

BEACONING FARM, STEYNTON, MILFORD HAVEN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT 2006



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria
Ar gyfer Hephher Dixon

Prepared by Cambria Archaeology
For Hephher Dixon



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BEACONING FARM, STEYNTON, MILFORD HAVEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT 2006

Gan / By

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
INTRODUCTION	2
THE STUDY AREA	2
OBJECTIVES	3
METHODOLOGY	3
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE	4
ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE	7
SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER WORK	7
SOURCES	8

FIGURES

- Figure 1. Location map
- Figure 2. Site location map
- Figure 3. Extract from the 1810 Ordnance Survey map
- Figure 4. Extract from the 1836 Ordnance Survey map
- Figure 5. Extract from the 1842 tithe map
- Figure 6. Extract from the 1887 Ordnance Survey map
- Figure 7. Extract from the 1909 Ordnance Survey map
- Figure 8. Extract from the 1964 Ordnance Survey map

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo.1 The Beaconsing farmhouse

Photo. 2 View across the development area looking northwest from the southeast corner of the site

SUMMARY

This archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Beaconing Farm, Steynton, Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire was carried out in connection with a planning application for new housing. It demonstrated that, although there are prehistoric sites to the north of the proposed development area, there are no known significant sites of archaeological importance within the area itself. It is suggested that no further archaeological work is required.

INTRODUCTION

This assessment was undertaken in response to a condition placed on the planning application **04/1527/PA Land at Beaconing Farm, Milford Haven, Residential Development SM 9218/0762**. Cambria Archaeology Field Operations carried out the desk-based archaeological assessment at the request of Hephher Dixon acting on behalf of Westhill Developments Ltd. Ahead of the development, in view of its potential impact on archaeological remains, Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management recommended to Pembrokeshire County Council Planning Department that an archaeological condition be imposed in line with Planning Guidance (Wales): Planning Policy and Welsh Office Circular 60/96 'Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology' paragraph 23.

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

THE STUDY AREA

The proposed development area is approximately 4 hectares in extent and lies along the south side of the Steynton to Neyland road on the eastern edge of Steynton village (NGR SM 1921 2076) about one mile north of Milford Haven town centre (Figs 1 and 2). The Beaconing farmhouse (recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record as PRN 56489) lies close to a local summit with near 360 degree panoramic views. The proposed development area comprises an approximately rectangular parcel of pastureland that is bounded on its eastern side by the N-S running railway line (PRN 56490) that feeds an oil refinery. On its western side the proposed site is bounded along its length by a relatively recent housing development and its southern boundary consists of a hedge bank with gated openings to an adjoining field. The roadside edge of the plot, where already three modern dwellings with accompanying garden plots have been built immediately to the east of Beaconing farmhouse, is fairly level for a distance of some 30m or so to the south before it begins to slope gently at first down to the south and southwest. The land at the southwest corner of the project area slopes a little more steeply and has been raised and levelled over the years by the dumping of domestic waste (PRN 56488), building demolition debris and topsoil. Much of this dumped material has recently been disturbed and lies on the surface in amongst the wheel ruts of, presumably, a mechanical excavator. Most of the revealed rubbish consists of broken glass bottles and pottery of Victorian date with many of the bottles bearing the names of local brewers and mineral water suppliers.

The current plan is to build 98 houses on the site.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the desk-based assessment was to identify and potential archaeological sites that might be affected by the proposed development.

METHODOLOGY

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

The Regional Historic Environment Record 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 the RCAHMW and Cambria Archaeology.

A site visit was made and a walkover survey 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.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

All sites referred to below are labelled with a Primary Record Number (PRN) under which they are listed on the Regional Historic Environment Record.

Prehistoric sites

There are two recorded prehistoric sites within 500m of the proposed development. A much denuded and plough-damaged bronze age (c.2000BC to 700BC) round barrow (PRN 3182) lies some 200m to the north of the development area. Evidence of bronze age settlement in the form of a burnt mound (PRN 3183) has been recorded lying 350m to the northeast of the development area on Barretts Hill farm. There are no known prehistoric sites within the study area and no above ground evidence indicating a likely presence was observed during the site visit.

Roman sites

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

Medieval sites

St Cewydd and St Peter Church (PRN 3180) is the only recorded medieval site within 500m of the proposed development. The church as it stands is partly medieval with later, mostly 19th century, additions. The church is a Grade II Listed Building. The form of the settlement (if any) around the church in the medieval period is unknown. Whatever its form, it is unlikely to have spread as far as the proposed development area.

Post-medieval sites

There are two previously recorded post-medieval sites within 500m of the proposed development both of which are situated in the village of Steynton viz: The Vicarage (PRN 15163), which is a Grade II Listed Building, and the school (PRN 17818). These sites together with the parish church are part of the small nucleated settlement that developed in the post-medieval period.

The farmhouse and outbuildings at The Beaconing (PRN 56489), within the proposed development area, were originally built sometime between the publication of the tithe map in 1842 and the publication of the first edition 6" Ordnance Survey map in 1887 (see map Figs. 5 and 6 below). No records were found during the archive search to give an exact date for the buildings. The farmhouse is a two storey gabled stone construction with a catslide addition on the north, road, side and brick lean-to construction on the east gable end. The roof was slated but many are now missing. The gable end chimneys have also been removed. It is of three bays, with a centrally located front door. Stylistically it is typical of the many farmhouses built across southwest Wales in the mid-19th century. There are two large outbuildings one to the west, and one across a yard to the south that will presumably be demolished if the development goes ahead.

The place-name (PRN 10490) for the farm "The Beaconing", does not seem to appear in the historic record until recorded on the first edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1887. The location of the farm close to a local summit with such a wide view-shed would be an ideal location for a beacon but there is no evidence for one on the ground.

The historic landscape of Steynton and its environs

The proposed development area lies just outside the Milford Haven Waterway landscape as defined in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw 1998). A historic landscape characterisation of this registered landscape was undertaken in 2001 (Murphy and Ludlow). Although outside the registered area, the proposed development area lies within the Scoveston-Burton historic landscape character area as defined in the 2001 study. The description of the character area provides a useful historic landscape overview, and is therefore reproduced below:

SCOVESTON - BURTON

Historic Background

A large character area lying the north of the Milford Haven waterway, within the ecclesiastical parishes of Llangwm, Llanstadwell, Rosemarket and Steynton. Much of the area formed part of the medieval Manor of Pill, part of the larger Manor (or Sublordship) of Pill and Roch, which was created under the de Roches between 1100 and 1130. Its relationship with the Lordship of Haverford, of which it was notionally a member, was always a matter of dispute. Pill was a large and important manor with a *caput* at the head of Castle Pill (pill is a local term for a tidal inlet) at the west end of the area – possibly on the site of an iron age hillfort and later a Civil War defence. The southeast end of this area lies within the parish of Burton, which represented a detached portion of the Lordship of Pembroke. Burton parish church was present by 1291. The Manor (and parish) of Llangwm, to the north, was a holding of the de Vales until a Roche kinsman, Gilbert de la Roche, acquired it in the late 13th century. The Roches granted 'six bovates of land in Studdolph, and five acres of land with half a carucate of land in the same township' to the Tironian Pill Priory in its late 12th century foundation charter. Hayston was present in the 14th century. The present settlement pattern appears to be of relatively late origin as only a few of today's farms and landholdings can be identified with medieval manors and townships. Scoveston is not recorded until the mid 15th century, while the remainder – Jordanston, Norton, Milton, Westfield etc – were not recorded until the 16th- and 17th-centuries. Some, such as Oxland, are 18th century in origin. Nevertheless, these different periods of origin are not reflected in any differing tenurial arrangements, and a homogenous pattern of enclosure has resulted. By the time of the first estate maps in the late 18th century and the tithe survey in the 1840s the landscape of today had been established. There are hints that at least parts of the area had evolved from open field systems. For instance, enclosed strip fields are shown on estate maps on the east side of Castle Pill and close to the very small village of Burton. No traces of these strips now remain. The area has remained primarily agricultural but its military potential has long been apparent. Castle Pill was fortified by Royalist forces in 1643, with an 18 gun fort garrisoned by 300 men. The massive inland Scoveston Fort was the only defensive work to be constructed after the 1860 Royal Commission report on defence proposed a ring of forts around the Milford Haven waterway to prevent it from landward attack. Railways also crossed the area, to Neyland in 1856 and Milford Haven in 1859.

Description and essential historic landscape components

This very extensive historic landscape character area extends from the town of Milford Haven in the west, along the northern shore of the waterway past Neyland and up to and past the village of Llangwm. Despite its size it is a remarkably coherent landscape consisting of large farms, dispersed houses and large, regular fields. Although it lies close to Milford Haven waterway, this area only directly borders the sea at a few locations near Burton and Llangwm. Pasture is the dominant land-use, with a little arable land particularly in the western part of the area. There is virtually no rough or waste ground. Apart from deciduous trees on steep valley sides, such as at Castle Pill and Barnwell Pill, in some sheltered hollows, and on the banks of the Milford Haven waterway, this is not a landscape characterised by woodland. Occasional trees are also present in some hedgerows. Earth banks topped with hedges are the main boundary type. Hedges are generally well maintained, although in the northern part of the area some are becoming overgrown and a few are derelict. Burton Mountain and Williamston Mountain, once one of the few open areas on the Milford Haven waterway is divided into large fields by banks and hedges. Apart from Burton village the settlement pattern is one of dispersed farms and houses. There are several mansions and large farms within this area, including Jordanston Farm, Williamston, East Hook and Studdolph Hall. Some of these houses are of some antiquity, such as East Hook, a 17th century and 18th century house next to the ruins of a 16th century house, and others indicate the minor gentry origins of the larger farms, such as the three storey Georgian house of Jordanston. Some of the larger houses, Castle Hall for example, have been demolished. Attached to most of these large houses are ranges of stone-built, 19th century, and sometimes earlier, outbuildings, often arranged around a courtyard, and sometimes set some distance from the dwelling. The wide range of buildings at Castle Hall Farm are a good example of this type. Gardens and parkland survive at some of these larger houses. Interspersed across the landscape are smaller farms. The houses take a variety of forms, but in the main they date to the 19th century, and are stone-built, rendered, slate-roofed, and broadly in the Georgian tradition. Many have been modernised. Older farmhouses and modern farmhouses are also present, presumably replacements of earlier structures. Old outbuildings are also stone-built, but usually of just one or two ranges. Most farms of this size have large ranges of modern steel and concrete outbuildings. Dispersed modern

houses are present in this area, but are not a defining characteristic, apart from west and north of Jordanston. Here mid 20th century semi-detached houses in a fairly dense scatter are a distinct feature of the landscape. At Burton, the only village within this area, the medieval parish church of St Mary together with a cluster of late 18th century and 19th century dwellings is surrounded by late 20th century housing, including a small estate. Other buildings include the massive remains of Scoveston Fort, an element of the mid 19th century military defence of the Milford Haven waterway. Given the large extent of this area it is not surprising that there are a large number and variety of archaeological sites. However, these do not greatly characterise the landscape. Of interest are: several prehistoric funerary and ritual sites, including standing stones, chambered tombs and round barrows, an iron age fort with the slight remains of a Civil War fort, several prehistoric find spots, medieval mill and windmill sites, and World War 2 defensive features.

There is no evidence beyond the presence of the church for any extended medieval settlement around Steynton or the proposed development area. The earliest available map evidence shows little in the way of settlement close to the development area and it is only in the last thirty years or so that Steynton has expanded in size to any great extent. There is now continuous "ribbon development" between the village and Milford Haven, a process that appears to have begun in the 1960s (see maps below). During the last ten or fifteen years there has been major housing development on the east side of Steynton right up to the western boundary of the study area.

Aerial photographs, especially the Meridian air maps taken in 1955, show how much the settlement pattern has changed in Steynton over the last half century. No archaeological features were noted within the study area from any of the aerial photographs examined.

Designated sites

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 500m of the proposed development area. St Cewydd & St Peter Church lies some 350m to the NNW of the proposed development and is a Grade II Listed Building as is the nearby vicarage and school.

Individual Archaeological Sites

Other than the farm house (PRN 56489) and associated buildings and the identified Victorian rubbish dump (PRN 56488) in the southwest corner of the study area there are no known archaeological sites within the area of the proposed development.

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

A range of criteria have been used to consider the importance of the archaeological resource and the likely impacts of the proposed development 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 scheme 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

Two sites have been identified within the study area.

The Beaconing farmhouse and some of its outbuildings (**PRN 56489**) are likely to be demolished. The impact is therefore total. However, the site is of minor importance (D) and therefore no further archaeological work is required.

The rubbish dump in the southwest corner of the study area (**PRN 56488**) is likely to be very severely affected or totally destroyed by the ground works of the proposed development. However, it has already been recently extensively machine excavated and plundered for bottles. The site is of minor importance (D) so there are no recommendations for further archaeological work.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

As there is a lack of potential for important archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development, it is not likely that any further archaeological works in mitigation will be required by the planning authority.

SOURCES

Databases

The Regional Historic Environment Record, housed with Cambria Archaeology

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

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1810, *Original Surveyors' Drawings 2" to 1 mile*, Sheet 182

Ordnance Survey 1836, *Old Series*, 1" to 1 mile, Sheet 181

Ordnance Survey 1887, *Pembrokeshire Sheet XXXIII.SW*. First Edition 6" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey 1909, *Pembrokeshire Sheet XXXIII.SW*. Second Edition 6" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey 1964, *1:10,560 or 6" to 1 mile, Quarter Sheet SM90NW*

Stainton parish tithe map and apportionment, 1842

Aerial photographs

Photographs held with RCHAMW, Aberystwyth

106G/UK/1629 5027	8 July 1946
106G/UK/1425 4317	15 April 1946
106G/UK/1472 4423	4 May 1946
106G/UK/1472 3468	4 May 1946
158/2985 169	30 June 1959
93-129 075	6 May 1993
93-127 017	6 May 1993

Photographs held with the Regional Historic Environment Record, Llandeilo

Meridian Airmaps frames 16427 and 16428 1955

Published sources

Cadw 1998 *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*, Part 2 of the Register of Landscapes Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales

Rees W 1953 *A Survey of the Duchy of Lancaster Lordships in Wales 1609-1613*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press

Rees W 1932 *South Wales and the Border in the XIVth century*

Unpublished sources

Murphy K & Ludlow N 2001, *Historic Landscape Characterisation of the Milford Haven Waterway: Scoveston-Burton*, unpublished Cambria Archaeology report.

Ludlow N 1999, *Preseli Pembrokeshire Churches*, unpublished Cambria Archaeology report.



Figure 1. Area location map, based on the Ordnance Survey, site marked in red

Reproduced from the 1980 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Pathfinder Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

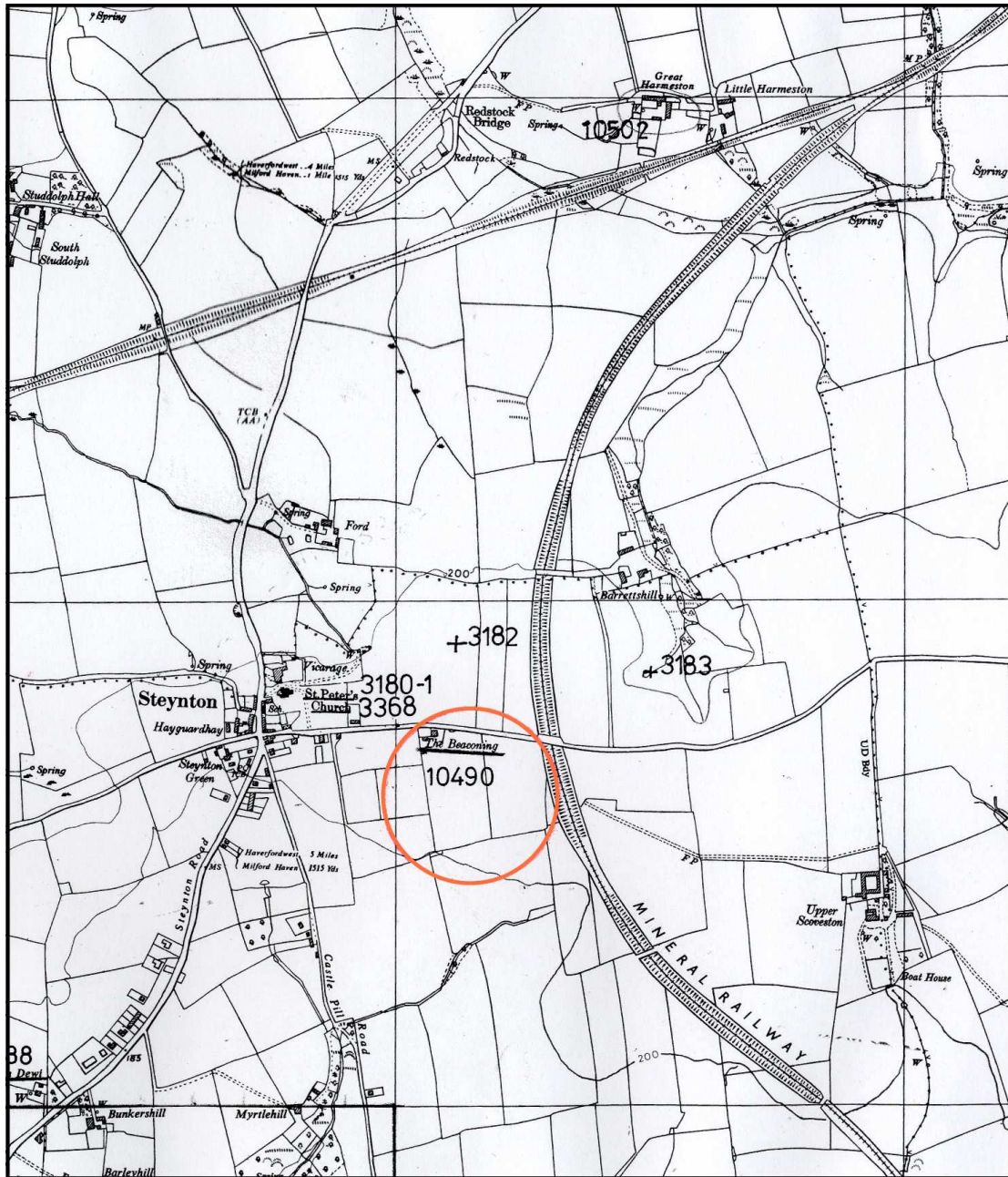


Figure 2. Site location map - boundary shown approximately only.

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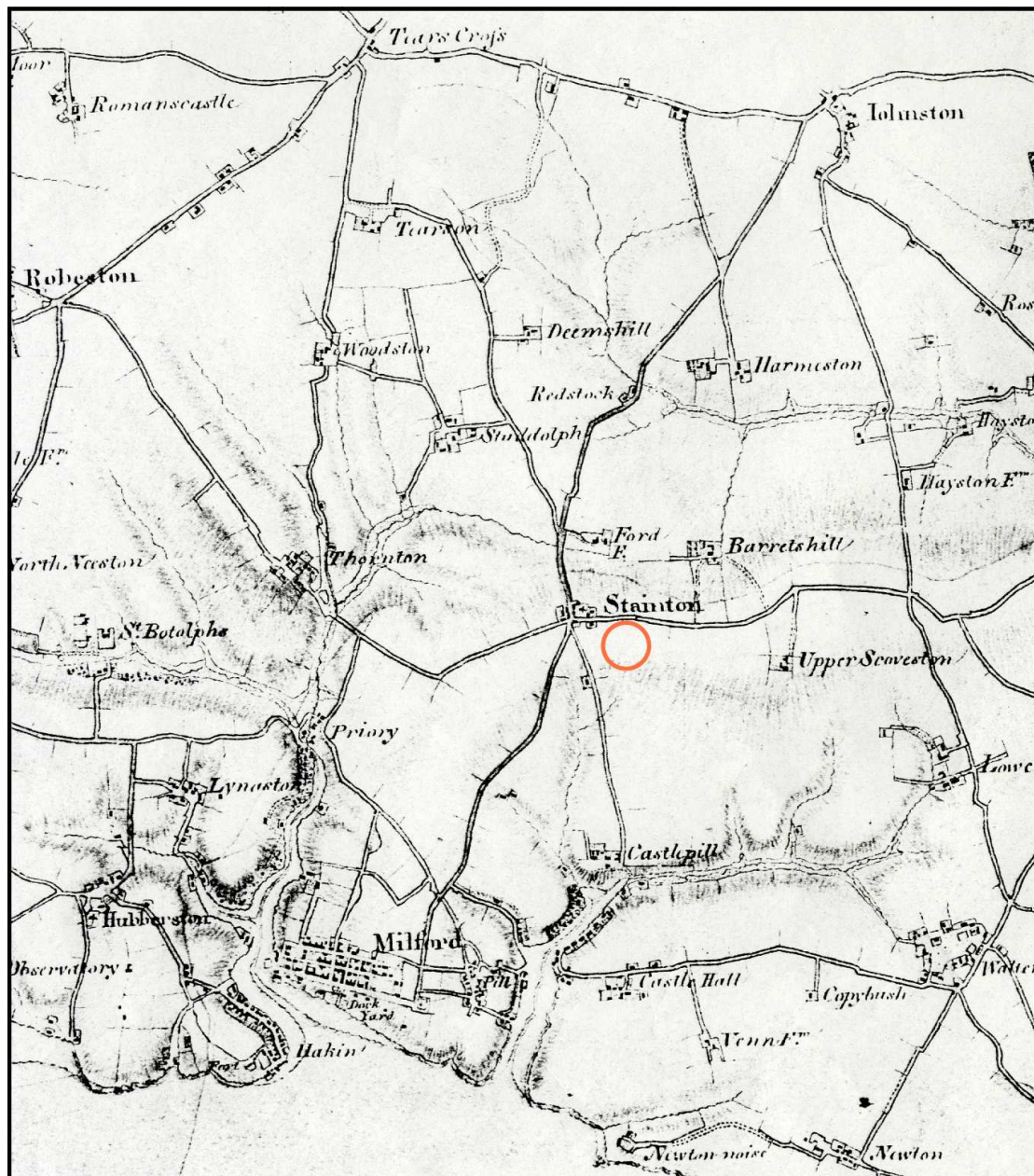


Figure 3. Extract from the 1810 Ordnance Survey map, original surveyor's drawings

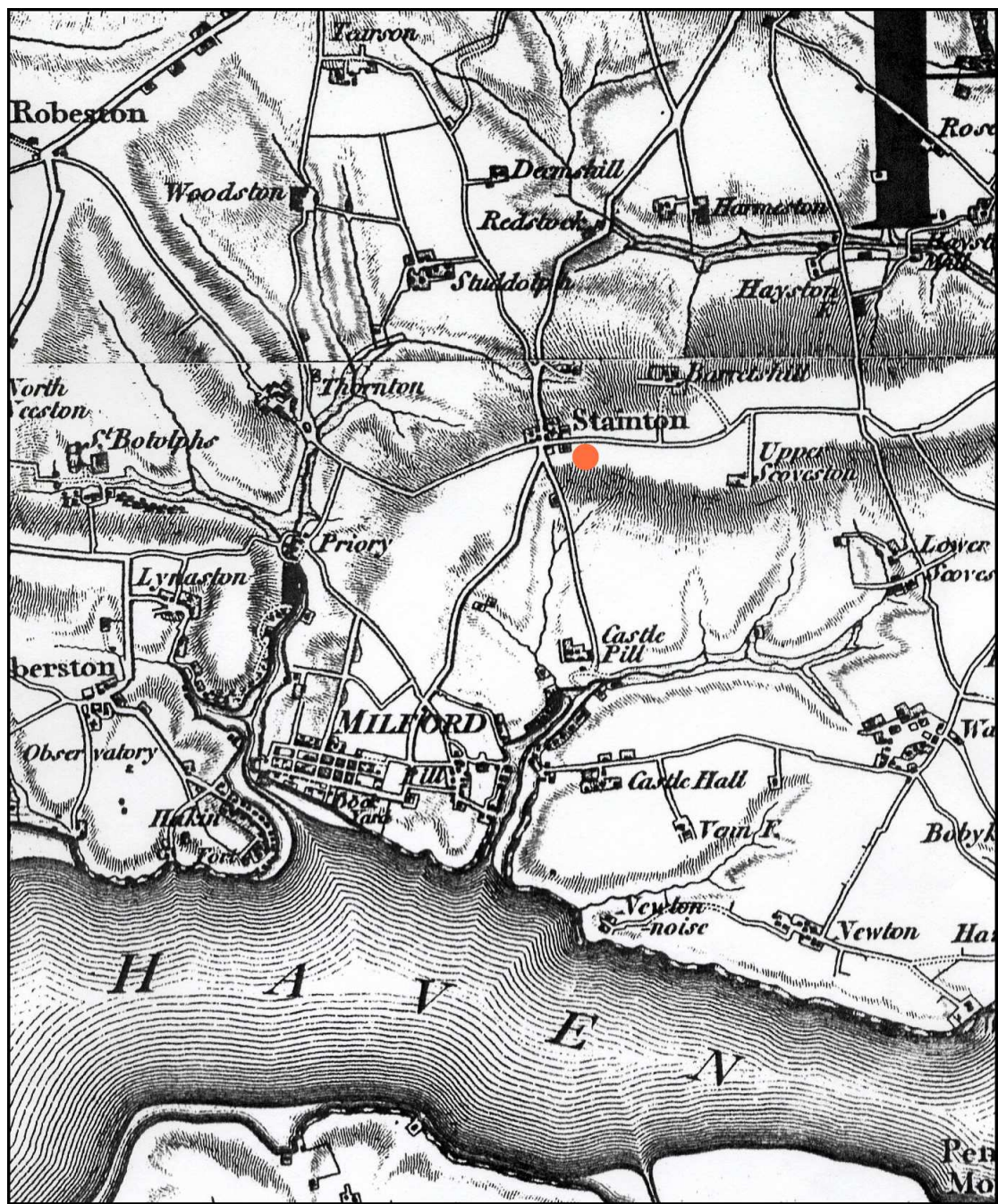


Figure 4. Extract from the 1836 Ordnance Survey map.

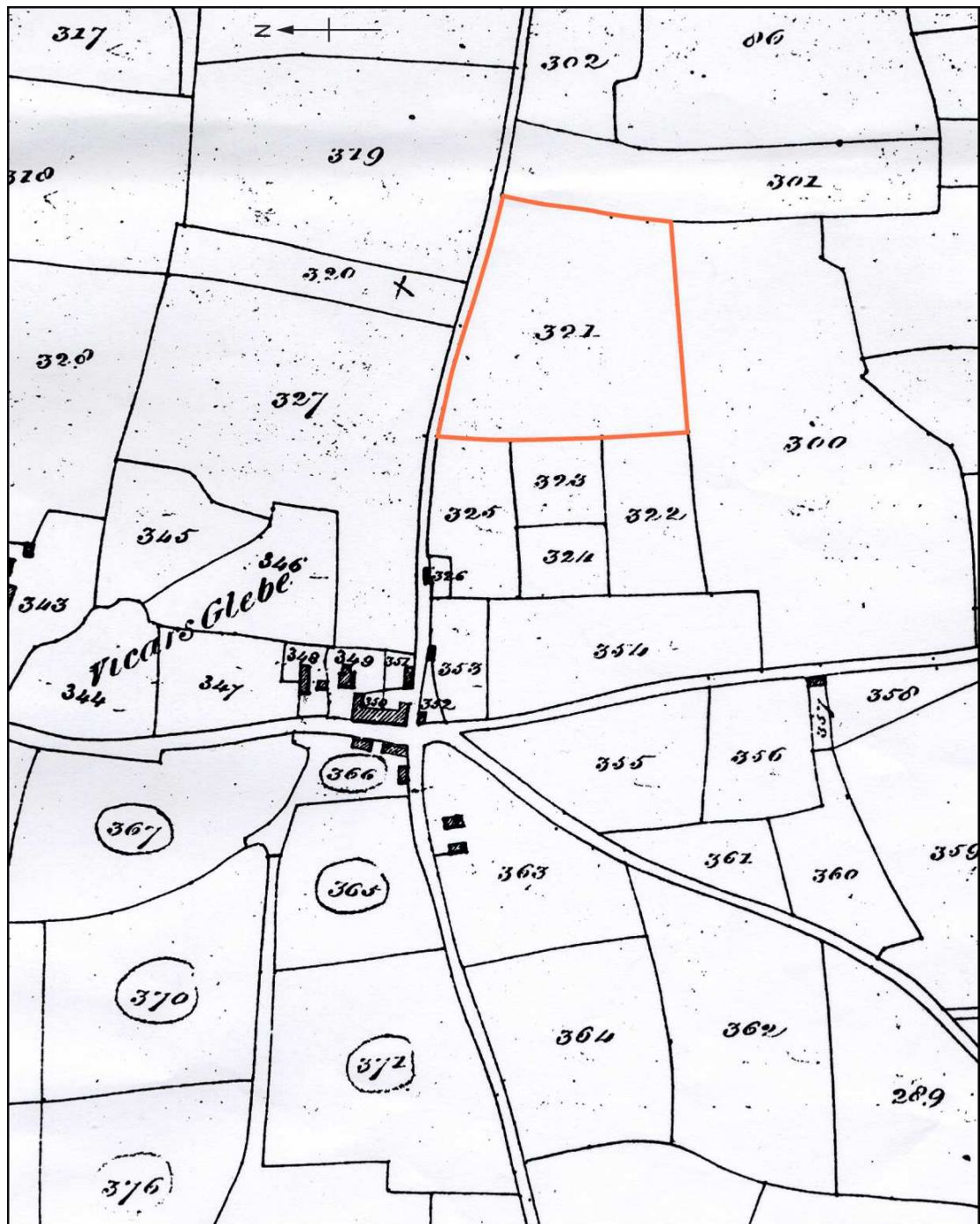


Figure 5. Extract from the 1842 tithe map, note that north is to the left

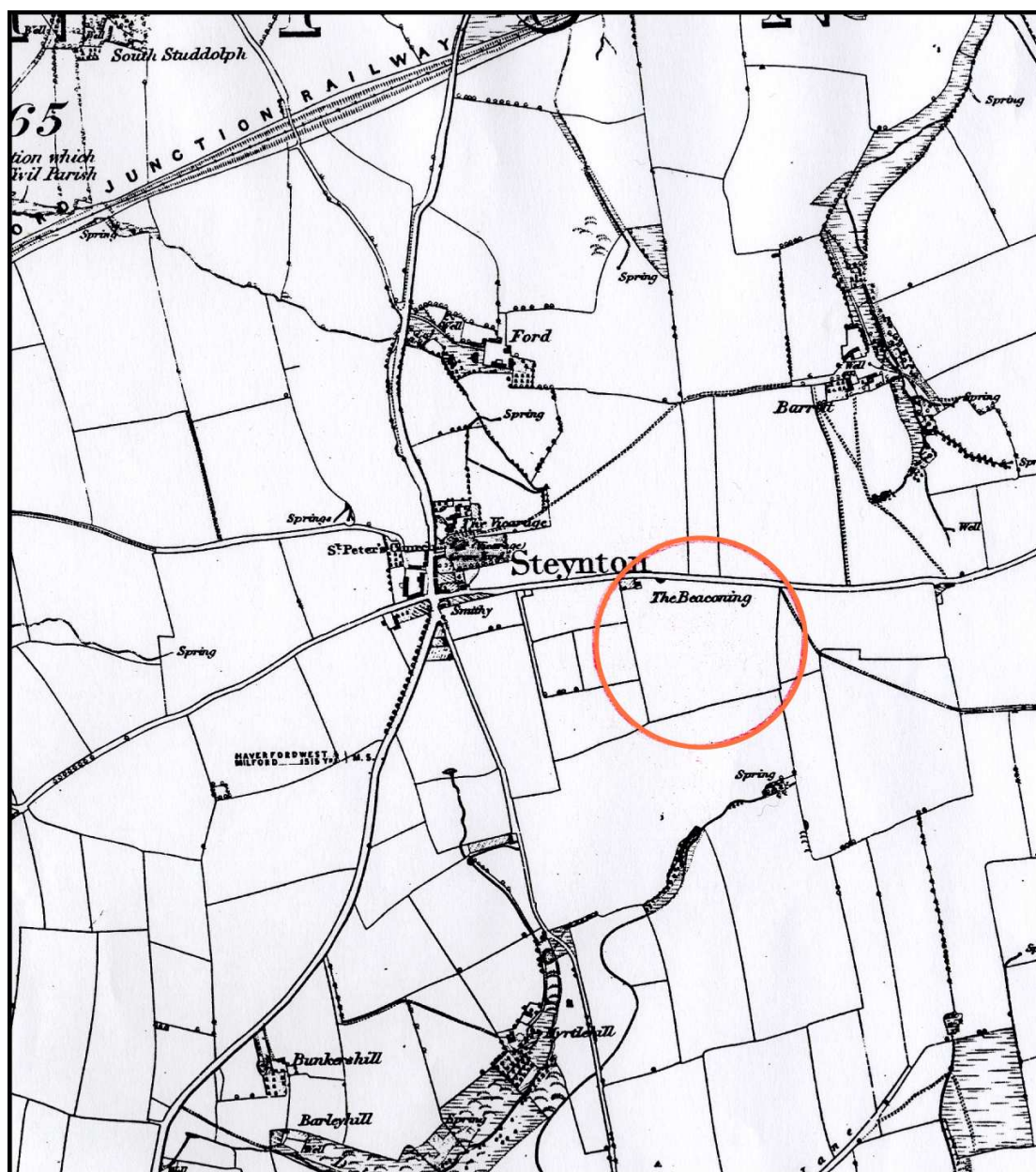


Figure 6. Extract from the 1887 Ordnance Survey map

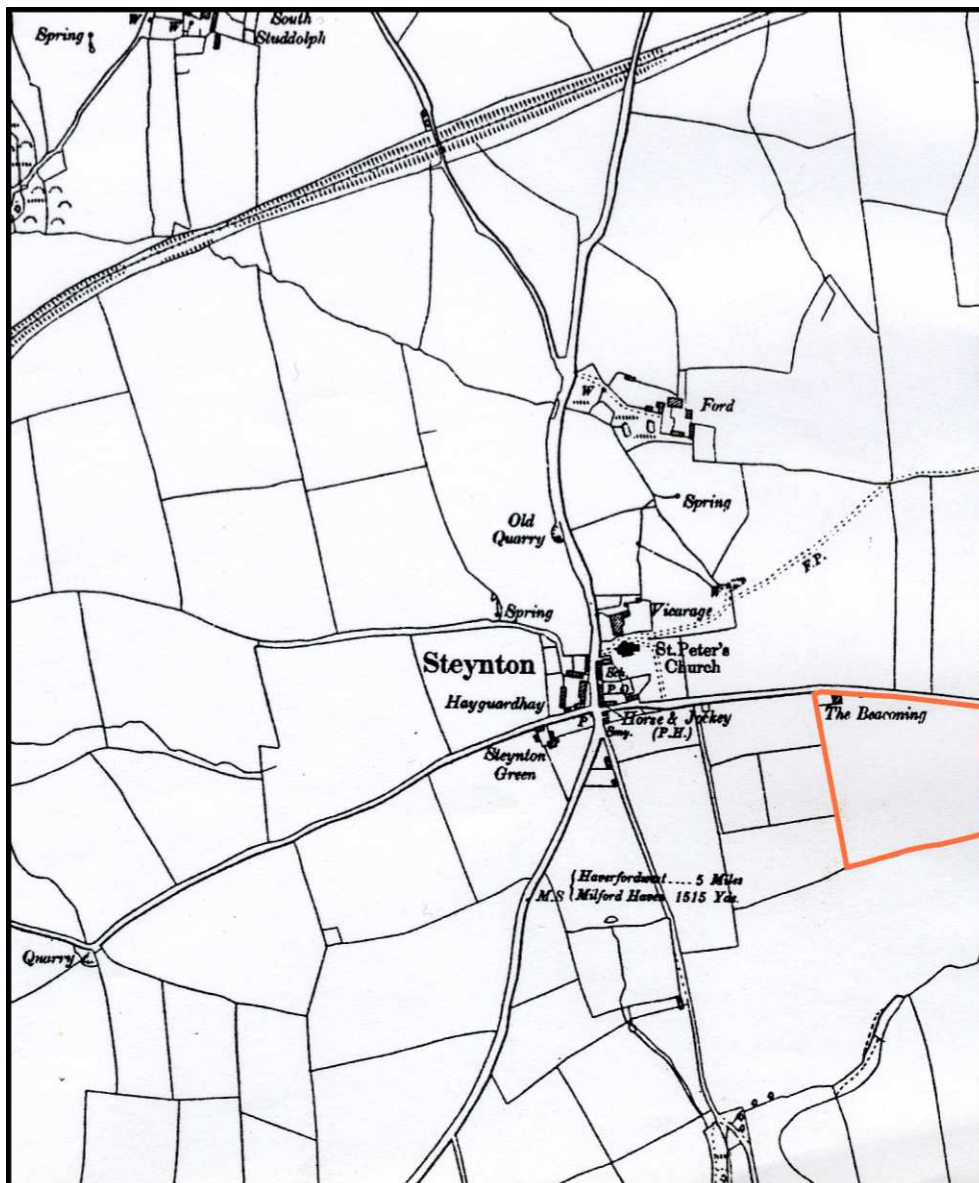


Figure 7. Extract from the 1909 Ordnance Survey map.



Photo.1 The Beaconing farmhouse, looking northwest



Photo.2 General view looking northwest across the proposed development area from the southeast corner of the site

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**Ebrill 2006
April 2006**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by R Ramsey

Swydd / Position: Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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-Field Services

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

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comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report