

# PARC MAEN HIR, LETTERSTON, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL UPDATE



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: Ateb Group





## **DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2019/26  
RHIF YR DIGWYDDIAD / PROJECT NO. 118019

Gorffennaf 2019  
July 2019

### **PARC MAEN HIR, LETTERSTON, PEMBROKESHIRE:**

### **HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL UPDATE**

Gan / By

**James Meek MCIfA**

*Paratowyd yr adroddiad yma at ddefnydd y cwsmer yn unig. Ni dderbynnir cyfrifoldeb gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf am ei ddefnyddio gan unrhyw berson na phersonau eraill a fydd yn ei ddarllen neu ddibynnu ar y gwybodaeth y mae'n ei gynnwys*

*The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.*

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf  
Corner House, 6 Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir  
Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AE  
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121  
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131  
Ebost: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Gwefan: [www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk](http://www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk)

*Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited*  
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo,  
Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE  
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121  
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131  
Email: [info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](mailto:info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)  
Website: [www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk)

*Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth. The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)  
CADEIRYDD CHAIR: J Protheroe-Jones. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K Murphy BA MCIfA*



**PARC MAEN HIR, LETTERSTON, PEMBROKESHIRE:  
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL UPDATE**

	<b>SUMMARY</b>	1
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	2
	<b>1.1 Project Proposals and Commission</b>	2
	<b>1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology</b>	2
	<b>1.3 Abbreviations</b>	4
	<b>1.4 Illustrations</b>	4
	<b>1.5 Timeline</b>	4
<b>2</b>	<b>LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY</b>	6
<b>3</b>	<b>HISTORICAL, LANDSCAPE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND</b>	7
	<b>3.1 Historic Landscape Areas</b>	7
	<b>3.2 Historic Parks and Gardens</b>	7
	<b>3.3 Scheduled Monuments</b>	7
	<b>3.4 Listed Buildings</b>	7
	<b>3.5 Non-designated Archaeological Sites</b>	9
	<b>3.6 Previous Archaeological Work</b>	19
	<b>3.7 Other Archaeological Finds</b>	21
	<b>3.8 Aerial Photography and LiDAR</b>	21
	<b>3.9 Historic Mapping</b>	21
	<b>3.10 Site Walkover Survey</b>	24
<b>4</b>	<b>PREVIOUS IMPACTS TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA AND FURTHER PREDICTED IMPACTS ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT</b>	28
	<b>4.1 Previous Impacts to Development Area</b>	28
	<b>4.2 Potential Impacts from the Proposed Development</b>	28
	<b>4.3 Impacts to the Settings of     Surrounding Designated Features</b>	28
<b>5</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND IMPORTANCE</b>	29
<b>6</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	30
<b>7</b>	<b>SOURCES</b>	31

**TABLES**

<b>Table 1:</b>	Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales	4
<b>Table 2:</b>	Historic assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record within 1km of the site area	12

**FIGURES**

<b>Figure 1:</b>	Location Map for the Parc Maen Hir development site	5
------------------	---	---

<b>Figure 2:</b>	The Pen Dre round barrow Scheduled Monument PE062 and Saron Baptist Chapel grade II listed building (reference 22761) with the proposed Phase 2 development area in red	8
<b>Figure 3:</b>	Map showing heritage assets recorded on the HER (red) and NMR (green) within 1km of the proposed development site	18
<b>Figure 4:</b>	Approximation of the three trenches opened by BARAS in 2009 within the Phase 2 area of the Parc Maen Hir development showing geophysical survey anomalies targeted (pink) and field boundary recorded in Trench 13 (brown)	20
<b>Figure 5:</b>	Extract of the 1811 original survey drawing (Fishguard) of Letterston, with the approximate position of the proposed development site circled in blue	22
<b>Figure 6:</b>	Extract of the 1841 Letterston Tithe Map, with the approximate position of the proposed development site outlined in blue	22
<b>Figure 7:</b>	Extract of the 1889 Ordnance Survey 6 inch to 1 mile map, with the proposed development site outlined in red.	23
<b>Figure 8:</b>	Extract of the 1907 Ordnance Survey 1:2500, with the proposed development site outlined in blue	24

## PHOTOGRAPHS

<b>Photo 1:</b>	View west along the southern part of the Phase 2 development area, with the fenced off Parc Maen Hir development to the north	25
<b>Photo 2:</b>	View southwest across the Phase 2 area showing the overgrown nature of the site with the rise of spoil heaps visible	25
<b>Photo 3:</b>	View west along the base of a spoil heap where a deeper channel was still visible containing concrete inspection chamber pieces	26
<b>Photo 4:</b>	View southwest in centre of development area showing raised linear spoil heap with wheel ruts still visible in the long grass in front of it	26
<b>Photo 5:</b>	View south in centre of development area showing rise of spoil heap and vegetation growth on top	27

## **PARC MAEN HIR, LETTERSTON, PEMBROKESHIRE: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT APPRAISAL UPDATE**

### **SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Ateb Group to prepare an update to an Archaeological Appraisal previously prepared by Cambria Archaeology in 2007 for the Phase 2 residential development site at Parc Maen Hir, Letterston, Pembrokeshire.*

*The development site lies in an area of archaeological significance with the site of a possible Neolithic Henge to the northwest, which was incorporated into a burial mound in the Bronze Age period. Two further round barrows are present to the northwest and the former sites of standing stones exist to the east. This area formerly formed part of Letterston Common. The land was used for agricultural purposes from the medieval period until the development of Parc Maen Hir.*

*The previous appraisal indicated the archaeological potential of the site and subsequently two phases of geophysical survey and a trial trench evaluation were carried at the site, including the Phase 2 area. Possible ring ditches were identified on the geophysical survey possibly representing more Bronze Age barrows. The trial trench evaluation determined that these were in fact changes in the natural geology.*

*During development of the Parc Maen Hir site the Phase 2 area was used for spoil storage and also for vehicle movement. This has resulted in spoil heaps still being present, wheel ruts still being visible and a number of other trenches cut into the ground causing significant disturbance to any underlying archaeology that may have been present.*

*The negative results of the previous archaeological evaluation, tied in with the disturbance caused by the previous development, the archaeological potential of the site area is considered negligible. No further archaeological work is considered necessary at the site.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Proposals and Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Ateb Group to update an archaeological appraisal undertaken by Cambria Archaeology (former trading name of DAT Archaeological Services) of land south of Parc Maen Hir, Letterston, Pembrokeshire (roughly centred on SM 94890 29723). This area forms Phase 2 of the residential development of the former Longstone Farm site on the eastern side of the village.
- 1.1.2 This report provides the original information from the archaeological appraisal prepared in 2007, updated with more recent archaeological information and prepared to fulfil the scope of a Historic Environment Appraisal. It provides information on the archaeological potential of the development area and highlights possible issues in relation to the impact of the development on the historic environment.

### **1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology**

- 1.2.1 The scope of the appraisal follows the Standard And Guidance For Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). It should be noted that a Historic Environment Appraisal is a more rapid exercise than a full desk-based assessment as defined by CIfA, but the basic principles are the same. The standard is stated by CIfA as:

*Desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. Desk-based assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of Conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA. In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact.*

- 1.2.2 A desk-based assessment is defined by CIfA as:

*.....a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely historic assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of historic assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.*

- 1.2.3 The Historic Environment Appraisal is a rapid desk-based study of the area identifying known archaeological sites within the site and its environs, and assesses the potential for hitherto unknown remains to be present within the proposed development area. An indication is also given of what further archaeological works might be required in advance of or during the proposed school development.
- 1.2.4 The scope of the report also includes a brief assessment of the impact on the settings of surrounding designated heritage assets, including

scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic landscape character areas and undesignated archaeological sites.

1.2.5 The report presents relevant information from a number of sources including:

- Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record data;
- On-line National Monuments Record of Wales data held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth (Coflein);
- Map regression exercise using earlier cartographic sources;
- Identification of any Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Historic Landscapes, Historic Landscape Character Areas or Conservation Areas within or in the vicinity of the site area (Cadw, DAT, NRW);
- Site visit and walkover survey;
- Rapid assessment of the archaeological potential of the area;
- Rapid assessment of the likely impact upon the settings of surrounding features of the historic environment; and
- Rapid assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains within the development site (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.

1.2.6 The report uses a 1km radius search area centred on the middle of the development area to identify known historic assets in order to provide sufficient overview of the nature of the area's heritage.

1.2.7 For the purposes of planning policy in Wales, the historic environment is defined as:

*All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed (Welsh Government 2017).*

A historic asset is:

*An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, a historic building or area, historic park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated (ibid).*

1.2.8 This report contains information about the historic environment and historic assets in the vicinity of the proposed development site, which will assist the archaeological advisors to the planning authority in their decision about what, if any, archaeological mitigation will be required. Further guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment and historic assets during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and Listed Building (LBC) applications can be found in *Planning Policy Wales: Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (Welsh Government 2017; available online).

### 1.3 Abbreviations

1.3.1 All sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN). Scheduled Monument (SM). Altitude is expressed to a height above Ordnance Datum (aOD). References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

### 1.4 Illustrations

1.4.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale. North is towards the top of the page unless otherwise indicated.

### 1.5 Timeline

1.5.1 The following timeline gives date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within this report.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period <sup>1</sup> –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

**Table 1:** Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

<sup>1</sup> The post-medieval and Industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust



**Figure 1:** Location Map for the Parc Maen Hir development site – a red outline shows the area of proposed development (unfortunately the map does not show the modern residential developments around Parc Maen Hir or Longstone Court)

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE. Licence No 100020930

## **2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

- 2.1 The proposed development site occupies c.0.8ha of land to the south of the modern residential development area based around Parc Maen Hir road, on the southern side of Station Road on the eastern side of Letterston (centred on SM 9483 2972). Farmland lies to the south and west, with a fallow field (overgrown) to the east (a possible later phase of residential development).
- 2.2 The former Longstone farmhouse and its outbuildings, lay to the northeast and is now occupied by the modern residential development constructed along Longstone Court.
- 2.3 The site lies on the 125m contour on ground that slopes gently downslope from the southwest to the northeast. Ysgubor Mountain, a 232m high western outlier of the Preseli hills, overlooks the site from the northeast.
- 2.4 The Phase 2 development area is presently very overgrown and the area is very undulating from spoil heaps associated with the development to the north. More information on the state of the area is given in the site visit section below.
- 2.5 The solid geology of the study area is represented by Ordovician grey mudstone sediments of the Llanvirn Series which are occasionally interrupted by fine-grained dolerite igneous intrusions. The geology becomes even more complex because Station Road follows exactly an underlying interface between older Arenig Series mudstone sediments and the younger sediments of the Llanvirn Series (British Geological Survey 1994). Deposits of sand, clay, gravel and erratic boulders characterise the glacial drift geology of the area where these deposits have survived the ravages of erosion and quarrying: however, no detailed geological drift maps of the area are available to be more specific about their locations. The only available soil survey maps of the area indicate that generally the soils in the Letterston area are typical acidic brown earths.

### **3 HISTORICAL, LANDSCAPE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Historic Landscape Areas**

##### ***Registered Historic Landscapes***

- 3.1.1 The proposed development does not lie within the boundary of any Registered Historic Landscape.

##### ***Conservation Area***

- 3.1.2 There is no Conservation Area in Letterston.

#### **3.2 Historic Parks and Gardens**

- 3.2.1 There are no Registered Historic Parks and Gardens within 1km of the centre point of the proposed development site.
- 3.2.2 There is no Registered Historic Park or Garden further afield whose setting would be affected by the development.

#### **3.3 Scheduled Monuments (Figure 2)**

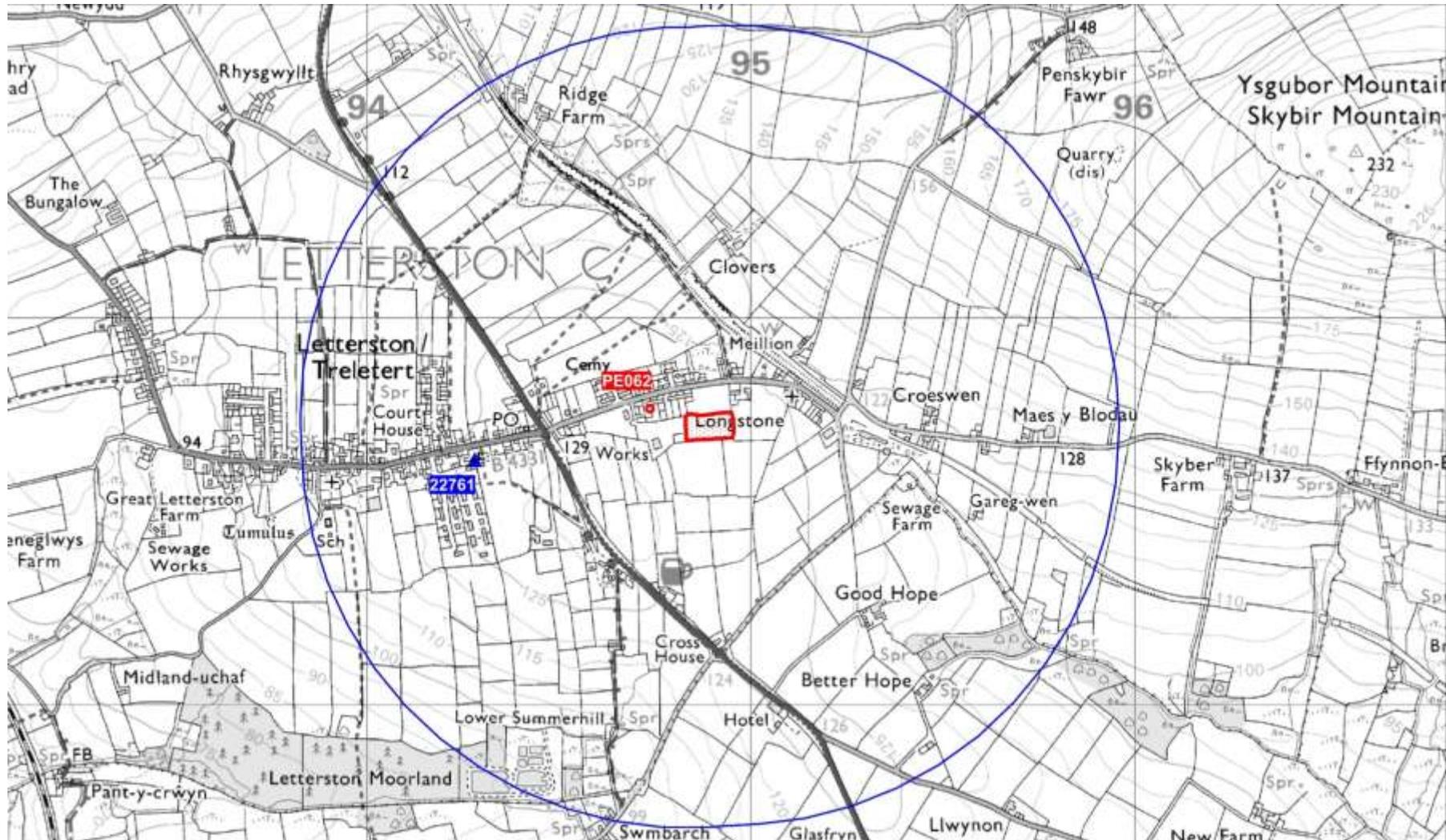
- 3.3.1 There is a single Scheduled Monument within 1km of the proposed development site. This is the Pen Dre round barrow (PE062). The scheduling description summarises the site as follows:

*The monument comprises the remains of an earthen built round barrow, which probably dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC). The barrow consists of traces of a low mound and buried archaeology within the rear gardens of two houses. The kerbed barrow that originally measured c 33m in diameter and was 1.5m high was excavated in 1961. This had been raised over an embanked stone circle 12m in diameter which remains in situ. An early Bronze Age urn and cremation and a shallow pit containing charcoal were associated with the embanked circle.*

- 3.3.2 There is limited intervisibility between the scheduled barrow site and the development area, with vegetation, built environment, fences etc blocking any clear views. Additional screening through vegetation planting and appropriate fencing boundaries would mitigate for any further negative impacts on the setting of the monument.

#### **3.4 Listed Buildings (Figure 2)**

- 3.4.1 There is one Listed Buildings within 1km of the development area, that of Saron Baptist Chapel (reference 22761) some 550m west of the development area on the western side of the A40. The building is dated to 1869. There is no intervisibility between the listed building and the development site.



**Figure 2:** The Pen Dre round barrow Scheduled Monument PE062 and Saron Baptist Chapel grade II listed building (reference 22761) with the proposed Phase 2 development area in red

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE. Licence No 100020930

### **3.5 Non-designated Archaeological Sites** (Figure 3)

- 3.5.1 The Dyfed Historic Environment Record (HER) records thirty one sites of archaeological interest within 1km of the site boundary, many of which are also recorded on the National Monuments Record (NMR). A further three sites are recorded only in the NMR.
- 3.5.2 None of the sites lie within the proposed site boundary.
- 3.5.3 There are several prehistoric monuments within 1km of the site area. The earliest of these are a possible Neolithic henge monument (PRN 2393; NPRN 413086) at SM 9482 2998 and a late Neolithic embanked stone circle (PRN 9036) at SM 9473 2976. These monuments probably date from around 2500 BC, and suggest that this area, formerly Letterston Common, was seen as an important ritual landscape at that time.
- 3.5.4 A Bronze Age round barrow cemetery (PRN 48335) comprising three barrows arranged in a linear fashion lies to the northwest of the study area. These are a common type of prehistoric funerary monument and date to around 2000 BC. The most southerly of the barrows (PRN 2381; NPRN 305219) was excavated in 1961 (Savory 1961) and was shown to have been constructed directly over the previously mentioned embanked stone circle PRN 9036. The re-use of this monument in the Bronze Age would appear to indicate that the area continued to be seen as an important ritual landscape at this later date (Savory 1963). Vestiges of the barrow still remain in the gardens of numbers 18 and 20 Station Road. It is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (PE062). The remaining two barrows (PRNs 2379 and 2380; NPRN 300421), now destroyed, lay on a fairly good alignment with the henge monument PRN 2393, again emphasising significance attached to this landscape during the Bronze Age (Cook 2004).
- 3.5.5 There is documentary evidence (Fenton 1811) for the presence of a Bronze Age standing stone (PRN 2398) at NGR SM 9493 2985, directly opposite the study area on the north side of Station Road. During an archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to a building development in 1999 the site was excavated but no stone was revealed. However, a spread of possibly intentionally laid quartz was found in the location, which may represent a pavement associated with the standing stone (Tavener 1999). It is possible that the Longstone farm place name is derived from the site of a former standing stone (PRN 4560). Fenton (1811) also records a further stone row called the Ketch Stone Row although this may be located in the same place as the henge monument and thus a duplicated number (PRN 2414). The location of a further possible standing stone is recorded on the HER again based on place name evidence, with the name Garreg Wen (PRN 10465).
- 3.5.6 The Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments all form part of PRN 48336, the Letterston Prehistoric Monument Complex.
- 3.5.7 There are no Iron Age/Romano British sites listed in the HER as being in close proximity to the proposed development area; the nearest major site is Buckette Camp (PRN 2586) defended enclosure at NGR SM 9499 3103 about 1.2km due north of the study area.
- 3.5.8 Generally, the typical early medieval land settlement pattern in north Pembrokeshire tended to consist of small dispersed farmsteads. No sites of this type are recorded in the HER as being in or close to the study area although a study on village origins (Kissock 1997) argues that the area at the western edge of Letterston village, close to Great Letterston Farm, could be part of an original Celtic settlement pattern (NGR SM 9365 2960).

- 3.5.9 The village of Letterston itself has its origins in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century when the area to the west of Pendre crossroads was taken over by immigrant Flemings who were granted west Pembrokeshire by Henry II, forcing the local population out. The strip field system (NPRN 404189) and formal village layout from that time (NPRN 409457) are readily detectable in the landscape to this day. It seems that the carefully planned and laid out settlement, consisting of two rows of properties facing each other, was made possible via the agency of facilitators known as '*locatores*' (Kissock 1997) who were employed by the conquering Normans to establish settlements in order to colonise their newly acquired Welsh territory. The facilitator for Letterston was a Fleming named Letard from whom the village took its name. Other '*locatores*' active in Pembrokeshire at this time were Wizo and Tancred who set up the villages of Wiston and Tancredston, respectively. Normally in such a settlement the Normans would initially build a motte and bailey castle as a defence against Welsh incursions, but in the case of Letterston there is some doubt as to whether the earthwork on the village green (PRN 2394, SM 9375 2948 – not illustrated) represents such a monument.
- 3.5.10 The parish church of St Giles (PRN 4552; NPRN 421023) is first mentioned in c.1130 although potentially may have earlier origins. The site of the former Fynnon Shan Shilin Holy Well lies within the search area (PRN 2396) which may also suggest an earlier medieval date for the church.
- 3.5.11 There is no evidence of medieval settlement within the study area itself but cartographic evidence appears to indicate a relict medieval strip field system (PRN 6421) some 400m to 600m east and northeast of Longstone farm centred on SM 9570 3010. A boundary ditch and boundary stone (PRN 10472) discovered at SM 9541 2960, some 500m southeast of the study area and a further parish boundary ditch known as Swmbarch (PRN 10473) located at SM 9465 2879) may both be of medieval date. The possible site of the former medieval settlement of Nant-Y-Gof is likely to lie to the northeast of the development area, outside of the centre of Letterston, although its location is only approximated (PRN 12377).
- 3.5.12 The expansion of Letterston eastwards across the A40 trunk road from Pendre crossroads along Station Road occurred largely in the 20th century. However, map evidence from 1814 (Ordnance Survey original surveyor's drawings) shows that there was an enclosed field, at least, marked in the position of the study area. The map does not show clearly that there are any buildings in the study area but the name Longstone does appear below the enclosure. The Letterston parish tithe map of 1844 shows quite clearly the study area with the same enclosed fields, complete with buildings, more or less as they appeared prior to the modern residential development. The tithe schedule and apportionment document shows the farm as unnamed, with the farm name "Longstone" given to farm buildings at NGR SM 9525 2948 some 450m southeast of the present day Longstone farm house. The development area field name is listed as "No.294, Park y ffynt" with the enclosure containing the farm buildings named as "No.296 Park y Ydian". The Welsh word "ffynt" could be derived from ffynnon (a well) but is otherwise untranslatable, whilst Ydian can be translated as a rickyard. The area across the road from the site is still unenclosed common land on the tithe map, but an Enclosure Act award map of 1865 shows further enclosure of Letterston Common at that time. The first edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1890 shows Longstone named and enclosed as it was before development. By the time of publication of

the second edition 6" Ordnance Survey map in 1906 the railway station, and a whole new community, had been built some 300m from the site area. The Fishguard and North Pembrokeshire railway was opened in 1895 and with it Letterston Station (PRN 17656), Coronation Terrace, Station Terrace and eventually the building of Horeb Chapel in 1901 (PRN 17655).

- 3.5.13 The HER and NMR record numerous sites of post-medieval date within 1km of the site area, mostly associated with the development of the village during this later period. Additional sites recorded include the school (PRN 17620), Saron Chapel (PRNs 17622 & 59723; NPRN 11200); Swmbach Isaf farmstead (PRN 45397); a milestone (PRN 46482); and Letterston cemetery (PRN 46484). A former farmstead shown on the early 20<sup>th</sup> century ordnance survey map records a former farmstead within the study area (PRNM 46478).
- 3.5.14 A single site of modern date is recorded on the HER, that of the Letterston War Memorial (PRN 112754) commemorating the 12 men of the parish who fell in the First World War and the six from the Second World War.
- 3.5.15 Recent years have seen quite an expansion of modern residential building development along Station Road to the north and west of Longstone Farm. This includes the very recent residential development along Longston Court and Parc Maen Hir directly north of the Phase 2 development area.

PRN / NPRN	Site Name	Description	Grid Reference	Period
2393 / 413086	Gwaun Terrace Henge	<p>Cropmark of unknown significance. RPS August 2001. Crop mark visited by CAP in 1999. It is described as a low circular earthwork some 60m in diameter. The eastern side comprise a grassed bank c. 0.5m high, and there is possibly an external ditch. Potentially, this may be a Neolithic henge site. Reference in Fenton to three stones which may have been associated with this feature</p> <p>A possible Neolithic henge monument. Noted in the SMR and by the Ordnance Survey as a circular cropmark with a dark patch at its centre. The site is located c.100m to the NNE of round barrow PRN 2381, the most northerly barrow of a linear arrangement of three barrows forming barrow cemetery PRN 48335. This site was briefly looked at by CAP in 1999 as part of a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation of a proposed development at 47 Station Road, Letterston located just to the south of the site. Within their report (37104) CAP noted that the site survives as a standing earthwork in recently improved pasture land. It appears that the site was viewed from the lane to the east, and therefore was not fully assessed, but the eastern side of the monument was described as comprising a grassed bank, 0.5m high, with the monument itself predicted to have a diameter of c.60m (CAP report 1999: 14). Interesting re-interpretations of Fenton's original description of the location suggest that Fenton's 'trilithon' (PRN 2414), which the RCAHM suggested to be 600 yards east of the three round barrows on Letterston common, might actually be in the same field as this earthwork enclosure (ibid: 15), and thus it is possible that this trilithon, described by Fenton as 'three upright stones, placed triangularly, and bedded in a pavement' might have been a feature at the centre of this circular bank, thus rendering this site a possible henge. The paving mentioned by Fenton has parallels with the paving found beneath barrow PRN 2381, which constituted part of an earlier phase of the monument as an embanked stone circle (PRN 9036) prior to the round barrow being erected over the top of it. This suggests that this area of Letterston Common was a long-used ritual landscape and monument complex, perhaps beginning with the henge and embanked stone circle in the late Neolithic, to which were added two barrows (PRNs 2379 and 2780) in between the two earlier monuments followed by the 'closure' of PRN 9036 by the addition of the mound forming barrow PRN 2381 at some point in the early Bronze Age. The fact that all four of these monuments are aligned in a NE-SW linear arrangement is also interesting. To the SW the high ground on which these monuments are located runs down to the Western Cleddau, whilst the alignment of these monuments is also on a direct line of intervisibility with Plumstone and Dudwell Mountains where there are also a further concentration of Bronze Age round barrows.</p>	SM 9482 2996	Neolithic, Bronze Age
48336	Letterston Prehistoric	Group PRN for the complex of monuments on Letterston common, which originally consisted of three round barrows (PRNs 2379-81), one of which was originally an	SM 9483 2990	Neolithic,

	Monument Complex	embanked stone circle (PRN 9036), plus a standing stone (PRN 2398), a 'trilithon' triangular arrangement of stones (PRN 2414) and circular earthwork (PRN 2393). The circular earthwork and the three barrows were built on a northeast-southwest alignment. The three barrows were excavated by Savory in 1946 and 1961, and an archaeological evaluation made of the site of standing stone PRN 2398 in 1999 by CAP, during which time it was suggested that the trilithon of stones (PRN 2414) may have been part of a now-destroyed stone circle within circular earthwork PRN 2393.		Bronze Age
9036	Pen-Dre; Letterston III Henge	This PRN reflects the initial phase of what later became round barrow PRN 2381. Excavation of PRN 2381 by Savory in 1963 revealed an inner cairn ring within which there was a circle of stones 12m in diameter, with an entrance and external ritual pit on its east side. Savory interpreted this as an embanked stone circle over which a turf mound with a kerb 32m in diameter was erected to cover a cremated burial placed in the entrance, thus changing the site from a late Neolithic 'open' ritual site to a 'closed' early Bronze Age funerary round barrow. The site now lies within the gardens of 18-20 Station Road, Letterston, with a garden wall running over the top of the mound. Nothing of the embanked stone circle can be seen. Scheduled Monument PE062	SM 9473 2976	Neolithic, Bronze Age
2379 / 305219	Letterston I; Pendre Tumuli round barrow	One of three tumuli, the central tumulus appears to have been dug into. (See also PRNs 2380 and 2381).  The middle mound of three round barrows arranged in a NE-SW linear fashion on what was once a common on the eastern outskirts of Letterston village, but which has now given way to housing. This barrow was excavated by Savory in 1946 but had previously been investigated by Fenton in 1806, who had found nothing but did note that an urn had been discovered in the mound in the latter part of the 18th century by a villager paring turf from the top of the barrow. Prior to excavation the barrow was c.23m in diameter and stood c.1.2m high. During excavations Savory discovered the post-holes of a palisade c.18m in diameter: interestingly, a similar feature was found beneath adjacent barrow PRN 2380. There is now no trace of the site.	SM 9476 2981	Bronze Age
2380	Letterston II; Pendre Tumuli round barrow	One of three barrows near Letterston, (See 2379 & 2381) excavated by Savory in 1946 and now destroyed by the building of houses on Station Road.  The most northerly mound of three barrows arranged in a linear fashion on the eastern outskirts of Letterston village. Originally the three barrows were located on common land but have since been excavated and destroyed by the construction of housing along Station Road. This barrow, originally 20m in diameter and 1.8m high, was excavated by Savory in 1946. There was a central summit depression, c.5m in diameter, whilst underneath the mound was found a palisade 16m in diameter and a primary cist burial sunk below ground level. There is now no trace of this site.	SM 9479 2987	Bronze Age
2381 /	Letterston III;	A round barrow excavated by HN Savory in 1961 and now under lawns and boundary	SM 9473 2976	Bronze Age

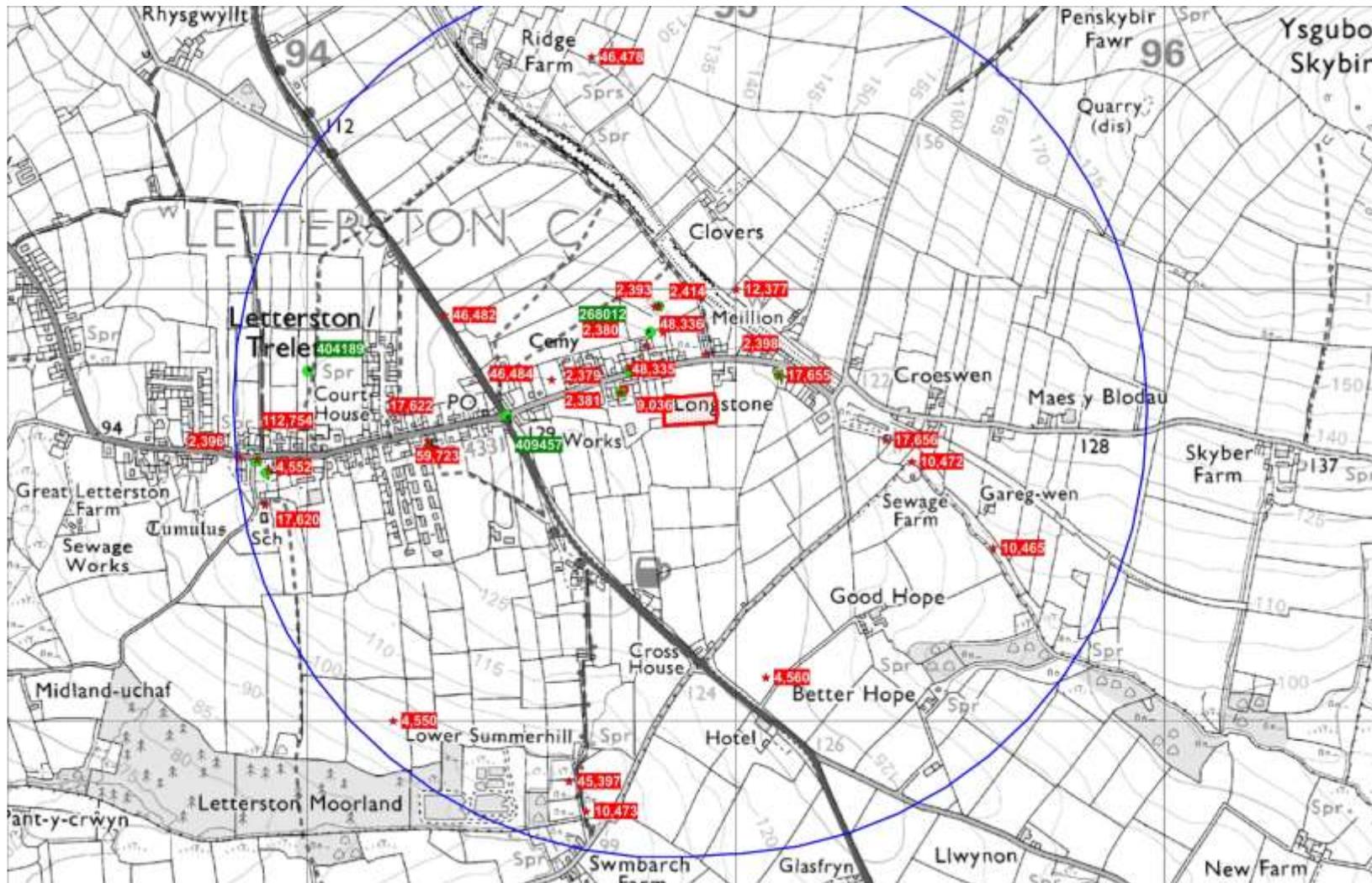
300421	Pendre Tumuli round barrow	<p>wall of two adjoining gardens. JH based on Cadw 1997. One of three barrows see also PRNs 2380 &amp; 2379. Scheduled Monument PE062</p> <p>his barrow was the most southerly of the three barrows here at Letterston, which were arranged in a NE-SW linear fashion, and is the only one of the three with any surviving remains, the others having been destroyed by the houses built on Station Road. This barrow was excavated by Savory in 1961, at which time it measured c.35m in diameter and 1.5m in height. The mound was found to have a drystone kerb 32m in diameter and an inner cairn ring, within which there was a circle of stone slabs 12m in diameter. The site was considered to consist of two main structural elements: "a stone circle of definite Irish Channel type, embanked, with a single entrance and an external ritual pit on the east side, over which....a turf mound with a kerb but without a ditch was erected to cover a cremated burial which had been deposited in the entrance" (Savory 1963 BBS 20). The primary embanked stone circle phase of the monument has a separate PRN as 9036. Today there are some surviving vestiges of the round barrow, which lies within the gardens of 18 and 20 Station Road and is overlain by a concrete wall. The western side of the barrow appears to have been landscaped beneath the lawn of no.18, with the eastern side also beneath a lawn but with its curvature and slope more apparent.</p>		
2398	Letterston Common Standing Stone	<p>Standing Stone currently at present NGR. Possibly in wrong position as the description to locate it was based on Fenton, and actually lay where the station is now.</p> <p>Fenton (1811) noted the existence of a large upright stone on the southeast extremity of Letterston Common, which gave the name 'Longstone' to the adjoining farm. He records this separately from the three standing stones or 'trilithon' (PRN 2414) supposedly associated with the nearby Letterston barrows (PRNs 2379-81). On the basis of the given grid reference this stone was located c.125m to the east of barrow PRN 2380. The stone fell within the area of a proposed land development at 47 Station Road, and a desk-based assessment and field evaluation was carried out in 1999 by CAP. No stone was found at the above location, but there was a spread of quartz laying on the subsoil, which might have been the result of human agency (see CAP report 37104, p.6) in the eastern part of the proposed development area where the standing stone possibly once stood. There is no doubt that this stone was associated with the barrow complex at Letterston, and there is no doubt as to its authenticity, despite the arguments of CAP to the contrary. They suggested that this stone was fictitious and had been confused with another standing stone, PRN 2414 (ibid., p.5). However, PRN 2414 is the record for the trilithon which the RCAHM suggested to be 600 yards east of the Letterston barrows (PRNs 2379-81), but which may instead have been part of earthwork PRN 2393 to the NE of PRN 2380.</p>	SM 9493 2985	Bronze Age
2414	The Ketch Stone Row	The site was described by Fenton in 1811 as 'on the left [i.e. N] side of [Letterston] common there were, till within these few years, in an enclosed field, three upright	SM 9481 2996	Bronze Age

		stones (meini hirion) placed triangularly, and bedded in a pavement, perhaps with reference to the three neighbouring tumuli [2379-81]....One of the stones has been removed as a gatepost, and the other two overturned, the largest about 10 feet [3m] long' (Fenton, 1811, p.187). The RCAHM thought that this triple stone feature was about 600 yards east of the Letterston barrows, which puts the stones at SM95232975. However, Fenton's description clearly puts the stones within an enclosed field on the left hand side of the Common, i.e. to the N of the tumuli, not to the east. The enclosed field to which Fenton refers also contains the circular 60m diameter bank (PRN 2393), and it is possible that these stones stood bedded in their pavement, and enclosed within this earthwork henge. As a result, their true grid reference should probably be SM94812996 and thus the RCAHM may have recorded them in the wrong location.  Possible funerary or ritual monument site.		
4560	Parc Longstone Standing stone	Parc Longstone, a field name which is recorded on St Dogwells tithe award, (p. 5, no.203.) part of Good Hope Farm. A place name which suggests the former existence of a Bronze Age standing stone site, or possibly a boundary feature, (being situated adjacent to the parish boundary between Letterston and St. Dogwell's parishes).  A "stone" place-name on the parish tithe map that may have indicated the former presence of a standing stone. Not visited during the PFRS project in 2003.	SM 9507 2910	Bronze Age
10465	Garreg Wen standing stone	A "Carreg" place-name on the 1964 1:10000 Ordnance Survey map that may have indicated a standing stone existed here. Not visited during the PFRS project in 2003.	SM 956 294	Bronze Age
48335	Pendre Tumuli / Round Barrow Cemetery	Group PRN for the three round barrows at Letterston (PRNs 2379-81), excavated by Savory in 1946 and 1961.  The initial phase of barrow PRNs 2381 was found through excavation to have been an embanked stone circle which was later covered with a round mound. This earlier phase has its own PRN, 9036.	SM 9475 2982	Bronze Age
2396	Ffynnon Shan Shilin Holy Well	A well possibly dedicated to Saint Silin and located near to Letterston Church. It was originally roofed but this had been removed by the time of the 1907 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map and the well covered over, with a pump erected on the site. The pump has now gone and the site is a shop forecourt.  A well near St. Giles's Church (PRN 4552) in Letterston was identified by J. Trier and J.Bord (2010) and suggested as the possible site of Ffynnon Shan Shilin. The site was visited during the Holy Wells 2012: additional sites project. It was heavily overgrown and the owners were away so clearance wasn't an option. Water appeared to rise in a chamber adjacent to the northeastern property wall (adjoining a depot) and the overflow forms a stream through the front garden and across the churchyard. The site of another spring across the road from the church, marked on the historical and modern maps at	SM 9384 2961	Medieval

		NGR SM93852962, was seen to now be concreted over. No evidence was found for the site of the well, and later pump, shown on the historical Ordnance Survey maps.		
10472	Good Hope boundary ditch	Boundary Stone, Boundary Ditch. The water treatment plant now occupies the corner of the field called Parc Borandum - once the site of a farm called Belrandum. The parish boundary runs a right angle at this point. The boundary ditch runs for several hundred yards in each direction from the corner. A fairly large white Quartzite stone marks the angle? BOUNDARY MARKER. The ditch is about 12 ft wide with substantial walls either side.	SM 9541 2960	Medieval
10473	Swmbarch boundary ditch	Parish boundary feature separating St Dogwells and Letterston Parishes; probably dating from the Medieval period although the feature itself may have been in existence earlier, coterminous with an estate or property holding boundary. It consists of a substantial ditch about 12 feet wide.  The parish boundary leaves the road at about this point and precedes westward for about a mile. The ditch is very overgrown but can be clearly seen - about 12' wide with substantial walls on either side.	SM 9465 2879	Medieval
12377	Nant-Y-Gof	Settlement	SM 95 30	Medieval
404189	Letterston (Treletert) Field System	Well preserved, fossilised, Medieval open-field strips to north, south and east of village. Recorded on RCAHMW aerial photographs.	SM 9400 2981	Medieval
4552 / 421023	Letterston Parish Church; St Giles' Church	Parish church, mentioned in c.1130 when granted to Slebech Commandery (Davies 1946, 362-4). Square churchyard, nuclear to early 12th century 'toft-&-croft' settlement and green. Probable chronological association with an earlier church at 'Heneglwys' (PRN 2395), c.800m to the WSW, which was replaced by the present church in the early 12th century (Kissock 1997, 127-8). Associated with Ffynnon Shan Shilin curative well site (PRN 2396)?. 'St Giles' is a corruption of 'Celtic' dedication to St Sulien, possibly taken from the dedication of Heneglwys.	SM 9391 2958	Post Medieval, Medieval
409457	Letterston or Treletert, Village	ite Description Strip village, aligned generally east-west, home to a number of sites including Parc Moat barrow (NPRN 305216), Pen dre barrow (NPRN 300421) and Saron Chapel (NPRN 11200). The village sits within an extensive surviving open field (strip) system with probable medieval origins (NPRN 404189).	SM 94464 29707	Multiperiod
17620	Letterston Old School	School	SM 939 295	Post Medieval
17622 / 11200	Saron Chapel	Grade II Listed chapel	SM 9428 2965	Post Medieval

17655 / 11199	Horeb Chapel	Chapel	SM 9510 2980	Post Medieval
17656	Letterston Railway station	Railway station	SM 9535 2965	Post Medieval
45397	Swmbach Uchaf farmstead	Farm and holding shown on 1806 estate map of the Lord Bishop of St Davids LRW October 2002	SM 9461 2886	Post Medieval
46478	Deserted Rural Settlement	A small settlement consisting of a single rectangular building in a rectangular enclosure on the 2nd edition 1:10560 map (Pembrokeshire sheet XVI.NE), but abandoned sometime during the first half of the 20th century and no longer marked on maps.	SM 94663 30538	Post Medieval
46482	Milestone	Milestone. Inscription reads, "Fishguard 5 miles 170 yards - Haverfordwest 9 miles".	SM 9432 2994	Post Medieval
46484	Letterston cemetery	Post-medieval cemetery	SM 9457 2979	Post Medieval
59723 / 11200	Saron Baptist Chapel	Grade II listed chapel in Letterston (reference 22761)	SM 94281 29635	Post Medieval
112754 / 419829	Letterston War Memorial	<p>War memorial to the 12 men for Letterston who fell in the First World War. It is a grey granite pillar located outside the graveyard of the parish church. Names of six men who died have been added to the memorial. A marble tablet records the names of the four men from the parishes of Llanfair-Nant-y-Gof and Llanstinan who died in the First World War.</p> <p>This war memorial consists of a grey granite pillar c.2m high located in a small quarter-circle paved area flanked by a white-washed wall, carved out of a corner of the graveyard of Letterston parish church. The names of 12 men from the parish who died in the First World War are inscribed on the front of the memorial and the names of six men who died in the Second World War have been added to one side. A white marble tablet mounted on the wall records the names of the four men from the parishes of Llanfair-Nant-y-Gof and Llanstinan who died in the First World War. This was moved from Mamre Chapel, Trecwn in 2009 when the chapel was closed.</p>	SM 93882 29605	Modern
268012	Pendre	Civil village of Pendre on eastern side of A40	SM948299	General
4550	Dinas (place name)	Dinas place-name of unknown significance.	SM 942 290	Unknown

**Table 2:** Historic assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record within 1km of the site area



**Figure 3:** Map showing heritage assets recorded on the HER (red) and NMR (green) within 1km of the proposed development site (only NMR sites not recorded on the HER area shown)

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 scale Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AE. Licence No 100020930

### **3.6 Previous Archaeological Work**

#### ***Longstone Farm Archaeological Appraisal***

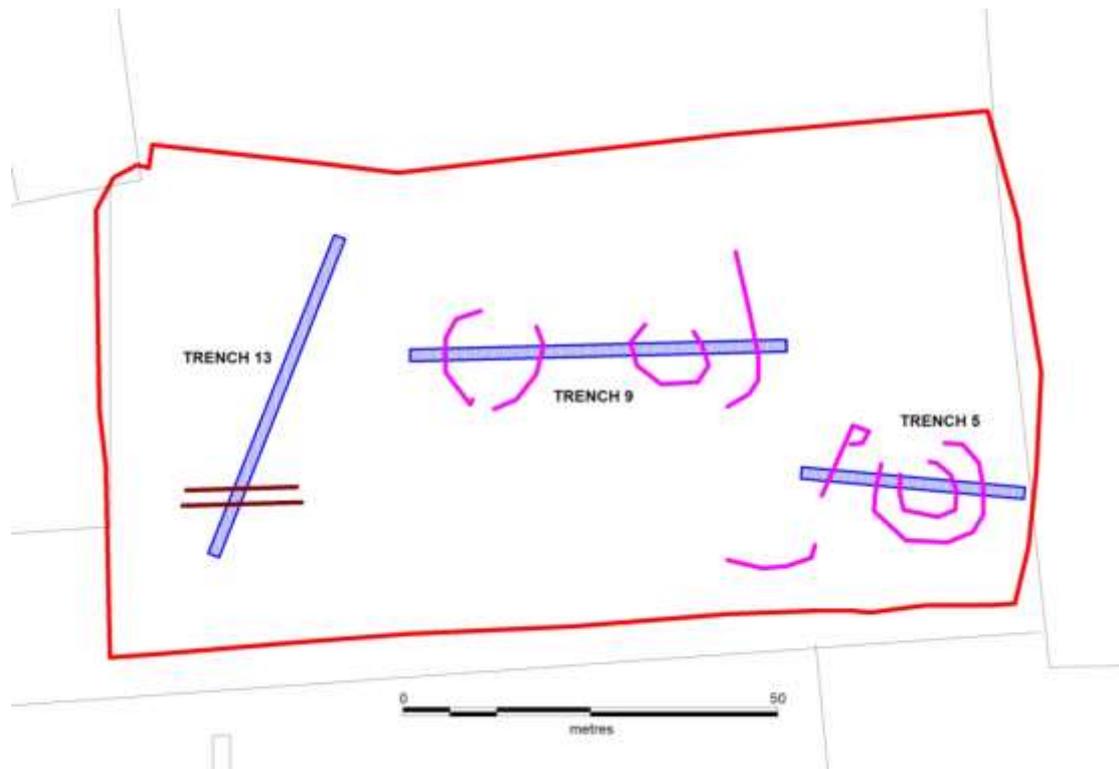
- 3.6.1 The site has been subject to three phases of previous archaeological work – including the original archaeological appraisal undertaken by Cambria Archaeology in 2007 (Event Record Number ERN 63195). The appraisal covered the whole of the Longstone Farm development area including the existing development area around Parc Maen Hir and Longstone Court, the Phase 2 area and the undeveloped land to the east/southeast.

#### ***Longstone Farm Geophysical Surveys***

- 3.6.2 Following the appraisal a geophysical survey was carried out of the area to the west of Longstone Farm by Stratascan Limited in 2008. Unfortunately, no copy of this report had been submitted to the HER or NMR and the results and interpretation are not available. Two stages of geophysical were undertaken, the first using gradiometry and the second soil resistivity (Stratscan 2008 and 2009). The Historic Environment Record has a single Event Record Number for the surveys (ERN 62976).

#### ***Longstone Farm Trial Trench Evaluation***

- 3.6.3 A subsequent trial trench evaluation of the area was carried out by Bristol and Region Archaeological Services of which a copy is held at the NMR (Longman 2009). This was looked at as part of this updated appraisal, but copies of the report or its contents were not possible due to copyright restrictions (although permission for copying of the report has been sought). Five trenches were opened within the area west of Longstone Farm targeting possible archaeological features identified as anomalies on the geophysical survey results.
- 3.6.4 The five trenches were numbered 5, 6, 8, 9 and 13, with trenches 5, 9 and 13 positioned within the Phase 2 area of the Parc Maen Hir site, the subject of this assessment. It should be noted that there is no record of where trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 11 and 12 were to be located or even if they were ever actually opened. A trench plan is included in the report which is roughly sketched in Figure 4 to show the trench locations and possible geophysical survey anomalies. The circular anomalies were presumably considered as possibly further round barrows.
- 3.6.5 Trench 5 was located in the southeastern corner of the Phase 2 area targeting a possible double concentric ringed feature and a further linear anomaly. It was 30m in length orientated east to west. No sign of the geophysical anomalies were noted.
- 3.6.6 Trench 9 was aligned east to west in the top middle part of this study site area targeting two possible circular anomalies and a further linear feature seen on the geophysical survey. It measured 50m long and 1.8m in width. One of the possible curvilinear features was observed as a change in the natural geology which was confirmed on excavation.
- 3.6.7 Trench 13 ran roughly north-northeast to south-southwest on the western side of the area 46m in length. Two parallel linear features were observed, roughly orientated east to west crossing the trench. The first was 1.23m wide, 2.15m length visible and 0.12m deep and the second 1m wide, 2.2m long and 0.08m deep. They were positioned 1.9m apart separated by bare clay subsoil and were thought to represent a former hedge boundary. These were the only features confirmed within the evaluation.



**Figure 4:** Approximation of the three trenches opened by BARAS in 2009 within the Phase 2 area of the Parc Maen Hir development showing geophysical survey anomalies targeted (pink) and field boundary recorded in Trench 13 (brown)

3.6.8 The summary of the report reads: *An archaeological evaluation was carried out as a condition attached to outline planning consent granted for the construction of residential housing on land at a Longstone Farm, Station Road, in the village of Letterston in Pembrokeshire.*

*No features or deposits of archaeological significance, other than parallel lengths of two undated shallow ditches separated by the possible line of a grubbed out field bank were observed during the evaluation. (Longman 2009)*

3.6.9 The geophysical survey anomalies, which were considered as potentially representing the remains of round barrow ring ditches, were not visible in the trenches. The report suggests they represented changes in the natural geology. The evaluation is not recorded at all on the HER but a copy of the report is held by the NMR.

#### **Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment 47 Station Road**

3.6.10 A development site directly opposite the Parc Maen Hir development area at 47 Station Road was subject to archaeological desk-based assessment and subsequent trial trench evaluation by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (ERN 37104) (Taverner, 1999). The report on the archaeological works is summarised on the HER as follows: *....Dyfed Archaeological Trust (Planning Section) issued a detailed project brief for the proposed archaeological works. The project brief called for an initial phase of research followed by field evaluation excavation. .... The development area lies close to the (original) sites of three round barrows of Bronze Age date (PRN'S 2379, 2380,2381). It is the proximity of the proposed development to these barrows that necessitated this archaeological evaluation. In general, the desk-based assessment turned*

*up no new information regarding the three barrows. A provisional agreement was reached that 6 trenches, each measuring 2m by 20m, would be excavated, representing approximately 5% of the total development area. The excavation indicated that the only area of any possible archaeological interest in the study area lies around trench 9 where a spread of quartz, lying on the subsoil, could either have resulted from human activity or have been of entirely natural origin.*

- 3.6.11 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on Land Adjacent to Windy Ridge, 7 Station Road, Letterston by Trysor (2012) (ERN 111451). The report is summarised on the HER as follows: *In 2012, Trysor undertook a watching brief for a single dwelling in the garden behind Windy Ridge, 7 Station Road, Letterston, Pembrokeshire.*

*The features that were identified were all believed to be recent relating to the plot being used as a garden in the 20th Century. The development has no impact on the archaeological resource.*

### **3.7 Other Archaeological Finds**

- 3.7.1 A number of archaeological finds are recorded in the search area by the National Museum of Wales, of Neolithic and Bronze Age date, mostly fragments of pottery with a flint knife and cremated bone also recorded. These all relate to the excavations of the scheduled barrow site.
- 3.7.2 No finds are recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme in the search area.

### **3.8 Aerial Photography and LiDAR**

- 3.8.1 Modern aerial photography was looked at as part of this appraisal which included photographs before and after the development of Parc Maen Hir and Longstone Court. No photographs indicated any archaeological remains within the area, but they did show disturbance of the Phase 2 area during the development of Parc Maen Hir. It looked as if some spoil storage had occurred in the area.
- 3.8.2 Online LiDAR mapping was examined via the Lle website which predates the adjacent development. The resolution is quite poor, but there do appear to be east to west aligned low ridges across the fields. These most likely relate to medieval strip fields and potentially the east to west field boundary seen in Trench 13 of the 2009 evaluation.

### **3.9 Historic Mapping**

- 3.9.1 The original Ordnance Survey (OS) drawing of 1811 of the Fishguard area is the earliest available map for Letterston to show any great detail of the village and its surroundings (Figure 5). The proposed development site is shown simply as farmland on the eastern side of the main road through the village. It is labelled as Longstone but no further detail is visible. Station road at this time is indicated as a track.



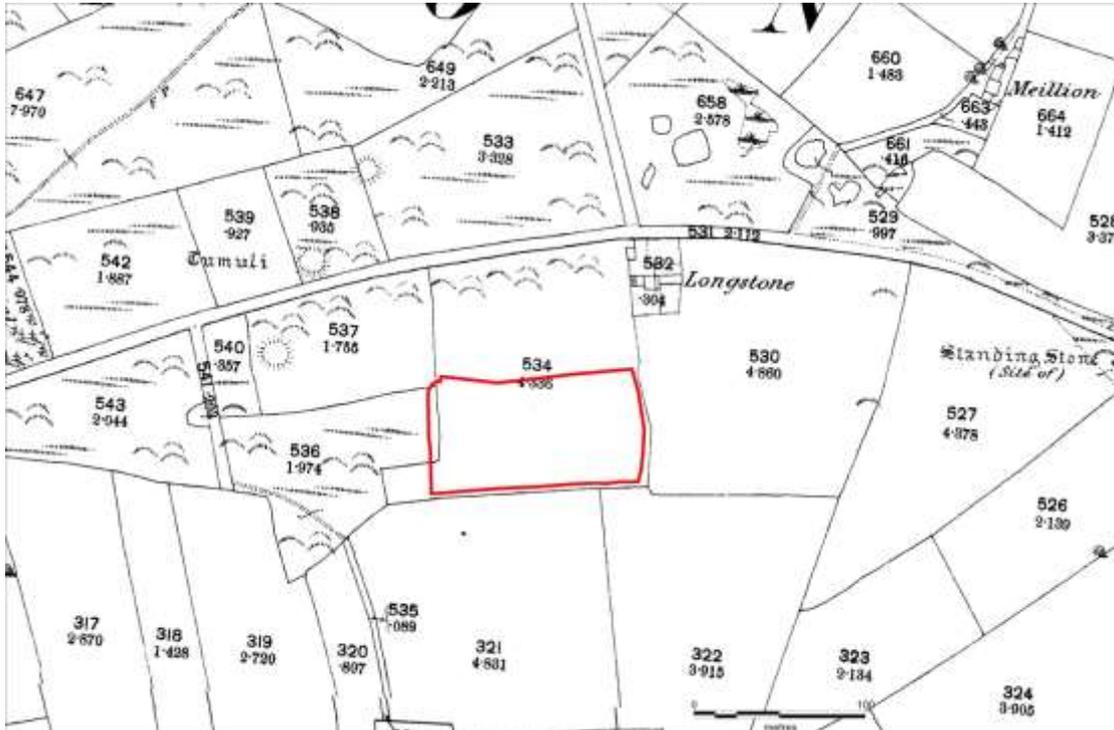
**Figure 5:** Extract of the 1811 original survey drawing (Fishguard) of Letterston, with the approximate position of the proposed development site circled in blue

3.9.2 The Letterston Tith Map of 1841 (Figure 6) shows more detail than the 1811 OS map, and includes buildings for Longstone Farm and two enclosed fields around it. The Phase 2 part of the Parc Maen Hir development occupies the southern half of one of these fields. The field name is recorded as Parc y Ffynt (possibly translated as Stream Park). The main development area of Letterston lies to the west of the main north south road. Station Road is not shown, the area forming part of Letterston Common.



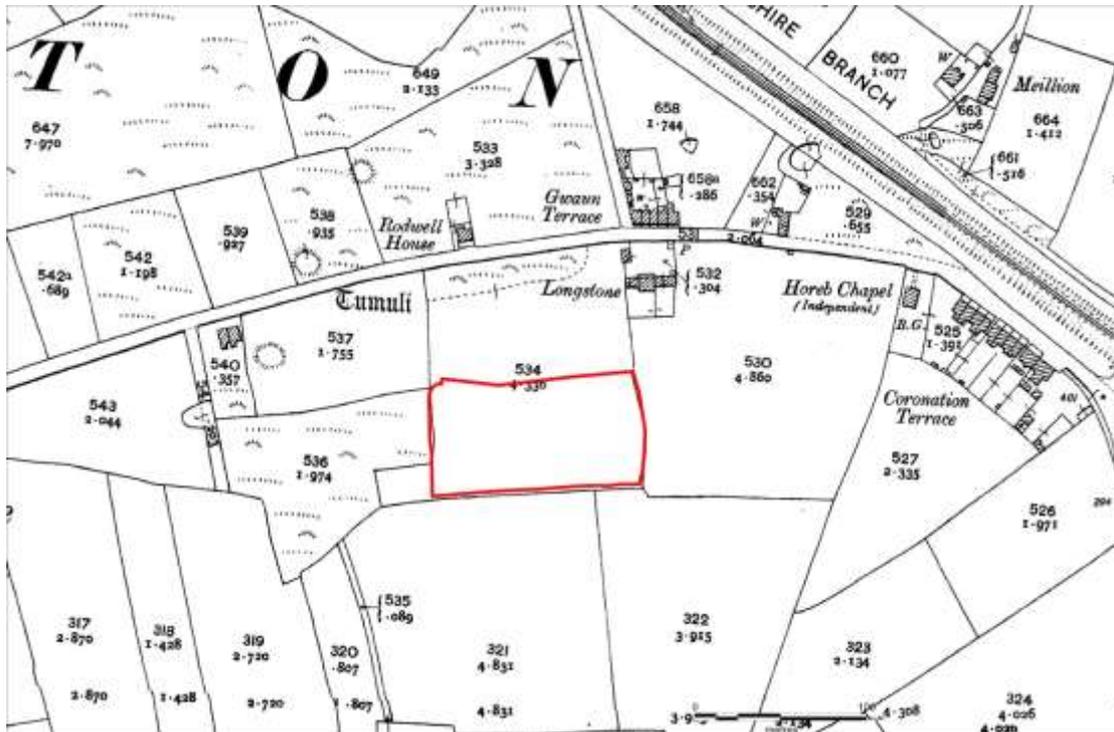
**Figure 6:** Extract of the 1841 Letterston Tith Map, with the approximate position of the proposed development site outlined in blue

3.9.3 Detailed maps of the site were surveyed by the OS in around 1889, and published in 6 inch to 1 mile form. The map (Figure 7) shows little change to that of the Tithe Map, although more detail is provided and by this time Station Road has been clearly laid out. Longstone Farm is clearly shown. The three round barrows are shown on the map to the west/northwest of the site area, labelled as Tumuli and in a linear arrangement. No other properties are present along Station Road.



**Figure 7:** Extract of the 1889 Ordnance Survey 6 inch to 1 mile map, with the proposed development site outlined in red.

3.9.4 The 1907 1: 2500 scale map of Letterston (Figure 8) shows the start of development on the northern side of the road, but otherwise is almost identical to that of the 1889 map.



**Figure 8:** Extract of the 1907 Ordnance Survey 6 inch to 1 mile map, with the proposed development site outlined in red.

3.9.5 Later OS maps show no change in the development area through although more and more buildings are constructed along both sides of Station Road around the site area.

### 3.10 Site Walkover Survey

3.10.1 A site visit was undertaken on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The visit comprised a walkover of the proposed redevelopment site and the surrounding area. Photographs were taken and field observations recorded in note form. The site area is surrounded by development and although farmland still exists to the south, the majority of the views to the north, northwest and northeast were onto ribbon development along Station Road.

3.10.2 The site was accessed directly from Longstone Court Road, leading through a partial fence into the site area. It is presently fenced off from the Parc Maen Hir development.

3.10.3 The site area is presently very overgrown with long grass, weeds and wildflowers. The southern part of the site area was not accessed due to the density of undergrowth.

3.10.4 It was clear that spoil heaps were still present in the Phase 2 area, now very overgrown. A number of excavated channels were also noted as well as deep ruts from vehicle tracking much of which may have occurred when the adjacent development was ongoing. Nowhere within the site area were there any larger areas of untouched ground.



**Photo 1:** View west along the southern part of the Phase 2 development area, with the fenced off Parc Maen Hir development to the north (right)



**Photo 2:** View southwest across the Phase 2 area showing the overgrown nature of the site with the rise of spoil heaps visible



**Photo 3:** View west along the base of a spoil heap where a deeper channel was still visible containing concrete inspection chamber pieces



**Photo 4:** View southwest in centre of development area showing raised linear spoil heap with wheel ruts still visible in the long grass in front of it



**Photo 5:** View south in centre of development area showing rise of spoil heap and vegetation growth on top

## **4 PREVIOUS IMPACTS TO THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA AND FURTHER PREDICTED IMPACTS ON THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

### **4.1 Previous Impacts to Development Area**

- 4.1.1 It is clear that even though the Phase 2 area was not developed when the existing Parc Maen Hir area was constructed, it was used for spoil storage, possibly materials storage and also for vehicle movement. It is clear that there are few large areas of undisturbed ground.
- 4.1.2 Prior to the development the area was used as agricultural land and will certainly have been ploughed to some extent, as indicated by the possible medieval strip fields seen on Lidar and by the enclosed fields on the Tithe map. The former field boundary indicated during the previous trial trench evaluation also points to agricultural activity. This will have levelled any earthworks that may have been present and disturbed the top of any buried archaeological features that may have been present.

### **4.2 Potential Impacts from the Proposed Development**

- 4.2.1 Full details of the construction design for the development have not been produced as yet. The following construction activities are all likely to be undertaken to some extent, all of which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains if present at the site. These activities include:
- Enabling works, such as installation of contractor's compound, construction of access roads, parking areas, storage areas, borrow pits or retention ponds if required;
  - Topsoil stripping;
  - Landscaping and terracing works;
  - Foundation excavation;
  - Construction of roads, parking areas and infrastructure; and
  - Service installation.

### **4.3 Impacts to the Settings of Surrounding Designated Features**

- 4.3.1 The definition of setting, how it contributes to the significance of a historic asset, and why it is important are outlined in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Welsh Government 2017a; available online) as follows:

*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. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive, negative or neutral contribution to the significance of an asset.*

- 4.3.2 The development will not significantly add to the existing built environment within Letterston, and thus have very limited impact on the setting of the nearby scheduled monument which is not directly visible from the site area. There are no listed buildings or other designated or non-designated features that will be impacted upon by the development proposals.

## **5 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND IMPORTANCE**

- 5.1 The historic environment desk-based assessment has shown that the proposed development lies within an area of archaeological and historical significance and potential, with significant archaeological remains to the west dating back to the Neolithic and Bronze Age periods. This is clearly of significance with the possible henge site, the three round barrow sites to the west/northwest and the sites of possible standing stones to the east and possibly within the 'Longstone farm' area.
- 5.2 The archaeological potential for significant remains of other periods is considered low.
- 5.3 The site walkover survey did not identify any unrecorded upstanding archaeological remains within the boundary of the proposed development.
- 5.4 The walkover did however confirm that the site area has been previously disturbed. It has a number of spoil heaps still present upon it and evidence of wheel rutting and excavated channels (possibly drainage) within it.
- 5.5 The site area has been subject to two phases of geophysical survey, which indicated possible archaeological anomalies, including ring ditches (remains of round barrows). Subsequent trial trenching of the area indicated that the possible round anomalies seen on the geophysical survey results were associated with changes in the natural.
- 5.6 It is unclear if only the five trenches described in the report by BARAS (Longman 2009) were opened (Trenches 5, 7, 8, 9 & 13) or whether the other 7 trenches (Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11 & 12) were ever excavated. It is considered likely that following the negative archaeological results from the five trenches described, it was not considered worth completing the evaluation scheme.
- 5.7 Based on the previous disturbance to the site area and the lack of archaeology identified by the BARAS archaeological evaluation, the archaeological potential of the site is considered negligible.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 The proposed Phase 2 development at Parc Maen Hir, Letterston lies in an area of archaeological significance with the site of a possible Neolithic Henge to the northwest, which was incorporated into a burial mound in the Bronze Age period. Two further round barrows are present to the northwest and the former sites of standing stones exist to the east. This area formerly formed part of Letterston Common.
- 6.2 Mapping from 1811 onwards shows that the entire Parc Maen Hir development site was formerly a single agricultural field, definitely laid out by the time of the 1841 Tithe map. It may have been farmed in the medieval period, forming part of the open field system surrounding the medieval village of Letterston.
- 6.3 The site area ceased to be agricultural land once the development of Parc Maen Hir and Longstone Court commenced.
- 6.4 In advance of the development an archaeological appraisal was undertaken by Cambria Archaeology (now DAT Archaeological Services) in 2007. This highlighted the archaeological potential of the site lying so close to the known Neolithic and Bronze Age remains. Subsequently two phases of geophysical survey (Stratscan 2008 & 2009) and a trial trench evaluation (Longman 2009) were carried at the site, including the Phase 2 area.
- 6.5 The geophysical survey suggested a number of further ring ditches, possibly representing more Bronze Age barrows, lay in the southern part of the development area (the Phase 2 part). The trial trench evaluation determined that these were in fact changes in the natural geology and not archaeological features. The only significant archaeology identified was a former probably double ditched field boundary crossing the site from east to west, on the same alignment as possible medieval strip farming noted on Lidar imagery.
- 6.6 During development of the Parc Maen Hir site the Phase 2 area was used for spoil storage and also for vehicle movement. This has resulted in spoil heaps still being present, wheel ruts still being visible and a number of other trenches cut into the ground. This will have caused significant disturbance to any underlying archaeology that may have been present.
- 6.7 Based on the almost entirely negative results of the previous archaeological evaluation, which included three trenches directly within the Phase 2 area, tied in with the disturbance caused by the development, the archaeological potential of the site area is considered negligible. No further archaeological work is considered necessary at the site.
- 6.8 This report has highlighted that the reports on the two phases of geophysical survey and the trial trench valuation were not submitted to the Dyfed Historic Environment Record. Only the evaluation was submitted to the National Monuments Record. It would be most useful to try and track down copies of these reports to place on the historic Environment Record.

## 7 SOURCES

### Published

- Cadw. 1998. *Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales*. Cardiff: Cadw
- Cook, N, 2004 Prehistoric Funerary and Ritual Sites Project: Pembrokeshire 2003-2004. Cambria Archaeology Report No. 2004/85 for CADW
- CIfA. 2014. *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*. Available at: [http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA\\_3.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA_3.pdf) [Accessed 10/Nov/2018]
- Edwards, N, (Ed.) 1997 *Landscape and Settlement in Mediaeval Wales*. Oxbow Monograph
- Fenton, R, 1811 *A Historical Tour through Pembrokeshire*. 3rd Edition
- Kissock, J, 1997 'God Made Nature and Men Made Towns': Post-Conquest and Pre-Conquest Villages in Pembrokeshire. (from Edwards, N. pp 124-137)
- Longman, T, 2009 *Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Longstone Farm, Station Road, Letterston for Eatonfield Developments*, Bristol and Region Archaeological Services Report Number: 2191/2009
- Stratascan, 2008 *Geophysical Survey Report: Longstone Farm, Letterston, Pembrokeshire* (Magnetometry), Stratascan Report J2523 – UNAVAILABLE TO CONSULT
- Stratascan, 2009 *Geophysical Survey Report: Longstone Farm, Letterston, Pembrokeshire* (Soil Resistivity), Stratascan Report No. 2645 – UNAVAILABLE TO CONSULT
- Taverner, N, 1999 *Land Adjacent to 47 Station Road, Letterston, Pembrokeshire*, Cambrian Archaeological Projects Report No. 84
- Trysor, 2012 *Land adjacent to Windy Ridge, 7, Station Road, Letterston, Pembrokeshire Planning Application 11/0008/PA Watching Brief*, Trysor Report No. 2012/229
- Welsh Government. 2017. *Planning Policy Wales: Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Cardiff: Cadw. Available at: <http://gov.wales/docs/desh/policy/170531tan-24-the-historic-environment-en.pdf> [Accessed 21/Dec/2018]
- Welsh Government. 2017a. *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*. Cardiff: Cadw. Available at: <http://cadw.gov.wales/docs/cadw/publications/historicenvironment/20170531Setting%20of%20Historic%20Assets%20in%20Wales%2026918%20EN.pdf> [Accessed 21/Dec/2018]

### Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record

### Websites

Bing Maps satellite imagery. Available at: <https://www.bing.com/maps> [Accessed 01/Jul/2019]

British Geological Survey mapping portal. Available at:  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [Accessed 01/July/2019]

Google Maps satellite imagery. Available at: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps>  
[Accessed 01/Jul/2019]

Natural Resources Wales LiDAR Composite Dataset. Available at:  
<http://lle.gov.wales/Catalogue/Item/LidarCompositeDataset/?lang=en> [Accessed  
03/Jul/2019]

Portable Antiquities Scheme. Available at: <https://finds.org.uk/> [Accessed  
27/Jul/2019]

Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments Wales – National  
Monument Record database interactive mapping. Available at:  
<http://map.coflein.gov.uk/> [Accessed 27/Jul/2019]

**PAC MAEN HIR, LETTERSTON,  
PEMBROKESHIRE:**

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT  
APPRAISAL UPDATE**

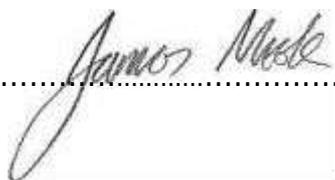
RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NO. 2019/26  
RHIF YR DIGWYDDIAD / PROJECT NO. 118019

Gorffennaf 2019  
July 2019

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

**James Meek**

Swydd / Position: **Head of DAT Archaeological Services**

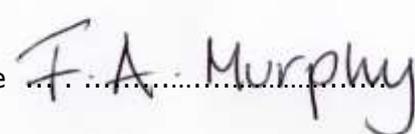
Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Dyddiad / Date 03/07/2019

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

**Frances Murphy**

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: **DAT Archaeological Services Project Manager**

Llofnod / Signature .....  ..... Dyddiad / 05/07/2019

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

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

