



**Heolddu Solar Farm,  
Carmarthenshire,  
Wales**

*Historic Environment Desk-Based  
Assessment*

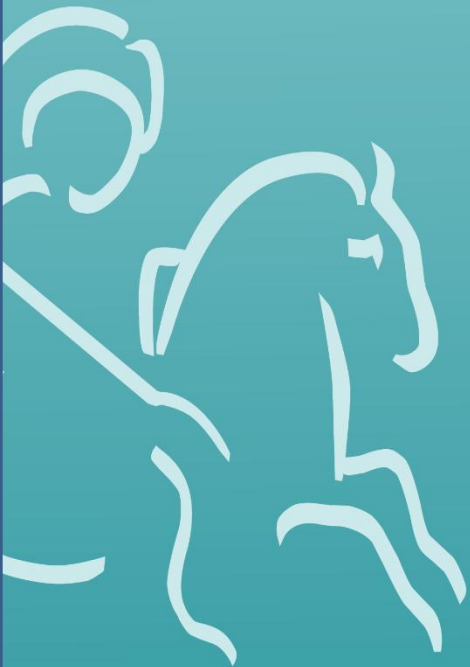


*Report prepared for:*  
Heolddu Solar Park Ltd

CA Project: CR1831

CA Report: CR1831\_2

September 2025



# Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire, Wales

## *Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*

CA Project: CR1831

CA Report: CR1831\_2

Heneb Event PRN: 1694

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<b>Material</b>	<b>Original Source</b>
Designated Assets Data	Cadw
Lidar imagery and point cloud data	Natural Resources Wales (NRW) website
Tithe Map	The Genaelogist; National Library of Wales
OS Mapping	Envirocheck
1:25,000 OS Basemap	Emapsite website

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## CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	7
2.	METHODOLOGY.....	12
3.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND .....	18
4.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & POTENTIAL EFFECTS .....	39
5.	THE SETTING OF HISTORIC ASSETS.....	46
6.	CONCLUSIONS.....	56
7.	REFERENCES.....	59
ANNEX 1:	HERITAGE STATUTE POLICY & GUIDANCE	
ANNEX 2:	GAZETTEER OF SELECTED RECORDED HERITAGE ASSETS	
ANNEX 3:	HISTORIC ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING	
ANNEX 4:	DOCUMENTS TO ARCHIVE WITH THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES (AMGUEDDFA CYMRU) AND WITH HENEB HER IN LINE WITH THE WALES NATIONAL GUIDELINES	
ANNEX 5:	WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION	

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site Location Plan
- Fig. 2 Previous Investigations and Archaeological Remains
- Fig. 3 Lidar 2020 – 2023 data of the Site; 2m resolution multi hillshade
- Fig. 4 Extracts of the Tithe Plans of the Parishes of St Ishmael (1840) and Llandyfaelog (1842); not to scale
- Fig. 5 Extract of the 1963-64 OS map
- Fig. 6 Extract of the 2000 OS Map
- Fig. 7 Registered Landscape, HCA and 'Important' Hedgerow of the Site
- Fig. 8 Designated Historic Assets and Photo Locations

## PHOTOGRAPHS

- Photo 1 South-west facing view of Solar Area West
- Photo 2 North facing view of Solar Area West
- Photo 3 North-east facing view of Solar Area East
- Photo 4 South-east facing view of Solar Area East
- Photo 5 South facing view of possible group of barrows to the south-east of Solar Area West
- Photo 6 Possible former quarry pit adjacent the centre of Solar Area West
- Photo 7 North-east facing view of the Scheduled 'Gwempa Standing Stone'
- Photo 8 West facing view of Llansteffan Conservation Area and of the Scheduled and Grade I Listed Llansteffan Castle seen from Solar Area West
- Photo 9 South facing view of Llasaint Conservation Area and of the Grade II Listed church of All Saints, seen from Solar Area West
- Photo 10 North facing view of Solar Area West from the Scheduled 'Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf'

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## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Heolddu Solar Farm,  
**Location:** Carmarthenshire, Wales  
**NGR:** 238742 210196

In November 2024, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) was commissioned by Heolddu Solar Park Ltd (the Applicant) to undertake a programme of archaeological and heritage works in respect of a proposed Solar Farm (the Proposed Development) on Land at Maesmawr and Treforris Fawr Farm (the Site).

This assessment has identified that there is limited evidence for activity pre-dating the medieval and post-medieval periods. This includes sparse artefacts associated with funerary and ritual activity related to a Bronze Age barrow located c. 120m east of the Site. This potential might increase to a moderate degree for remains of agricultural origin dating from the post-medieval onwards. Groundworks associated with the construction of the Proposed Development may result in impacts to any surviving buried or above ground remains. As such, following the geophysical survey, trial trench evaluation is required. This commenced in September 2025, with the scope of evaluation agreed with Heneb – Dyfed region, the archaeological advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council.

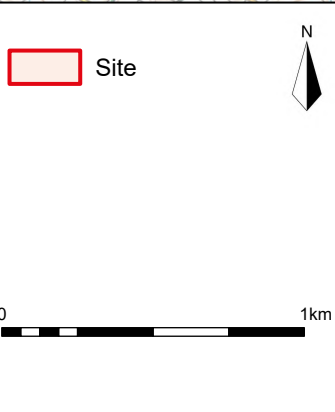
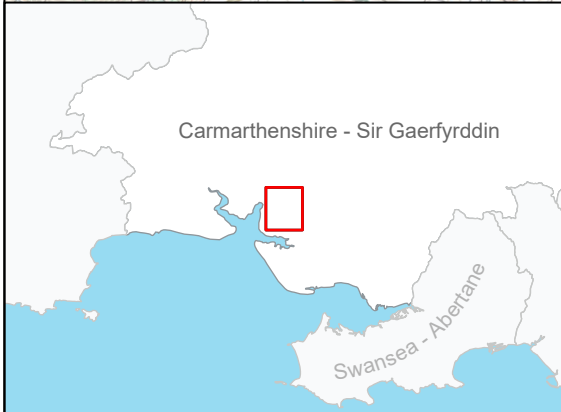
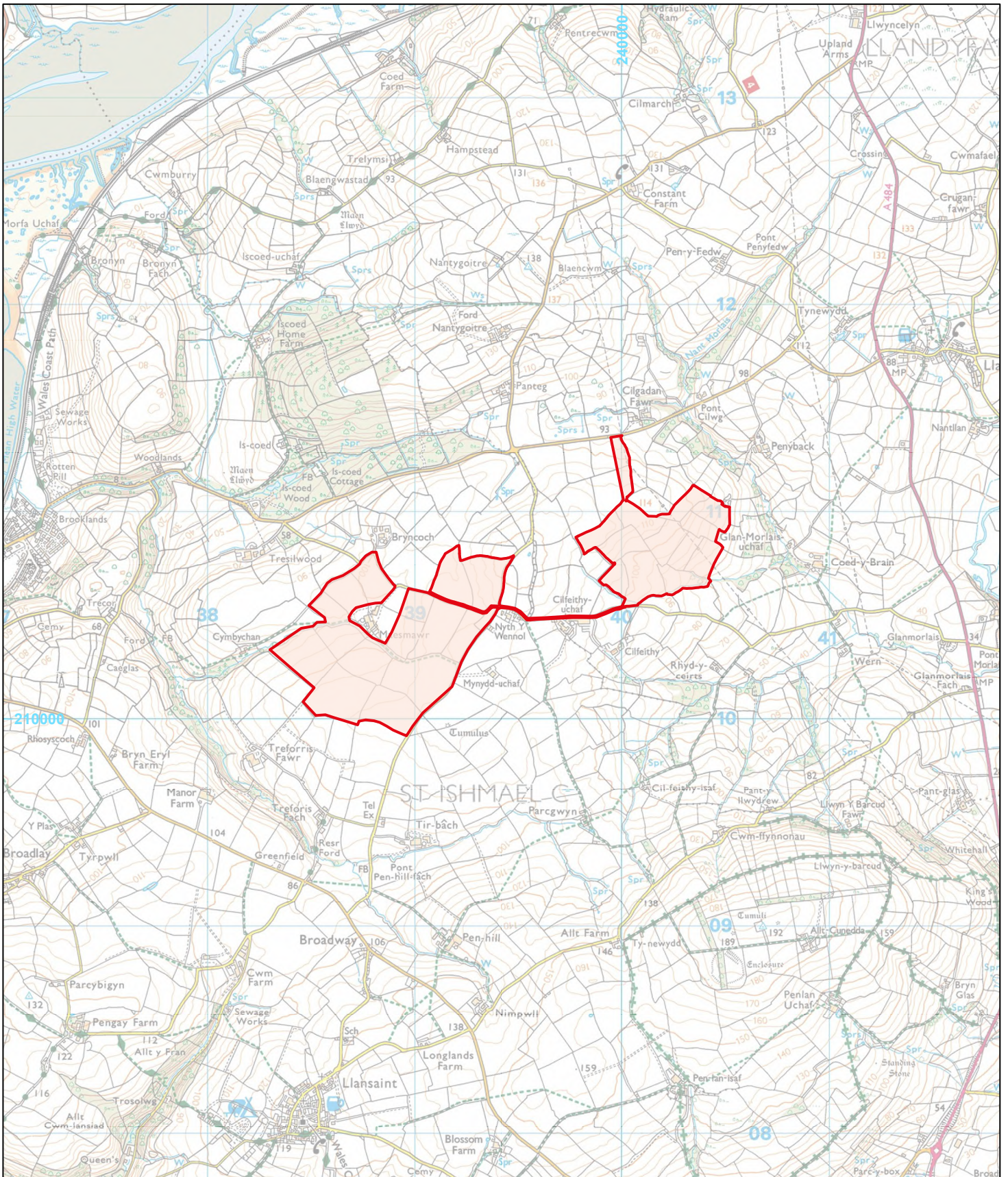
The vegetation along and within the Site boundaries may comprise parts of ‘important’ hedgerows under the 1997 Hedgerows Regulations. The proposal plans indicate these will be retained (or largely retained) (as detailed in Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme).


This report has also assessed the potential effects of the Proposed Development upon the significance of designated and non-designated historic assets, through the alteration of their settings, in accordance with industry standards and guidance. Amongst the assets identified for consideration, a detailed assessment was undertaken for the Scheduled ‘Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf’. It is concluded that the changes deriving from the Proposed Development upon the wider surrounding of this asset will result in **no harm** to its heritage significance.

This assessment has therefore established that the Proposed Development will comply with national and local planning policy requirements relating to the protection of the historic environment, including the Historic Environment (Wales) Act (2023), Section 6.1 of PPW (February 2024) and with Policies 13 and EQ1 of the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (2014).

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire

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**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site Location Plan

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<b>DRAWN BY</b> FC	<b>PROJECT NO.</b> CR1831	<b>FIGURE NO.</b> 1
<b>CHECKED BY</b> JS	<b>DATE</b> 18/08/2025	
<b>APPROVED BY</b> JS	<b>SCALE @ A4</b> 1:25,000	

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In November 2024, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) was commissioned by the Applicant to undertake a programme of archaeological and heritage works in respect of a proposed Solar Farm (the Proposed Development) on Land at Maesmawr and Treforris Fawr Farm, Carmarthenshire (hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’; NGR 238742 210196). The Site is located to the west of the A484, c. 1.3km south-west of Llandyfaelog and c. 1.5km east of Ferryside. The Site comprises Development Areas (Solar Area East and Solar Area West, Photos 1 – 4).



**Photo 1.** South-west facing view of Solar Area West; see Fig. 8 for photo location.



**Photo 2.** North facing view of Solar Area West; see Fig. 8 for photo location.

- 1.2. This report forms the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment of the Proposed Development (hereafter HEDBA). It has been prepared alongside the Assessment of Significance of the Impact of the Development on Historic Landscape (hereafter

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ASIDOHL2; CA 2025b) and the results of a geophysical survey, undertaken by Terra Dat in November 2024 (Terra Dat 2025).



**Photo 3.** North-east facing view of Solar Area East; see Fig. 8 for photo location.



**Photo 4.** South-east facing view of Solar Area East; see Fig. 8 for photo location.

- 1.3. The Applicant proposes to submit an application for a Development of National Significance (DNS) to the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) for the Proposed Development, which includes the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic electricity generating station ('solar farm') and associated ancillary development, including a 132kV substation, cable route, and access track, along with landscape and environmental enhancements. The cable route will run for c. 1.5km along an unnamed road between the two Solar Areas, connecting the solar arrays to the substation, which will be placed broadly at the south-east corner of Solar Area East. An access track to Solar Area East will extend to the north, linking Solar Area East to the road between Llandyfaelog and Ferryside.

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### **Objectives and professional standards**

1.4. The composition and development of the historic environment within the Site and wider landscape are discussed in this report. A determination of the significance of any historic assets located within the Site, and any historic assets beyond the Site boundary that may potentially be affected by the development proposals, is presented. Any potential development effects upon the significance of these historic assets (both adverse and/or beneficial) are then described.

1.5. CA is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). This report has been prepared in accordance with appropriate standards and guidance, including the 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment' published by CIfA in 2014 and updated in 2017 and 2020. This states that, insofar as they relate to the determination of planning applications, heritage desk-based assessments should:

*'...enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made [as to] whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention [any identified heritage] impact' (CIfA 2020, 4).*

1.6. The 'Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment' (TAN 24) of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) further states that the:

*'... need for a desk-based assessment... should be discussed with the local planning authority prior to submission of an application, and where required the results of these studies should be submitted as part of the planning application (Welsh Government 2017).*

### **Statute, policy, and guidance context**

1.7. The Site is in the local authority of Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC). The Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in December 2014 and covers the period 2006 to 2021. The historic environment is included within 'Section 5 Strategic Policy 13: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment' and within 'Section 6.6: Environmental Qualities – Built & Natural Environment'. Within this section, the policy relevant to the historic environment is 'Policy EQ1: Protection of Buildings, Landscapes and Features of Historic Importance'<sup>1</sup>. Further details on these policies are provided in Annex 1.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cartogold.co.uk/CarmarthenshireLDP/english/text/06\\_Specific-Policies.html#Ch6\\_6](https://www.cartogold.co.uk/CarmarthenshireLDP/english/text/06_Specific-Policies.html#Ch6_6)

- 1.8. A Replacement LDP is currently under public consultation and review, which will cover the period until 2033. The date to which the new LDP will be adopted has not been established.
- 1.9. This assessment has been undertaken within the key statute, policy, and guidance context presented within Table 1.1. The applicable provisions contained within these statute, policy and guidance documents are referred to, and discussed, as relevant, throughout the text. More detail is provided in Annex 1.

Statute	Description
<b>Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023</b>	This became an Act of Senedd Cymru in 2023. Thereafter, a suite of supporting secondary legislation was compiled before it came into full effect on 4 November 2024. It provides consolidated legislation to supersede the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 in Wales.
<b>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, February 2024)</b>	Provides the Welsh Government’s planning policies and describes how these are expected to be applied within the planning system. The Historic Environment is subject to Chapter 6 (page 129).
<b>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment</b>	The TAN provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment and should be read in conjunction with Planning Policy Wales (PPW).
<b>Cadw Best Practice Guidance</b>	Includes, Conservation Principles (2011), Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017), etc.
<b>Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (2006 – 2021)</b>	Comprises the local development plan (local plan), as required to be compiled, published, and maintained by the local authority, consistent with the requirements of PPW (2024) and TAN 24 (2017). Intended to be the primary planning policy document against which planning proposals within that local authority jurisdiction are assessed. Where the development plan is found to be inadequate, primacy reverts to PPW (2024) and TAN 24 (2017).

**Table 1.1** Key statute, policy, and guidance

### **Consultation**

- 1.10. Consultations with archaeology and heritage advisors relating to the Site commenced in November 2024, to agree a scope of a geophysical survey within a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) with Mike Ings, Regional Head & Archaeological Planning Manager at Heneb: Dyfed Region, the archaeological advisor. The geophysical survey was completed in November 2024 (Terra Dat 2025), and the report, approved by the archaeological advisor in March 2025, informs this assessment.

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- 1.11. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with a WSI, formalising the adopted scope and methodology (CA 2025a). The WSI was submitted to the archaeological advisor on 6 March 2025 for comment.
- 1.12. Subsequently, an initial heritage and archaeology consultation meeting was held with advisors from Heneb: Dyfed Region (Mike Ings), Cadw (Neil Maylan) and CCC (Matthew Pyart and Nell Hellier), discussing the Proposed Development, potential heritage and archaeology sensitivities and approaches to the assessment.
- 1.13. Following on from the meeting, the WSI was updated in June 2025, addressing comments provided in the course of the consultation and reflecting changes to the Proposed Development. The WSI for the assessment was approved by Mr Ings on 13 June 2025.
- 1.14. Following comments from the advisor at Cadw, a 5km study area was adopted to determine the potential non-physical impacts deriving from the Proposed Development upon the setting and the historic significance of the designated historic assets present within the surrounding landscape. The feedback also highlighted the need for the ASIDOHL2 assessment in relation to the Site (and this has been addressed via a standalone report prepared alongside this assessment, CA 2025b).
- 1.15. In addition, through further consultations, the scope of a trial trench evaluation was agreed (Volume 3, Appendix 8.4: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation). The evaluation commenced in September 2025.

#### *Archiving*

- 1.16. Following the submission of the final report, the report will be deposited within the archive at the National Museum for Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru, as well as lodged with Heneb for inclusion within the HER and the RCAHMW. This report will be deposited in line with the 'Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)' (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts 2024).

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### *Data collection, analysis, and presentation*

- 2.1. This assessment has been informed by a proportionate level of information sufficient to understand the archaeological potential of the Site, the significance of identified historic assets, and any potential development effects. This approach is in accordance with the provisions of PPW (2024), TAN 24 (2017), and the guidance issued by ClfA (2020). The data has been collected from a wide variety of sources, summarised in Table 2.1.

Source	Data
<b>Cadw</b>	Current information relating to designated historic assets, e.g., World Heritage Sites, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens, and Registered Battlefields.
<b>Heneb Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER)</b>	Heritage sites and events records, and other spatial data supplied in digital format (shapefiles) and PDF. HER Enquiry Reference Number: 1694.
<b>Carmarthenshire Historic Archives</b>	A search of the archives catalogues was conducted which, however, did not reveal potential documents relating to the Site.
<b>Aerial Photographs</b>	Aerial photographs curated by the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales (Enquiry No: 24-166)
<b>Natural Resources Wales (NRW) lidar data</b>	LiDAR imagery and point cloud data, available from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) website.
<b>Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Landmap data</b>	Dataset focusing on archaeological and historical sites and how they relate to each other and to the surrounding historic landscape.
<b>National Library of Wales, Genealogist, Envirocheck, National Library of Scotland &amp; other cartographic websites</b>	Historic (Ordnance Survey and Tithe) mapping in digital format.
<b>British Geological Survey (BGS) website</b>	UK geological mapping (bedrock & superficial deposits) & borehole data.
<b>Geophysical survey (Terra Dat 2025)</b>	A geophysical survey undertaken across the Site to inform the archaeological potential of the Site.
<b>Grey literature</b>	Reports and research documents of relevant sites in and around the study area.

**Table 2.1** Key data sources

- 2.2. Following the agreed methodology and scope of the 2025 WSI (CA 2025a), a 1km study area, measured from the boundaries of the Site, was considered sufficient to

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capture the relevant HER and RCAHMW data, and provide the necessary context for understanding archaeological potential and heritage significance in respect of the Site. All the spatial data held by the HER and RCAHMW – the primary historic data repository – for the land within the study area, was requested. The records were analysed and further refined to narrow the research focus onto those of relevance to the present assessment. Not all HER and RCAHMW records are therefore referred to, discussed, or illustrated further within the body of this report, only those that are relevant. These are listed in a cross-referenced gazetteer provided at the end of this report (Annex 2) and are illustrated on the figures accompanying this report.

- 2.3. A 5km study area was agreed with Cadw to form the initial study parameters for capturing designated historic assets for the ‘setting assessment’ (see below). This allowed for initial filtering exercise to ensure that designated (or non-designated) historic assets located further afield from the Site boundaries could be captured and reviewed (including during site visit).
- 2.4. The Carmarthenshire Historic Archives was contacted via email in June 2025. No further historic cartographic sources were identified which could have been relevant to the scope of this assessment.
- 2.5. A Site visit was undertaken in July 2025 in clear and dry weather conditions. The primary objectives of the site visit were to assess the Site’s historic landscape context, including its association with any known or potential historic assets, and to identify any evidence for previous truncation of the on-site stratigraphy. The Site visit also allowed for the identification of any previously unknown historic assets within the Site, and assessment of their nature, condition, significance, and potential susceptibility to impact. The wider landscape was examined, as relevant, from accessible public rights of way.

#### **Aerial photographs curated by the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales**

- 2.6. Aerial photographs held at the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales were examined as part of this assessment, ranging from 1946 to 2017 (Enquire No: 24-166). The aerial photographs show the Site was part of an agricultural landscape, mostly subject to pastoral use, during the majority of the 20th century. No cropmarks of possible archaeological nature are depicted by aerial photographs within the Site.

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### Lidar imagery

- 2.7. Existing Natural Resources Wales data was analysed with the specific aim of clarifying the extent of any potential archaeological remains.
- 2.8. Lidar DTM (Digital Terrain Model) and DSM (Digital Surface Model) files were downloaded from the DataMapWales under the Open Government Licence v3.0. The lidar data was surveyed between 2020 and 2023 and available at 2m for DTM and DSM resolution for the extent of the site boundary and buffer. DTM and DSM tiles were downloaded as ASCII files. The LiDAR files contain British National Grid as the “native” coordinate reference system.
- 2.9. Where necessary, the tiles were combined into a mosaic raster dataset using Esri ArcGIS Pro 3.3.0 and exported as a single raster (.tif). The resulting TIFs were then processed using Relief Visualisation Toolbox (RVT) (Kokalj et al 2019 and Zakšek et al 2011) to create a number of visualisations including a DEM, hillshade, positive and negative openness, multi-hillshade and local relief model following Historic England guidelines (HE 2010) and guidance in *Airborne Laser Scanning Raster Visualisation: A guide to good practice* (Kokalj & Hesse 2017). The parameters were set to those appropriate for the topography of the area.
- 2.10. The output images from the RVT software were then imported into ArcGIS Pro 3.3.0 where further settings manipulation was undertaken to enhance the visualization for archaeological feature detection.
- 2.11. The DTM tile formed the basis within the desk-based assessment and is illustrated on Fig. 3.

### Assessment of heritage significance

- 2.12. The value of historic assets is best defined by the Cadw guidance, ‘Conservation Principles’ (2011), which describes value as a combination of heritage values: **i)** evidential (archaeological) value, **ii)** historical (illustrative and associative) value, **iii)** aesthetic value, and **iv)** communal value. Further detail of this approach, including the detailed definition of those values, as set out, and advocated, by Cadw, is provided in Annex 1 of this report.

### Assessment of potential development effects (benefit and harm)

- 2.13. The present report sets out, in detail, the ways in which identified susceptible historic assets might be affected by the Proposed Development, as well as the anticipated

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extent of any such effects. Both physical effects, i.e., resulting from the direct truncation of archaeological remains, and non-physical effects, i.e., resulting from changes to the setting of historic assets, have been assessed. Regarding non-physical effects or 'settings assessment', this has been undertaken in accordance with the approach outlined in the 'Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' document (Cadw 2017a). Further detail of this approach, including the detailed definition of those values, as set out, and advocated, by Cadw, is provided in Annex 1 of this report.

- 2.14. The 'Conservation Principles' states that: 'The assessment of the degree of harm to an historic asset needs to consider the impact of any proposal on its heritage values' (Cadw 2011, 31). 'Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales' states that, 'Your heritage impact statement will need to demonstrate that you have considered the potential impact of you preferred approach. You will need to show how your proposed work will sustain or enhance the significance of your historic asset, including potential benefits and any harm' (Cadw 2017b, 10).

#### *The setting of historic assets*

- 2.15. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the approach outlined in the publication 'Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' (Cadw 2017a). This provides guidance on setting and development management, including the assessment of the implications of Proposed Development. The guidance reiterates that 'the setting of a historic asset is the surroundings in which a historic asset is experienced. 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'.
- 2.16. All historic assets have a setting and features of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to significance and may affect the appreciation of the asset. They can remain neutral. The extent and importance of setting is often expressed by reference to visual considerations but can also comprise other elements which contribute to the ways in which a historic asset is experienced, including factors such as noise, vibrations, dust, or other pollutants; spatial associations; the rarity of comparable survivals of setting, and associative relationships between historic assets.

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2.17. A stepped approach is undertaken for assessing the implications of development proposals. The first step is to consider the site context, and whether, from a heritage point of view, there are other reasonable alternatives that should be preferred for development. In addition, this step identifies the historic assets affected, and the aspects of their settings which would be affected by the Proposed Development. Step 2 is to assess whether, how, and to what degree, these settings make a positive contribution to the significance of the historic asset(s), i.e., 'what matters and why'. This includes a consideration of the key attributes of the historic asset itself, and then considers:

- The physical surroundings of the asset, including its relationship with other historic assets; and
- The way in which the asset is appreciated.

2.18. Step 3 (where appropriate) is to assess the effect of the Proposed Development on the significance of historic assets through consideration of the key attributes of the development in terms of its:

- Location and siting;
- Form and appearance;
- Additional effects; and
- Permanence.

2.19. Step 4 is to maximise enhancement and minimise harm, and Step 5 refers to making and documenting the decision and monitoring outcomes.

2.20. The settings assessment presented in this report includes consideration of Steps 1 to 3, which are the steps normally undertaken to inform the planning process. Step 4 is carried out when it is considered necessary to specifically design or redesign a scheme to take historic assets into account. This is not considered necessary in this case. Step 5 is a subsequent stage and is not applicable to this assessment.

#### ***Limitations of the assessment***

2.21. This assessment is principally a desk-based study and has utilised secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purpose of this assessment. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from secondary sources, is reasonably accurate. The records held by Cadw, Heneb – Dyfed Region, and RCAHMW are not a record of all surviving

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historic assets, but a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the historic environment. The information held within these repositories is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.

- 2.22. The best resolution of digital terrain model LiDAR Imagery of the Site, available from Natural Resources Wales, is 2m. There appeared to be no significant issues with the data.
- 2.23. The online catalogues for records held at Carmarthenshire Historic Archives were consulted, but no further additional sources were identified. However, sources available online have been considered adequate to provide sufficient information to inform the scope of this assessment.
- 2.24. A walkover survey was conducted within the Site on 1 July 2025, which was undertaken in dry and clear weather conditions. Access was afforded within the Site, although such observations are limited since archaeological remains can survive below-ground with no visible surface indications of their presence. It is possible that unknown archaeological remains may be present within the Site, and the presence of modern infrastructure may possibly have inhibited identification of any possible upstanding remains. There is an element of uncertainty over the nature, condition, frequency and extent of the potential buried archaeological resource, which may be clarified through intrusive investigation.
- 2.25. The majority of the fields within Solar Area East could not be accessed due to the presence of grazing livestock. However, such fields were visible from a nearby unnamed road, and views from the highest ground of Solar Area East towards the surrounding landscape were undertaken. In addition, all fields within the Site were subject to geophysical survey as there was no access restrictions at such point. As such it is considered that the restricted access does not affect the conclusions of this report.
- 2.26. There was sufficient access to historic assets to assess likely impacts upon the significance of the assets due to changes to their setting. Although a number of such assets were not accessed due to location within private ownership, sufficient access from public rights of way enabled the assessment.

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### 3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### *Landscape context*

- 3.1. The Site is located within the southern part of Carmarthenshire and includes two distinct areas covering a total of c. 81.78ha within a rural farmed landscape. Solar Area West occupies a surface of c. 54.66ha and includes 15 regular parcels of land. These lie at an elevation between c. 117m and c. 95m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), gently sloping down from north-east to the south-west. The parcels of this Solar Area are included within two distinct areas located respectively to the north and the south of an unnamed road. Further unnamed roads bound the entire Solar Area along its eastern and north-western boundary. The parcels within Solar Area West (fields 1-15) are all enclosed by hedgerows and sparse trees and are surrounded by agricultural fields in all directions. A series of scattered farmsteads of modern origin span across the area. One of such farmstead, Maes Mawr, bounds the central part of Solar Area West.
- 3.2. Solar Area East occupies a surface c. 25.09ha and includes 11 parcels of land (fields 16-26), divided and enclosed by hedgerows and sparse trees. The topography of these parcels slopes gently from south-west (from c. 120m aOD) towards north-east and east (to c. 79m aOD). The Solar Area East is also surrounded by agricultural land which includes a scatter of modern farmsteads. An area of dense wood and an unnamed road bound respectively, the eastern and the southern boundary of Solar Area East.

#### *Geology*

- 3.3. The British Geological Survey (BGS) records the solid geology of the Site as argillaceous rocks, sandstone and conglomerate, interbedded within the Milford Haven Group. This formed through sedimentary processes between 427.4 and 407.6 million years ago during the Silurian and Devonian periods (BGS 2025). The only superficial deposit recorded for the Site is located along the southern boundary of Solar Area West and consists of a strip of Diamincton included in the Till Devensian group, which formed through sedimentary processes between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period. Superficial deposits of the same typology are widely recorded within the Site's close surroundings and are likely to extend also within the Site.

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### *Designated historic assets*

- 3.4. No Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, World Heritage Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields Sites or Conservation Areas are located within the Site.
- 3.5. A total of 24 Scheduled Monuments, three Conservation Areas, one Registered Park and Garden, 71 Listed Buildings and two Registered Historic Landscapes are located within the 5km study area. These historic assets are discussed below, where relevant, and further considered in Section 5 (Annex 2 and Fig. 8).
- 3.6. Fields 1-15 within Solar Area West, and the short westernmost section of the cable route, lie within the Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape (RHL). The Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL boundary is located c. 740m to the south of the Site's southern boundary, but one of its Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA): Allt Hilltop includes the southernmost 6 fields of the Site (fields 4-9). The impacts of the Proposed Development upon the heritage significance of the RHLs have been assessed in a standalone report (CA 2025b) and are not discussed here.

### *Previous archaeological investigations*

- 3.7. No intrusive archaeological investigations have been undertaken to date either within the Site or the study area. Previous non-intrusive investigations undertaken within the Site and the study area are illustrated on Fig. 2 and listed in Annex 2 of this report.
- 3.8. A geophysical survey was undertaken in 2024 within the Site by Terra Dat to inform the Proposed Development and the DNS application. The identified anomalies of possible archaeological origin are mostly located within Solar Area West (Terra Dat 2025; Refs **a**, **c**, **d**, **e**, **l**, & **k**). Five long linear features were interpreted as ditched boundaries, with evidence for at least one being accompanied by a trackway, distinct from modern routes. These features were thought to pre-date the modern field layout but were not considered to be pre-date the medieval period, given a probable relationship of one linear with the Parish boundary. A single rectilinear anomaly was of uncertain age and purpose (**k**).
- 3.9. Three DBAs were undertaken on land including or abutting Solar Area West. These comprise:

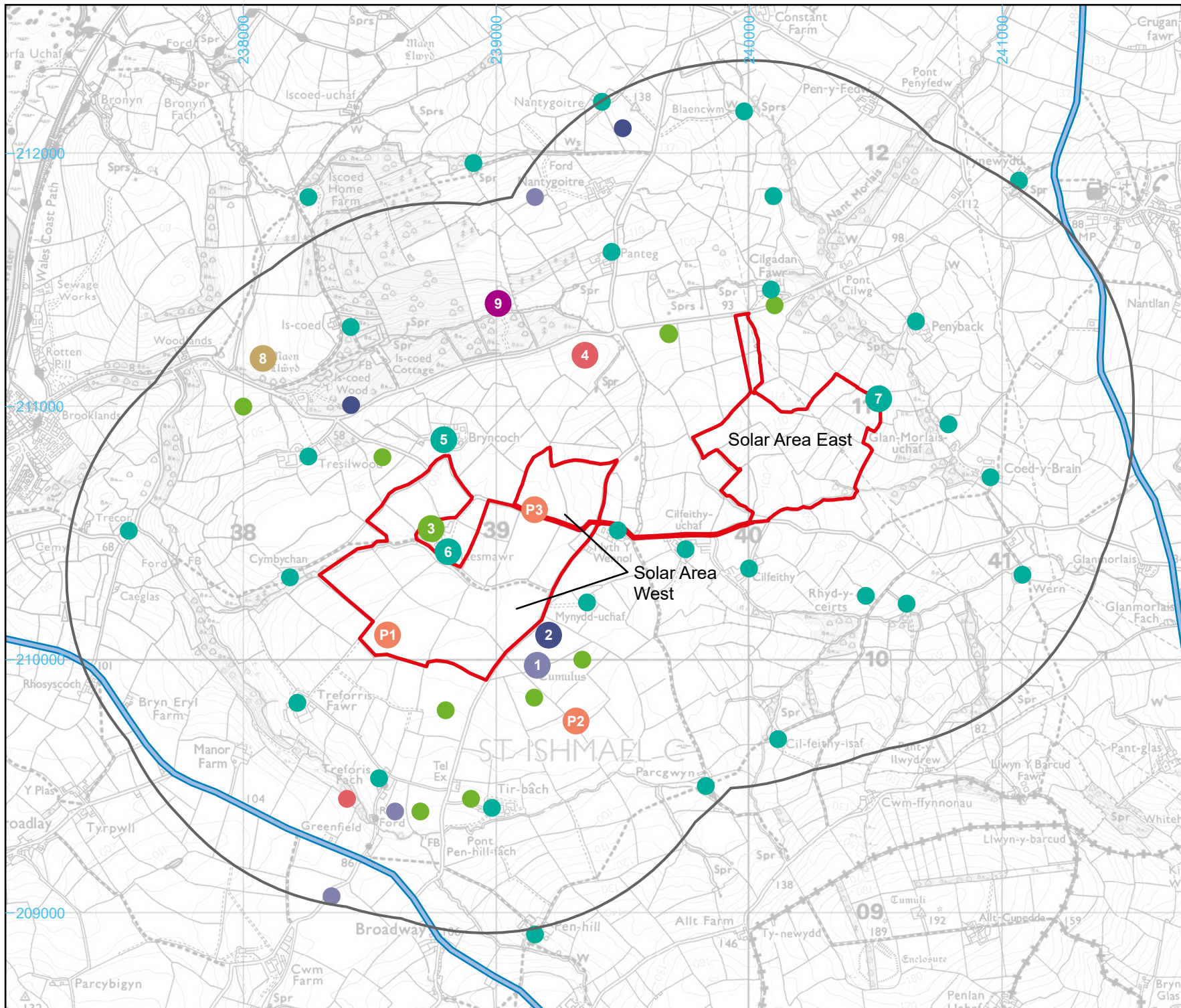
- a DBA undertaken by Trysor in 2015 for the installation of a wind turbine at Treforris Fawr (Hall and Sambrook 2015). The area assessed also comprised the majority of Solar Area West (Fig. 2, **P1**),
- a DBA undertaken by Heritage Recording Services Wales in 2015 for the installation of two wind turbines at Penhill Farm (Scott-Jones 2015). The assessment comprised an area adjacent to the south-east boundary of Solar Area West (Fig. 2, **P2**), and
- a DBA undertaken by CgMs Consulting in 2015 for the installation of a solar farm at Bryncoch (Bethell 2015) and included the field enclosed within the north-west part of Solar Area West (Fig. 2, **P3**).

### *Palaeolithic and Mesolithic (>500,000 BC – c. 4,000 BC)*

- 3.10. Human activity throughout the Palaeolithic period (>500,000 BC – c. 10,000 BC) was characterised by small bands of hunter-gatherers moving through the landscape and exploiting resource, with findspots and lithic remains generally focused on riverside locations within the river terrace gravels (Wymer 1999). With the exception of seasonal hunting camps, during the Palaeolithic millennia people seldom established long-term sites, and evidence of activity is sparse in the archaeological record. Palaeolithic sites in Wales are rare in comparison to the lowlands and river valleys of south and east England that appear to have been more favourable for habitation<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.11. No archaeological evidence for the Palaeolithic period has been recovered either within the Site or the study area. Within the wider surroundings, remains of this period have been identified at Coygan Cave, close to Laugharne, c. 8km west of Solar Area West (not reproduced) and at Paviland Cave (originally known as Goats's Hole), along the southern coast of the Gower Peninsula, c. 24km south-east of the Site (Scheduled Monument: GM504; not reproduced)<sup>2</sup>. Here investigations identified c. 5,000 flints artefacts dating to the beginning of the final stage of this period (Early Upper Palaeolithic), together with the first human remains ever found in Britain<sup>3</sup>.
- 3.12. Similarly to the Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic period (c. 10,000 BC – c. 4,000 BC) is characterised by small groups of hunter-gatherers moving through the landscape and exploiting resources.

<sup>2</sup> <https://heneb.org.uk/archive/dyfed/lostlandscapes/palaeolithic.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://rcahmw.gov.uk/paviland-cave-gower/#:~:text=The%20Royal%20Commission>



- Site
- 1km Study Area
- Previous Investigation
- Prehistoric
- Bronze Age Barrow
- Site of Bronze Age Barrow
- Standing Stone
- Site of Standing Stone
- Modern Farmstead
- Quarry
- Toll Road



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Includes Heneb HER data

	Andover	01264 347630
	Cloucester	01285 771022
	Milton Keynes	01908 564660
	Suffolk	01449 900120
	www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	

**PROJECT TITLE**  
Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Previous Investigations and Archaeological Remains

DRAWN BY	FC	PROJECT NO.	CR1831	<b>FIGURE NO.</b>
CHECKED BY	JS	DATE	15/08/2025	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	JS	SCALE @ A4	1:20,000	

- 
- 3.13. Commonly, Mesolithic deposits, or artefacts (such as lithic implements), are most likely to be found within the river valleys and along river courses, whilst topographical prominence is also considered an influencing factor for areas of Mesolithic occupation. In Wales, the distribution of known Mesolithic sites shows a concentration of sites in coastal locations particularly along the north and south coasts, indicating that Welsh shorelines offered an abundant source of food and other materials. In the later Mesolithic there is evidence in Wales of the increasing exploitation of upland areas, with the establishment of seasonal hunting camps<sup>4</sup>.
- 3.14. No archaeological remains dating to the Mesolithic period are recorded either within the Site or the study area. Within the wider surrounding, humans and animal footprints dating to a period between 5,400 BC and 3,940 BC have been identified within peat deposit along the shoreline at Lydstep<sup>5</sup>, c. 35km south-west of Solar Area West (not reproduced).
- 3.15. The regional data discussed here indicates that during the Palaeolithic and the Mesolithic periods groups of hunters and gatherers crossed the landscape along the coast of southern Wales for exploitation of the local resources. It is likely that during these periods, the Site was partially covered by forests but its topographic location, c. 2km east of the estuary of the River Towy, might implicate that sporadic events of hunting and gathering may have also occurred.

#### ***Neolithic and Bronze Age (c. 4,000 BC – c. 700 BC)***

- 3.16. At the end of the Mesolithic period the hunter-gatherer economies were gradually superseded by more sedentary lifestyles, often associated with the beginnings of arable cultivation; this process coincides with the beginning of the Neolithic period, which is also characterised by woodland clearance, the production of pottery in different styles, and the domestication of animals. With the exception of more refined flint artefacts, the most identifiable remains of the Neolithic period consist of landscape monuments, such as long and round barrows, as well as enclosures and field systems (Darvill and Thomas 2001).
- 3.17. In Wales this period is also characterised by a gradual transition from hunter-gatherer lifestyle to more settled societies concerned with agriculture and pastoralism. Archaeological sites and monuments from this period tend to be associated with

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<sup>4</sup> <https://heneb.org.uk/archive/dyfed/lostlandscapes/mesolithic.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/524754>

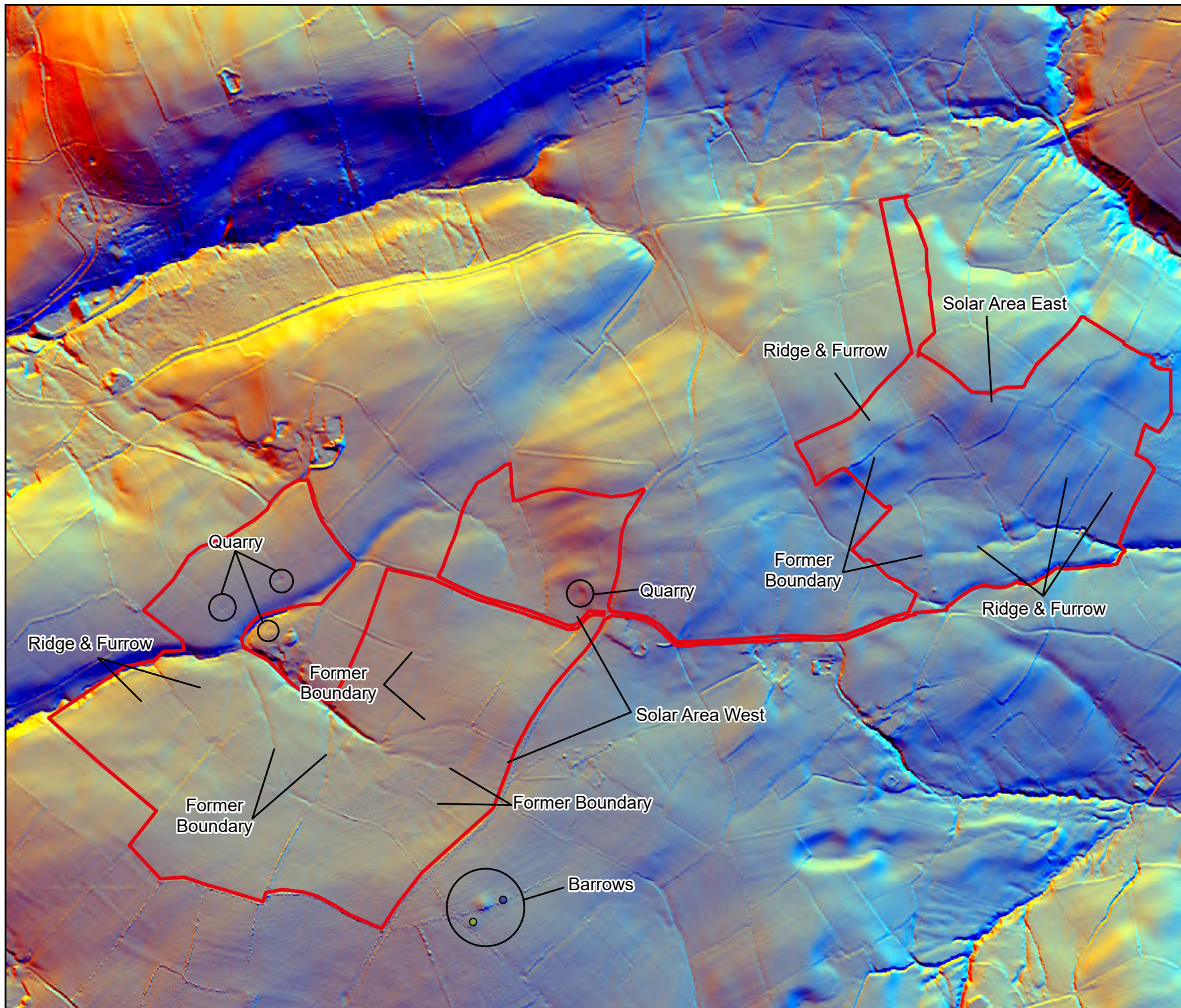
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funerary and ritual activities, rather than domestic settlement which may have involved ephemeral sites which have left little archaeological evidence (Burrow 2010). The South-West region of Wales is characterised by numerous, highly visible Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ritual monuments, with 31 certain Neolithic chambered tomb sites recorded between Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. Furthermore, 700 barrow sites and 221 standing stones dating to the Bronze Age are recorded within these same counties<sup>6</sup>.

- 3.18. Barrows are defined as round mounds of earth and / or stone with a rounded or flattened top presumed to be for burial and other ritual activity during the later Neolithic or Bronze Age. The mound may be enclosed by a circular or intermittent outer ditch and may have a complex structure including stone kerbs, stone settings or burial cists. Such internal and external features are rarely recorded unless excavated (Cook 2006).
- 3.19. No archaeological evidence dating to the Neolithic period is recorded either within the Site or the study area, although evidence dating to the Bronze Age is recorded within the Site surroundings.
- 3.20. A round barrow, now Scheduled Monument, is recorded c. 120m south-east of Solar Area West (Fig. 2, **1** and Fig. 8, **D1**). The extant earthworks of this monument are visible on lidar imagery (Fig. 3). In the vicinity of this barrow, two additional earthwork mounds are seen on lidar, which might have represented similar features. One of those features, as well as the Scheduled barrow, were noticed during the study area walkover (Photo 5; see below).
- 3.21. The former location of another barrow is recorded through place-name evidence within the close vicinity of these features, and in the same field, c. 50m east of Solar Area West (Fig. 2, **2**). No upstanding remains of this feature are either depicted by lidar or were noticed during the study area walkover (although it may be the place-name evidence referred to the Scheduled Monument or the barrows seen on lidar). These features together might have formed a barrow cemetery, indicating activity during the Bronze Age which might have extended within the south-east part of Solar Area West.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/pdf/neolithic/REGIONAL%20SEMINAR%20SW%20WALES%20NEOLITHIC%20AND%20EARLY%20BRONZE%20AGE.pdf>



Site

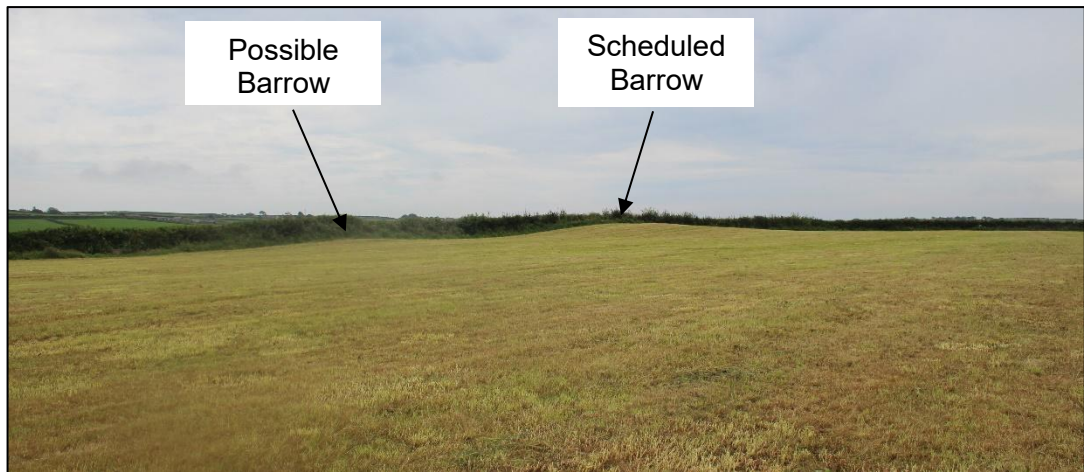
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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Lidar 2020 - 2023 data of the Site; 2m resolution DTM multi hillshade

DRAWN BY	FC	PROJECT NO.	CR1831	<b>FIGURE NO.</b> <b>3</b>
CHECKED BY	JS	DATE	18/08/2025	
APPROVED BY	JS	SCALE	@ A4	



**Photo 5.** South facing view of possible group of barrows to the south-east of Solar Area West; see Fig.8 for photo location.

- 3.22. No anomalies indicative of funerary activity (such as ring ditches) were detected in the geophysical survey undertaken within the Site (Terra Dat 2025). In the study area, further activity dating to this period is recorded through the presence of a standing stone, named 'Iscoed', c. 720m north-west of Solar Area West, which is a Scheduled Monument (Fig. 2, **8**; Fig. 8, **D2**). The former location of another standing stone is recorded through place-name close to the centre of Solar Area West (Fig. 2, **3**).
- 3.23. Standing stones are prehistoric ritual or ceremonial monuments with dates ranging from the Late Neolithic to the end of the Bronze Age for the few excavated examples. They comprise single or paired upright orthostatic slabs, ranging from under 1m to over 6m high where still erect and can be related to various features, such as round barrows. Where excavated, associated subsurface features have included stone cists, stone settings, and various pits and hollows filled in with earth containing human bone, cremation deposits, charcoal, flints, pots and pot sherds. Several standing stones also bear cup and ring marks. Standing stones may have functioned as markers for routeways, territories, graves, or meeting points, but their accompanying features show they also bore a ritual function and that they form one of several ritual monument classes of their period that often contain a deposit of cremation and domestic debris as an integral component.
- 3.24. Other extant barrows and the sites of former barrows are widely recorded within the study area, together with the former locations of other standing stones (Fig. 2). This highlights the degree of ritual and funerary activity within the study area between the Late Neolithic period and the Bronze Age, although the identification of many of those features is based on place-name evidence, with no physical archaeological evidence

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to prove their actual presence. No similar features are depicted within the Site by lidar imagery but the close vicinity of a possible group of barrows to Solar Area West might suggest that sporadic events associated with these features, and / or a settlement potentially located nearby, might have extended within this area of the Site. In this respect, however, no anomalies indicative of funerary activity, such as ring ditches, were detected in the geophysical survey undertaken within the Site. The only linear anomalies identified during this survey are considered unlikely to predate the medieval period (Terra Dat 2025).

### ***Iron Age and Roman period (c. 700 BC – AD 410)***

- 3.25. The end of the Bronze Age and the beginning of the subsequent Iron Age (c. 700 BC – AD 43) are associated with relatively rapid changes towards more unstable weather conditions in Britain and Europe, with colder winters and wetter summers (Bevan *et al.* 2017). These climatic changes are thought to have affected the viability of agriculture and land-use, particularly in upland or poorly drained areas. In turn, this may have led, indirectly, to changes in settlement patterns and activity foci. As the climate conditions progressively stabilised, the settlement trend during the Iron Age is characterised by the introduction of substantial enclosed structures, with large, nucleated settlements. Mixed-use sites becoming more frequent across the landscape, along with a greater number of smaller farmsteads, reflecting the wider cultivation of the landscape achieved through larger populations and more effective technology.
- 3.26. Evidence of greater territorial division within the landscape is reflected by the appearance of one of the main features that characterise the Iron Age in the southern part of the UK, hillforts and hilltop enclosures heavily defended by one or more lines of rampart (Murphy *et al.* 2007). The first hillforts were probably built in the Late Bronze Age, but the main building phase did not begin until later, between 800 and 700 BC. In later periods many of these features were re-used as medieval castle sites.
- 3.27. In South-West Wales there is great number of Iron Age settlements in the form of Iron Age hillforts and / or defended enclosures, with over 600 such sites listed on the regional Sites and Monuments Record, dominating the knowledge of the region of this period. No unenclosed settlement sites are however known within this region<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/pdf/bronzeandiron/REGIONAL%20SEMINAR%20SW%20WALES%20LATER%20BRONZE%20AGE%20AND%20IRON%20AGE.pdf>

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The closest hillfort to the Site is recorded at Llansteffan Castle<sup>8</sup>, c. 3km west of Solar Area West; a location now including the Scheduled remains of a medieval castle (Fig. 8, **D5**). The presence of a defensive Iron Age enclosure is recorded at Allt Cunedda, c. 2km south-east of Solar Area West (CA 2025b; not reproduced), whilst Scheduled remains of another hillfort are recorded at Merlins Hill, to the east of Carmarthen, c. 11km north-east of the Site (CM231, not reproduced).

- 3.28. The only other asset of prehistoric date within the study area is a putative Iron Age hillfort approximately 580m to the north of Solar Area West (Fig. 2, **9**). However, the Heneb HER provides only an approximate location and records the earthwork enclosure as destroyed. There are no other Iron Age remains within the surrounding area, and the potential for as yet unrecorded similar remains within the Site Development Areas is considered to be very low.
- 3.29. The Roman invasion of Britain in AD 43 was followed by the rapid implementation of centralised administration, based on towns and cities. The transition to the Roman period resulted in little obvious change in rural settlement construction or patterns in Wales and many late prehistoric settlements seem to continue in use throughout and beyond the Roman Conquest.
- 3.30. The invasion of South-West Wales can be determined with confidence due to the fact that all the established forts date to the Flavian period (AD 69 – AD 96)<sup>9</sup>. The closest Roman fort to the Site is recorded at Carmarthen, c. 9km north of Solar Area East, which is Scheduled (CM325; not reproduced). This settlement included also a town (named *Moridunum*, CM325; not reproduced), a defence system (CM243; not reproduced) and an amphitheatre (CM206; not reproduced). The Roman domination of the country was supported by a network of well-engineered roads which enhanced trade and communication. The closest Roman road to the Site is the Margary 60d (not reproduced; Margary 1967) which is recorded c. 5.7km north-east of Solar Area East (not reproduced) and linked Carmarthen with Pontarddulais, c. 19km south-east of Solar Area East (not reproduced).
- 3.31. A Roman Road is also recorded at Nantllan, north of Llandyfaelog, close to the Site of a proposed air insulated substation (HER Ref: 121875, not reproduced). This is

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<sup>8</sup> <https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk/records/WA2205.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/pdf/roman/REGIONAL%20SEMINAR%20SW%20WALES%20ROMAN.pdf>

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described as an agger flanked by quarry pits (Driver *et al.* 2020). Two watching briefs undertaken within the area by CA in 2024, however, did not identify any features or deposit of archaeological origin (CA 2024a and CA 2024b, not reproduced).

- 3.32. No archaeological evidence dating to the Iron Age or the Roman Period are recorded either within the Site or the study area. During these periods it is likely that the Site was included within the wider periphery of known activity occurred within the landscape.

#### *Early medieval and medieval periods (AD 410 – 1539)*

- 3.33. In the centuries following the end of Roman rule, Britain fragmented into a number of small kingdoms, and between the retreat of the Roman legions and the arrival of the Normans, very little historical information survives. Archaeologically, the breakdown of economic systems after the end of formal Roman administration in AD 410 makes it difficult to recognise very late Roman or early post-Roman deposits. Sporadic artefacts, generally recovered unstratified and mostly consisting of metal objects (i.e. brooches) and pottery, document a measure of cultural continuity spreading further into the 5th century AD.
- 3.34. For South-West Wales, there is database evidence of the period between the Roman control and the Welsh response to the Anglo-Norman conquest which represents apparent major changes in the area. Archaeologically, there is no convincing evidence for the continued use of urban or military sites. Three defended sites have significant evidence of occupation, Carew, Coygan and Brawdy located respectively c. 34km and c. 8km west, and c. 56km north-west of Solar Area West (not reproduced)<sup>10</sup>. Norman invasions bringing the development of castles and larger urban settlement.
- 3.35. No archaeological evidence dating to the early medieval and the medieval centuries is recorded for the Site or the study area. Within the wider surroundings, Carmarthen was the site of a Norman castle by the end of the 11th century, and Kidwelly castle was established at the beginning of the 12th century (Bethell 2015), c. 3.5km south-east of Solar Area West (Fig. 8, Group **D6**). Another Castle, whose remains are now Scheduled, was established at Lansteffan during the 12th century c. 3km west of Solar Area West (Fig. 8, **D5**).

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/pdf/earlymed/REGIONAL%20SEMINAR%20PAPER%20%20EARLY%20MEDIEVAL%20SW%20WALES.pdf>

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3.36. Furthermore, a series of churches, indicative of medieval settlements, are recorded to have been established during the medieval centuries. These include:

- the church of St Maelog c. 1.3km north-east of Solar Area East, first mentioned in 1139, and Grade II Listed (Fig. 8, Group **D7**),
- the church of all Saints in Llansaint, c. 2km south of Solar Area West, first mentioned in 1115 and Grade II Listed (Fig. 8, Group **D4**),
- the church of St Ishmael, c. 2.8km south-west of Solar Area West, first mentioned in 1115 and Grade II Listed (Fig. 8, Group **D16**),
- the Grade I Listed church of St Mary c. 3.7km south-east of the Solar Area West, first established in 1115 (Fig. 8, Group **D6**),
- the Grade II\* Listed church of St Ystyffan, c. 3.3km west of Solar Area West, which is thought to have been established in c. AD 650 and then rebuilt soon after 1112. This was located close to the Llansteffan Castle, which was established as a double ring and motte earthworks during the 12th century (Fig. 8, Group **D5**).

3.37. During the medieval centuries therefore the Site and its close surroundings did not include a focus of settlement but would have been part of the agricultural landscape associated with the foci of settlement listed above, all scattered across the wider landscape. This is also suggested by the place-name of fields north of the Site, which refers to bishop ownership. Further evidence of ecclesiastic ownership is also suggested by field-names on the St Ishmael Tithes plan (1840) just to the north of Solar Area West (Fig. 4). The associated apportionments (respectively 'May-ty-abbey' and 'Park-ty-abbey') indicate that such parcels belong to an unnamed abbey (Heneb HER 11217; Bethell 2015).

3.38. A series of linear earthworks depicted in lidar visualisations (Fig. 3) within the Site could comprise remnants of ridge and furrow. No aboveground remains of such features, however, were clearly discernible during the Site walkover, likely due to the ploughing activity occurred during more recent times. Ridge and furrow are usually considered typical of agricultural practices occurred during the medieval and the later post-medieval centuries. In this respect other features present within the Site correspond to a series of anomalies identified during the geophysical survey undertaken within the Site. Such features, one of which possibly accompanied by a trackway, predate the extant field-system and could date to the medieval period or

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early post medieval period, given a probable relationship of one linear with the Parish boundary (Terra Dat 2025, Refs **a**, **c**, **d**, **e** and **I**).

### *Post-medieval and modern (1540 – present)*

- 3.39. The sparse and scattered character of the settlement pattern highlighted for the medieval centuries seems to extend into the following post-medieval period. No archaeological remains are recorded for the Site or the study area, and this might reflect the lack of intrusive investigations undertaken to date. During the post-medieval period the farmed land would have expanded, with an increment in the number of the settlement foci across the study area. A series of farms and residential dwellings located within the study area are firstly shown by the ‘St Ishmael Parish Tithe Plan’ dating to 1840 and by the ‘Llandyfaelog Parish Tithe Plan’ dating to 1842, and could be of 19th century or earlier date (Fig. 2). Three of such farms, and Bryncoch Bach / Bryncoch Cottage, Maes Mawr and Pen Y Back Issa / Pen Y Back Fach are located respectively 80m north and adjacent the central boundary of Solar Area West, and adjacent the north-east boundary of Solar Area East (Fig. 2, **5**, **6** and **7**). Only Maes Mawr and Bryncoch Bach / Bryncoch Cottage were noticed during the Site walkover, whilst Pen Y Back Issa / Pen Y Back Fach is recorded as near destroyed by Heneb HER, although possible associated buildings are still depicted by more recent OS mapping (Annex 3).
- 3.40. The increase in settlement and establishment of enclosed farm landscape resulted in creation of the field systems, as well as improved communication routes, including two toll roads running 780m south-west and 890m east of Solar Area West and East respectively (Fig. 3).
- 3.41. The enclosed landscape, including scattered farmsteads, is depicted on historic maps. The 18480 ‘St Ishmael Parish Tithe Plan’ and the 1842 ‘Llandyfaelog Parish Tithe Plan’ depict the Site including the whole or parts of 44 enclosed parcels of land (Fig. 4). Solar Area West encompasses 25 parcels of land within the Parish of St Ishmael, whilst Solar Area East encompasses 19 fields in the Parish of Llandyfaelog. The details of the apportionments associated with the two tithe plans listed in Table 3.1 below.
- 3.42. In general, the majority of the fieldnames documented by the apportionments of the two tithe plans includes the element ‘Park’ (Table 3.1). In most areas of Wales this suggests that the field was formed by enclosing part of a pre-existing park, intended

as a possibly enclosed open land, often containing deer. However, the ubiquity of this element in the apportionments might suggest that it is simply associated with a restricted phase of enclosure (Terra Dat 2025) and that during the post-medieval centuries, prior to enclosure, the majority of the development areas was part of an open land, characterised by the presence of deer.

Site section	Plot Number	Landowner	Occupier	Description / Name	Use
Solar Area West	622	William Williams	William Andrews	Park Ffynnon Argol (park of the house along the Argol?)	-
	623			Park Issa (lower park)	-
	636				-
	637			Park Ffynnon Argol (park of the house along the Argol?)	-
	638			Park Rhedin	-
	639			Hesk Vawr	-
	640			Hesk Canol (middle xxxxx)	-
	641			Hesk Ucha (upper xxx)	-
	644			Park Newydd	-
	648			Rutland	-
	711a	Henry Lawrence	David Lewis	Park Cornel (park associated with the River Cornel?)	-
	714	William Williams	William Andrews	Llain Fach (curving enclosure)	-
	720	Henry Lawrence	David Lewis	Park Llaine (long / strip park)	-
	722			Bromffel (bromelia)	-
	723			Liberties by the Park Mynydd Bach	-
	724			Park Neuadd (park of the mansion)	-
	725			Park Y Ucha (the upper park)	-
	726			Park Yr Uchin	-
	727			Waun Fawr (big meadow)	-
	728			Waun Aur (gold meadow)	-
	729			Park Waun Fawr (big meadow park)	-
	730			Park Maur Canol (middle park xxx)	-
	731			Park Y Hesk	-
	735			Baity Glas	-
	737			Park Mawr Ucha (Upper Mawr Park)	-
	738			Park Mawr (Middle Mawr Park)	-

Site section	Plot Number	Landowner	Occupier	Description / Name	Use
	739			Park Mawr Isse (Lower Mawr Park)	-
Solar Area East	1058	Earl of Cawdor	Richard Stephins	Park Cefn Coed (park behind trees)	-
	1059			Llan (church / enclosure)	-
	1060			Park Dan Gafar (park under cover)	-
	1061			Park Shinkin Ucha (Upper Park)	-
	1062			Park Shinkin Issa	-
	1063			Mary Eaton	Samuel Anthony
	1064	Park Scybor	-		
	1065	Park with Cefn Ty (park behind the house)	-		
	1078	Llan Fach (curving enclosure / little enclosure)	-		
	1079	Llain Delyn	-		
	1150	Earl of Cawdor	Richard Stephins	Waun Fach (small meadow)	-
	1151			Park Yn Collin (Collin's park)	-
	1152			Waun Eynon	-
	1153			Park Cefn Wall (park behind the wall)	-
	1154	Reverend John Williams	Thomas Jenkins	Seang	-
	1155	Earl of Cawdor	Richard Stephins	Llaine (strip)	-
	1335	-	-	-	-
	1337	-	-	-	-
	1337	-	-	-	-
	N/A	-	-	-	-

**Table 3.1** Apportionments of the St Ishmael Parish Tithe Plan (1840) and of the 'Llandyfaelog Parish Tithe Plan' (1842).

3.43. During the medieval period, wide parts of this open land likely lied under the ecclesiastical ownership, including a some fields of to the north of the Site as defined by the St Ishmael Parish Tithe Plan (1840). As mentioned above, this is suggested by the place-name of several fields included within the Site and its closer surroundings, referring to bishop ownership, whilst an ecclesiastic ownership is also suggested by other nearby field-names. The associated apportionments (respectively May-ty-abbey' and 'Park-ty-abbey') indicate that such parcels belong to an unnamed abbey (Heneb HER 11217; Bethell 2015).



3.44. Other elements included within the fieldnames here discussed mostly refer to their shape and location, either in respect of their topography or of any farms in their vicinity. The apportionments of four parcels enclosed within the south part of Solar Area East was not specified.

3.45. Evidence of extraction is recorded in the area. The Heneb HER reports that a field parcel known as 'Cae Quarry', c. 400m north of Solar Area West refers to the presence of an extraction point within this location (Fig. 2, 4). Another quarry is recorded c. 600m south-east of Solar Area West (Fig. 2) and indicates a post-medieval date for these features. Correspondent earthworks are depicted by lidar which also portrays similar earthworks within both Solar Areas (Fig. 3). One of such features was also visible as a ground depression, during the Site walkover (Photo 7). It is therefore likely that events of extraction would have occurred within the Site during the late post-medieval and the beginning of the modern period.



**Photo 6.** Possible former quarry pit adjacent the centre of Solar Area West; see Fig. 8 for photo location.

3.46. The following Ordnance Survey (OS) maps do not show any substantial change to the Site (Annex 3), as also confirmed by the aerial photographs available for the Site. These sources show that the fields included within the Site broadly maintained their layout until the 1960s.

3.47. OS map dating to 1963-64 (Fig. 5) shows the Site as encompassing 27 partial or complete parcels in Solar Area West and 16 in Solar Area East (Fig. 5). This source depicts several fields merged to form wider parcels and their layout organised in a more regular pattern (Annex 3). This indicates a process of field amalgamation as a result of the adoption of more modern agricultural practices, which also determined

the extensions, the modifications or the demolition / abandonment of the previous historical farmsteads, now associated with modern farming buildings.

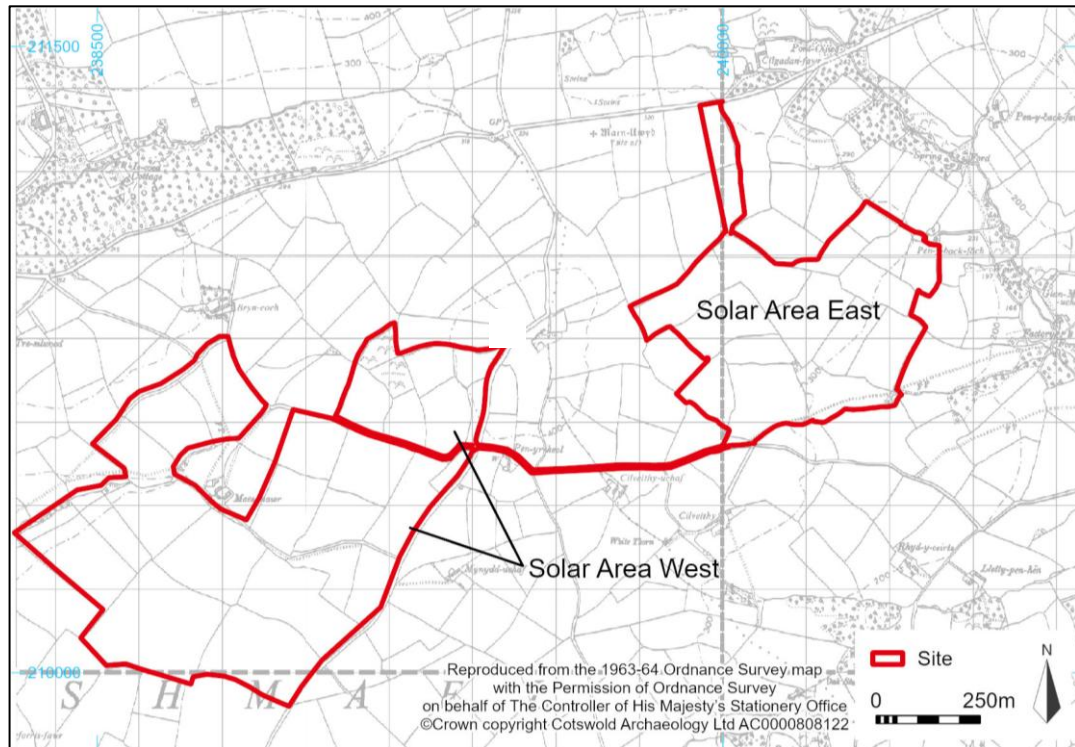


Fig. 5. Extract of the 1963-64 OS map

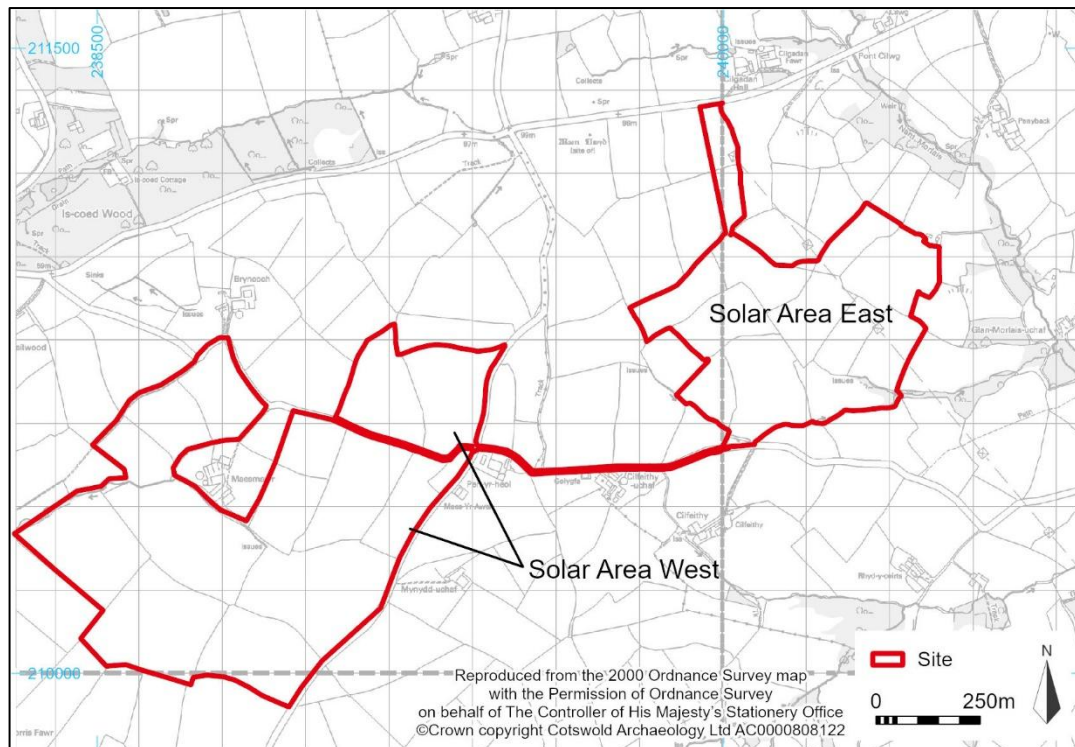


Fig. 6. Extract of the 2000 OS Map

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3.48. The field amalgamation process became more evident during the following decades, as shown by the 2000 OS map which depicts 15 and 11 parcels within Solar Area West and Solar Area East, respectively. Remnants of former boundaries are depicted by lidar imagery (Fig. 6) and were also noticed during the Site walkover. Linear anomalies of such origin are also depicted by the geophysical survey undertaken within the Site (Terra Dat 2025) and correspond to the removal of several field boundaries depicted by the tithe maps discussed above (Fig. 4).

3.49. The introduction of new agricultural techniques, the progressive field amalgamation of the parcels and the establishment of new buildings associated with the previous historic farmsteads, have changed the original layout of the area, shaping the present landscape.

#### *Historic landscape character*

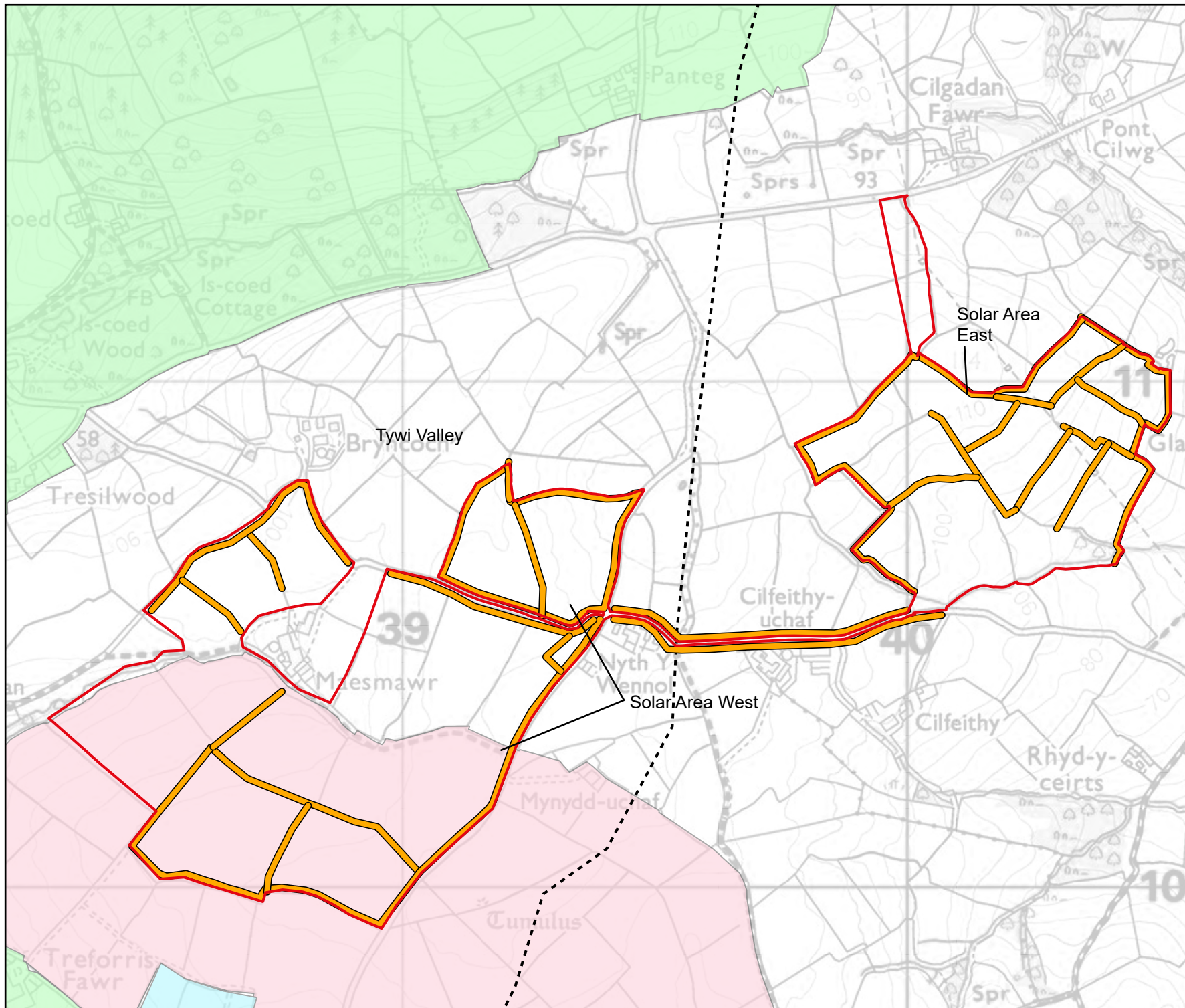
3.50. The south-eastern part of Solar Area West is included within the Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) 175: Allt Hilltop (Fig. 7). This is characterised by a pattern of large, and generally regular field enclosures, mostly defined by hedge banks. The field system is thought to have been laid out during the 16th and 17th centuries, and land-use is almost entirely improved pasture, with no woodland. Farmsteads are relatively scattered and mostly appear to be of a 18th or 19th century date.

3.51. Other HCLAs presents within the Site's close surroundings are the Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA 165 and the Llansteffan HLCA 141 (Fig. 7). These, together with the Allt Hilltop HLCA and with the Yywi Valley RHL are discussed in more detail in CA 2025b.

3.52. The current field system represents largely amalgamation of the regular historic field enclosures, defined by hedgerows, as depicted on the 1840s Tithe Plans. The walkover survey and the analysis of available historical cartographic sources (Figs. 4, 5 and 6 and Annex 3) identified that parts of the Site's external boundaries and several of the extant internal field-subdivisions, together with the hedgerows along the two unamend roads respectively flanking the eastern boundary of Solar Area West and linking Solar Area West and Solar Area East, correspond to boundaries depicted on the Tithe Plans (Fig. 7). Furthermore, the hedgerow along the eastern boundary of Solar Area West coincides with the boundary between St Ishmael and Llandfeilog parishes. On this basis, vegetation and hedgerows along such

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boundaries might comprise elements of 'important' hedgerows under the 1997 Hedgerows Regulations (Annex 1).



- Site
- Allt Hiltop
- Croesyceilog-Cwmffrwd
- Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields
- Tywi Valley
- 'Important' Hedgerow



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Includes Heneb HER data

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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Registered Landscape, HCA and 'Important' Hedgerows of the Site

DRAWN BY	FC	PROJECT NO.	CR1831	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	JS	DATE	15/08/2025	7
APPROVED BY	JS	SCALE @ A4	1:10,000	

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## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & POTENTIAL EFFECTS

### *Previous impacts*

- 4.1. A review of the available cartographic, documentary and photographic evidence indicates that the Site has remained undeveloped throughout its documented history. The majority of the pre-existing impacts to potential archaeology are likely to have occurred from the late post-medieval period through to the 19th and the 20th century. As such, the majority of pre-existing impacts to any potential buried archaeological remains would be confined to upper soil horizons, deriving from earlier agricultural practices, including plough activity, fencing, and land drainage. Ploughing may have had a considerable impact upon any near-surface archaeological features, although any features present in deeper deposits may be better preserved.
- 4.2. Localised areas of greater impact are anticipated to have occurred within the footprint of the extant and former field boundaries, particularly if associated with the establishment of drainage or boundary ditches. Further modern features associated with the pasture and agricultural use of the area consists of various water tanks within various fields across the Site (not reproduced). The establishment of such features might have caused a very low, if any, level of impact upon buried archaeological remains present within their footprint.
- 4.3. Deeper impacts might have been associated with sporadic events of mineral extraction, occurred within the Site, as depicted by lidar imagery above (Fig. 6). Such features might have removed any archaeological remains present within their footprints.

### *The significance of known and potential archaeological remains within the Site*

- 4.4. This assessment has identified that no designated archaeological remains are located within the Site, and therefore no designated archaeological remains will be adversely physically affected by development within the Site.
- 4.5. The archaeological data recorded within the study area and discussed above outlines a general lack of evidence predating the medieval period. Such paucity of evidence could simply be influenced by the absence of intrusive archaeological investigation undertaken within the study area to date, rather than representing an actual absence of evidence. It should be noted, however, that no significant archaeological remains were identified as a result of the geophysical survey recently undertaken within the Site (Terra Dat 2025).

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4.6. Known and potential archaeological remains identified within the Site comprise:

- Prehistoric and Roman periods remains;
- Medieval, post-medieval and later periods remains.

4.7. The significance of these assets is discussed further below.

#### **Prehistoric and Roman period remains**

4.8. This assessment has identified an overall very low potential for any archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric and the Roman periods. This potential might increase to a low degree for archaeological remains representing activity associated with a possible group of round barrows located c. 120m south-east of Solar Area West (Fig. 2, 1 and Photo 5). The presence of other barrows and of standing stones documented by the Heneb HER would suggest that the Site was part of the wider landscape possibly surrounding a small Bronze Age settlement located in the area. It is here considered highly unlikely, however, that such settlement would be located anywhere within the Site or its close surrounding, as suggested by the lack of any associated anomalies identified by the geophysical survey (Terra Dat 2025). As such, if present, any archaeological remains surviving within the Solar Area West would likely consist of unstratified lithic tools associated with the exploitation of the resources of the area (i.e. hunting, wood clearance, etc.).

4.9. The significance of any prehistoric or Roman artefacts, remains or features would be associated with their potential evidential (archaeological) value, on the basis of their ability to contribute to our understanding of the use of this part of landscape by human communities during the prehistoric and Roman periods. These objectives and research questions are set out in the related chapters of the Research Agenda of the South West Wales Research Framework<sup>11</sup>.

#### **Medieval, post-medieval and later period remains**

4.10. This assessment has identified a moderate potential to encounter archaeological remains dating to the medieval, post-medieval and later periods within the Site. During the medieval period the development areas were included within the wider agricultural landscape associated with a series of settlement foci scattered across the study area. It is therefore likely that remains of features associated with agricultural activity might be present within the Site. Such remains would include pits and ditches

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/areasouthwest.html>

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associated with field systems and ridge and furrow. Traces of such features are also depicted by lidar imagery within the Site but no correspondent aboveground remains were noticed during the Site walkover. However, the Tithe Plans document the element 'Park' as diffused through the majority of the field-names comprised within the Site. It is therefore likely that during the medieval period the vast majority of the Site formed part of open land and, consequently, the agricultural remains present within the Site are likely to be of post-medieval period.

- 4.11. The significance of any medieval or post-medieval remains, features or artefacts would be associated with their potential evidential (archaeological) value. This would be considered on the basis of their ability to contribute to the further understanding of the medieval and post-medieval use of the agricultural hinterland beyond the nucleated settlements that surrounded the Site. However, if present, these features would retain at most limited, if any, heritage significance and would not measurably contribute to existing knowledge of the periods already set out in the related chapters of the Research Agenda of the South West Wales Research Framework<sup>11</sup>.
- 4.12. The analysis of the lidar imagery (Fig. 3) and of the Historic cartographic sources (Figs. 4, 5, 6 and Annex 3) have highlighted the potential to encounter ditches associated with former field boundaries and pits associated with quarrying activity. Such features would be of negligible or nil evidential value.

#### **Important hedgerows**

- 4.13. As mentioned above, several Site boundaries might include parts of 'important hedgerows', meeting the criteria listed under the 1997 Hedgerows Regulations (Annex 1). In themselves, hedgerows can be considered of limited evidential and historical value, and their alteration or removal would not represent a constraint to the development in heritage terms.

#### **Potential development effects**

- 4.14. No historic assets of the highest significance are anticipated to be present within the Site, though further investigation may be required prior to determination in order to fully understand the archaeological potential and significance within the Site. Any truncation (physical development effects) upon any less significant archaeological remains within the Site would primarily result from groundworks associated with construction. Such groundworks might include:

- Installation of solar panel modules;
- Installation of perimeter fencing;
- Excavation of service trenches and foundation pads for any buildings housing equipment (inverters, welfare, substation, customer switch room, storage containers etc.);
- Excavation of connective cable trenches;
- The planting of vegetation/plantations;
- Stripping associated with the construction of access tracks and temporary works compounds; and
- Excavation of drainage trenches/swales;

4.15. The abovementioned groundworks and excavations in relation to the Proposed Development could result in the disturbance to, or loss of, any buried archaeological features that may be present within their footprint, in turn resulting in the total or partial loss of significance of these assets. Any adverse effects on buried archaeological resource would be permanent and irreversible in nature. However, any archaeological features present within the Site are unlikely to comprise remains of significance equivalent to Scheduled Monuments. This assessment has concluded that there is a very low potential to encounter buried archaeological evidence dating to the prehistoric and the Roman periods, and a low to moderate potential to encounter remains dating to the medieval and later periods. In general, however, the absence of intrusive archaeological investigations to date within the study area precludes a more definitive conclusion at present.

4.16. The heritage impacts of the truncation and / or removal of the potential archaeological resource eventually present within the Site could be mitigated by a programme of appropriate and proportionate archaeological works to be agreed with Heneb – Dyfed Region, and Carmarthenshire County Council. These works will be targeted following the results of the geophysical survey recently undertaken within the Site (Terra Dat 2025).

4.17. The groundworks associated with the establishment of the solar panels and the excavation of the connection cable trenches would be sufficient to have an impact upon the buried archaeological remains potentially present in these areas. The construction methodology of the scheme will entail the installation of minimally intrusive piles in order to mount the panel frames for the solar arrays, which cover the majority of the Site.

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- 4.18. Overall, the footprint of the entire development – piling, topsoil stripping and excavations – is anticipated to be very limited in area (typically a fraction of the area of any given solar park), resulting in only minor adverse effects upon most classes of archaeological features. Specifically, regarding the piling, the quantity of displaced archaeological remains in the case of larger features such as infilled ditches or furrows would be insignificant compared to that left undisturbed. For discrete or less robust buried features such as pits, post holes or stake holes, the probability that piles would be aligned in such a way that any more than a small percentage of the features would be affected is very low, and complete avoidance is the most likely outcome.
- 4.19. This ‘generally limited’ nature of below ground impacts from solar development has been acknowledged in a range of documents. This includes the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure [EN-3] 2023 (paragraph 2.10.109)<sup>12</sup> or the emerging guidance: *Archaeology and Solar Farms: Good Practice Guide*<sup>13</sup>, which is being produced through collaboration from institutions such as Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Cadw, Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (which includes LPA advisors) as well as the solar industry. Whilst policy context of EN-3 applies to nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIP), and not the DNS/Welsh planning process, and the guidance document is emerging and under consultation (and as such not yet adopted), they show an acknowledgement across the industry of the limited below ground impacts caused by piling to support the solar panels (regardless of project scale) and in the absence of relevant Welsh policy on impacts from solar panels installation provide a guide on the understanding of the extent of the likely impacts.
- 4.20. Impacts caused by the installation of the substation, transformers and other equipment are generally localised. The area of greatest impacts would be associated with the required cut and fill approach to construction of the substation. In addition, it is anticipated that the stripping/excavation for the compounds, tanks and equipment cabins will comprise the removal of the topsoil and subsoil layers to provide

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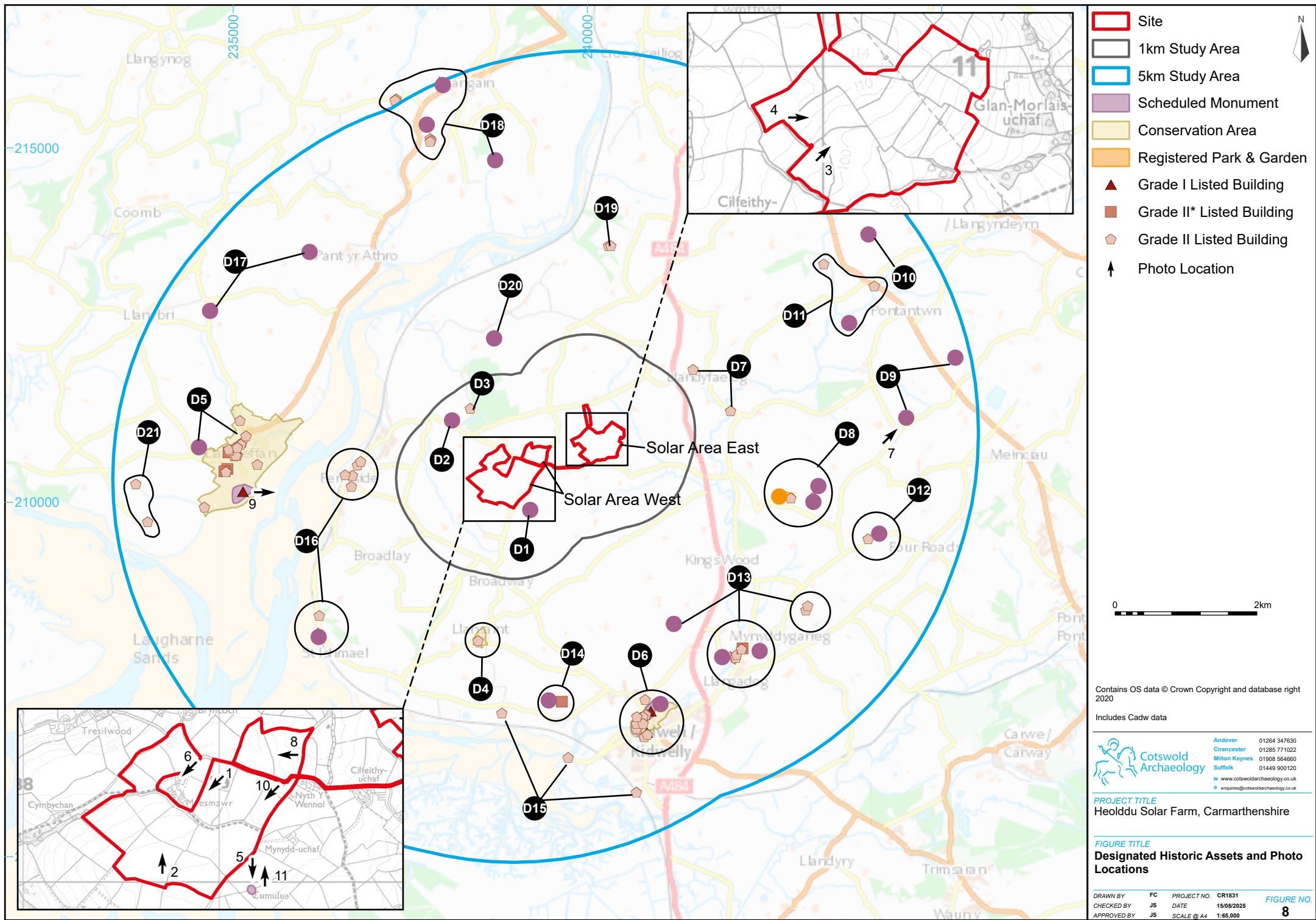
<sup>12</sup> Whilst this is policy basis for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure projects consented through the Planning Act 2008, its content can also be relied upon, and holds relevance, in other energy infrastructure projects.

<sup>13</sup> The guide, which is under consultation, is available <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2025-08/Good-Practice-Guide-Archaeology-and-Solar-Farms-Ver-1.11-CONSULTATION-DRAFT.pdf>. It seeks to support developers, archaeological advisors, planning case officers, archaeological consultants and contractors by promoting a shared understanding, sets out good practice and promotes consistent approaches to the process and timing of archaeological work on large-scale solar farms

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foundations. These works have the potential to result in the disturbance or loss of any buried archaeological remains which may be present within their footprint. Similarly, depending on the depth of the overburden, stripping for access tracks could also result in impacts to archaeological remains where present.

- 4.21. The cable trenches would be sufficient to encounter and affect buried archaeological remains (where present), although due to the narrow width of the trench, most of the likely archaeological features which may be encountered (such as ditches) would be preserved. This would result in only limited impacts overall on any features or deposits of archaeological interest.
- 4.22. As the groundworks associated with the construction of the new solar farm may result in impacts to any surviving archaeological remains within the Site, following the completion of the geophysical survey, a programme of trial trench evaluation is required to inform the determination. The evaluation is scheduled to commence in September 2025, with the scope of evaluation agreed with Heneb – Dyfed region, the archaeological advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council, within a WSI (Volume 3, Appendix 8.4: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation).
- 4.23. The Proposed Development within the Site would be largely contained within the existing field boundaries, and hedgerows will be fully retained (with exception of potential minor removal to accommodate access). This development would therefore result in no change to the layout of the historic field boundaries (including important hedgerows).



- Site
- 1km Study Area
- 5km Study Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Registered Park & Garden
- ▲ Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II\* Listed Building
- ◻ Grade II Listed Building
- ↑ Photo Location



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Includes Cadw data

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	Milton Keynes	01908 564660
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enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk		

**PROJECT TITLE**  
Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Designated Historic Assets and Photo Locations

DRAWN BY	FC	PROJECT NO.	CR1831	<b>FIGURE NO.</b> <b>8</b>
CHECKED BY	JS	DATE	15/08/2025	
APPROVED BY	JS	SCALE @ A4	1:65,000	

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## 5. THE SETTING OF HISTORIC ASSETS

5.1. This section assesses any potential effects of the Proposed Development on the significance of designated historic assets through the alteration of their setting. An initial appraisal carried out as part of Stage 1 of the assessment methodology utilised readily available information to determine whether any historic asset's setting may be affected by the Proposed Development. Designated historic assets within 5km of the Site were scoped into a settings assessment, an approach that is considered standard for this type of development and as agreed through consultation with Cadw (see Section 1). These assets have been mapped on Fig. 8 and are compiled in Annex 2.

5.2. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the approach outlined in the Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017a), and has assessed the impact of the Proposed Development on the nearby designated historic assets.

### *Stage 1: Identify the historic assets*

5.3. Stage 1 of the 'Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' is to identify which historic assets and their settings are affected. The guidance notes that Stage 1 should identify the historic assets which are likely to be affected as a result of any change to their experience, as a result of the development proposal (Cadw 2017a).

5.4. A total of 24 Scheduled Monuments, three Conservation Areas, one Registered Park and Garden, 71 Listed Buildings and two Registered Historic Landscapes (RHL) are located within the 5km study area.

5.5. All historic assets located within the 5km study area were assessed under Stage 1 conditions and results of the assessment are presented in Annex 2, with the exception of the two RHLs which are subject to a standalone ASIDOHL2 assessment (CA 2025b).

5.6. Assets scoped out and not progressed to Stages 2 and 3 have been identified using primarily ZTV analysis to assess lines of sight. In addition to the ZTV, a combination of GIS analysis and field examination, which has considered, amongst other factors, the surrounding topographic and environmental conditions, built form, vegetation cover, distance from the Site and lines of sight, within the context of the assets' heritage significance.

5.7. Following the Site and study area walkover the only designated historic asset that was considered potentially sensitive to non-physical impacts deriving from the implementation of the Proposed Development is the Scheduled 'Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf', located c. 120m south-east of Solar Area West (Fig. 8, **D1** and Fig. 2, 1).

5.8. All historic assets assessed as part of Stage 1, but which were not progressed to Stage 2, are included in the gazetteer in Annex 2 of this report, with additional consideration of why detailed assessment was scoped out presented briefly below.

### Scheduled Standing Stones

5.9. A series of scheduled standing stones have been identified within the 5km study area. None of the locations of such monuments was accessible but one these, 'Gwempa Standing Stone', located c. 4km east of Solar Area East (Fig. 8, **D9**; Photo 7), was visible from the adjacent road and distant views were possible between this asset and parts of Solar Area East. It is here therefore assumed that all the similar Scheduled Monuments lying within the ZTV across the 5km study area would share visibility with parts of the Site, although none of these is discernible from any parts of the Site. The Scheduled 'Is-Coed' standing stone lies within the 1km study area (Fig. 2, 8 and Fig. 8, **D2**). This however falls outside of the ZTV and is not visible from anywhere within the Site.



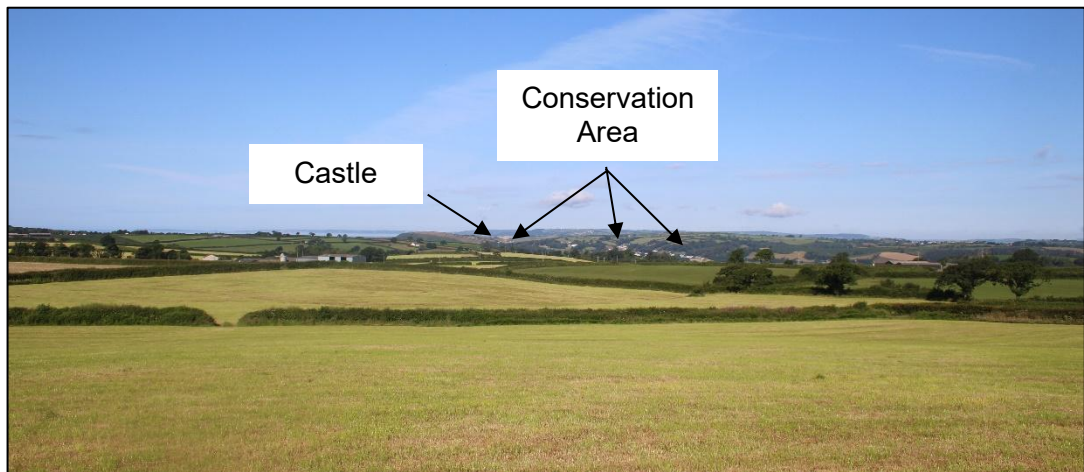
**Photo 7.** North-east facing view of the Scheduled 'Gwempa Standing Stone'; see Fig. 8 for photo location.

5.10. It is considered that such monuments can be only appreciated from their close surroundings, from where the distinctive elements of the monuments can be best experienced. The wider landscape surrounding these monuments, which also

includes the Site, no longer contributes to those values due to the modern character of the landscape changes. In this context of the modern landscape character, any previous relationships between those assets and the Site can no longer be appreciated. Any change within the Site from the Proposed Development, due to the distance and form of the proposal, would not affect the way the assets are experienced. On this basis all these monuments have been scoped out at Stage 1 of this assessment.

#### Llansteffan Conservation Area (Fig. 8, D 5).

- 5.11. Llansteffan Conservation Area lies between c. 2.6km and 3.6km west of Solar Area West, and includes one Scheduled Monument, one Grade I, four Grade II\* and 18 Grade II Listed Buildings. The Site and the study area walkover identified that shared vistas are perceivable between parts of Solar Area West and some of the designated historic assets included within the Conservation Area, in particular with the Scheduled and Grade I Listed standing remains of Llansteffan Castle (Photo 8).
- 5.12. The castle sits on top of a promontory overlooking the northern bank of the estuary of the River Tywi, within the location of an Iron Age hillfort. The rest of the buildings within the Conservation Area spread north-eastwards, along the bank of the river.



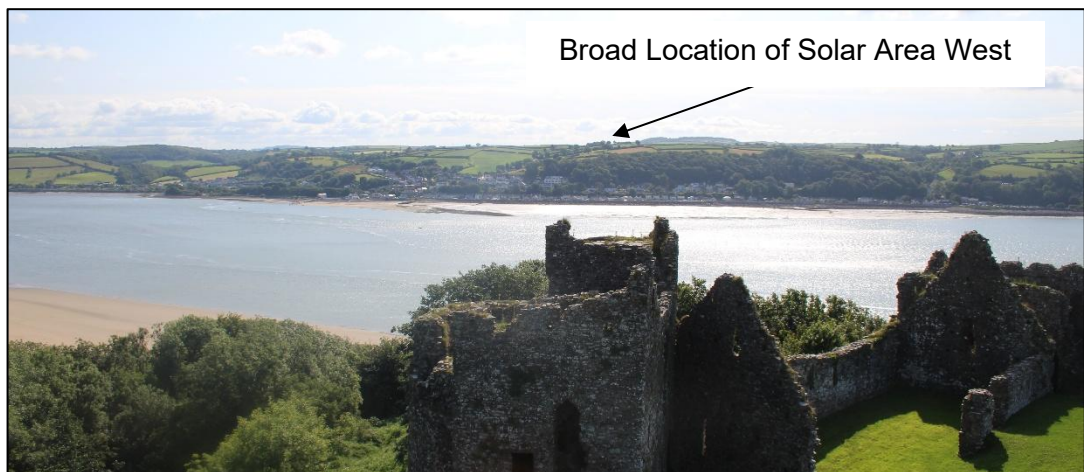
**Photo 8.** West facing view of Llansteffan Conservation Area and of the Scheduled and Grade I Listed Llansteffan Castle seen from Solar Area West; see Fig. 8 for photo location.

- 5.13. The key setting of the castle remains are defined within its own grounds, where the extent and the built form of the remains, together with the strategic and prominent location along the river, can be best appreciated, including commanding views across the Tywi to the east, and the Bristol Channel to the south. The historic settlement of Llansteffan, designated as the Conservation Area, also forms part of the asset's

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setting. The setting of the wider Conservation Area, and its associated Listed Buildings, is defined by the built form of the historic town, their mutual associations, including with the castle, as well as the location along the Tywi estuary. Historic importance and heritage values of those assets can be best appreciated from within the Conservation Area and are not discernible through the views undertaken from the Site.

- 5.14. The Site is simply a very small part of the wider landscape where the castle and the associated settlement were originally established and does not have any historical association with these assets. In this respect, one the main element of these assets setting is the Rivet Tywi and its estuary, the control of which was likely the main reason for their establishment. Any distant view with the Site does not inform, or contribute to, the understanding of those designated historic assets or their appreciation. The Proposed Development (which due to low level and distance would not feature prominently in any such views, allowing for the wider landscape to be appreciated) would not be discernible from either the castle (Photo 9) or from the conservation area, and would not affect the key setting which contributes to the heritage values of those assets in any way. On this basis this group of assets has been scoped out at Stage 1 of this assessment.



**Photo 9.** East facing view of the broad location of Solar Area West seen from Scheduled and Grade I Listed Llansteffan Castle; see Fig. 8 for photo location.

#### **Llansaint Conservation Area (Fig. 8, D4).**

- 5.15. Llansaint Conservation Area lies between c. 1.8km and c. 2km south of Solar Area West, on a prominent location within the surrounding landscape. The Conservation Area includes only one Grade II Listed Building, the church of All Saints. For its prominent location, the roof tops of the buildings included within the Conservation

Area, and the church tower, are visible, although very distant, from several parts of Solar Area West (Photo 10).



**Photo 10.** South facing view of Llasaint Conservation Area and of the Grade II Listed church of All Saints, seen from Solar Area West; see Fig. 8 for photo location.

- 5.16. The setting of the Grade II Listed church is defined by the churchyard and by its closer surroundings, where its built form, and its function of focal point within the surrounding settlement (and conservation area) can be best appreciated. Those aspects will not be affected by the Proposed Development in any way.
- 5.17. The Site is located within the wider, agricultural, landscape surrounding the church and the associated Conservation Area. No detailed and, therefore, meaningful views of the church and of the conservation area are perceivable from the Site, due to intervening vegetation and, above all, due to the distance between the two areas. It is therefore considered that the none of the sections of the Site form part of the setting of the church and / or of the conservation area. Views undertaken from the wider surrounding landscape towards the church are merely incidental and cannot be considered as designed or associative. As such, these views do not make any contribution to the built form of the church and its tower, nor to their function as place of worship. The built form introduced by the Proposed Development would not result in any non-physical impact upon this function and would not affect, or compete with, the prominence of the church and the tower as perceivable from their surroundings. On this basis this group of assets has been scoped out at Stage 1 of this assessment.

### ***Stages 2 – 3: Assessment of setting and potential effects of the development***

- 5.18. This section presents the results of Stage 2 of the settings assessment, which have been undertaken regarding those potentially susceptible historic assets identified in

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Stage 1. Stage 2 considers the contribution that setting makes to the significance of potentially susceptible historic assets. Stage 3 then considers how, if at all, and to what extent any anticipated changes to the setting of those assets, as a result of continued quarrying within the Site, might affect their significance.

**‘Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf’ (Fig. 8, D1)**

- 5.19. The monument comprises the remains of an earthen round barrow, which likely dates to the Bronze Age. As a Scheduled Monument, the asset is of national interest which derives from evidential (archaeological) value embodied by its physical remains, which have the potential to further inform the understanding of its construction, development and use, in addition to wider interpretations of Bronze Age society, funerary practices, and territorial / social organisation. The form and extent of the barrow also possess historical (illustrative) value, as visible demonstrations of Bronze Age activity within the landscape.

*Physical Surroundings & Appreciation – ‘What Matters and Why’*

- 5.20. The barrow now sits within two fields, the northernmost of which was accessed during the Site walkover. This field also partially includes the remains of another possible barrow to the north, and a similar feature might be included within the field adjacent to the south, which could not be accessed. These fields are separated by a hedgerow which truncates the remaining mound of the two visible barrows, including the Scheduled Monument, running broadly on a north-east to south-west alignment (Photo 5). The earthworks of such features are depicted also by lidar imagery (Fig. 3). The Heneb HER also refers to the presence of another barrow within the same field to the north (Fig. 2, 2), but no aboveground remains of such a feature are depicted by lidar (Fig. 3), nor were they noticeable during the Site walkover. It is therefore possible, that such record might refer to one of the barrows mentioned here.
- 5.21. The Cadw guidance clearly states that *‘The setting of a historic asset includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape’* (Cadw 2017a). The setting of the Scheduled barrow is therefore primarily defined by its close surroundings, from where its evidential (archaeological) and historic (illustrative) values can be best understood, experienced and appreciated, including relationships with the likely associated earthwork remains. Views undertaken from within this close surrounding, and including the Scheduled Monument and the associated similar feature (Photo 5), are in this regard very meaningful, and enhance the functional

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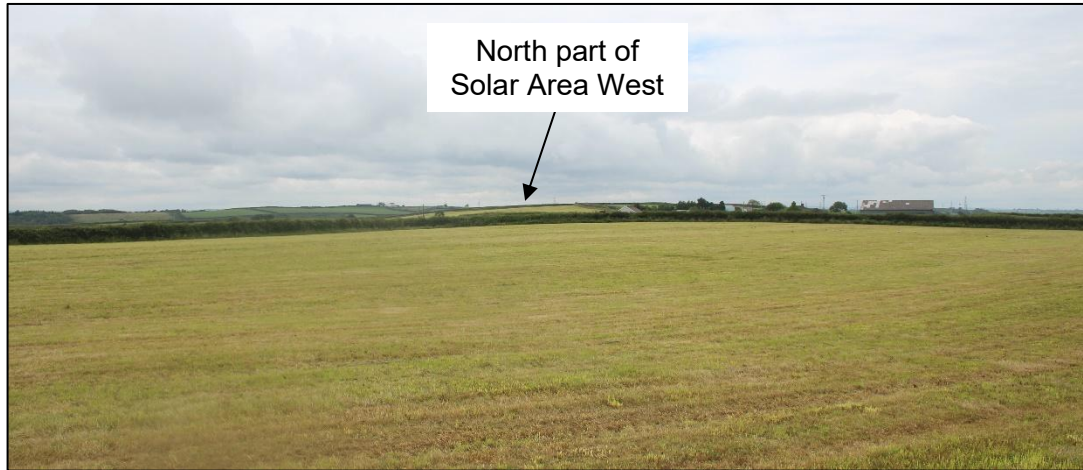
relationship between these assets, making a determinant contribution to the experience of the heritage significance of the Scheduled barrow.

5.22. The wider surrounding of the Scheduled barrow, which includes the Site, comprises agricultural land with a modern field layout (a result of amalgamation of a 19th century, or earlier, fieldscape, as depicted on the Tithe Plans; see Section 3), associated with a series of modern buildings, part of the farmsteads present within the area. This landscape also includes further similar monuments as well as a series of standing stones which are part of the ritual and funerary practices dating to the Neolithic and the Bronze Age period. Whilst historically this surrounding landscape and contemporary monuments would have been part of the Scheduled barrow's setting, the modern changes to this wider landscape, the enclosure of the previously open land, the modern field partitions and amalgamation, and the establishment of modern built forms, have changed its character and, therefore, have broken that formative connection between the Scheduled barrow and its wider surroundings. The adverse effects of field enclosure on this asset are highlighted especially by the presence of the hedgerow which now crosses the mounds of the Scheduled barrow and the second mound to the north (Photo 5), visually splitting the round form of the asset. This not only reduces the legibility of the round barrows within the landscape to an uninformed observer but also increases potential for direct harm (i.e. through vegetation root action or animal activity such as burrowing).

5.23. Partial views of the northern part of Solar Area West are perceivable from atop and from the close surroundings of the scheduled barrow (Photo 11). Nevertheless, prevalent hedgerows along the field boundaries also block views of the asset, and any intelligibility of its low earthwork mound, from the surrounding landscape. As a result, no elements of the barrow can be perceived from the Site, due to intervening extant vegetation and distance. Much more clear and open views are possible from the monument towards the hilltop at Allt Cunedda, located c. 2km south-east of Solar Area West (not reproduced). Here the ASIDHOL2 undertaken by CA as part of this planning application (CA 2025b) highlighted the presence of an Iron Age enclosure and of two round barrows (not reproduced).

5.24. On the basis of the Cadw guidelines quoted above, the landscape surroundings of the scheduled barrow and the likely associated features, including the Site, can no longer be considered part of their setting that contributes to their heritage values. As mentioned above, none of the distinctive elements of the Scheduled barrow (and of

the nearby features) can be perceived from the Site and, therefore, neither the designated asset or the surrounding associated features can be '*understood, experienced and appreciated*' (Cadw 2017a) from anywhere within the Site.



**Photo 11.** North facing view of Solar Area West from the Scheduled 'Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf'; see Fig. 8 for photo location.

5.25. In regard to the experience and the appreciation of the '*present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape*' (Cadw 2017a), a degree of past relationship can still be identified between the designated barrow, the associated surrounding features (which, if their funerary origins are confirmed, would have formed part of a small barrow cemetery), as well as the hilltop at Allt Cunedda, to the south-east. This hilltop coincides with the location of two further barrows and is clearly visible from the designated historic asset discussed here. As highlighted by the ASIDHOL2 report '*intervisibility with the Scheduled round barrow (and adjacent barrows) directly east of the Site, was probably an important element in their location*' (CA 2025b). However, the barrows at Allt Cunedda are not perceivable from the designated asset discussed here and *vice versa* (*ibid.*).

5.26. Beyond those associations, the designated barrow, and the associated potential burial mounds, do not have any surviving meaningful relationship with this surrounding landscape, which is instead the result of the changes that had occurred to the area since the end of the use of the barrow as a ritual and funerary monument. Views towards the Site are not meaningful to the appreciation, understanding and experience of the assets discussed here, because of the different aspect and changes to the character of the landscape. Furthermore, the enclosure of the landscape has had a direct physical effect on the barrows themselves, as a boundary

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hedgerow traverses the visible earthworks, making it clear that such landscape character does not contribute to the appreciation of those monuments.

- 5.27. As for the standing stones discussed above, the changes that occurred within the landscape since these barrows were established have affected the appreciation, experience and understanding of the mutual relationship between the funerary monuments extant within this landscape so that those aspects are no longer intelligible. The appreciation of those relationships on historic cartographic sources is also minimal, as these depict the locations of such monuments within an altered, enclosed agricultural land.

*Summary of development effects*

- 5.28. As described above, the key contributors to the heritage significance of the 'Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf' derive from a combination of evidential (archaeological) and historic (illustrative) values, embodied by the form and the extent of the upstanding and buried scheduled remains, which will not be altered by the Proposed Development. The immediate and key setting of the assets includes their close vicinity from where these remains, as well as associated remains of two further possible barrows, can be best understood, experienced and appreciated. None of the distinctive elements of the Scheduled barrow is visible from the Site, which does not make any contribution to the experience of this asset's heritage significance.
- 5.29. The Site is simply part of the modern agricultural and rural hinterland of the barrow and, in its current layout and character, no longer represents an 'authentic' or contemporaneous setting. Changes across this wider landscape, mostly associated with modern agricultural practices and buildings, have broken the historical connection between this designated asset and its wider surroundings. Moreover, the introduction of the hedgerow crossing the barrow has affected and partly truncated its physical form directly.
- 5.30. The formative landscape setting has been entirely eroded, so the relationship between the designated barrow and the other funerary monuments still standing within the wider surrounding landscape, including the potential barrows within its immediate surroundings, will not be affected by the Proposed Development.
- 5.31. The Proposed Development will maintain the extant hedgerows within and surrounding the present fields and therefore will not change the extant layout of the landscape, which is rural in character. In this respect, the proposed solar farm is not

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comparable to built form such as housing or commercial schemes and certainly bears no resemblance to industrial development, as is often cited by those objecting to such schemes. While areas industrial in character are a hive of activity, noise, smells and people interacting with mechanised equipment on a daily basis, solar farms are the total opposite (quiet, still and unpopulated). In the same sense, all of the characteristics commonly associated with urban (or representing built form) are completely absent from any perception and experience of solar farms. Furthermore, as the prevalence on these features in our landscape become more accepted and noted, a function of over 15 years of presence, they will and have become more commonplace, as one might acknowledge golf courses or polytunnels. While describing solar farms as wholly agricultural in character would be to stretch the point, they certainly possess agricultural characteristics including pasture, meadows, ecological enhancements and often incorporating grazing regimes.

- 5.32. Whilst elements of the solar farm would become visible in some views from the designated historic asset, due to the intervening vegetation and topography, this would be only a small part of the wider rural surroundings of the asset, which do not (in their current character) contribute to the heritage values of the Scheduled Monument. Additionally, the key views in which the designated barrow, in conjunction with the potential further non-designated barrows, can be appreciated (including from within the fields and the adjacent road), will not be changed. On this basis it is here considered that the Proposed Development would result in **no harm** to the significance of the Scheduled Monument at 'Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf'.

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## 6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. This assessment has included a review of a comprehensive range of available sources, in accordance with key industry guidance, to identify known and potential historic assets located within the Site and its environs which may be affected by the proposals. The significance of the identified known and potential historic assets has been determined, as far as possible, based on the available evidence.
- 6.2. The potential effects of the proposals on the significance of identified historic assets, including any potential physical effects upon buried archaeological remains, and potential non-physical effects resulting from the anticipated changes to the settings of historic assets, have been assessed. Any physical or non-physical effects of the development proposals upon the significance of the heritage resource will be a material consideration in the determination of the planning application for the proposal.

### *Physical effects*

- 6.3. The effects of solar farm development on buried archaeological remains are, overall limited, and need to consider different levels of impacts from different components of the Proposed Development. The very limited effect of the piling would result in no significant material harm to as yet unidentified buried archaeological remains within the wider Site area. Other construction activities such as the stripping of plough soil for access roads, the footings of substation or other small structures (inverter stations), the creation of temporary compounds and deeper cable trenches would have greater potential to disturb buried archaeological remains.
- 6.4. This assessment has identified an overall very low potential for archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods to be encountered within the Site during the groundworks required by the Proposed Development. Accordingly, the geophysical survey recently completed within the Site identified sparse anomalies of possible archaeological nature which are unlikely to predate the medieval centuries. Sporadic artefacts associated with Bronze Age funerary activity and related to the barrow located 120m east of Solar Area West might be encountered within this part of the Site. The potential might increase to a moderate degree for remains of agricultural activity dating to the late post-medieval and the beginning of the modern periods. If surviving within the Site, any such remains would

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likely consists of infilled pits, boundary ditches, former ponds and drainage ditches associated with such activity.

- 6.5. Groundworks associated with the construction of the new solar farm may result in impacts to any surviving archaeological remains within the Site. As such, following the completion of the geophysical survey, a programme of trial trench evaluation is required to inform the determination. The evaluation is scheduled to commence in September 2025, with the scope of evaluation agreed with Heneb – Dyfed region, the archaeological advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council, within a WSI (Volume 3, Appendix 8.4: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation).
- 6.6. The walkover survey and the analysis of available historical cartographic sources identified a number of hedgerows along historic field boundaries, including the parish boundary, which might comprise elements of ‘important’ hedgerows under the 1997 Hedgerows Regulations. It is understood that the extant hedgerows enclosing and present within the Site will be retained.

#### *Non-physical effects*

- 6.7. The setting of nearby heritage assets was also assessed, in line with industry standard guidance. Following a scoping exercise, detailed assessment was carried out for the Scheduled Monument at ‘Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf’, c. 120m east of the Site. The current experience of the Scheduled Monument will not be affected by the implementation of the Proposed Development. The form and the extent of the barrow, and the association with the nearby barrow, is best viewed, experienced and appreciated, from its close surroundings, and this will not be effected, or precluded, by the Proposed Development. None of the distinctive elements of this monument are visible from anywhere within the Site. The changes that will come about within the wider surroundings of the monument will have no influence on the current experience of its heritage significance, thus no harm would be occasioned.

#### *Policy concordance*

- 6.8. This assessment has established that the Proposed Development will comply with national and local planning policy requirements relating to the protection of the historic environment, including the Historic Environment (Wales) Act (2023), Section 6.1 of PPW (February 2024), the ‘Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic

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Environment' (2017) and the Policies 13 and EQ1 of the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (2014).

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## ANNEX 1: HERITAGE STATUTE POLICY & GUIDANCE

### *Heritage Statute: Historic Environment (Wales) Act (2023)*

The Historic Environment (Wales) Bill became an Act in 2023, with secondary legislation then provided ahead of it coming into full effect on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024. It consolidates and supersedes the following enactments for ease of access, though it ultimately makes no change to prior requirements for the management and protection of the Welsh historic environment.

- (a) the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953;
- (b) Parts 1 and 3 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979;
- (c) Parts 14 and 15 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- (d) the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;
- (e) Part 5 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- (f) the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

This legislation provides for the effective protection and management of the historic environment.

### **Scheduled Monuments**

Part 2, Chapter 3 of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act (2023) provides requirements for the control of works affecting Scheduled Monuments. Contrary to the requirements of the Part 3 of the Act which regards historic buildings, there is no provision for the 'setting' of Scheduled Monuments.

### **Listed Buildings**

Listed buildings are buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest'. Work affecting Listed Buildings are subject to the provisions laid out in Part 3, Chapter 2 of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act (2023). Under Section 88 of the Act, the demolition of, nor the alteration nor extension of a Listed Building in any way that would affect its character as a building of special architectural or historic interest, are not permitted unless authorised under Section 89. Section 89 defines the form of written consent required for these works to be permitted, i.e. the LPA or Welsh Ministers.

### **Note on the extent of a Listed Building**

Under Section 76 of the Act, a structure may be deemed part of a Listed Building if it is:

- (a) any structure or artificial object that is fixed to the building and ancillary to it;
- (b) any other structure or artificial object that—

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- (i) forms part of the land and has done so since before 1 July 1948, and
  - (ii) was within the curtilage of the building, and ancillary to it, on the date on which the building was first included in the list, or on 1 January 1969, whichever was later.

The inclusion of a structure deemed to be within the 'curtilage' of a building thus means that it is subject to the same statutory controls as the principal Listed Building. Inclusion within this duty is not, however, an automatic indicator of 'heritage significance' both as defined within PPW (2024) and TAN 24 (2017) (see Section 2 above). In such cases, the significance of the structure needs to be assessed both in its own right and in the contribution it makes to the significance and character of the principal Listed Building. The practical effect of the inclusion in the listing of ancillary structures is limited by the requirement that Listed Building Consent is only needed for works to the 'Listed Building' (to include the building in the list and all the ancillary items) where they affect the special character of the Listed building as a whole.

### ***Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12) February 2024*** ***Section 6.1: The Historic Environment***

The historic environment comprises all the surviving physical elements of previous human activity and illustrates how past generations have shaped the world around us. It is central to Wales's culture and its character, whilst contributing to our sense of place and identity. It enhances our quality of life, adds to regional and local distinctiveness and is an important economic and social asset.

The historic environment is made up of individual historic features which are collectively known as historic assets. Examples of what can constitute an historic asset include:

- Listed buildings;
- Conservation areas;
- Historic assets of special local interest;
- Historic parks and gardens;
- Townscapes;
- Historic Landscapes;
- World Heritage Sites; and
- Archaeological remains (including scheduled monuments).

The ways in which historic assets are identified can vary. The most important historic assets often have statutory protection or are included in formal registers which identify them as being of special historic interest. Other assets yet to be formally identified could include buried archaeological remains.

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## Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment and its Assets

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act (2023) provides the legislative framework for the protection and sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales. PPW provides the national planning policy framework for the consideration of the historic environment, and this is supplemented by guidance contained in Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment and Cadw associated best practice guidance on the historic environment.

The planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. The historic environment is a finite, non-renewable and shared resource, and a vital and integral part of the historical and cultural identity of Wales. It contributes to economic vitality and culture, civic pride, local distinctiveness, and the quality of Welsh life. The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw's published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

The Welsh Government's specific objectives for the historic environment seek to:

- protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Sites;
- conserve archaeological remains, both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy;
- safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved;
- preserve or enhance the character or appearance of conservation areas, whilst the same time helping them remain vibrant and prosperous;
- preserve the special interest of sites on the register of historic parks and gardens; and
- protect areas on the register of historic landscapes in Wales.

It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve, and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.

It is the responsibility of all those with an interest in the planning system, including planning authorities, applicants, developers, and communities, to appropriately care for the historic environment in their area. The protection, conservation and enhancement of historic assets is

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most effective when it is considered at the earliest stage of plan preparation or when designing proposals new proposals.

Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place.

### Listed Buildings

There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage. For any development proposal affecting a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

For listed buildings, the aim should be to find the best way to protect and enhance their special qualities, retaining them in sustainable use. The continuation or reinstatement of the original use should generally be the first option, but not all original uses will now be viable or appropriate. The application of planning and listed building controls should recognise the need for flexibility where new uses have to be considered in order to secure a building's survival or provide it with a sound economic future.

The demolition of any listed building should be considered as exceptional and require the strongest justification.

Applicants for listed building consent must be able to justify their proposals, show why the alteration or demolition of a listed building is desirable or necessary and consider the impact of any change upon its significance. This must be included in a heritage impact statement, which will be proportionate both to the significance of the building and to the degree of change proposed.

### Archaeological Remains

The planning system recognises the need to conserve archaeological remains. The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining planning applications, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not.

Where nationally important archaeological remains and their settings are likely to be affected by Proposed Development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection *in situ*. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if

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development would result in an adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance) or has a demonstrably and unacceptably damaging effect upon its setting.

In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the Proposed Development.

Where archaeological remains are known to exist or there is a potential for them to survive, an application should be accompanied by sufficient information, through desk-based assessment and/or field evaluation, to allow a full understanding of the impact of the proposal on the significance of the remains. The needs of archaeology and development may be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, through early discussion and assessment.

If the planning authority is minded to approve an application and where archaeological remains are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them, the planning authority must be satisfied that the developer has secured appropriate and satisfactory provision for their recording and investigation, followed by the analysis and publication of the results and the deposition of the resulting archive in an approved repository. On occasions, unforeseen archaeological remains may still be discovered during the course of a development. A written scheme of investigation should consider how to react to such circumstances, or it can be covered through an appropriate condition for a watching brief. Where remains discovered are deemed to be of national importance, the Welsh Ministers have the power to schedule the site and, in such circumstances, scheduled monument consent must be required before works can continue.

### **Enabling Development**

Enabling development is development which can deliver substantial heritage benefit but would usually be contrary to other objectives of national or local planning policy.

Enabling development may be appropriate if the public benefit of rescuing, enhancing, or even endowing an important historic asset decisively outweighs the harm to other material interests. It must always be in proportion to the public benefit it offers.

When considering a scheme of enabling development, planning permission should be granted only where all of the following can be applied:

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- where the impact of the development was precisely defined in the application at the outset, and normally through the granting of full, rather than outline, planning permission;
  - where the achievement of the heritage objective is securely and enforceably linked to the enabling development;
  - where the place concerned is repaired to an agreed standard, or the funds to do so are made available, as early as possible in the course of the enabling development, ideally at the outset and certainly before completion or occupation of the enabling development;
  - where the planning authority closely monitors implementation, if necessary acting promptly to ensure that obligations are fulfilled; and
  - the enabling development does not give rise to significant risks, for example residential development in the floodplain or significantly impact on air quality or soundscape.

### *Local Development Plan*

#### **Strategic Policy 13: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment**

Development proposals should preserve or enhance the built and historic environment of the County, its cultural, townscape and landscape assets (outlined below), and, where appropriate, their setting. Proposals relating to the following will be considered in accordance with national guidance and legislation.

- a. Sites and features of recognised Historical and Cultural Importance;
- b. Listed buildings and their setting;
- c. Conservation Areas and their setting;
- d. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other sites of recognised archaeological importance.

Proposals will be expected to promote high quality design that reinforces local character and respects and enhances the local setting and the cultural and historic qualities of the plan area.

The quality of the landscapes and natural environment of the Plan area contributes significantly to the County's identity, character and distinctiveness. The protection and

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enhancement of these elements represent an important component of the Strategy reflecting on Strategic Objectives SO1 and SO4.

**Policy EQ 1: Protection of Buildings, Landscapes and Features of Historic importance.**

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.

Strategic Policy SP13 identifies that historical and cultural feature 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.

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 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.

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.

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Due regard should be had to the impact of any proposal on the distinctiveness, integrity or setting of the feature, landscape, townscape or building.

### ***Cadw, Conservation Principles (2011)***

#### **Heritage significance**

The significance of historic assets in Wales is provided within ‘Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales’ (Cadw 2011). This approach considers heritage significance to derive from a combination of discrete heritage values:

Evidential value derives from those elements of an historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric.

Historical value may derive from aspects of past ways of life, or association with notable families, persons, events, or movements – it embodies the connection between past events and society with the present.

Aesthetic value derives from the sensory and intellectual stimulation drawn from a historic asset. It may include its physical form, and how it lies within its setting. It may also be the result of design, or an unplanned outcome of a process of events.

Communal value derives from the meanings that an historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. It may be commemorative or symbolic and relate to issues of identity or collective memory.

### ***Cadw, Setting of Historic Assets in Wales***

#### **Staged settings assessment**

This section outlines the general principles that both assessors and decision makers should consider when assessing the impact of a proposed change or development within the setting of historic assets. Essentially, there are four stages.

Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.

Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

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Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

Stage 4: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

***Extract from the Hedgerow Regulations 1997***

Extracted from Statutory Instruments 1997 No. 1160 The Hedgerows Regulations 1997, Schedule 1: Additional criteria for determining 'Important' hedgerows;

PART II: Archaeology and history

1. The hedgerow marks the boundary, or part of the boundary, of at least one historic parish or township; and for this purpose "historic" means existing before 1845.
2. The hedgerow incorporates an archaeological feature which is-
  - a. included in the schedule of monuments compiled by the Secretary of State under section 1 (schedule of monuments) of the Ancient Monuments and Scheduled Areas Act 1979(g); or
  - b. recorded at the relevant date in a sites and Monuments Record.
3. The hedgerow-
  - a) is situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site included or recorded as mentioned in paragraph 2 or on land adjacent to and associated with such a site; and
  - b) is associated with any monument or feature on that site.
4. The hedgerow-
  - a) marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor recorded at the relevant date in a sites and Monuments Record or on a document held at that date at a Record Office; or
  - b) is visibly related to any building or feature of such an estate or manor.
5. The hedgerow-
  - a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure acts (a); or
  - b) is part of, or visibly related to, any building or other feature associated with such a system, and that system-
    - i. is substantially complete; or
    - ii. is of a pattern which is recorded in a document prepared before the relevant date by a local planning authority, within the meaning of the 1990 Act(b), for the purposes of development control within the authority's area, as a key landscape characteristic

## ANNEX 2: GAZETTEER OF SELECTED RECORDED HISTORIC ASSETS

### Designated Historic Assets including summary of Stage 1 assessment

CA Ref.	Name	Designation	Cadw Ref.	Distance from Site	Stage of the Assessment
D1	Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf	Scheduled Monument	CM190	c. 120m east of Solar Area West	Progressed at Stages 2 & 3 of the Setting Assessment
D2	Is-Coed Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument	CM199	c. 720m north-west of Solar Area West	Outside of ZTV. No historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets and Solar Areas due to distance, topography and intervening vegetation. Site therefore is not part of the assets setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
D3	Iscoed	Grade II Listed Building	9732	c. 620m north-west of Solar Area West	
D4	Llansaint	Conservation Area	-	Between c. 1.8km and 2km south of Solar Area West	
	Church of All Saints	Grade II Listed Building	9414		
D5	Llansteffan	Conservation Area	210623	Between c. 2.6km and 3.6km west of Solar Area West	Partially within ZTV. No historic association with the Site. Perceivable distant and partial views of the assets from and towards Solar Area West due to topography. Site is however not part of the assets setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
	Llansteffan Castle	Scheduled Monument	CM004		
	Llansteffan Castle	Grade I Listed Building	9405		
	Y Plas	Grade II* Listed Building	9385		
	Church of St Ystyffan	Grade II* Listed Building	9404		
	Vale View	Grade II* Listed Building	9406		
	Coach House and Stable Range at Y Plas	Grade II* Listed Building	27075		
	Telephone call-box outside the Old Pound.	Grade II Listed Building	9751		
	Telephone callbox	Grade II Listed Building	9752		
	Cyncoed, including area railings.	Grade II Listed Building	27063		
	Osbourne House, including area railings.	Grade II Listed Building	27064		
	Plas-y-Coed	Grade II Listed Building	27065		
Park Villa	Grade II Listed Building	27066			

CA Ref.	Name	Designation	Cadw Ref.	Distance from Site	Stage of the Assessment
	Railings and area walls at Plas-y-Coed and Park Villa.	Grade II Listed Building	27067		
	Nolands, including forecourt railings.	Grade II Listed Building	27068		
	Albion House, including forecourt railings	Grade II Listed Building	27069		
	The Sticks Hotel	Grade II Listed Building	27070		
	Ffynnon Fair	Grade II Listed Building	27071		
	Ffynnon Fair House	Grade II Listed Building	27072		
	The Stores	Grade II Listed Building	27073		
	Cartref	Grade II Listed Building	27074		
	Wall and gatepiers to stable court at Y Plas	Grade II Listed Building	27076		
	Milestone	Grade II Listed Building	27077		
	Well Cottage with forecourt railings and gate	Grade II Listed Building	27078		
	St Anthony's Well	Grade II Listed Building	27079		
Fron Ucha Burial Chamber	Scheduled Monument	CM058			
<b>D6</b>	Kidwelly	Conservation Area	-	Between c. 3.3km and c. 3.8km south-east of Solar Area West	Outside of ZTV. Not historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets and Solar Areas due to distance, topography and intervening vegetation. Site therefore is not part of the assets setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
	Kidwelly Medieval Town (Part of)	Scheduled Monument	CM209		
	Kidwelly Town Gate & Defences	Scheduled Monument	CM183		
	Kidwelly Castle	Scheduled Monument	CM002		
	Kidwelly Castle	Grade I Listed Building	11876		
	Church of Saint Mary	Grade I Listed Building	11878		
	The Town Gate	Grade II* Listed Building	11877		

CA Ref.	Name	Designation	Cadw Ref.	Distance from Site	Stage of the Assessment
	Kidwelly Town Hall	Grade II Listed Building	11880		
	Kidwelly Bridge / Pont Cydweli	Grade II Listed Building	20184		
	Morfa House	Grade II Listed Building	20185		
	Capel Sul	Grade II Listed Building	20186		
	The Old Moat House	Grade II Listed Building	20187		
	Castle School and School house	Grade II Listed Building	20188		
	No 6, Castle Street, Kidwelly / Cydweli, SA17 5AX	Grade II Listed Building	20189		
	Ruined Warehouse by Kidwelly Bridge	Grade II Listed Building	20190		
	Wall along S side of churchyard	Grade II Listed Building	20191		
	Castle Mill	Grade II Listed Building	20192		
	The Masons Arms	Grade II Listed Building	11882		
	The War Memorial and railings	Grade II Listed Building	20193		
<b>D7</b>	Church of St Maelog	Grade II Listed Building	82398	c. 1.3km north-east of Solar Area East	Outside of ZTV. No historic association with the Site. No historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets and Solar Areas due to distance, topography and intervening vegetation Site therefore is not part of the asset setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
	Pont Rhydyronnen	Grade II Listed Building	82400	c. 1.5km north-east of Solar Area East	Outside of ZTV. No historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets and Solar Areas due to distance, topography and intervening vegetation. Site therefore is not part of the assets setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
<b>D8</b>	Group of Standing Stones north-east of Llechdwnni	Scheduled Monument (x2)	CM060	c. 2.8km east of Solar Area East	Partially within ZTV. No historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets and Solar Area East due to distance, topography and intervening vegetation. Site therefore is not part of the asset setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
	Old house at Llechdwnni	Grade II Listed Building	14553		
	Llechdwnni	Grade II Registered Park & Garden	-	Between c. 2.3km and c. 2.5km east of Solar Area East	Partially within ZTV. No historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets and Solar Area East due to intervening vegetation. Site is not part of the asset setting. Scoped out at Stage 1

CA Ref.	Name	Designation	Cadw Ref.	Distance from Site	Stage of the Assessment
<b>D9</b>	Standing Stone north-east of Halfway House	Scheduled Monument	CM191	c. 4.8km north-east of Solar Area East	Within ZTV. Potential views between assets location and Solar Areas due to topography. Site is however no part of the assets setting due to modern changes to the landscape. Scoped out at Stage 1
	Gwempa Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument	CM316	c. 4km east of Solar Area East	
<b>D10</b>	Pen Celli Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument	CM122	c. 4.5km north-east of Solar Area East	
<b>D11</b>	Castell y Domen, Gwempa	Scheduled Monument	CM240	c. 3.5km north-east of Solar Area East	Outside of ZTV. No historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets and Solar Areas due to distance, topography and intervening vegetation. Site therefore is not part of the assets setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
	Pont Antwn	Grade II Listed Building	82287	c. 4.1km north-east of Solar Area East	
	Glanrhydwr	Grade II Listed Building	82399	c. 3.5 km north-east of Solar Area East	
<b>D12</b>	Limekilns at Penymynydd, Pedair Heol	Scheduled Monument	CM277	c. 3.7km south-east of Solar Area East	Within ZTV. No historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets' location and Solar Areas due to distance, topography and intervening vegetation. Site is not part of the assets setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
	Lime kilns at Penymynydd	Grade II Listed Building	82286		
<b>D13</b>	Pen-Lan-Uchaf Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument	CM197	c. 2.5km south-east of Solar Area East	Outside of ZTV. No historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets and Solar Areas due to distance, topography and intervening vegetation. Site therefore is not part of the assets setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
	Hot & Cold Rolling Mills, Kidwelly Tinplate Works	Scheduled Monument	CM254	c.3.4km south-east of Solar Area East	
	Kidwelly Old Tinplate Works and Dam	Scheduled Monument	CM291		
	Cold-roll Engine-house at former Kidwelly Tinplate Works	Grade II* Listed Build	20197		
	Chimney at former Kidwelly Tinplate Works	Grade II Listed Building	20198		
	Boxing Room at former Kidwelly Tinplate Works	Grade II Listed Building	20195		
	Assorting Room at former Kidwelly Tinplate Works	Grade II Listed Building	20196		
	Lime-kiln facing W, on ridge E of Capel Horeb	Grade II Listed Building	20199		
	Lime-kiln facing S, on ridge E of Capel Horeb	Grade II Listed Building	20200		
<b>D14</b>	Coleman Dovecot	Scheduled Monument	CM152		c. 2.8km south-east of Solar Area West
	Dovecote NW of Coleman Farm	Grade II* Listed Building	11879		

CA Ref.	Name	Designation	Cadw Ref.	Distance from Site	Stage of the Assessment
D15	Remains of monastic grange at Penallt Farm	Grade II Listed Building	9412	c. 2.9km south of Solar Area West	
	Kidwelly Quay	Grade II Listed Building	20201	c. 3.6km south-east of Solar Area West	
	Cae Newydd Railway Bridge	Grade II Listed Building	20194	c. 4.3km south-east of Solar Area West	
D16	St Ishmael's Scar Beach Defence Gun House	Scheduled Monument	CM383	c. 2.9km south-west of Solar Area West	
	Church of St Ishmael	Grade II Listed Building	9411	c. 2.8km south-west of Solar Area West	
	Robert's Rest	Grade II Listed Building	9413	c. 1.6km west of Solar Area West	
	Salem Baptist Chapel	Grade II Listed Building	22272		
	Bethania Welsh Presbyterian Church	Grade II Listed Building	22273		
	Church of St Thomas	Grade II Listed Building	82094		
Ferryside Signal Box	Grade II Listed Building	87670			
D17	Maen Melyn Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument	CM063	c. 4.4km north-west of Solar Area West	
	Maen Llwyd Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument	CM064	c. 3.9km north-west of Solar Area West	Within ZTV. Potential perceivable distant views between assets locations and Solar Areas due to topography. Site is however not part of the assets setting because of the modern changes to the landscape. Scoped out at Stage 1
D18	Meini Llwydion Burial Chamber	Scheduled Monument	CM057	c. 4.7km north-east of Solar Area West	Outside of ZTV. No historic association with the Site. No perceivable views between assets and Solar Areas due to distance, topography and intervening vegetation. Site is not part of the assets setting. Scoped out at Stage 1
	Rhyd-Lydan Cromlech	Scheduled Monument	CM056	c. 5km north-east of Solar Area West	
	Fern Hill	Grade II Listed Building	9718		c. 4.4km north-west of Solar Area West
	Stable and coach-house at Fern Hill	Grade II Listed Building	9719		
	Llwyn-du	Grade II Listed Building	24449		
	Coach-house at Llwyn-du	Grade II Listed Building	24450		
Stable court at Llwyn-du	Grade II Listed Building	24451			

CA Ref.	Name	Designation	Cadw Ref.	Distance from Site	Stage of the Assessment
	Standing Stone north / north-west of Clomendy	Scheduled Monument	CM184	c. 4km north of Solar Area West	
D19	Upland	Grade II Listed Building	21456	c. 2.5km north of Solar Area East	
	Former stables at Upland	Grade II Listed Building	21457		
D20	Is-Coed-Uchaf Standing Stone	Scheduled Monument	CM198	c. 1.4km north-west of Solar Area West	
D21	Laques	Grade II Listed Building	27080	Between c. 5.5 and 4.7km west of Solar Area East	
	Lord's Park	Grade II Listed Building	27081		

### Previous Investigations

Ref.	Name	Year	Easting	Northing	HER Ref.
P1	Penhill Farm, Ferryside: DBA	2015	239280	209403	130552
P2	Trefforis Fawr, Ferryside, Carmarthenshire: HEA	2015	238548	210092	112106
P3	Bryncoch, Ferryside, Carmarthenshire: DBA	2015	239100	210594	-

### Archaeological Remains

Ref.	Name	Description / Period	Easting	Northing	HER Ref.
1	Ferryside (Pen Yr Heol)	Bronze Age Barrow	239160	209970	2112
2	Park Crig Bach	Site of Bronze Age Barrow	239200	210100	11218
3	Park Main Dan Udlan	Site of Standing Stone	238750	210500	11216
-	Broadway	Bronze Age Barrow	238349	209065	130780
-	Llain Garn	Bronze Age Barrow	238600	209400	11224
-	Llandyfeilog	Bronze Age Barrow	239153	211828	2202
-	Park Pen Y Crug	Site of Bronze Age Barrow	239500	212100	11307
-	-	Site of Bronze Age Barrow	238426	211006	119988
-	Cae Main	Site of Standing Stone	238000	211000	11213

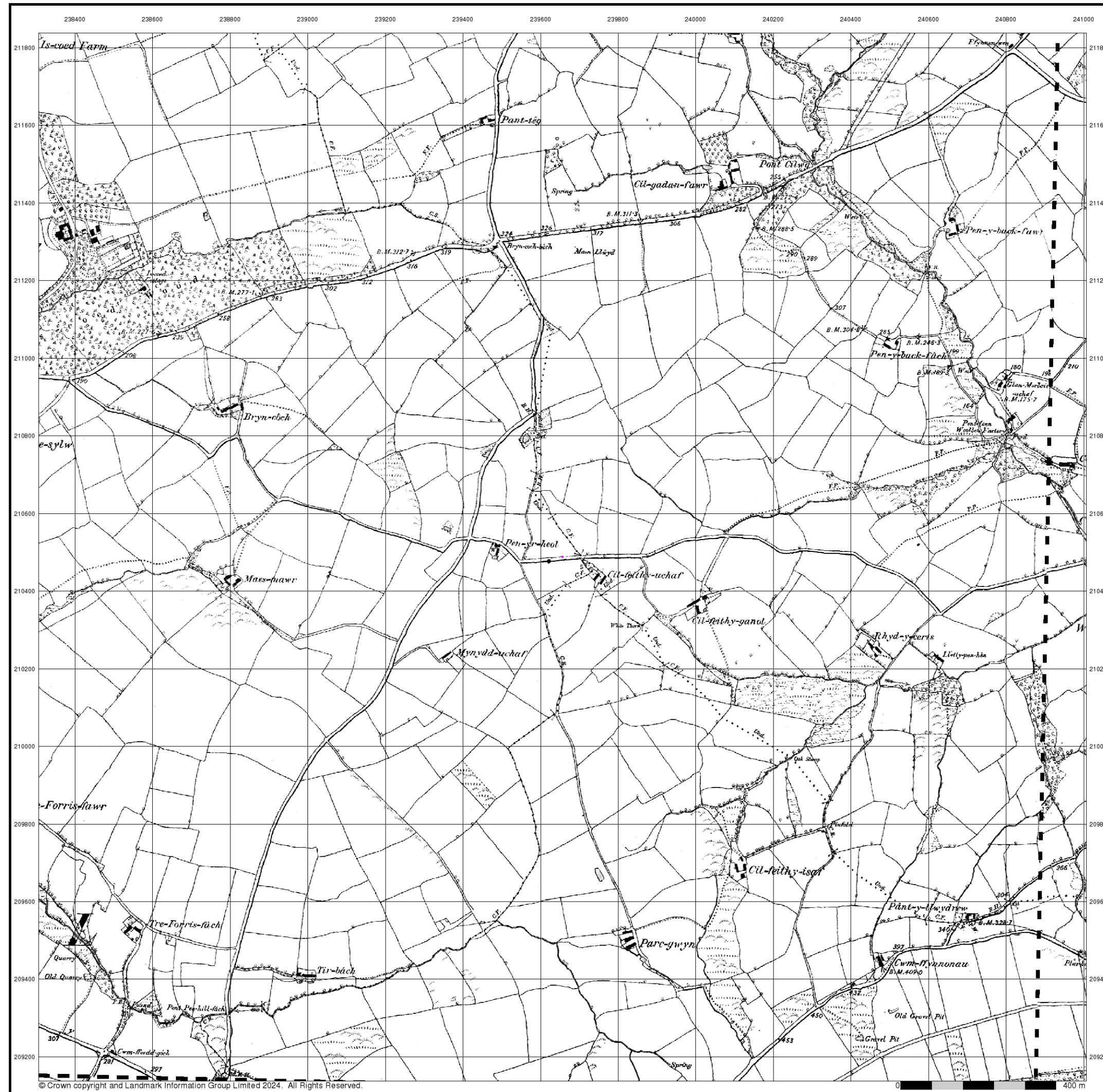
Ref.	Name	Description / Period	Easting	Northing	HER Ref.
-	Cae Main	Site of Standing Stone	238900	209450	11221
-	Cefn Maen	Site of Standing Stone	238800	209800	11222
-	Llain Fain	Site of Standing Stone	238700	209400	11223
-	Llandyfeilog	Site of Standing Stone	239680	211290	2203
-	Park Maen	Site of Standing Stone	239683	211286	11284
-	Park Maen Mawr	Site of Standing Stone	239150	209850	11220
-	Park Main	Site of Standing Stone	240100	211400	11285
-	Park Main Bach	Site of Standing Stone	239340	210000	11219
-	Park Y Maen	Site of Standing Stone	238750	210500	11214
4	Cae Quarry	Quarry	239350	211200	23408
-	-	Quarry	238410	209450	56459
5	Bryncoch Bach;bryncoch Cottage	Modern Farmstead	239480	211290	23409
6	Maesmawr	Modern Farmstead	238792	210430	23401
7	Pen Y Back Issa;pen Y Back Fach	Modern Farmstead	240501	211036	23028
8	Maen Llwyd	Standing Stone	238084	211185	2201
9	Iscoed a small, oval, single-banked hill-slope enclosure, no trace of earthwork survives (destroyed)	Prehistoric	239000	211400	2204
-	Blaen-y-cwm	Modern Farmstead	239980	212167	23024
-	Ty-newydd	Modern Farmstead	241066	211893	114261
-	Nantgoitre;nantgoitre Isaf	Modern Farmstead	238910	211962	23035
-	Nant-y-goetre-uchaf	Modern Farmstead	239418	212204	113603
-	Iscoed Farm;iscoed Home Farm;iscoed (old)	Modern Farmstead	238257	211828	21793

Ref.	Name	Description / Period	Easting	Northing	HER Ref.
-	Treforris Bach	Modern Farmstead	238537	209531	23413
-	Tir Bach	Modern Farmstead	238983	209414	23412
-	Pen-hill	Modern Farmstead	239153	208914	113608
-	Parc-gwyn	Modern Farmstead	239828	209501	113610
-	Wern	Modern Farmstead	241079	210336	25682
-	Tresilwood	Modern Farmstead	238258	210803	21799
-	Trecor	Modern Farmstead	237547	210509	21787
-	Tre-forris-fawr	Modern Farmstead	238214	209829	112988
-	Rhyd-y-ceirts	Modern Farmstead	240461	210252	113607
-	Penrheol	Modern Farmstead	239481	210511	23404
-	Pen Back;pen Y Back Fawr;pen Y Back	Modern Farmstead	240659	211337	23029
-	Panteg	Modern Farmstead	239456	211612	23034
-	Mynydd Uchaf	Modern Farmstead	239359	210226	23402
-	Lletty-pen-hen	Modern Farmstead	240622	210221	23609
-	Kilgadarn Fawr;cilgadan Fawr;cilgadan	Modern Farmstead	240086	211462	23027
-	Is-coed	Modern Farmstead	238424	211315	112989
-	Glan-morlais-uchaf	Modern Farmstead	240787	210930	113605
-	Bryncoch	Modern Farmstead	238790	210877	21800
-	Cwmbychan	Modern Farmstead	238185	210325	21797
-	Coed Y Brain	Modern Farmstead	240953	210721	23030
-	Cilfeithi;cilvithe Tommy	Modern Farmstead	239748	210436	23407
-	Cil-feithy-isaf	Modern Farmstead	240114	209686	113611

Ref.	Name	Description / Period	Easting	Northing	HER Ref.
-	Cil-feithy-ganol	Modern Farmstead	239999	210360	113606
-	Cil-gadan-fach	Modern Farmstead	240095	211832	113604
-	Toll Road 124	Toll road from Ferryside to Kidwelly	-	-	109110
-	Toll Road 105	Toll road from the River Tywi at Carmarthen to Kidwelly	-	-	109091

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## ANNEX 3: HISTORIC ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING



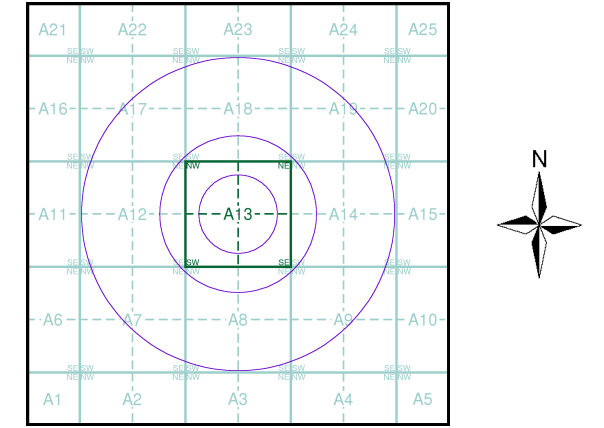
**Carmarthenshire**  
**Published 1888 - 1889**  
**Source map scale - 1:10,560**

The historical maps shown were reproduced from maps predominantly held at the scale adopted for England, Wales and Scotland in the 1840's. In 1854 the 1:2,500 scale was adopted for mapping urban areas; these maps were used to update the 1:10,560 maps. The published date given therefore is often some years later than the surveyed date. Before 1938, all OS maps were based on the Cassini Projection, with independent surveys of a single county or group of counties, giving rise to significant inaccuracies in outlying areas. In the late 1940's, a Provisional Edition was produced, which updated the 1:10,560 mapping from a number of sources. The maps appear unfinished - with all military camps and other strategic sites removed. These maps were initially overprinted with the National Grid. In 1970, the first 1:10,000 maps were produced using the Transverse Mercator Projection. The revision process continued until recently, with new editions appearing every 10 years or so for urban areas.

### Map Name(s) and Date(s)

046SW 1888 1:10,560	046SE 1889 1:10,560
053NW 1888 1:10,560	

### Historical Map - Slice A

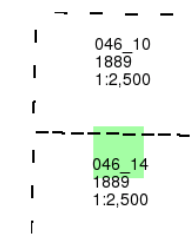


**Order Details**  
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 Search Buffer (m): 1000

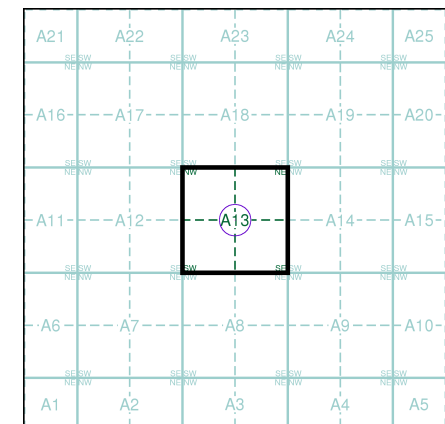
**Site Details**  
 Site at 237800, 211800

The historical maps shown were reproduced from maps predominantly held at the scale adopted for England, Wales and Scotland in the 1840's. In 1854 the 1:2,500 scale was adopted for mapping urban areas and by 1896 it covered the whole of what were considered to be the cultivated parts of Great Britain. The published date given below is often some years later than the surveyed date. Before 1938, all OS maps were based on the Cassini Projection, with independent surveys of a single county or group of counties, giving rise to significant inaccuracies in outlying areas.

**Map Name(s) and Date(s)**



**Historical Map - Segment A13**

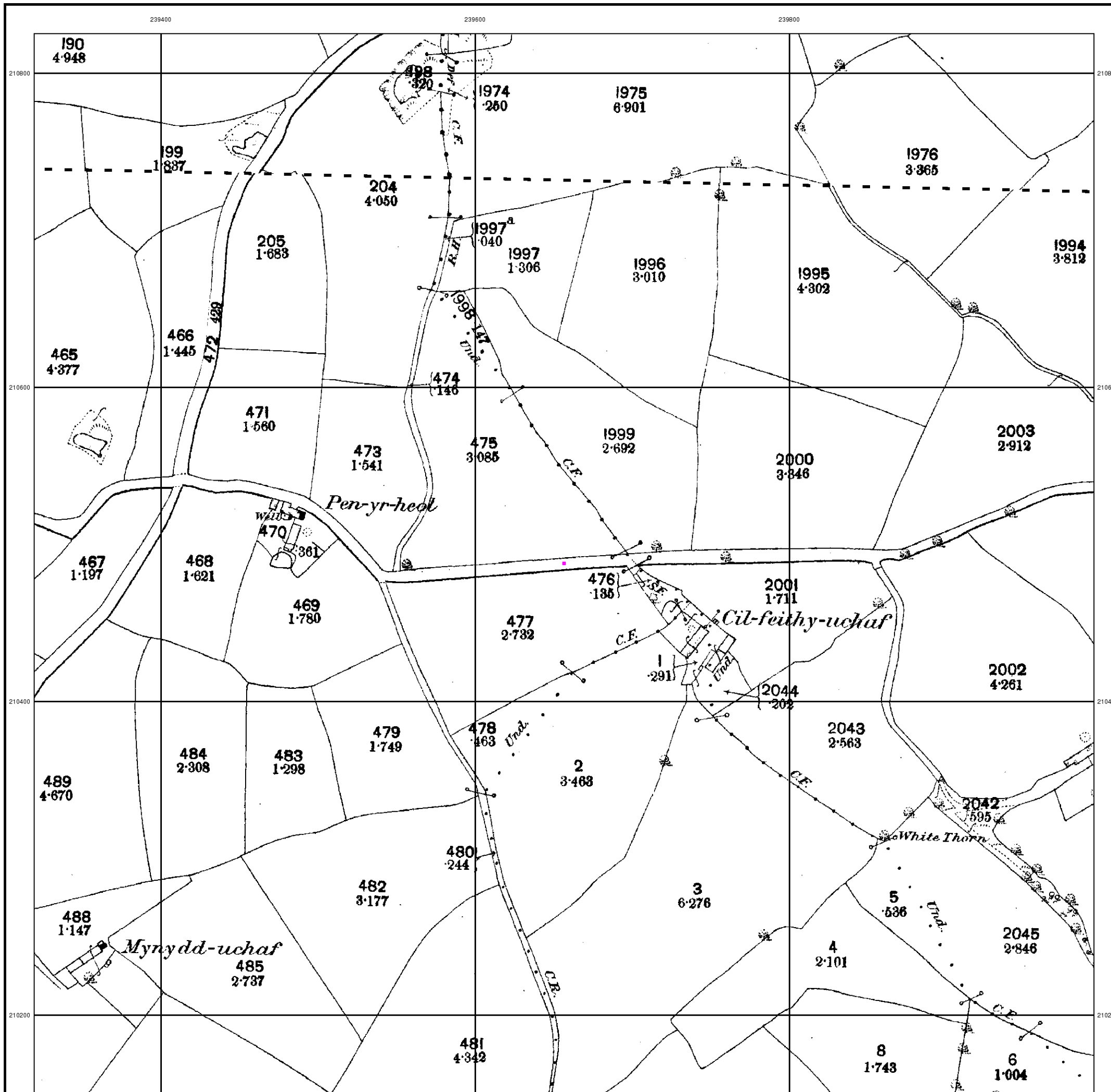


**Order Details**

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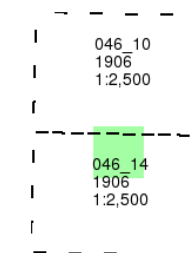
**Site Details**

Site at 237800, 211800

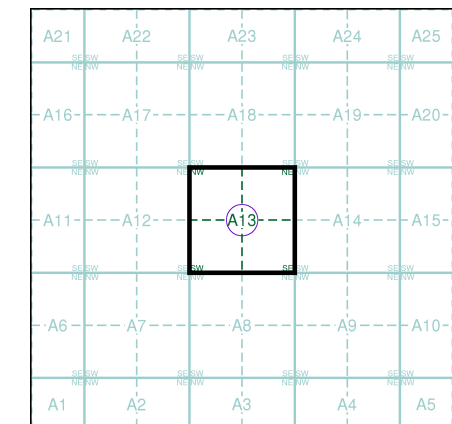


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**Map Name(s) and Date(s)**



**Historical Map - Segment A13**

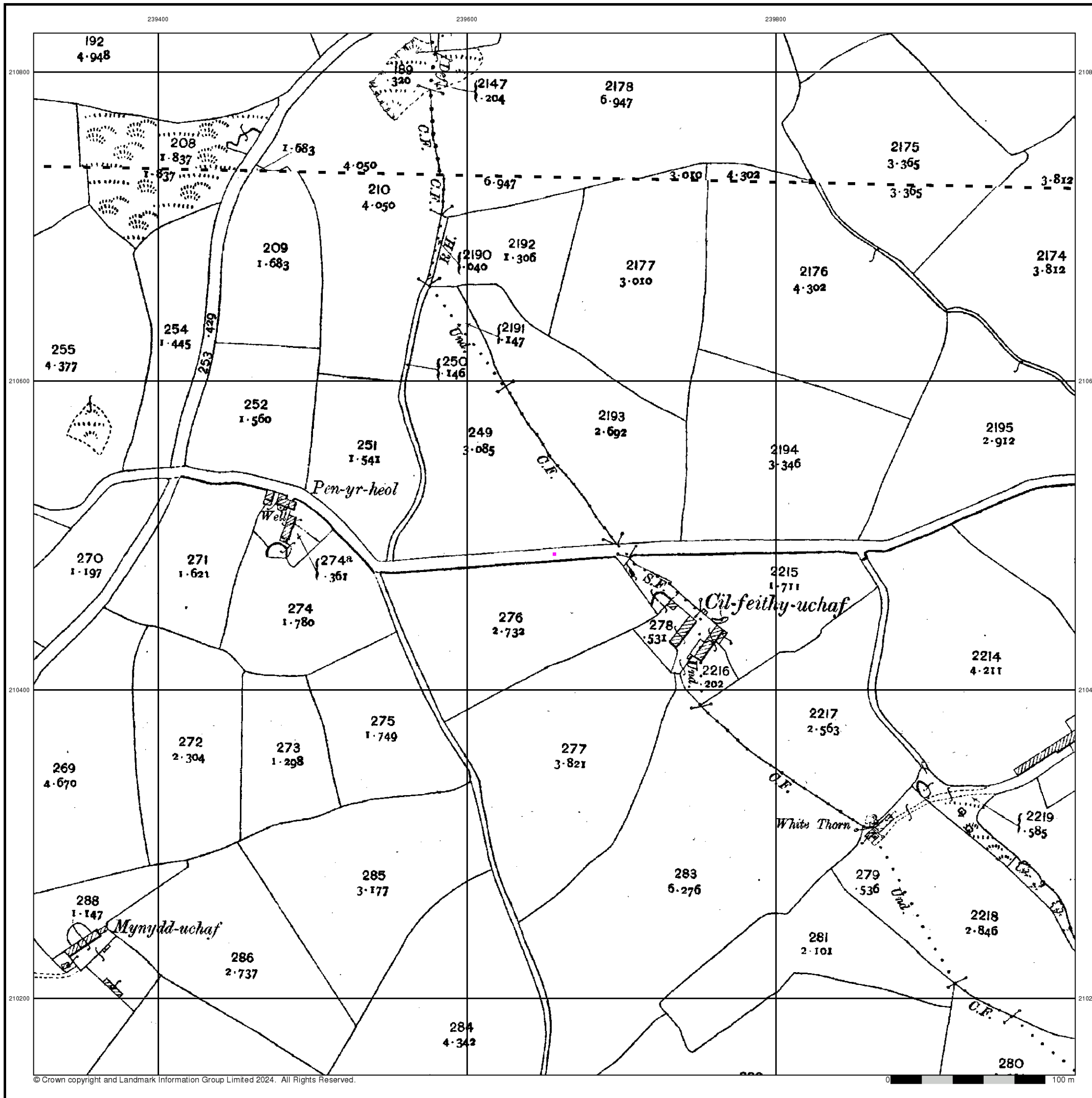


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**Site Details**

Site at 237800, 211800

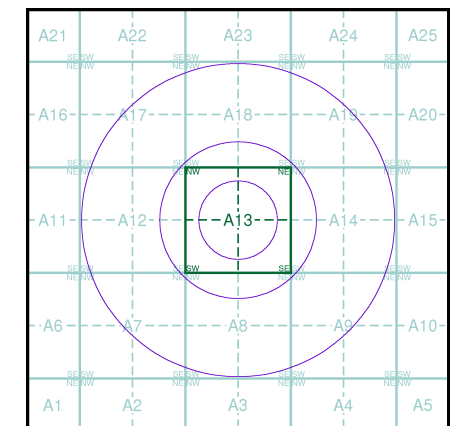


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### Map Name(s) and Date(s)

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053NW 1907 1:10,560	

### Historical Map - Slice A

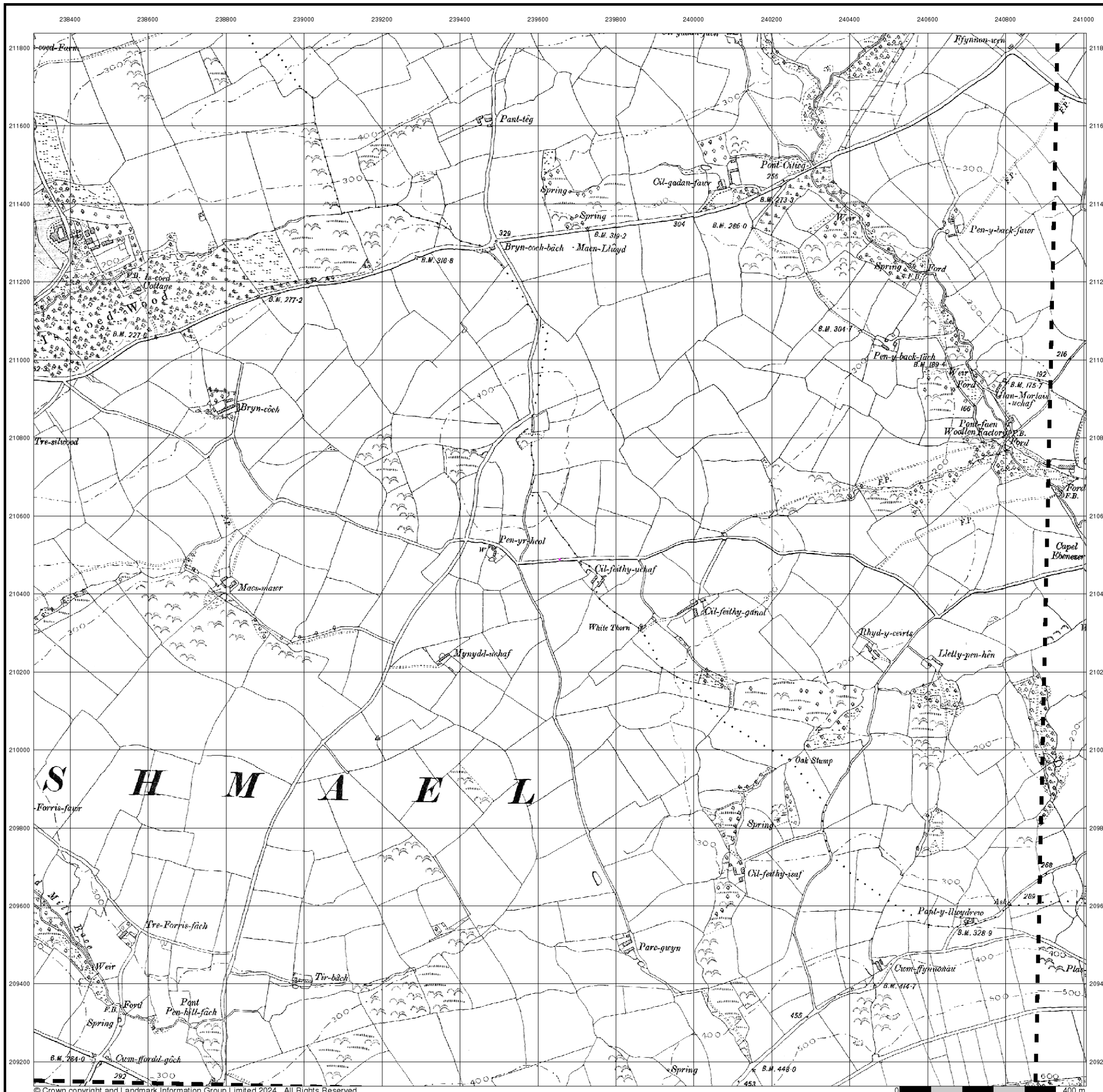


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### Site Details

Site at 237800, 211800

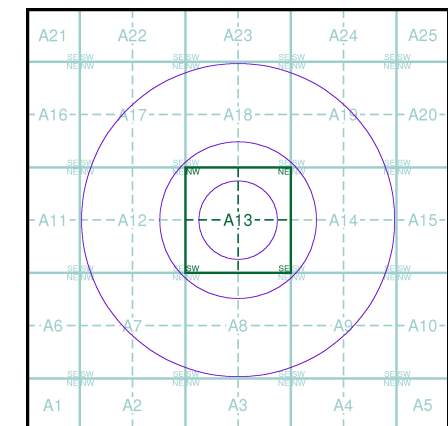


The historical maps shown were reproduced from maps predominantly held at the scale adopted for England, Wales and Scotland in the 1840's. In 1854 the 1:2,500 scale was adopted for mapping urban areas; these maps were used to update the 1:10,560 maps. The published date given therefore is often some years later than the surveyed date. Before 1938, all OS maps were based on the Cassini Projection, with independent surveys of a single county or group of counties, giving rise to significant inaccuracies in outlying areas. In the late 1940's, a Provisional Edition was produced, which updated the 1:10,560 mapping from a number of sources. The maps appear unfinished - with all military camps and other strategic sites removed. These maps were initially overprinted with the National Grid. In 1970, the first 1:10,000 maps were produced using the Transverse Mercator Projection. The revision process continued until recently, with new editions appearing every 10 years or so for urban areas.

### Map Name(s) and Date(s)

046SW 1953 1:10,560	046SE 1953 1:10,560
053NW 1938 1:10,560	

### Historical Map - Slice A

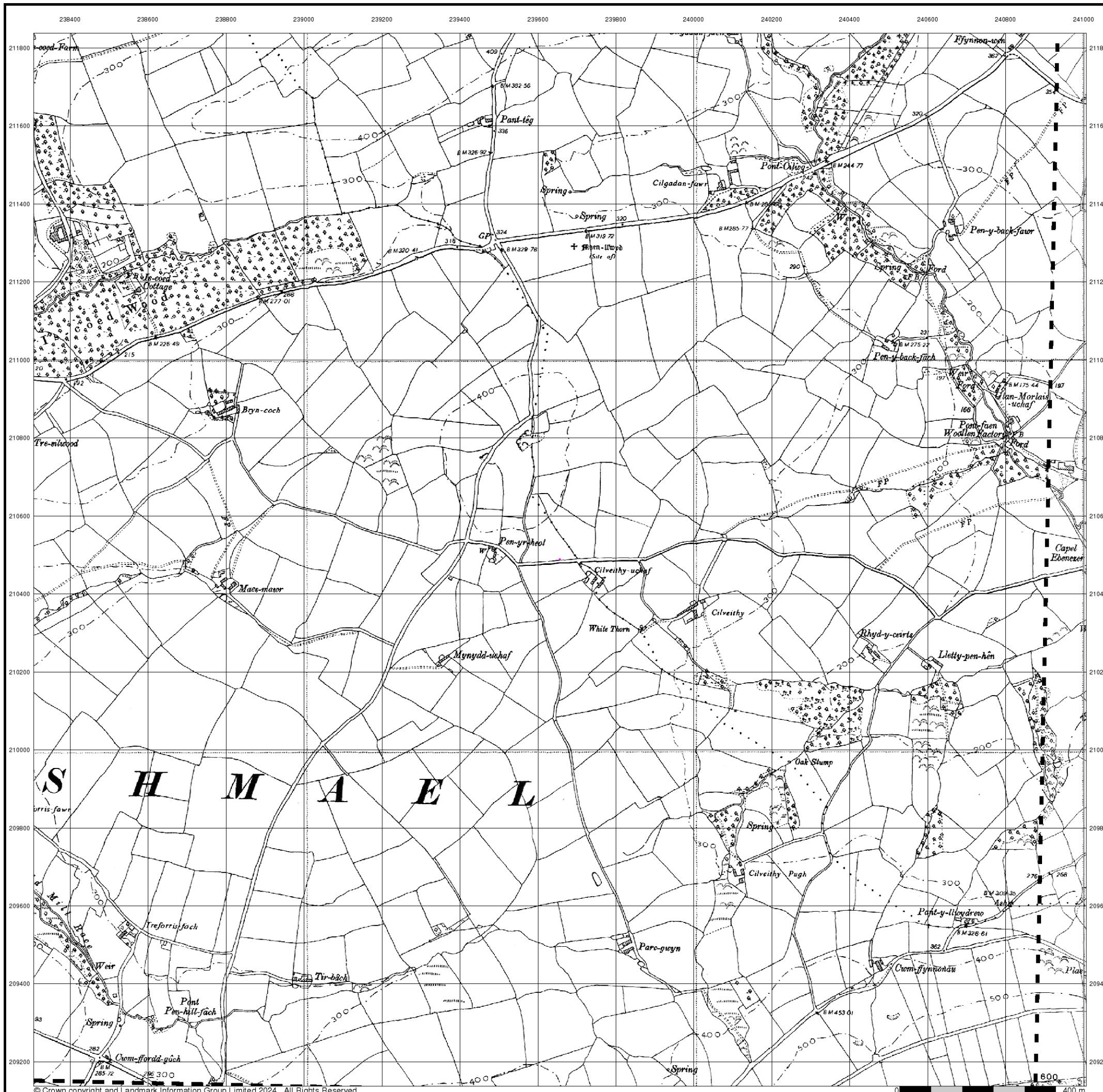


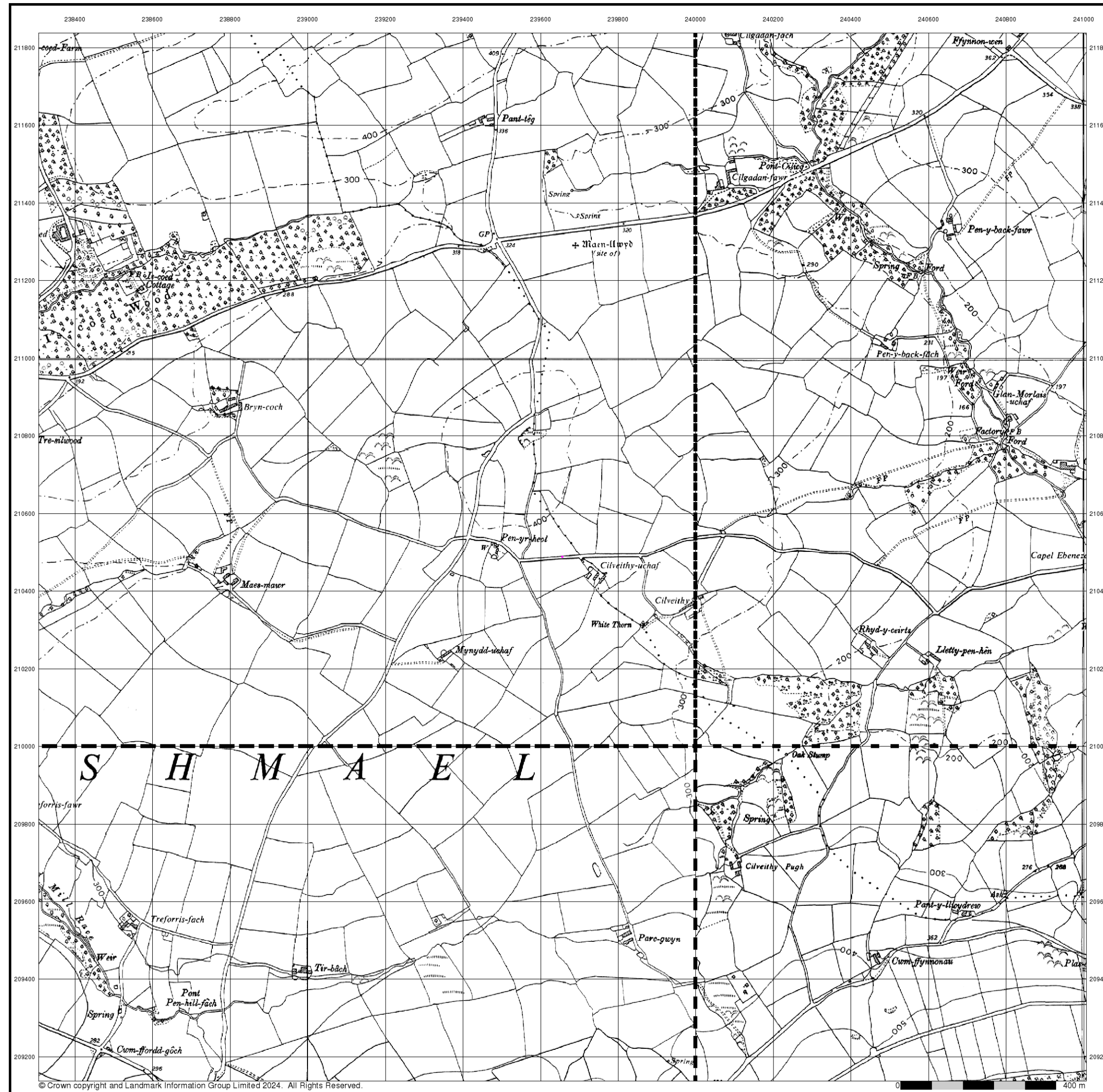
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### Site Details

Site at 237800, 211800





## Ordnance Survey Plan

Published 1963 - 1964

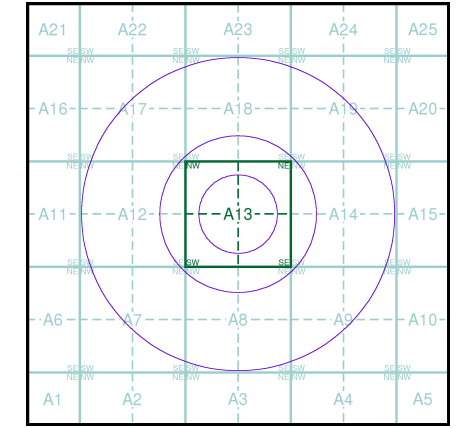
Source map scale - 1:10,000

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### Map Name(s) and Date(s)

SN31SE	SN41SW
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SN30NE	SN40NW
1964	1963
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### Historical Map - Slice A

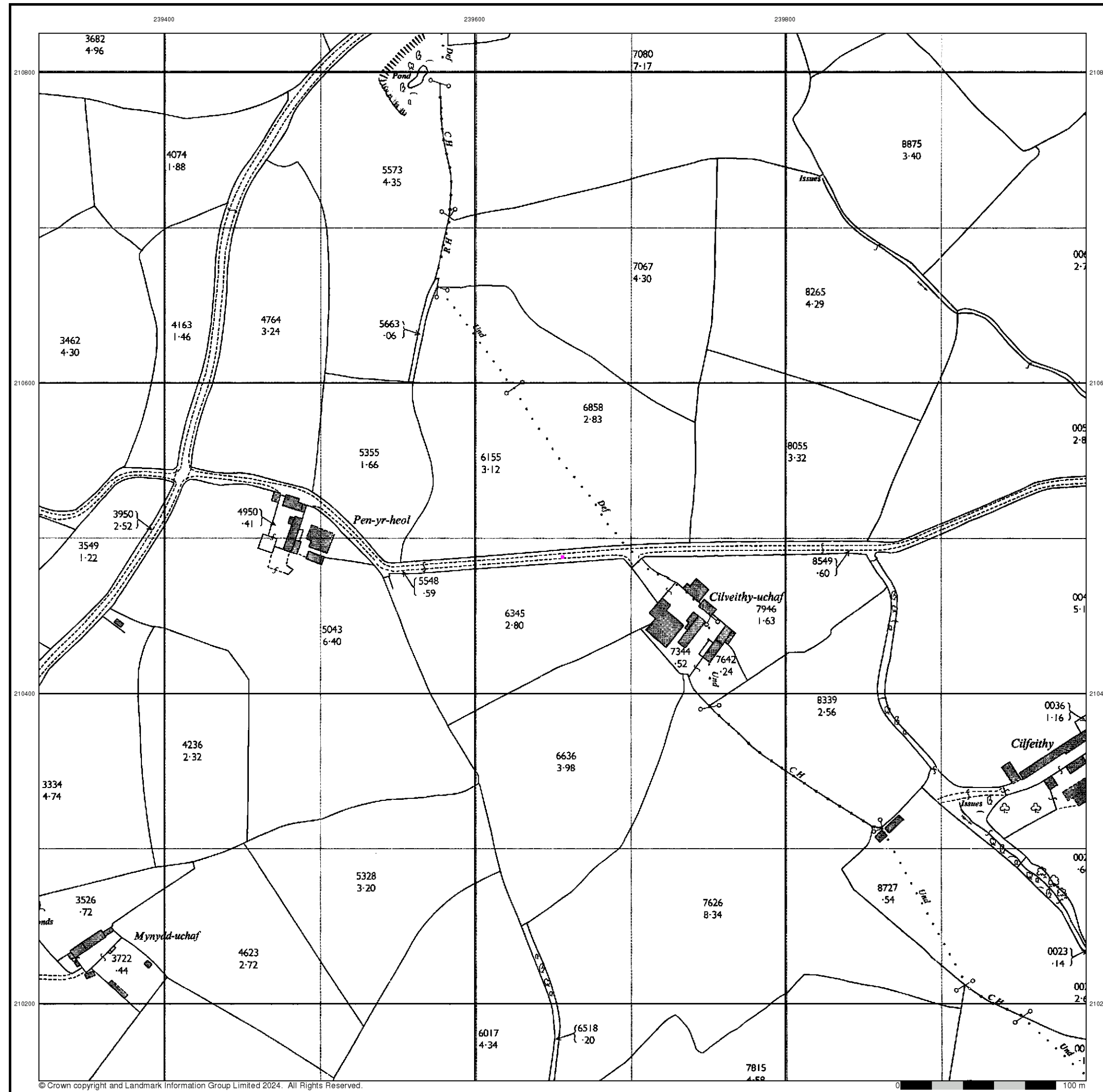


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### Site Details

Site at 237800, 211800



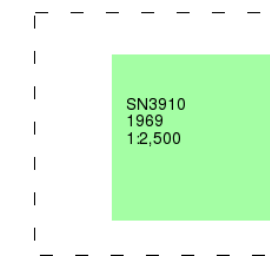
## Ordnance Survey Plan

Published 1969

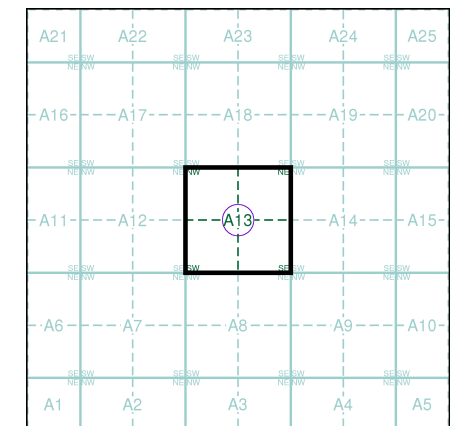
Source map scale - 1:2,500

The historical maps shown were reproduced from maps predominantly held at the scale adopted for England, Wales and Scotland in the 1840's. In 1854 the 1:2,500 scale was adopted for mapping urban areas and by 1896 it covered the whole of what were considered to be the cultivated parts of Great Britain. The published date given below is often some years later than the surveyed date. Before 1938, all OS maps were based on the Cassini Projection, with independent surveys of a single county or group of counties, giving rise to significant inaccuracies in outlying areas.

### Map Name(s) and Date(s)



### Historical Map - Segment A13



### Order Details

Order Number: 362868363\_1\_1  
 Customer Ref: PO3910  
 National Grid Reference: 239660, 210490  
 Slice: A  
 Site Area (Ha): 0.01  
 Search Buffer (m): 100

### Site Details

Site at 237800, 211800



## 10k Raster Mapping

Published 2000

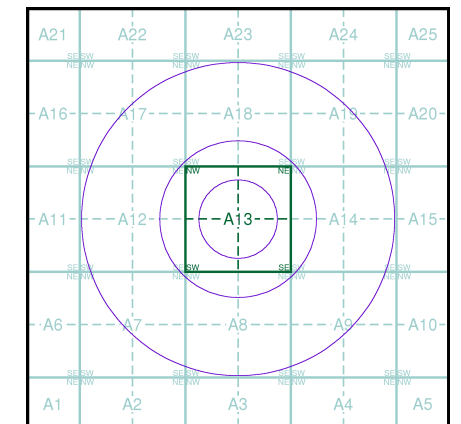
Source map scale - 1:10,000

The historical maps shown were produced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:10,000 colour raster mapping. These maps are derived from Landplan which replaced the old 1:10,000 maps originally published in 1970. The data is highly detailed showing buildings, fences and field boundaries as well as all roads, tracks and paths. Road names are also included together with the relevant road number and classification. Boundary information depiction includes county, unitary authority, district, civil parish and constituency.

### Map Name(s) and Date(s)

SN31SE	SN41SW
2000	2000
1:10,000	1:10,000
SN30NE	SN40NW
2000	2000
1:10,000	1:10,000

### Historical Map - Slice A

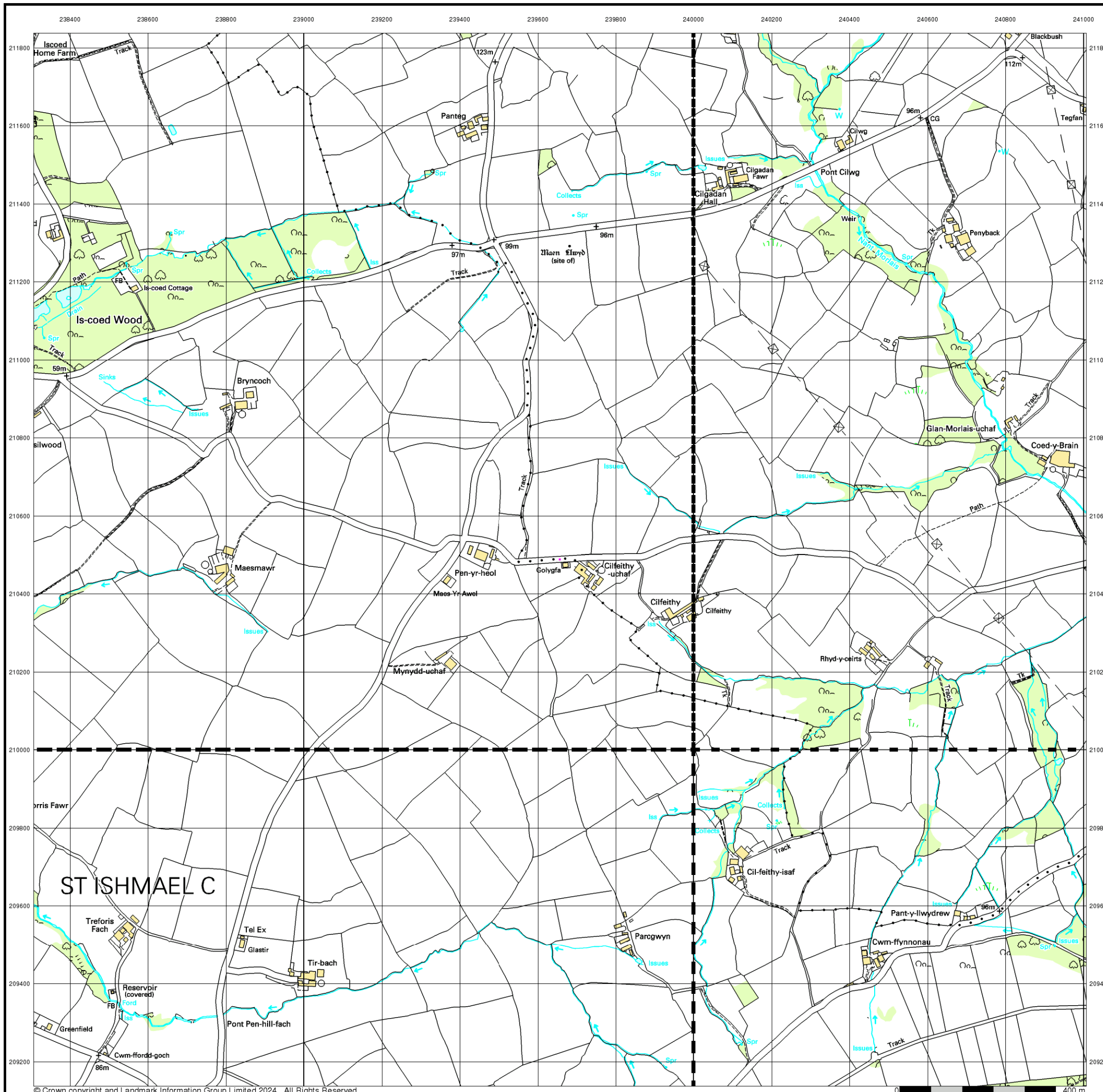


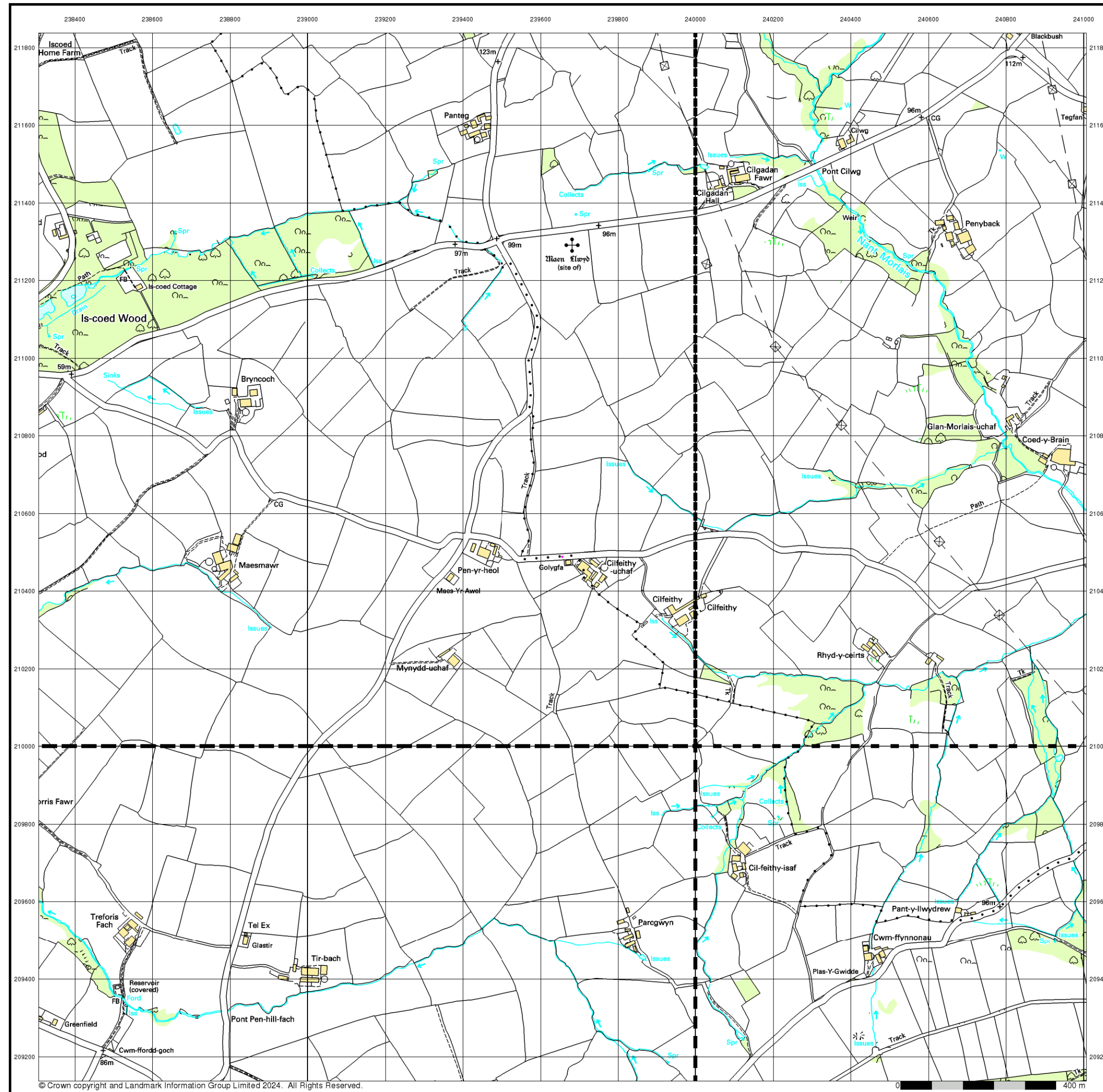
### Order Details

Order Number: 362868363\_1\_1  
 Customer Ref: PO3910  
 National Grid Reference: 239660, 210490  
 Slice: A  
 Site Area (Ha): 0.01  
 Search Buffer (m): 1000

### Site Details

Site at 237800, 211800





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## 10k Raster Mapping

Published 2006

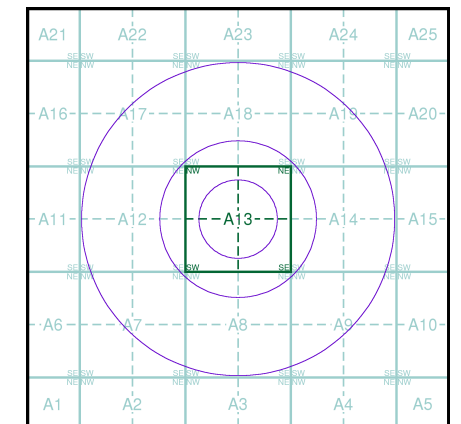
Source map scale - 1:10,000

The historical maps shown were produced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:10,000 colour raster mapping. These maps are derived from Landplan which replaced the old 1:10,000 maps originally published in 1970. The data is highly detailed showing buildings, fences and field boundaries as well as all roads, tracks and paths. Road names are also included together with the relevant road number and classification. Boundary information depiction includes county, unitary authority, district, civil parish and constituency.

### Map Name(s) and Date(s)

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SN30NE 2006 1:10,000	SN40NW 2006 1:10,000

### Historical Map - Slice A



### Order Details

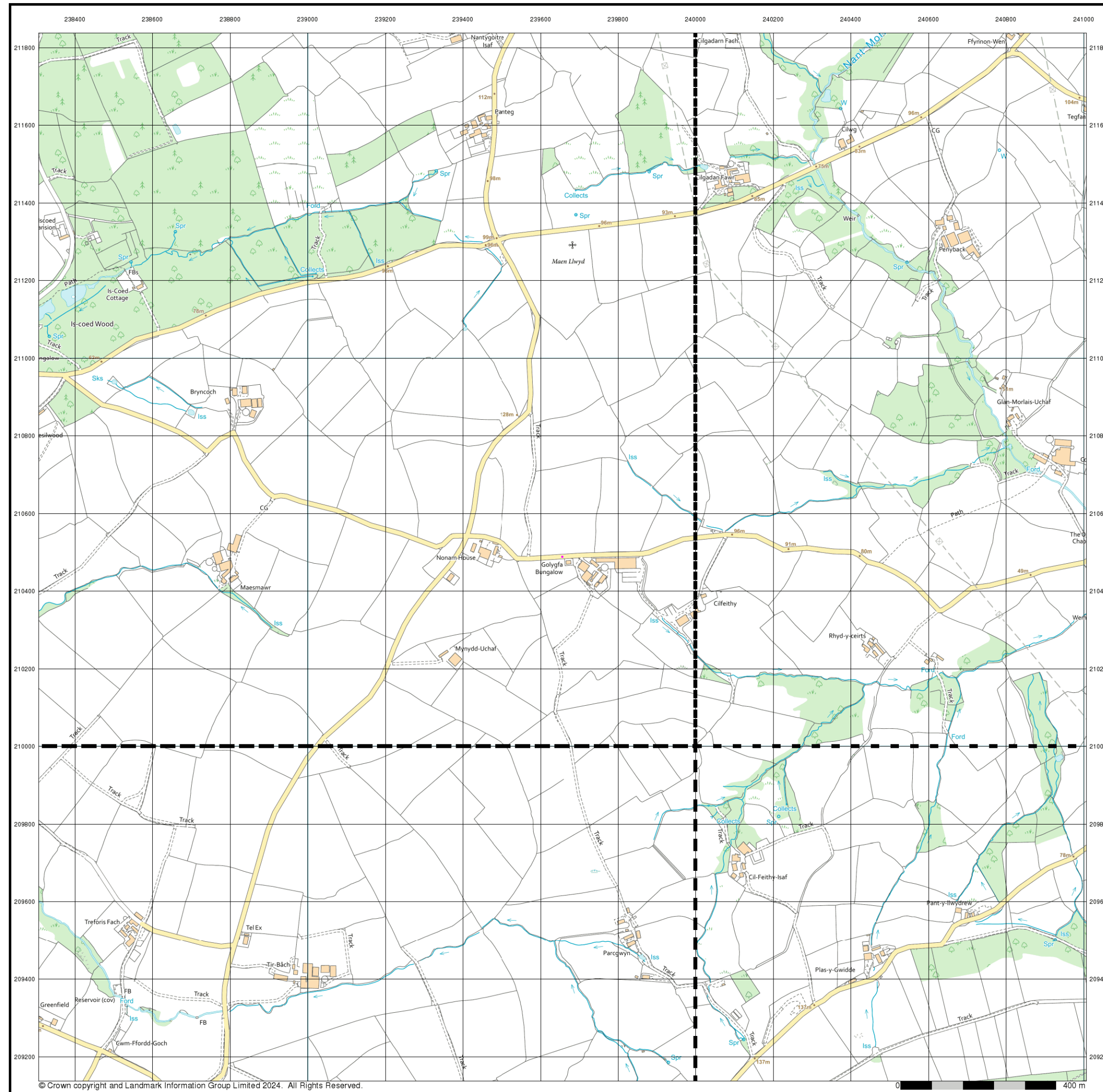
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 Customer Ref: PO3910  
 National Grid Reference: 239660, 210490  
 Slice: A  
 Site Area (Ha): 0.01  
 Search Buffer (m): 1000

### Site Details

Site at 237800, 211800

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## VectorMap Local

Published 2024

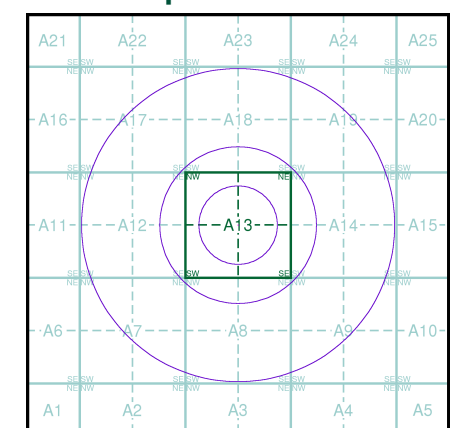
Source map scale - 1:10,000

VectorMap Local (Raster) is Ordnance Survey's highest detailed 'backdrop' mapping product. These maps are produced from OS's VectorMap Local, a simple vector dataset at a nominal scale of 1:10,000, covering the whole of Great Britain, that has been designed for creating graphical mapping. OS VectorMap Local is derived from large-scale information surveyed at 1:1250 scale (covering major towns and cities), 1:2500 scale (smaller towns, villages and developed rural areas), and 1:10 000 scale (mountain, moorland and river estuary areas).

### Map Name(s) and Date(s)

SN31SE	SN41SW
2024	2024
Variable	Variable
SN30NE	SN40NW
2024	2024
Variable	Variable

### Historical Map - Slice A



### Order Details

Order Number: 362868363\_1\_1  
 Customer Ref: PO3910  
 National Grid Reference: 239660, 210490  
 Slice: A  
 Site Area (Ha): 0.01  
 Search Buffer (m): 1000

### Site Details

Site at 237800, 211800

**Landmark**  
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 Fax: 0844 844 9951  
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**ANNEX 4: DOCUMENTS TO ARCHIVE WITH THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES (AMGUEDDFA CYMRU) AND WITH HENEB HER IN LINE WITH THE WALES NATIONAL GUIDELINES**

PROJECT NO: CR1831

Ref. in report	Image ID	PRN (if relevant)	Project	Context No. (if relevant)	Historic asset name (if relevant)	Feature name (if relevant)	Date photo taken	Direction of view ('from' or 'facing')	Name of photographer	Location of master/original photo	Copyright/access conditions	Brief description	Reason for photograph	Record compiled by	Record compiled on
Photo 1	6446		Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	01.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	South-west facing view of SDA 1	General overview of the Site	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25
Photo 2	6665		Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	01.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	North facing view of SDA 1	General overview of the Site	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25
Photo 3	6723		Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	01.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	North-east facing view of SDA 2	General overview of the Site	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25
Photo 4	6855		Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	01.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	South-east facing view of SDA 2	General overview of the Site	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25
Photo 5	6595	2112, CM190	Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	01.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	South facing view of group of barrows to the south-east of SDA 1	General overview of features	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25
Photo 6	6683		Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	01.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	Possible former quarry pit adjacent the centre of SDA 1	General overview of possible modern feature	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25
Photo 7	7127		Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	01.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	North-east facing view of the Scheduled 'Gwempa Standing Stone'	Distant view of Scheduled Monument	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25
Photo 8	7276		Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	03.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	West facing view of Llansteffan Conservation Area and of the Scheduled and Grade I Listed Llansteffan Castle seen from SDA 1	Distant view of Designated Historic Assets taken from Site	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25
Photo 9	6283		Heulddu Solar Farm				02.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	East facing view of the broad location of SDA 1 seen from Scheduled and Grade I Listed Llansteffan Castle	Distant view of the broad Site location taken from Designated Historic Asset		
Photo 10	6519		Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	01.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	South facing view of Llansteffan Conservation Area and of the Grade II Listed church of All Saints, seen from SDA 1	Distant view of Designated Historic Assets taken from Site	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25
Photo 11	6586		Heulddu Solar Farm	n/a	n/a	n/a	01.07.2025		Francesco Catanzaro	Cotswold Archaeology Archives Server	copyright Cotswold Archaeology	North facing view of SDA 1 from the Scheduled 'Round Barrow 330m south-west of Mynydd-Uchaf'	General overview of the Site taken from Scheduled Monument	Francesco Catanzaro	09.07.25

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## ANNEX 5: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

# Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire

*Written Scheme of Investigation for a Historic  
Environment Desk-Based Assessment*

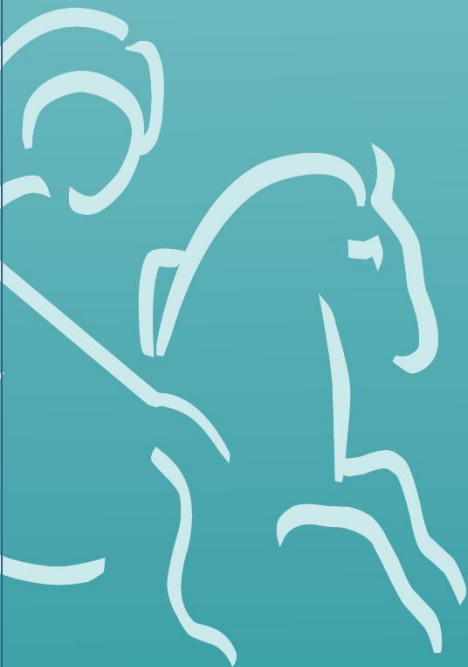


*Report prepared for:*  
Qualitas Energy

CA Project: CR1831

CA Report: CR1831\_1

June 2025



# Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire

## Written Scheme of Investigation for a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

CA Project: CR1831

CA Report: CR1831\_1

prepared by	Francesco Catanzaro, Heritage Consultant
date	June 2025
approved by	Zoe Arkley, Senior Heritage Consultant
signed	
date	June 2025

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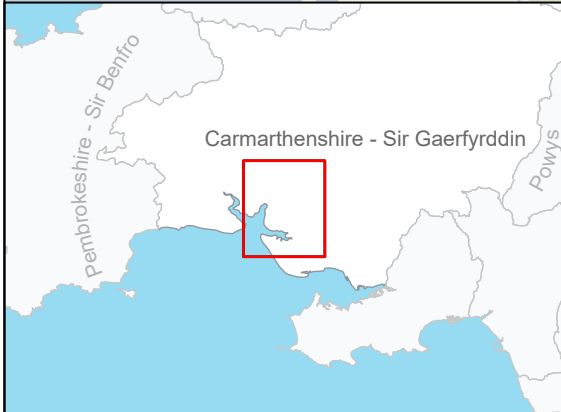
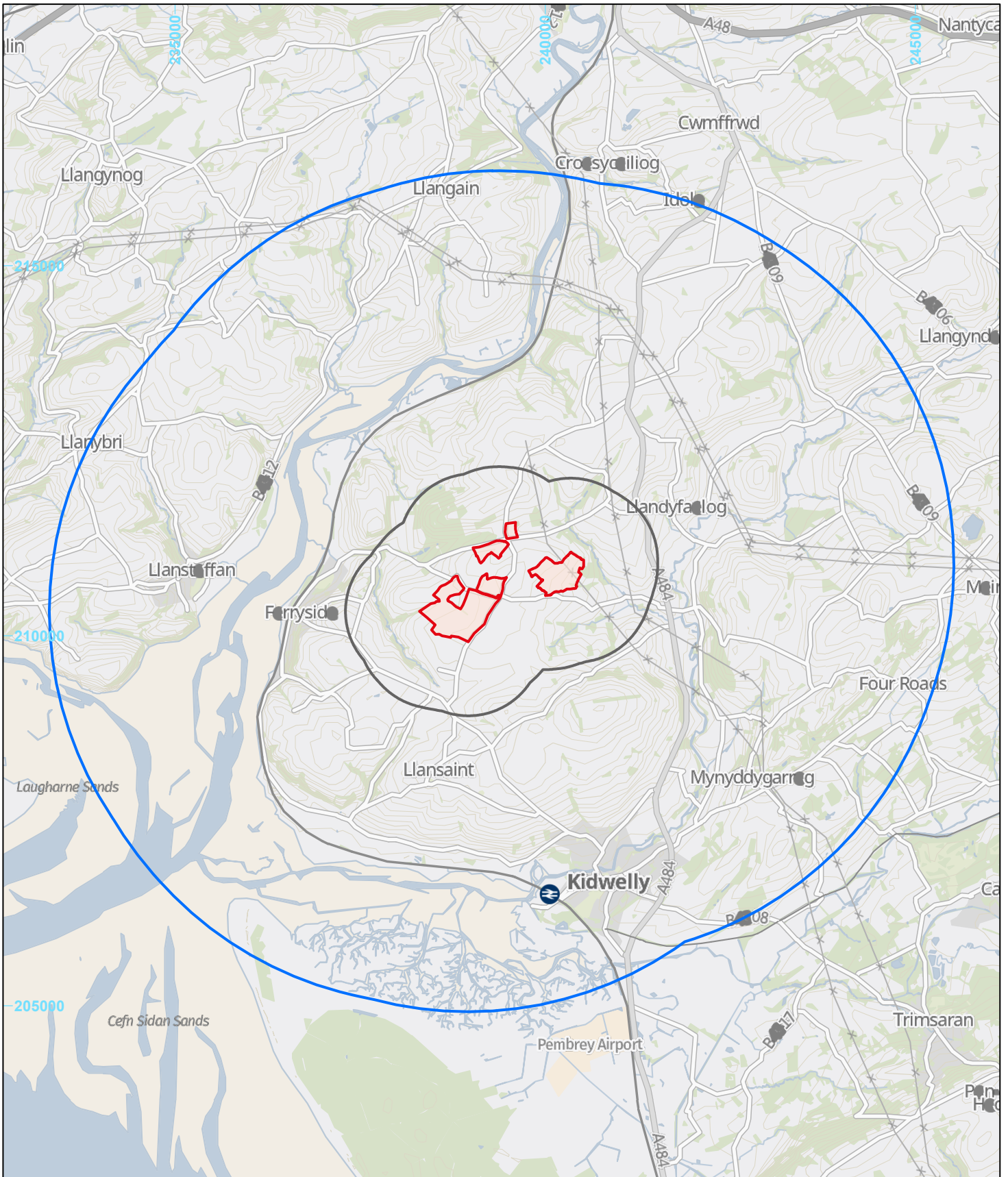
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<b>Cirencester</b> Building 11 Cotswold Business Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ  t. 01285 771022 f. 01285 771033	<b>Milton Keynes</b> Unit 8 – The IO Centre Fingle Drive Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT  t. 01908 564660	<b>Andover</b> Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH  t. 01264 347630	<b>Suffolk</b> Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ  t. 01449 900120
e. <a href="mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk">enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk</a>			

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## CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION .....	3
2.	BACKGROUND .....	3
3.	OBJECTIVES.....	5
4.	METHODOLOGY .....	5
5.	STAFF AND TIMETABLE .....	8
6.	ANALYSIS AND REPORTING.....	9
7.	HEALTH AND SAFETY .....	10
8.	INSURANCES.....	10
9.	QUALITY ASSURANCE.....	11
10.	REFERENCES.....	12



- Site
- Study Area: 1km
- Study Area: 5km



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 Contains data from OS Zoomstack



Andover 01264 347630  
 Cirencester 01285 771022  
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660  
 Suffolk 01449 900120

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 E [enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Site Location Plan

DRAWN BY	FC	PROJECT NO.	CR1831	FIGURE NO.	1
CHECKED BY	JS	DATE	11/12/2024		
APPROVED BY	JS	SCALE @ A4	1:70,000		

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared in December 2024 by Cotswold Archaeology, a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. It sets out a scope and methodology for a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire (NGR: 238759, 210207; Fig. 1). The WSI has been commissioned by Qualitas Energy.
- 1.2. This WSI has been guided in its composition by the ‘Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment’ (ClfA 2020a), Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government 2024), and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Government 2017). The desk-based assessment will be subject to the approval of the WSI by the Planning Archaeologist at the Heneb – Dyfed region, to seek agreement on the scope and methodology of the project, prior to undertaking the assessment. Upon completion a copy of the document will be sent to Heneb and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) for deposition.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Site is proposed for redevelopment comprising a solar farm, a BESS, and a cable route.
- 2.2. The solar farm element comprises two main development areas for the solar scheme and two further option areas for temporary laydown. It covers a total area of c. 90.21ha; all located between the A484 and Ferryside, c. 8.8km south of Carmarthen.

### *Study area*

- 2.3. For the purposes of the HEDBA, a 1km ‘study area’ around the Site is utilised for the assessment of potential impacts upon buried archaeological remains and the historic landscape. An appropriate ‘study area’ will be utilised for the stepped assessment of settings. A 5km ‘buffer’ study area around the development area is proposed for the consideration of potential effects upon the ‘setting’ of historic assets, as discussed with Cadw and indicated in the Scoping Direction.

### *Designated historic assets*

- 2.4. The designated historic assets included in the 5km study area comprise:

- 
- 24 Scheduled Monuments, comprising prehistoric barrows, standing stones and burial chambers. Two Scheduled Monuments are located within the 1km study area. These include the Round Barrow 330m SW of Mynydd-Uchaf, approximately 110m south-east of the Site, and Is-Coed Standing Stone, approximately 710m to the north-west.
  - 71 Listed Buildings, including three Grade I, seven Grade II\* and 61 Grade II Listed Buildings. Only one Listed Building is situated within 1km of the Site, the Grade II 'Iscoed', a large late Georgian country house situated with views overlooking Carmarthen Bay, approximately 700m to the north of the Site.
  - Three Conservation Areas: Llansteffan, Kidwelly and Llansaint
  - Llechdwnni, Grade II Registered Park and Garden;
  - Two areas of Registered Historic Landscape (RHL) lie within the 1km study area: the Tywi Valley RHL, which encompasses the western part of the Site and the Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL extends to c. 740m to the south-west of the Site.

### *Archaeological potential*

- 2.5. There is the potential for as yet unrecorded buried archaeological remains within the Site. Remains associated with Bronze Age funerary or ritual activity are recorded within the study area, represented by standing stones and round barrows, although the majority of these sites have been identified on the basis of place-name evidence rather than recorded archaeological remains. However, due to the presence of abovementioned Scheduled barrow 110m south-east of the Site, there is potential for Bronze Age activity within this landscape.
- 2.6. There are no Roman period remains recorded in the HER within the study area, and the potential for the presence of such remains within the Site is considered to be low. The evidence for medieval activity within the study area is sparse and limited to place-name evidence likely indicative of agricultural land use in the medieval period, rather than settlement.
- 2.7. The majority of the sites recorded on the HER and lying within the study area relate to post-medieval and later activity. This includes post-medieval farmsteads and cottages, as well as infrastructure (roads, milestones, bridges), quarries and agricultural remains. Within the Site, this is represented by place-name evidence, including for a potential former dwelling and a quarry. Several farmsteads and a cottage are recorded adjacent to and near to the Site boundaries, but the review of historic title and Ordnance Survey maps indicates that the Site comprised enclosed

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agricultural fields. As such, there is considered to be a high potential for the presence of agricultural remains within the Site associated with post-medieval and later activity.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

3.1. The assessment will fully assess the known and potential historic assets within the Site, their survival and significance. The objectives of the desk-based assessment will be:

- to identify designated historic constraints within the Site and study area;
- to gather information on non-designated recorded historic assets through desk-based research, and through available archaeological survey information;
- to assess the above baseline information, and offer an analysis of the potential for currently unrecorded historic assets within the Site;
- to assess, as far as possible, the likely depth and extent of any below-ground archaeological deposits within the Site; and
- to assess the value of the historic assets affected by the proposed development and, where possible, the impact of the proposed development upon the value of these assets, including the setting of designated historic assets.

### 4. METHODOLOGY

#### *Key Heritage Policy and Guidance*

4.1. The content, aims and method set out in this WSI have been guided by the following key documents:

- Planning Policy Wales (Welsh Government Edition 12, 2024);
- Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Government 2017);
- Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023;
- Conservation Principles (Cadw 2011);
- Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (ClfA 2020a);
- Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017);
- Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales; and

- 
- The 'Guidance for the Submission of data to the Heneb Historic Environment Record (HER)' produced by the Heneb: The Trust for Welsh Archaeology (2024).

#### **Desk-Based Assessment**

4.2. The desk-based research and sources will be based upon the *Standard and Guidance for historic environment assessments* produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020a). Cotswold Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the CIfA, and the project will be managed and technically coordinated by a Member of the Institute.

4.3. The archaeological assessment will utilise a minimum study area of 1km around the boundary of the proposed Site. Data will be collated from published and archive sources of archaeological, historical, geographical, topographical, and environmental information relevant to the area of the development using the following sources:

- Cadw and RCAHMW for details of designated historic assets, e.g., Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens;
- The Heneb (Dyfed Region) Historic Environment Record (HER) for details of previously completed archaeological works in the vicinity and recorded historic assets;
- Aerial photographs curated by the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales;
- The Heneb (Dyfed Region), for documentary sources and historic mapping of relevance to the historical development of the Site and its surroundings;
- Remote sensing resources, i.e., LiDAR (provided by Natural Resources Wales);
- Geophysical survey results (conducted on site in 2024);
- Relevant national and local planning policy documentation; and
- A walkover survey of the proposed Site and its environs to assess and document any extant evidence of historic assets, any evidence of previous disturbance within the area of the Site and the setting of historic assets.

#### **Value of historic assets**

4.4. The value of historic assets is best defined by the Cadw guidance, *Conservation Principles* (2011), which describes value as a combination of evidential value; historical value; aesthetic value; and communal value.

- 
- 4.5. Evidential value derives from those elements of an historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric.
  - 4.6. Historical value may derive from particular aspects of past ways of life, or association with notable families, persons, events or movements – it embodies the connection between past events and society with the present.
  - 4.7. Aesthetic value derives from the sensory and intellectual stimulation drawn from an historic asset. It may include its physical form, and how it lies within its setting. It may also be the result of design, or an unplanned outcome of a process of events.
  - 4.8. Communal value derives from the meanings that an historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. It may be commemorative or symbolic and relate to issues of identity or collective memory.

#### *The setting of historic assets*

- 4.9. The assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the approach outlined in Cadw's 'Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' (2017). This publication provides guidance on setting and development management, including the assessment of the implications of proposed development. It reiterates that 'the setting of a historic asset is the surroundings in which a historic asset is experienced. 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'. In accordance with the guidance, the extent of the setting of a historic asset is not fixed and can evolve periodically.
- 4.10. All historic assets have a setting, and features of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to significance and may affect the appreciation of the asset. They can remain neutral. The extent and importance of setting is often expressed by reference to visual considerations but can also comprise other elements which contribute to the ways in which a historic asset is experienced, including factors such as noise, vibrations, dust, or other pollutants; spatial associations; the rarity of comparable survivals of setting, and associative relationships between historic assets.
- 4.11. Stage 1 assessment, informed by further analysis, ZTV, development design and site visits, will be undertaken to identify designated historic assets which may be

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susceptible to change as a result of the development. Although over 100 designated assets are within the 5km proposed study area, it is considered that the majority of those would not be affected in any way. At this stage it is proposed to focus on the assessment of those assets, although further assets will be added, if potential for impact is identified as the assessment process progresses:

- Two Scheduled Monuments within the 1km study area: the Round Barrow 330m SW of Mynydd-Uchaf, and Is-Coed Standing Stone (for the latter, impacts are not likely but this will be confirmed);
- Grade II 'Iscoed' (impacts are not likely but this will be confirmed);
- Potentially Grade II Listed Church of St Maelog (impacts are not likely but this will be confirmed);
- Potentially Grade II Registered park Llechdwnni (if potential for impact is identified);
- Potentially Conservation Areas: Llansteffan and Llansaint and associated Listed Buildings (where potential for impact is identified).

4.12. The western areas of the Site are located within the Tywi Valley RHL. However, it is outside the defined Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs), 45 of which have been defined by Dyfed Archaeological Trust (now Heneb – Dyfed region). The Site is outside the Tywi Estuary RHL, which extends to c. 740m to the south-west of the Site. However, the southernmost fields fall within one of the 46 defined HLCAs associated with this RHL: Allt Hilltop, a large area situated entirely outside the defined boundary of the RHL and characterised by an enclosed landscape of fairly large fields likely established in the 16th century, and scattered pattern of rural farmsteads.

4.13. Following Cadw comments and advice, a separate ASIDOHL2 Assessment (Cadw *et al.* 2007) will be undertaken and any impacts on RHL will be presented within this standalone report.

## 5. STAFF AND TIMETABLE

5.1. This project will be under the management of Julia Sulikowska, Cotswold Archaeology. The assessment will be undertaken, and the subsequent report produced by Francesco Catanzaro. The data collation, analysis and assessment report normally take approximately six to eight weeks.

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## 6. ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

- 6.1. The information collated will initially be assembled into a workable database, cross-referenced to the original sources. The assessment report will begin with a non-technical summary both in English and Welsh, in accordance with Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Heneb Historic Environment Record (HER) (Heneb: The Trust for Welsh Archaeology 2024), outlining in plain language the principal reasons for the work, its aims and main results. The introduction will then set out the circumstances leading to the commission of the report, any restrictions on reporting or access to relevant records, size, surface geology and topography of the study area. Any variation from the methodologies set out in this project specification will be detailed and explained within the methodology section of the report.
- 6.2. The report will set out the information base regarding the assessment objectives, as set out in Section 3 above. The known and potential historic assets will be outlined clearly and objectively in relation to the methods used, organised by archaeological period or type, and with reference to, or inclusion of, supporting evidence. The results will be interpreted and put into context in terms of significance. A comprehensive list of sources consulted, with full bibliographic details, will be provided at the back of the report.
- 6.3. The assessment will be supported with illustrative material, including at least one figure showing known or potential historic assets within or affecting the proposed scheme. Where possible, areas of greater or lesser potential will be defined and the effects of previous construction, industrial and other intrusive activity taken into account.

### *Detailed Scope of Report Contents*

- 6.4. The report will contain the following information:
- Bilingual non-technical summary
  - HER Enquiry Number
  - Introduction
  - Planning background, including aims and objectives
  - Description of proposed development
  - Methodology
  - Site topography and geology

- 
- Archaeological and historic background and context (including information from cartographic and aerial photographic sources, and the Site inspection)
  - Assessment of effects (physical and non-physical)
  - Preliminary recommendations for work
  - Conclusions
  - References and bibliography
  - Gazetteer of selected historic assets (included as Appendix)
  - Data Management Plan and archive selection strategy (included as Appendices)

### ***Archive deposition***

- 6.5. The final archive (Site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution, usually the relevant Local Authority museums service. Arrangements will be made with the receiving institution before work starts. A digital copy of the archive will also be sent to the RCAHMW following the guidance set out in the 'RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives' (2015).
- 6.6. Copies of the assessment report will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to Heneb. This will be in line with the guidance published by National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW), 'National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales' (2017).

### ***Data management***

- 6.7. All digital data will follow strict file naming, to include the unique project code, and be sorted into a standard series of sub-folders. The digital data will be catalogued, including a list of file types and relevant software.

## **7. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 7.1. CA will conduct all works in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation, and CA Health, Safety and Welfare Policy (2010).

## **8. INSURANCES**

- 8.1. CA holds Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £15,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000.

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## 9. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 9.1. CA is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (RO Ref. No. 8). As a RO, CA endorses the Code of Conduct (CIfA 2019) and adheres to the Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment (2020b). All CA Project Managers and Project Officers hold either full Member or Associate status within the CIfA.
- 9.2. CA operates an internal quality assurance system in the following manner. Projects are overseen by a Project Manager who is responsible for the quality of the project. The Project Manager reports to the Chief Executive who bears ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all CA operations. Matters of policy and corporate strategy are determined by the Board of Directors, and in cases of dispute recourse may be made to the Chair of the Board.

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## 10. REFERENCES

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