existing evidential value is limited. This does however suggest that the material record, in the form of buried archaeological remains, may be relatively undisturbed. The site lies in a field of improved pasture and the surrounding banks have been denuded, possibly through historic ploughing, but the field has not been subject to arable ploughing within the current landowners' memory or family knowledge (i.e., since at least the mid-20th century), there is no evidence of previous excavation, and metal detectorists have traditionally been discouraged from detecting within the field (current landowner, pers.com.). As acknowledged in the Cadw description, the site is therefore well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential, therefore the evidential value linked to the archaeological resource is quite high.
- 3.2.10 Historical - Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. There are no recorded historic references to this site or traditional links to people or events of note. The site itself is also not well understood, its date and function remain uncertain. However, as identified in the Cadw description the site has great potential to increase the knowledge of Iron Age or medieval settlement and defensive organisation, which could also relate to the initial establishment of settlement in Llanychaer. The historical value of the site is therefore closely linked to this archaeological potential.
- 3.2.11 Aesthetic - Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. The aesthetic value of this site is perhaps more limited than the previous values. The original choice of location may have been a more functional one, relatable to aspects such as access to nearby water sources and natural resources, surrounding agricultural land, nearby settlement and river crossings. The reasoning behind its original location has however been lost over time, and is not currently well understood, neither is its influence over the development of the surrounding area. Extensive views appear limited from the site and visual records of it appear rare. The site is no longer a prominent feature, becoming part of a field of pasture which, other than potentially influencing the line of the southern field boundary, does not appear to have affected or influenced the development and layout of the current surrounding landscape.
- 3.2.12 Communal - Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. As with aesthetic value this value is more limited. The site does not appear to be a well-known, or widely regarded element of the local historic environment, no doubt hindered by the lack of understanding as to its age and function. Although the earthworks are visible within the field, it is not clearly visible to passing residents and visitors. A public footpath traverses the site but appears little used. The site is known to the landowners, who show a concern over the site and an interest into its history and function, but a wider communal value still appears limited.



Figure 1: Location of development site and scheduled monument discussed in the text.

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 08/08/2023.

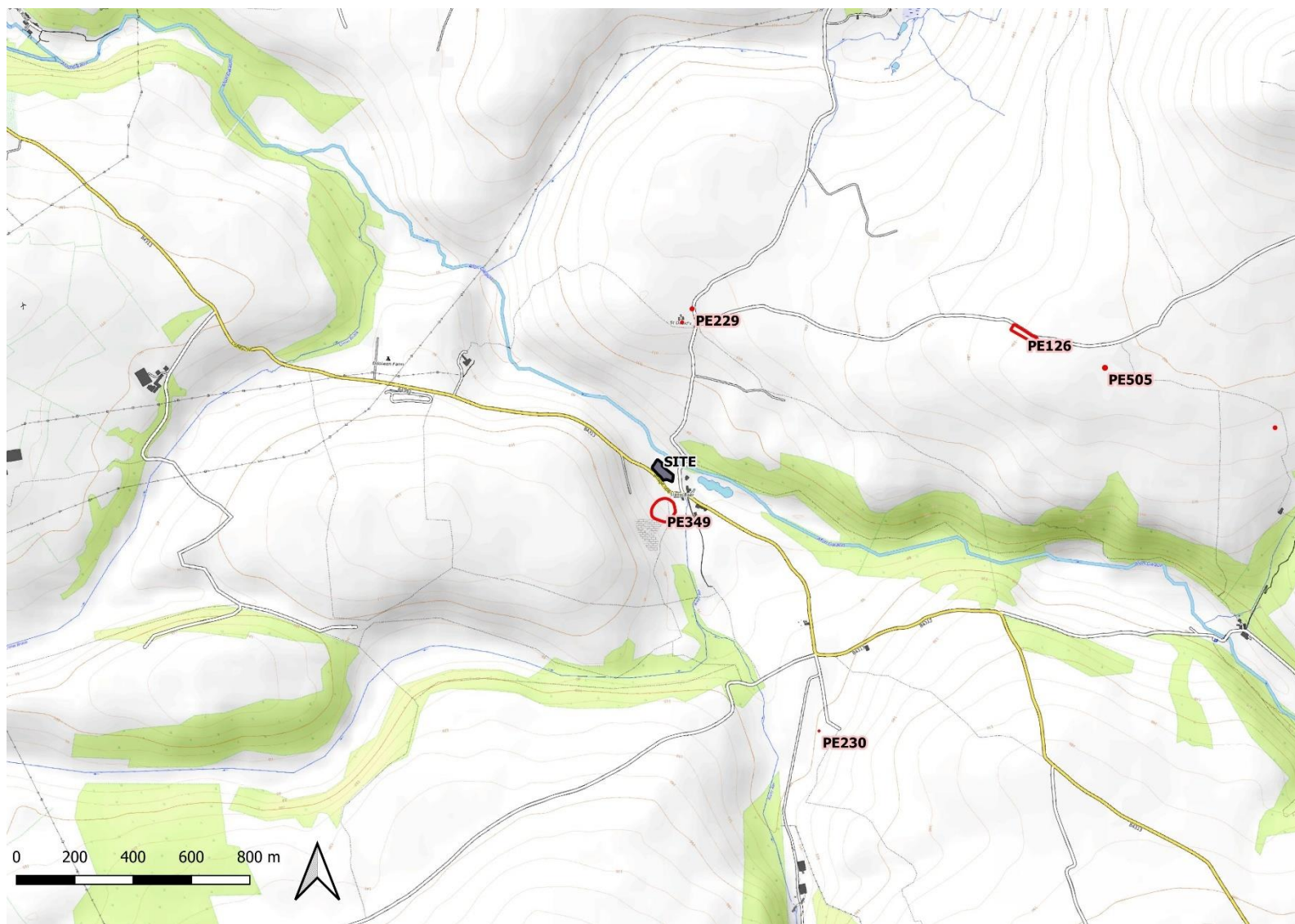


Figure 2: Location of development site and scheduled monument PE349, providing an indication of the surrounding topography and locations of nearby scheduled monuments.

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 08/08/2023

4 STAGE 2: DEFINE AND ANALYSE THE SETTING

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The setting of monuments such as these includes 'the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surrounding evolve' (Cadw 2017). As such it often extends beyond the physical boundaries of the monument itself. This may include physical elements in its surroundings, such as boundaries of other monuments, relationships with other historic assets and natural features, or associated agricultural, industrial or other surroundings. Less tangible elements are also included, such as function, sensory perceptions, historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations.
- 4.1.2 In order to understand this setting, research has included an examination of the known archaeological record, based on data held in the regional Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record, as well as reports on relevant archaeological investigations. Research has also included an examination of readily available historical data, including mapping and modern data, aerial photographs and lidar, and finally a walkover survey of the site itself.

4.2 Known Archaeological Record

- 4.2.1 A search of data held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales was made of the surrounding area, supplemented by a search of the Portable Antiquities Scheme. The locations of these entries are shown in Figure 3.
- 4.2.2 PE349 is assumed to be either Iron Age or Medieval in date, based on size and layout of the enclosure and comparisons with similar features that have been subject to more intrusive archaeological investigations. The following summary is therefore focused on these two periods.

Pre-Iron Age

- 4.2.3 Prior to the Iron Age there is little recorded archaeological activity in the immediate locality of the site. In the wider landscape there is an indication of Neolithic activity with a possible collection of burial chambers around Trellwyn 1.5km to the northeast (PRNs 1424, 1425 and 1426), and the occasional discovery of stone axe heads from within and around the Gwaun Valley (PRNs 11137, 11381 and 11682). There is little to link this activity to PE349 however.
- 4.2.4 There is a clearer record of activity within and around the Gwaun Valley during the Bronze Age. Several Bronze Age funerary and ritual sites, in the form of round barrows, occupy prominent topographical locations around the valley, such as the hilltop to the west of the site (PRNs 2421 and 2541) and around Mynydd Llanllawer to the northeast (PRNs 1424 and 5011). A collection of standing stones also lie around Trellwyn to the northeast (PRNs 1426, 1444, 1445, 2551, 4467 and 48337) suggesting an area of some potential ritual significance. Somewhat less prominent sites also lie in the stream valleys around Gilfach (PRN 2600 and 12115) and Cilgelynen Wood (PRN 2601) to the south, both tributaries to the Afon Aer which in turn drains into the Afon Gwaun at Llanychaer. This confluence provides a small area of relatively level, fertile, low-lying ground suitable for any associated

settlement although at present no Bronze Age archaeological remains have been uncovered here.

Iron Age & Roman

- 4.2.5 PE349 fits within a broad range of enclosures surrounded by banks and ditches that are identified throughout southwest Wales, and largely described as being Iron Age in date (Murphy et al 2007). The shape, size, number of defences and locations of such sites can vary greatly but the size of PE349 appears relatively common and fits comfortably within this range. A similar enclosure lies just 250m to the south (PRN 13242). This enclosure is slightly smaller, and more rectangular in shape, terraced into a slightly steeper slope further up the Aer valley. The public footpath that crosses PE349 also runs close to PRN 13242 although it may not directly link the two sites. A further defended enclosure is recorded further down the Gwaun Valley (PRN 2537), squarer in layout but of a similar size and also terraced into the hillside. A possible enclosure is recorded on the opposite side of the valley above Cilshafe Woods (PRN 2542) and an Iron Age artefact found at Tre-llan (PRN 11111), although very little information is recorded about these sites. Further up the valley the next identified Iron Age site is that of Castell Caerwen PRN 1538, just before Pontfaen. A slightly larger site occupying a more prominent location and partially utilising natural topographic defences, but still only defended by a single bank and ditch and overlooked by higher ground to the south. The sites are not restricted to the valley either, with the ploughed-out remains of a small, defended enclosure located in a more upland area to the south (PRN 2605). If these sites prove to be contemporary, they suggest a pattern of dispersed enclosures, with a particular focus on the Gwaun Valley, presumably as a transport route and site of richer resources. The resident populations associated with these enclosures may have been relatively small and dispersed given their size, but they demonstrate sufficient organisation across the area to gather the resources required to establish relatively substantial banks and ditches. Whether these defences were to protect against human aggression or to protect stock, or even to demarcate sites of a more spiritual nature is unclear, although the proliferation of such sites would perhaps suggests they performed a more practical, rather than spiritual (and by extension more exclusive) use.
- 4.2.6 Where similar sites have been excavated, generally in southern Pembrokeshire and on coastal sites, artefacts suggest continued occupation into the Roman period, presumably representing a continuation of traditional settlement practices despite changes at the upper levels of society. The presence of Roman activity in the area is however not well documented.

Medieval

- 4.2.7 The Llanychaer area appears to have had some focus of activity during the early medieval period, based around sites of religious significance. It appears likely that St David's church (PRN 12533) on the north side of the valley has early medieval origins, with suggestions of an earlier more circular churchyard (PRN 46817) incorporating a holy well and a collection of inscribed stone monuments (PRNs 2566-2569) of 7th to 11th century date, with a focus on the 9th century. A similar site lies to the south, with two inscribed stone monuments (PRN 2597 and 2599) associated with the churchyard of another St David's church (PRN 5031). This site is however not considered as likely to have early medieval origins. One monument, the

Macudecceti Stone (PRN 2597), is thought to be of 6th century date but has been lost since recorded in the churchyard in the 18th century. The other monument (PRN 2599) has been moved to the churchyard from its original location close to a potential third important early medieval site further up the valley at Cilrheyn Isaf. This third site consists of a field called Parc y Fynwent (PRN 1532), traditionally thought to be the site of an early medieval cemetery, although this has not been confirmed through archaeological investigation.

4.2.8 Llanychaer represents a crossing point within the valley and an area suitable for settlement (as suggested in section 4.2.4) between these sites, although as yet no confirmed early medieval archaeological site has been recorded here.

4.2.9 There is a suggestion that PE349 may represent a medieval site, such as an early castle site or moated manor. Simple ringwork castles are a relatively common feature of the 12th century during the turbulent period of Anglo-Norman invasions into West Wales. Many small castle sites were thrown up by local lords without official royal consent as they were engaged in the invasion and acquisition of new territories, and some were erected as local lords took advantage of weakening royal control during the reign of Stephen. As such many sites were relatively simple in their construction, short-lived and undocumented. As a location, although perhaps not the best defensive location given the rising ground to the southwest, the site does overlook the village and river crossing. At present there is no record of a medieval settlement or river crossing during the medieval period, but as has been highlighted in previous sections the topographical location of Llanychaer offers an opportune location for both and may therefore have drawn in settlement for long periods of time. The local churches (PRNs 12533 and 5031), although rebuilt in the 19th century, are both known to have medieval predecessors, the southernmost (PRN 5031) likely mentioned in a 12th century poem. A medieval mill (PRN 12534) is also recorded in the area, presumably in a similar location to the 19th century mill in the village, which may be another indication of more settled medieval activity focused on Llanychaer.

4.2.10 The medieval mill (PRN 12534) is recorded on a map produced in 1932 purporting to show the main features of south Wales in the 14th century (Rees 1932). Although providing a very useful indication of the organisation of medieval Wales it is not always clear where the sources of information came from. Another site Rees picks out is Court, lying on the north side of the valley, which he identifies as a manor house or grange (PRN 12531). The house was mentioned in 1594, when it was owned by Own Johns of Brecon, but it appears to have been a farmhouse throughout much of its later period until the early 19th century. There is the possibility that PE349 represents another manor site. Finding two similar sites in relatively close proximity may not be unusual given that the Gwaun and Aer acted as a boundaries to the parishes and may also therefore have divided manors. Enclosed medieval manor sites however tend to be within rectangular or square enclosures, which does not fit neatly with PE349.

Post-Medieval

4.2.11 The post-medieval records illustrate the existence of a small settlement at Llanychaer, which by the later post-medieval period was focused around the site of a mill (PRN 15197) and blacksmiths (PRN 15198). The bridge to the north (PRNs 21770/59975) is thought to have potential 18th century origins

but may have replaced an earlier structure. Many of the local farmsteads are also recorded, such as Glandwr to the south (PRN 118608) but are not recorded in great detail. Hafod-y-dail (PRN 17552) to the west is recorded as a potential earlier 'hafod' site, but the building itself was built in the 20th century with no recorded predecessor on the site. The quarry (PRN 17548) to the south of the monument has been active since at least 1789 and is likely to have changed much of the immediate landscape to the south of PE349.

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 08/08/2023

4.3 Map Regression

- 4.3.1 Some of the earliest maps of the area include the early Ordnance Survey drawings by Thomas Budgen (Figure 4), in this instance covering the Fishguard area in 1814. The map shows a small hamlet focussed on the bridge crossing, with the outlying farms of Court to the north, and Glandwr and Cranllwyn to the south. The main road (B4313) is shown, as is the route south to Glandwr, and the track that climbs the hill to the west of the monument along which Port-yr-Hendre and Hafod-y-dail were subsequently built (not present in the early 19th century). The route of the river Aer is also visible. PE349 does not appear to be shown, however a rectangular feature is marked in the field to the south of the road. Comparisons with later mapping would suggest it is marked further to the northwest of PE349, although the scale of the map is not intended to be precise in its detail. The rectangular nature of the feature would suggest a building, but it is not depicted as such on the map, all other buildings being coloured. The function therefore remains uncertain, and whether this represents an early mapped depiction of PE349.



Figure 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey drawings of 1814. The approximate location of PE349 is marked (red arrow), with a rectangular feature adjacent. Proposed development area marked by the blue arrow.

- 4.3.2 The area is shown in greater detail on the Fishguard Parish tithe map of 1843 (Figure 5) and the neighbouring Llanychlwydog Parish tithe map of 1844. The village of Llanychaer remains a small hamlet, with the mill and a few cottages on the south side of the river, further cottages and Penrhiw farm on the north side. The current field pattern had been established by this time. The field containing the monument is bounded by a cottage to the east (roughly approximating to the current Bridgend Inn), the road to the north, quarry track to the west, and a field to the south. The field containing PE349 is named 'Weirgalwdd Issa', which appears to be a form of 'gwair' (grass) and 'clawdd' (bank/wall). This may be a reference to the sloping nature of the field, or it may be a reference to the banks of the monument, which itself is not marked on the map.

4.3.3 The proposed development area lies in a single field that runs up to the river edge, described simply as 'Meadow'. A narrow field borders the road, the curve of which suggests it may now be occupied by the present road line. There are no other features of note within or around either site. Both fields are under the same ownership (John Hughes of Allt-lwyd, Llansanffraid), but are farmed separately. The proposed development site is part of a relatively small holding farmed by James James, who appears to have lived in the cottage sited roughly in the location of the Bridgend Inn/blacksmiths workshop. The Rev. James William James was the previous local rector (Lewis 1833), it is not certain if this is the same person or a relative. The local rector named on the tithe apportionments in 1843 is Rev. Samuel Fenton. The field containing PE349 was being farmed by Moses Raymond of Cronllwyn, one of the larger farms in the area.

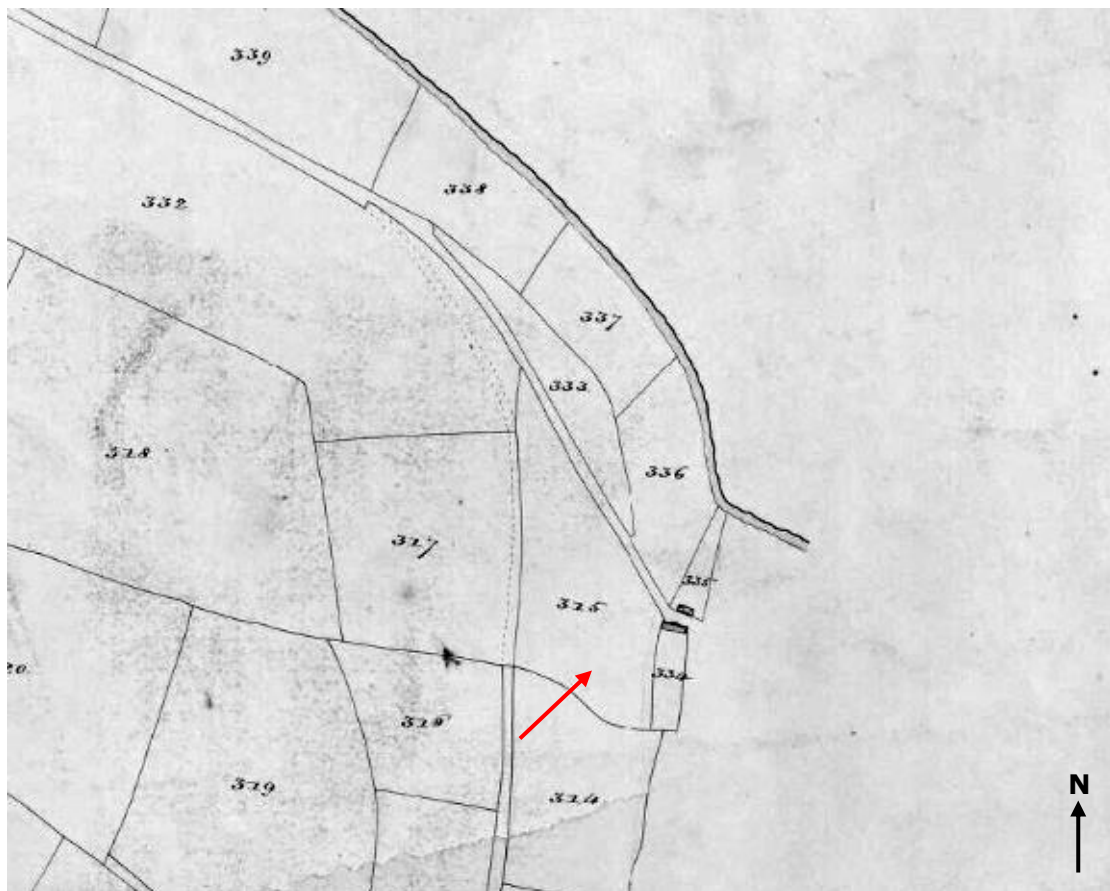


Figure 5: Extract from the Fishguard Parish tithe map of 1843. The site of PE349 is marked (red arrow), with the proposed development site lying within field No.336 to the north.

4.3.4 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 (Figure 6) records greater detail but shows little additional information of note. PE349 itself is not marked in any form, although the site is crossed by two footpaths. These footpaths give access to the quarry to the southwest and to Cronllwyn Farm to the south, both converging on Llanychaer in the first available open space adjacent to the Bridgend Inn. The connection with these various post-medieval sites may indicate the footpath is perhaps not an ancient routeway connecting the monuments of PE349 and PRN 13242. The full extent of the quarry (PRN 17548) is depicted to the southwest, appearing relatively

extensive, with spoil spreading down to the edges of PE349. A cottage has been built to the west of the field, called Tai-y-quarry, no longer standing.

- 4.3.5 No further detail is noted within the proposed development area. The road is carried along its current line by this time. Within the small village a Post Office has been added at the junction with the road to the bridge. The mill, Bridgend Inn and blacksmiths workshop are also focused on this same road junction.

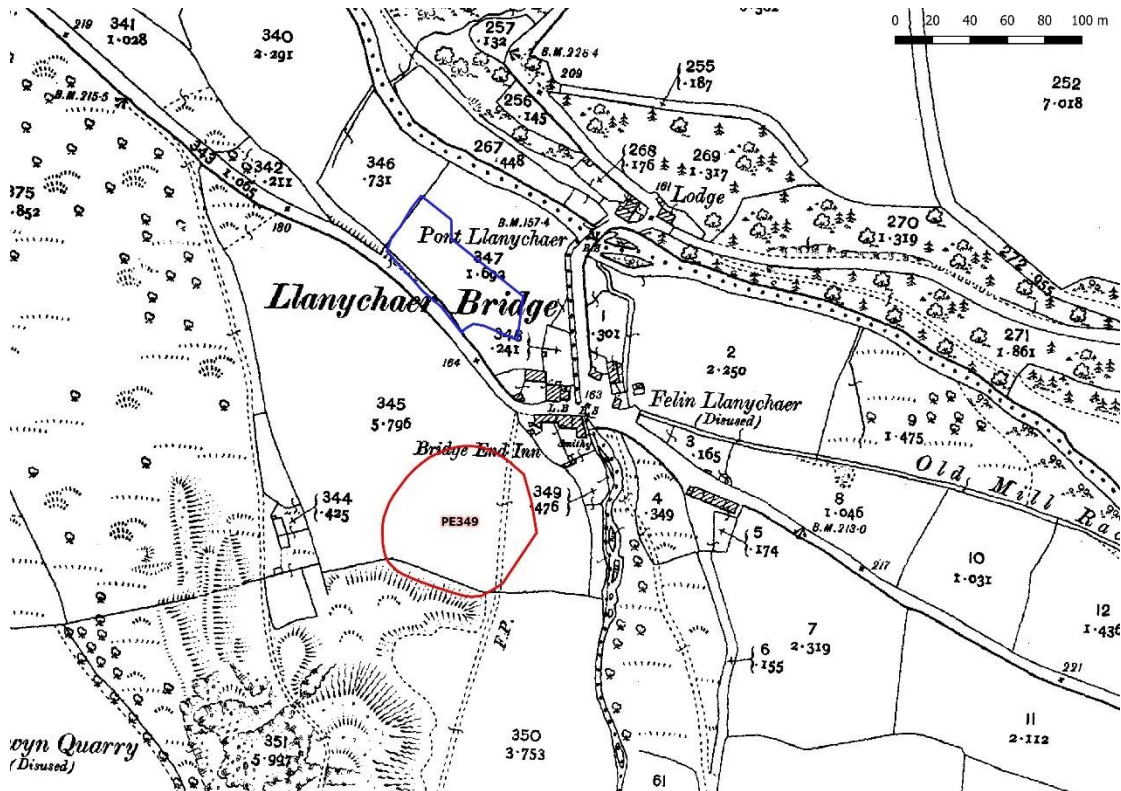


Figure 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1889 showing PE349 in red, and the proposed development site in blue.

- 4.3.6 The 1907 Ordnance Survey map shows little change for the monument and proposed development area. The quarry to the southwest had gone out of use, with the footpath crossing the monument and leading to it also going out of use. An additional cottage has been added behind the Post Office encroaching into the field around the proposed development site, but beyond the bounds of the current campsite. Even the 6inch Ordnance Survey map of 1948 shows little change, with the monument still not marked as a feature and the layout of the village and surrounding area appearing the same as on the 1907 map.

4.4 Aerial photographs and Lidar

- 4.4.1 RAF aerial photographs from 1946 and 1954 are available and have been examined. The earlier photos are of a grainy quality, but the outline of PE349 is clearly visible. Specific details within and around the monument are not however clear. Images from 1954 are clearer (Photo 1). The monument is visible as a univallate feature, no further lines of defences are visible. The field boundary appears to respect the southern edge and is therefore a later feature, but created when the monument was still clearly visible. There are

no indications of features surrounding the site or directly associated with it. Linear features visible in the field to the south appear to be connected to the now overgrown quarry site. The proposed development site is connected to the fields to the northwest via centrally placed field gates. The establishment of the adjacent paddock and structures within it clearly post-dates this photograph, as does the establishment of the water treatment works in the next field, the clearance of the cottages to the southeast, the construction of Ddol Isaf, and the construction of Hafod-y-dail and Porth-yr-hendre to the west.

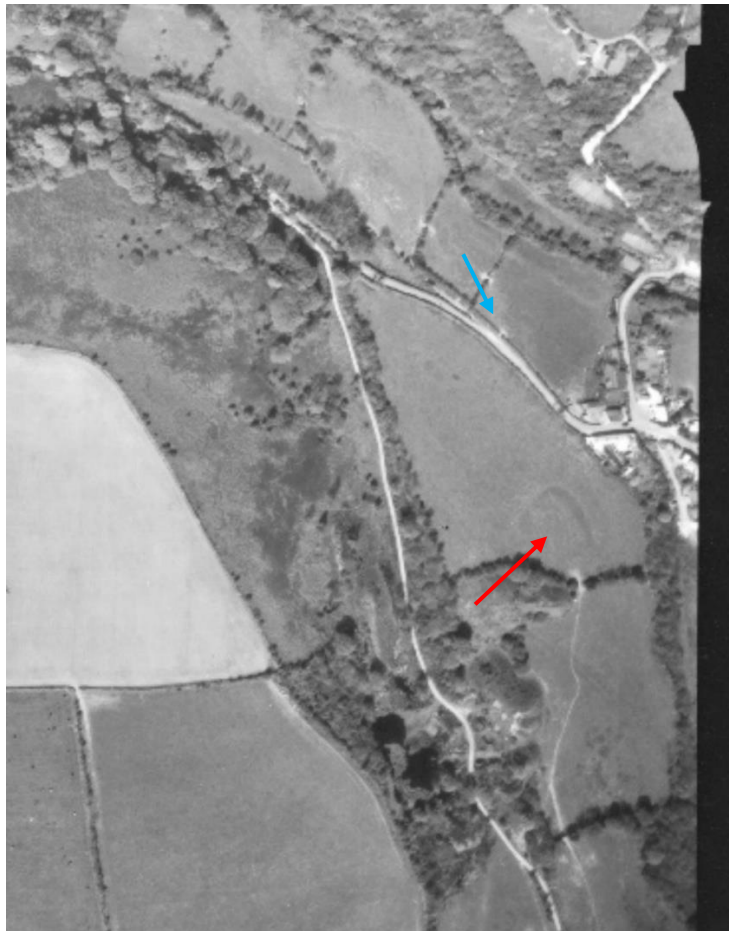


Photo 1: RAF aerial photograph from 1954, with the outline of PE349 visible and marked (red arrow). Proposed development area marked by the blue arrow.

- 4.4.2 Satellite images are available from 2005 onwards. By this time Ddol Isaf had been built, as had the cottages along the track to the west. Little additional detail is noted, other than one low-light image from 2022 (Photo 2), which suggests a possible bank extending from the monument to the northeast. At this point the proposed development area also appears to have been temporarily sub-divided.



Photo 2: Satellite image in low light from 2022. PE349 is clearly visible (red arrow), with a possible bank to the north (yellow arrow). Proposed development area marked by the blue arrow. © Maxar Technologies 2023.

4.4.3 LiDAR data at 1m DSM (Figure 7) clearly depicts the site of PE349, as well the defended enclosure to the south PRN 13242. No internal features are noted within PE349 but the possible external bank visible on the satellite imagery is hinted at. No entrance is clearly visible either, although a possible break in the enclosing bank may suggest it lay on the south side of the monument, partly obscured by the later field boundary. There are no features of archaeological interest identified within the proposed development area.

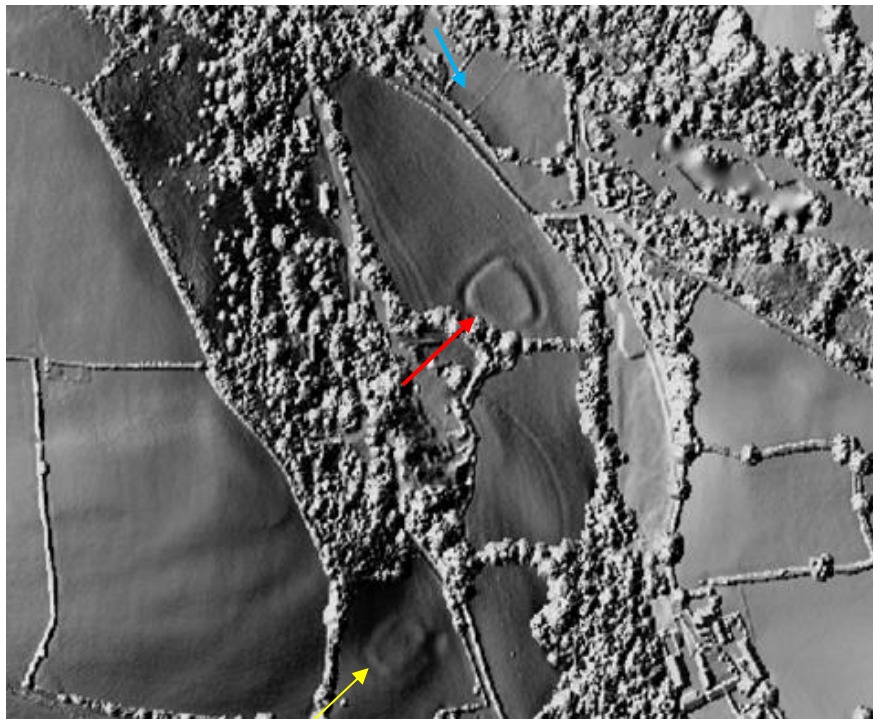


Figure 7: LiDAR data at 1m DSM. PE349 is clearly visible (red arrow), as is PRN 13242 to the south (yellow arrow). Proposed development area marked by the blue arrow.

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4.5 Site Visit

- 4.5.1 A site visit was carried out on the 20th July 2023, the weather was dry, with some high cloud and good visibility.
- 4.5.2 PE349 lies in a sloping field of pasture, grazed by sheep and bounded by hedgerows. The ground slopes down to the northeast towards the Gwaun to the north and the Aer, which runs just beyond the eastern boundary to the field. The field is accessed from a track via a farm gate midway along the western boundary, and from the adjacent field via a farm gate midway along the southern boundary. A little-used footpath also crosses this boundary and exits onto the main road via a stile to the north. Overhead wires also cross the site.
- 4.5.3 PE349 itself is terraced slightly into a shallower part of the hillside, largely visible by the wide and curving ditch around the west side which becomes more of a scarp along the north side. A denuded bank is also visible around the west side. The feature loses definition as it nears the field boundary to the south. The interior is more levelled, but still slopes gently to the northeast. There is no clear surface evidence of associated archaeology surrounding the site or within the enclosure.



Photo 3: View north along the more prominent western ditch defining PE349, with the wooded Gwaun valley to the rear. The proposed meet and greet building would lie close to the distant telegraph pole (arrow).



Photo 4: View northeast along the outer ditch defining PE349, with the village of Llanychaer beyond.



Photo 5: View south across the levelled platform of PE349. The quarry face of PRN 17548 is just visible through the hedgeline trees to the right.



Photo 6: View west across PE349 with the outer ditch visible, with Hafod-y-dail visible in the centre, beyond the field gateway.

4.5.4 The main views from PE349 largely focus to the northwest up the valley, north across the valley and northeast over the village of Llanychaer. Views are not extensive, limited in distance by the surrounding topography of the valley and the prevalence of mature woodland along the valley slopes. The campsite field is partially visible, largely the eastern end of the field. The western end lies behind high hedgerows which would screen the proposed development site from all but a partial view. The wooded streamside and trees surrounding the water treatment works provide a wooded backdrop to views in this direction, therefore there is no through-view to a more distant point. There is a direct view north to the present river crossing, currently blocked by late post-medieval housing around (and including) the Bridgend Inn. The views to the northeast take in all of the traditional core of the small hamlet of Llanychaer and include some modern 20th century building on rising ground to the east, as well as Ddol Isaf on lower ground by the Gwaun. Views west look across the field with the modern dwelling of Hafod-y-dail visible, where the current landowners live. Views towards the Iron Age site of PRN 13242 are blocked by the adjacent mature hedgerow and the rising topography beyond. None of the identified medieval sites are visible from this location although the exact location of site such as the mill (PRN 12534) are not recorded.



Photo 7: View northwest from within PE349 looking down the Gwaun valley. The proposed meet and greet building would lie adjacent to the telegraph pole on the right (arrow).



Photo 8: View north from within PE349. The current campsite field lies in front of the treeline to the rear, the Bridgend Inn lies in the foreground on the right, Ddol Isaf is the taller building to the rear. The river crossing lies to the left of Ddol Isaf, the view blocked by Bridgend Inn.



Photo 9: Zoomed view north from within PE349 looking towards the proposed development area. The meet and greet building would stand close to the telegraph pole in the centre of the view, the site entrance is just visible as a break in the hedgeline adjacent. The pods would lie behind the hedge to the right.

4.5.5 The proposed development site is as described, lying in a field of low-cropped grass, with the development site itself occupying the slightly sloping southwest side of the field, backed by high mature hedgerows. There is no surface indication of buried archaeological features within the field.



Photo 10: View southwest across the campsite field including the proposed development area occupying the more prominent slope at the far end of the field. The boarding indicates the site entrance, the meet and greet building would stand to the right, the pods to the left. PE349 lies in the field beyond the hedge, at the extreme left of the photo.



Photo 11: View southeast across the proposed development area. The upright 2m scale on the right marks the site of the meet and greet building. Ddol Isaf is visible to the rear, left of centre.



Photo 12: View southeast of the proposed meet and greet building location giving an indication of the hedge height. Upright scale is 2m.



Photo 13: View southeast from the site entrance across the proposed development area, the sloping ground encompassing the site of the pods. The upright scale is 2m.

4.5.6 There are views towards PE349 from the eastern end of the campsite field (outside the proposed development boundary), although the monument itself is difficult to identify from this location. There are no views from the proposed development area however, the mature hedge blocking all views from ground level. The hedge itself is around 3m to 4m in height, of mixed vegetation including some deciduous trees and shrubs. The roof of the proposed meet and greet building may extend above the current height of the hedge, the remainder of the building screen by the hedge in views from PE349. The site is also crossed by overhead wiring. The location of the pods is similarly surrounded by this high hedgeline along the roadside, and mature trees developing along the southern boundary to a public open space adjacent. Pods against the hedgerow are unlikely to be visible, pods away from the hedgerow and to the northeast may be partially visible. The general views from the campsite tend to focus along the valley to the northwest and east, incorporating the village, with limited interest in views to the south towards the monument. Pedestrian access is also likely to be focused along the riverside and into the public open space to the south. There is a direct access via the footpath stile on the opposite side of the road to the monument, but this passes through a well-maintained flowerbed and the public footpath beyond does not appear to be well-used.



Photo 14: View south from within the campsite field, close to the eastern boundary of the proposed development area, looking at PE349, visible as a slight scarp in the field beyond (arrow). 2m scale.



Photo 15: View south across the proposed development area towards PE349, not visible behind the high hedge. The meet and greet building would lie in front of the telegraph pole to the right, the pods to the left of the car.



Photo 16: View south across the site of the proposed meet and greet building, looking towards PE349, not visible beyond the hedge. Upright 2m scale marks the building site.



Photo 17: View south across the site of the proposed camping pods, looking towards PE349, not visible beyond the hedge.

4.5.7 The main route through the area is the B4313 which passes between PE349 and the proposed development site. The road is relatively narrow with no pavements. As mentioned, a public footpath crosses the site of PE349 but as this runs through the centre of a field it appears little used. Further footpaths run along the Afon Gwaun in the base of the valley. A local road crosses the river via a grade II listed bridge adjacent to Ddol Isaf. The traditional centre of Llanychaer is focused on the around the road junction of the B4313 and this local road in front of the Bridgend Inn, which is surrounded by the main traditional buildings within the village, including the Inn itself, an adjacent blacksmith workshop now incorporated into the Inn, and a former mill. An area of public open space occupies the corner of the road junctions opposite the Inn, directly bordering the campsite. This is the site of some former 19th century cottages that were cleared in the later 20th century to make way for a road widening scheme that never happened. The village then extends up rising ground alongside the B4313 to the northeast. There are some views from the public open space toward PE349 but generally it is not a clear archaeological feature identifiable from these areas and does not appear to be a well-visited or understood site in the locality.



Photo 18: View southwest from the traditional centre of Llanychaer, looking at the former blacksmiths workshop (PRN 15198) now part of the Bridgend Inn on the right. PE349 lies in the field behind these buildings.



Photo 19: View southwest from the grade II listed bridge (PRN 21770/59975) looking across the campsite and proposed development site. PE349 is not visible from this location.

4.6 Conclusion

- 4.6.1 The value of PE349 lies mainly in its evidential and historical value, and the archaeological potential of the monument itself. The scheduled area is drawn around the visible physical remains of the monument. Aerial photography and LiDAR data suggests a possible adjoining bank on the northern side of the monument, but generally no evidence has been identified in the surrounding area to place the monument in an extended setting of associated archaeological remains.
- 4.6.2 As the date and function of PE349 is little understood it is also hard to place the monument in a broader contemporary setting. There are two key possibilities that can be suggested however, an Iron Age defended enclosure and a medieval castle site. The site shares many characteristics with Iron Age enclosures in west Wales and this is perhaps a favoured period for its construction. As a potential Iron Age monument there is a broader landscape of dispersed enclosures and possible settlement spread throughout the area, with a focus on the river valleys, but the closest potential contemporary site lies around 240m to the south (PRN 13242). There are however no visual or clear physical links between these identified sites.
- 4.6.3 The site appears ill-defended for a medieval castle, although the potential association with a settlement and river crossing at Llanychaer cannot be overlooked. A medieval mill (PRN 12534) may indicate activity in Llanychaer, and important church sites (PRNs 12533 and 5031) to either side of the valley may suggest the river crossing. As such, a small settlement and river crossing in Llanychaer would be important elements for the setting of an early castle site, although the lack of archaeological and historical evidence for these elements makes this uncertain.

- 4.6.4 Views to and from PE349 are not extensive, and very much focussed on this locality along the base of the valley. Given the surrounding topography this is always likely to be so and extensive views may not therefore be a significant element in its setting. No contemporary archaeological sites have been identified within these views, although as suggested above there are potential connections with views over the settlement and river crossing at Llanychaer to the north and northeast. PE349 does not appear to have been a prominent feature in recorded descriptions or depictions of the area and no significant viewing points of PE349 have been identified.
- 4.6.5 The present setting of PE349 is a relatively quiet, rural pastoral field on the edge of the village. It is not a well-visited or well-understood monument and the physical remains appear rather low-lying and indistinct from passing traffic. Although known to the landowner, it is mentioned only rarely in local history descriptions, and therefore remains an indistinct feature. A public footpath crosses the site, but this appears little used and may be more closely associated to the period when the land was farmed by Cronllwyn Farm to the south and the nearby quarry was more active.
- 4.6.6 The proposed development site has a recorded history as an enclosed field, part of agricultural land stretching along the valley, bordered by the small settlement of Llanychaer. No archaeological features have been recorded within the field, and no significant viewpoints or routeways have been identified within the proposed development area.

5 STAGE 3: EVALUATION OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CHANGE/DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1 The proposed development is illustrated in Figures 8 to 12 below.
- 5.2 The new meet and greet building will be located close to the southwest boundary of the development area, on the northern side of the existing entrance and located approximately 3-4m from the existing hedgeline. The building will comprise a two-storey gable-ended building, facing northeast into the campsite, covering an area of approximately 11m by 7.5m, with a single storey element to one side 4.5m wide. The ground floor will cover 101m². The floor level will be 49.18mOD, terraced to approximately 1.5m into the slope, and the building will be 7.1m high to the roof apex. The building will be clad in horizontal timber, slate roof, with ground floor windows in the front (northeast) and rear (southwest) elevations, doors in the front, rear and side (southeast) elevations, roof windows in the front elevation, with solar panels on the two-storey rear elevation. Doors, windows and rainwater goods will be in golden-oak coloured uPVC. Internally it will include WC and shower facilities, a games room/reception, office, kitchen and 1st floor plant room storage area.
- 5.3 The pods will lie to the south of the existing entrance. Each pod will be approximately 7m by 4m, 3m high with a curving profile. The structure will be clad in timber or composite boarding. The entrance will be reset slightly at one end, with a circular glazed door and flanking windows in an anthracite uPVC or metal surround. A small circular window will be set in the rear elevation. Three pods will be set against the southwest boundary, terraced into the rising ground by approximately 1.25m at the upslope end, the remaining two pods set perpendicular at the east end. All pods will be surrounded by native shrub and tree hedgerows to provide privacy.
- 5.4 There will be no direct impact upon the designated monuments discussed in the report, but a potential impact upon the setting of PE349 is discussed.
- 5.5 The development will not affect any known element associated with the original setting of PE349. No associated archaeological remains have been identified in the proposed development area, and no physical or visual links to potential contemporary (Iron Age or medieval) sites will be affected by the proposed development. Potential links between PE349 and a settlement and river crossing in Llanychaer will also remain unaffected.
- 5.6 There will be some potential visual impact on the present setting of PE349. The meet and greet building and pods will introduce a new built element into the landscape, other built elements in views northwest down the valley from the monument are currently all screened by vegetation. The pods are of a similar size and dimension to existing camping structures that are likely to fill the campsite, although these will be permanent features rather than the temporary features at present. They are however relatively small in scale and largely obscured by vegetation. The meet and greet building will be a larger, more obvious structural element. As can be seen in the photos the height of the adjacent hedgerow and the terracing into the rising ground will reduce the extent of the building that will be visible, although at present the roof will still likely be visible from the monument. This may also increase during winter months when vegetation levels are lower, and the hedge is not in leaf. Glare from the solar panels on the south side of the roof may increase the visibility, but the valley setting may shield the panels from low-level lighting which is largely responsible for solar panel glare.
- 5.7 Despite the partial visibility there is no particular indication that this is a significant viewpoint from PE349, extensive views do not appear to be a

particularly significant element of the setting for this monument. Potential original views may have extended slightly further down the valley, but the site is now backed by mature trees and views do not continue far beyond the proposed development site. There are no identified contemporary features to share a visual link in this direction, the focus of any views would appear more likely to be northward to the river crossing and northeast across the settlement. There are no views of PE349 from the proposed development area, all of which are blocked by the hedgerow alongside the B4313. There are no significant views of PE349 in which the proposed development will feature prominently, the only distant view being from the north and the public open space adjacent to the Inn.

- 5.8 There are other potential elements to the proposed development to consider. Additional lighting from the structures may be a noticeable addition to the current setting given the rural location. However, the main light sources from the structures themselves all face away from monument. The front of the pods either face north or west, with rear lighting limited to small windows that will be largely lost in the adjacent hedgeline. The windows and doors of the meet and greet building similarly face north, west and south, with those to the south facing directly into the hedge. External lighting is stated as downward facing, therefore it is unlikely to significantly increase what is already experienced from the closer Inn and domestic structures. Noise levels will inevitably increase as the development is designed to increase visitor numbers and frequency to the campsite, with a likely increase in traffic and use of the nearby Inn. Increased visitor numbers may also increase foot traffic across the site (along the public footpath). These elements are difficult to quantify but would appear unlikely to be significant detrimental factors to the present setting.
- 5.9 There is little to suggest the proposed development will significantly alter the understanding and appreciation of PE349, although a new meet and greet centre may offer an opportunity for somewhere to highlight the history and archaeology of the local area. Physical changes to the surrounding area will be limited to the campsite, the current management and appearance of PE349 will remain unaffected.
- 5.10 Overall the visual impact of a new building in views from the monument is considered to be a negative impact, but the partial screening of much of the proposed development, the reduced significance of this particular view, and the lack of impact on other identified elements of the setting suggests the current development proposals are considered to have only a slight negative impact upon the setting of PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork.

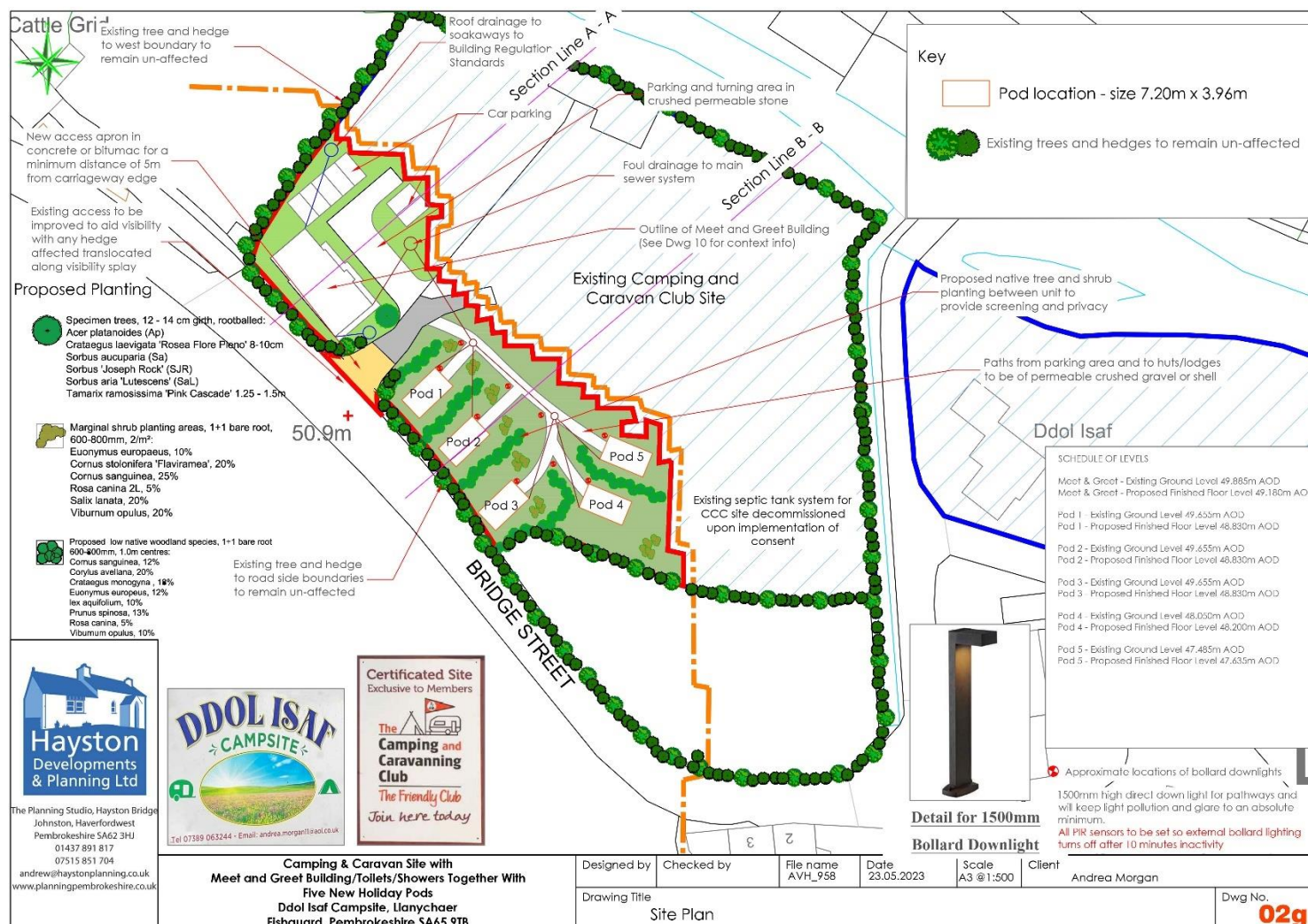


Figure 8: Proposed development plan. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to scale.

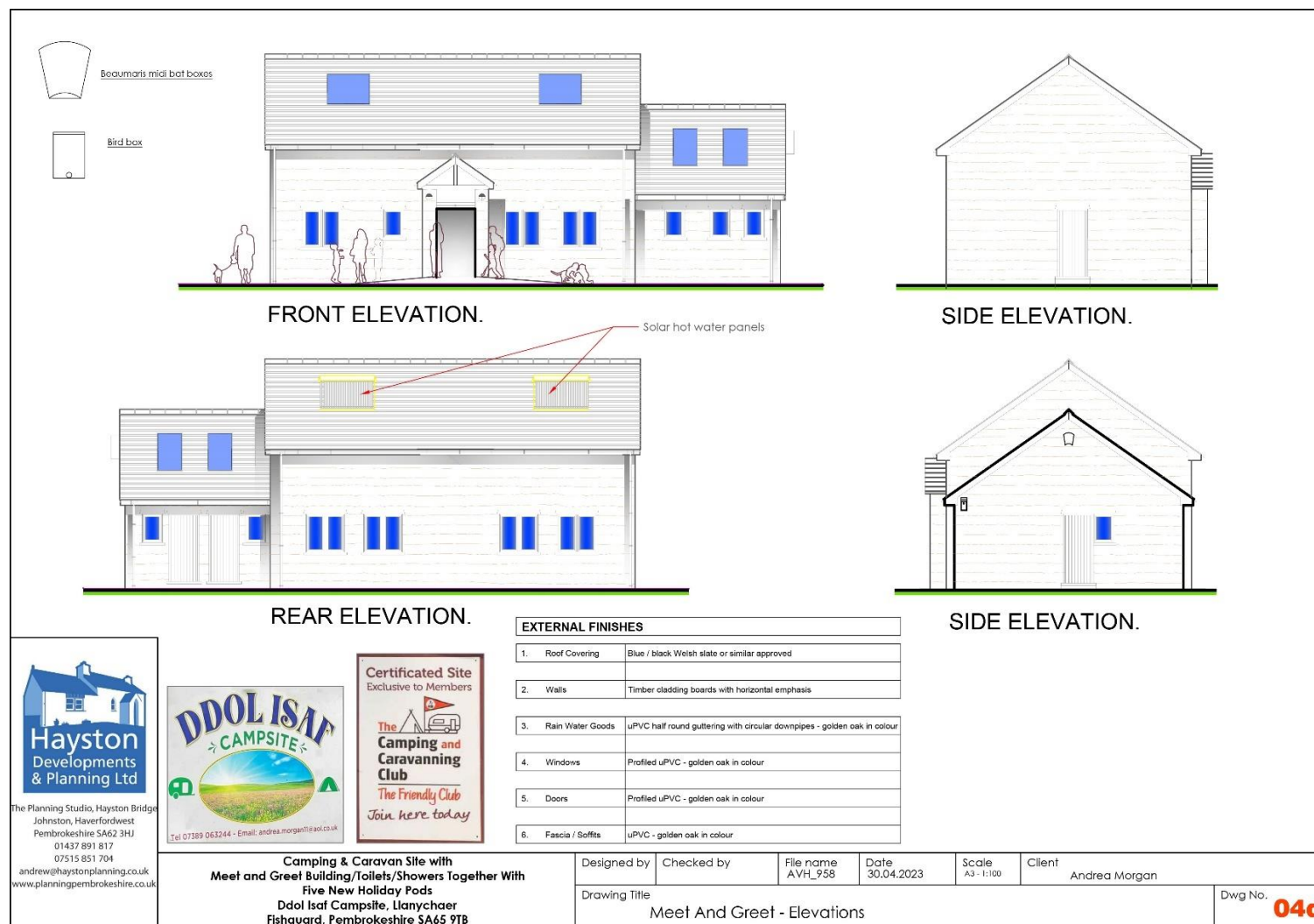


Figure 9: Proposed design details for the meet and greet building. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to scale.

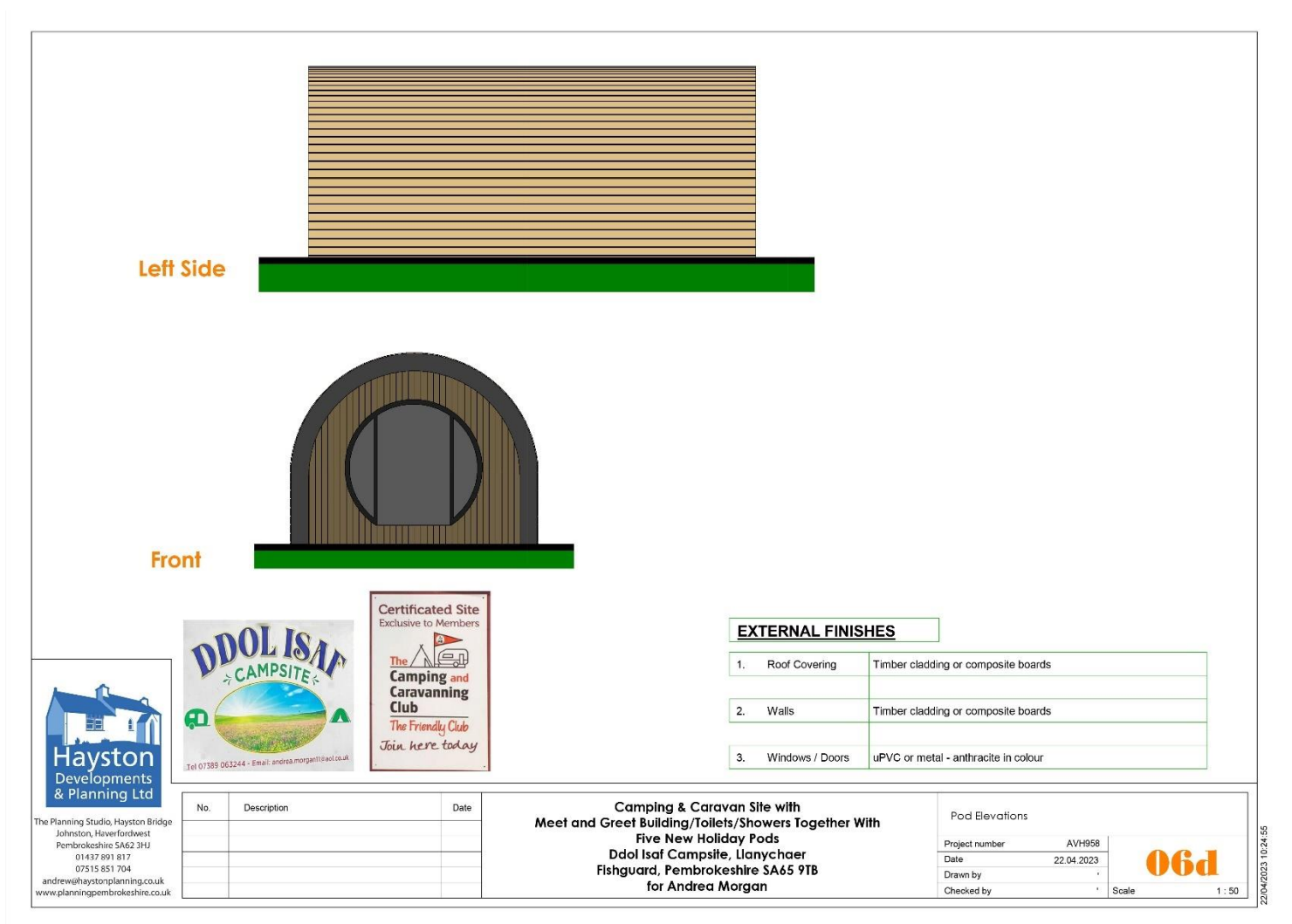


Figure 10: Proposed design details for the camping pods. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to scale.

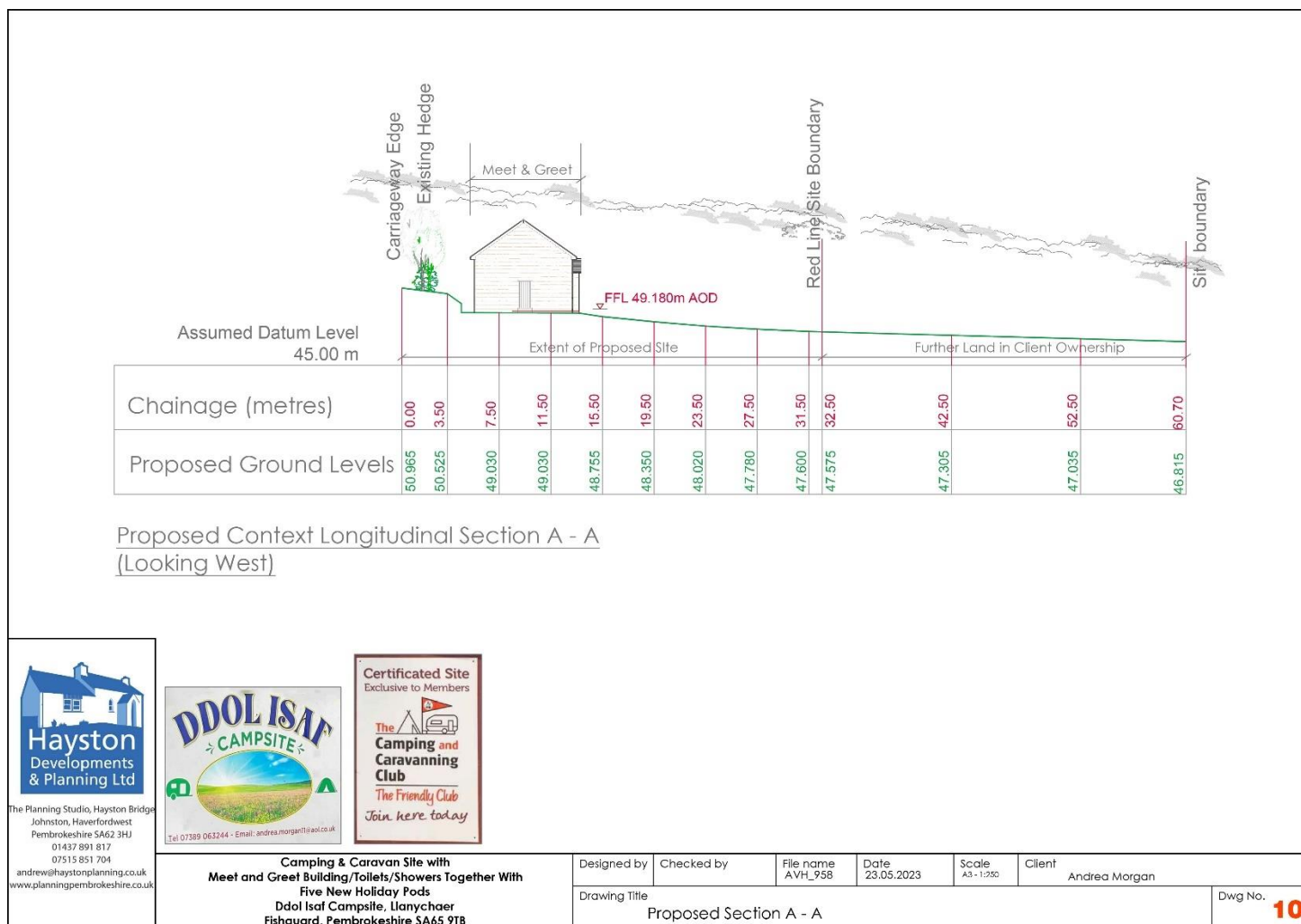


Figure 11: Proposed section through the site, showing the terracing for the meet and greet building. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to scale.

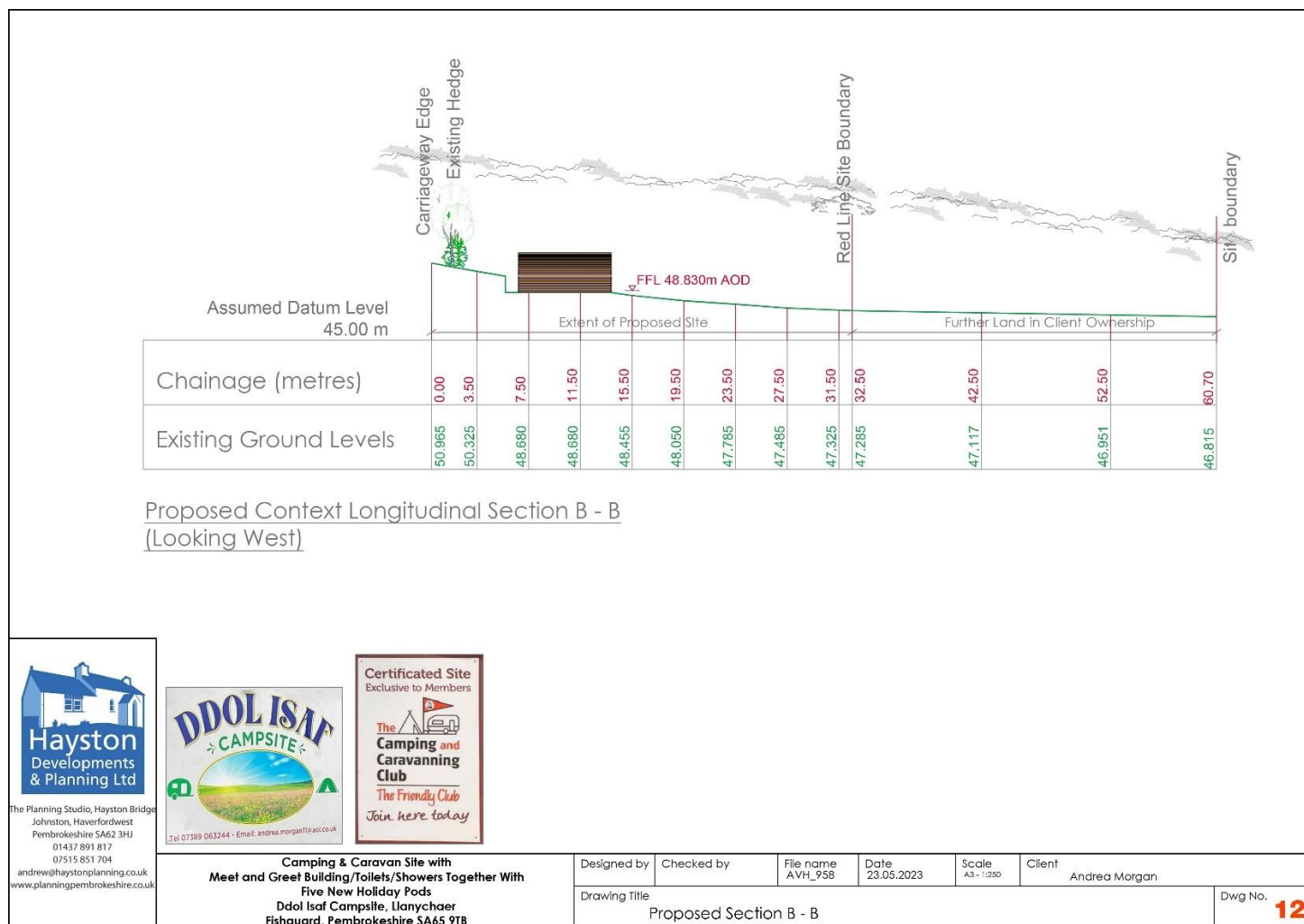


Figure 12: Proposed section through the site, showing the terracing for the camping pods. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to scale.

6 STAGE 4: MITIGATION OPTIONS

- 6.1 The main impact of the proposed development on the setting is a visual one, however, beyond reducing the height of the meet and greet building mitigation options are relatively limited. Maintaining the high hedgerow will help to soften the visual impact with only roof elements likely to be visible, but any significant increase in the height of the hedgerow is likely to have its own detrimental impact in reducing views from the monument further. Slate is the typical roof covering in the village, and this has been stated as the chosen roof covering for the meet and greet building. Modern solar panels on the south side of the roof will likely be visible from the monument, but any detrimental visual impact from these will likely need to be weighed against the benefits of renewable energy. Efforts to reduce light-spill are included in the design proposals, but care should be taken to maintain minimal levels of light-spill into the current rural setting. Consideration could also be given to highlighting the archaeology and history of the local area within the meet and greet building.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 This report assesses the impact of the proposed development upon the site and setting of scheduled monument PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork. This impact has been assessed using the guidance and methodology outlined in the 'Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales' (Cadw 2017), which outlines a four stage approach.
- 7.2 Stage 1 identified the historic assets. Through consultation with Cadw this study is primarily concerned with the site of PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork. This monument comprises an Iron Age or medieval sub-oval enclosure defended by a single line of bank and ditch, lying just to the southwest of the village of Llanychaer in the Gwaun Valley, Pembrokeshire.
- 7.3 Stage 2 defines and analyses the setting of the monument. The value of the monument is closely linked to its archaeological potential, but no clear evidence of a wider associated archaeological setting was identified to extend this beyond the current scheduled area. As a potential Iron Age monument it fits into a broader setting of dispersed enclosures and possible settlement, the closest associated site lying around 240m to the south, but no clear visual or physical link was established to any other Iron Age site. As a potential medieval monument there was the possibility a small settlement and river crossing in Llanychaer could be part of its setting, but a lack of evidence makes this uncertain. Views to and from the monument were not found to be particularly significant, generally focussed across relatively short-distances along the valley, with a particular focus over the settlement and river crossing of Llanychaer to the north and northeast. The monument is not a prominent feature in local views, stories, or histories. A public footpath runs through the site, but this appears little-used and possibly more associated with post-medieval farming and quarrying activity, therefore local understanding of the monument appears limited. The current setting places it as part of the enclosed pasture surrounding the village.
- 7.4 Stage 3 evaluates the potential impact of the proposed development. This development includes a new meet and greet building with surrounding parking areas, and five new camping pods with associated screening vegetation, along with improved access and drainage arrangements. The edge of the proposed development area lies approximately 60m to the north of PE349. Neither the monument nor any known elements of associated archaeological remains will be directly affected by the development. No identified elements of the setting associated with the contemporary Iron Age

or Medieval landscape will be affected. The understanding, appreciation and condition of the monument will also remain unaffected. There is likely to be some visual impact, with the new meet and greet building partially visible, and introducing a new built element into views from the monument down the valley. The impact will be softened by existing vegetation, the limited views beyond the development, and the lack of identified significant views in this direction. Overall, this is considered to have a slight negative impact upon the setting of PE349 Cronllwyn Earthwork.

- 7.5 Stage 4 suggests mitigation options associated with the proposed development. These options are limited, but the appearance of roofing materials and lighting options should be carefully considered. The existing hedgerow helps soften the visual impact, but any significant further growth should be avoided as this would have its own detrimental impact on views.

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