

ROCH GATE, ROCH, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



Prepared by Heneb – Dyfed Archaeology
For: Mr N Neumann.



Heneb

HENEB – DYFED ARCHAEOLOGY

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by

Philip Poucher MCIfA



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*Heneb – Archaeoleg Dyfed
Gynt Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Corner House, 6 Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AE
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Epost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk*

*Heneb – Dyfed Archaeology
Formerly Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk*

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ROCH GATE, ROCH, PEMBROKESHIRE:

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Client	Mr Nick Neumann
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Event Record No 130731

Report No	2024-08
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Project Code FS23-038

Report Prepared by	Philip Poucher
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Site-visit Undertaken by Luke Jenkins

Illustrated by	Philip Poucher
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Report Approved by Fran Murphy

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**ROCH GATE, ROCH, PEMBROKESHIRE:
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1 INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Project Proposals and Commission	2
1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology	2
1.3 Abbreviations	4
1.4 Illustrations	4
1.5 Timeline	4
2 POLICES AND GUIDANCE	5
2.1 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act	5
2.2 Planning Policy Wales	5
2.3 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment	5
2.4 Local Development Plan	6
3 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	7
4 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS	11
4.1 General	11
4.2 Scheduled Monuments	11
4.3 Listed Buildings	12
4.4 Conservation Areas	13
4.5 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens	13
4.6 Registered Historic Landscapes	13
4.7 LANDMAP	13
5 NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS	15
5.1 General	15
5.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic	15
5.3 Bronze Age	15
5.4 Iron Age	16
5.5 Roman	16
5.6 Early Medieval and Medieval	16
5.7 Post-Medieval and Modern	17
6 ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE	22
6.1 General	22
6.2 Previous Archaeological Work	22
6.3 Historic Mapping	22
6.4 Aerial and Historic Photography	27
6.5 LiDAR	29

6.6 Site Visit	30
7 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL, IMPORTANCE AND SETTING	42
7.1 Potential	43
7.2 Setting	44
8 IMPACT ASSESSMENT	46
8.1 Development Proposals	46
8.2 Impact Assessment Criteria	48
8.3 Physical Impacts upon Historic Assets	48
8.4 Impacts to the Settings of Surrounding Designated Assets	48
9 CONCLUSIONS	50
9.1 Archaeological Potential and Impact Assessment	50
9.2 Mitigation	51
10 SOURCES	52
FIGURES	
Figure 1 Location of development area	8
Figure 2 Detailed location map	9
Figure 3 Topographical survey of the site	10
Figure 4 Map showing designated historic assets	14
Figure 5 Non-designated historic assets in the HER search area	21
Figure 6 Emanuel Bowen's map 1729	23
Figure 7 Original Ordnance Survey surveyor's drawing	24
Figure 8 1839 parish tithe map	25
Figure 9 1889 Ordnance Survey map	26
Figure 10 1953 Ordnance Survey map	27
Figure 11 LiDAR data at 1mDSM	30
Figure 12 Initial development masterplan	47
TABLES	
Table 1 Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales	4
Table 2 Scheduled monuments within the wider study area	11
Table 3 Historic assets recorded on the HER	19
Table 4 Site potential definitions	42
Table 5 Site importance definitions	42
Table 6 Assessment of impacts	50

PHOTOS

Photos 01–02	Historic aerial photographs	28-29
Photos 03–22	Site visit photographs	31-41

ROCH GATE, ROCH, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Heneb – Dyfed Archaeology was commissioned to prepare a historic environment desk-based assessment for the proposed redevelopment of the former motel and restaurant site at Roch Gate, Roch, Haverfordwest (SM 87423 20889).

The assessment has identified a slight to moderate adverse impact upon a small number of potential archaeological sites of low to medium importance, and a neutral to slight adverse impact upon the setting of Roch Castle and a LANDMAP historic landscape area. Proposals to mitigate the impact upon the archaeological resource are suggested.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Heneb – Archaeoleg Dyfed i baratoi asesiad desg amgylchedd hanesyddol ar gyfer ailddatblygiad arfaethedig yr hen safle motel a bwyty yn Roch Gate, Roch, Hwlfordd (SM 87423 20889).

Mae'r asesiad wedi nodi effaith andwyol fach i gymedrol ar nifer fach o safleoedd archeolegol posibl o bwysigrwydd isel i ganolig, ac effaith andwyol niwtral i fach ar leoliad Castell y Garn ac ardal tirwedd hanesyddol LANDMAP. Awgrymir hefyd gynigion i liniaru'r effaith ar yr adnodd archeolegol.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposal and Commission

- 1.1.1 Heneb – Dyfed Archaeology (formerly Dyfed Archaeological Trust) was commissioned by Mr Nick Neumann to prepare a historic environment desk-based assessment for the proposed redevelopment of a former motel and restaurant site at Roch Gate, Roch, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6AF (NGR SM 87423 20889).
- 1.1.2 The site area currently comprises a disused motel and restaurant site with adjacent agricultural land lying alongside the A487 on the west side of the village of Roch, to the northwest of Haverfordwest, in Pembrokeshire. The site lies in an area of historic and archaeological interest, including the Grade I listed medieval Roch Castle (PRN 2803), three holy wells (PRN's 2807; 23758; 12143) and the medieval Church of St Mary (PRN 2804/59635). In addition, several World War II military structures and a 19th century toll house are recorded as existing within and immediately adjacent to the proposed development (PRN 16143). As a result, an historic environment desk-based assessment was recommended by the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority in response to a pre-application consultation, in an email dated 20th September 2023.
- 1.1.3 The assessment will help inform the design scheme and accompany a subsequent planning application for development. The local planning authority is the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park 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 A project design was produced, detailing the methodology by which this assessment would be carried out. The project design was submitted to the archaeological planning officers at Heneb for comment and approval in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.
- 1.2.2 The scope of the assessment follows the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The standard is stated by CIfA as:

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

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

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

character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of historic assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

- 1.2.4 The desk-based assessment of the area identifies known archaeological sites within the proposed development site and its environs, and assesses the potential for hitherto unknown remains to be present. This helps inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies, including the potential for further archaeological works.
- 1.2.5 The report also includes a brief assessment of the impact on the settings of any surrounding designated historic assets, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic landscape character areas and undesignated archaeological sites. This utilises the best practice guidance in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017).
- 1.2.6 The report presents relevant information from a number of sources including:
- Regional Historic Environment Record data and other relevant information;
 - National Monuments Record of Wales information as held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth (RCAHMW offices in Aberystwyth);
 - Identification of any scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, historic landscape character areas, or conservation areas within or in the vicinity of the site area;
 - Accessible bibliographic, cartographic and photographic information held at the National Library of Wales;
 - Historic and current aerial photographs, including those held at the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales, Cardiff (CRAPW);
 - Relevant web-based information, including cartographic information, satellite imagery, geological information and LiDAR data;
 - Relevant information held by the landowner/developer;
 - Site visit and walkover survey;
 - Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area; and
 - Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.
- 1.2.7 An initial search range of 1km from the centre of the site boundary area was used to identify sites recorded on the HERs and other sources, and was extended to examine the potential impact on the setting of high status, designated, historic assets in the surrounding landscape.
- 1.2.8 For the purposes of planning policy in Wales, the historic environment is defined as:

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

A historic asset is:

An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, a historic building or area, historic

park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated (ibid).

1.3 Abbreviations

- 1.3.1 All sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Records (HERs) are identified by a Primary Reference Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Record (NGR).

Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN).

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

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.

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 – 10,000BC	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 HERs.

2 POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

2.1 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act

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

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

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

2.2 Planning Policy Wales

2.2.1 *Planning Policy Wales* (Ed.11, 2021) sets out the Welsh Government's land use planning policies. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes to 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 The proposed development is located on the western side of the village of Roch to the northwest of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire (NGR SM 87423 20889) (Figs 1 and 2). The site currently comprises the derelict remains of a restaurant and motel complex; modern buildings surrounded by areas of hardstanding. The site lies on the south side of a crossroads, formed by the A487 which is the main road between Haverfordwest to the southeast and St Davids to the northwest, and a local road which runs through Roch to the east and on to the coastline to the west. The A487 forms the eastern boundary to the site, the local road to the coast forms the northern boundary. The proposed development area also includes areas of agricultural land to the west and south, currently comprising pasture and bounded by low hedgerows.
- 3.2 The village of Roch lies on the opposite side of the A487 and is laid out in a largely linear fashion along the local road (Church Road) as far as Roch Castle, 600m to the east, with more modern expansion northward alongside the A487. The town of Haverfordwest lies 9km to the southeast, St Davids lies 13km to the northwest.
- 3.3 The local landscape rises to a high point of around 110mOD to the east, surmounted by Roch Castle. The land falls gradually towards the coast and Newgale Bay, 1.8km to the west, with the site itself lying at an elevation of around 95mOD. Roch is surrounded by an irregular pattern of medium sized fields bounded by hedgerows in mixed agricultural use, interspersed with small wooded stream valleys.
- 3.4 The underlying geology of the site appears mixed. There is a general background of sandstones and mudstones of both the Lingula Flags Formation and Aber Mawr Shale Formation, with the site itself lying at the end of an east-west ridge of igneous bedrock comprising tuff from the Aber Mawr Shale Formation, Trachytic Rock of the Treffgarne Volcanic Formation and Rhyolite of the Roch Volcanic Formation (BGS viewer 2024).

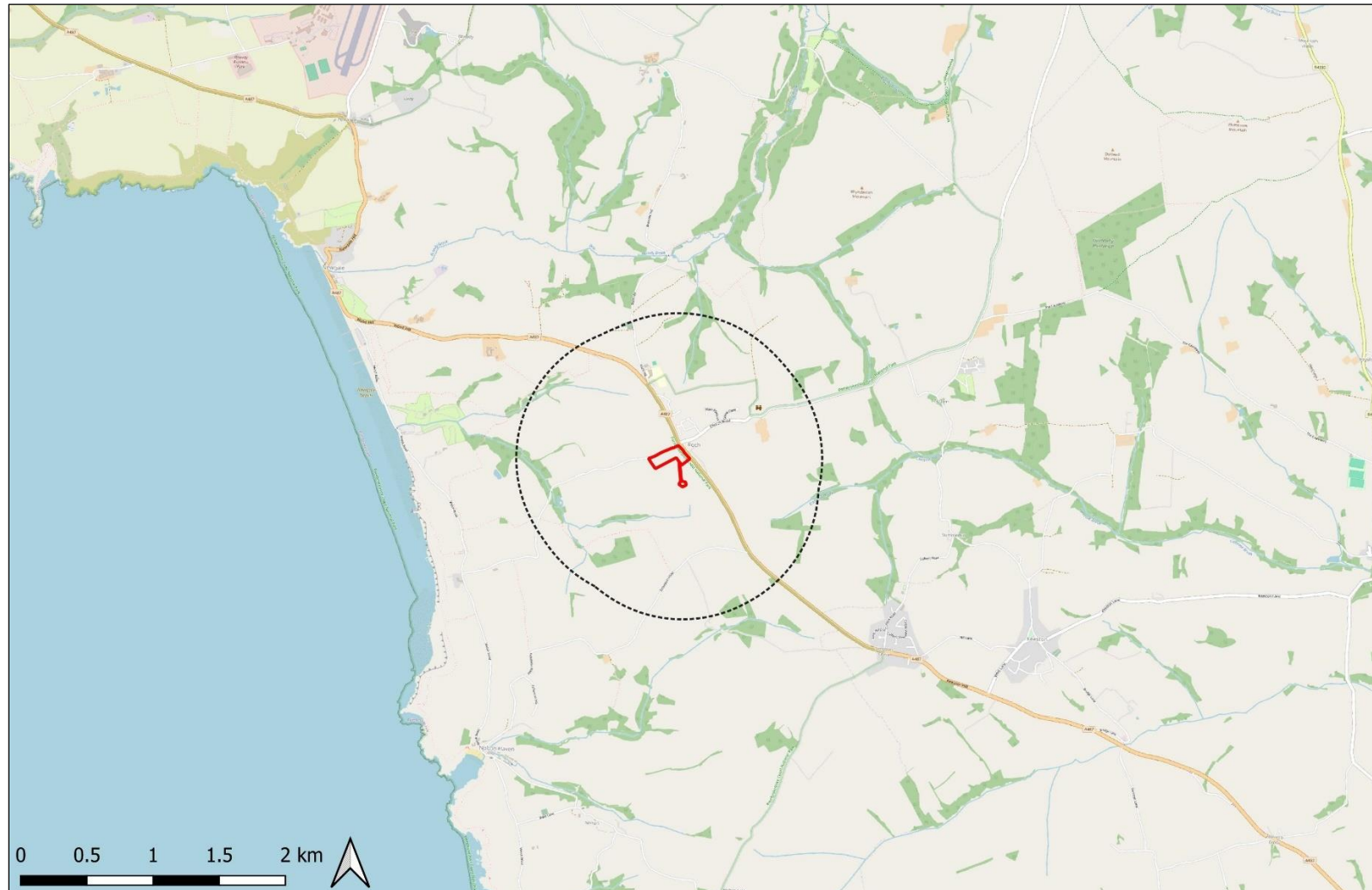


Figure 1: Location of development area showing the proposed development site (red dot) and HER search area (dotted circle).

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 01/03/24

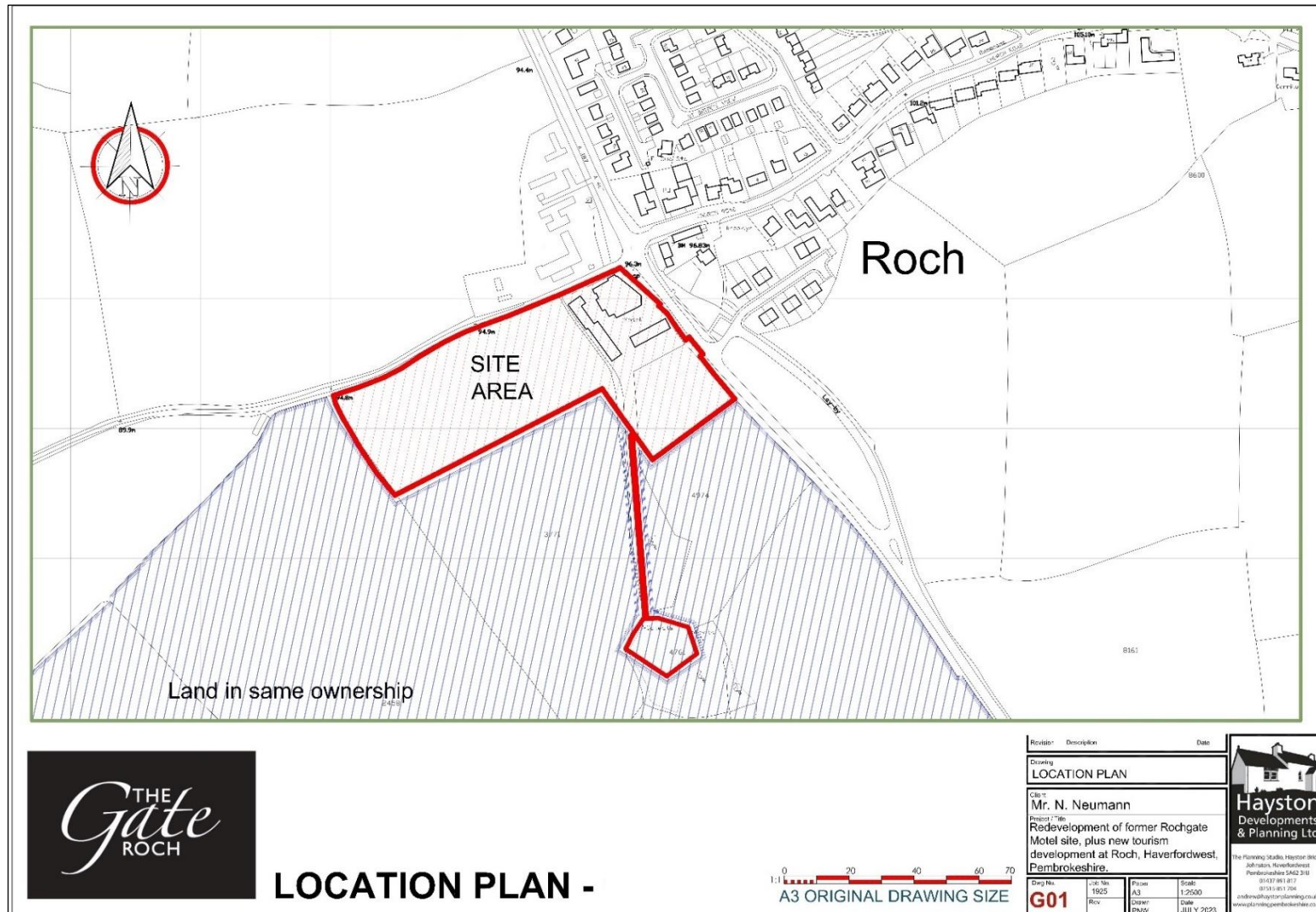


Figure 2: Detailed site and development location plan. Plan provided by the client, not reproduced to original scale.

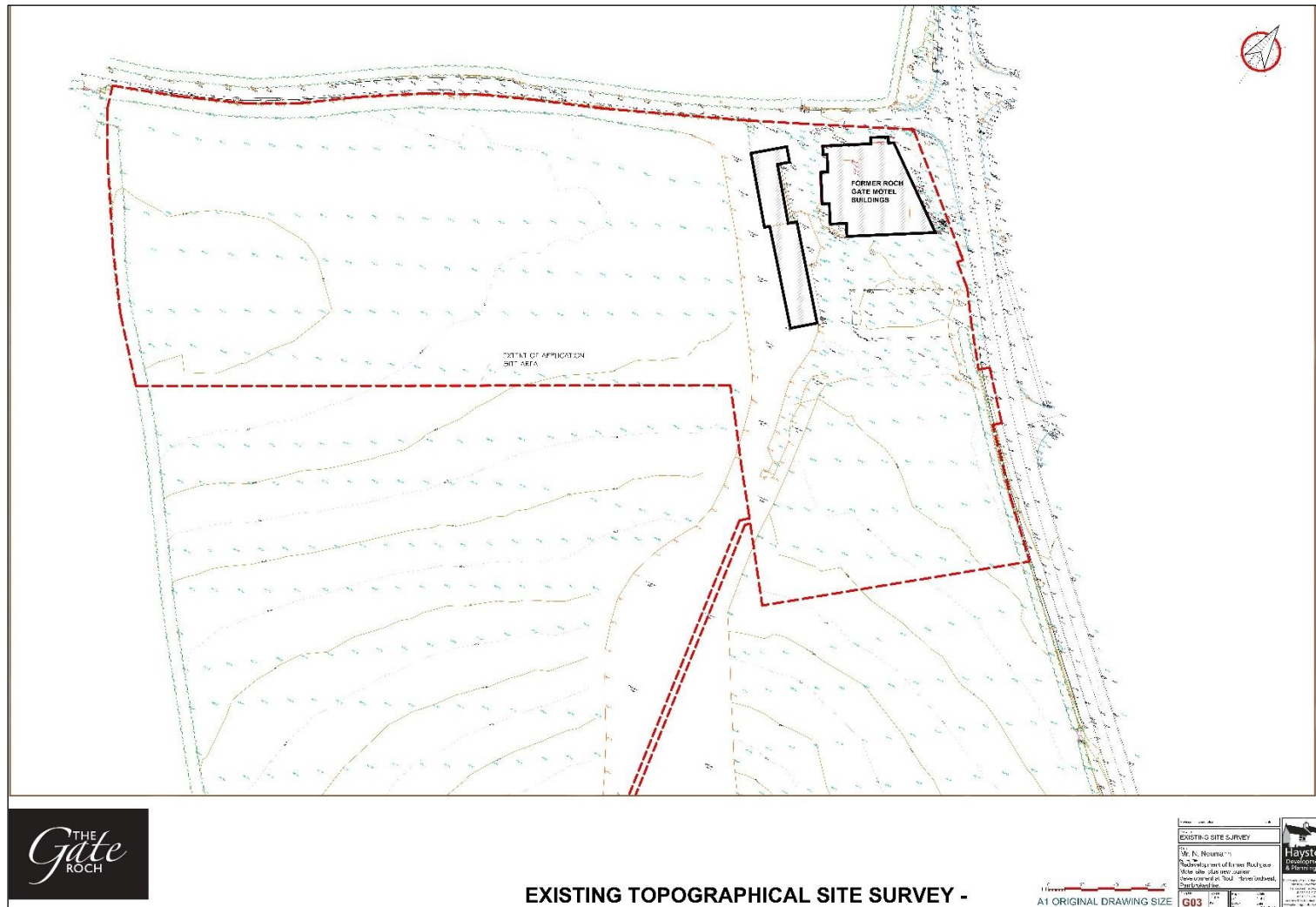


Figure 3: A topographical survey of the site as existing. Supplied by the client, not reproduced to scale.

4 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Fig 4)

4.1 General

4.1.1 A search of several databases was made of historic assets within the 1km radius search area. Designated assets beyond this search area were also considered for potential wider-ranging impacts and were reviewed first, as they largely comprise assets with some form of statutory protection.

4.2 Scheduled Monuments

4.2.1 Scheduled monuments are historic and archaeological sites considered to be of national importance. They are given legal protection, and the impact of development upon these sites and their settings are considerations of the planning process.

4.2.2 There are no scheduled monuments within the proposed development area, nor within the 1km radius search area.

4.2.3 Within 5km of the site are 10 scheduled monuments, all of which are prehistoric in date, specifically Bronze Age and Iron Age:

- The closest site is the PE216 Keeston Castle, an Iron Age hillfort lying 2.5km to the southeast.
- Just over 2.5km to the northeast lies the Iron Age defended enclosure of PE271 Slade Camp.
- Around 3km to the north lie further Iron Age sites:
 - PE363 Brandy Brook Camp (which may be medieval in date).
 - PE422 Brawdy Promontory Fort.
 - PE540 Bay View Farm Defended Enclosure.
- The remaining sites are Bronze Age in date and 4 to 5km to the northeast lie:
 - PE022 Tump Round Barrow.
 - PE153 Plumston Mountain Round Barrows.
 - PE219 Plumston Rock Round Barrows.
 - PE266 Rhyndaston-Fawr Standing Stone.
- PE 524 Round Barrows east of Thornbush lies around 4km to the east.

Table 2: Details of scheduled monuments located within 5km of the site

SM Number	Name	Site Type	Period	NGR
PE022	Tump Round Barrow	Round Barrow	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)	SM9023124638
PE153	Plumstone Mountain Round Barrows (West)	Round Barrow	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)	SM9126223463
PE216	Keeston Castle	Hillfort	Prehistoric (Iron Age)	SM8983319591

SM Number	Name	Site Type	Period	NGR
PE219	Plumstone Rock Round Barrows	Round Barrow	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)	SM9171323409
PE266	Rhyndaston-Fawr Standing Stone	Standing Stone	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)	SM8958924326
PE271	Slade Camp	Promontory Fort - inland	Prehistoric (Iron Age)	SM8917322672
PE363	Brandy Brook Camp	Enclosure	Prehistoric (Iron Age / Medieval)	SM8812523661
PE422	Brawdy Promontory Fort	Promontory Fort - inland	Prehistoric (Iron Age)	SM8627323966
PE524	Round Barrow 100m E of Thornbush	Round Barrow	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)	SM9172021671
PE540	Bay View Farm Defended Enclosure	Enclosure - Defensive	Prehistoric (Iron Age)	SM8515723209

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 Whilst there are no listed buildings within the proposed development area, there are three within the 1km radius search area. These include Roch Castle (11982), the entrance walls and gatepiers to the castle (19079) and the Church of St Mary (19080), all clustered together at the east end of Roch and 600 to 700m to the east of the site.
- 4.3.3 Roch Castle (11982) is Grade I listed as an exceptionally well-preserved medieval castle, carefully restored to habitable use. It was first built in c.1200 by Adam de Rupe/de la Roche and the present castle dates to *circa* 1270. It was built for defence but adapted for habitation with freestone windows and fireplaces. By the 15th century it was ruinous but was garrisoned during the civil war in the 1640s and from 1901-4 it was restored and made habitable by J Wynford Philipps Bt of Picton, to the designs of D.E.Thomas of Haverfordwest. Further works were carried out in 1910 and circa 1918-20.
- 4.3.4 The entrance walls and gatepiers to the castle (19079) are Grade II listed and lie at the southwest entry to the castle grounds. They are part of the early 20th century rebuilding of the castle and have been listed as a well-designed formal entry to Roch Castle.
- 4.3.5 The Church of St Mary (19080) is Grade II listed as a parish church with a fine medieval vault to porch and remains of a medieval arcade, along with high quality early 20th century glass by Morris & Co. It lies just to the southeast of the castle and was probably founded in the 13th century by Adam de Rupe/de la Roche. The church was restored in 1857-9, with a vestry added in 1904 and stained glass and other fittings given in circa 1912 by Viscount St Davids of Roch Castle.
- 4.3.6 A further 15 listed buildings lie within 5km of the proposed development site but are unlikely to be affected by the development and so are not considered further.

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 it considers to be of special historic and/or architectural value.
- 4.4.2 The proposed development site does not lie within a conservation area and there are none within the 1km search area; the closest is Solva, 7km to the northwest.

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 registered historic parks and gardens within the proposed development area, nor within the 1km radius search area. The nearest is at Scolton Manor, more than 11km to the east.

4.6 Registered Historic Landscapes

- 4.6.1 Registered historic landscapes are landscapes of historic interest included on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw 1998). The landscape boundaries and associated details have been created as non-statutory advice to assist decision makers and landscape managers ensure that the historic character of the landscape is sustained, and that where change is contemplated, it is well-informed.
- 4.6.2 The proposed development area does not lie within a registered historic landscape and there are none in the wider vicinity. The site lies midway between the historic landscapes of Milford Haven Waterway (HLW(D)3), 8km to the southeast and St Davids Peninsula and Ramsey Island (HLW(D)4), 8km to the northwest.

4.7 LANDMAP

- 4.7.1 The LANDMAP database covers much of Wales and is designed to enable landscape quality to be taken into account in decision making. The landscape areas themselves are not protected by designation but are used to inform sustainable decision making and enable landscape to be taken into account during decision making processes. This includes historic landscapes, with landscape areas subdivided on the basis of past human activity and structurally prominent patterns and features that contribute to the historic character of the present landscape.
- 4.7.2 The proposed development area lies within the LANDMAP historic landscape area of Mathry - Hayscastle (PMBRKHL46060). This is a very large area covering a plateau, mainly rural in character, with a mix of regular and irregular fields of varying sizes including areas of potential former strip fields. It has been given a high value, largely because of the quality of its archaeological resource with a particular focus on prehistoric funerary and ritual activity.

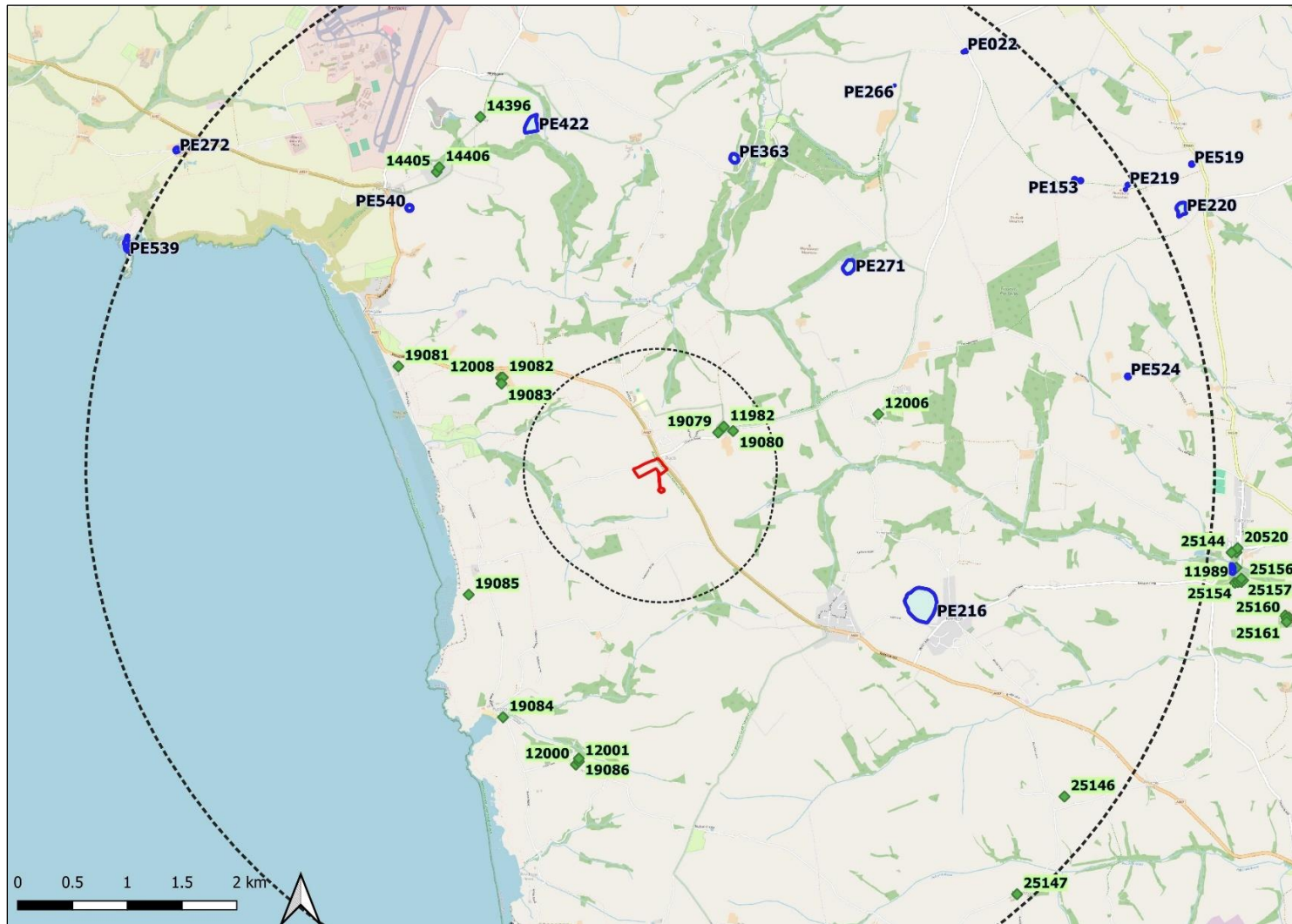


Figure 4: Map showing scheduled monuments (blue) and listed buildings (green) within 5km (dotted line) of the proposed development area (red).

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 12/03/24

5 NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 A search of the regional HERs and other databases was made within the development site and the wider 1km search area (Table 3 and Fig 5). The HER records 42 historic assets within the search area, including one site within the development area itself, PRN 16143 Roch Gate toll house.
- 5.1.2 Eight historic assets are recorded in the NMR database, held and maintained by the RCAHMS. Only one of these sites is not also recorded on the HER. Two artefacts are recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database and two further artefacts are also recorded on the National Museum of Wales database, none of which were discovered within the proposed development area. Other additional information includes five wartime military sites identified during survey work by Roger Thomas in 1994.
- 5.1.3 The following information is laid out chronologically to provide a brief archaeological and historical background for the development area and its environs for each period, along with the relevant HER entries pertaining to that period.

5.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic

- 5.2.1 Sites of a Palaeolithic date are exceptionally rare in the general archaeological record of this area. Whilst there are no such sites recorded within the 1km radius search area, a collection of flint artefacts of possible Palaeolithic date have been recovered from the Druidstone Haven area just over 3.5km to the south. These flint artefacts, recorded initially by T.C. Cantrill, were considered similar to examples recovered from Paviland Cave in Gower, dated to between 30,000 and 40,000 years old. Other flint artefacts are recorded by Cantrill in the Roch area (PRN 2810) but there is no detail associated with these records.
- 5.2.2 There are no Mesolithic sites recorded within the 1km search area but again there are a number of flint artefacts recovered from the coastline to the west that indicate people were travelling up and utilising the coastline during this period.
- 5.2.3 For the subsequent Neolithic period there is a slight increase in the number of recorded artefacts in the wider landscape, with artefacts now discovered further inland. A possible burial site is also recorded on Cuffern Mountain, just over 3km to the east of the proposed development site, suggesting an increasingly more settled population. One Neolithic artefact has been recorded within the 1km search area, a flaked stone axe (PRN 11144) from the Bathesland area just to the west of the proposed development site.
- 5.2.4 Although there are only two sites from these periods recorded within the 1km search, the prevalence of artefacts dating to these periods within the wider landscape suggests a heightened general potential for archaeological remains of these periods within the local area.

5.3 Bronze Age

- 5.3.1 There are three, possibly six, sites of Bronze Age date within the search area, comprising burial mounds and standing stones, and an increasing number of such sites in the surrounding landscape. In 1925 the RCAHMS identified a pair of standing stones (PRN 2809) lying just over 500m to the east of the proposed development area. They described them as the remains of a cromlech, a Neolithic burial feature, but the stones appeared to be spaced too far apart and may represent a pair of Bronze Age standing stones. The site has since been lost to housing development. Around 800m to the west of the proposed development site lies another possible standing stone (PRN 5595), known as the Druids Stone,

although potentially thought to be a natural erratic. Slightly further to the west is another possible standing stone (PRN 62732), marked on historic maps. 600m to the north another pair of stones are also recorded from historic map sources (PRNs 129776 and 129777), potentially also Bronze Age in date. Standing stones are somewhat enigmatic features and many are likely to have changed function and significance through time. During the Bronze Age many appear to have been part of a funerary and ritual landscape, and excavation has shown some to be just one element of a series of buried associated remains. Such stones are often sited in prominent locations and appear to have been a particular feature of the local landscape.

- 5.3.2 The other Bronze Age site is a ring cairn (PRN 48327) which lies close to the Druids Stone. The site comprises a continuous circular bank enclosing an area around 11m in diameter with a possible internal ditch and mound that may cover the site of a Bronze Age cremation burial. As with the stones, these would often be sited in prominent locations, this one on west facing slopes overlooking a local stream valley and out to sea. The presence of funerary and ritual sites in the locality demonstrates the increasing potential for Bronze Age activity in the area.

5.4 Iron Age

- 5.4.1 There is one record of a possible Iron Age site within the 1km search area. St Mary's Church in Roch occupies a raised sub-oval churchyard that may be a re-used Iron Age enclosure (PRN 7565), although this has not been proven archaeologically. Certainly Iron Age defended enclosures are a prominent feature of the wider landscape around this site, ranging in size and form and presumably function as well. Whilst there are well-defended sites occupying natural promontories on many of the local stream valleys, there are also less prominently defended enclosures on more general hillslopes. These sites probably ranged from military sites to small settlements and animal enclosures but demonstrate an organised and well-used landscape during the Iron Age. Given the extent of this occupation it would seem likely that an Iron Age enclosure may also have occupied the defensible rock outcrop that would later become the site of Roch Castle.

5.5 Roman

- 5.5.1 There are no records of a Roman date within the 1km search area but again, within the wider landscape, there are some features of potential relevance to the proposed development area. There are a number of records of artefacts dating to the Roman period, although many appear to be associated with Iron Age sites and probably represent a continuation of occupation and activity from the Iron Age into the Roman period. Alongside these however, a rectangular enclosure (PRN 112043) has been identified from LiDAR data around 3km to the east of the proposed development site that is similar in size and form to a small Roman enclosure. This may be of relevance as there is a possibility that a Roman road runs east – west through this area to access the coast. The line of this road is lost just to the west of Wiston but a simple straight projection (Roman roads generally tried to keep to relatively straight courses where they could) would bring the line through Camrose, near this rectangular enclosure, and on towards Roch. This is purely speculative however as no Roman archaeological remains have been identified in and around the proposed development area.

5.6 Early Medieval and Medieval

- 5.6.1 Many of the records of early medieval activity in this area are focused on religious sites as a number of early medieval cemeteries have been uncovered along the Pembrokeshire coastline and circular or oval churchyards are often an indication that a church was established prior to the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the late 11th and early 12th century, from which point churchyards tended to be more

rectilinear. Within the search area there are two such church sites that display some of these characteristics but not clearly enough to be certain of their origin. St Mary's Church in Roch (PRN 2804/59635) occupies a sub-oval churchyard (PRN 7565, although as previously suggested this may also be an Iron Age feature, and its location would suggest it is contemporary to the later castle. 700m to the west of the proposed development site lies Church Hill, where earthwork remains (PRN 2806) are thought to represent a church site, the undocumented nature of which has led to speculation that it may have early origins. Discovery of early medieval settlement sites that would be associated with these churches and cemeteries is rare but excavation at Brawdy Castle to the northwest in 1989 (PRN 14289) uncovered artefacts that had until then only been discovered on early medieval Irish sites, possibly indicating that this Iron Age enclosure was re-occupied during the early medieval period. This area was subject to significant Irish migration during the late Roman and early medieval periods, and the re-occupation of Iron Age enclosures has been recorded at several sites in Pembrokeshire.

- 5.6.2 By the early 12th century this area had become a frontier, the Landsker Line, between invading Anglo-Norman and Flemish forces and the native Welsh. Flemish migrants were granted lands in the area and likely established themselves in a defended settlement at Roch. There is currently no archaeological evidence of this initial Flemish settlement but by the early 13th century a castle (PRN 2803) had been established on the rocky outcrop, built by Adam de Rupe/de la Roche, which means 'of the rock', the grandson of one of the original Flemish settlers.
- 5.6.3 St Mary's Church (PRN 2804/59635) was established adjacent to the castle, likely at a similar time, although the potential for it to have re-used an earlier site is suggested. It is likely that Church Road was also in use as a route during this period and settlement would have built up alongside it, under the protection of the castle. Evidence of this medieval settlement is not recorded, although a named well site to the north (PRN 12143) may have medieval origins. The suggestion that Church Road was in use during this medieval period also suggests the road to the north of the proposed development site has similar early origins as it continues the line. There appear to be few recorded attacks on the castle and its requirement as a defensive structure seems to have quickly diminished but it remained in occupation during the 13th and 14th centuries. By the end of the 15th century however it is described as ruinous and deserted. Similarly the settlement of Roch does not appear to have expanded greatly during the medieval period, and although housing the administrative and religious centre for the parish it likely remained a relatively small, largely agricultural village clustered around the castle.
- 5.6.4 Other records of medieval activity in the area include the site of a former church (PRN 2806) on Church Hill to the west and possible associated holy well (PRN 2807) near Bathesland around 400m to the west of the proposed development area. This well was apparently recorded in 1925 and its location alongside the road, past the proposed development, further highlights the potential early origins to this route. Much of the layout of the surrounding landscape, its farmsteads, villages and field pattern, likely has its origins during the medieval period. Many of the farm and village names can be traced back into medieval documents and it appears this area was a largely agricultural one throughout much of the medieval period.

5.7 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 5.7.1 The majority of the archaeological records in this area are post-medieval in date and include one within the proposed development area itself. These records can be broadly divided into those relating to the local villages, coal mining activities of the 19th century or the many farmsteads dotted around the area.

- 5.7.2 The features in the local village largely comprise chapels and churches (PRNs 17973, 2804/59635) and schools (PRNs 17974, 129775) in Roch, with some outliers such as the early 19th century Penuel Baptist Chapel to the north (PRN 17966).
- 5.7.3 This area around Newgale Bay forms an outlying part of the Pembrokeshire coalfield. Coal may have been mined in this area since the 15th century, presumably on a relative near-surface and small-scale level, but more extensive mining was underway by the 19th century. A number of coal workings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries are marked across this area, largely focused on the Trefrane Cliff Colliery to the southwest (PRNs 17968, 62738, 62739) which operated from the 1850s to the early 20th century, and the contemporary Southwood Colliery (PRNs 23759, 106291, 106292, 106294) to the northwest. There are no records of coal mining extending into the proposed development area, although only remains associated with the mid to late 19th century Trefrane and Southwood Collieries have been recorded; earlier workings may have gone unrecorded.
- 5.7.4 There are 10 farmsteads recorded in this area (PRNs 62742, 118304, 118305, 118307, 118308, 118309, 118310, 118315, 121464 and 121612), the closest being Roch Gate farmstead (PRN 118307). The farmstead lies on the east side of the crossroads, outside the proposed development area. The history of the farm has not been researched in detail but it does appear in land tax returns in 1794 (Charles 1992) and mortgage records as early as 1813 (PRO – D-EE/2/25), as well as early 20th century mapping.
- 5.7.5 The single site within the proposed development area is that of a toll gate (PRN 16143) which appears largely to have come from the name Roch Gate. There appears to be little, if any, recorded history about this site. The A487 is recorded as a toll road (PRN 109104), the toll road established by the Fishguard Trust (a turnpike trust founded in 1790) and renewed in 1812. The trust initially intended to manage several roads between Haverfordwest, St. Davids, Fishguard and Cardigan, although only the Haverfordwest to Fishguard Road may actually have been adopted in the end. Toll gates were built along these routes and it is possible a toll gate and house was established at Roch Gate, although the derivation of the name may be unrelated. The name may simply have originated with the adjacent farm (PRN 118307) on the east side of the road, which itself may have got its name from its location at the west end of Church Road on which the village of Roch lies, effectively therefore sat at the entrance or gate to Roch. There are no recorded structural remains associated with a toll house on this site.
- 5.7.6 There is one modern site within the search area, a pump house built for an RAF radar station during the Second World War (PRN 28404). The site was recorded as derelict when surveyed in 1994, the same survey recording a series of buildings just to the north of the proposed development site at the crossroads. These included the remains of an air raid shelter, a transformer plinth and concrete hut bases. These features are not recorded on the HER and have been partially lost to subsequent development but they may have been part of a larger complex. Many temporary camps, radar stations and other similar sites were built in the areas surrounding airfields, with Brawdy lying around 4km to the north.

Table 3: Historic assets recorded on the HER within the development site and 1km radius search area.

PRN	Name	Type	Period	NGR
2803	Roch Castle	Castle	Medieval	SM8802921212
2804	Roch Parish Church; St Mary's	Church	Medieval; Post Medieval	SM88112117
2806	Bathesland Church Park; Church Hill	Chapel	Early Medieval; Medieval	SM86502104
2807	Bathesland	Holy Well	Medieval	SM868207
2809	Castle Farm	Standing Stone Pair	Bronze Age	SM87912116
2810	Roch	Findspot	Prehistoric	SM8700020000
5595	Druids Stone	Natural Feature; Standing Stone	Bronze Age	SM8639221013
7565	Roch Parish Church; St Mary's	Churchyard; Defended Enclosure	Iron Age; Medieval	SM88112116
11144	Bathesland	Findspot	Neolithic	SM862207
12143	Lady Well	Holy Well	Medieval	SM87512126
15915		Lime Kiln	Post Medieval	SM88221997
16143	Roch Gate	Toll Gate	Post Medieval	SM874209
17966		Chapel	Post Medieval	SM87102182
17968	Trefrane	Coal Workings	Post Medieval	SM86422027
17973		Chapel	Post Medieval	SM87802110
17974		School	Post Medieval	SM88152112
23758	Holy Well	Cottage	Post Medieval	SM86842075
23759	Southwood	Coal Workings	Post Medieval	SM86602135
28404	Raf Folly	Pump House	Modern	SM8643820593
48327	Church Hill	Ring Barrow	Bronze Age	SM8643921143
59634	Entrance Walls and Gatepiers to Roch Castle	Gates to Country House	Post Medieval	SM8797821158

PRN	Name	Type	Period	NGR
59635	Church of St Mary	Church	Post Medieval	SM8811321173
62732		Stone	Not Known	SM8623020789
62738	Trefrane Cliff Colliery	Coal Mine	Post Medieval	SM8636720301
62739	Trefrane Cliff Colliery	Coal Mine	Post Medieval	SM8646520207
62742	Folkeston Moor	Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8669120244
106291	Bathesland	Coal Workings; Mine Shaft	Post Medieval	SM8655720865
106292	Church Hill	Coal Workings; Mine Shaft	Post Medieval	SM8651220950
106294	Southwood	Coal Workings	Post Medieval	SM86512147
109104	Toll Road	Toll Road	Post Medieval	SM84872200
118304	Longhill	Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8679621695
118305	Midway Farm	Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8694921546
118307	Roch Gate	Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8747620936
118308	Castle Farm	Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8795221232
118309		Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8800021296
118310	Roch	Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8805521126
118315	Rambolts Hill	Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8770120332
121464		Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8807321134
121612	Victoria Inn	Farmstead	Post Medieval	SM8717221431
129775	Roch Community School	School	Post Medieval	SM8721121476
129776	Roch	Standing Stone	Unknown	SM8726421431
129777	Roch	Standing Stone	Unknown	SM8733321480

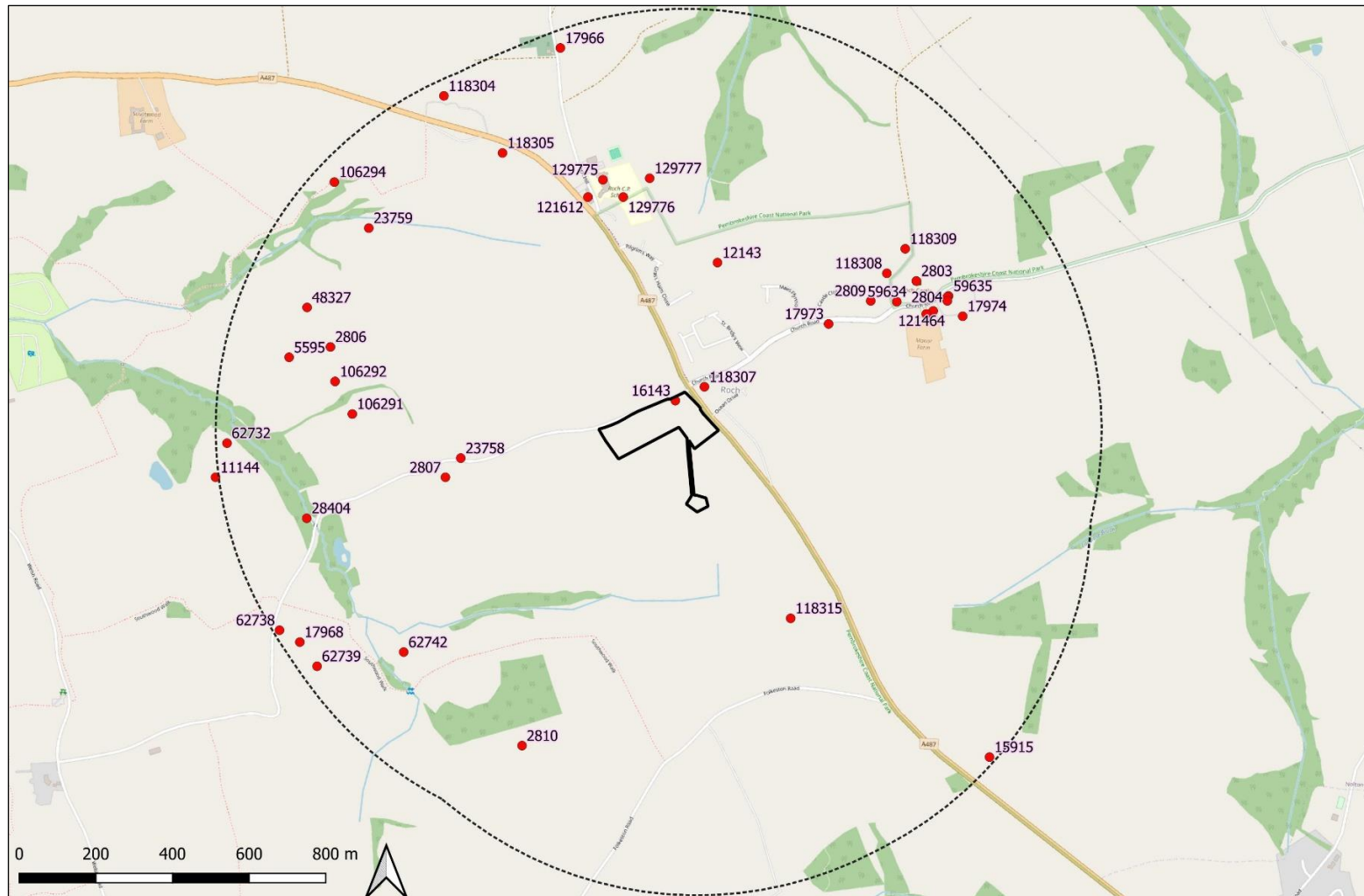


Figure 5: Map showing historic assets recorded in the regional HER (red points), labelled by PRN within the development site and the 1km radius study area (black dotted polygon).

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 12/03/24.

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 national and regional databases of historic assets. The following section examines some of the main sources of information that inform or could expand the current understanding of the archaeological resource and highlight previously unrecorded historic assets.

6.2 Previous Archaeological Work

- 6.2.1 No intrusive archaeological investigations (excavations or evaluations) have previously been undertaken within the proposed development area. However, in 1993, water pipeline works between Troed-y-rhiw and Roch Gate were subject to archaeological assessment prior to the work (Bishop 1993) and archaeological monitoring during the works (Murphy 1994), which included excavations for pipework in and around the crossroads immediately adjacent to the site. These works identified sites recorded on the HER but it would appear nothing of archaeological interest was recorded in close proximity to Roch Gate.
- 6.2.2 In 2012 renovation works at Roch Castle were accompanied by a series of archaeological investigations including archaeological monitoring, geophysical survey and detailed building recording (Meek 2012). This work revealed much about the history and development of the castle and provided an excellent background to activity in the locality during the medieval and early post-medieval periods but is of little direct relevance to the proposed development site.
- 6.2.3 In 2014 development works at 44 Church Road, Roch were subject to archaeological monitoring (Wilson 2014). This revealed a series of linear features, possibly a mix of drainage features and boundary ditches, and one sherd of medieval pottery. The results appeared consistent with the assumption that medieval settlement once extended down Church Road to the west of the castle and was potentially more extensive than had previously been assumed. Subsequent work at nearby 42A Church Road was also subject to archaeological monitoring (Jones 2016) and linear features and medieval pottery were again recorded, although the ditches were interpreted as field enclosures rather than core settlement features.
- 6.2.4 In 2007 an archaeological assessment was carried out on The National Trust's Southwood Estate to the west of the proposed development area (Crane 2007). In 2022 a desk-based assessment was undertaken on Maes Fynnon on the north side of Roch which focussed on the site of Lady Well (Stratton 2022). Both studies provide useful background information about the history and archaeology of the local area but afford no additional details of interest for the proposed development area itself.

6.3 Historic Mapping

Emanuel Bowen's map of South Wales 1729 (Fig 6)

- 6.3.1 This map has often been used to identify the presence of later turnpike roads, and whilst the map lacks close detail, it does indicate that the route of the A487 had been established prior to the turnpike trust being formed. It also suggests a crossroads in place at Roch Gate but no further detail about the proposed development area is shown.



Figure 6: Extract from Emanuel Bowen's map of 1729 suggesting a crossroads at Roch Gate, just below the fold line (arrow).

Thomas Budgen - Ordnance Survey original surveyor's drawing (Haverfordwest) 1809 (Fig 7)

- 6.3.2 This relatively early map lacks some fine detail but does give a better indication of the layout and extent of the settlement of Roch, which is very much centred around the castle and church to the east. Church Road is shown, as is a more northerly route, now used as a bridleway (and identified as a medieval holloway (Stratton 2022)). Roch Gate (PRN 118307) had been established on the east side of the crossroads, on the opposite side to the proposed development site.
- 6.3.3 Various local farmsteads are marked on the map, as is the local road around the northern edge of the site with a cottage (PRN 23758) to the west. No detail of note is marked within the proposed development boundary.



Figure 7: Extract from the Ordnance Survey drawings of 1809. Development site marked by the arrow.

Roch Parish tithe map 1839 (Fig 8)

- 6.3.4 The parish tithe map of 1839 depicts the site in more detail, showing field boundaries as well as the main settlements and dwellings. The proposed development area lies across the northern end of two fields, subdivided by a somewhat irregular boundary that likely runs along a local watercourse. The western field (No. 256) is named in the accompanying tithe apportionment as 'Upper Boulstons', the eastern field (No. 257) is named simply as 'greens'. Both fields are part of 'Boulstons', which appears to comprise an area of six adjoining fields that extend west from the crossroads as far as Bathesland Farm. Somewhat unusually there does not appear to be a farmstead directly associated with the land, perhaps because it appears to be an outlying piece of land owned by John Phillips of Boulston Manor (hence the 'Boulstons' name). David Walters is listed as the occupier, presumably as in David Walters of Wood, a small hamlet to the north, listed elsewhere in the apportionments.
- 6.3.5 No features of note are shown within the proposed development area. Roch Gate Farm, as previous maps have indicated, lies on the crossroads opposite the proposed development area. The main road takes a slightly more easterly course, preserved today in the layby alongside the current A487 as it passes the site. No other features of note are recorded.



Figure 8: Extract from the 1839 Roch parish tithe map showing a rough approximation of the development area (red outline)..

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, 1889 (Fig 9)

- 6.3.6 First edition Ordnance Survey maps depict the development area in even greater detail. Generally the layout of the landscape is similar to that visible on the tithe map, with the proposed development site occupying the northern part of two adjacent fields. The dividing boundary leads down to a marshy area to the south and presumably does channel water. In the western field the map marks the location of a 'stone' (RG01). Numerous such stones are marked in the landscape and often depict standing stones of some form but can range from post-medieval cattle rubbing stones to Bronze Age standing stones. The provenance of this stone is unknown.
- 6.3.7 To the west other stones are marked around the cottage of Holywell (PRN 23758), the name of which suggests some of the nearby wells may be significant holy wells (PRN 2807). Together they suggest a local site of some potential importance and therefore the road that runs past the northern edge of the site may be a more significant routeway. On the opposite side of the road to the proposed development site lies Roch Gate (PRN 118307), the arrangement of buildings suggesting a small farmstead, none of which is indicative of a toll gate. On the north side of the crossroads however a small roadside building and enclosure is marked, which may indicate the site of a small toll house, although it is unlabelled. To the east the village of Roch is still marked as clustered around the castle and church at the eastern end of the present village limits.

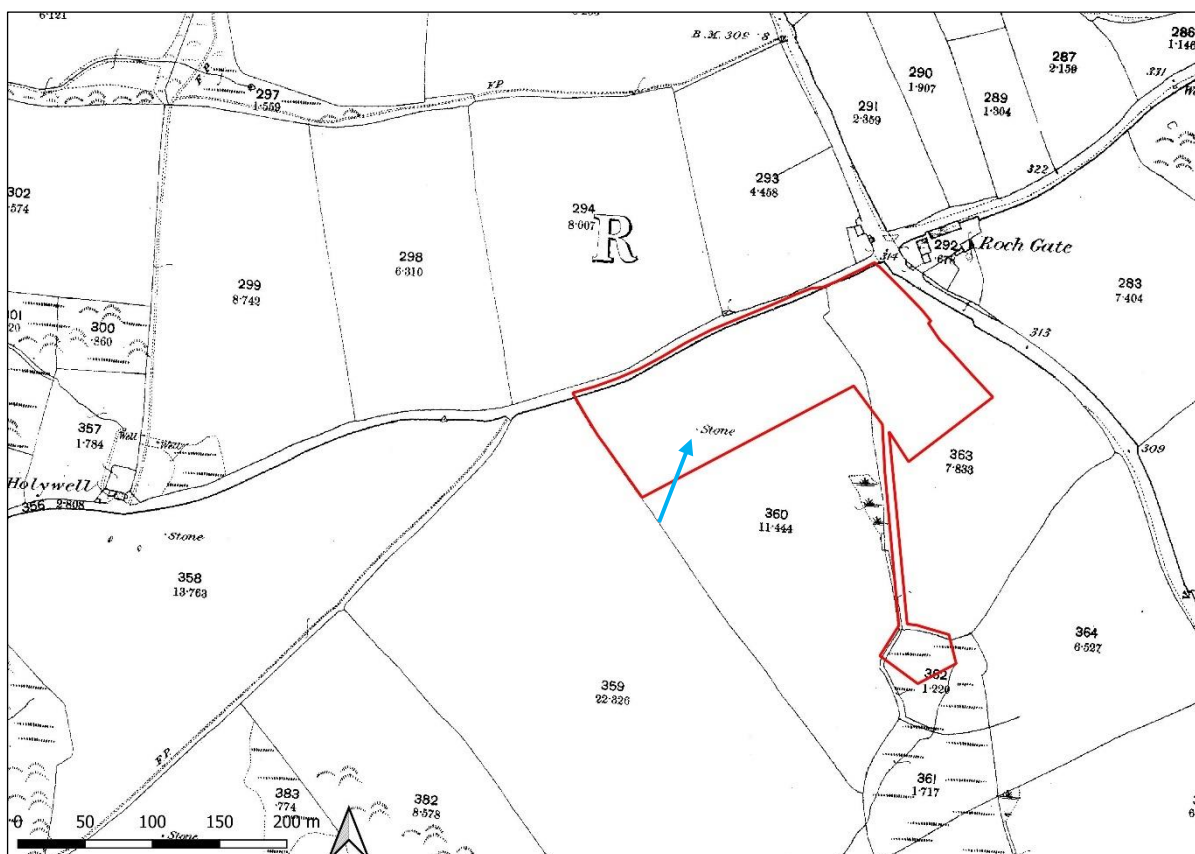


Figure 9: Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey map. The proposed development site boundary is marked in red, the location of 'stone' RG01 is marked by the blue arrow.

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, 1907

- 6.3.8 The second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 shows a very similar layout to the landscape, the one major difference being the stone RG01 is no longer marked. The field boundaries, road layout and nearby buildings all appear to be unchanged.

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, 1953 (Fig 10)

- 6.3.9 A further revision of the Ordnance Survey map took place in 1948 (published in 1953) which captures an important stage in the modern history of the site. A survey in 1994 recorded part of a Second World War radar station further to the west (PRN 28404) and a series of buildings immediately to the north of the proposed development area including concrete hut foundations, a transformer plinth and an air raid shelter, all temporary structures erected during the Second World War and largely associated with RAF sites. This map appears to capture those buildings and suggests a much more extensive site surrounds Roch Gate which includes a series of buildings within the proposed development area (RG02). The buildings are not labelled and no indication of their function is recorded but they appear to be characteristic wartime structures, potentially related to an outlying RAF settlement or radar station. There are at least six structures clustered close to the crossroads with a series of sewage tanks also set up further down the slope to the south.

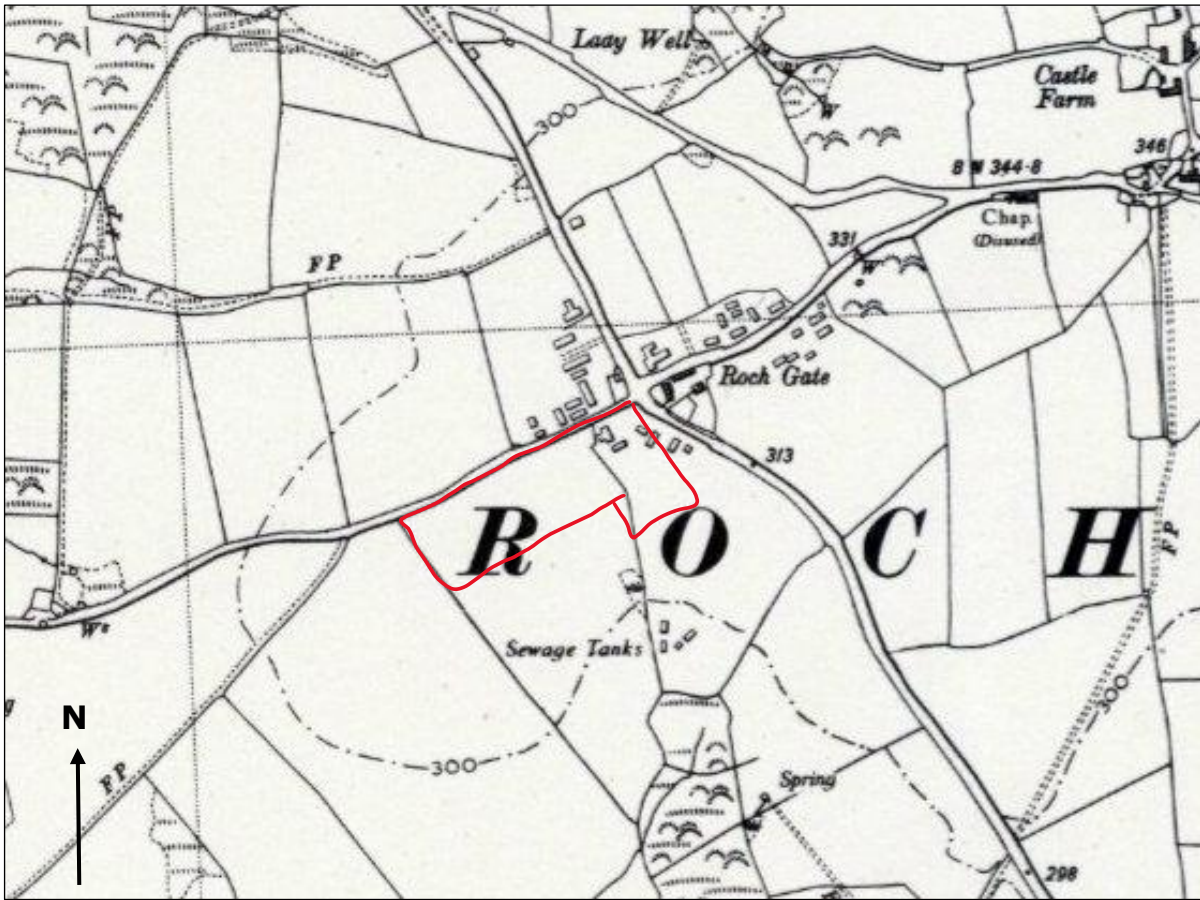


Figure 10: Extract from the 1953 Ordnance Survey map, showing the location of possible wartime buildings within the proposed development area (roughly marked in red).

(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland).

6.4 Aerial and Historic Photography

- 6.4.1 A search was made of available historic and modern aerial photographs. Aerial photographs taken by the RAF between 1942 and 1950 were examined, together with modern aerial and satellite imagery from the last 20 years.
- 6.4.2 RAF images from 1942 show a collection of buildings around the crossroads at Roch Gate (Photo 01), spreading along Church Road towards Roch but clearly separate from the village. This would appear to confirm what is suggested on the 1953 Ordnance Survey mapping, that a wartime encampment or radar station RG02 has been established around the crossroads, relatively recently given the appearance of the ground surrounding the buildings. The buildings themselves are shown in greater clarity on subsequent images of 1946 (Photo 02).
- 6.4.3 Modern aerial images from 2006 onwards show several changes in the locality. Urban settlement at Roch had spread up to the A487, replacing any wartime structures to the east of the road. The new line of the road had been established to straighten the approach from the south. The wartime structures to the north of the crossroads had been largely removed, although the concrete foundations are still clearly visible in 2006, gradually becoming covered by vegetation over the subsequent 18 years. Within the proposed development area the motel and

restaurant had been established, with a gradual dereliction shown since their closure in 2008. Farmland to the west is clearly in mixed agricultural use, indicating this area is regularly ploughed. A small unploughed area lies on the southwest edge of the proposed development site, discussed further in sections 6.5 and 6.6, but this was not visible on the earlier RAF photographs

6.4.4 No further features of interest are noted within the proposed development area.



Photo 01: Extract from an RAF aerial photograph taken in 1942 showing the military encampment or radar station RG02 established around the crossroads. The proposed development site is marked in red (approximate).



Photo 02: Extract from an RAF aerial photograph showing the site in 1946 and providing a clearer depiction of the wartime structures clustered around the crossroads.

6.5 LiDAR (Fig 11)

- 6.5.1 LiDAR data at 1mDSM is available for the site area. The developed area of the former motel and restaurant is clear. No obvious features are apparent in the surrounding fields although there is a possible object or earthwork feature (RG03) in the southwest corner of the western field, also visible on modern satellite imagery. This is close to the location of the stone RG01 marked on the first edition map and may be related. This feature was also identified during the site visit (see below).



Figure 11: LiDAR data at 1mDSM showing the proposed development site, roughly marked in red. A possible earthwork feature RG03 is marked by the blue arrow. Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

6.6 Site Visit (Photos 03-22)

- 6.6.1 A site visit was undertaken on 08 March 2024. The weather conditions were bright and dry with good visibility. Access to the entire site was possible but building interiors were not visited.
- 6.6.2 The former motel and restaurant site occupies the northeast corner of the proposed development area (Photo 03). There are two main buildings on the site, both dilapidated and in decaying conditions. An irregular shaped building lies in the northeast corner, largely single storey flat roof but with an integrated L-shaped pitched-tiled roof range, it is built of masonry and brick with cement rendered exteriors (Photos 03 to 05). A long range lies to the west of three main elements; a two-storey accommodation block at the northern end, then a single-storey flat-roofed, timber-fronted range, and a pitched tiled roofed range with cement rendered walls and timber infill (Photos 03, 06 to 08). A road accesses the site from the north (Photo 09) and runs between the buildings, opening into a large area of hardstanding to the south of the buildings with the concrete footings of a demolished building range (Photo 10). The site is enclosed in fencing but otherwise is bounded by hedgerows associated with agricultural land to the west, with a low wall fronting a road-side grass verge to the east (Photo 11) and a low concrete block wall to the south (Photo 22). Scrub is growing across the site and it has clearly been accessed over the years since its closure, with vandalism and graffiti evident.
- 6.6.3 The former motel and restaurant site is relatively level but the ground then slopes away gradually to the south and west. To the south a hardstanding track with an embanked boundary, possibly of World War II origin, leads down to an area of rough, wet ground (Photos 12 and 13). To the west lies a large field of improved

pasture with low, maintained hedges on the roadside to the north and to further fields to the west (Photos 14 to 16). The area appears relatively featureless, with no indication of the 'stone' RG01 in the mapped location. A little to the southwest, on the edge of the proposed development boundary, lies a low, roughly oval mound, 13m by 6m, of overgrown stone, which would appear to correspond to the location of the feature RG03 identified from LiDAR data and modern aerial imagery (Photos 16 and 17). The site lies close to the top of rising ground and is in a good location for an archaeological feature such as a Bronze Age burial mound but as a clear and obvious earthwork it would seem unlikely that this has not been identified as such previously, suggesting it is not an antiquity. The stones within the low mound have the appearance of field clearance material, although unusually not located on a field boundary. Two similar mounds of stony material lie a short distance to the west (Photo 18), some of which consists of large irregular boulders of local stone but generally appearing to represent dumped material.

- 6.6.4 Modern housing development lies to the east of the site on the edge of Roch (Photo 19). To the north, on the opposite side of the local road, remnants of concrete and brick built structures, typical of temporary World War II buildings, lie within scrubby ground (Photo 20). These buildings would appear to confirm that this area was used as a camp during World War II, possibly associated with a radar station.
- 6.6.5 The site offers relatively good views to the south (Photos 12, 16 and 22) and west (Photo 14) whilst views to the north are somewhat obscured by scrubby ground. The built up area of Roch lies to the east. Roch Castle (listed building reference 11982, Photo 21) is the only designated asset clearly visible in the surrounding landscape as a prominent local landmark. Views from the castle towards the site are blocked at ground level by the urban development of Roch (Photos 17 and 19).



Photo 03: View northwest. General shot of the former motel and restaurant site.



Photo 04: View northwest of the derelict buildings on the site.



Photo 05: View north of the eastern range of buildings on the site.



Photo 06: View west of the former accommodation block on the site.



Photo 07: View northwest of the western range of buildings on the site.



Photo 08: View southeast of the rear of the western range of buildings.



Photo 09: View southwest, showing the northern entrance to the former motel and restaurant site.



Photo 10: View northeast showing the concrete foundations and surrounding hardstanding at the southern end of the former motel and restaurant site.



Photo 11: View northwest, showing the eastern boundary to the site



Photo 12: View south down the track to the drainage area.



Photo 13: View southeast across the rough wet area to the south.



Photo 14: View west across the pasture field to the west of the former motel and restaurant site.



Photo 15: View east across the pasture field to the west of the former motel and restaurant site. Roch Castle is just about visible above the rooftops of Roch.



Photo 16: View southeast across the field to the west of the former motel and restaurant site, showing the location of RG03 as a low mound on the right.



Photo 17: View east with mound RG03 in the foreground. Roch Castle is visible on the skyline to the rear.



Photo 18: View southwest of a pile of stone a short distance to the west of RG03.



Photo 19: View northeast from the eastern edge of the proposed development area, looking along Church Road with Roch Castle in the background.



Photo 20: View southwest, showing the remains of World War II structures in scrubby ground to the north of the proposed development site.



Photo 21: View northeast showing Roch Castle (listed building ref. 11982) and gateway (listed building ref. 19079).



Photo 22: View southeast from the proposed development site looking towards the nearest scheduled monument of PE216 (not visible in this view).

7 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL, IMPORTANCE AND SETTING

Table 4: 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 5: Site importance definitions

Site Importance (SI)	Definition of Site Category
High	Features of national importance - scheduled monuments, listed buildings Grades 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 There is one previously recorded archaeological site listed with the proposed development area (toll gate PRN 16143) and three new sites recorded during the current assessment (standing stone RG01, military camp RG02 and mound RG03). Background research also highlights a general archaeological potential to this area.
- 7.1.2 The location, and indeed existence, of the **toll gate PRN 16143** does not appear to have been established. The presence of the gate is inferred from a combination of the place name (Roch Gate) and the presence of a turnpike road (PRN 109104) but the name appears traditionally to be linked to the nearby farmstead (PRN 118307), which may be due rather to its location at the entrance to Roch village. No toll building has ever been identified within the proposed development area and no potential toll structure is marked on this site on historic mapping. Consequently, it would seem unlikely that toll gate PRN 16143 exists within the proposed development area. There is therefore a **negligible potential** for this site to exist within the proposed development area but if any below-ground remains did survive they would likely be of **low archaeological importance** given the subsequent development of this area.
- 7.1.3 **Standing stone RG01** refers to a stone marked on a late 19th century map. This may simply indicate a natural boulder or glacial erratic that was particularly prominent in the field, or may even have been used as a cattle rubbing stone; no further attributions are recorded. Such sites are however given more significance by the possibility of Bronze Age standing stones dotted across the local landscape. The significance of this site is unclear, the stone is no longer standing within the field and may have been removed from its original location. If however it does represent a standing stone then there is the possibility of further archaeological remains surviving below ground, as such sites could be part of larger ritual sites and areas. The site lies in an undeveloped, agricultural part of the proposed development site, albeit in an area that has been regularly ploughed, with a **low to medium potential** for below ground remains to exist, which may potentially be of **low to medium archaeological importance**.
- 7.1.4 **Military camp RG02** has been identified from mid-20th century mapping and aerial photography, which records a number of buildings spread out around the crossroads at Roch Gate. Some of these remains were recorded to the north in 1994 and are still visible as concrete and brick structures. These were erected quickly and were largely temporary buildings for use during World War II, likely associated with Brawdy Airfield to the north. Whilst the history of this camp is not recorded and so its function is unclear, it may have offered accommodation or been part of a radar station complex, or similar. The building remains lay largely under the later Roch Gate Motel site; there is no indication that these buildings were incorporated into the motel complex and it is likely they were cleared from the site when the motel was established. The complex may have been larger as sewage tanks are noted to the south and some form of infrastructure is also likely. With subsequent development however there is a **low potential** for remains of this camp to exist within the proposed development area, of **low archaeological importance**.
- 7.1.5 A low stony **mound RG03** was identified on the edge of the proposed development area. There is the potential, given that it lies close to the site of RG01 and in a landscape relatively rich in prehistoric archaeological remains, that this may represent an archaeological feature such as a Bronze Age burial mound. It would appear more likely however that this simply indicates an area of field clearance, with other similar mounds lying nearby and it not previously recorded or visible on mid-20th century aerial photography. As a visible feature there is a **medium**

potential for further remains to survive below ground but it is likely to be of **negligible to low archaeological importance**.

- 7.1.6 An examination of the archaeological and historic background to this area has highlighted that it lies in a relatively rich archaeological landscape, with evidence of activity from multiple periods between the palaeolithic and post-medieval times. No specific archaeological sites have been identified within the proposed development area, and subsequent development and agricultural activity across the site is likely to have impacted upon buried remains, but a **general low background archaeological potential** exists. Any such archaeological remains, if they exist at all, could vary widely in significance, therefore the general archaeological potential is considered to be of **uncertain archaeological importance**.

7.2 Setting

- 7.2.1 *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017a) 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 2017a). 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 There are no scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens or conservation areas within the proposed development area.
- 7.2.3 To the north lie a series of scheduled enclosures and promontory forts (PE271, PE363, PE422, PE540) within around 3km of the proposed development area but no visual or other links could be established with these sites. Around 2.5km to the southeast lies hillfort PE216 which occupies a more prominent location but lies on largely easterly facing slopes, and no links to the proposed development site could be established. No further scheduled monuments are likely to be affected by the proposed development.
- 7.2.4 There are several listed buildings that lie closer to the proposed development site. The closest is the Grade II listed 19079 entranceway to Roch Castle and the Grade I listed 11982 Roch Castle itself, with the Grade II listed 19080 Church of St Mary lying nearby. These three buildings share a local setting with the castle as a central point, both in terms of visibility and importance, and with the buildings themselves interacting with one another throughout their shared history and development. The east end of Roch is the visible historic core of the village that surrounds these buildings. Links to and views of Roch Gate are not a significant factor for 19079, and similarly westerly views to and from St Mary’s Church are not significant. Views to and from Roch Castle however are clearly a more significant element of its setting. The castle is a prominent landmark and can be seen from some distance, including the proposed development site. Views from the castle also encompass extensive views in all directions, with the proposed development area visible, although perhaps not particularly prominent given the modern urban development of Roch between the two sites. No direct links between the castle and proposed development area have been established during the course of the assessment.

- 7.2.5 The proposed development area lies within the LANDMAP historic landscape area of Mathry - Hayscastle (PMBRKHL46060). As described in section 4.7, this is a large, mainly rural area with a particular archaeological focus on prehistoric funerary and ritual activity. The site of the former motel and restaurant is a modern built element and therefore not a characteristic component of this landscape. The surrounding agricultural land is typical of this landscape but forms only a very small proportion of this sizeable (182.1 sq km) area.

8 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 Development Proposals (Fig 12)

- 8.1.1 The development proposals would redevelop the site of the former, now derelict, motel and restaurant, building a mixed commercial and community development including a village shop, bistro, conference facilities and business units, with vehicle access, car parking and highway improvements. On adjacent agricultural land to the west, holiday lodges, parking and landscaping would be established. An attenuation pond would be located on lower ground to the southwest. The proposed layout is illustrated in Figure 12, although this has yet to be finalised.
- 8.1.2 Generally, any of the following activities typically associated with a development on this scale could have a physical impact upon historic assets by potentially exposing, damaging or destroying archaeological remains:
- Landscaping and terracing works;
 - Enabling works, such as the construction of access roads, parking and storage areas, associated services;
 - Surface stripping and levelling;
 - Construction of roads and infrastructure;
 - Foundation excavations;
 - Service installation;
 - Any other ground disturbing works
- 8.1.3 Development in this area also has the potential to generate indirect impacts upon historic assets by altering elements of the setting as discussed in section 7.2.

Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

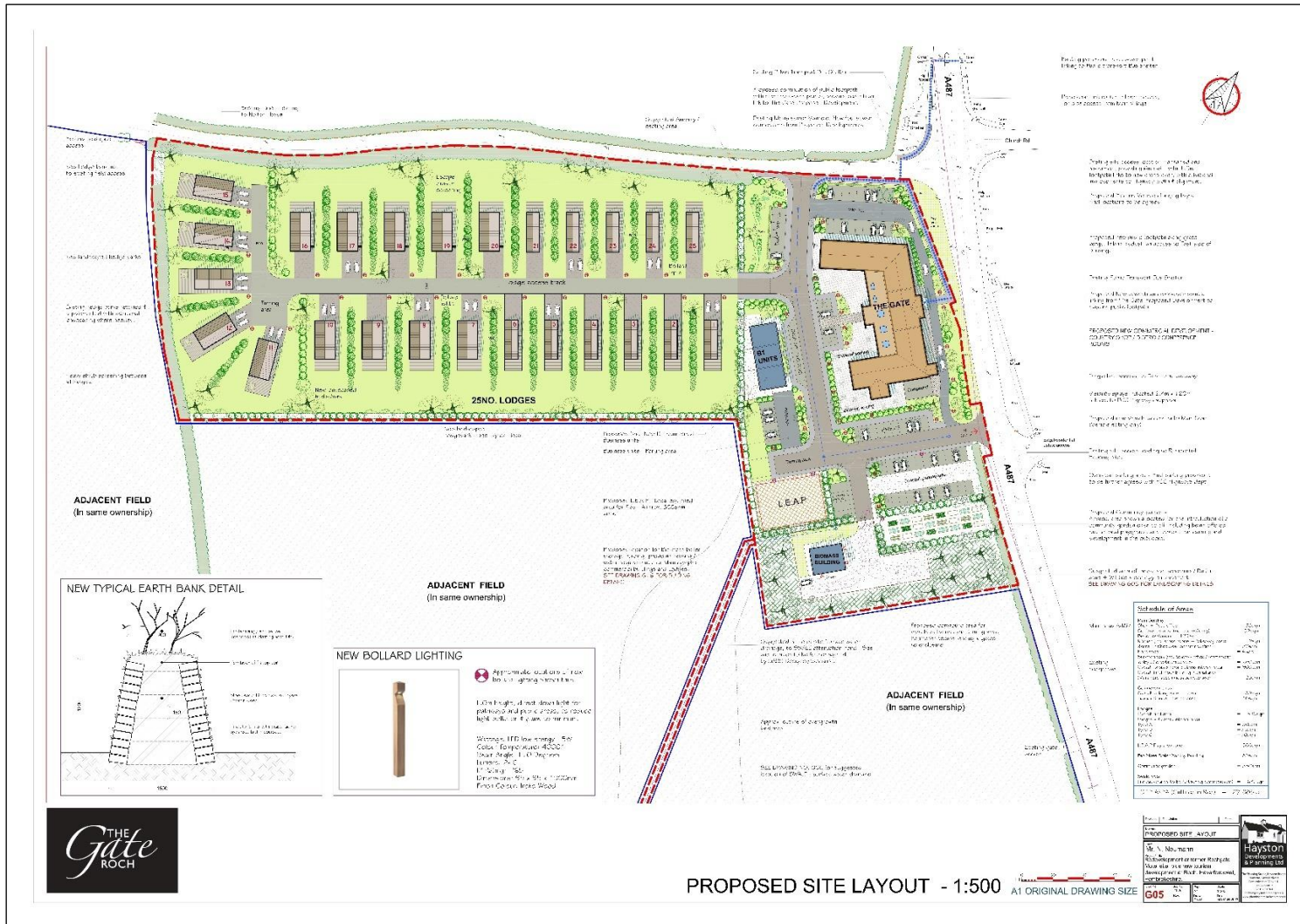


Figure 12: Initial development masterplan. Final details of the proposed scheme may change but this plan illustrates the main design proposals. Plan supplied by the client, not reproduced to scale.

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's '*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 however, the guidance offered in the Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017a) has been utilised.
- 8.2.2 The TAG criteria divides the impacts into seven categories:
- Large Adverse (negative)
 - Moderate Adverse (negative)
 - Slight Adverse (negative)
 - Neutral
 - Slight Beneficial (positive)
 - Moderate Beneficial (positive)
 - Large Beneficial (positive)

8.3 Physical Impacts upon the Historic Assets

- 8.3.1 There are considered to be negligible remains of **toll gate PRN 16143** within the proposed development area. Development therefore is likely to have a **Neutral impact** on this site.
- 8.3.2 There may be no upstanding remains of **stone RG01** on the site but the potential for below ground remains exist. Development works may not be as intensive in this area but landscaping, stripping, service excavations and potential foundation excavations are possible, all of which could have an adverse impact on any archaeological remains. This is considered to be a **Moderate Adverse impact**.
- 8.3.3 It is likely much of the **military camp RG02** has already been significantly adversely affected by the former motel and restaurant development reducing the potential for remains to exist, but any potential remains lie in an area of significant development which could therefore still have a **Slight Adverse impact** on this site.
- 8.3.4 **Mound RG03** is of uncertain provenance but has some potential, albeit negligible to low, for being archaeologically important. This lies on the edge of the proposed development area and may not therefore be intensively developed but stripping, levelling and boundary treatments may still have a **Moderate Adverse impact**.
- 8.3.5 The level of development works likely required are also likely to impact on any archaeological remains should they be present on the site, therefore there is considered to be a **Moderate Adverse impact** on the **general archaeological potential** in the area.

8.4 Impacts to the Settings of Surrounding Designated Features

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

The setting of a historic asset includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and

its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive, negative or neutral contribution to the significance of an asset.

- 8.4.2 As illustrated in Section 7.2 only one designated asset has been identified that may potentially be impacted by the proposed development. The Grade I listed **Roch Castle (11982)** lies nearly 700m to the east of the site but the visual aspect of this site is an important element of its setting. The castle is a clear local landmark and offers extensive views across the surrounding plateau. Views between the castle and proposed development site are however reduced in significance by the intervening modern development of Roch, which serves to hide much of the view, particularly at ground level, as well as providing a continuous framework for viewing modern urban development from the castle. Any visible elements of the proposed development are likely to form a small extension to the rooftops currently visible. The proposed development site itself is not considered a significant viewpoint from which to look at the castle and no other tangible links between the two sites have been established. A full visual impact assessment has not been undertaken but generally it is considered that proposed development will only have a **Slight Adverse impact** on the setting of Roch Castle.
- 8.4.3 The site lies within the **LANDMAP historic landscape of Mathry - Haycastle (PMBRKHL46060)**. As stated in Section 7.2 much of the proposed development site is already developed as a modern motel and restaurant site, therefore the redevelopment of this area is unlikely to impact upon the historic landscape. The loss of agricultural land to the west reduces the agricultural area of the landscape and may potentially include the loss of some prehistoric archaeological remains in RG01, but this is a proportionally small area, there are no visible remains of RG01 and its provenance remains untested, and as a continuous form of development from the current development at the crossroads this change is generally considered to have a **Neutral to Slight Adverse impact**.

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Archaeological Potential and Impact Assessment

- 9.1.1 A toll gate PRN 16143 has previously been recorded in the site area but there is considered to be negligible potential for the site to exist within the proposed development area, which will therefore have a neutral impact.
- 9.1.2 A possible standing stone RG01 has been identified within the proposed development area, no longer standing but with a low to medium potential for associated buried remains to exist, of low to medium importance. Development may still have a moderate adverse impact upon any surviving buried remains.
- 9.1.3 A former World War II military camp RG02 lay partly within the proposed development area but with a low potential for any associated remains to survive below-ground, of associated low archaeological importance. Given the likely condition of any surviving remains, further development is considered to have a slight adverse impact on this site.
- 9.1.4 A low stony mound RG03 on the edge of the proposed development area may be an archaeological feature but this is doubtful and therefore has a negligible to low archaeological importance, although with a medium potential for remains to exist below ground as well. Development may potentially have a moderate adverse impact upon this site.
- 9.1.5 A low general archaeological potential has been identified for the area as a whole, across a wide date range, of uncertain archaeological importance. A moderate adverse impact has been identified through development groundworks, should any archaeological remains exist with the proposed development area.
- 9.1.6 There is the potential for proposed development to impact upon visual aspects of the setting of Grade I listed Roch Castle 11982. This does not affect significant viewpoints and is mitigated by existing urban development in the vicinity. The proposed development is therefore considered to have a slight adverse impact upon this setting.
- 9.1.7 A neutral to slight adverse impact has been identified to the LANDMAP historic landscape area of Mathry - Haycastle (PMBRKHL46060), largely through the loss of agricultural land through the development.
- 9.1.8 No other significant impacts have been identified.

Table 6: Assessment of impacts

Site	Ref. No.	Potential	Value	Site Status	Physical Impact	Setting Impact
Roch Gate toll gate	PRN 16143	Negligible	Low	-	Neutral	-
Standing stone	RG01	Low to Medium	Low to Medium	-	Moderate Adverse	-
Military camp	RG02	Low	Low	-	Slight Adverse	-
Mound	RG03	Medium	Negligible to Low	-	Moderate Adverse	-

Site	Ref. No.	Potential	Value	Site Status	Physical Impact	Setting Impact
General archaeological potential	-	Low	Uncertain	-	Moderate Adverse	-
Roch Castle	11982		High	Grade I Listed	None	Slight Adverse
Mathry - Hayscastle - LANDMAP Historic Landscape	PMBRKHL4 6060	High	High	-	Neutral to Slight Adverse	Neutral to Slight Adverse

9.2 Mitigation

- 9.2.1 There is the potential for development proposals to adversely impact below-ground remains associated with some identified sites and potential archaeological remains. Given the uncertain provenance of some, and low importance of other identified sites, along with the likely condition of below-ground preservation due to subsequent development in the area, they are unlikely to be of a significance requiring preservation *in situ*. Preservation through record of any such remains could still be desirable however, which would require some archaeological mitigation.
- 9.2.2 Such mitigation could take the form of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with development. This would require the presence of an archaeologist as groundworks are undertaken, with the opportunity and resources included within the development programme to allow any archaeological remains identified during this process to be sufficiently investigated and recorded. Provision should also be made in the possible but unlikely event that significant archaeological remains are uncovered requiring additional mitigation, such as additional time and resources.
- 9.2.3 Visual impacts upon the setting of Roch Castle should be a consideration of the design and layout of the proposed development. Such proposals do however already appear to be material considerations of development within this area of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, particularly in terms of building heights, layouts, materials and appearance of the development, therefore no further specific recommendations are included to mitigate any potential impact upon Roch Castle.
- 9.2.4 These mitigation measures are suggestions only. Any recommendations for archaeological mitigation rests with the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

10 SOURCES

Database

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