

EXTENSION TO WITHYBUSH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HAVERFORDWEST : ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



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SUMMARY

This archaeological desk-based assessment of an extension to Withybush Industrial Estate, Haverfordwest (centred on NGR SM96331866), has demonstrated that there is no archaeological dimension to plans to develop the site. There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed development area. The immediate historic landscape is a product of mid 19th century enclosure of agricultural land, formal landscaping and World War II military architecture.

INTRODUCTION

Cambria Archaeology has undertaken this desk-based archaeological assessment at the request of Pembrokeshire Designs L.T.D. acting on behalf of Celtic Estates. Pembrokeshire County Council required an archaeological desk-based assessment in order to determine whether or not there is an archaeological dimension to plans to extend the Withybush Industrial Estate Site on the outskirts of Haverfordwest.

The assessment has been guided by *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999).

THE STUDY AREA

The Withybush Industrial Estate lies on the Northern fringe of Haverfordwest (centred on NGR SM96331866). The proposed site is bounded to the south by modern buildings that are part of the existing industrial estate. A minor road runs along the west side of the site with the 'Show Ground' and Withybush Aerodrome lying immediately to the west of this road. To the north and east lies Withybush Woods that contain public footpaths and post-medieval fishponds. The proposed development site itself consists of a single field of pasture, bounded mainly by wooden post and wire fences. There is a very gradual slope down from south to north with some evidence of very shallow earth works. On aerial photographs taken in 1955 these undulations are clearly the result of activities relating to Withybush airfield.

METHODOLOGY

This is essentially a desk-based study. The following sources have been consulted:

- The County Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) housed with Cambria Archaeology.

- Cartographic sources and other material held by Cambria Archaeology.

- Databases compiled by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) and Cadw.

- Vertical and oblique aerial photographs held by Cambria Archaeology.

- A site visit was undertaken. The purpose of the visit was to:
Review the current state of archaeological features and deposits identified during the documentary research.

- Identify new archaeological features and deposits, or areas that may contain them.

- Carry out rapid recording of archaeological sites, features and deposits by photography, site notes and sketch plans, if required.

- Assess the vulnerability of archaeological sites, features and deposits to the proposed redevelopment of the site.

¹ formerly the Sites and Monuments Record

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Prehistoric sites

There are no recorded prehistoric sites within 500m from the centre of the proposed development.

Roman sites

There are no recorded Roman sites within 500m from the centre of the proposed development.

Medieval sites

There are no recorded medieval sites within 500m from the centre of the proposed development.

Post-medieval sites

There are no recorded post-medieval sites on the proposed development site, however there are a few sites within 500m from the centre of the proposed development.

The earliest recorded of these is that of Withybush House (PRN 17279) that lies just to the north of the development and probably had its origins in the 16th century. This house was a minor manor that first appears on E. Bowen's 1729 map of South Wales when it was owned by Sparks Martin. The house was largely rebuilt in the early 19th century by which time it had acquired out buildings, a walled garden and fishponds (PRN 46910) all of which appear on the parish tithe maps of 1824. Withybush House fell in to dereliction after the construction of the airfield and was demolished in 1960 but the gardens and fishponds still exist as Withybush Woods. These woods also contain a disused quarry dating to the late 19th century (PRN 46911).

Modern sites

There are there are three recorded modern structures within the proposed development area and a number of sites within 500m. The three structures all date from the 1943-45 period and consist of two latrines and a storehouse. These are listed in the Sites and Monuments record as PRN 28514, PRN 28515 and PRN 28512 respectively. As the proposed development is on the periphery of Whithybus Airfield there are a number of other structures listed on the sites and Monument Record that are within 500m all of which date from 1942-45 and relate to the war time activities of the airfield.

The historic landscape.

The proposed development is on the edge of the Withybush Industrial Estate and occupies an enclosed agricultural field currently under pasture. The boundaries of this field have remained virtually unchanged since the mid 19th century when this land division first appears on the tithe map for the Parish of Prendergast in 1842. This field was listed as belonging to the Reverend Thomas Martin of Withybush House and known at the time as The Park. The map along with the tithe map from the Parish of Rudbaxton 1842 clearly shows established trees bordering the field on its North, East and West sides and a decorative circular clump of trees planted in the centre of its southern boundary. This evidence would suggest not only that the field boundaries were already firmly established by 1842 but also some thought was given to its aesthetic appearance when viewed from the building or grounds of Withybush House.

Although the ordnance Survey map of 1891 shows that decorative copse had been removed and by the second edition of 1908 the trees lining the road on the western edge of the site

had also gone little else appears to change until 1943 when the site was taken over for the construction of Withybush Airfield. This site was on the periphery of the airfield and does not appear to have been intensely utilised. However aerial photographs from 1957 show a number of small buildings, footpaths and concrete slabs around the edges of the field with the majority the site remaining under grass. A recent site visit revealed that there are two latrine buildings still standing on the Northern edge of the site and in the North West corner there are concrete slabs and paths still clearly evident. There are a number of buildings along the road on the western edge of the site that relate to the airfield. However the rest of the paths and buildings in the field are no longer evident other than as low earthworks.

Designated sites

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings within the proposed development area.

Individual Archaeological Sites

There are there are three recorded modern structures within the proposed development area. The three structures all date from the 1943-45 period and consist of two latrines and a storehouse. These are listed in the Sites and Monuments record as PRN 28514, PRN 28515 and PRN 28512 respectively.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

A range of criteria has been used to consider the importance of the archaeological resource and the likely impacts on that resource in order to determine the significance of the impact and suggest possible mitigation measures.

Importance

The importance of all sites visited will be categorised according to the following criteria:

- A** - sites of national importance - usually Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings
- B** - sites of regional or county importance
- C** - sites of district or local importance
- D** - minor sites or sites so badly damaged that too little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade
- E** - sites about insufficient is known to assign them to a higher grade

Likely impacts

The likely physical impacts of the proposed road on each site have been assessed according to the following criteria:

- Total** - complete destruction of the site
- Very severe** - loss of most of the major components of a site
- Severe** - loss of some of the major components of a site
- Medium** - loss of some components of a site
- Slight** - some loss of some minor components of a site
- None**
- Beneficial**
- Unknown**

Impact assessment

<i>Site PRN</i>	<i>Importance</i>	<i>Likely Impact of The development</i>	<i>Recommendation for further work</i>
28512	C	Unknown	Record if impacted
28514	C	Unknown	Record if impacted
28515	C	Unknown	Record if impacted

RECOMMENDATIONS

Building recording should take on the three buildings recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record, and on other buildings on the periphery of the proposed development that may be impacted by the development.

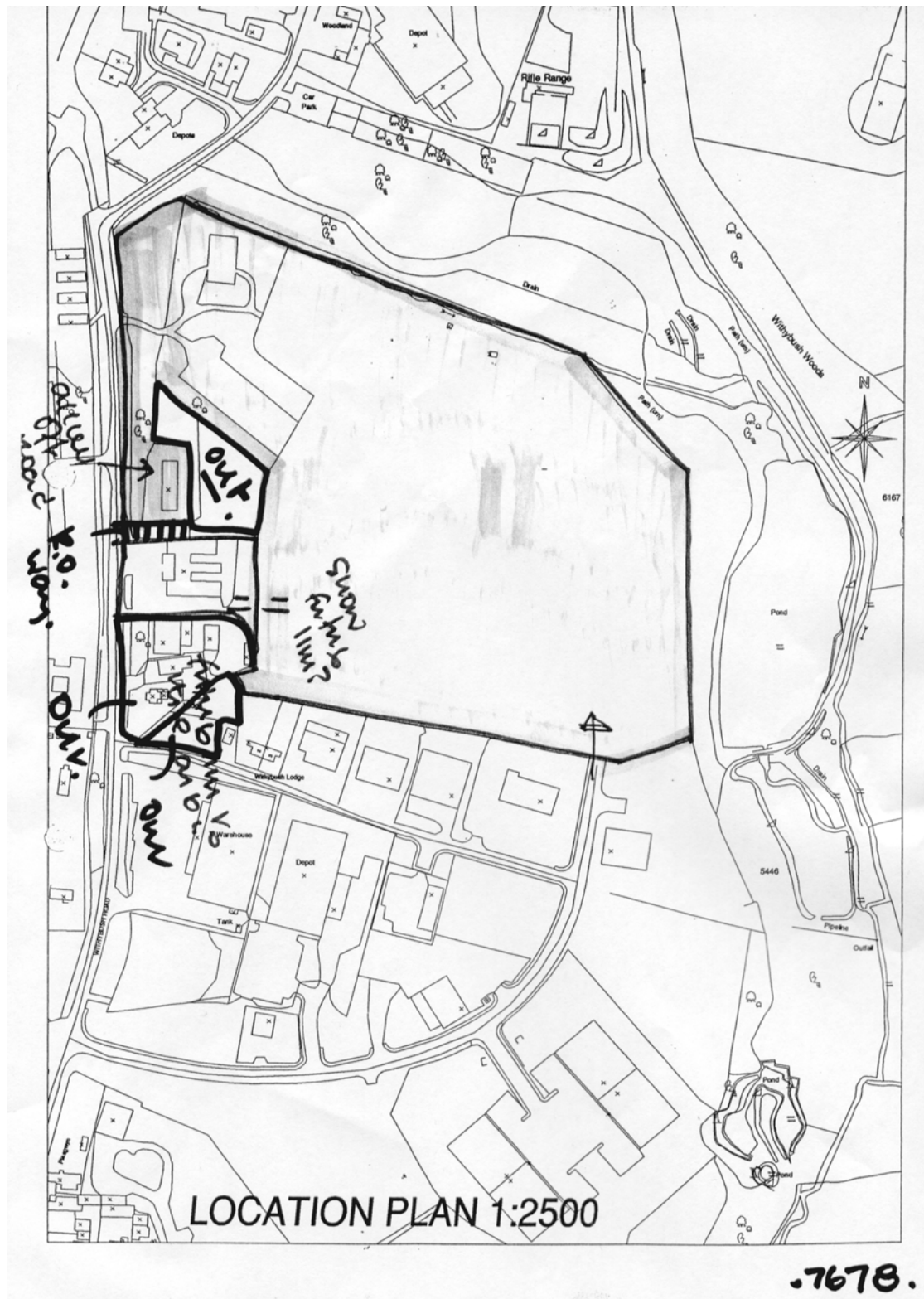


Figure 1. Location map

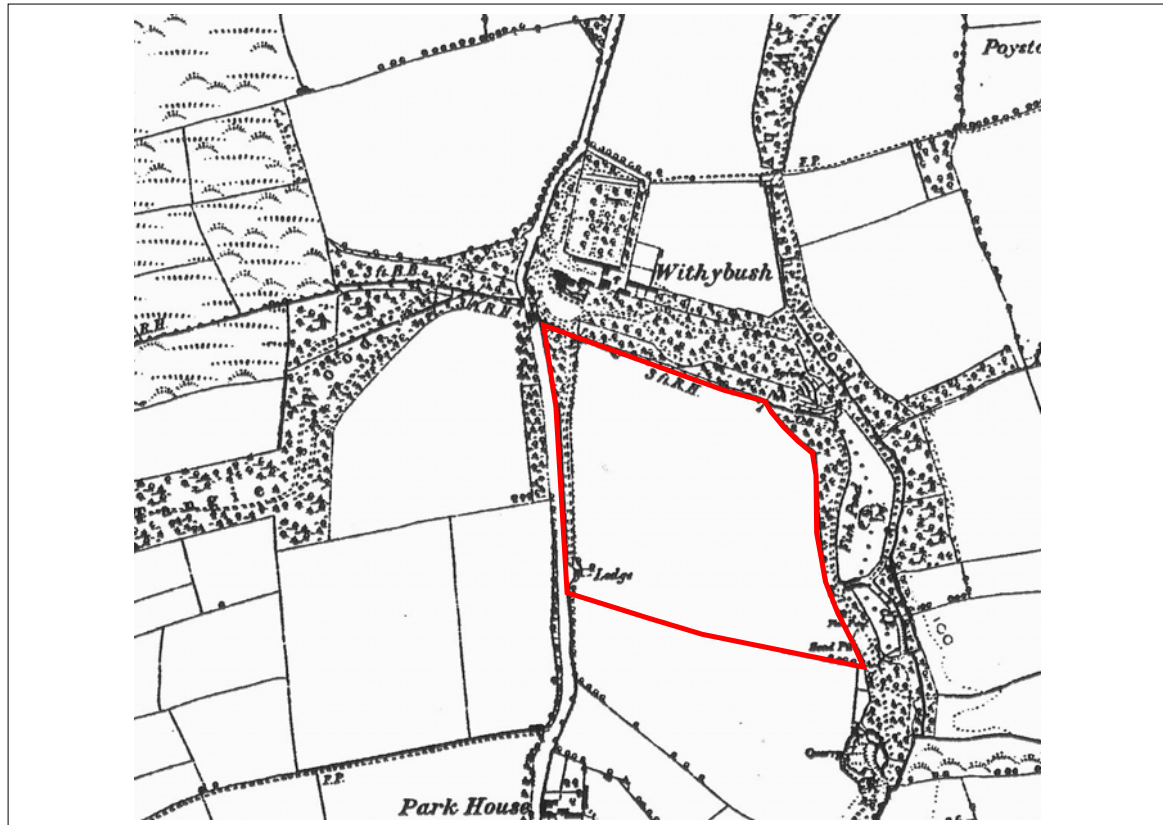


Figure 2: Extract from OS 1st edition map (1891)

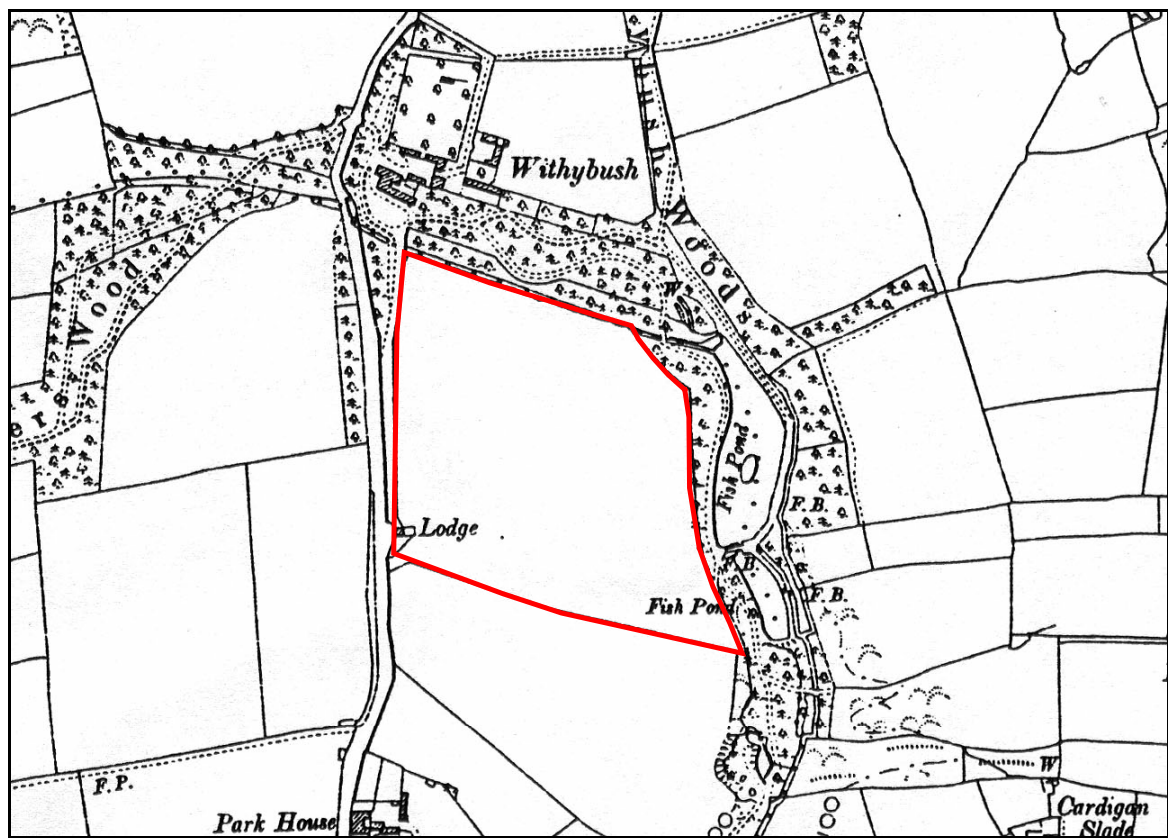


Figure 2: Extract from OS 2nd edition map (1906)

SOURCES

Databases

The Regional Sites and Monuments Record, housed with Cambria Archaeology

CARN - Core Archaeological Record Index hosted by the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales

Maps

Prendergast, Pembrokeshire, tithe map and apportionment 1842

E. Bowen's, South Wales, 1729.

Ordnance Survey 1809, original Surveyors' Drawings, 2" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey 1891, 6" to 1 mile, Pembrokeshire XXII.SE, 1st Edition, surveyed 1887.

Ordnance Survey 1908, 6" to 1 mile, Pembrokeshire XXII.SE, 2nd Edition, revised 1906

Aerial photographs

Meridian APS 1955 sheet 25552 & 25553

Published sources

T. Lloyd. 1986 The lost Houses of Wales. Published by SAVE Britain's Heritage.

F. Jones. 1996, Historic Houses of Pembrokeshire and their Families. Published by Brawdwy Books, Pembrokeshire.

D.W. Howells, ed Modern Pembrokeshire 1815-1974. Published by Pembrokeshire Historical Society 1993.

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January 2006**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by T Jamieson

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Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by K Murphy

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

Yn unol â'n nŵd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau sydd
gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

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