



Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment

Laugharne Park
Estate Access Track,
Carmarthenshire

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Non-Technical Summary

This historic environment desk-based assessment has been prepared by HCUK Group on behalf of Seasons Holidays, to assess the impacts on the historic environment from an Access Track that has been constructed between Laugharne Holiday Resort and the driveway to Delacorse Uchaf farm, running around the eastern side of a hill top above Laugharne.

Based on the information within the HER, supplemented by historic mapping, the Site is considered to have a moderate potential for prehistoric remains to have been present; a low potential for Roman, early medieval, medieval, post medieval and modern remains (excluding agricultural remains). The Site has not been subject to previous development and appears to have been used as agricultural land since the medieval period.

The Access Track has been built and based on its footprint, location adjacent to existing footpaths and low amount of groundworks such as terracing into the hillslope, it is possible that archaeological remains could have been exposed, damaged or destroyed by the works, but that the overall extent of this is relatively small.

Eight scheduled monuments within 3km of the Access Track; 1 listed building, and a Registered Historic Landscape were assessed where slight changes to their significance may have occurred. Overall these changes were considered low to negligible. The Access Track may be beneficial to Laugharne Conservation Area and many of the listed buildings within the town as it will divert construction traffic associated with the redevelopment of the Dylan Coastal Resort away from the town centre.

Crynodeb Di-Technegol

Mae'r asesiad desg hwn mewn perthynas â'r amgylchedd hanesyddol wedi'i lunio gan HCUK Group ar ran Seasons Holidays. Ei bwrpas yw asesu'r effeithiau a gafwyd ar yr amgylchedd hanesyddol yn sgil Llwybr Mynediad a adeiladwyd rhwng Laugharne Holiday Resort a'r dramwyfa i fferm Delacorse Uchaf, sy'n mynd o amgylch ochr ddwyreiniol pen bryn uwchlaw Talacharn.

Ar sail yr wybodaeth yn yr HER, a ategir gan fapiau hanesyddol, ystyrir bod gan y Safle botensial cymedrol o gynnwys olion cynhanesyddol; a photensial isel o gynnwys olion Rhufeinig, canoloesol cynnar, canoloesol, ôl-ganoloesol a modern (ac eithrio olion amaethyddol). Nid yw'r Safle wedi cael ei ddatblygu o'r blaen ac ymddengys ei fod wedi cael ei ddefnyddio fel tir amaethyddol ers y cyfnod canoloesol.

Mae'r Llwybr Mynediad wedi'i adeilad, ac ar sail ei ôl troed, ei leoliad gerllaw llwybrau cerdded presennol a'r peth gwaith paratoi a wnaed i'r tir, fel terasu'r llechwedd, mae'n bosibl bod olion archaeolegol wedi'u datgelu, eu niweidio neu eu dinistrio gan y gwaith, ond bod cwmmpas cyffredinol hyn yn gymharol fach.

Cafodd wyth o henebion cofrestredig o fewn 3 cilometr o'r Llwybr Mynediad – 1 yn adeilad rhestredig, a Thirwedd Hanesyddol Gofrestredig – eu hasesu lle gallai mân newidiadau fod wedi digwydd i'w harwyddocâd. Ar y cyfan, ystyrir bod y newidiadau hyn yn fach neu'n ddibwys. Efallai y bydd y Llwybr Mynediad o fudd i Ardal Gadwraeth Talacharn a nifer o adeiladau rhestredig yn y dref, oherwydd bydd yn ailgyfeirio traffig adeiladu sy'n gysylltiedig ag ailddatblygu Dylan Coastal Resort oddi wrth ganol y dref.

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by James Meek MCIfA, Director (Archaeology) of HCUK Group on behalf of Seasons Holidays.
- 1.2 A planning application has been submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council W/40561 for a: Retrospective application for retention of access track, Laugharne Estate (Northern Section) and W/40562 Retrospective application for retention of access track, Laugharne Estate (Southern Section). They are discussed as one within this document (Figures 1 and 2). Both applications describe the tracks as temporary, to be in use for a period of eight years.
- 1.3 The access track developments have been partially constructed and before any further works are allowed, it has been requested by both Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management and Cadw that a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment is prepared for the proposals, including a settings impact assessment of the impact of the development on the nearby scheduled monument of Delacorse Uchaf Standing Stone (CM310).
- 1.4 This report includes a desk-based assessment and settings assessment based on **'Settings of Historic Assets in Wales' guidance (Cadw 2017)**.
- 1.5 The northern and southern sections of the access track lie to the northeast of Laugharne, connecting the Dylan Coastal Resort to the road leading past Antshill Caravan Park and the A4066 to the north of Laugharne. The access track will mean that construction traffic associated with the present redevelopment of the Dylan Coastal Resort can bypass the centre of Laugharne.
- 1.6 A third retrospective application has been submitted and for the final stretch of proposed temporary access track which will lead north from the road to Antshill Caravan Park and through MaesyDeri farm preventing construction traffic on the narrow road leading to the A4066. This route follows existing trackways and is shown on Figure 2 in blue and although mentioned, this report assesses only the two routes for the planning applications W/40561 and W/40562 shown in red on Figure 2.
- 1.7 The southern road section runs from NGR 23064 21132 to 23065 21178; the northern section from NGR 23066 21177 to 23035 21191 (Figures 1 and 2). The third proposed section of road will run from NGR 23018 21199 to 22976 21202 (Figure 2 marked in blue).
- 1.8 The aim of this DBA is to determine the archaeological potential of the Site, to identify any particular areas of archaeological potential or significance and to provide

guidance on ways to accommodate any relevant constraints identified, as well as describing the potential impact, through changes to the setting of the scheduled monument of Delacorse Uchaf Standing Stone (CM310). This assessment will be in accordance with Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, Planning Policy Wales Technical **Advice Note 24 and the procedures set out in CIfA's 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment'** .

- 1.9 The purpose of this assessment is to determine and assess the archaeological potential of the Site and to assess the significance of any relevant heritage assets identified. The report is informed by site inspection, historical information, and by data relating to heritage assets. It seeks to provide sufficient information to allow an informed understanding of the potential impact of the proposed development on the significance of those assets, and to consider the need for solutions (design, engineering) where necessary.
- 1.10 The report considers heritage assets of archaeological interest, including finds/findspots of artefactual and ecofactual material (e.g. stone tools, bone), and locations, features or objects referenced from historic documents. Where appropriate, it refers to archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, including sub-surface archaeological remains of features, buildings and structures.
- 1.11 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.*
- 1.12 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.*

- 1.13 For the purposes of Planning Policy in Wales TAN 24 – The Historic Environment, 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* (para 1.7, Welsh Government 2017¹).
- 1.14 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.*²
- 1.15 This report contains information about the historic environment and historic assets in the vicinity of the proposed development site, which will assist the archaeological advisors to the planning authority in their decision about the retrospective application and what, if any, archaeological mitigation will be required.
- 1.16 Further guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment and historic assets during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and Listed Building (LBC) applications can be found in Planning Policy Wales: Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Government 2017; available online).
- 1.17 This desk-based assessment comprises an examination of digital data held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) and by the National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) together with documentary research. It incorporates a map regression indicating the impact of change over time. **The report also references the 'Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)'.³** A written scheme of investigation for the methodology of the assessment was submitted to and approved by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management section and Cadw.
- 1.18 This data has been collected for an area comprising a 1km radius of the Site **boundary, which is referred to as the 'study area'.** This radius has been selected on the basis of professional judgment as being sufficient to determine the archaeological potential of the Site, taking into account its location, topography, and character.

¹ Welsh Government 2016, Planning Policy Wales TAN 24 The Historic Environment 2017

² Ibid

³ Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) reviewed August 2019 – Clwyd Powys, Dyfed, Glamorgan Gwent and Gwynedd Archaeological Trust's

Topography

1.19 The Access Track is roughly 1.16km in length running between the following points from the access point to the northwest to the Dylan Coastal Resort to the south (Figures 1, 2 and 3):

- a. SN 3035 1192, circa 75m above Ordnance Datum (aOD)
- b. SN 3038 1200, c.75m aOD
- c. SN 3044 1200, c.75m aOD
- d. SN 3071 1195, c.63m aOD
- e. SN 3066 1178, c.73m aOD
- f. SN 3074 1173, c.75m aOD
- g. SN 3075 1159, c.86m aOD
- h. SN 3063 1142, c.78m aOD
- i. SN 3068 1132, c.73m aOD

1.20 The route starts at the existing road way leading to Delacorse Uchaf farm and then partially followed existing farm tracks alongside hedge boundaries or created new routes adjacent to boundaries until it enters into the existing Dylan Coastal resort where it ties in with landscaped grounds and existing access roads.

Geology

1.21 The British Geological Survey (BGS)⁴ identifies the underlying solid geology across the northern part of the Site as Milford Haven Group - Argillaceous Rocks And [Subordinate/Subequal] Sandstone And Conglomerate, Interbedded, a sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 408 to 427 million years ago in the Devonian and Silurian Periods when the local environment was previously dominated by rivers.

1.22 There are no recorded superficial deposits across most of the Site and study area except to the north where areas of Till, Devensian – Diamicton are present. This was formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (Figure 3).

⁴ <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

Site Visit

- 1.23 A number of site visits were undertaken to the Site and its environs to view the Access Track from a number of positions across Laugharne Township and on the eastern side of the Afon Taf estuary.
- 1.24 The entire route of the Access Track was walked over and the photos of it are shown below.
- 1.25 Additionally site visits to nearby scheduled monuments were undertaken to determine intervisibility with the Access Track. Some of the scheduled monuments were on private ground and could not be directly accessed, and therefore publicly accessible land as close to the sites as possible was made. Photos from these site visits are included later in the text.
- 1.26 Access Track comprises a compacted, crushed stone surface which has been placed across former farm tracks in many places. Some minor landscaping is evident where ground levels were uneven to create a level road surface. These include an area close to the Delacorse standing stone and around the bend to the northwest of the stone



Photo 1: View south of southern end of Access Track towards existing Dylan Coastal Resort, with Laugharne Marsh on left side of photograph and St John's Hill in the centre background



Photo 2: View southwest from southern end of Access Track with buildings associated with Dylan Coastal resort to right and the Gower Peninsula in the far distance



Photo 3: View north along eastern part of Access Track with Delacorse Standing Stone in field to left and Afon Taf valley in front



Photo 4: View northeast from Access Track close to Delacorse Standing Stone across Afon Taf valley



Photo 5: View west across Access Track to Delacorse Standing Stone



Photo 6: View south along Access Track from its centre, with Delacorse Standing Stone visible on horizon in centre of photograph



Photo 7: View south-southeast along Access Track from close to its centre



Photo 8: View south along Access Track from near its northeastern corner



Photo 9: View south along Access Track from its northeastern corner showing the curving route along hedgeline in distance



Photo 10: View northeast from Access Track near its northeastern corner across Taf Valley towards Llanybri to far right



Photo 11: View west along Access Track along its main east to west run northeast of Delacorse Uchaf farm from its eastern corner



Photo 12: View east along Access Track along its main east to west run northeast of Delacorse Uchaf farm across Afon Taf valley, towards corner



Photo 13: View southeast from Access Track along its main east to west run northeast of Delacorse Uchaf farm



Photo 14: View southwest from Access Track along its main east to west run towards Delacorse Uchaf farm



Photo 15: View west along Access Track along its main east to west run northeast of Delacorse Uchaf farm



Photo 16: View west along Access Track along its main east to west run north of Delacorse Uchaf farm



Photo 17: View west along Access Track along its main east to west run north of Delacorse Uchaf farm



Photo 18: View southeast from the Access Track where it runs along its main east to west run towards Delacorse Uchaf farm



Photo 19: View north from the Access Track where it runs along its main east to west run northwest of Delacorse Uchaf farm towards St Clears, with Afon Taf Valley to right



Photo 20: View east along Access Track along its main east to west run northwest of Delacorse Uchaf farm



Photo 21: View southwest along Access Track at its northerly extent



Photo 22: View northeast along Access Track from near its northern end



Photo 23: View north along northern end of Access Track from junction with existing road between Delacorse Uchaf farm and Antshill Caravan Park



Photo 24: View east at northern end of Access Track showing existing road leading uphill to Delacorse Uchaf farm



Photo 25: Northern end of Access Track where it joins the existing road between Delacorse Uchaf farm and Antshill Caravan Park (visible in distance), viewing south

2. Methodology

Sources

- 2.1 In preparing this assessment we have compiled readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources, primarily:
- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record for known archaeological sites, monuments and findspots within 1km of the Site (i.e. the study area);
 - Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales National Monument Record information;
 - Scheduled Monuments, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Registered Historic Landscapes; Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (Cadw / Welsh Government);
 - Air photographs held by RCAHMW, Britain from Above, Google Maps and Talacharn Community History Collection;
 - Site visit and walkover survey of the Access Track;
 - Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area;
 - Assessment of the likely impact upon the settings of surrounding features of the historic environment;
 - Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains within the development site (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work; and
 - Various online sources.
- 2.2 A review of information held by the National Monuments Record determined that no additional historic assets were recorded to those on the HER and designated sites and so a licenced search of the material was not undertaken.
- 2.3 The information gathered from the above sources has been verified and augmented as far as possible by assessment and site inspection, in order to arrive at conclusions on the significance of the various heritage assets and archaeological remains that have been identified.

Setting Assessment Methodology

- 2.4 This Heritage Impact Assessment has given due consideration to Cadw guidance on setting as laid out in Managing Setting of Historic Assets in Wales⁵ and Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales⁶ **and similarly within the Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment**⁷.
- 2.5 As noted in the previous section, when assessing the impact of proposals on designated historic assets, it is not a question of whether there would be a direct physical impact on **that asset, but instead whether change within its 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'**.
- 2.6 In simple terms, setting is defined as **'the surroundings in which a historic asset is understood, experienced and appreciated'**. It therefore must be recognised from the outset that **'setting' is not a historic asset, and cannot itself be harmed. Its** importance relates to the contribution it makes to the significance of the historic asset and the extent to which it allows that significance to be understood, **experienced and appreciated.'**
- 2.7 Welsh Government guidance⁸ **identifies that 'change in the historic environment is inevitable', but it is only harmful when significance is damaged.**
- 2.8 In that regard, the Cadw Conservation Principles document states that significance of **an historic asset 'embraces all of the cultural heritage values that people associated with it, or which prompt them to respond to it'**⁹.
- 2.9 As such, when assessing the impact of proposals on designated historic assets beyond the boundary of a development site, it is not a question of whether setting **would be affected, but rather a question of whether change within an asset's 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance' or the ability to understand, experience and appreciate 'significance' based on the above 'heritage interest' as defined by Cadw.**
- 2.10 Set within this context, where the objective is to determine the impact of proposals on designated historic assets beyond the boundary of a development site, it is necessary to first define the significance of the asset in question - and the contribution made to that significance or the ability to appreciate that significance by its 'setting', in order to establish whether there would be a loss, and therefore harm.

⁵ Cadw 2017a

⁶ Cadw 2017b

⁷ WG 2017

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Cadw 2011

The guidance identifies that change within a historic asset's setting need not necessarily cause harm to that asset - it can be positive, negative or neutral.

2.11 In light of the above, the assessment of potential setting effects, arising from the **proposed scheme, has followed the guidance set out in 'Managing Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' by Cadw¹⁰**. Part 1 of this guidance defines setting and observes that the setting of a historic asset is:

"The surroundings in which a historic asset is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships and 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."

2.12 The guidance is clear that the importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of the historic asset or the ability to appreciate that significance.

2.13 On a practical level, the Cadw guidance identifies an approach to assessing setting in relation to development management which is based on a four-stage procedure; i.e.:

- Identify the historic assets;
- Define and analyse the setting which is made up of :
 - Its current surroundings
 - Our present understanding and appreciation of the historic asset
 - What (if anything) survives of its historic surroundings.
- Evaluate the potential impact of change or development; and
- Consider options to mitigate the impact of a proposed change or development.

2.14 The Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales document¹¹ states that the heritage values (significance) of a historic asset can be defined in the following terms:

- evidential value: the extent to which the physical fabric tells how and when your historic asset was made, how it was used and how it has changed over time. There may be buried or obscured elements associated with your historic asset which may also be an important potential source of evidence.

¹⁰ Cadw 2017a

¹¹ Cadw 2017b

- historical value: your historic asset may illustrate a particular past way of life or be associated with a specific person or event; there may be physical evidence for these connections which it could be important to retain.
- aesthetic value: the design, construction and craftsmanship of your historic asset. This can also include setting and views to and from the historic asset, which may have changed through time.
- communal value: your historic asset may have particular significance to people for its commemorative, symbolic or spiritual value, or for the part it has played in local cultural or public life. This will be particularly important in the case of buildings in public use or sites where public access must be maintained or improved.

2.15 Having established the baseline, the following guidance is provided in respect of an **assessment of the effect upon 'setting'; i.e.:**

"Factors to be considered when assessing the impact of a proposed change or development within the setting of a historic asset include:

- *the visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the scale of the historic asset and its setting*
- *the visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the location of the historic asset*
- *whether the proposed change or development would dominate the historic asset or detract from our ability to understand and appreciate it — for example, its functional or physical relationship with the surrounding landscape and associated structures and/ or buried remains*
- *the presence, extent, character and scale of the existing built environment within the surroundings of the historic asset and how the proposed change or development compares with this*
- *the lifespan of the proposed change or development and whether or not the impact might be reversible*
- *the extent of tree cover, whether it is deciduous or evergreen, and its likely longevity*
- *the impact of artificial lighting — for example, on night-time views*
- *the capability of a landscape setting to absorb change or new development without the erosion of its key characteristics*
- *the impact of the proposed change or development on non-visual elements of the setting and character of the historic asset, such as sense of remoteness, evocation of the historical past, sense of place, cultural identity or spiritual responses*

- *the impact of non-visual elements of the proposed change or development, such as the removal or addition of noises and smell.”*

2.16 In light of the above, the assessment of potential setting effects, employed in the preparation of this report included site visits in the spring and summer of 2021:

- Identifying those historic assets that are capable of being affected by the proposed scheme and the manner (if any) in which they would be affected, through initial desk-based works and subsequent field visits;
- Defining the contribution made to their significance by their setting; and
- Assessing the likely impact upon their significance or the ability to appreciate it as a result of the form of development proposed being implemented.

2.17 In light of the above, the setting assessment of this report has been prepared in a robust manner, employing current best practice professional guidance and giving due regard to the methodology detailed above.

Assessment of Significance and Importance

2.18 Historic assets are assessed in terms of their significance and importance, following **the requirement in PPW, and taking account of the Welsh Government’s guidance in TAN24¹² and Cadw’s Conservation Principles¹³**. Significance, in relation to heritage policy, is defined by the Conservation Principles as

“embrace[ing] all of the cultural heritage values that people associated with it, or which prompt them to respond to it.”¹⁴

2.19 Where potential impacts on the settings of historic assets are identified, the assessment of significance includes assessing whether, how and to what degree these settings make a contribution to the significance of the historic asset(s). The methodology for assessing setting is described within the Setting Assessment Methodology below.

2.20 The importance of a historic asset is the overall value assigned to it based on its heritage significance, reflecting its statutory designation or, in the case of undesignated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor (Table 2). Nationally and internationally designated assets are assigned to the highest two levels of importance. Grade II Listed Buildings and Grade II Registered Parks & Gardens are considered of medium importance. Conservation Areas are not assigned to either level of importance by PPW but their status as local designations and their

¹² WG 2017

¹³ Cadw 2011

¹⁴ Ibid

omission from the National Heritage List justifies their classification here as assets of medium importance. Other non-designated assets which are considered of local importance only are assigned to a low level of importance. An historic feature which lacks a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest is not considered to be a historic asset; it may also be said to have negligible importance.

- 2.21 The assessment seeks to understand and define the significance of heritage assets identified from the sources above. The importance of a heritage asset is the overall value assigned to it based on its heritage significance, reflecting its statutory designation or, in the case of undesignated assets, the professional judgement of the assessor (Table 1).

Table 1: Criteria for Assessing the Importance of Heritage Assets

Importance of the asset	Criteria
Very high (National / International)	World Heritage Sites and other assets of equal international importance
High (National)	Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Battlefields, Grade I and II* Listed Buildings, and undesignated heritage assets of equal importance
Medium (Regional)	Conservation Areas, Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens, Grade II Listed Buildings, heritage assets on local lists and undesignated assets of equal importance
Low (Local)	Undesignated heritage assets of lesser importance

Archaeological Potential

- 2.22 The report concludes with (1) an assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site, (2) an assessment of the significance of any archaeological remains that may be present, and (3) an assessment of the likely effects of the proposed development on heritage assets, in terms of physical impact.

- 2.23 Archaeological potential is determined through the following levels:

- High Potential – where historic assets of a certain period or type are known to exist or where their likelihood of being present is near certain;
- Moderate Potential – where the evidence suggests that historic assets of a certain period or type are likely to be present;

- c. Low Potential – where the evidence indicates that there is a slight chance for historic assets of a certain period or type to be present;
- d. Negligible – Where the evidence indicates that previous investigation, former disturbance, topographic location is such that no remains of a certain period or type will be present.

3. Relevant Policy Framework

National Legislation

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

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

3.2 The new Act consolidates the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and also the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It is supported by a number of planning guidance documents, a number of which are still in preparation. The Act most specifically provides better safeguards for the protection of Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Historic Parks and Gardens. It will also include further guidance on place names.

Planning Policy Wales – Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment

3.3 Planning Policy Wales v11 was revised in February 2021. Technical Advice Note 24 'The Historic Environment' was adopted on 31st May 2017 and is unaltered by the February revisions. This replaced Circular 60/96 'Planning and the Historic Environment and Circular 61/96 'Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas'. **This states that** *'The purpose of this TAN is to provide guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and Listed Building (LBC) applications. This TAN provides specific guidance on how the following aspects of the historic environment should be considered:*

- a) *World Heritage Sites*
- b) *Scheduled monuments*
- c) *Archaeological remains*
- d) *Listed buildings*
- e) *Conservation areas*

f) *Historic parks and gardens*

g) *Historic landscapes*

h) ***Historic assets of special local interest***' (Ibid para 1.4)¹⁵

3.4 Advice and decisions on planning applications affecting nationally significant historic environment features (or designated historic assets) is provided by Cadw acting on behalf of Welsh Government.

3.5 TAN 24 also notes the importance of The Conservation Principles document (Cadw 2011)¹⁶ being used for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in **Wales** *'and provide the basis upon which Cadw discharges certain statutory duties on behalf of the Welsh Ministers'*¹⁷. **It notes that 'Conservation Principles should be used by others (including owners, developers and other public bodies) to assess the potential impacts of a development proposal on the significance of any historic asset/assets and to assist in decision making where the historic environment is affected by the planning process'¹⁸.**

3.6 Conservation Principles includes the following six principles.

1. Historic assets will be managed to sustain their values.
2. Understanding the significance of historic assets is vital.
3. The historic environment is a shared resource.
4. Everyone will be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment.
5. Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent.
6. Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.

3.7 The significance of a historic asset is defined in TAN 24 as comprising four heritage values which need to be understood before the significance of the asset can be assessed: Evidential value; Historical value; Aesthetic value and Communal value.

3.8 **TAN 24 discusses Heritage Impact Assessments and notes** *'that they are a structured process that enables the significance of a designated asset to be taken into account when considering proposals for change. Heritage impact assessments should be proportionate both to the significance of the historic asset and to the degree of change proposed, and should include sufficient information to enable both the*

¹⁵ TAN 24, para 1.4

¹⁶ Cadw 2011, Conservation Principles

¹⁷ TAN 24, para 1.10

¹⁸ Ibid

significance of the asset and the impact of change to be understood. A Heritage Impact Assessment should be summarised in a heritage impact statement which must form part of any listed building consent, conservation area consent and, when requested, scheduled monument consent applications.'

- 3.9** Guidelines for the preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments in Wales have been prepared by Cadw¹⁹.
- 3.10** **TAN 24 discusses what the setting of a historic asset comprises in para 1.25:** *'The setting of an 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 or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral. Setting is not a historic asset in its own right but has value derived from how different elements may contribute to the significance of a historic asset.'*²⁰
- 3.11** It notes that the principles used for determining setting impact *'are equally applicable to all historic assets, irrespective of their designation. For any development within the setting of a historic asset, some of the factors to consider and weigh in the assessment include:*
- *The significance of the asset and the contribution the setting makes to that significance*
 - *the prominence of the historic asset*
 - *the expected lifespan of the proposed development*
 - *the extent of tree cover and its likely longevity*
 - *non-visual factors affecting the setting of the historic asset such as noise.'*²¹
- 3.12** Further it recognises that *'There will be cases where a proposed development will enhance the setting of a historic asset and this will be treated as a benefit resulting from the development. Mitigation of damaging effects could be achieved through good design and in some cases screening or landscaping.'*²²

¹⁹ Cadw 2017, Heritage Impact Assessments in Wales, May 2017

²⁰ TAN 24 para 1.25

²¹ TAN 24 para 1.26

²² TAN 24 para 1.28

Relevant Local Policies: *Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan Local 2006 - 2021*

- 3.13** The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 was adopted on 10th December 2014. **It states that the** 'LDP sets out the spatial vision for the future of Carmarthenshire (excluding that area within the Brecon Beacons national Park) and a framework for the distribution and delivery of growth and development.'
- 3.14** The LDP is presently under review and the deposit plan (2018 – 2033) contains provisional policies to protect and enhance the contribution of listed buildings, historic landscapes and archaeology as part of managing change in the Council area. The following policy from the adopted LDP and the proposed ones for the new one are included below and are relevant to this assessment.

Table 2: Relevant Local Policies

Relevant Section	Details
ADOPTED POLICY Policy EQ1 Protection of Buildings, Landscapes and Features of Historic Importance	<p>Proposals for development affecting landscapes, townscapes buildings and sites or features of historic or archaeological interest which by virtue of their historic importance, character or significance within a group of features make an important contribution to the local character and the interests of the area will only be permitted where it preserves or enhances the built and historic environment.</p> <p>Strategic Policy SP13 identifies that historical and cultural features of recognised importance, including Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) will be protected as a reflection of national policy. However, not all nationally important remains which may merit preservation will necessarily be scheduled. Such remains and, in appropriate circumstances, other unscheduled archaeological remains of local importance and their setting may also be worthy of protection (PPW: Edition 7 Para 6.4.2). In this regard, the above policy seeks to reflect their significance either as locally important sites or as currently un-designated sites worthy of potential national designation.</p> <p>Reference should be made to the content of PPW: Edition 7 in respect of SAMs. The locations of SAMs are shown on the Proposals Map.</p> <p>Listed buildings are determined on the basis of their importance to the nation, either for their architecture or built quality, or for their historic associations. However, there are a large number of other buildings, which whilst not of sufficient quality or importance</p>

	<p>to be listed, nevertheless make a significant local contribution. In Carmarthenshire, there are potentially large numbers of buildings which could fall into this category. Therefore, whilst it would be inappropriate to afford these buildings the same protection as listed buildings, it is still desirable to afford them some protection, for example when they are within Conservation Areas, or affected by development proposals. In this regard, reference is made to appendix 3 and the commitment to prepare SPG on Locally Important Buildings.</p> <p>Proposals for the alteration or extension of a building of local importance will be expected to retain and conserve features of historic or architectural interest. Proposals impacting on, or affecting the setting of a building of local importance will be expected to respect its character. In those instances where demolition is granted the council may seek the recording of architectural features and the re-use and recycling of materials in any new development on the site.</p> <p>Due regard should be had to the impact of any proposal on the distinctiveness, integrity or setting of the feature, landscape, townscape or building.</p>
<p>PROVISIONAL POLICY 2018-2033</p> <p>Strategic Policy – SP 14: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment</p>	<p>Development proposals should preserve or enhance the built and historic environment of the County, its cultural, townscape and landscape assets, and, where appropriate, their setting.</p> <p>Proposals will be expected to promote high quality design that reinforces local character and respects and enhances the cultural and historic qualities of the plan area.</p>
<p>PROVISIONAL POLICY (2018 – 2033)</p> <p>BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas</p>	<p>Proposals in respect of a listed building will only be permitted where they accord with the following:</p> <p>Proposals for the alteration and/or extension to a listed building, or its curtilage will be required to ensure that the special architectural character, or historic interest is preserved or enhanced;</p> <p>The change of use of a listed building, or its curtilage will only be permitted where it contributes to the retention of a building or its sustainable re-use, whilst avoiding an adverse effect on its character, special interest or structural integrity;</p> <p>Proposals for the total or substantial demolition of a listed building will only be permitted where there is the strongest justification and convincing evidence that the proposal is necessary;</p> <p>Proposals which have a relationship to, or impact upon the setting of a listed building, or its curtilage must ensure that the setting is preserved or enhanced.</p>

	<p>Developments within or adjacent to a conservation area will be permitted, where it would preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the conservation area, or its setting.</p> <p>New developments in conservation areas should be of a high standard of design which responds to the area's special characteristics and features.</p>
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4. Archaeological Background

Introduction

- 4.1 There are 41 historic assets within the 500m study area around the site recorded on the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (DAT HER identified by their Primary Record Number - PRN). A review of online data held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales (National Monuments Record of Wales) did not record any additional sites.
- 4.2 Cadw requested a search area of 3km around the Access Track for scheduled monuments which records the presence of 11 scheduled monuments.
- 4.3 There are 55 listed building within 1km of the Access Track and 1 Conservation Area.
- 4.4 The Access Track lies within the Taf and Tywi Estuary Registered Historic Landscape.
- 4.5 There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Battlefields or Registered Historic Parks and Gardens within the 3km study area around the site.

Designated Historic Assets

Scheduled Monuments (Figure 4; Table 3)

- 4.6 There are 11 scheduled monuments within 3km of the Access Track. Laugharne Castle (CM003) is the most famous of these, a medieval castle built on a small cliff above the Coran stream overlooking the Taf estuary. It lies on lower ground within the centre of Laugharne and no parts are visible from within the area of the Access Track (Photos 26 and 27). Although not intervisible with the Access Track there will be potential beneficial impacts from diversion of traffic from the centre of Laugharne and past its gatehouse.
- 4.7 Of the remaining 10 scheduled monuments a number lie on the eastern side of the Afon Taf valley and have no intervisibility with the Access Track due to topography, including Meini Llwydion Group of Standing Stones of Bronze Age date (CM054) which lie around a bend of a tributary entering the Afon Taf and obscured by a slight rise in ground level; Castle Cogan (CM083), a prehistoric hilltop enclosure views to which are obscured by an intervening hill top (Photo 10); Lower Court Standing Stone (CM146) which lies on the far side of a slight rise in the ground from the Access Track; and the Bryn Helyg Round Barrow (CM308) a Bronze Age burial mound which is obscured by an intervening ridge line.



Photo 26: View north of Laugharne Castle (CM003) from the southern side of The Grist looking towards the Dylan Coastal Resort



Photo 27: View from the Dylan Coastal Resort across Laugharne towards St John's Hill, over Laugharne Castle which is not visible

Table 3: Scheduled Monuments within 3km of the Access Track

SM Number	Name	Period – Site Type	NGR
CM003	Laugharne Castle	Medieval - Castle	SN 30214 210757
CM054	Meini Llwydion Group of Standing Stones	Prehistoric - Standing stone	SN 31444 13958
CM083	Castle Cogan	Prehistoric - Enclosure	SN 32748 13968
CM143	Trefenty Mound and Bailey Castle	Medieval - Motte & Bailey	SN 29708 13546
CM144	Llanfihangel Abercowin Old Parish Church & Norman Grave-Slabs	Medieval - Church	SN 30260 13326
CM145	Trefenty Standing Stone	Prehistoric - Standing stone	SN 30465 13654
CM146	Lower Court Standing Stone	Prehistoric - Standing stone	SN 30784 14852
CM232	Hillslope Enclosure at Laugharne Park Holiday Village	Prehistoric - Enclosure	SN 30626 11185
CM280	St.Teilo's Church, Llandeilo Abercywyn	Medieval - Chapel	SN 30928 13037
CM308	Bryn Helyg Round Barrow	Prehistoric - Round barrow	SN 29705 14928
CM310	Delacorse Uchaf Standing Stone	Prehistoric - Standing stone	SN 30747 11695

Listed Buildings (Figure 5, Table 4)

4.8 There are 55 listed buildings located within 1km of the Access Track, the majority of which are located within the centre of Laugharne along the main road. The locations of the buildings are shown on Figure 5 and listed in the following table (Table 4).

Table 4: Listed Buildings within 1km of the Access Track

Record Number	Name	Grade
9622	Fern Hill, The Butts	II
9623	Parish Church of St. Martin	II *
9624	Churchyard at St. Martin's Parish	II
9625	<i>Clifton House, Clifton Street</i>	II
9626	Fernhill cottage	II
9627	The Boat House	II
9628	Dylan Thomas's tool-shed Study	II
9629	Gosport House	II
9630	Cross, The Grist	II
9631	<i>The Limes, Clifton Street</i>	II
9632	<i>Moir House, Clifton Street</i>	II
9633	<i>Rosetta, Clifton Street</i>	II
9634	<i>Dragon Park, King Street</i>	II
9635	<i>Exeter House including Oriel Evans Bookshop, King Street</i>	II
9636	<i>The Pines including Oriel Evans Bookshop, King Street</i>	II

9637	<i>Elm House, King Street</i>	II
9638	<i>Brown's Hotel, King Street</i>	II
9639	<i>Corran Books (Formerly The Ship & Castle PH), King Street</i>	II
9640	<i>Manse, King Street</i>	II
9641	<i>Pelican, King Street</i>	II
9642	<i>Gainsford House, King Street</i>	II
9643	<i>Osbourne House, King Street</i>	II
9644	<i>Minerva, King Street</i>	II
9645	<i>Redford House, King Street</i>	II
9646	<i>Grove House, King Street</i>	II
9647	<i>Abercoran House, King Street</i>	II
9648	<i>Temperance House, King Street</i>	II
9649	<i>Vicarage, King Street</i>	II
9650	<i>Great House, King Street</i>	II *
9651	Sea View, Market Lane	II
9652	Outer Gatehouse to Laugharne Castle	I
9653	Laugharne Castle	I
9654	Section of boundary walls around Castle grounds running SW. from outer Gatehouse	II
9655	Section of Boundary Walls around Castle grounds running E from outer Gatehouse	II
9656	Gazebo in grounds of Laugharne Castle	II
9657	<i>Castle House, Market Street</i>	II *
9658	<i>Boundary Wall to W of Castle House, including gated entrance, Market Street</i>	II
9659	<i>Town Hall, Market Street</i>	II *
9660	<i>No.2 Market Street</i>	II
9661	<i>No.3 Market Street</i>	II
9662	<i>Manchester House, Market Street</i>	II
9663	<i>Gwalia, Market Street</i>	II
9664	<i>Globe House (including SB & RB Gleed, Butcher's Shop), King Street</i>	II
9665	Coran Bridge	II
9666	The Strand	II
9667	Strand House	II
9668	Ball Court	II
9669	Victoria House, Victoria Street	II
9670	<i>New Three Mariners P.H., Market Street</i>	II
9671	<i>Island House, Wogan Street</i>	II *
9672	<i>Boundary Wall to Island House, Wogan Street</i>	II
9673	Garage to Island House	II
9674	Mapsland	II
9675	Parson's Lodge	II
9736	<i>Telephone Call-box, King Street</i>	II

4.9 The majority of the listed buildings lie within the centre of Laugharne along the main road through Laugharne (A4066 comprising Clifton Street, King Street, Market Street and Wogan Street – italicised in Table 4). The Access Track has no direct or visual

impacts upon these historic assets and they are assessed en-masse in the impacts section later in the document.

Conservation Area (Figure 5)

- 4.10 The Laugharne Conservation Area lies around 100m to the southwest of the end of the Access Track within the Dylan Coastal Resort. The Conservation Area covers the majority of the scheduled monument enclosure within the Resort. It lies below the 60m contour and on the southwestern side of the Access Track. There will be no direct impacts on the Conservation Area and there is negligible intervisibility. The indirect impacts upon the Conservation Area are discussed further in the impacts section below.

Registered Historic Landscape

- 4.11 The Access Track lies entirely within the Taf and Tywi Estuary Registered Outstanding Historic Landscape of Wales (Reference HLW (D) 9). The basic description for the location of this is as follows: *'This littoral area of estuaries, coastal lowlands, sand dunes and intertidal sand bars lies across the north east side of Carmarthen Bay, on the South Wales coast. Behind the long expanses of sand dunes on the north east side of Carmarthen Bay, on the east and west sides of the estuary mouths of the Rivers Taf, Tywi and Gwendraeth, lie large areas of low lying marsh land. The whole area contains diverse evidence of activity from the prehistoric to the recent past and includes the Hugden medieval open field system on the low coastal ridge west of Laugharne.'*

Heritage Assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record

4.12 There are 58 individual historic assets recorded on the DAT HER within 500m of the Access Road. None of these lie within the proposed development area itself. Some relate to scheduled monuments and listed buildings mentioned above.

4.13 DAT HER records are identified by their unique PRN (Primary Record Number) and archaeological event records are identified by their ERN (Event Record Numbers).

Timescales

4.14 Timescales used in this assessment:

Table 5: Timescales

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 12,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 12,000 – 4000 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4000 – 1800 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.1800 – 600 BC	
Iron Age –	c.600 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Saxon / Early Medieval –	c. AD 410 – AD 1066	
Medieval–	1066 –1485	
Post medieval Period –	1485 – 1900	
Modern –	1901 – Present	

4.15 The DAT HER maps are included in this report at Figure 6.

Prehistoric

Table 6: Prehistoric sites recorded on the DAT HER within 500m of the Access Road

PRN	Site Name	Summary	Period	NGR
2168	Laugharne	Delacorse Standing Stone. An impressive boulder-type standing stone located towards the top of a hill just below the highest point and at the start of where the land begins to slope down to the Taf estuary to the NE. A hollow has been worn around the stone by livestock. Scheduled Monument	Bronze Age	SN30751169

11610	Laugharne; The Croft	Cist Grave Cemetery. Early medieval B site, ie. medium-probability early medieval origins. Undated cist burials have been observed behind 'The Croft', 100m to the south of Laugharne parish churchyard (PRN 14296), where 8 graves were reported, two with burials, in 1931. Altogether 8 graves discovered but only remains of two burials, plus a tooth from grave 5. Found, whilst building 'The Croft,' pre 1931.	Bronze Age; Early Medieval	SN30191128
13088	Glan-Y-Mor	Prehistoric Midden identified during coastal edge survey.	Prehistoric	SN30621110
2158	Glan-Y-Mor	Glan y Mor defended enclosure comprises a crescent-shaped rampart defending the north, west and south sides of the site, whilst steep slopes that fall away to the Taf estuary protect the east side. The site lies at 60m above sea level on a gentle southwest facing slope. Simple and possibly "landscaped" earthwork. Sited on a scarp edge, not overlooked. Scheduled Monument	Iron Age	SN30631117
7376	Delacorse Uchaf	A possible sub-circular cropmark identified from aerial photographs taken in 1946 by the RAF - possibly not an antiquity. The field also contains a standing stone (PRN 2168). Situated on level ground at 80m above sea level towards the top of an east facing hillslope, which drops down to the Afon Taf estuary below, this possible sub-circular cropmark was identified from aerial photographs taken in 1946 by the RAF.	Not Applicable; Prehistoric?	SN30781160

- 4.16** The DAT HER holds records for 5 assets of prehistoric date. The earliest record relates to the Delacorse Standing Stone (PRN2168) scheduled monument and is discussed in more detail above. The defended enclosure at Glan Y Mor (within the Dylan Coastal resort) is also recorded (PRN2158), also a scheduled monument discussed in more detail above.
- 4.17** Other records include a possible Bronze Age cist grave cemetery close to The Croft in Laugharne, adjacent to the A4066 (PRN11610). Due to the similarity in burial practices with cist grave burial between the Bronze Age and early medieval periods and as the recorded graves were undated it is possible these may be of early medieval date.
- 4.18** A prehistoric midden was recorded at Glan Y Mor during a coastal survey undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust in 1998 (PRN13088). Unfortunately no further details are given.
- 4.19** The final record is that of a possible sub-circular cropmark (PRN7376) recorded on aerial photographs located close to the Delacorse Standing Stone. No further details of the feature are given and the record does suggest that the date of the feature is not applicable (suggesting it is either natural or was a misinterpretation).

- 4.20 The potential for archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period is considered to be moderate, as prehistoric monuments are known in the area and the Access Track runs very close to the Delacorse Standing Stone. Other standing stones are known in the wider area along the Afon Taf valley as discussed above. The archaeological importance of any assets of prehistoric date would be considered to be of local to regional archaeological importance (assuming that any visible and the most well preserved remains have already been identified and scheduled as being of national significance).

Roman

Table 7: Roman sites recorded on the DAT HER within 500m of the Access Road

PRN	Site Name	Summary	Period	NGR
11259	Glan-Y-Mor	Findspot for a brass Roman coin of unknown issue, and a bronze button (which was thought to have been brought up by moles), it was thought to be Roman. The current location of these finds is unknown, thought to be lost.	Roman	SN306111
2166	Laugharne	St Martin's Church; Possibly Roman, or medieval urn contained "cinders", found under floor of St. Martin's church & re-interred.	Roman; Medieval	SN30211143

- 4.21 The DAT HER holds two records of Roman date within the study area. These both relate to findspots. The closest relates to a find of a Roman coin and bronze button at Glan Y Mor (PRN11259) within the Dylan Coastal Resort. The scheduled enclosure (CM232) could potentially have continued activity into the Roman period and so potentially these finds came from the enclosure.
- 4.22 **A possible Roman or medieval cinerary urn was found at St Martin's Church** over 500m west of the Access Track (PRN2166). The record is not very detailed and the urn was reburied and thus it is unclear what date the urn was.
- 4.23 Roman activity in this general area is poorly understood. A Roman coin hoard to the northwest of Laugharne and finds recovered from the wider area would suggest a Roman presence, although no clear settlement activity has been found within Laugharne itself. The Taf estuary would have been an important communication and transport link inland and it is most unlikely that there was not some form of settlement here, as yet to be discovered.
- 4.24 Based on the known archaeology within the study area the potential for Roman archaeology to have been present is considered to be low. The importance of the assets of Roman date, if present, would be considered to be of regional importance.

Early Medieval

Table 8: Early Medieval sites recorded on the DAT HER within 500m of the Access Road

PRN	Site Name	Summary	Period	NGR
2164	Laugharne	Cross at Parish Church; St Martin Of Tours; St Michael's Group III ECM (cross), of 10th century date, standing in a recess in the south transept of Laugharne parish church PRN 2163. It was found shortly before 1876 either during church restoration or through grave-	Early Medieval	SN30211143
2165	Laugharne	Record deleted during Cadw Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project PRN 44753. Refers to same ECM as PRN 2164 (Edwards forthcoming). Former dedication of church St Michael + All Angels. Somewhere else during the restoration of the church in 1873-4 they found a stone, about a foot and a half in length with a cross carved on it, the work of the 11thC. 'Since lost'.	Early Medieval	SN30211143
2172	Laugharne	Coin Hoard found in St Martin's Churchyard. Anglo-Saxon silver pennies found here, three in possession of Gordon Williams, found c.1930	Early Medieval	SN30201143
49308	Laugharne Parish Church; St Martin Of Tours; St Michael's	Inscribed Stone. Lost, Group I ECM (inscribed stone), of 5th - 7th century date. It was recorded by Edward Lhuyd on c.1700, in a brook outside Laugharne churchyard PRN 14296. No further record of the stone is known.	Early Medieval	SN302114
14296	Laugharne Parish Church; St Martin Of Tours; St Michael's	Early medieval B site, ie. medium-probability early medieval origins. Churchyard occupied by the medieval Laugharne parish church (PRN 2163). The large, rectangular churchyard is post-Conquest in its present form, but cist burials have been uncovered within. Listed Building	Early Medieval; Medieval; Post Medieval	SN30243114 58

4.25 The DAT HER holds five records of early medieval date within the study area. One of these has subsequently been deleted (PRN2165) as it duplicates other records.

4.26 All of the early medieval sites relate to St Martin's Church and churchyard located on the northern side of Laugharne. A number of early medieval inscribed stones and crosses have been recorded, including a 10th century cross which is still located within the church (PRN2164) and an inscribed stone found within the stream adjacent to the churchyard, but subsequently lost (PRN49308). A coin hoard of Anglo-Saxon silver pennies was also recovered from the churchyard (PRN2172). Finally the church and churchyard are considered very likely to have early medieval origins (PRN14296). The discovery of cist burials of either early medieval or potentially Bronze Age date just to the north of the churchyard is a further indication

(PRN11610). The known archaeology is all located close to the church and not anywhere else within the study area.

- 4.27 The potential for early medieval archaeology to be present within the area of the Access Track is considered to be low, and if present would most likely be associated with agricultural practices. The importance of assets of early medieval date if present, would be considered to be local.

Medieval

Table 9: Medieval sites recorded on the DAT HER within 500m of the Access Road

PRN	Site Name	Summary	Period	NGR
11631	The Croft	Midden containing Food debris and pottery sherds found whilst building 'the Croft', pre 1931	Medieval	SN3017311340
2163	Laugharne	Parish Church; St Martin Of Tours; St Michael's. Important medieval parish church. Medium-large church, cruciform, comprising chancel, nave, north and south transepts. The north porch and storehouse are probably 17th century, the vestry is from 1853-6. Listed Building	Medieval, Post Medieval	SN3021311437
115021	Delacorse	Part of a historic field system with medieval roots, some boundaries still exist in modern field system.	Medieval onwards	SN3054012130

- 4.28 The HER holds 3 records for assets of medieval date within the study area. These include the parish church (PRN2163).
- 4.29 Further remains include possible middens at The Croft (PRN11631) located southwest of the church on Clifton Street.
- 4.30 Parts of medieval field systems survive around Delacorse (PRN115021). On the western side of Laugharne at the Hugden is a substantial area of well-preserved medieval strip fields still in use today and the fields at Delacorse are of similar character but in far poorer state of preservation.
- 4.31 The potential for medieval archaeological remains within the Site is considered to be low for settlement activity, but moderate to high for archaeological remains of agricultural activity surrounding Laugharne.
- 4.32 The importance of the historic assets of medieval date within the Site would be considered to be local, and most likely associated with agricultural practices.

Post Medieval & Modern

Table 10: Post Medieval and Modern sites recorded on the DAT HER within 500m of the Access Road

PRN	Site Name	Summary	Period	NGR
2167	Laugharne Castle	Tennis Courts at castle	Post Medieval	SN30221114
6690	Upton House	Dwelling of 18th century origin. C18th, roughcast, slate roof, 3-storey, stone forecourt.	Post Medieval	SN30161125
8827	The Boathouse	Dwelling / Boathouse associated with Dylan Thomas. Three-storey boathouse. Slate roof. Rough-cast walls. Timber balcony at first floor level. Listed Building	Post Medieval	SN3063011028
9035	Cliff House	Pewter Badge found here. Possibly late 17th-early 18th century fireman's badge.	Post Medieval	SN30521095
21310	Laugharne Ferry House	Presumably the ferrykeeper's house for the Taf estuary crossing to Black Scar. This is shown as a public house on the 1st edition OS County series (Carmarthen. XLV.10 1889) and had been divided into three units by the time of the 2nd edition in 1906. Observed from opposite side of the river (21311). In better condition than 21311.	Post Medieval	SN30671106
23531	Cliff	Cottage shown on 1907 6" OS map. Present condition unknown.	Post Medieval	SN31031179
23532	Cliff Chapel	Chapel	Post Medieval	SN30411089
29987	Laugharne Ferry	A post mediaeval wharf south of Laugharne Ferry House. The 1st edition OS marks this as 'Old Wharf'.	Post Medieval	SN306110
35212	Building	Small rectangular stone-built building. Regular mortared courses of non-ashlar ORS blocks. Dimensions 5.5m by 4m. Has doorway in S wall. Sits in a rock-cut terrace.	Post Medieval	SN31051170
35213	Wall	Brick and stone-built retaining wall associated with a terrace wall, situated on the south side of the path. The wall also has brick-built drainage holes constructed within it.	Post Medieval	SN30951145
35214	'Burnt House'	A substantial cottage, stone-built, situated on a rock-cut platform terrace on the cliff. Now largely in a ruinous state but the south wall stands to gable height. Shown on OS 1st & 2nd Ed. 25"map (Carms. Sheet XLV.10). Known locally as the Burnt House which was occupied by troops during World War II and apparently caught fire.	Post Medieval	SN30941140
35223	Road way	Rock-cut carriage way around cliffs to the east of Laugharne Castle.	Post Medieval	SN30551100
61933	Dylan Thomas's Tool-Shed Study, Dylan's Walk	Grade II listed tool-shed/study	Post Medieval	

103054	Cliff Cottage	Small building identified on 1st edition Ordnance Survey map and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map. Site now lies in woodland, present condition unknown	Post Medieval	SN30511096
109119	Toll Road	Section of toll road between St Clears and Laugharne. OS Old Series . Volume VI. pp. 80.	Post Medieval	SN29441235
111977	Ants Hill	Farmstead recorded on 2nd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. Along with Mapsland and Parson's Lodge, this was built by the Edward-Hill brothers. Trysor 2012	Post Medieval	SN2999711619
111978	Hillside/Coach House Stables; Hillside	Farmstead recorded on 2nd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map	Post Medieval	SN3024311741
111979	Mapsland	Farmstead recorded on 2nd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map	Post Medieval	SN3003611862
111980	The Glen	Farmstead recorded on 2nd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map	Post Medieval	SN3017611510
111987	Delacorse	Farmstead recorded on 2nd edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map	Post Medieval	SN3077512245
115020	Glen	Garden part of an historic settlement complex at Glen, elements of the post medieval survive.	Post Medieval	SN3018711484
25293	Mapsland	Dwelling in Laugharne Township. Mapsland is recorded as the location of a Red Cross Working Party during the First World War under the name of Miss A.N. Cunningham. Listed Building	Post Medieval, Modern	SN3002611851
29984	Laugharne	A slipway on the west bank of the river Taf. The 1st edition OS marks a landing stage up stream of the Laugharne ferry. It is 120ft long with 20ft above high water mark. The SMR base map shows a slipway in this location.	Post Medieval; Modern	SN30771112
112296	Laugharne Memorial Hall	A memorial hall constructed to commemorate lives lost during the World Wars. The memorial hall was originally constructed to commemorate the 35 men of Laugharne who lost their lives in the First World War. Construction began in 1925 with a foundation stone being laid in a ceremony on 5th June 1925 and it was then opened on 17th	Modern	SN3015511224

4.33 The HER holds records for 24 historic assets of post medieval and modern date within the study area.

4.34 Post medieval sites include the following listed buildings: The Boathouse (PRN8827); Dylan Thomas's Tool-Shed Study, Dylan's Walk (PRN61933); and Mapsland (PRN111979). A number of non-listed buildings are also recorded indicating the development of the town during the post-medieval period: Upton House (PRN6690); and Cliff Chapel (PRN23532).

4.35 There are a number of former buildings that were located along the cliff overlooking the estuary south of the Access Track which are now in a ruinous state: Laugharne Ferry House and associated wharf (PRN21310 and PRN29987); Cliff Cottage

(PRN23531); Building (PRN35212); 'Burnt House' (PRN35214); Cliff Cottage (PRN103054) and a wall (PRN35213). These buildings relate to former occupation along the cliff sides in Laugharne that extended well beyond the present extent of the town and similar remains are present on the western side of Laugharne. There is some thought that the smaller buildings were associated with cocklers. A roick cut roadway leads from Laugharne to access these buildings which is now used as a footpath (PRN35223). The Burnt House is a larger building with a number of fireplaces and built into a substantial terrace in the hillside. This building was of a higher status than the cottages. It is recorded to have been burnt down in the mid-20th century possibly when occupied by soldiers garrisoned here prior to D-Day.

- 4.36 Historic farmsteads have been identified within the study area, including: Ants Hill (PRN111977); The Glen (PRN111980); Delacorse (PRN11987); and Hillside/Coach House Stables (PRN111978). These farms may have all had earlier origins but the existing buildings and layout are of post medieval date.
- 4.37 Other sites include the find spot of a pewter badge at Cliff Cottage (PRN9035), the Laugharne slipway (PRN29984) and the line of the toll road which follows the main road through the town the A4066 (Toll Road).
- 4.38 A single purely modern site is recorded within the study area, that of Laugharne Memorial Hall (PRN112296).
- 4.39 It is considered that there is a low potential for post medieval sites to be located within the Site, other than remains of agricultural activity as it lies away from the centre of settlement in Laugharne. The potential for modern sites of archaeological significance to be present within the Site is considered to be negligible. The importance of the assets of post medieval date is would be of local importance only.

Unknown

Table 11: Sites of unknown or not applicable date recorded on the DAT HER within 500m of the Access Road

PRN	Site Name	Summary	Period	NGR
30075	River Taf	River crossing from the track leading to the river Taf from Pentrenwydd	Unknown	SN3100012000
40182	Delacorse	An area immediately east and north of the town of Laugharne, which lay within the Medieval Lordship of Laugharne and was held under manorial tenure. It was probably included within a grant of land made to the burgesses of Laugharne.	Not Applicable	SN 303116

- 4.40 There is 1 asset of unknown date recorded within the 500m study area, that of River crossing from the track leading to the river Taf from Pentrenwydd (PRN30075). Presumably it represents a multiperiod river crossing.

- 4.41 A site where the date has been ascribed as not applicable refers to the fields around Delacourse farm east and north of Laugharne. It is quite likely to be an area of land associated with medieval and later land tenure determined by the Burgesses of Laugharne Township.

Previous Archaeological Work

Table 12: Archaeological events recorded on the DAT HER within 500m of the Access Road

ERN	Location	Event Type	Contractor
121732	Laugharne Park, Laugharne	Desk Based Assessment	CGMS Consulting
106478	Plot 1, Eldon, Laugharne	Watching Brief	Dyfed Archaeological Trust
107551	Tin Shed Museum, Laugharne	Watching Brief	Dyfed Archaeological Trust
111467	Maes y Deri, Laugharne	Watching Brief	Trysor
111397	Maes-y-Deri, Laugharne	Archaeological Appraisal	Trysor
64748	Longlane House	Watching Brief	Dyfed Archaeological Trust

- 4.42 The HER holds records for 6 previous archaeological investigations within the study area (Figure 7). Three of these are watching briefs associated with development associated with properties along the A4066 road into Laugharne (ERN106478, 107551 and 64748). Two of these are associated with assessment work and a watching brief during the installation of two wind turbines at Maes y Deri farm, on the eastern side of the A4066 as you exit Laugharne.
- 4.43 The final record is for the archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken by CgMs in advance of the development of the holiday resort at Laugharne (now known as Dylan Coastal Resort). Further to this an archaeological written scheme of investigation was prepared by CgMs for works required during further development at the site.
- 4.44 In 2021 further works have been undertaken at Dylan Coastal Resort by HCUK Group associated with works that had been carried out for the new development of the resort around the scheduled enclosure within the park, including an archaeological advice note and a trial trench evaluation.

Map Regression, Aerial Photographs and LiDAR data

- 4.45 The earliest map available to view for the Site was the 1860 Tithe Map of the Township of Laugharne (Figure 8). As today, the site area was agricultural land on the northeastern side of the town. The map shows that the route follows a number

of existing field boundaries shown at this time. To the west of the Access Track are a number of narrow fields which represent the remains of medieval strip farming.

- 4.46 Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century onwards show very little change to the area of the Access Track until the later 20th century and the construction of the precursor to the Dylan Coastal Resort (although no changes are shown within the route area). The second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1907 is shown in Figure 9 as this is perhaps the clearest.
- 4.47 A review of aerial photographs available on-line from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales was carried out to determine if any hitherto unidentified archaeological remains could be identified within the Access Track route. The majority of photographs concentrate on the scheduled castle and the earthwork enclosure and only have the Access Track area on the periphery of the photos.
- 4.48 A review of aerial photographs from other sources was also carried out using information held in the personal collection of the author of this report, relating to his membership of the Talacharn Community History group, which includes various aerial photographs and copies of postcards and other information relating to the township. These again mostly relate to the centre of the town and the buildings therein. Some photographs show the western edge of the Dylan Coastal resort and the former early field layouts that survived (as visible on the early maps). No further information on archaeology was available from these maps.
- 4.49 Lidar data was analysed for the Site. This has shown the survival of very slight remains of the medieval strip farming **'slangs' across the entire area, indicating that** post-medieval enclosure did remove a substantial amount of the original medieval field layout (Figure 10). The site of the Delacorse standing stone (CM232) is visible as a slight indentation in the ground which has resulted from livestock erosion around the monument.

5. Impact Assessment

The Development

- 5.1 The development has comprised the construction of a new Access Track creating a through road from the point NGR 23035 21191 on the access road to Delacorse Uchaf Farm creating a new route running around the northern side of Delacorse Uchaf farm and curving south to southwest to the eastern side of the Dylan Coastal Resort. This stretch of the Access Track is mostly new, although has followed elements of existing farm tracks and alongside hedge boundaries. An additional stretch of proposed Access Track will lead from the road to Antshill Farm and to the north through Maesyderi Farm, avoiding the existing narrow road.
- 5.2 The existing stretch of Access Track has been partly dug into the hillslope in a few places to create a level roadway, but mostly utilises the existing ground levels adjacent to hedgerows. The Access Track has been topsoil stripped and a crushed stone surface added.
- 5.3 The aim of the Access Track is to prevent construction traffic associated with the redevelopment of the resort, having to travel through the centre of Laugharne. The A4066 between St Clears and Laugharne is a relatively wide road, although parking along the roadside within the town has narrowed the area and it can become quite congested. The only entrance to the resort is presently accessed via Victoria Street, a road leading east from the A4066. This is a narrow road. As the works will include the carriage of new prefabricated residential units into the resort, would cause significant disruption of traffic within the town.

Factors Affecting Archaeological Survival of Buried Remains

- 5.4 Archaeological remains can survive as earthworks and as below ground archaeological features, finds and layers. Part of the assessment process is to consider what factors may have affected archaeological survival. That is to say, what conditions would have enhanced the chances of survival and what conditions would have reduced the chances of survival.
- 5.5 The subject of archaeological preservation has been covered comprehensively elsewhere²³, and it is a subject which is subject to ongoing review as our understanding grows. The following addresses some familiar scenarios for assessment reports such as this, to allow the reader an insight into some 'typical' scenarios.

²³ Historic England 2016. Preserving Archaeological Remains. Decision-taking for Sites under Development

- 5.6 The Laugharne Estate Access Track runs through clearly agricultural land in a rural setting and mostly on exposed hillslopes on a southeastern slope. It is most likely that any below ground remains would be sealed by a relatively thin series of layers. Typically a topsoil of c.100-200mm and a subsoil of 100-300mm. Therefore, they may be sealed by 200-500mm of deposits. There are variations to this including landscapes affected by colluvial or alluvial deposits, although not relevant for this Site as it lies on the exposed hills slope and thus soil depths may even be less. Earthworks are most common in areas not subject to modern, mechanised ploughing, although earthworks can be preserved in hedgerows, wooded areas and even as plough-reduced remnants within arable fields.
- 5.7 Assessment has indicated that the former field layout as shown on the 1860 Laugharne Tithe map is still discernible in the present field layout. The remains of former medieval strip farming may also be present as shown on Lidar data. The Site would appear to have been used as agricultural land since at least the medieval period. The post medieval field layout has remained almost intact since 1860.
- 5.8 Overall if archaeological remains are present within the Site, they would lie at a relatively shallow depth beneath the present ground surface and in a relatively good state of preservation. The construction of the Access Track will have caused some truncation of upper deposits in those areas where ground works were required to level the track surface, typically to the east and north of the standing stone. Any topsoil strip in advance of the construction of the road could have exposed archaeology also which would now be buried beneath the crushed stone road surface. Where no groundworks were undertaken other than the laying of stone for the road surface the only disturbance would have come from compaction of any underlying deposits that may have survived previous groundworks.
- 5.9 As the Access Track has been completed no archaeological mitigation can be implemented for buried archaeological deposits, other than to ensure if any further works are required, such as widening the track or creating a more permanent road surface, that groundworks are at least monitored by a professional archaeologist. Although not forming part of this assessment, it should be noted that the additional stretch of proposed Access Track through Maesyderi Farm may require such mitigation in advance of its construction.

Determination of which designated historic assets are to be assessed further

- 5.10** A mix of Lidar data and topographic information was used to determine those scheduled monuments within 3km of the site that warranted further consideration within this report. The same was undertaken for Listed Buildings within 1km of the site. The process was further refined during field visits, so as to identify any such historic assets that could still experience a change to their setting as a result of the proposed development.
- 5.11** Of the 11 scheduled monuments within 3km of the Access Track, Laugharne Castle (CM003) is the most famous, a medieval castle built on a small cliff above the Coran stream overlooking the Taf estuary. It lies on lower ground within the centre of Laugharne and no parts are visible from within the area of the Access Track (Photos 26 and 27). Although not intervisible with the Access Track there will be potential beneficial impacts from diversion of traffic from the centre of Laugharne and past its gatehouse.



Photo 26: View north of Laugharne Castle (CM003) from the southern side of The Grist looking towards the Dylan Coastal Resort



Photo 27: View from the Dylan Coastal Resort **across Laugharne towards St John's Hill, over Laugharne Castle** which is not visible

- 5.12** Of the remaining 10 scheduled monuments a number lie on the eastern side of the Afon Taf valley. Castle Cogan (CM083) is a prehistoric hilltop enclosure views to which are obscured by an intervening hill top (Photo 10); and the Bryn Helyg Round Barrow (CM308) a Bronze Age burial mound which is obscured by an intervening ridge line.
- 5.13** The 55 listed buildings within the 1km study area were reviewed and it was determined whether there was any intervisibility between the historic assets and the Access Track, and also whether any direct or indirect impacts might occur.
- 5.14** A number of listed buildings lie within the Laugharne Castle grounds. This is within the scheduled monument boundary and so these buildings are not considered further, as they lie within the scheduled monument which has no intervisibility with the access track although may have beneficial impacts from the movement of traffic from the town centre as noted above (LBs 9652, 9653, 9654, 9655 and 9656).
- 5.15** A number of buildings lie around the Grist on the low lying part of the town below the castle and have no intervisibility with the Access Track and are not considered further, (9673, 9671, 9672, 9630, 9666, 9667, 9668 and 9629). Fern Hill and Fern Hill Cottages lie on the western side of Laugharne and again are not considered further (9622 and 9626).

- 5.16 The Boat House (9627) and the Dylan Thomas's tool-shed (9628) both lie on the lower part of the cliff below the Dylan Coastal resort and have no intervisibility with the Access Track and there will be no direct or indirect impacts from it (Photo 28).



Photo 28: View south-southeast from the Dylan Coastal Resort and southern end of the Access Track, showing that the listed Boat House and tool shed lie below the line of sight

- 5.17 **St Martin's Church lies on the northern side of Laugharne on low ground on the opposite side of the hillside on which the Access Track runs and so there is no intervisibility.** The Church (9623) and churchyard (9624) lie some way to east of the main road through Laugharne and there will be no direct impacts and a slight benefit in terms of indirect impacts with construction traffic diverted away from Clifton Street.
- 5.18 The Laugharne Conservation Area covers the majority of the town although does run up into the area of the Dylan Coastal Resort covering much of the scheduled enclosure within it. There will be no direct impacts upon it
- 5.19 Designated assets that have been determined for further assessment (in bold) and **those that haven't, with reasons are shown in the following tables:**

Table 13: Designated Assets within the study areas

Ref:	Name	To be further assessed or not (with reason)
CM003	Laugharne Castle	Yes. The Castle lies within the centre of Laugharne and although not intervisible with the Access Track there will be slight indirect impacts.
CM054	Meini Llwydion Group of Standing Stones	Yes – Possibly Intervisible
CM083	Castle Cogan	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track as obscured by intervening hill top and there will be no indirect impacts.
CM143	Trefenty Mound and Bailey Castle	Yes – Intervisible
CM144	Llanfihangel Abercowin Old Parish Church & Norman Grave-Slabs	Yes – Intervisible
CM145	Trefenty Standing Stone	Yes – Intervisible
CM146	Lower Court Standing Stone	Yes – Possibly intervisible
CM232	Hillslope Enclosure at Laugharne Park Holiday Village	Yes. Slight intervisibility with the southern end of the track and there will be indirect impacts.
CM280	St.Teilo's Church, Llandeilo Abercywyn	Yes – Intervisible
CM308	Bryn Helyg Round Barrow	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
CM310	Delacorse Uchaf Standing Stone	Yes – Intervisible
9622	Fern Hill, The Butts	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9623	Parish Church of St. Martin	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be slight indirect impacts.
9624	Churchyard at St. Martin's Parish	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be slight indirect impacts.
9625	Clifton House, Clifton Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9626	Fernhill cottage	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9627	The Boat House	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9628	Dylan Thomas's tool-shed Study	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9629	Gosport House	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9630	Cross, The Grist	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9631	The Limes, Clifton Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9632	Moir House, Clifton Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9633	Rosetta, Clifton Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9634	Dragon Park, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9635	Exeter House including Oriel Evans Bookshop, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.

9636	The Pines including Oriel Evans Bookshop, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9637	Elm House, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9638	Brown's Hotel, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9639	Corran Books (Formerly The Ship & Castle PH), King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9640	Manse, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9641	Pelican, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9642	Gainsford House, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9643	Osbourne House, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9644	Minerva, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9645	Redford House, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9646	Grove House, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9647	Abercoran House, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9648	Temperance House, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9649	Vicarage, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9650	Great House, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9651	Sea View, Market Lane	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9652	Outer Gatehouse to Laugharne Castle	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9653	Laugharne Castle	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9654	Section of boundary walls around Castle grounds running SW from outer Gatehouse	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be slight indirect impacts.
9655	Section of Boundary Walls around Castle grounds running E from outer Gatehouse	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be slight indirect impacts.
9656	Gazebo in grounds of Laugharne Castle	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be slight indirect impacts.
9657	Castle House, Market Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be slight indirect impacts.
9658	Boundary Wall to W of Castle House, including gated entrance, Market Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be slight indirect impacts.
9659	Town Hall, Market Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9660	No.2 Market Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9661	No.3 Market Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.

9662	Manchester House, Market Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9663	Gwalia, Market Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9664	Globe House (including SB & RB Gleed, Butcher's Shop), King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9665	Coran Bridge	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9666	The Strand	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9667	Strand House	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9668	Ball Court	No. Not intervisible with the Access Track and there will be no indirect impacts.
9669	Victoria House, Victoria Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9670	New Three Mariners P.H., Market Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9671	Island House, Wogan Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9672	Boundary Wall to Island House, Wogan Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9673	Garage to Island House	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9674	Mapsland	Yes. Intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9675	Parson's Lodge	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
9736	Telephone Call-box, King Street	Yes. Not intervisible with the Access Track but there will be indirect impacts.
HLW (D) 9	Taf and Tywi Estuary Registered Outstanding Historic Landscape of Wales	Yes. Direct impacts to a small part of Delacorse HLCA area
Conservation Area	Laugharne Conservation Area	Yes. Slight intervisibility with the Access Track and there will be indirect impacts.

5.20 A number of these designated historic assets, including the scheduled Laugharne Castle and a total of 47 of the listed buildings are noted as having potential impacts from the Access Track. The majority of these can be dealt with as one. The Access Track will divert all construction traffic for the continuing redevelopment of the Dylan Coastal Resort away from the roads within the town centre (Clifton Street, King Street, Market Street, Victoria Street and to a lesser degree Wogan Street) thereby reducing traffic flow through the Conservation Area, past the castle, and past these numerous listed buildings. This will reduce traffic noise, vibrations, potential for damage from passing vehicles, pollution and reduce any effects on visitors' enjoyment of the town. The castle nor any of the buildings on these roads are intervisible with the Access Track and so overall there will be a slight beneficial impact on these buildings. They are not considered further.

- 5.21** The Laugharne Conservation Area is just visible from the southern end of the Access Track although will have no direct impacts from it. The only intervisible part lies within the existing resort and so any negative impacts to will be minimal. The Access Track will remove construction traffic from running through any of the Conservation Area which will be an overall slight beneficial impact to the historic asset. The Conservation Area is not considered further.
- 5.22** Through the assessment process identified above, only a few historic assets were considered to be either intervisible with the development site or warranted further consideration in terms of potential effects to their significance.
- 5.23** The following table lays out those sites considered further to Stage 2 of the setting assessment:

Table 14: Designated Assets considered further in this assessment

Reference	Name	Designation
CM054	Meini Llwydion Group of Standing Stones	Scheduled Monument
CM143	Trefenty Mound and Bailey Castle	Scheduled Monument
CM144	Llanfihangel Abercowin Old Parish Church & Norman Grave-Slabs	Scheduled Monument
CM145	Trefenty Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument
CM146	Lower Court Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument
CM232	Hillslope Enclosure at Laugharne Park Holiday Village	Scheduled Monument
CM280	St. Teilo's Church, Llandeilo Abercywyn	Scheduled Monument
CM310	Delacorse Uchaf Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument
9674	Mapsland	Listed Building
HLW (D) 9	Taf and Tywi Estuary Registered Outstanding Historic Landscape of Wales	Historic Landscape Character Area

Assessment of Significance and Effects

- 5.24** The paragraphs above have identified those designated historic assets whose significance potentially could be affected by the Access Track (Figure 11).
- 5.25** This section assesses the impact of the Access Track upon the significance of the historic assets whose settings it is determined could have been affected, specifically addressing Steps 2 and 3 of the four-step approach to setting assessment described in the Cadw guidance. This section discusses the significance of the identified monuments in terms of their evidential, historical, communal and aesthetic values and identifies what impacts, if any, have occurred.

- 5.26 A description of each of the sites is provided below, with further information on the significance provided. The significance and effects on the prehistoric standing stones (CM310, CM054, CM145 and CM146) are discussed as a group after the descriptions. The significance of the church sites of Llandeilo Abercywyn (CM280) and Llanfihangel Abercowin (CM144) are also grouped together.

Standing Stones

Reference Number: CM310, Delacorse Uchaf Standing Stone

The prehistoric standing stone was designated on 19/11/2002 (SN 30747 11695). It **is categorised as a 'Religious, Ritual and Funerary' site.** The Cadw scheduling description is as follows: *The monument comprises the remains of a standing stone, which probably dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC) and measures 1.2m high, 1.6m wide and 0.20m thick, with the longer axis aligned north-west to south-east. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. It is an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of intact burial or ritual deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. Standing stones are often part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive. It is a circle and measures 5m in diameter, centred on the stone.*

- 5.27 The Delacorse Uchaf standing stone lies directly to the west of the Access Track within a pasture field (Photos 29, 30, 31 and 32). The monument has suffered from erosion around its perimeter from livestock movement as seen via the site visit and on Lidar data. There have been no direct impacts upon the standing stone, although the Access Track has been slightly terraced into the hillslope to the east and thus could have impacted upon any associated archaeological remains if any had been present, although the extent of terracing is slight and the road width of only around 5m.
- 5.28 The siting of the standing stone on a high hillslope overlooking the Afon Taf valley to the east suggests the prominent location was purposeful. Standing stones are known on the eastern side of the valley, at Trefenty Farm (CM145), at Meini Llwydion (CM054) and at Lower Court (CM146). It is likely that there is some intervisibility between all of these stones, although based on their size and the distances involved, it is more likely the areas of the stones would be visible rather than the specific monuments themselves. Although the Access Track lies between the stone at Delacorse Uchaf and the others, as it is a low level feature it does not impact upon this intervisibility.



Photo 29: Delacorse Standing Stone CM310 facing east with the Afon Taf valley behind



Photo 30: Delacorse Standing Stone CM310 facing west



Photo 30: Delacorse Standing Stone CM310 facing west from the eastern side of the Access Track



Photo 31: View southeast from the Access Track northwest of the monument showing the silhouette of the Delacorse Standing Stone CM310 on the hillslope

Reference Number: CM145, Trefenty Standing Stone

5.29 This prehistoric standing stone was designated on 08/07/1951 (SN 30465 13654). It is categorised as a Standing Stone - Religious, Ritual and Funerary site. The Cadw scheduling description is as follows: *The monument comprises the remains of a standing stone, which probably dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC). The stone measures 1.3m high, 1.4m wide and 1m deep and has an irregularly shaped cross section and a bluntly pointed top. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. It is an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of intact burial or ritual deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. Standing stones are often part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.*

5.30 As noted above, there would be intervisibility between the Trefenty Standing Stone (CM145) and that at Delacorse Uchaf (CM310), which has not been affected by the Access Track.

Reference Number: CM054, Meini Llwydion Group of Standing Stones

5.31 It is not recorded when this group of prehistoric standing stones was designated (SN 31444 13958). It is categorised as a Standing Stone - Religious, Ritual and Funerary site. The Cadw scheduling description is as follows: *The monument comprises the remains of a pair of standing stones, which probably date to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC). The north eastern stone measures 1.7 high, 1m wide x 0.8m deep and is triangular in cross section rising to a pointed top, the south western stone is an irregular boulder, now recumbent and measuring 2.5m long with a cross section measuring c 1.6 x 1.6m. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. It is an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of intact burial or ritual deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. Standing stones are often part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.*

Reference Number: CM146, Lower Court Standing Stone

5.32 This prehistoric standing stone was designated on 08/07/1951 (SN 30784 14852). It is categorised as a Standing Stone - Religious, Ritual and Funerary site. The Cadw

scheduling description is as follows: *The monument comprises the remains of a standing stone, which probably dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC). The stone is semi-recumbent, leaning to the west, it measures 2.5m long, 2m wide and 1.5m deep and has an irregularly shaped cross section. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. It is an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of intact burial or ritual deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. Standing stones are often part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.*



Photo 32: View from the Access Track close to the Delacorse Uchaf Standing Stone CM310 towards those at Trefenty (CM145), Meini Llwydion (CM054) and Lower Court (CM146) with approximation of directions of stones indicated by arrows

5.33 It should be noted that it is very possible that a number of other standing stones were present in the landscape but have been removed in later periods or have as yet remained unrecognised. The wider Afon Taf valley has a number of other examples of standing stones around Cross Inn north of Laugharne (a number of which are no

longer present) and near St Clears (three possible prehistoric standing stones have been noted at Gerlyd Farm which are presently not recorded on the HER or scheduled). This indicates that the landscape was utilised in the Bronze Age period and the stones imply some form of significance. Although the Bronze Age round barrow at Bryn Helg (CM308) is not intervisible with the Delacorse Uchaf standing stone, its presence within the Bronze Age landscape is also important.

- 5.34 In terms of their **'significance'**, this derives from their evidential and historic values of its form and fabric, recognised through its designation as scheduled monument. Each of the standing stones designations state that they are *'an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of intact burial or ritual deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. Standing stones are often part of a larger cluster of monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value.'*
- 5.35 Aesthetic and communal value is similar for all the standing stones as enigmatic features in the landscape with associated myths and legends.
- 5.36 It is assessed therefore that the settings of the standing stones contribute to their significance in respect of those evidential, historic, communal and aesthetic values listed above. The position of the Access Track as a new feature into the landscape between them does thus create a small reduction in the overall landscape significance associated with the group value of the monuments. As the Access Track mostly utilising existing ground levels, with only a few areas of slight terracing into the hillslope, its impact on the landscape is small and it is not visible in views from the east although is clearly visible from the Delacorse Uchaf Standing Stone. It is considered that the Access Track creates a slight negative impact to the significance of the Delacorse Uchaf standing stones and a very slight negative impact to the significance of the other standing stones.

Reference Number: CM232, Hillslope Enclosure at Laugharne Park Holiday Village

- 5.37 The prehistoric hillslope enclosure at Laugharne was designated on 13/11/1985 (SN 30626 11185). It is categorised as an Enclosure. The Cadw scheduling description is as follows: *The monument comprises the remains of a small D-shaped enclosure probably dating to the Iron Age (c. 800 BC - 43 AD) and located immediately above a steep slope overlooking the River Taf estuary to the SE. The enclosure is defined by a single incomplete grass covered and earthen built bank that is semi-circular in shape on plan. It measures c. 80m NE-SW by c. 35m transversely and up to 2m in height. The site has been disturbed in the past and the enclosing bank peters out towards the SW side. The site was partially excavated in c. 1907, but no datable finds were produced. The monument is of national importance for its potential to*

enhance our knowledge of prehistoric domestic and defensive practices. The monument is an important relic of the prehistoric landscape. It may retain significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of structural evidence, including buried prehistoric land surfaces, still surviving. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and an area around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive. It is an irregular D-shaped polygon and measures 96m NE-SW by 60m transversely.

- 5.38 The enclosure is likely to be of Iron Age or Romano-British date. The feature lies within the Dylan Coastal Resort south of the southern end of the Access Track from which it may just be visible. The feature is formed by a C-shaped bank on the cliff edge within a grassed area (Photos 33 and 34).
- 5.39 **The 'significance' of the** enclosure derives from its evidential value relating to its form, recognised through designation as scheduled monuments. The location of the enclosure on the cliff top would indicate that views from the Site across Carmarthen Bay and to **St John's Hill to the south of Laugharne were important aspects of its** siting. Views are also visible across the Bay to the Gower.
- 5.40 Historical value derives from its association with the former Glan Y Mor estate and archaeological excavations undertaken at the site in c.1907. Its aesthetic value as a feature on the hillslope will not be diminished and it is being protected during the ongoing works at the holiday resort. Communal value is similarly associated with its location within the resort and preservation as an open grassed area that is accessible to visitors. As part of the ongoing works at the resort the scheduled monument will be highlighted as a feature to visitors with the intention to erect information boards on the significance of the monument and its protected status.
- 5.41 There will be no direct impacts on the scheduled monument, but there will be a slight change to its setting to the north, although this is far less than that which will occur from the approved redevelopment of the Dylan Coastal Resort. The setting of the monument is significant with views across Carmarthen Bay which will not be interrupted by the Access Track; it will not impinge on any intervisibility between other sites of similar dates in the vicinity. It is considered that the Access Track creates a negligible change to the significance of the Hillslope Enclosure at Laugharne Park Holiday Village (CM232).



Photo 33: View southwest along northwestern edge of Hillslope Enclosure at Laugharne Park Holiday Village showing bank curving to the southwest (CM232)



Photo 34: View northwest along eastern edge of Hillslope Enclosure at Laugharne Park Holiday Village showing bank curving to the northwest (CM232)

Medieval Church Sites

Reference Number: CM280, St. Teilo's Church, Llandeilo Abercywyn

- 5.42 This medieval church was designated on 16/01/1996 (SN 30928 13037). It is categorised as a Chapel - **Religious, Ritual and Funerary' site**. The Cadw scheduling description is as follows: *The monument comprises the remains of a small medieval and later chapel known as St Teilo's, which is set within a rectangular churchyard and is roofless. It is rectangular in plan with an added south porch. Most of its fenestration and doorways survive intact or in part. The stone base for the pulpit is on the south side of the nave and broad steps flank the altar. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of the organisation and practice of medieval Christianity. The site forms an important element within the wider medieval landscape. The site is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, layout, building techniques and functional detail. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.*
- 5.43 The Access Track will have no direct impacts upon **St Teilo's Church**, but the church is visible from it (Photos 35 and 36). Although it was not possible to visit the chapel remains themselves, a footpath on the southern side of the farm enabled a view from the farm towards the Access Track, which would be identical as that from the church, and this is shown in photos 37 and 38. The track itself is not visible but the approximate alignment can be seen as sketched on Photo 36. The majority of the track will be hidden by the topography and existing vegetation cover, and the overall visibility in the view is minimal, with only the slight terraced area of the road adjacent to the Delacorse Standing Stone just discernible.



Photo 35: View from centre of Access Track towards St Teilo's Church, Llandeilo Abercywyn at Llandeilo Abercowin Farm



Photo 36: Detail of location of Llandeilo Abercywyn church ruins (CM280) at Llandeilo Abercowin Farm from Access Track



Photo 37: View south from Llandeilo Abercowin Farm towards the Access Track



Photo 38: Detail of Photo 37 showing the approximate location of the Access Track as a yellow dotted line

Reference Number: CM144, Llanfihangel Abercowin Old Parish Church & Norman Grave-Slabs

5.44 This medieval church was designated on 08/07/1951 (SN 30260 13326). It is categorised as a Church - **Religious, Ritual and Funerary' site**. The Cadw scheduling description is as follows: *The monument comprises the remains of a church, probably dating to the medieval period (Photo 39). The church of St Michael situated within a rectilinear churchyard is likely to have been founded by the lords of a 12th century motte-and-bailey castle located c 600m away to the west. The now roofless church consists of a nave, a narrow square-ended chancel and a western tower. The south and east walls still exist to roof height, and the north wall stands to a height of around 1m. Entrances are visible in the south and west walls. The nave is probably early 13th century, while the chancel was substantially remodelled in the 15th century when the tower was built or perhaps rebuilt. Stairs in a small projection in the north wall of the nave were for access to the rood screen separating the nave from the chancel. The remaining windows in the south nave wall are thought to be seventeenth century in date. Traces of wall paintings were visible in 1886. The church's carved circular font dates to the twelfth century and has been removed to New St Michael's Church. Six graves lie in the graveyard near the church, marked by decorated grave slabs and headstones and thought to be late 12th - or early 13th- century in date (Photo 40). Two of the slabs are of 'hog-backed' form, and are decorated with a cross, the long arm of which runs along the ridge of the stone. The other four are flat slabs. Two of these show female figures, one of which is full-length, the other of which occupies only half of the stone, the remainder being decorated with a lattice pattern. This latter figure holds a rod in one hand, and there is an animal on either side of the head. The figure on the third slab is too broken to allow identification, but his knee-length tunic and the horseman with a lance in one hand, depicted on both head and foot stones, suggest that the occupant was perhaps a knight. The fourth figure is small, dressed in a long skirt, and appears to be standing at a barrier. Its small size suggests that it may mark the grave of a child. All the slabs save for the last; have short, round-headed stones at head and foot with crosses and cable decoration on them. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval ecclesiastical organisation. The monument forms an important element within the wider medieval context and the structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information in regard to chronology, building techniques and functional detail. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.*

5.45 The church is accessible from a footpath leading down from Trefenty Farm and lies within a square enclosure surrounded by dense tree growth. This presently prevents views directly from the church site along the Taf Valley or across the Afon Cywyn to Llandeilo Abercywyn, but the wooded enclosure is clearly visible (Photo 41). The

location of the church at Llandeilo Abercowin (CM280) is visible from the edge of the church enclosure (Photo 42).



Photo 39: View east of Old Parish Church at Llanfihangel Abercowin showing tower (CM144)



Photo 40: View west of three of the medieval grave slabs at the Old Parish Church at Llanfihangel Abercowin (CM144)



Photo 41: View north from northern part of Access Track looking towards Llanfihangel Abercowin Church (CM144) and Trefenty Motte and Bailey Castle (CM143)



Photo 42: View southeast from the field north of the Old Parish Church at Llanfihangel Abercowin (CM144) looking towards Llandeilo Abercowin Church (CM280)

- 5.46 The 'significance' of the churches derive from their evidential and historic values relating to their form and fabric and associated churchyard and burials, recognised through designation as scheduled monuments. Standing remains of both churches survive and graves are also present at Llanfihangel Abercowin, including the medieval grave slabs. The churchyard around Llandeilo Abercywyn church is very likely to contain intact burials, together with environmental and structural evidence.
- 5.47 They forms part of the medieval pattern of Christianity in the area and its association with other churches in the vicinity is an important link. There are no visual links with **St Martin's Church in Laugharne**. The two scheduled churches site on the north and south banks of the Afon Cywyn, a tributary of the Afon Taf and are intervisible. It is assumed that the churches were closely associated with one another and their prominent siting on the eastern side of the Taf valley clearly significant. The Access Track makes no impact to the association between these churches.
- 5.48 The church at Llanfihangel Abercowin is also likely to have been associated with the scheduled Trefenty Motte and Bailey Castle (CM144) which lies to the northwest of the church directly west of Trefenty Farm.

- 5.49 Aesthetic value relates to their setting and preservation as visible features in the landscape. The communal value of the sites relate to their association with footpaths **along 'pilgrim routes' which connect the** two churches and are popular walking routes for both locals and visitors to the area.
- 5.50 It is assessed therefore that the settings of the churches contribute to their significance in respect of those evidential, historic, communal and aesthetic values listed above. The position of the Access Track as a new feature in the landscape create a very slight change in the landscape associated with the churches. As the Access Track mostly utilising existing ground levels, with only a few areas of slight terracing into the hillslope, its impact on the landscape is small. It is considered that the Access Track causes a negligible impact on the significance of the churches at Llandeilo Abercywyn and Llanfihangel Abercowin.

Reference Number: CM143, Trefenty Mound and Bailey Castle

- 5.51 The date that this medieval mound and bailey castle was designated is not recorded (SN 29708 13546). It is categorised as a Motte & Bailey - Defence site. The Cadw scheduling description is as follows: *The monument comprises the remains of a motte and bailey castle, a military stronghold built during the medieval period and first mentioned in documents of 1116. It is located along a ridge sloping steeply southwards to the head of the river Taff estuary. A motte and bailey castle comprises a large conical or pyramidal mound of soil or stone (the motte) surrounded by, or adjacent to, one or more embanked enclosures (the bailey). Both may be surrounded by wet or dry ditches and could be further strengthened with palisades, revetments, and/or a tower on top of the motte. Trefenty motte is oval-shaped measuring c 43m east to west by 34m across and is 5m high with an embanked summit 22m wide. The bailey to the east is, defined by scarped edges and measures c 44m east to west by 27m across. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive organisation. The well-preserved monument forms an important element within the wider medieval context and the structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information relating to chronology, building techniques and functional detail. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.*
- 5.52 As noted above it is possible that the Lords of Trefenty who established the Motte and Bailey castle are also likely to have founded the Llanfihangel Abercowin church. The Motte and Bailey lies within private land and was not accessible although its location could be seen from the public highway and from the western side of the Afon Taf valley from the northern part of the Access Track (Photo 41).

- 5.53 The 'significance' of the Motte and Bailey castle derives from its evidential and historic values relating to its form, and recognised through designation as scheduled monuments. It is likely that buried remains of the church survive within the scheduled area.
- 5.54 The Trefenty Motte and Bailey Castle (CM144) church at Llanfihangel Abercowin (CM143) is also likely to have been associated with the scheduled which lies to the northwest of the church directly west of Trefenty Farm.
- 5.55 The Motte and Bailey forms part of the medieval settlement and land ownership pattern of the area. It is assumed that the site was associated with the nearby Llanfihangel Abercowin church and its prominent siting on the eastern side of the Taf valley is clearly significant. The Access Track makes no impact to the association between the Motte and Bailey castle and the church.
- 5.56 It is assessed therefore that the setting of the Motte and Bailey contributes to its significance in respect of the evidential, historic, communal and aesthetic values listed above. The position of the Access Track as a new feature in the landscape create a very slight change in the surviving elements of the medieval landscape. As the Access Track mostly utilising existing ground levels, with only a few areas of slight terracing into the hillslope, its impact on the landscape is small. It is considered that the Access Track causes a negligible impact on the significance of the Trefenty Motte and Bailey Castle.

Reference Number: 9674, Mapsland Grade II Listed Building

- 5.57 Mapsland is a Grade II listed building **located** '*Prominently sited at the S side of a lane leading to Delacorse, E off A4066; looking south over Laugharne Parish Church*'. **The Cadw description states that the exterior is** '*Mid C19 (now shown on 1842 Tithe Map) late Georgian small country house said to have been built by one of the Edward-Hill brothers who between them also built Ants Hill and Parson's Lodge; in original form all very similar as is Fern Hill. 2-storey rendered fronts with plinths to double-pile structure, later extension to e end. Slate roofs, modern brick chimney stacks and wide eaves. Main, 4-window, front faces S, extended to e end with windows from Ants Hill 12-pane sash windows to 1st floor, 16-pane to ground floor flanking former central half-glazed door; porch removed. Modern lean-to kitchen extension to right wraps around SE corner; lean-to on rear range beyond. Main entrance is now to N side with offset similar sash windows, also to left part of W side beside modern door. Rubble wall and adjoining hipped roof stables line the road with drive entries to SW and SE*'. The Interior is described as: '*Interior retains staircase with moulded tread ends, panelled doors, classical cornices and arched openings.*

Ceiling hooks to former kitchen and dresser from Lamphey Palace in modern kitchen. Oval window shutter fastenings copied from Castle House.'

- 5.58 The listed building is not directly impacted upon by the Access Track and intervisibility is only possible at the northern end of the Track (Photo 43).



Photo 43: View southwest from northern end of Access Track towards Anthill Caravan Park and Mapsland Grade II Listed Building

- 5.59 The building is situated on the existing road leading from the Access Track to the A4066. The Access Track is not visible from Mapsland at ground level, but is likely to be at least partly visible from upper floors of the building, although this will only be a small part of the Track as it links with the existing road to Delacorse Uchaf farm.
- 5.60 **In terms of its 'significance', it is assessed that** for the building this derives from the evidential and historic values of its standing form and fabric, recognised through its designation as a Grade II listed building. The listing description notes many similarities in architectural details to other listed buildings in the vicinity, including that of Parsons Lodge further to the northwest (not visible from the Access Track), Fern Hill within the western part of Laugharne and Castle House on Market Street adjacent to Laugharne Castle. This grouping of similar design and presumably some contemporaneity will increase the significance of the structure.
- 5.61 It derives aesthetic value from its design and status although is no longer an isolated building but situated with modern buildings added to the north and south and the

site of Antshill Caravan Park immediately to the southwest. The building has limited communal value as it is a private residence although the exterior is visible.

- 5.62 Construction traffic for the Laugharne Park Estate will run along the Access Track and part of the road close to the listed building, but a proposed third stretch of Access Track will take construction traffic to the north of the listed building through Maesyderi Farm. This part of the track may also be visible from Mapsland. Due to the intervisibility of Mapsland with the Access Track, there be a slight negative change in the significance of the Grade II building.

HLW (D) 9 - Taf and Tywi Estuary Registered Outstanding Historic Landscape of Wales

- 5.63 The Access Track lies entirely within the Taf and Tywi Estuary Registered Outstanding Historic Landscape of Wales (Reference HLW (D) 9). The Cadw reason for designation is: *'The present coastline is a changing one, owing to continuing sand movement, but sea walls and drains, fronted by tidally inundated morfeydd or salt marshes, safeguard the reclaimed land. Archaeological evidence, the study of relict and active features in the present landscape, and the use of aerial photographs, cartographic and documentary sources, have been successfully combined to reconstruct the evolution of this largely man-made landscape.*

'The geological inheritance of a line of former sea cliffs with a raised beach at their base form the northern boundary of the western, or Laugharne Marsh and the Gwendraeth estuary. Although now quarried away, caves in the limestone of Coygan Bluff on this former coastline have produced Upper Palaeolithic material, and excavation of the hillfort there prior to quarrying yielded a long occupation sequence from the Neolithic to the early medieval. More research is required to establish the position of the coastline in the Roman and medieval periods, but there is no doubt that the castle towns of Kidwelly and Laugharne were much more open to the sea than at present. Many of the finds of prehistoric and medieval date from Laugharne Burrows cannot now be provenanced, but the position of shell middens within both dune systems, which have produced medieval pottery is crucial to the chronology of coastal change and enclosure. They would benefit from modern excavation.

'The former Witchett Brook divided Laugharne Marsh into East and West Marsh, the latter used as saltmarsh pasture in the Middle Ages before any sea walls were built, and there may also have been medieval settlement on the slightly raised sites of some of the present day farms on East Marsh. Although partly within the present Ministry of Defence range at Pendine, traces of 17th century sea walls survive and the successive enclosures of the early 19th century are well preserved. Access from Coygan quarry to the river at Laugharne was provided by a tramway and small

creek, Railsgate Pill, still well-preserved, evidence for the now vanished era of coastal trade which persisted in the small estuary ports until the Second World War.

'The enclosure of Pembrey Marsh was, like Laugharne, made possible by the development of sheltering seaward sand dunes. Its industrial history and legacy is more complex with a remarkable series of early canals leading to shipping places and quays. These were developed to export the anthracite coal of the South Carmarthenshire coalfield, from the early 18th century onwards. They led across lands enclosed from the sea inland of Pembrey Burrows by the late 17th century, if not earlier. Earthwork traces of cultivation and drainage techniques in both Marshes are evident both from the air and on the ground on farmlands seen by improvers, such as Charles Hassall in the early 19th century, as test beds for modern agricultural techniques. This contrasts with the remarkable survival, in the Hugden belonging to Laugharne Corporation, of a medieval open field system, still communally apportioned and unenclosed, which has been included within the boundaries of this area.

*'Twentieth century changes are more evident on Pembrey Burrows, now covered in a forestry plantation of the 1920s. A variety of industrial uses in the early 20th century culminated in a wartime airfield and a Royal Ordnance Works, one of whose surviving structures is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Sport and leisure activities are, and have been, an important feature of 20th century uses of the area, from the land-**speed record attempts by the Campbells, and Parry Thomas in 'Babs'** in the 1920s along Pendine Sands, to the creation of a Country Park in Pembrey Burrows in the 1980s. Carmarthen Bar was notorious for its shipwrecks, a number of which are prominently visible and accessible at low tide, while others are revealed periodically by the ever-shifting sands. Finally, Laugharne must not be forgotten for its literary associations with the poet Dylan Thomas and his insights of life in a small Welsh community during the mid-20th century.'*

5.64 The Access Track lies within the specific historic landscape character area (HLCA) of Delcorse which is described thus:

History: An area immediately east and north of the town of Laugharne, which lay within the Medieval Lordship of Laugharne and was held under manorial tenure. It was probably included within a grant of land made to the burgesses of Laugharne by Sir Guy de Brian in 1278-82 (Williams, n.d.), and was farmed by the burgesses of Laugharne under an open field system. This system seems to have been used throughout the Medieval period but was coming to an end by the early modern period, as documents of late 16th- and 17th-century date contain many references to the creation of closes within the East Field of Laugharne. It is unclear why the East Field should have been subjected to piecemeal enclosure whilst The Hugden remained an open field system, and other presumed open fields were engrossed and carved up into large regular enclosures. Whatever the reason, piecemeal enclosure has created a distinctive pattern of long curving fields that mirror the pattern of

strips within the Medieval open field system. It is likely that the two farms in this area, Delacorse and Maesyderi, were created as the open field system was transformed into that of the present day. Cottages, possibly squatter settlements, were established in the 18th- or 19th-century on the steep slopes overlooking the Taf estuary. These are now abandoned and the slopes are heavily wooded.

Description and essential historic landscape components: A small area consisting of enclosed strip- or open-fields lying on gently sloping hillsides of pasture, ranging in height from 25m to almost 100m. The fields reflect the former strips and consist of long curving enclosures, though some have coalesced since the 19th century into more regular, rectangular fields. Boundaries consist of banks topped with hedges. Some distinctive hedgerow trees are present, but apart from secondary woodland on steep coastal slopes, which masks cottages abandoned last century, there is no substantial afforested ground in this area. Farmhouses are stone-built, and slate-roofed with outbuildings; Maesyderi has modern outbuildings.

Recorded archaeology is represented by a standing stone and a possible Early Christian inscribed stone.

There are few distinctive buildings but Mapsland has a late Georgian, Grade II listed double-pile farmhouse.

The field pattern in this area distinguishes it from the surrounding enclosed land.

- 5.65** The Access Track lies within a very small part of the Registered Historic Landscape and overall makes a negligible change to its significance. Even when looking at the change it causes to the Delacorse HLCA in which it lies, as the Access Track partially follows former hedge lines and farm access tracks it causes negligible change to the field layout which is highlighted as being one of the significant elements of the landscape. Being a ground level feature, it is not very visible when looking towards its route unless in close proximity.

6. Conclusions

Archaeological Remains

- 6.1 Based on the information within the HER, supplemented by historic mapping, the Site is considered to have the following potential for archaeological remains by period as indicated in Table 15. The likely archaeological importance of such remains by period, are also indicated in the table.

Table 15: Archaeological Potential and Importance

Period	Archaeological Potential	Archaeological Importance
Prehistoric	Moderate	Local to Regional
Roman	Low	Regional
Early Medieval	Low	Local
Medieval	Low (settlement), Moderate to High (agricultural)	Local
Post medieval / Modern	Post medieval – Low Modern – Negligible	Local

- 6.2 The Site has not been subject to previous development and appears to have been used as agricultural land since the medieval period. The Access Track has been built and based on its footprint, location adjacent to existing footpaths and low amount of groundworks such as terracing into the hillslope, it is possible that archaeological remains could have been exposed, damaged or destroyed by the works, but that the overall extent of this is relatively small.

Scheduled Monuments

- 6.3 Of the eleven Scheduled Monuments identified within the 3km study area, eight of these were considered where changes to their significance may have occurred.
- 6.4 Following the above Stage 3 assessment the standing stones at Meini Llwydion (CM054), that at Trefenty (CM143) and Lower Court (CM146) were determined to have very slight negative impacts on their significance. A slight negative impact to the significance of the Delacorse Uchaf Standing Stone (CM310) has also been determined; the Access Track does lie close to the monument, but has caused no direct impacts and although it is a new feature inserted into the wider prehistoric landscape, it does not impact on wider views to and from the monument, except when in close proximity.
- 6.5 It is considered that the Access Track creates a negligible impact to the significance of the Hillslope Enclosure at Laugharne Park Holiday Village (CM232). It does not

impinge on any views from the monument and will be screened by buildings within the Dylan Coastal Resort.

- 6.6 It is considered that the Access Track causes a negligible impact on the significance of the medieval churches at Llandeilo Abercywyn (CM280) and Llanfihangel Abercowin (as well as the associated medieval grave slabs) (CM144) on the western side of the Afon Taf valley. Similarly a negligible impact on the significance of the Trefenty Motte and Bailey Castle (CM144) has been determined.

Listed Buildings and Laugharne Conservation Area

- 6.7 The assessment has found that of the 55 listed buildings within 1km of the Access Track only that of the Grade II Mapsland is susceptible to some level of negative impact from the proposals on its setting and significance, due to the Access Track being partly visible from the upper floors of the building. This negative change will be very slight.
- 6.8 The majority of the Listed Buildings lie within the centre of Laugharne and within the Conservation Area. These are not intervisible with the Access Track but slight beneficial change to their setting will occur from the use of the Access Track to divert construction traffic from the main road through Laugharne (Clifton Street, King Street, Market Street and Wogan Street) and the small road leading to the existing entrance of the Dylan Coastal Resort accessed from Victoria Terrace.

Registered Historic Landscape

- 6.9 The Access Track lies within the Taf and Tywi Estuary Registered Outstanding Historic Landscape of Wales (HLW (D) 9), but is determined to have a negligible impact to its significance.

Sources Consulted

Dyfed Historic Environment Record, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, Swansea

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Primary Sources

1860 Tithe Map Plan of Laugharne

Ordnance Survey Maps

Secondary Sources

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Talacharn Community History photographic and map collection

Internet Sources

Cadw: <https://www.cadw.gov.wales>

British Geological Society online viewer: www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/home.html

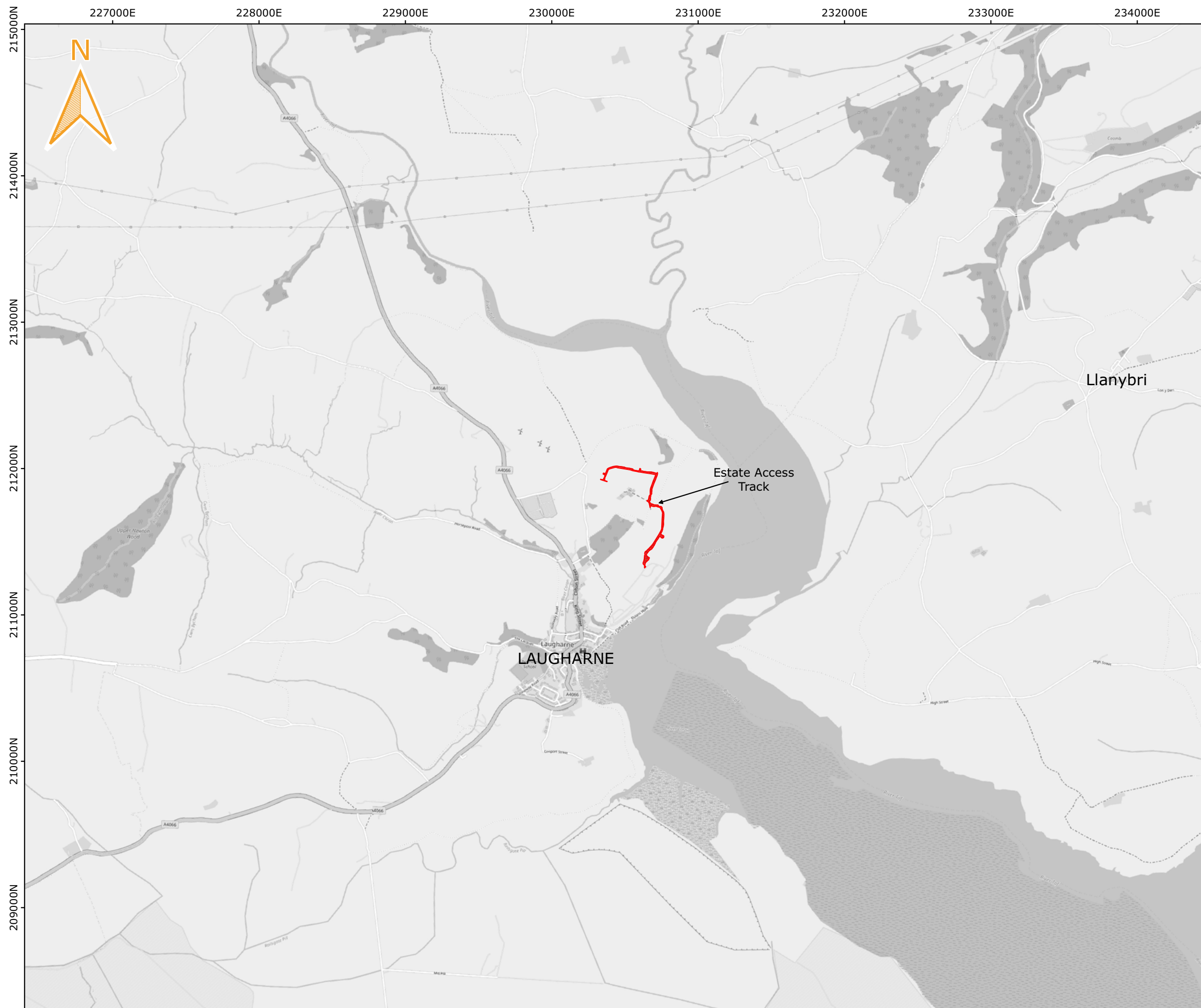
Google Earth: www.googleearth.co.uk

Lle Geoportal: <http://lle.gov.wales/home>

Welsh Tithe Maps: <https://places.library.wales/>

Britain From Above website

7. Figures



Key:



Access Track



Scale @A3: 1:25000

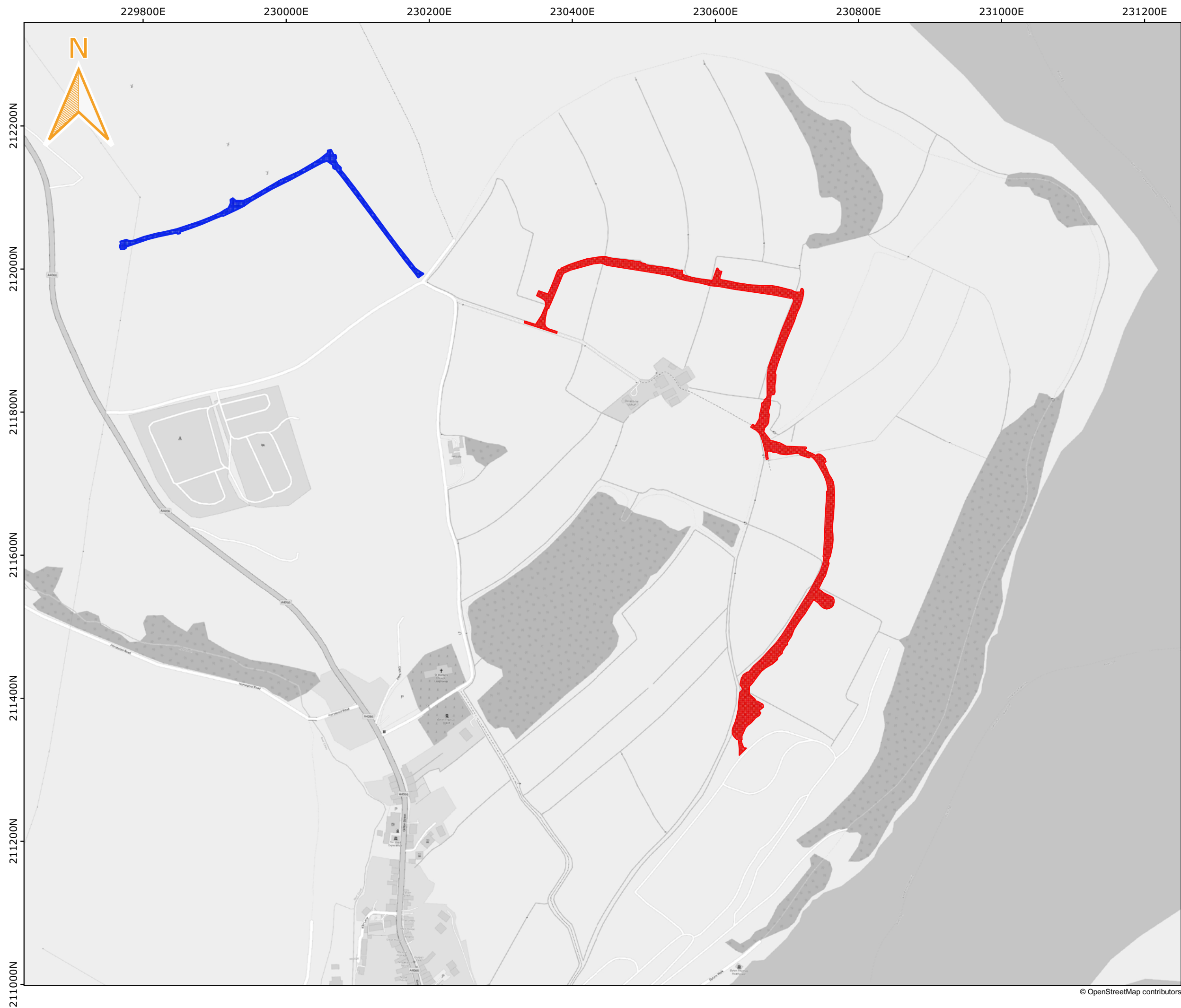


**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**



Figure 1

Site Location Plan



Key:

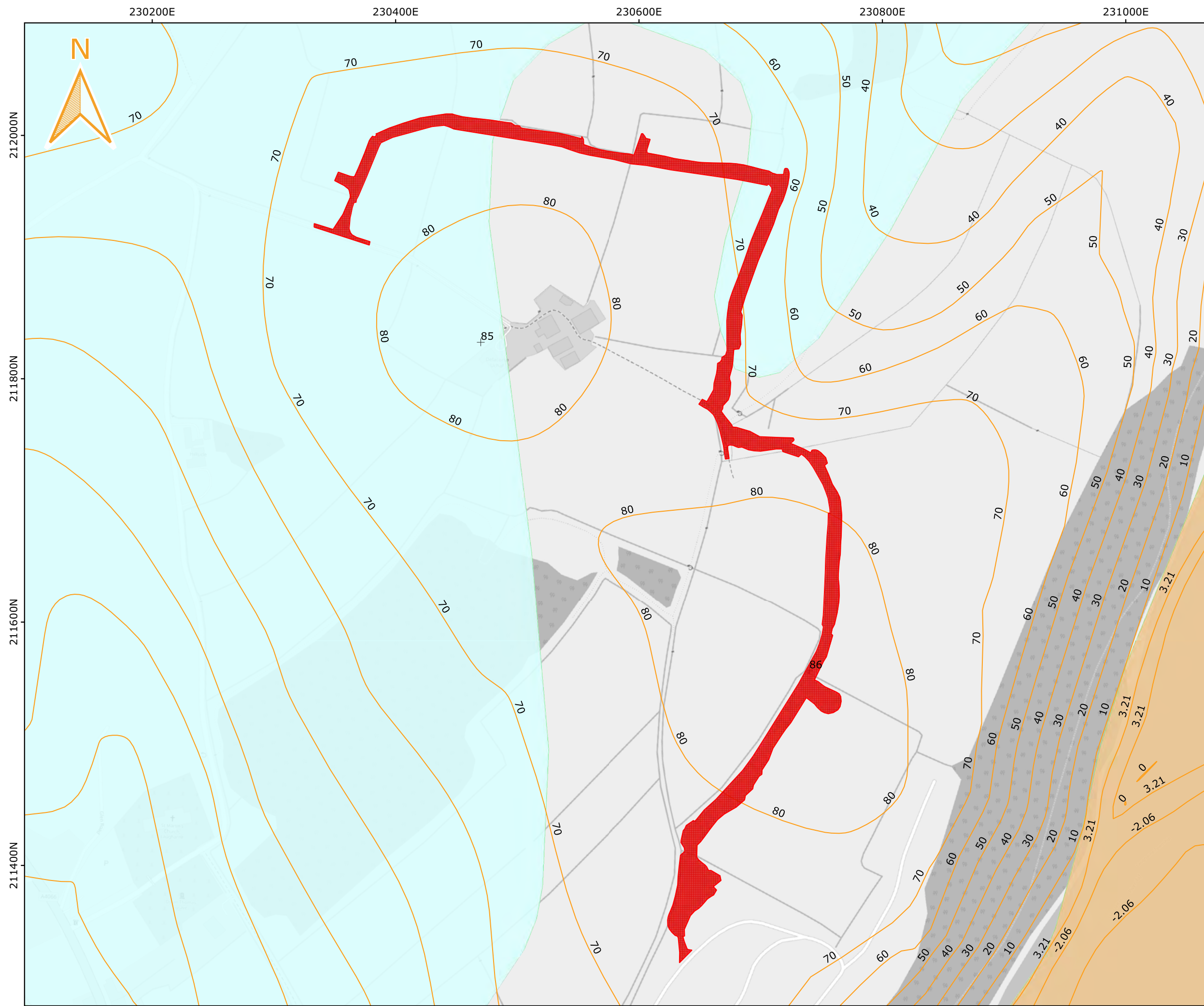
- Access Track
- Proposed northern route

Scale @A3: 1:5000

**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**

Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
Plan showing

Project No.06987A | 20/7/2021 | Drawn By: JM



Key:

- Access Track
- Spot Heights in mAOD
- Contour lines in mAOD
- Devensian Till
- Beach and Tidal Flat Deposits

25 0 25 50 75 m

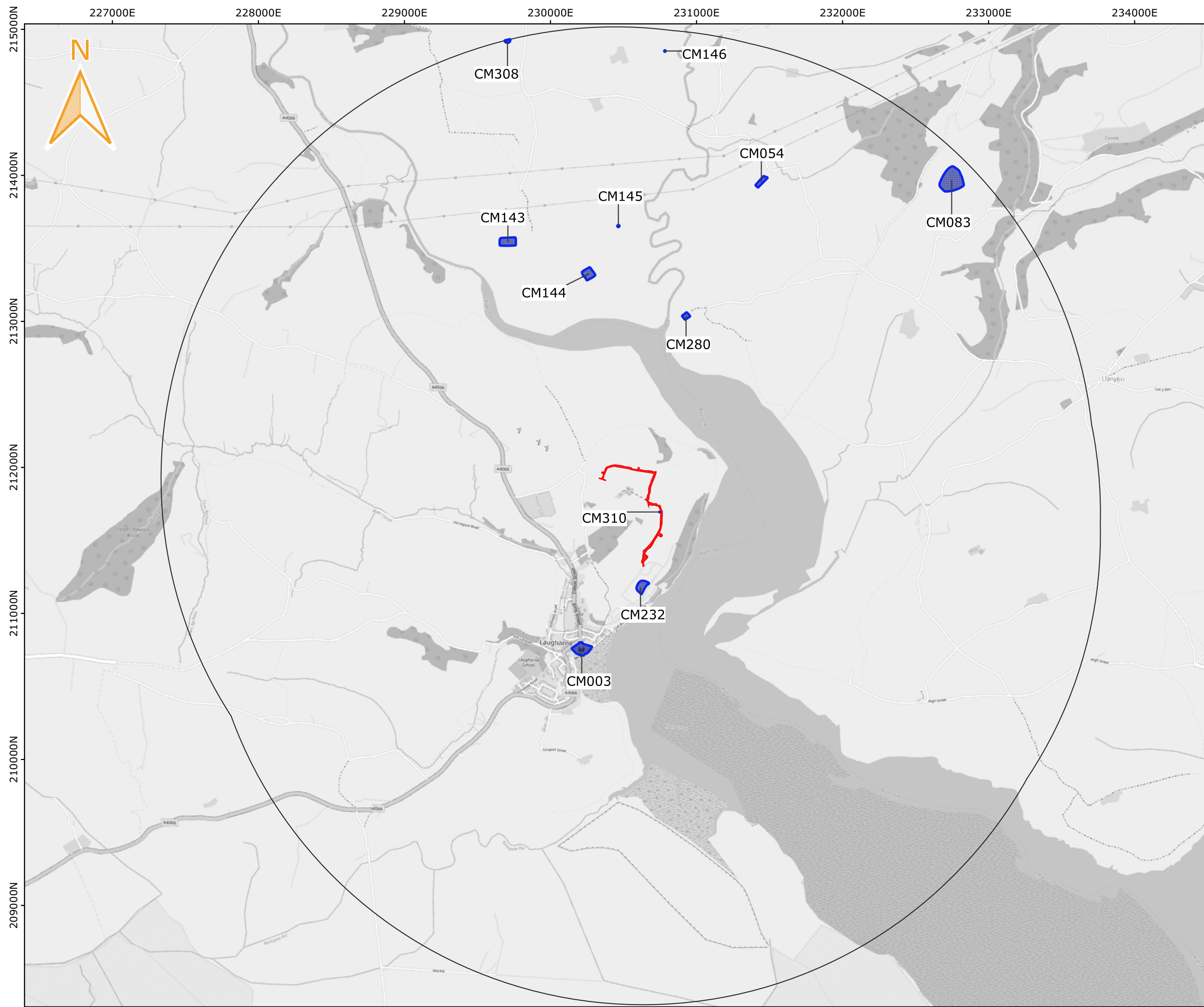
Scale @A3: 1:3000



**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**

Figure 3
Superficial Geology and
Topography

Project No.06987A | 4/7/2021 | Drawn By: JM



Key:

Access Track

3km study area

Scheduled Monuments

2500250500750

m

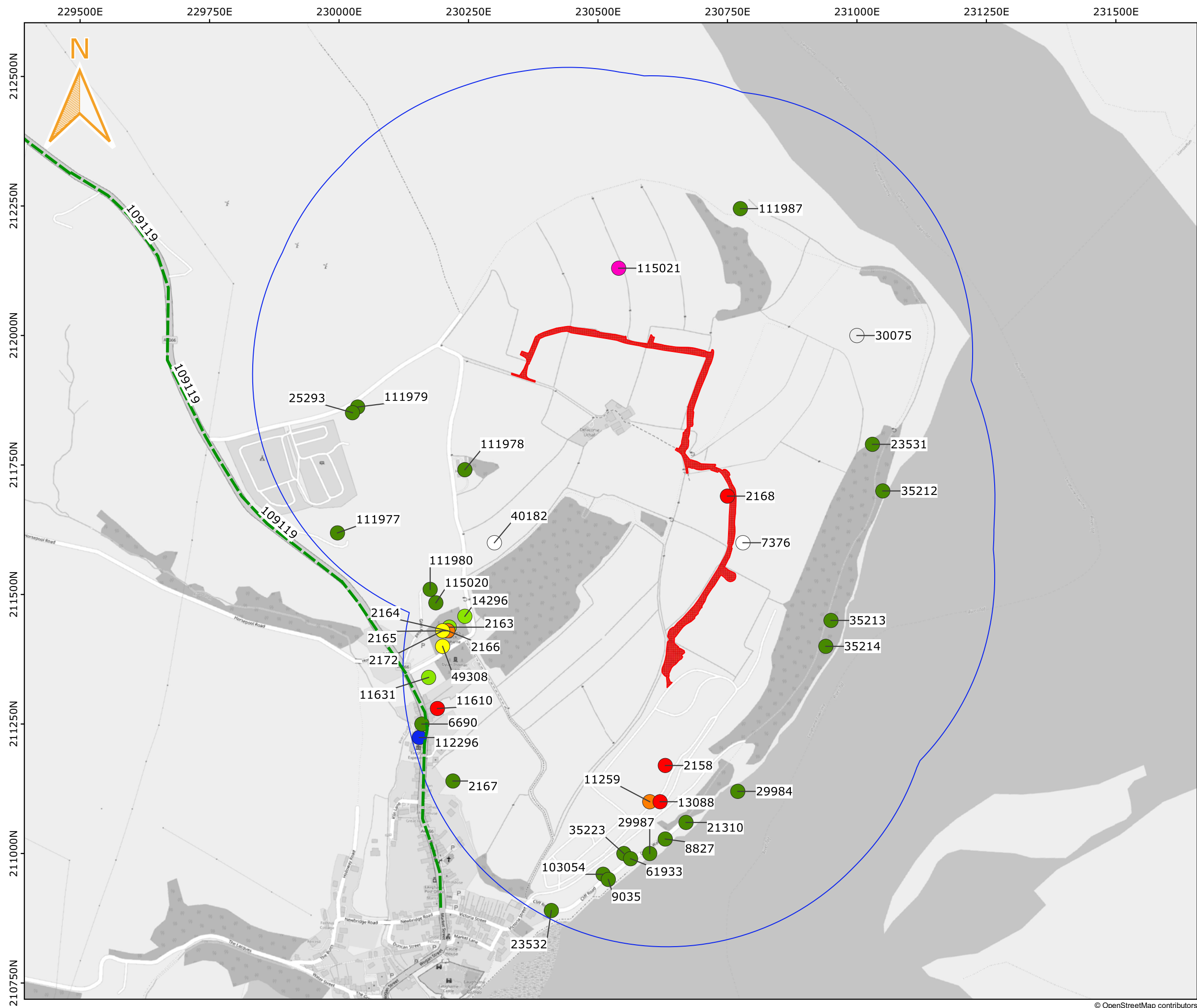
Scale @A3: 1:25000



**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**

Figure 4
Scheduled Monuments
within 3km of the
Access Track

Project No.06987A | 4/7/2021 | Drawn By: JM



Key:

- Access Track
- 500m Study area

DAT HER Period

- Prehistoric
- Roman
- Early Medieval
- Medieval
- Post Medieval
- Modern
- Multiperiod
- Not Applicable
- Unknown

Post Medieval Toll Road

50 0 50 100 150 m

Scale @A3: 1:7000

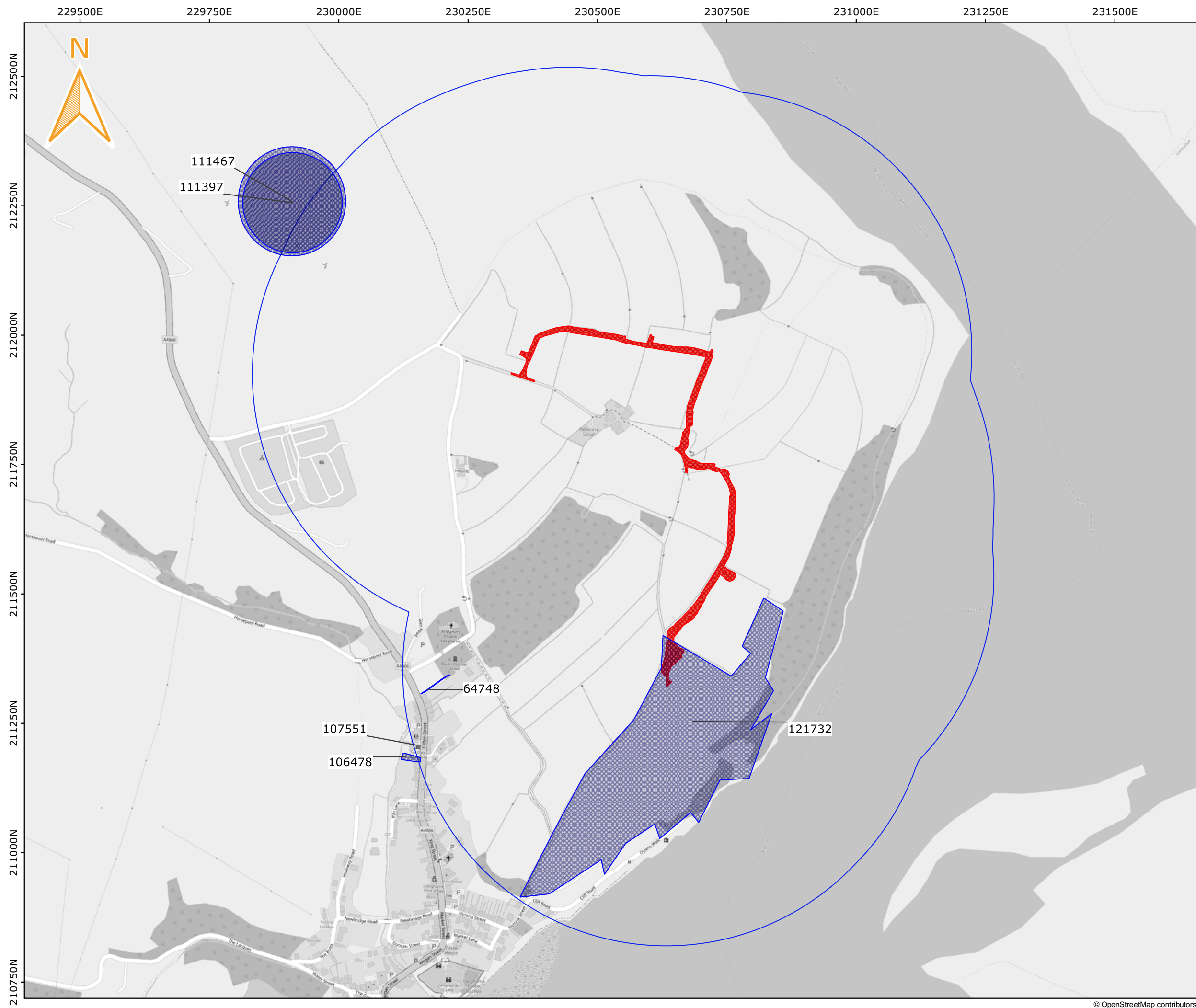


**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**

Figure 6

Dyfed Archaeological
Trust Historic
Environment Record
data within 500m of
the Access Track

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Key:

- Access Track
- 500m Study area
- Event Records

50 0 50 100 150 m

Scale @A3: 1:7000



**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**


Figure 7

Archaeological events
recorded on the DAT
HER within 500m of the
Access Track

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Key:

 Access Track



**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**

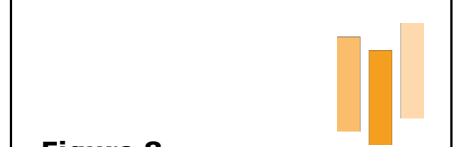
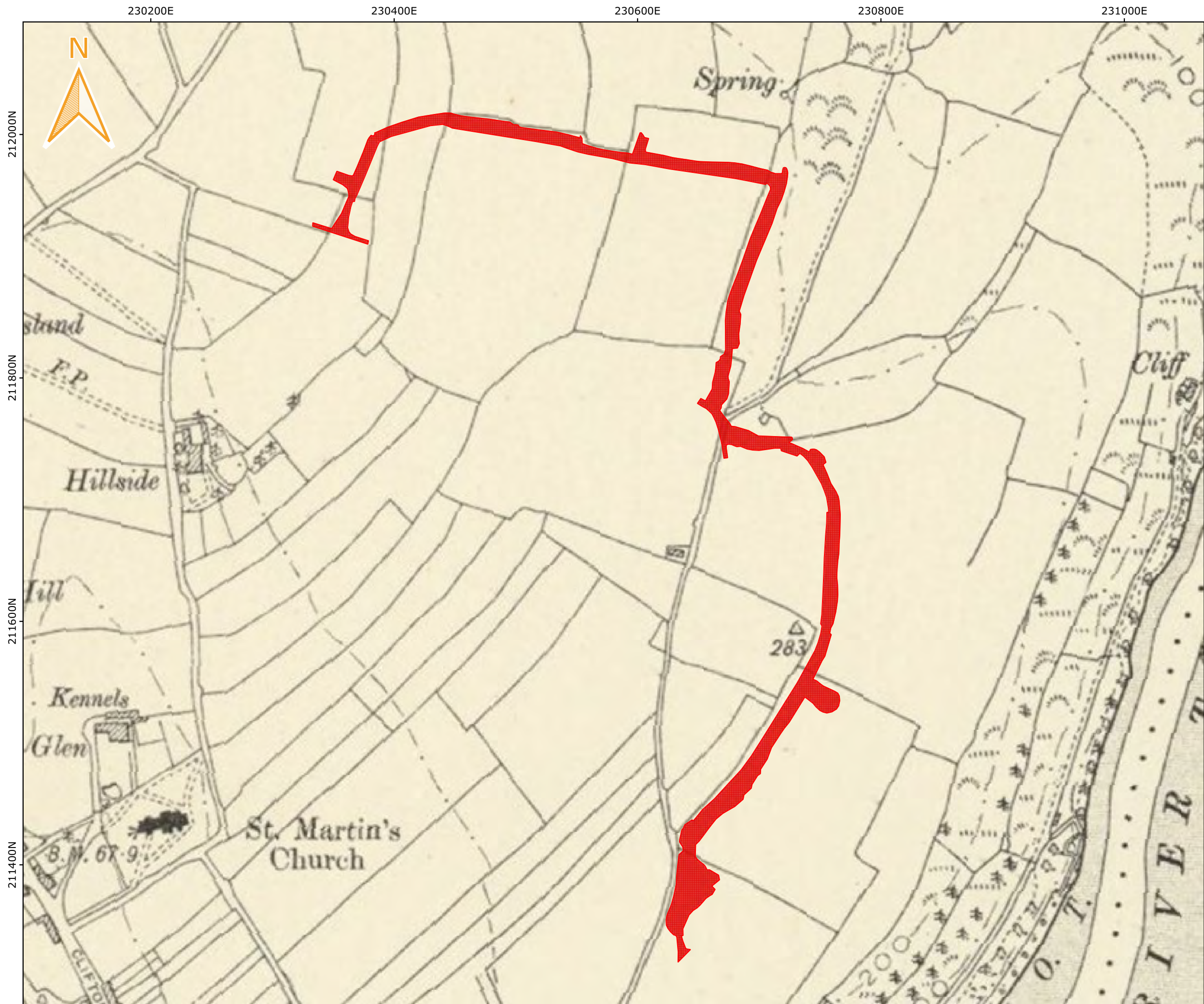



Figure 8
1860 Laugharne Tithe
Map



Key:

 Access Track

25 0 25 50 75 m

Scale @A3: 1:3000




**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**

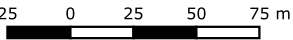



Figure 9

1907 Ordnance Survey
Map



Key:
 Access Track


Scale @A3: 1:3000



**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**







Figure 10
1m Lidar Digital
Surface Model Data
Plot
50 degree Height
150 degree Azimuth
Z factor 4

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Key:

-  Access Track
-  Scheduled Monuments
-  Mapsland Grade II

100 0 100 200 300 400 500 m

Scale @A3: 1:15000



**Laugharne Park Estate
Access Track,
Carmarthenshire**

Figure 11

Historic Assets considered
for further Setting
Assessment overlaid on
modern Google Aerial
Photograph

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