

*Structure of the Report*

This report is not intended as a detailed history of Brawdy Farm, but rather an assessment of the archaeological and historical evidence for the farm and its immediate environs with reference to the fields adjacent to the Farm and old sand pits where further extraction is envisaged. It attempts to indicate, as briefly as possible, the nature of the evidence and the possible archaeological traces which might be encountered during working. The Report is based on examination of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Sites and Monuments' Record, selected historic map and documentary sources in the National Library of Wales, an examination of aerial photographic cover of the site and a Field Visit. A list of sources is given at the end of the Report.

*Summary*

The characteristic settlement pattern in the St David's area of dispersed farms and small hamlets is an ancient one and there is a high degree of continuity from at least the medieval period if not earlier. In addition there have been archaeological finds from the prehistoric and 'Dark Age' period at or close to Brawdy Farm. The area is thus one of archaeological potential and interest. However there are no traces of any archaeological features in the fields in question adjacent to the sand quarry. There can be no objection on archaeological grounds to extension of quarrying provided that provision is made for archaeological inspection of the area once stripped and that existing hedgerows are retained as far as possible.

*Archaeological Evidence*1. Prehistoric and Romano-British (3500 BC - 400AD).

The light sandy soils of the area would have been exploitable from the Neolithic period onwards (c. 3500 BC), and this is suggested by finds in the Brawdy farm area. A polished stone axe of Neolithic date was found at Llethr Farm early in the 19th century and more recently two Bronze Age flint arrowheads, which are in the collections of the National Museum of Wales. Beach flint was noted in the exposed subsoil of the old sand quarries during the Field Visit and it is therefore possible that further material may be discovered during a systematic search of the ground after topsoil stripping before fresh extraction begins.

The Iron Age Promontary Fort, 400 m. east of Brawdy Farm has been partially excavated by Dr K. Dark between 1985 and 1991. Although he has not yet completed the final report he argues for occupation of the site in the Roman and post Roman periods (i.e. from about 100 AD to perhaps 800 AD) in addition to the better attested Iron Age evidence. It is likely that the present farm lands, including the fields which are the subject of this report, were part of the cultivated land attached to the hillfort. However it is unlikely that archaeological evidence for this has survived. It should be noted that the Pembrokeshire Archaeological Survey of 1903 was informed that 'some years ago Mr. Thomas Gwyther of Brawdy, turned up with his plough in the adjoining field a piece of horse's headgear, made of bronze, much corroded'. Nothing further is known of this find.

## 2. Dark Age. 400-1100 AD

It is now thought likely that most of the parish churches not demonstrably newly built and founded by the Norman incomers, originated as early Christian burial grounds, to which oratories, chapels and churches, first in timber and then in stone might be added. The archaeological evidence for this process takes the form of the churchyard plan itself (circular and embanked), or of cemeteries with bodies enclosed in stone cists (long cist cemeteries) or the presence of inscribed memorial stones (the so-called Early Christian Monuments). All these types of evidence are present in quantity in the St David's area. However, the Early Christian Monuments inscribed in latin and ogham in Brawdy church are not from the site itself but were found at nearby Cas Wilia Farm. So it is only on general grounds that the existence of an early Christian cemetery may be suggested for Brawdy, perhaps originating in the 5th or 6th centuries AD, long pre-dating the stone church and probably, though not certainly, located within the present churchyard. There is therefore the outside chance that burials, perhaps in stone cists, might be discovered in the environs of the Farm and Churchyard.

## 3. Medieval 1100-1500 AD

In the thirteenth century the revenues of Brawdy Church were 'appropriated' by the Cathedral Church as a prebendal endowment and the estate formed a knight's fee. It is likely that the medieval manor house on the site of the present Farm dates from this period. We do not know how extensive a settlement might have been attached to such a manor house or how the adjoining fields were cultivated. But since no earthwork evidence or cropmarks visible from the air have been recorded the only archaeological evidence likely to be forthcoming from the fields proposed for further sand extraction are surface scatters of medieval pottery when the area is stripped prior to extraction.

## 4. The formation of the present Farm landscape 1500-1900 AD.

Although an exhaustive search has not been carried out, no detailed maps earlier than the Tithe Map of 1840 have been found for the farm. As the accompanying map shows the present field boundaries were all in existence by 1840 and there has been little change since that date. They are substantial banks and their slightly curving shape might indicate that they perpetuate the boundaries of some of the 'strips' or furlongs of an unenclosed 'open field' system. These are known to have existed in the St. David's area and were enclosed between the late middle ages and the 18th century. The Brawdy Farm hedgebanks are thus features of significance and interest in landscape history terms and should be retained as far as possible. Where they are breached or removed by the proposed new working it would be useful for an archaeological record to be made of their structure.

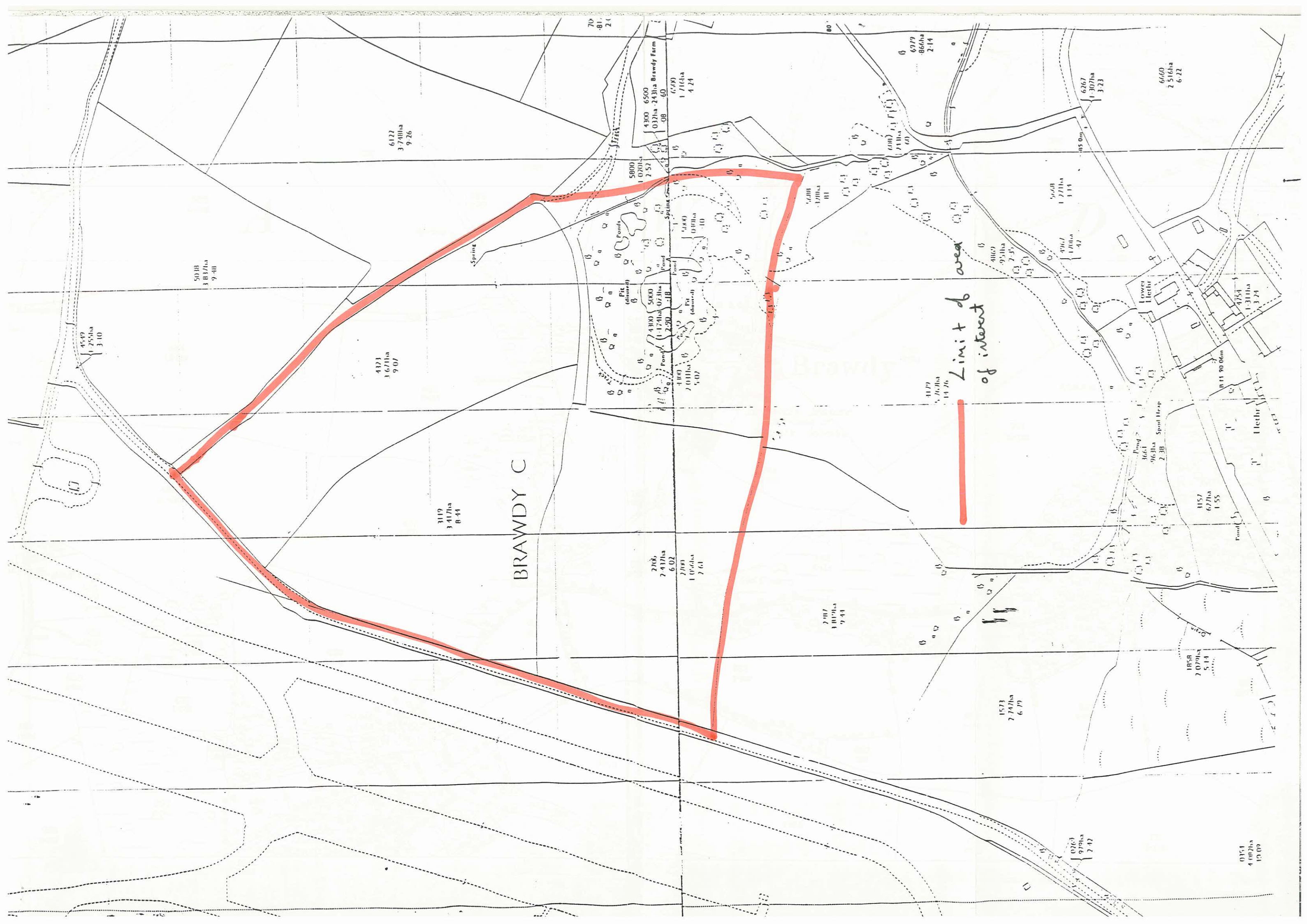
### **Recommendation:**

**That a condition be placed in any planning consent that areas to be quarried be topsoil stripped beforehand under archaeological supervision.**

### **Sources**

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Sites & Monuments Record  
First & Second Edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey Maps  
Tithe Map & Schedule, Brawdy parish  
Meridian vertical air photographs 180/220/10640-10641; 23564-23565

Curatorial Section,  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust. 3.07.92



BRAWDY C

Limit of area  
of interest

5038  
3.81/ha  
9.40

6122  
3.74/ha  
9.26

4121  
3.62/ha  
9.07

3119  
3.41/ha  
8.44

2708  
2.41/ha  
6.02

2700  
1.07/ha  
2.61

2707  
3.81/ha  
9.41

1573  
2.74/ha  
6.79

1858  
2.02/ha  
5.14

0151  
4.00/ha  
10.09

3157  
6.27/ha  
1.55

4754  
1.31/ha  
3.24

6660  
2.51/ha  
6.22

6267  
1.30/ha  
3.23

6979  
8.66/ha  
2.14

14300  
6500  
012/ha - 243/ha Brawdy Farm  
-08 60

171/ha  
4.24

5800  
1.07/ha  
2.52

5000  
1.17/ha  
0.7/ha

1400  
2.01/ha  
5.07

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