

JULY 2003 (1)



# **MINERALS RECLAMATION EMPLOYMENT PARK, JOHNSTON, PEMBROKESHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**



Report No. 2003/79

Report Prepared for:  
SLR CONSULTING

CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

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JULY 2003

MINERALS RECLAMATION EMPLOYMENT PARK, JOHNSTON,  
PEMBROKESHIRE

By

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# **MINERALS RECLAMATION EMPLOYMENT PARK, JOHNSTON, PEMBROKESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

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## SUMMARY

*Cambria Archaeology undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment and walk over survey, commissioned by SLR Consulting, on the site of a proposed Minerals Reclamation Employment Park, Johnston, Pembrokeshire, in July 2003.*

*Johnston Brick and Tile Works, 1890 – 1936, lay on the site of the proposed development. However, later developments have erased all remains of these works. Therefore there are no archaeological constraints on the site, and no further archaeological work is required.*

## INTRODUCTION

### *Project Commission*

In a letter dated 14 March 2003 to the Minerals Officer of Pembrokeshire County Council the Development Control Officer of Cambria Archaeology's Heritage Management Section recommended that an archaeological desk-based assessment and walk-over survey should be undertaken prior to submission of a planning application for a proposed employment park at Johnston, Pembrokeshire. SLR Consulting were appointed by Pembrokeshire County Council to prepare a Environmental Statement to accompany the planning application, and in this capacity they approached Cambria Archaeology's Field Operations section to undertake the archaeological desk-based assessment and walk-over survey as part of this statement. Cambria Archaeology's Field Operations prepared a specification for this work on 26 June 2003, and SLR Consulting accepted this on the same day. The archaeological desk-based assessment and walk-over survey was undertaken in the first two weeks of July 2003.

### *Scope of the project*

This assessment is designed to review the current stage of knowledge of the cultural heritage resource, and the likely implications of the proposed works on that resource. It is also intended to provide sufficient information to allow recommendations to be made for any further archaeological works necessary to mitigate the effects of the scheme.

### *Report outline*

This report describes the physical environment of the study areas before summarising the cultural heritage resource and the likely impact of the proposed scheme on that resource.

### *Abbreviations used in this report*

All sites recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). References to sources are provided using the Harvard system, with full details provided at the end of the report.

## THE STUDY AREA

### *Site location and topography*

The proposed development site comprises 5.25 ha of scrub-covered ex-industrial land lying to the west of the A4076(T) between Haverfordwest and Milford Haven immediately north of Johnston village core (NGR SM934110). The Haverfordwest to Milford Haven railway line defines the site to the east. Modern housing and other modern developments lie to the north, northeast and south.

The site lies across the floor and lower slopes of an open, wide valley at approximately 50m – 55m OD. The underlying geology of Carboniferous Middle Coal Measures are overlain in the valley floor by later drift deposits (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1976). The southern part of the site is covered with concrete foundations, areas of hard standing and the demolished remains of modern buildings. The northern part is scrub covered.

## SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

There is very little evidence for early settlement or land-use in the area of the proposed development. The only prehistoric site close to the development is a find spot of a Neolithic stone axe (PRN 14276), some 300m to the north. Given the poor soils of the coalfields, exacerbated by the valley bottom location, it is likely that the proposed development site was for long periods unenclosed rough ground or common. The Ordnance Survey 1887 map includes it as part of Johnston Moor, even though by this date it had been enclosed into fields.

The earliest maps of the area, such as the Bowen map of 1729 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1810, are small-scale and show little useful detail. However, an Ordnance Survey map of 1819 shows Johnston Colliery (PRN 48521) immediately northwest of the proposed development with a line of coal pits running outside the northern boundary of the proposed development under what is now housing and the former Royal Navy stores. The main road - A4076(T) – first shown on the Bowen map had been converted to a turnpike by 1819.

The tithe survey of 1843 is the first map to show good landscape detail. Johnston Colliery and the coal pits had gone by this date, and the land had been parcelled into fields. The relatively large, regular field shape and naming of all of them as simply 'field' in the accompanying apportionment suggests that they had been recently enclosed, probably in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Linear housing development alongside the turnpike road to the east of the proposed development is also shown on the tithe.

In 1856 the Great Western Railway constructed a line through Johnston from Haverfordwest to Neyland. A later spur went to Milford Haven. The course of this railway is shown on the 1887 Ordnance Survey map. Apart from this major development the landscape had changed little since the tithe survey of 1843.

The area of the proposed development was part of the Johnston Hall Estate. In 1890 the owner of the estate, Richard Carrow, leased a piece of land for 99 years to G E Carrow and C H R Carrow for the purposes of a brickfield (Pembrokeshire Record Office D/RTM/6/106). The brickworks (PRN 24399) were in full production by a least 1900, when advertisements for 'Ordinary Red Bricks, Pressed Facing Bricks, Buffs and Flooring Squares & Co' from the Johnston Brick Works regularly appeared in local papers, such as *The Haverfordwest and Milford Haven Telegraph* of January 3 1900. In 1905 most the Johnston Hall Estate was sold (Pembrokeshire Record Office D/RTM/6/106). However, the brickworks remained with the leasees, The Johnston Brick Company. The brickworks were sold at auction on 23 August 1911 (Pembrokeshire Record Office D/RTM/6/106), when they were advertised as having 18 acres of good clay and with a 90,000 kiln capacity. In 1922 the then owner, C H J Talmage, sold the works to the Johnston Brick and Tile Works Limited, as it was then known, for £6000 (Pembrokeshire Record Office D/PEH/2/236). Financial problems were clearly encountered for in April 1930 receivers were appointed (Pembrokeshire Record Office D/PEH/2/242). Trading, however, seems to have continued for in 1934 a declaration of trust on the works was to the value of £3553.2.0 in favour of Sarah Talmage and Edith Williams (Pembrokeshire Record Office D/PEH/1/105). Production ceased in 1936 (The Western Telegraph and Cymric Times, 11 January 1951).

The Ordnance Survey map of 1908 shows some detail of the brickworks. Two circular kilns are shown towards the entrance on the eastern side of the site. The main blocks of buildings lie to the west of the kilns, but with one structure to the north. The clay pit lies to the west of the buildings. A spur line from the mainline railway to Freystrop Colliery is shown crossing the southern part of the proposed development site, with a short siding south of the kilns serving the brickworks. Aerial photographs taken in 1955 (Meridan Airmaps) show that the works had expanded considerably between 1908 and their closure in 1936. The clay pit took up almost the entire northern half of the proposed development site. Viewing these photographs with stereoscopic vision it would seem that this pit was up to 10m deep. The main range of buildings had also expanded, but was roofless in 1955, and whilst the southern kiln retained its domed roof, the northern one had been reduced to ground level. A chimney lay to the west of the kilns. A second spur railway line had been constructed across site, this time curving down from the north. Other rail lines or tram lines seem to have been laid across the southern part of the proposed development site and the area used for spoil disposal - perhaps waste from Freystrop Colliery. In 1951 the Pembrokeshire Planning Committee was of the opinion that the brickworks were 'a very great disfigurement' and it would be 'of inestimable benefit if they could be totally removed'. One councillor called for the reopening of the works to provide bricks for new housing as 'the best bricks were made there' (The Western Telegraph and Cymric Times 11 January 1951).

The Admiralty requisitioned the northern part of the brickworks site, outside the boundary of the proposed development, in 1943 during the Second World War for a storage depot (PRN 48521). The 22 'elephant' huts, three Nissen huts and ancillary structures stood until recently. In 1954 the Admiralty acquired the whole of the former brickworks site for £1000.

More recently the site was used as a scrap yard and engineering works. An aerial photograph taken in the 1970s (West Wales Guardian 22 April 1944) shows the large asbestos and steel sheds of Arnold's Scrapyard.

Currently the site is unused and overgrown. The southern part of the proposed development housed the scrap yard and engineering works. Several large piles of buildings debris and other waste lie here between large concrete foundations of demolished steel and asbestos buildings. The massive concrete foundations of a travelling crane remain. The old clay pit in the northern part of the proposed development has been filled in. This area is slightly lower than the surroundings and wet in places. It is heavily overgrown. The site of the kilns and other brickworks buildings is also overgrown with dense scrubby woodland. There is no trace of the brickworks except for a scatter of brick rubble, some fused and slag-coated from the kilns, and coal waste. It is probable that the brickworks buildings were pushed into the clay pit when it was back-filled.

## **IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED SCHEMES ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE**

The brickworks have been demolished and it is highly likely that below ground remains have been severely disturbed. The proposed minerals reclamation park therefore will have no impact on the archaeological resource.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

No further archaeological work is required.



## SOURCES

Bowen E, 1729, *A New and Accurate Map of South Wales*

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales), 1976, 1:50,000 map  
*Haverfordwest Sheet 228*, published by the Ordnance Survey

*The Haverfordwest and Milford Haven Telegraph*, 3 January 1900

*Johnston Tithe Map and Apportionment*, 1843

Ordnance Survey, 1810, *Surveyors' Drawings*, Sheet 183, 2" to a mile

Ordnance Survey, 1819, *Index to the Tithe Survey*, Sheet 40

Ordnance Survey, 1887, 1:10,560 *Pembrokeshire XXXIII.NE*

Ordnance Survey, 1908, 1:10,560 *Pembrokeshire XXXIII.NE*

Ordnance Survey, 1976, 1:10,000, *SM91SW*

Pembrokeshire Record Office - records consulted: D/PEH/1/56, D/PEH/1/105,  
D/PEH/2/236, D/PEH/2/242, DB/13/3, D/RTM/6/106,

*The Western Telegraphic and Cymric Times*, 11 January 1951

*West Wales Guardian*, 22 April 1994

## CATALOGUE OF RESEARCH ARCHIVE

The archive of this report consists of 6 digital photographs, and 4 new and enhanced SMR records. The archive has been lodged with the Regional Sites and Monuments Record housed with Cambria Archaeology.



Figure 1. Extract from the Ordnance Survey Index to the Tithe Survey, 1819, showing the approximate location of the proposed development. Scale 1:10,000.

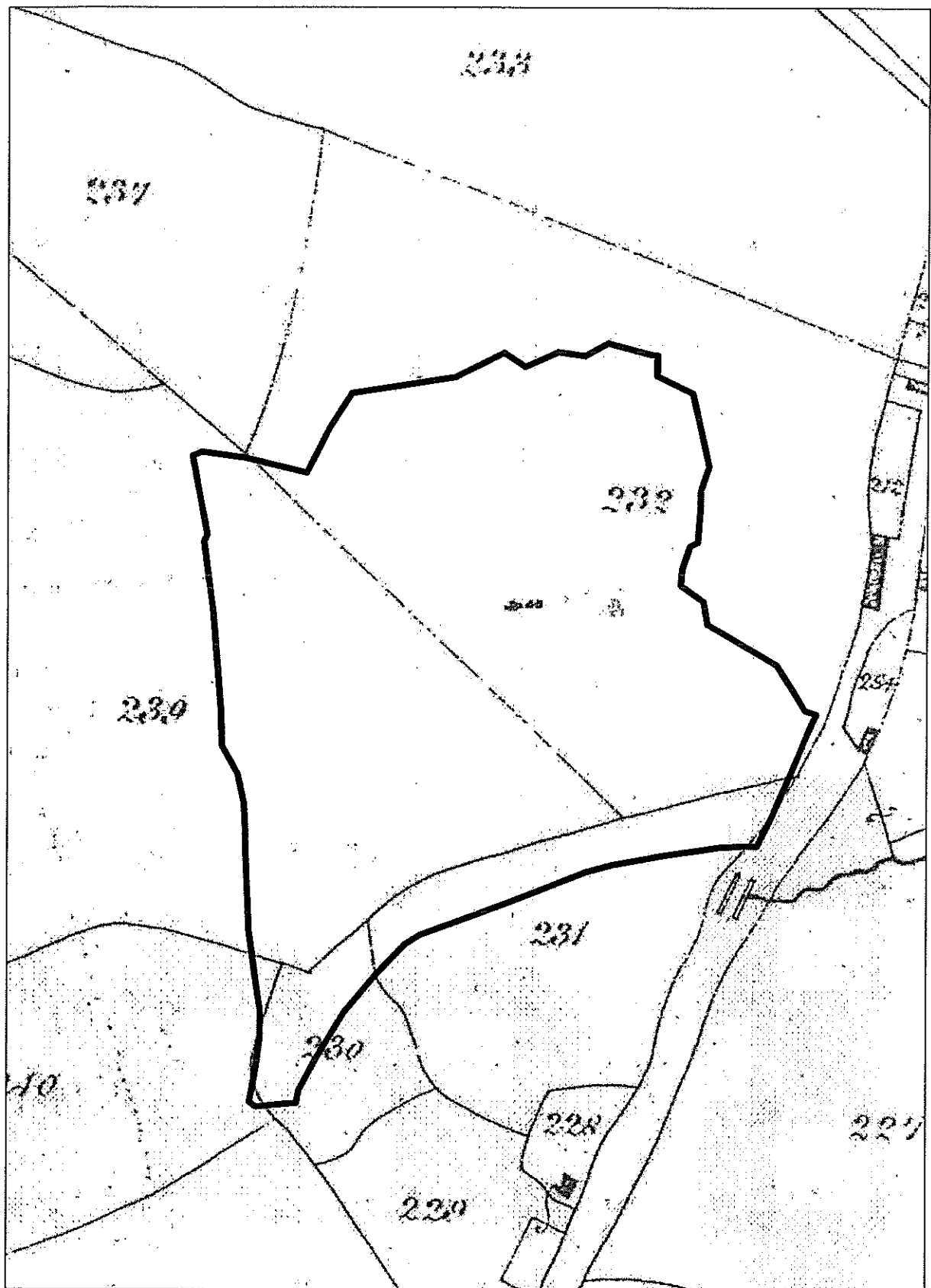


Figure 2. Extract of the Johnston Parish tithe map, 1843, showing the location of the proposed development. Scale 1:2500.



Figure 3. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1887 map, showing the location of the proposed development. Scale 1:2500.

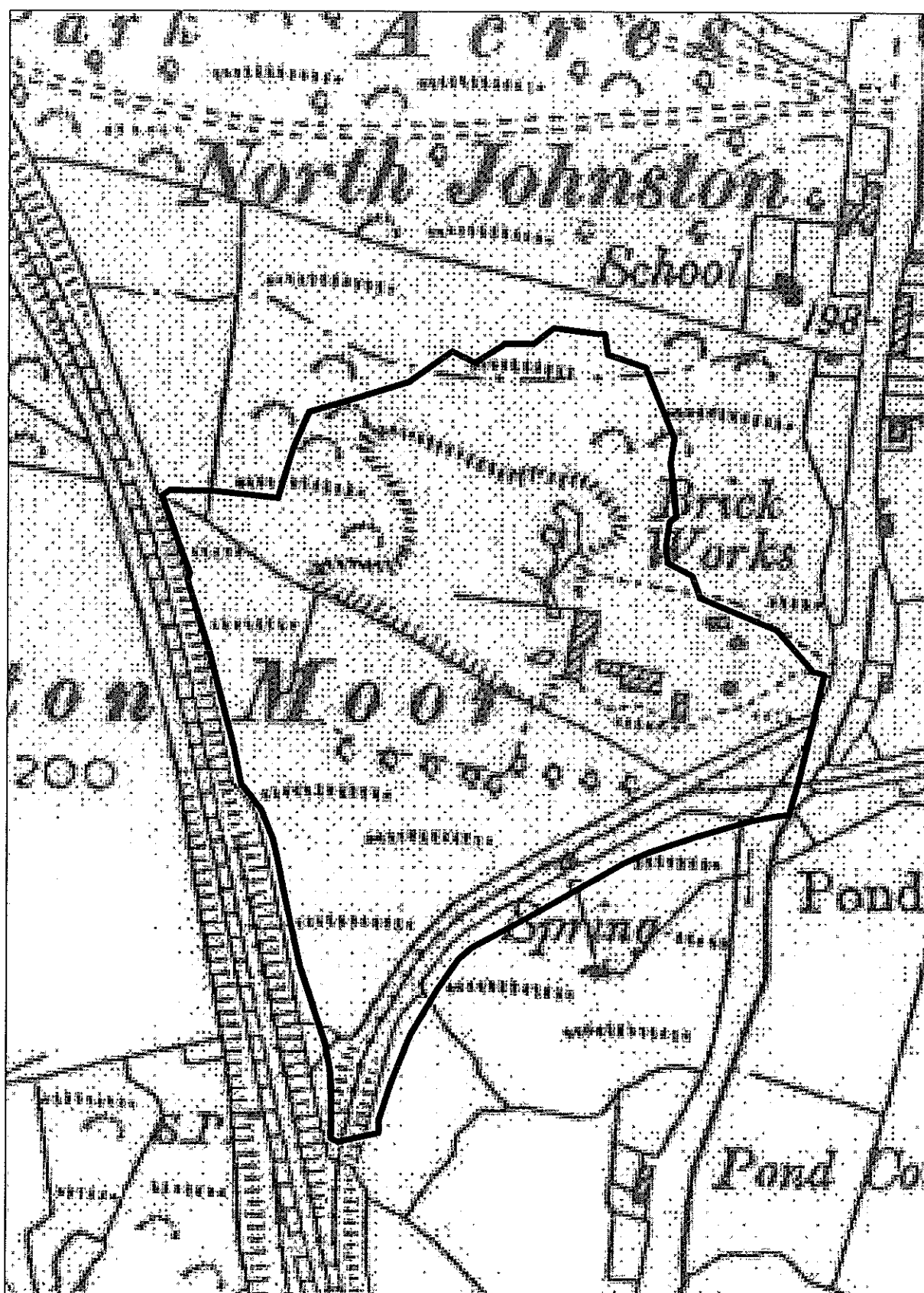


Figure 4. Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1908 map showing the location of the proposed development. Scale 1:2500.





Figure 5. Extract from the 1955 aerial photograph showing the proposed development.  
Scale 1:2500.

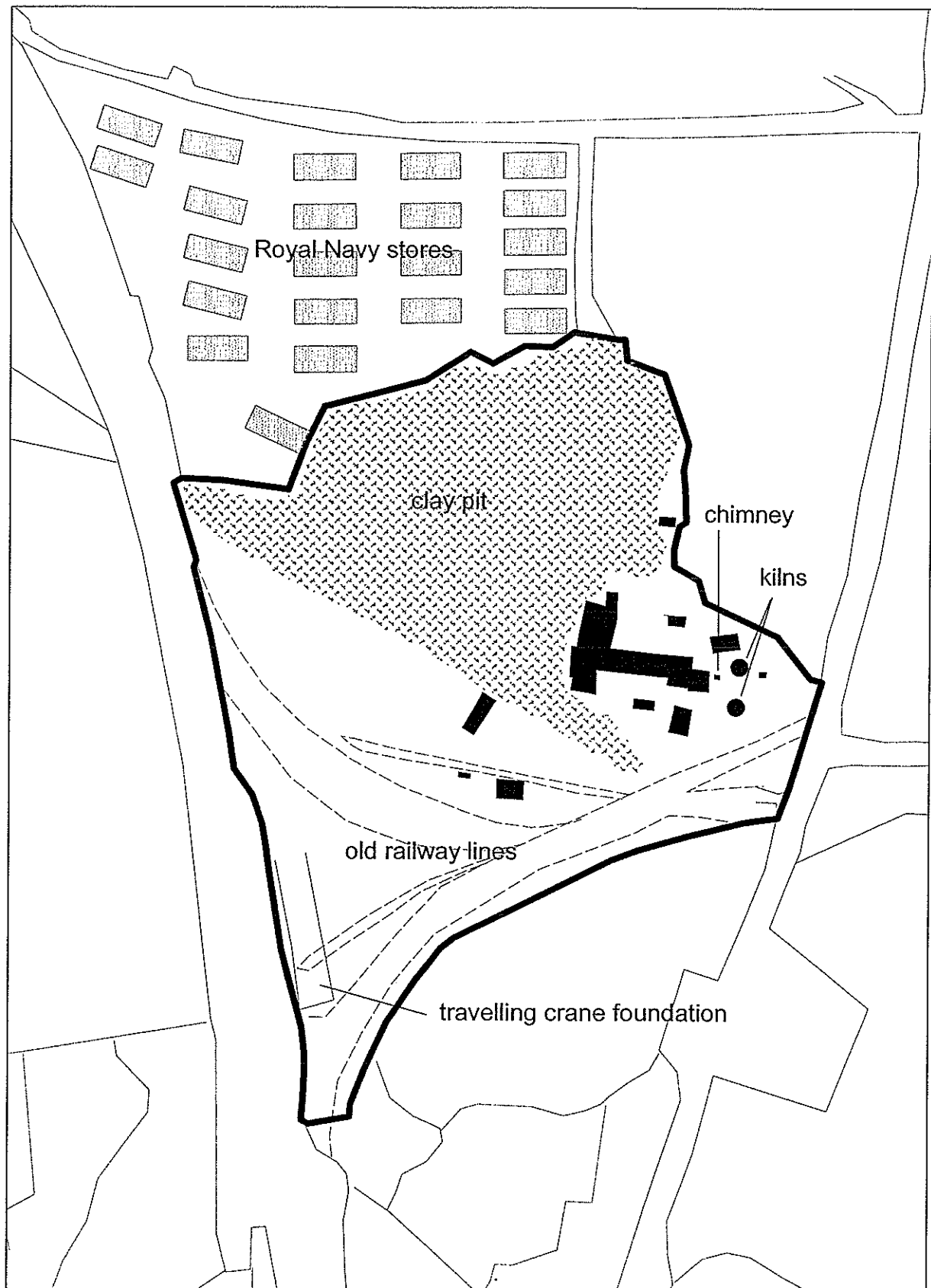


Figure 6. Composite plan from 1908 OS map and 1955 aerial photograph showing the brickworks at their full extent. Scale 1:2500.



Photograph 1. View looking northwest across the centre of the site. The mounds are debris and rubble from demolished modern buildings.

Photograph 2. Looking south over the foundations of the scrap yard/engineering works travelling crane. The railway embankment is to the right.



Photograph 3. Looking east over the centre of the site over hard standing and foundations of the scrap yard/engineering works.





Photograph 4. General view looking east over the hard standing of scrap yard/engineering works.

Photograph 5. Looking east across the infilled clay pit.



Photograph 6. Looking east across the site from the main gates on the main road. The hard standing and concrete foundations are associated with scrap yard/engineering works.

# **MATERIALS RECLAMATION EMPLOYMENT PARK, JOHNSTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This project specification has been prepared by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations in response to a request from SLR Consulting to provide a costed specification for undertaking a desk-based assessment of the a proposed redevelopment site in Johnston, Pembrokeshire. The specification is in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999).

Cambria Archaeology Field Operations has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice. The conclusions will be based on a considered assessment of the collected data. Cambria Archaeology Field Operations has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.

Cambria Archaeology is an IFA registered Archaeological Organisation.

## **1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

- 1.1 The examination of existing written, cartographic, pictorial and technical information to assess the character, extent, significance and vulnerability of the archaeological resource within the survey area.
- 1.2 To identify new archaeological sites, features and deposits within the survey area, and to assess their character, extent, significance and vulnerability.
- 1.3 The identification of sites, features or deposits that require further archaeological investigation to fully assess their character, extent, significance and vulnerability.
- 1.4 The preparation of a report fully representative of the information recovered during 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3, which places the archaeological resource of the survey area its local, regional and national contexts.
- 1.5 The preparation of a project archive.

## **2. DOCUMENTARY AND CARTOGRAPHIC RESEARCH**

- 2.1 Searches will be carried out of the County Sites and Monuments Record and National Monuments Record for information on known sites within, and around, the survey area.

- 2.2 Cartographic sources held in national and county records offices and other repositories will be examined for relevant information regarding past landuse and landscape changes within the survey area.
- 2.3 Searches will be undertaken of primary historic documents held in national and county records offices and other repositories for relevant information regarding the past ownership, landuse and landscape changes within the survey area.
- 2.4 Secondary, published sources will be checked for any information relevant to the history and development of the survey area.
- 2.5 Readily available technical data (i.e. borehole logs; geological survey data) will be examined for information relating to the underlying deposits and their potential to contain archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence.
- 2.6 An examination will be made of aerial photographic coverage for information regarding the later, post-WWII, landscape changes.

### **3. FIELD VISIT**

A field visit will be undertaken to:

- 3.1 review the current state of archaeological sites, features and deposits identified during the documentary research.
- 3.2 identify new archaeological sites, features and deposits, or areas that may contain them.
- 3.3 carry out rapid recording of archaeological sites, features and deposits by photography, site notes and sketch plans.
- 3.4 assess the vulnerability of archaeological sites, features and deposits to the proposed flood defence works.

### **4. ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING**

- 4.1 The information gathered during the documentary research and fieldwork will be collated into a project archive catalogued in accordance with the National Monuments Record's recommended procedures.
- 4.2 An assessment will be made of the information gathered during the documentary research and fieldwork.
- 4.3 A report fully representative of the information gathered during the documentary research and the fieldwork will be prepared which outlines the history and development of the survey area and details the potential impacts of the proposed works on the archaeological resource. Any legal constraints such as, Scheduled Ancient Monuments will be identified in the report.

- 4.4 A summary report of the results of the project, excluding any confidential information, will be prepared for publication in an appropriate local, national, special interest or period-specific journal, unless otherwise requested.
- 4.5 Five bound copies of the final report will be delivered to SLR Consulting at the completion of the project, for dissemination to all relevant parties. A copy on CD, or disk can be supplied if requested.
- 4.6 A copy of the report will be deposited with the County Sites and Monument Record and the National Monuments Record within six months of the completion of the project, unless otherwise requested.

## **5. STAFF**

- 5.1 The Project Manager will be N A Page AIFA who has experience of this type of project (See attached CV for summary of archaeological experience).

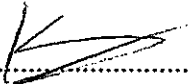
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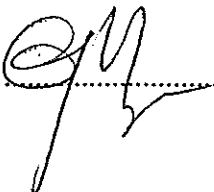
This report has been prepared by K Murphy

Position Principal Archaeologist - Field Operations

Signature  Date 8/07/03

This report has been checked and approved by G Hughes on behalf of Cambria Archaeology,  
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Trust Director

Signature  Date 8/21/03

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any comments you may have  
on the content or presentation of this report