Fferm Solar Larnog

Environmental Statement

Volume IV, Appendix 9A: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

November 2026

Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru

Document Title

Volume IV, Appendix 9A: Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by WSP UK Ltd with all reasonable care and diligence within the terms of the contract with the Client, Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru. We disclaim any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the scope of the above. We accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part, thereof is made available. Any such party relies upon the report at their own risk.

List of Contents

1. Introduction 1-1
1.1. Project Background 1-1
1.2. Site Location 1-1
1.3. Scheme Description 1-1
1.4. Scope 1-2
1.5. Aims and Objectives 1-2
1.6. Key Heritage Constraints 1-3
2. Planning Framework 2-4
2.1. Legislative Background 2-4
2.2. Planning Policy 2-5
2.3. Heritage Sector Guidance 2-9
3. Sources and Methodology 3-11
3.1. Data Sources 3-11
3.2. Site Visit 3-13
3.3. Assessing Archaeological Potential 3-14
3.4. Assessing Heritage Significance 3-14
4. Historic Environment Baseline 4-16
4.1. Assets within the Site 4-16
4.2. Physical Site Conditions 4-16
4.3. Overview of Past Archaeological Investigations 4-18
4.4. Archaeological and Historical Background 4-19
4.5. Factors Affecting Archaeological Survival 4-26
5. Heritage Significance 5-27
5.1. Introduction 5-27
5.2. Archaeological Potential 5-27
5.3. Buried Historic Assets 5-28
5.4. Built and Above Ground Historic Assets 5-33
6. Bibliography 6-40
7. Site Visit Plates 7-42

List of Figures

Figure 9-1(3): Historic Environment Features Map – Designated Assets
Figure 9-2(4): Historic Environment Features Map – Non-designated Assets
Figure 9-3(5): Geology Map (British Geology Survey)
Figure 9-4(6): Ordnance Survey 6": Mile Map Revised 1898 (Published 1901)
Figure 9-5(7): Ordnance Survey 25": Mile Map Revised 1915 (Published 1920)
Figure 9-6(8): Ordnance Survey 6": Mile Map Revised Pre-1930 to 1964 (Published 1964)

List of Tables

Table 1 - Data sources consulted
Table 2 - Value of historic assets

List of Plates

Plate 1: North-west view of Church of St Lawrence, Grade II listed building (**A113**)
Plate 2: Upstanding remains within the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)
Plate 3: Site of 18th century farmhouse recorded by the HER (**A168**), looking north-west
Plate 4: Site of two limekilns recorded by the HER (**A200**; **A201**), looking west
Plate 5: Site of Rowland's Well (**A244**), looking south-east
Plate 6: Site of former modern field boundaries (**A269**) (no longer extant), looking north-west
Plate 7: Upstanding remains within the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)
Plate 8: North-east view towards the Site from the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)
Plate 9: Upstanding remains within the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)
Plate 10: South-east view of the gun house of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)
Plate 11: North-east view of the coastal searchlight emplacement of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)
Plate 12: South view from the coastal searchlight emplacement of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)
Plate 13: South-east view across Bristol Channel from the southern edge of the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)
Plate 14: West view towards St Mary's Well Bay Pillbox (**A15**), indicated by red arrow
Plate 15: Sully Island "Danish" Fort (A16), beneath dense vegetation, looking north-west
Plate 16: Eastern edge of Sully Island, looking north-east towards Lavernock Point
Plate 17: Sully Island, from northern edge of island looking north-west towards Sully and Barry
Plate 18: Planned group of farmyard buildings at Cog Farm (**A88**), looking north-west

Plate 19: Cog House (**A90**), looking north-east towards western elevation
Plate 20: Barn at Home Farm (**A126**), looking east towards Home Farm
Plate 21: Homestead Cottage (**A230**), looking north-east

1. Introduction

1.1. Project Background

1.1.1. WSP has been commissioned by Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru (hereafter 'the Applicant') to carry out a historic environment desk-based assessment (HEDBA) in relation to the proposed Larnog Solar Farm, hereafter known as 'the Proposed Development'. The Proposed Development would be located on land approximately 500 m south-west of Penarth and 550 m east of Sully (hereafter 'the Site').

1.1.2. **Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan** of the ES presents the Site within the Applicant's wider Land Ownership Boundary. The Site covers a total area of 46.54 hectares (ha), which comprises predominantly agricultural farmland with small areas of woodland. The wider Land Ownership Boundary consists of 117 ha.

1.1.3. The purpose of the assessment is to identify the designated historic assets within 3 km of the Site and non-designated historic assets within 1 km of the Site, in order to assess the archaeological and built heritage potential of the study area, and to identify any key heritage constraints to inform the historic environment assessment within **Chapter 9: Historic Environment** of the Environmental Statement (ES).

1.2. Site Location

1.2.1. The Site is located in the Vale of Glamorgan, south-east Wales (National Grid Reference: 317498, 168317). The city of Cardiff is situated 10 km north of the Site. The Site consists of an area of agricultural fields defined by hedgerows and belts of woodlands. The Lavernock Road runs to the north of the Site, while the north-eastern and western sections of the Site are bounded by agricultural fields and woodlands. The Bristol Channel is to the south and east of the Site.

1.2.2. The Site falls within the historic parish of Lavernock and is under the administration of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

1.2.3. At its nearest point, Sully Brook is located 250 m north of the Site, which branches out from the Cadoxton River and flows along the Lavernock Road.

1.3. Scheme Description

1.3.1. The Site has been identified for the location of a proposed solar farm which will consist of the following main features:

- Ground mounted Solar Photovoltaic (PV) modules, with a total installed capacity of approximately 35 megawatts (MW);
- Project Substation Compound;

- Battery Energy Storage System (BESS);
- Balance of Solar System (BoSS) which comprises transformers and switchgear;
- Ancillary infrastructure works, including cables, boundary treatments, security equipment, lighting, weather stations, and access tracks;
- Landscaping, habitat management, biodiversity enhancement and amenity improvements;
- Permanent diversion of Public Footpath L1/5/2; and
- Associated safety and security infrastructure.

1.3.2. A detailed project description is available in **Chapter 5: Project Description** of the ES, and the indicative layout is shown in **Figure 5.1**.

1.4. Scope

1.4.1. The report provides a baseline of known or potential historic assets, which are defined in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) as: '*…an identifiable component of the historic environment*',[1] meriting consideration in planning decisions. Historic assets include designated assets, assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing), and non-designated assets. The baseline is prepared for assets within the Site, and within the study area, which comprises an area within 3 km of the Site for designated assets, and an area within 1 km for non-designated historic assets.

1.4.2. Professional judgement has been used to assess heritage significance of above and below ground historic assets, based on evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value.[2] Consideration of past ground disturbance which may have compromised survival of archaeological remains is also assessed.

1.4.3. In relation to the setting of historic assets, the report describes and assesses the contribution of setting to heritage significance of historic assets, in accordance with Cadw's *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*.[3]

1.5. Aims and Objectives

1.5.1. The aim of this report is to provide a heritage baseline to inform the assessment of potential impacts and effects of the Proposed Development set out within **Chapter 9: Historic Environment** of the ES. The objectives of the report are as follows:

- Identify the presence of any known or potential historic assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development;

[1] Welsh Government (2026) *Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Cardiff: Welsh Government.
[2] Cadw (2011) *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales*. Cardiff: Cadw.
[3] Welsh Government (2025b) *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*. Merthyr Tydfil: Welsh Government [Cadw].

- To place the Site within its full historic/archaeological context through the collection of baseline information;
- Describe the significance of potentially affected historic assets, in accordance with PPW,[4] considering factors which may have compromised asset survival, and to determine the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the historic assets;
- Assess the likely impacts upon the significance of the assets arising from the proposals; and
- Provide recommendations for further investigation and/or mitigation where required, aimed at reducing or removing completely any adverse effects.

1.6. Key Heritage Constraints

1.6.1. The Site does not contain any nationally designated (protected) historic assets, such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings or registered parks and gardens.

1.6.2. The nearest scheduled monument comprises the remains of a combined heavy anti-aircraft and coastal battery, along with associated structures dating from the Second World War (1939-45), situated 75 m south of the Site, on the coast overlooking the Bristol Channel (Cadw **GM448**).

1.6.3. The nearest listed building is a Grade II house at Lower Cosmeston Farm, situated 415 m north of the Site (Cadw **87852**). The house preserves its post-medieval core, along with later modifications.

1.6.4. The Site does not include any conservation areas, as identified by the local planning authority.

[4] Welsh Government (2024) *Planning Policy Wales*. Edition 12. Available at: https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales [Accessed September 2026].

2. Planning Framework

2.1. Legislative Background

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023

2.1.1. The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023[5] made provision to consolidate legislation relating to the historic environment in Wales in one place.

Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016

2.1.2. The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016[6] made several amendments to the 1979 and 1990 Acts to address the needs of the Welsh historic environment, giving more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments.

Scheduled Monuments

2.1.3. Nationally important archaeological sites (both above and below-ground remains) may be identified and protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979[7] (as amended by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act, 2023). An application is required for any works affecting a Scheduled Monument. Prior written permission, known as Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) is required from Cadw for works physically affecting a scheduled monument. SMC is separate from the statutory planning process.

2.1.4. Development affecting the setting of a scheduled monument is dealt with wholly under the planning system and does not require SMC.

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

2.1.5. The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990[8] (as amended by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act, 2023) sets out the legal requirements for the control of development and alterations which affect listed buildings or conservation areas (including buildings of heritage interest which lie within a conservation area). Grade I are buildings of exceptional interest. Grade II* are particularly significant buildings of more than special interest. Grade II are buildings of special interest.

2.1.6. Objects or structures which lie within the curtilage of a listed building are 'curtilage buildings'. These types of buildings are also protected and require listed building consent, even if they are not specifically referred to in a statutory listing description. Curtilage buildings associated with a principal building (listed building), even if they are

[5] Welsh Government (2023) *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2023/3/contents [Accessed September 2026].
[6] Welsh Government (2016) *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016*. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/4/contents [Accessed September 2026].
[7] UK Public General Acts (1979) *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*.
[8] UK Public General Acts (1990) *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*.

not fixed to the principal building, and which form part of the land (and have done so before 1 July 1948) are treated as part of the principal building by virtue of section 1(5)(b) of the Act.

2.2. Planning Policy

Future Wales – The National Plan 2040

2.2.1. Future Wales[9] outlines that development proposals should seek to protect and enhance the historic environment, ensuring that the significance of historic assets and their settings are appropriately considered within the planning and decision-making process. At the same time, the Plan supports renewable energy development where adverse environmental effects, including impacts on historic assets, have been avoided, minimised or appropriately mitigated.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

2.2.2. PPW, Edition 12 (PPW)[10] outlines the Welsh Government's planning policies for Wales and provides guidance for planning authorities and developers on the conservation and investigation of historic assets. The primary objective of PPW is to foster the delivery of sustainable development, not to prevent it.

2.2.3. The historic environment is specifically dealt with in Chapter 6 'Distinctive and Natural Places' and explains how the planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote, and enhance the historic environment.

2.2.4. The policies set out in PPW should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local objectives. PPW is designed to provide a clear framework to make sure that historic assets are conserved or enhanced in a manner that is proportionate with their significance.

2.2.5. The PPW is summarised as follows:

Archaeological Remains

2.2.6. ***Paragraph 6.1.23:*** *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.*

2.2.7. ***Paragraph 6.1.24:*** *Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by Proposed Development, there should be a presumption in favour of their*

[9] Welsh Government (2021) *Future Wales: the national plan 2040*. Available at: https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040 [Accessed September 2026].
[10] Welsh Government (2024) *Planning Policy Wales*. Edition 12. Available at: https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales [Accessed September 2026].

physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in a direct adverse impact on a Scheduled Monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance).

2.2.8. ***Paragraph 6.1.25:*** *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.*

2.2.9. ***Paragraph 6.1.26:*** *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.*

2.2.10. ***Paragraph 6.1.27:*** *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 Proposed Development 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."*

Listed Buildings

2.2.11. ***Paragraph 6.1.10:*** *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.*

2.2.12. ***Paragraph 6.1.11:*** *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.

2.2.13. ***Paragraph 6.1.12:*** *The demolition of any listed building should be considered as exceptional and require the strongest justification.*

2.2.14. ***Paragraph 6.1.13:*** *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.*

Local Historic Assets

2.2.15. ***Paragraph 6.5.29:*** *Where planning authorities may develop lists of historic assets of special local interest, that do not have statutory protection, but that make an important contribution to local distinctiveness and have the potential to contribute to public knowledge. Where a planning authority chooses to identify historic assets of special local interest, policies for the conservation and enhancement of those assets must be included in the development plan.*

Historic Landscapes

2.2.16. ***Paragraph 6.1.20:*** *The Welsh Government seeks to protect areas on the register of historic landscapes in Wales.*

2.2.17. ***Paragraph 6.1.21:*** *Planning authorities should protect those assets included on the register of historic landscapes in Wales. As above, the sharing and use of evidence and assessments undertaken for wider reasons, such as Green Infrastructure Assessments, should be used to identify and better understand historic landscapes and ensure their qualities are protected and enhanced. The register should be taken into account in decision making when considering the implications of developments which meet the criteria for Environmental Impact Assessment or, if on call in, in the opinion of the Welsh Ministers, the development is of a sufficient scale to have more than a local impact on the historic landscape. An assessment of development on a historic landscape may be required if it is proposed within a registered historic landscape or its setting and there is potential for conflict with development plan policy.*

Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment

2.2.18. The TAN 24 is summarised as follows:

2.2.19. ***Paragraph 1.25:*** *The setting of an historic asset includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced, and appreciated embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or*

may be neutral. Setting is not a historic asset in its own right but has value derived from how different elements may contribute to the significance of a historic asset.[11]

2.2.20. ***Paragraph 1.26:*** *For any development within the setting of a historic asset, some of the factors to consider and weigh in the assessment include:*

- *The significance of the asset and the contribution the setting makes to that significance;*
- *The prominence of the historic asset;*
- *The expected lifespan of the Proposed Development;*
- *The extent of tree cover and its likely longevity; and*
- *Non-visual factors affecting the setting of the historic asset such as noise.*

2.2.21. ***Paragraph 1.27 -1.28:*** *other factors which may affect the setting of a historic asset include; inter-visibility with other historic or natural features, tranquillity, noise or other potentially polluting development though it may have little visual impact. There will be cases where a Proposed Development will enhance the setting of a historic asset and this will be treated as a benefit resulting from the development. Mitigation of damaging effects could be achieved through good design and in some cases screening or landscaping.*

Local Planning Policy

2.2.22. The Vale of Glamorgan has a rich and diverse cultural heritage. The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan was formally adopted on 28 June and aims to cover a period from 2011 to 2026. Guidance and legislation with respect to heritage is contained within Policy MD8: Historic Environment.[12]

Policy MD8 Historic Environment

2.2.23. *Policy MD8 seeks to ensure that the unique built and historic environment of the Vale of Glamorgan is protected and enhanced. Facilities to enhance and increase the public enjoyment of these historic environments will be encouraged provided that the facilities do not conflict with their conservation.*

2.2.24. *Development proposals must protect the qualities of the built and historic environment of the Vale of Glamorgan, specifically:*

- *Within conservation areas, development proposals must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area;*
- *For listed and locally listed buildings, development proposals must preserve or enhance the building, its setting and any features of significance it possesses;*

[11] Welsh Government (2026) *Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Cardiff: Welsh Government.
[12] Vale of Glamorgan Council (2017) *Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026*. Barry: Vale of Glamorgan Council.

- *Within designated landscapes, historic parks and gardens, and battlefields, development proposals must respect the special historic character and quality of these areas, their settings or historic views or vistas; and*
- *For sites of archaeological interest, development proposals must preserve or enhance archaeological remains and where appropriate their settings.*

2.2.25. *The preservation and enhancement of the historic environment, including the settings of historic assets, is a key aspect of the Council's wider responsibilities, and will constitute a material consideration of significant weight when determining applications affecting such assets.*

2.3. Heritage Sector Guidance

Welsh Government Guidance

2.3.1. TAN 24 provides planning system guidance for the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning applications.

Cadw Guidance

2.3.2. *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*[13] sets out the general principles to consider when planning changes to historic assets and applying for listed building, conservation area and SMC.

2.3.3. *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*[14] sets out the principles used to assess the potential impact of development or land management proposals within the settings of World Heritage Sites, ancient monuments (scheduled and unscheduled), listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens, and conservation areas.

2.3.4. *Managing Historic Character in Wales*[15] explains the importance of recognising historic character and its use as an evidence base for conservation, regeneration and planning work. It shows how policies and programmes to manage change can take inspiration from the past to help create and sustain distinctive places for the future.

2.3.5. *Conservation Principles*[16] informs the determination of historic asset significance using four key heritage values: evidential, historical, aesthetic, and communal.

2.3.6. Cadw's *Guide to Good Practice on using The Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in The Planning and Development Process*[17] describes the ASIDOHL assessment methodology.

[13] Welsh Government (2025a) *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*. Merthyr Tydfil: Welsh Government [Cadw].
[14] Welsh Government (2025b) *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*. Merthyr Tydfil: Welsh Government [Cadw].
[15] Cadw (2017) *Managing Historic Character in Wales*. Cardiff: Cadw.
[16] Cadw (2011) *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales*. Cardiff: Cadw.
[17] Cadw (2007) *Guide to Good Practice on using The Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in The Planning and Development Process*. Revised (2nd) Edition. Cardiff: Cadw.

Chartered Institute of Archaeologists

2.3.7. The baseline study has been undertaken in accordance with guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA),[18] specifically the *standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment.*[19]

[18] Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] (2020a) *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*. Reading: CIfA

[19] CIfA (2020b) *Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment*. Reading: CIfA.

3. Sources and Methodology

3.1. Data Sources

3.1.1. In order to determine the full historic environment potential of the Site, a broad range of standard documentary and cartographic sources were examined in order to determine the likely nature, extent, preservation and significance of any known or possible historic assets that may be present within or adjacent to the Site.

3.1.2. The study area for the collation of information on historic assets was defined as 3 km from the Site for designated historic assets, and 1 km from the Site for non-designated historic assets, as set out within **Chapter 9: Historic Environment** of the ES. This distance has been judged as appropriate to provide the context of, and potential for, surviving archaeological remains on the Site given the nature of the Proposed Development and its location.

3.1.3. The table below provides a summary of the key data sources. Occasionally, there may be reference to assets beyond this study area, where appropriate, e.g., where such assets are particularly significant and/or where they contribute to current understanding of the historic environment.

Table 1 - Data sources consulted

Source	Data	Comment
Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales (Cadw)	Cadw record with information on statutorily designated historic assets	Statutory designations (scheduled monuments; statutorily listed buildings; registered parks and gardens; historic battlefields) can provide a significant constraint to development.
Historic Environment Record (HER) Team- Glamorgan Gwent (Heneb)	HER	Primary repository of archaeological information. Includes information from past investigations, local knowledge, find spots, and documentary and cartographic sources.
Local Planning Authority	Archaeological priority area/ notification area	Area of interest identified by the local authority. There is likely to be a requirement for archaeological investigation (initially a desk-based assessment) as part of any planning application.
Local Planning Authority	Conservation area	An area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Source	Data	Comment
Local Planning Authority	Locally listed building/County Treasures	Building of local importance designated by the local planning authority due to architectural and/or historic significance and a positive contributor to the character of an area. Whilst not statutorily protected, a building's inclusion on the list means that it is a material consideration in the planning process.
British Geological Survey (BGS)	Solid and drift geology digital map; online BGS geological borehole record data.	Subsurface deposition, including buried geology and topography, can provide an indication of potential for early human settlement, and potential depth of archaeological remains.
Soilscapes	Details of soil types	Subsurface deposition, including soil type, can provide an indication of potential for early human settlement, and potential depth of archaeological remains, as well as influence the suitability of other techniques, such as aerial photographic analysis and geophysical survey.
National Library Scotland	Ordnance Survey (OS) maps from the 1st edition onwards (1800s-1900s).	Provides a good indication of past land use and impacts which may have compromised archaeological survival. Provides an indication of the possible date of any buildings on the Site.
National Library of Wales	Tithe Maps of Wales	Collection of tithe maps and apportionments, providing indication of past land use around the mid-19th century.
Welsh Government	Lidar data obtained from DataMapsWales	Helps to map and measure surface archaeological remains, surviving earthworks, historic field boundaries, and other features of archaeological interest in the landscape, within and around the Site.
Welsh Government	Protected Wrecks data obtained from DataMapsWales	Helps to map maritime wrecks around the Site.
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)	National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW)	National database of archaeological sites, historic buildings, maritime historic assets, military remains, aerial photographic records and previous archaeological investigations.

Source	Data	Comment
Internet	Web-published local history; National Library of Scotland; Archaeological Data Service	Many key documentary sources of local and specialist studies are now published on the web and can be used to inform the archaeological and historical background. The Archaeological Data Service includes an archive of digital fieldwork reports.
The client	Project information and detailed design of the project.	The information can be very useful in enhancing understanding of the nature and depth of construction.

3.1.4. **Figures 9.3** and **9.4** show the location of known historic environment features within the study areas, as identified by the sources above for this assessment. These have been allocated a unique 'assessment' reference number (**A1**, **A2**, etc.), which is listed in **Appendix 9B: Gazetteer** and is referred to in the text.

3.1.5. There are some assessment numbers in the gazetteer that have been omitted. These omitted numbers represent historic assets which were identified within the previous study area for the EIA Screening Opinion submitted in December 2025 and the Scoping Report submitted in June 2026. However, these assets have since been omitted from the historic environment assessment following an update to the Proposed Development's Site Boundary and revision of the study areas.

3.1.6. All distances quoted in the text are approximate (within 5 m). **Figure 9.1**, which shows the designated historic assets, also shows the Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of the solar panels and the substation compound. This has helped to inform upon the assessment of impact to assets as a result of changes to their setting, of which is set out within **Chapter 9: Historic Environment** of the ES.

3.2. Site Visit

3.2.1. A site visit was conducted on 24 March 2025 to inform preparation of the initial Scoping Report associated with the EIA (see **Appendix 1B: EIA Scoping Report**). A second site visit was conducted between 11th and 12th August 2026 following updates to the design of the Proposed Development in response to feedback from the screening and scoping reports. The purpose of these site visits was to conduct a walkover survey of the Site to assess the condition of known historic assets and to identify any previously unknown historic assets. The visits were also conducted to ascertain the extent of any settings impacts to nearby designated historic assets as a result of the Proposed Development.

3.2.2. A description of the August 2026 site visit relevant to this assessment is provided within **Section 4** below, and accompanying photographs are included as **Plates** within **Section 7**.

3.3. Assessing Archaeological Potential

3.3.1. **Section 4** presents an assessment of archaeological potential for each chronological period, based on the archaeological and historical background of the area, its geology, topography and hydrology, the likelihood for evidence of past activity, and considering past disturbance which may have affected survival. For example, the Site may have high potential for activity of a particular period, but with low survival.

3.3.2. **Section 5** includes professional opinion on likely heritage significance, where there is moderate or higher potential for remains to be present. Where potential is low, heritage significance is not assessed, as this implies that remains from the period are not present.

3.4. Assessing Heritage Significance

3.4.1. The determination of significance is based on statutory designation and/or the application of professional judgement, with significance determined against criteria as stipulated within Cadw's *Conservation Principles,* comprising evidential, historical, aesthetic, and communal values. [20]

3.4.2. Each asset is evaluated against the range of criteria listed above on a case-by-case basis. In regard to buried historic assets, unless the nature and exact extent of archaeological remains within any given area has been determined through prior investigation, significance is often uncertain.

3.4.3. In relation to significant historic assets, the assessment considers the contribution which the historic character and setting makes to the overall significance of the asset.

3.4.4. The table below provides examples of the significance of designated and non-designated historic assets. Professional judgment is used to determine the value of the potentially affected asset.

[20] Cadw (2011) *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales*. Cardiff: Cadw.

Table 2 - Value of historic assets

Historic Asset Description	Value
• World Heritage Sites; • Scheduled Monuments; • Registered Historic Landscapes; • Grade I Listed Buildings; • Grade II* Listed Buildings; • Grade II Listed Buildings (with exceptional qualities in fabric, historical association, and/or association/group value with historic assets of high significance); • Protected Wrecks; • Historic Battlefield; • Conservation Areas (containing very important (Grade I/II*) listed buildings); • Grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens; • Protected heritage landscapes (e.g. ancient woodland or historic hedgerows, heritage Sites of Special Scientific Interest); • Burial grounds; and • Non-designated historic assets (above ground structures, landscape, townscape, buried remains) of national importance.	High
• Grade II Listed Buildings (which can be shown to have qualities in their fabric or historical association of regional importance only); • Conservation Areas (containing primarily Grade II listed or Locally Listed Buildings); • Grade II Registered Parks and Gardens; • Locally Listed Buildings/County Treasures; and • Non-designated historic assets (above ground structures, landscape, townscape, buried remains) of regional importance.	Medium
• Non-designated historic assets (above ground structures, landscape, townscape, buried remains) of local importance.	Low
• Items with no significant heritage value or interest.	Negligible
• Historic assets that have a clear potential, but for which current knowledge is insufficient to allow significance to be determined.	Uncertain

4. Historic Environment Baseline

4.1. Assets within the Site

4.1.1. There are no designated historic assets recorded within the Site (**Figure 9.1**).

4.1.2. There are six recorded non-designated historic assets within the Site. Of these, one dates to the medieval period, four are post-medieval, and one is modern (**Figure 9.2**).

4.2. Physical Site Conditions

Topography

4.2.1. Topography can provide an indication of suitability for settlement, and ground levels can indicate whether the ground has been built up or truncated, which can have implications for archaeological survival (see **Section 4.5**).

4.2.2. The Site is situated at the edge of the northern coast of the Bristol Channel, in south-eastern Wales. The Site was part of what was historically known as "Yr Fro" in the Roman times.[21] Here, the landscape terminates abruptly with steep, nearly vertical cliffs to the Bristol Channel. The area above the cliffs has been partially developed in recent times and forms an eastern extension to the "Glamorgan Heritage Coast", which extends 23 km from Ogmore-by-Sea and St Athan. The area has gentle ridge and plateau landscapes formed mainly by deposits of mudstones, marls and siltstones that surround the higher islands of limestones. Woodlands form an important element of the landscape, clothing the steep valley sides and on ridges. The relatively more fertile and better drained soils of the area have contributed to human settlement since Roman times.[22] The river system of the Cadoxton forms a richly varied component of the landscape, often with steep wooded valley sides and natural watercourses. The Cosmeston Lakes (lying to the north of the Site) are actually a disused quarry that have now been turned into a country park.[23]

4.2.3. From west to east across the Site, the land is undulating with an average elevation of 35 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), and the highest elevation comprising 60 m aOD, as recorded 615 m north-east of Swanbridge. This area corresponds to the Hopkins Mount area, situated beyond the western boundary of the Site. From north to south, the land steepens with the highest elevation measuring 35 m aOD, before descending towards the south.

[21] Natural Resources Wales (2014) *National Landscape Character – NLCA36: Vale of Glamorgan*. Available at: https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en [Accessed September 2026].
[22] *Ibid.*
[23] *Ibid.*

Geology and Soils

4.2.4. In a historic environment context, geological information can provide an indication of suitability for early settlement, and potential depth of remains.

4.2.5. According to the BGS' online mapping data,[24] the pre-quaternary bedrock geology of the Site consists of bands of limestone and mudstone, often interbedded with one another. These are namely the Mercia Mudstone Group, Blue Anchor Formation, Penarth Group, St Mary's Well Bay Member, Lavernock Shales Member, Gully Oolite Formation, and the Friars Point Limestone Formation. The "lias" limestone was used for medieval building construction, as is evidenced from the surviving remains of medieval earthworks in the study area (**A152**).

4.2.6. Quaternary deposits are limited across much of the Site, although alluvium and Head deposits are mapped in the northern area, likely associated with the Cadoxton River, approximately 2 km to the north-west. Head deposits, formed through downslope movement of weathered material, may contain reworked archaeological material and occasionally preserve earlier land surfaces. Both alluvium and Head are considered to have moderate to high geoarchaeological potential due to their capacity to preserve archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains. Marine beach deposits are also present along the coastal cliffs south of the Site.[25]

4.2.7. The Site is located on mostly base-rich and slightly acidic loamy and clayey soils, which are slowly permeable at certain parts and freely draining at others.[26]

4.2.8. Several historic boreholes are recorded along St Mary's Well Bay Road, which extends through the centre of the Site, most dating to road improvement investigations undertaken in 1978. However, much of the Site lacks borehole data, limiting understanding of subsurface conditions. Available logs indicate topsoil depths of 0.15-0.20 m below ground level (bgl), underlain by clay and silt to 1.0-1.2 m bgl, with limestone and siltstone bedrock extending to at least 8.5 m bgl.[27]

Site Walkover

4.2.9. A site visit and walkover survey was conducted between 11th and 12th August 2026. The visit was conducted to assess the condition of the Site, the condition of known historic assets within the Site, and to identify any previously unknown historic assets within the Site. It also assessed the potential setting constraints with regards to designated assets

[24] British Geological Survey [BGS] (2026a) BGS Geology Viewer. Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/ [Accessed September 2026].
[25] *Ibid*.
[26] LandIS (2026) Soilscapes. Available at: https://www.landis.org.uk/ [Accessed September 2026].
[27] BGS (2026b) *Borehole Records*. Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/information-hub/borehole-records/ [Accessed September 2026].

in close proximity to the Site, or those that would have the greatest potential to have their setting affected by the placement of solar panels within the Site.

4.2.10. The site walkover survey was conducted in dry, sunny weather conditions. No additional historic assets were identified during the walkover, and the previously recorded assets identified through analysis of the HER data were not visible, it being assumed that these assets are no longer extant, or are situated beyond the Site Boundary.

4.2.11. Similarly, a visit to nearby designated historic assets identified as potentially sensitive to settings impacts was conducted. The survey identified that the Site was not visible from these locations due to the undulating topography of the surrounding landscape, the distance between the assets and the Site, and the presence of dense, mature vegetation providing natural screening towards the Site. The visit to selected designated historic assets was retained to areas that are publicly accessible.

4.3. Overview of Past Archaeological Investigations

4.3.1. Within the Site, no past intrusive archaeological investigations are recorded on the HER. However, in association with the Proposed Development, a geophysical survey[28] and subsequent trial trenching evaluation[29] has been conducted by Heneb (Dyfed Archaeological Services). The results of the geophysical survey and trial trenching are discussed below and included as technical appendices (**Appendix 9D: Geophysical Survey Report** & **Appendix 9E: Archaeological Evaluation Technical Note** respectively).

4.3.2. Dyfed Archaeological Services (part of Heneb – the Trust for Welsh Archaeology) conducted a geophysical survey in August and September 2025 across 56.3 hectares divided into 16 fields within the Land Ownership Boundary. The survey identified several areas of concentrated magnetic responses indicative of potential archaeological features, some of which were interpreted as potential prehistoric and/or Roman settlement activity, particularly towards the eastern land parcels. Evidence of possible medieval activity was also identified towards the northern area of the Land Ownership Boundary, outside of the Site, alluding to possible activity extending from the known medieval settlement at Cosmeston (**A152**). Further possible Roman remains were identified within the south-western area of the Site, which comprises an area for ecological mitigation. The remains comprised potential activity on the periphery of the Hopkins Mount earthworks (**A162**). A full description of the findings and accompanying illustrations is included within **Appendix 9D: Geophysical Survey Report**.

4.3.3. Following the geophysical survey, an archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted in September 2026. A total of 30 trenches were excavated, targeted to

[28] Heneb Dyfed Archaeological Services (2025) *Land South of Cosmeston, South Wales: Geophysical Survey*. Unpublished Client Report [**Appendix 9D: Geophysical Survey Report**].
[29] Heneb Dyfed Archaeological Services (2026) *Technical Note*. Unpublished Client Report [**Appendix 9E: Archaeological Evaluation Technical Note**].

anomalies identified within the geophysical survey, 24 of which presented no archaeological features or finds. Field boundaries dating to the post-medieval and/or modern period were identified in four trenches, identifiable on historic tithe and OS mapping from the 19th century. A concentration of demolition rubble comprising brick and concrete was revealed in Trench 19, within the southern area of the Site Boundary, and a modern pit was identified within the eastern area of the Site Boundary. A summary of the findings is included within **Appendix 9E: Archaeological Evaluation Technical Note**.

4.3.4. Beyond the Site Boundary, five archaeological excavations have been carried out within the 1 km study area. These include investigations of the medieval village of Cosmeston (**A246**; **A263**), located 300 m north-east of the Site, which revealed evidence of construction activity dating back to the late 13th or early 14th century, as well as traces of earlier activity. Excavated features included remains of farmsteads and a bakehouse, indicating planned development and historical continuity within the area of investigation. Excavated artefacts included medieval pottery, animal bones and metal objects. Excavations were also conducted at the former Cosmeston Castle, located 270 m north of the Site (**A251**; **A261**). At Lower Cosmeston Farm (**A249**), situated 495 m north-east of the Site, medieval pottery and a possible linear stone feature were identified from within two trial trenches, excavated during an evaluation.

4.3.5. Two watching briefs and one archaeological evaluation were also conducted within the 1 km study area. During an archaeological watching brief for the Cosmeston to Cog Moors Pumping Main, located 240 m north of the Site, a possible Roman brick fragment, modern glass bottles, ceramics, animal bones, and post-medieval or modern daub were identified (**A245**). During a watching brief at a proposed stabling block land, 15 m north of the Site, eight unstratified 19th century potsherds were identified (**A264**). The field evaluation at Lavernock Farm, situated 65 m east of the Site, identified medieval features, including a wall and a possible drain, along with sherds of seven medieval vessels, indicating significant archaeological deposits in the area of investigation (**A265**).

4.3.6. Furthermore, a geophysical survey was conducted on land at Upper Cosmeston Farm (**A257**), located 560 m north of the Site. Following the survey, an archaeological evaluation identified geological features, two undated ditches, and a post-hole or pit of unknown function in one of the excavated trenches (**A256**).

4.4. Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric (800,000 BCE – 43 CE)

4.4.1. The earliest evidence for human occupation in south-east Wales comprises finds of animal and human bone and artefacts from the Upper Palaeolithic which began around

40,000 years Before Present (BP) during a warm phase of the Pleistocene.[30] The majority of these finds in the region come from caves in the Gower, a limestone area in southern Wales (70 km west of the Site), and King Arthur's Cave, near Ross-on-Wye in Herefordshire (70 km east of the Site), which have produced late Glacial remains. During the Early Upper Palaeolithic and, after the final glaciation (c.20,000 years BP), in the succeeding Late Upper Palaeolithic, small groups possibly used these caves for temporary shelters.[31]

4.4.2. Palaeolithic activity within the 1 km study area is exhibited through the chance find of a Palaeolithic hand axe, recorded 75 m east of the Site (**A190**).

4.4.3. The Mesolithic hunter-gatherer communities of the postglacial period (c.10,000–4000 BCE) inhabited a largely wooded environment. The river valleys and coast would have been favoured in providing a predictable source of food (from hunting and fishing) and water, as well as a means of transport and communication. Evidence of activity during this period is usually characterised by flint tools rather than structural remains.

4.4.4. During the Neolithic period, the massive communal tombs of megalithic construction scattered along the coastal plain of south-east Wales give evidence of the importance that the region held for the early farming communities in the 4th – 3rd millennia BCE. Little is known of the settlements of the period and, indeed of the succeeding Bronze Age when, the evidence suggests, the area flourished with an expansion of population. Burial traditions changed to individual burial under round mounds.

4.4.5. Chance finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic tools and artefact scatters have been reported from within the 1 km study area. The assets found include a Neolithic flint scatter located on ground, disturbed by cattle, in the Hopkins Mount area, recorded 160 m south-west of the western section of the Site (**A162**). Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters identified during ploughing are recorded at multiple locations, including 110 m north of the Site (**A158**), 285 m north-west of the Site (**A148**), and 390 m north of the Site (**A149** and **A195**).

4.4.6. The Bronze Age (c.2200–600 BCE) was characterised by technological change, when copper and then bronze eventually replaced flint and stone as the main material for everyday tools. It is seen as a period of increasing social complexity and organised landscapes, probably due to increasing pressure on available resources.

4.4.7. A significant late Bronze Age hoard was recovered from Sully and Lavernock, 15 m south of the Site, whilst metal detecting during a rally (**A237**). This was found in a field under arable land in shallow plough soil. A total of 22 objects were reported, comprising spearheads, sword fragments, axes and ingot fragments.

[30] Rees, S., Knight, J., and Hilling, J.B., (1993) 'South-East Wales in the Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Periods.' *The Archaeological Journal*. Vol. 150, pp. 6-16.
[31] *Ibid*.

4.4.8. The Iron Age in south-east Wales followed the Bronze Age without any obvious cultural or population break. Iron tools started to appear in the first half of the 1st millennium BCE but were initially rare. Hilltop settlements are the main site type known from the period and vary greatly in size and complexity.

4.4.9. There are no Iron Age archaeological remains recorded within the Site.

4.4.10. A possible Iron Age hillfort is the "Danish Fort" at Sully Island, a scheduled monument situated 930 m south-west of the Site (**A16**). The promontory fort is situated at the eastern end of a small tidal island and is small in dimensions with widely spaced ramparts. A low mound, possibly a barrow, is visible within the scheduled monument boundary.

Roman (c.43 – 410 CE)

4.4.11. The Roman name for south-east Wales seemed to have been Siluria as the tribes who occupied south-eastern Wales were known as the Silures. They gave formidable opposition to the conquest of the Romans, and it took the Romans nearly thirty years between 49 and 77 to overpower them.[32]

4.4.12. There are no Roman archaeological remains recorded within the Site. Within the 1 km study area, remains indicating a possible Romano-British enclosure are recorded atop the Hopkins Mount, within the field adjacent to the western boundary of the Site (**A174**). This area was characterised by grass marks, which could alternatively also indicate the location of a coastal fortlet overlooking the Bristol Channel.

4.4.13. Beyond the study area, the town of Cowbridge, located 18 km north-west of the Site, contained a Roman settlement with urban characteristics, along with a possible fort.[33] At Cold Knap in Barry, located 6.8 km west of the Site, a number of buildings of probable official use have been identified.[34]

4.4.14. The nearest Roman road (HER **RR621**), lying 6.5 km north-east of the Site, ran north to south, connecting Brecon to Cardiff. Another road (HER **RR60c**) was aligned along the present-day A4226, also known as the Five Mile Lane, located 8.4 km north of the Site. This road roughly connected present-day Caerleon to Cardiff, Cowbridge, Neath and Loughor, following an east to west alignment. All these towns contained Roman forts belonging to the Second Augustan Legion, thereby forming a network of forts that ran

[32] Rees, S., Knight, J., and Hilling, J.B., (1993) 'South-East Wales in the Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Periods.' *The Archaeological Journal*. Vol. 150, pp. 6-16.
[33] Evans, E. (2001) *Romano-British South East Wales Settlement Survey: Final report.* Swansea: Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd.
[34] *Ibid*.

over a larger area of the Vale. Some of these forts remained operational into the 3rd or 4th centuries CE.[35]

4.4.15. Stray Roman finds reported from within the study area include finds of a silver Roman penny found at Lavernock in a garden adjacent to the Grade II listed St Lawrence's Church, located 100 m east of the Site (**A144**).

Early Medieval (c.410 – 1100 CE)

4.4.16. No early medieval archaeological remains were identified from within the Site or study area.

4.4.17. Following the withdrawal of Roman troops from the area, evidence of early medieval settlement and culture is less visible, partially owing to the acid-rich soil of burial environments across Wales, which provides a poor condition of preservation.[36] Broadly, the early medieval period can be characterised by the establishment of settlements centred around religious buildings and defensive structures, which is visible throughout this period and the subsequent medieval period.[37] Furthermore, the establishment of Christianity in south-east Wales is often associated with carved and inscribed stone crosses.[38]

4.4.18. Within the wider landscape, Cardiff Castle underwent reconstruction from its earlier Roman phase during this period, located 7.5 km east of the Site.[39] In addition, Norman churches have been recorded at locations such as Llancarfan, Barry and Llandaff.[40]

4.4.19. Further evidence for early medieval activity is recorded at Dinas Powys, 3.5 km north of the Site, where a high-status defended settlement was occupied between the 5th and 7th centuries CE. Other early medieval remains are concentrated around Llandough, 4.5 km north of the Site, where excavations revealed a monastic cemetery adjacent to St Dochdwy's Church. A free-standing stone cross at Llandough Church is also thought to date to the early medieval period and is designated as a scheduled monument. A further possible early medieval cross survives within St Augustine's Church, 3 km north of the Site.

[35] Margary, I. (1955) *Roman Roads in Britain*. Available at: https://www.romanroads.org/index.html [Accessed September 2026].
[36] Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales [RFAW] (2023) *Research Framework for the Archaeology of Early Medieval Wales c. AD 400-1100.* Version 4. Available at: https://researchframeworks.org/wales/ [Accessed September 2026].
[37] Rees, S., Knight, J., and Hilling, J.B., (1993) 'South-East Wales in the Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Periods.' *The Archaeological Journal*. Vol. 150, pp. 6-16.
[38] *Ibid*.
[39] *Ibid*.
[40] *Ibid*.

Medieval (c.1100 – 1539)

4.4.20. During the medieval period, the Site lay within the historic parish of Lavernock. Lavernock and the adjacent parishes (Penarth and Cogan to the north, and Sully to the west) lay in the agricultural lowlands of the Welsh Kingdom of Morgannwg, which was conquered by the Norman lord Robert FitzHamon in the late 11th century. It was during this time that the Lordship of Glamorgan was established.

4.4.21. Medieval archaeological remains were identified within the western section of the Site, comprising chance finds of rubble spread under plough, with 13th – 14th century pottery and sandstone roofing tiles scattered across the area (**A163**).

4.4.22. Within the 1 km study area, medieval pottery, a possible linear stone feature, animal bones and metal objects were recovered during excavations 300 m north-east of the Site (**A246**) and 495 m north of the Site (**A249**).

4.4.23. In 1983, remains of the shrunken medieval village of Lavernock (**A147**), recorded 30 m south-east of the Site, were identified to the north and west of St Lawrence's Church (**A113**; **Plate 1**).

4.4.24. The manor of Cosmeston (**A146**), located 275 m north-east of the Site, had almost the same border as the parish of Lavernock.[41] The manor was known by different names such as "*Constantinestun*" in 1262, "*Costenton*" in 1266 and "*Costeyneston*" in 1307. It was held from the early 12th century until 1314 by a family named de Constantine (followers of the Norman lord), which gave its name to the manor and the medieval village that once existed beside the castle. No Norman church was constructed in the immediate area of Cosmeston manor. The remains of a medieval dovecote were identified upon excavation, 150 m north of the Site (**A175**). The village would have been situated at the site of the modern-day Cosmeston Lakes Country Park. The castle site lies about 15 m aOD on low-lying level ground, close to the southern flank of the diminutive Sully Brook. The position lacks natural protection and there are other earthworks to the south-west, where there is gently rising ground. The castle area would have constituted a roughly quadrangular enclosure of about 22sqm, with a possible moat to the south-east.[42]

4.4.25. Between the 11th and 16th centuries, the ownership of Cosmeston manor changed hands multiple times. Over time, ownership became connected with Cardiff Castle. The deserted medieval village in Cogan, located 1.6 km north of the Site, is presently designated as a scheduled monument (**A2**). The manor and parish of Cogan are referred

[41] Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales [RCAHM] (2000) *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan*. Volume III. Cardiff: His Majesty's Stationery Office.
[42] *Ibid*.

to in medieval documents, and the village was first occupied during the 12th century.[43] By the 17th century, the village had largely been abandoned. Earthworks comprising properties, field boundaries and trackways represent the presence of the former village.[44]

4.4.26. The manor of Sully, located to the immediate west of the Site, was owned by the Baron Reginald de Sully, one of the twelve knights of Glamorgan, who also served the Norman lordship. The castle of Sully was small and located to the east of the Norman parish church of Sully. It was occupied for about 300 years until the mid-14th century.

4.4.27. The parish of Llandough is situated 2.5 km to the north of the Site. By the end of the 11th century, the village of Llandough was granted to Tewkesbury Abbey, and a grange was subsequently established here.[45] This remained under Tewkesbury's ownership until the Dissolution in the mid-16th century, when it was confiscated by the Crown and sold.

Post-Medieval (1540 – 1900)

4.4.28. During the post-medieval period, a large portion of the Site was utilised as agricultural fields. The presence of former field boundaries has been identified by analysis of LiDAR digital terrain data (**A268**, **Figure 9.2**) and through trial trench evaluation (**Appendix 9E: Archaeological Evaluation Technical Note**; **Section 5.3**). The site of a well (**A244**) is shown within the southern section of the Site, identified as "Rowlands Well" on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) six-inch map of 1898 (**Figure 9.4**). It is possible that this asset is no longer extant, as there was no indication of this observed during the site walkover survey conducted in August 2026.

4.4.29. The asset of Sutton Farmhouse, Sully (**A168**) is recorded within the central eastern section of the Site, although it is likely to relate to the extant buildings recorded within the domestic complex located 40 m to the east, beyond the Site Boundary. The building was constructed in the 18th century and consists of a two-storey rendered farmhouse with slate roof and full gabled dormer, with modern extensions to the north side.

4.4.30. Within the Site, '*Lavernock*', '*Rowlands Well*', and '*Sutton*' are all identified as historic placenames and identified on the 1845 Parish of Lavernock tithe apportionment,[46] but no further details are provided regarding definitions of their placename origins.[47]

[43] Archaeology Wales (2016) *Sully Road, Cogan, Vale of Glamorgan: Archaeological Watching Brief.* Report No. 1520.
[44] *Ibid*.
[45] Holbrook, N. and Thomas, A.T., (2013) 'An early-medieval Monastic Cemetery at Llandough, Glamorgan: Excavations in 1994' In *Medieval Archaeology*. PP. 1-92.
[46] National Library of Wales (2026) *Tithe Maps of Wales*. Available at: https://places.library.wales/ [Accessed September 2026].
[47] RCAHMW (2026) *List of Historic Place Names Map*. Available at: https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/placenames/map [Accessed September 2026].

4.4.31. Within the 1 km study area, another small cottage, Hill Cottage (**A167**), is situated adjacent to the Site. Lavernock House (**A210**), a villa overlooking St Mary's Well Bay, is located 160 m south of the Site. The former settlement of Cosmeston (**A152**) was situated 335 m north-east of the Site. A farm building located in Lower Cosmeston Farm is a Grade II listed building and situated 435 m east of the Site (**A132**). It was originally constructed in the 16th-17th century, with later construction in the immediate vicinity during the 18th-19th century (**A240**; **A241**; **A242**; **A235**).

4.4.32. Defensive structures forming part of the coastal defence scheme for the Severn estuary had been constructed from the 1860s. These were designed to defend the channel between Barry Island and Flat Holm. One of these structures is identified as a non-designated historic asset in the HER record, named the Lavernock Point Battery, situated 200 m south-west of the Site (**A178**). A trigpoint pillar is situated 165 m west of the Site, atop the Hopkins Mount (**A229**). According to the HER description, the pillar possibly survives intact, although there is slight damage to the asset owing to the missing flush bracket.

Modern (1901 – Present)

4.4.33. The village of Cosmeston was an important limestone-quarrying site for much of the modern period, from 1886 onwards. Two quarries and a limekiln were located within the northern section of the Site (**A200**; **A201**). Until 1970, limestone was primarily supplied to the large cement works that stood to the north of the Site, at the location of the present Cosmeston housing estate. Some elements of the former Taff Vale Railway (**A181**) can be found adjacent to northern boundary of the Site, including a former station building, and a bridge over Fort Road, as depicted on the OS 2nd Edition 25-inch map of 1915 (**Figure 9.5**).

4.4.34. The Site continued to be used as agricultural fields throughout the modern period. There is no evidence on historic mapping that the Site was used during either of the World Wars. A small isolation hospital was established 60 m west of the eastern area of the Site (depicted on the OS map of 1915), under the administration of the Penarth U.D. Council (**A176**). This appears to have been short-lived as it does not appear on subsequent OS mapping and is no longer extant.

4.4.35. Military constructions continued into the modern period around the Lavernock coast. These include an anti-aircraft battery, searchlight battery, and pillboxes. Four war department boundary marker stones are erected (**A206**-**209**) on the four corners of a former Seward Defence Headquarters (**A203**), located 400 m north-east of the Site. The boundary stones still survive on ground, although the defence headquarters building has been vandalised in recent times, according to the HER record. The location of a former pillbox (**A267**) is recorded 230 m south of the Site, although it is not clear whether the asset exists any longer.

4.4.36. Within the 3 km study area, defensive structures designated as scheduled monuments are recorded, including the anti-aircraft and coastal battery west of Lavernock Point, situated 75 m south of the Site (**A1**) (**Plate 2**). St Mary's Well Bay Pillbox is also recorded 390 m south of the Site (**A15**).

Undated

4.4.37. Several assets of unknown date are recorded within the 1 km study area. These comprise a complex of rectangular enclosures, identified by the RCAHMW, located 260 m east of the Site. This asset possibly represents a farmstead of unknown period within the medieval hamlet of Lavernock (**A191**) and includes a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure measuring 30 m across, with additional enclosures extending 30 m eastwards.

4.4.38. A circular ring ditch was identified through aerial imagery, recorded 70 m north of the Site, measuring approximately 30 m in diameter. It was observed on RCAHMW AP 965081/49-52; 965108/41-4, in 2003 (**A194**). The feature could not be dated, although it is possible that it is of prehistoric date given the form of feature. It was cut by a possible land division feature. No earthworks or other features were visible on the ground during a later field visit in 2006.

4.5. Factors Affecting Archaeological Survival

4.5.1. OS mapping from the 1880s onwards has been used to identify past land use and impacts which may have compromised the survival of any archaeological remains that might be present within the Site.

4.5.2. Archaeological survival across the Site is anticipated to be moderate to high, based on the following assumptions:

- Within 10% of the Site, multiple post-medieval and modern period quarries and lime kilns were located. Quarries and lime kilns would have led to destruction or almost complete removal of sub-surface archaeological remains, if present within the footprint of the quarry pits. These would have had localised impacts to the archaeological survival within the Site; and
- Almost 90% of the Site has been historically characterised by open fields, blocks of woodland and agricultural activities. Ploughing and other agricultural activities would have caused some ground disturbance, although the impacts are unlikely to have been substantial enough to truncate all sub-surface archaeological deposits.

5. Heritage Significance

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. This section assesses the likelihood for the Proposed Development to have an impact on the significance of historic assets. Below ground impacts include anything that would cause ground disturbance, such as preliminary groundworks, topsoil removal, remediation, landscaping, planting, foundation construction and services.

5.1.2. The Proposed Development may also have an impact on the significance of historic assets due to changes to their setting. A Stage 1 settings assessment has been conducted, the results of which are presented in **Appendix 9C: Settings Assessment**.

5.1.3. The report has conducted an assessment of the built and buried historic assets within and around the Site.

5.2. Archaeological Potential

Prehistoric

5.2.1. The Site is expected to have **moderate potential** for prehistoric archaeological remains. While there have been no prehistoric remains identified within the Site, two areas of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic artefact scatters have been reported as chance finds around 75 m to the east (**A190**) and 160 m to the west (**A162**) of the Site. While these are recorded as isolated finds on the HER, the likelihood is that these artefacts have been disturbed from previously *in situ* deposits brought to the surface by plough activity. The closest prehistoric asset recorded is undated but potentially represents a prehistoric ring ditch (**A194**), located 70 m north of the Proposed Development.

5.2.2. These factors indicate a **moderate potential** for prehistoric archaeology to be present within the Site. If present, any prehistoric remains are anticipated to be artefact scatters or isolated findspots of local interest and would constitute non-designated assets, which would make them of **low significance**.

Roman

5.2.3. The Site is expected to have a **moderate potential** for Roman archaeological remains. Grass marks indicating a possible Romano-British farmstead or coastal fortlet were identified in the field adjacent to the western boundary of the Site (**A174**), although this was not definitively identified as Roman. If present, such archaeological remains would likely relate to the potential Roman farmstead and consist of fragmentary remains of pottery, coins and other material. Any Roman archaeological remains present are anticipated to be of local interest and would constitute non-designated assets, which would make them of **low significance**.

Early Medieval

5.2.4. The Site is expected to have **low potential** for early medieval archaeological remains. No early medieval archaeological remains have been identified from within the Site or the 1 km study area. In the absence of archaeological investigations within the Site, it is difficult to establish the potential for early medieval archaeological remains within the Site with certainty. Any early medieval archaeological remains present are anticipated to be of local interest and would constitute non-designated assets, which would make them of **low significance**.

Medieval

5.2.5. The Site is expected to have **moderate potential** for medieval archaeological remains. Stray finds of pottery and sandstone roofing tiles were recorded from within the western section of the Site (**A163**). However, the Site was mostly located in agricultural lands on the outskirts of medieval hamlets and is not likely to have supported any major settlement activity. If present, any medieval archaeological remains (most likely consisting of agricultural remains such as former field boundaries) are anticipated to be of local interest and would constitute non-designated assets, which would make them of **low significance**.

Post-Medieval

5.2.6. The Site is expected to have **high potential** for post-medieval archaeological remains. The known archaeological record indicates that a large portion of the Site was characterised by agricultural fields. The site of an 18th century farmhouse (**A168**) is located within the central eastern section of the Site, although it is possible that this asset relates to the extant buildings located 40 m to the east, beyond the Site Boundary. If present, any post-medieval archaeological remains (most likely consisting of agricultural remains such as former field boundaries) are anticipated to be of local interest and would constitute non-designated assets, which would make them of **low significance**.

Modern

5.2.7. The Site is expected to have **high potential** for modern archaeological remains. The only known modern historic assets are modern field boundaries (**A269**) identified through LiDAR analysis, and the Proposed Development has been in use as agricultural land throughout the modern period. Any modern archaeological remains present are anticipated to be agricultural in nature and of local interest and therefore would constitute non-designated assets, which would make them of **low significance**.

5.3. Buried Historic Assets

5.3.1. There are no designated buried historic assets recorded within the Site.

5.3.2. There are six recorded non-designated buried historic assets within the Site.

5.3.3. The earliest historic asset in the Site is a site of a medieval rubble spread (**A163**) found in the plough soil.

5.3.4. One historic asset is the site of an 18th century farmhouse (**A168; Plate 3**) which is likely to relate to the extant domestic complex located 40 m to the east of the recorded asset. Three assets pertain to remains of unidentified, but likely post-medieval, periods (**A200; A201; A244**), within the western section of the Site. There are two limekilns (**A200**; **A201; Plate 4**) and a well (**A244; Plate 5**) which are likely to be destroyed or concealed beneath dense vegetation as no indication of their survival was identified during the site visit.

5.3.5. Furthermore, modern field boundaries (**A269**) were identified through LiDAR analysis within the Site.

5.3.6. As non-designated historic assets of local interest, all the identified buried historic assets would be of **low significance**.

Geophysical Survey Features

5.3.7. The following text sets out the significance of the geophysical survey anomalies indicative of potential archaeological activity which were identified within the survey results. Discussion is focused on assets identified within the Proposed Development area; additional assets identified beyond areas proposed for solar arrays and associated infrastructure are included within **Appendix 9D: Geophysical Survey Report**. The locations of these features are identified referencing their allotted 'Field' number and their assigned reference number, as identified within the geophysical survey report (**Appendix 9D: Geophysical Survey Report**).

Linear Anomalies

5.3.8. Linear features of unknown origin and function, potentially indicative of archaeological activity, were identified in Fields 1, 2, 4, 7 and 9, as displayed within **Appendix 9D: Geophysical Survey Report**.

5.3.9. **Response 1 (1)** consists of two parallel linear features measuring approximately 40 m in length each, aligned north-east to south-west. An iron-rich deposit was indicated through geophysical survey, although an interpretation for the function and origin of these features was not provided.

5.3.10. **Response 1 (4)** comprises a linear anomaly potentially representing a former field boundary, aligned north-east to south-west in the western area of Field 1.

5.3.11. **Response 2 (1)** represents a large linear anomaly, measuring 130 m in length, aligned roughly north-west to south-east in Field 2, which turns towards the north-east in the northern part of the field. It may have possibly functioned as a boundary, but as it is

not depicted on the Parish of Lavernock Tithe map of 1845, it is likely to pre-date the mid-19th century.

5.3.12. **Responses 2 (2 and 3)** consists of two linear features, possibly indicative of pre-1845 field boundaries. The northern **response 2 (2)** measures approximately 75 m and is orientated north-east to south-west; whereas **response 2 (3)** measures roughly 115 m in length and runs east to west.

5.3.13. **Response 2 (9)** comprises three linear features of unknown function and origin. Originally interpreted as naturally occurring subsurface drainage, the regularity of this feature is indicative of potential archaeological origin.

5.3.14. **Response 2 (11)** exhibits a band of magnetically positive readings of potential archaeological origin. The feature is aligned south-east to north-west and was also interpreted as potentially representing natural geology.

5.3.15. **Response 4 (1)** represents a linear feature, potentially a buried ditch, measuring around 129 m in length. It is aligned north-east to south-west and runs across the centre of Field 4.

5.3.16. **Response 7 (2 and 3)** comprise linear anomalies aligned north-west to south-east. The position of the features in relation to historic field boundaries suggests they may represent a former ditch/channel system.

5.3.17. **Response 7 (4)** consists of a pair of parallel linear features of unknown origin and function. The features run parallel to each other and measure 18 m in length in a south-west to north-east alignment. It is interpreted that these may potentially relate to agricultural activities.

5.3.18. **Response 9 (1)** represents a linear anomaly measuring 167 m in length, aligned roughly south-west to north-east through the northern area of Field 9. Initial interpretation of this feature suggests a possible boundary pre-dating the historic tithe map of 1845.

5.3.19. As a result of the ambiguity of interpretation and the lack of additional sources identifying these features as potential archaeological assets (e.g. historic mapping), it is considered that the archaeological significance of the above features is **negligible**.

Former Field Boundaries

5.3.20. Former field boundaries were identified in Fields 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 9 through examination of historic mapping sources.

5.3.21. **Response 2 (5)** represents a south-west to north-east aligned field boundary (now backfilled), which was first depicted on the tithe map of 1845 and the first edition OS map of 1885.

5.3.22. **Response 4 (2)** measures 107 m in length and runs north-west to south-east through the northern area of Field 4. The boundary is likely to have been backfilled over time, as it is depicted on both the tithe and first edition OS map.

5.3.23. **Response 4 (4)** represents a linear oriented north to south, measuring 52 m in length. It may represent a buried bank as its location and alignment correspond to a boundary identified on the tithe map of 1845.

5.3.24. **Response 5 (1)** exhibits a boundary ditch relating to a trackway identified on the 1845 tithe map. The feature measures 37 m in length and extends along the northern boundary of Field 5 on a north-east to south-west trajectory.

5.3.25. **Response 9 (2 and 3)** are two ditches recorded on both the tithe and first edition OS maps. They run perpendicular to each other in a north-east to south-west alignment and a north-west to south-east orientation, across the centre of Field 9.

5.3.26. **Response 9 (4)** represents a short segment of a field boundary depicted on the tithe and first edition OS map. It runs north-west to south-east, parallel to **response 9 (2)** and perpendicular to **response 9 (3)**.

5.3.27. Overall, the identification of these anomalies as former field boundaries depicted on historic mapping throughout the 19th century confirms these assets as local historic assets, of a **negligible** to **low** archaeological significance.

Former Agricultural Trackways

5.3.28. Agricultural trackways of historical and modern origin were identified during the geophysical survey within Fields 1 and 7.

5.3.29. **Response 1 (2)** comprises the potential remains of a ploughed-out bank, a raised trackway, or possible a service run. The feature measures 110 m in length, aligned north-west to south-east, and is of unknown date.

5.3.30. **Response 1 (3)** represents a large linear feature which traverses across Field 1 in a north-west to south-east alignment, measuring 276 m in length. The feature was interpreted as potentially representing a trackway of possible prehistoric or Roman origin. This is supported by the presence of potential prehistoric or Roman enclosures within the adjacent Field 3 (beyond areas proposed for development infrastructure), towards which **response 1 (3)** traverses.

5.3.31. **Response 7 (1)** comprises a pair of south-east to north-west aligned linear features, which follow the trajectory of existing and former field boundaries. Interpretation of these features is a possible trackway or driveway used to move livestock.

5.3.32. It is considered that **response 1 (3)** may represent an asset of **low** archaeological significance, with the potential to contain finds and/or deposits relating to prehistoric and/or Roman activities within the Site.

5.3.33. **Responses 1 (2)** and **7 (1)** are considered to be assets of **negligible** archaeological significance, possibly representing former trackways relating to the historical and recent use of the Site for agricultural purposes.

Sub-Circular Anomalies

5.3.34. A cluster of sub-circular features of potential archaeological origin are recorded in Field 2. **Responses 2 (4, 6 and 8)** relate to individual clusters of magnetic readings which could be interpreted as past activity through burning, agricultural processing or general settlement activity. The function and origin of these features is presently unknown and cannot be ascertained through geophysical survey alone.

5.3.35. As a result of the ambiguity of interpretation and the lack of additional sources identifying these features as potential archaeological assets (e.g. historic mapping), it is considered that the archaeological significance of the above features is **negligible**.

Discrete Features (Pits, Quarries)

5.3.36. Discrete features including pits and/or quarries of unknown date were identified in Fields 3 and 6 within the Site.

5.3.37. **Response 3 (8)** represents a cluster of anomalies depicted as slight depressions, as visible on LiDAR data. The extent of these features and their functions are unknown.

5.3.38. **Response 3 (11)** a potential buried pit or quarry was identified in the south of Field 3. Similar to **response 3 (8)** above, the extent, form and function of this feature is unknown.

5.3.39. **Response 6 (1)** comprises a possible pit feature of unknown date. It is relatively isolated within this field, with one anomaly recorded to the north-east of this asset, which represents possible buried modern material within the plough soil (**response 6 (2)**).

5.3.40. As a result of the ambiguity of interpretation and the lack of additional sources identifying these features as potential archaeological assets (e.g. historic mapping), it is considered that the archaeological significance of the above features is **negligible**.

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Features

5.3.41. The following text sets out the significance of the archaeological features identified during the trial trench evaluation. The locations of these features are identified referencing their allotted 'Trench' number and their assigned reference number, as identified within the Technical Note (**Appendix 9E: Archaeological Evaluation Technical Note**).

5.3.42. The trial trench evaluation identified that a significant proportion of the anomalies identified during the 2025 geophysical survey represented natural, geological features with no archaeological origin. A total of six trenches contained archaeological finds, features or deposits, the significance of which is set out below.

5.3.43. **Trench 11** was excavated within the central northern area of the Site Boundary. While this boundary is not visible on the 1845 tithe map of the Parish of Lavernock, nor within subsequent OS mapping during the 19th and 20th centuries, it appears to be aligned with a larger potential feature identified within the geophysical survey (**Response 2 (1)**).

5.3.44. **Trench 15** was located within the northern area of the Site Boundary and contained a section of a post-medieval field boundary extending in a north-west to south-east alignment through the trench. This boundary is visible on the 1845 tithe map of the Parish of Lavernock and within subsequent OS mapping during the 19th and 20th centuries, aligning with the field boundary as identified within the geophysical survey (**Response 4 (2)**).

5.3.45. **Trench 19** was excavated within the southern area of the Site and contained patches of demolition rubble, comprising brick and concrete. This cluster of features correspond with magnetic responses identified during the geophysical survey (**Responses 5 (3)** & **5 (6)**).

5.3.46. **Trench 25** was located within the central northern area of the Site Boundary and contained a section of a boundary. While this boundary is not visible on the 1845 tithe map of the Parish of Lavernock, nor within subsequent OS mapping during the 19th and 20th centuries, it appears to be located within a similar area to a potential ditch/field boundary identified during the geophysical survey (**Response 7 (4)**).

5.3.47. **Trench 27** was excavated within the north-eastern area of the Site Boundary and contained a small modern pit. Modern glass material was recovered from the pit. This trench extended into a portion of **Response 9 (2)**, which is depicted on the Tithe map of 1845 as a field boundary.

5.3.48. The final trench, **Trench 29**, was located within the central eastern area of the Site Boundary and contained a section of a post-medieval field boundary extending in a north-west to south-east alignment through the trench. This boundary is visible on the 1845 tithe map of the Parish of Lavernock and within subsequent OS mapping during the 19th and 20th centuries, aligning with the field boundary as identified within the geophysical survey (**Response 9 (3)**).

5.4. Built and Above Ground Historic Assets

5.4.1. The following section includes the results of a scoping exercise which has scoped in assets deemed sensitive to changes occurring from changes to their setting as a result of the Proposed Development. The following definition of setting is provided by Cadw:

'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.' [48]

5.4.2. Assets which have been scoped out of the assessment are tabulated in **Appendix 9C: Settings Assessment**. These assets are considered not sensitive to change or impact as a result of the Proposed Development for reasons including, but not limited to:

- No direct intervisibility between the Proposed Development and the asset;
- Lack of meaningful third-party viewpoints where both the Proposed Development and the asset are visible in one viewshed;
- No visual, functional, spatial relationships or historical affiliations between the land within the Site Boundary and the asset;
- Distance between the Proposed Development and the asset which limits potential for impact through changes in distant viewsheds, including no audible changes; and
- Lack of affiliation between the Site and the asset's significance, setting and appreciation of this setting and significance is not impacted by the Proposed Development.

5.4.3. The justification for scoping out assets from this assessment is provided in **Appendix 9C: Settings Assessment**.

Scoping

5.4.4. The following historic assets are carried through for further assessment:

- 3 scheduled monuments;
- 3 Grade II listed buildings; and
- 1 County Treasure.

5.4.5. Scoping has been informed by the ZTV model, which is based on a worst-case scenario using blade-to-tip visibility data. The ZTV model and selection of historic assets which lie within the ZTV is presented in **Figure 5.1: Indicative Site Layout** of the ES.

Assessment of Significance and Setting

Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery West of Lavernock Point

5.4.6. The scheduled monument of Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery West of Lavernock Point is an asset of high heritage value (**A1**). The monument comprises three main areas: one battery; one gun house, recorded around 110 m north-east of the battery, recorded 155 m south of the Site; and one coastal searchlight emplacement, located 220 m south-west of the battery, recorded 65 m south of the Site. The monument exhibits evidential, historical and communal values as a former Second World War ('WWII') defensive structure situated along the South Wales coastline.

[48] Welsh Government (2025b) *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*. Merthyr Tydfil: Welsh Government [Cadw].

5.4.7. Evidential value is reflected in the physical fabric preserved from the battery and associated features' original construction. The battery site within the scheduled monument complex exhibits upstanding remains relating to two pairs of gun emplacements, a partly buried command post, earthen banks, concrete defences, and the remains of a magazine (**Plate 2**, **Plates 7-9**). The gun house situated to the north-east of the main battery complex and comprises a single-storey concrete building used as a workshop and storage facility (**Plate 10**). To the south-west of this asset, the coastal searchlight emplacement reflects a concrete-built structure with well-preserved remains of searchlight housing on its south side (**Plate 11**). The asset retains significant archaeological potential within the complex of the anti-aircraft battery, and the associated structures of the gun house and searchlight emplacement located to the east and west respectively.

5.4.8. The anti-aircraft and coastal battery features are positioned along the trajectory of the South Wales Coast Path, exhibiting communal value as a reminder of the contribution that this site and individuals in the local area made to the war effort. This element of significance is appreciated on a local scale with residents in the area, and on a potentially international scape through passers-by walking along the coastal path and visiting the asset.

5.4.9. Historically, this asset retains significance through its association with WWII, a historically important event in UK history and internationally. This significance is exemplified both in isolation as an individual asset contributing to the defence of the Bristol Channel, as well as in the wider context of the national defensive systems established in response to threats from foreign enemy forces across the UK.

5.4.10. The setting of this asset is defined by its position on the coastline. As a defensive structure within a wider complex of coastal defensive systems established along the Bristol Channel (and across the UK's coastline) during WWII, this asset retains group value with these other assets – such as St Mary's Well Bay Pillbox (**A15**) – and is contextualised entirely by its position on the coast. The long-ranging views across the channel provide a key understanding to the asset's historical function and form its principal views, contributing to the significance of this asset as a nationally important monument (**Plates 12-13**).

St Mary's Well Bay Pillbox

5.4.11. The scheduled monument of St Mary's Well Bay Pillbox is an asset of high heritage value (**A15**). This asset is recorded 390 m south of the Site and retains evidential, historical and communal values as a former WWII defensive structure situated along the South Wales coastline.

5.4.12. Evidential value is visible through the asset's relic structural remains. This pillbox comprises a Type 25 variant pillbox dating between 1940-1941, exhibiting a circular

shape in plan with a northern entrance, measuring 3.5 m in diameter. The structure is constructed from reinforced concrete and corrugated sheet steel. The Type 25 pillbox represents a rare survival throughout the UK, with limited examples surviving in Wales.

5.4.13. Historical and communal values are exhibited through the asset's former function and purpose, forming part of the Glamorgan coastal anti-invasion defence system. While contributing to the overarching war effort, on a local scale, the pillbox served to protect the Severn Fixed Defences coast artillery battery observation post (located 92 m to the south-west of this asset), as well as the anti-aircraft and coastal battery (**A1**), located approximately 700 m to the north-east.

5.4.14. Similar to the abovementioned anti-aircraft scheduled monument, the setting of this asset is also defined by its location on the coastline. As part of a group of assets which contributed to the widescale defensive system of the UK coastline, the setting of this asset contributes significantly to the asset's heritage value, and is key in understanding its function and historical importance. The inter-visibility between this asset, the Bristol Channel, and the anti-aircraft and coastal battery (**A1**) further exemplifies this significance.

Sully Island "Danish" Fort

5.4.15. The scheduled monument of Sully Island is an asset of high heritage value (**A16**). This asset is recorded 920 m south-west of the Site and retains evidential and historical values as a prehistoric promontory fort, dating to the Iron Age.

5.4.16. Evidential value is exhibited through the buried remains relating to the former function and occupation of the island. The monument comprises three ramparts and a possible barrow within the south-eastern area of the fort, preserved in earthworks underneath dense gorge and vegetation resulting from the island's exposed setting in the Bristol Channel (**Plate 15**). Through the extant earthworks and associated buried remains, the asset retains significant potential to enhance knowledge on prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement.

5.4.17. Historical value is derived from the asset's association with historically significant events, such as the Roman invasion of Wales in c.74 CE. The strategic position of the fort, and its categorisation as a promontory fort, both contribute to an understanding that construction and function was influenced by the requirement for defence from local tribal disputes, and eventually the invasive Roman territorial army.

5.4.18. The setting of this asset significantly contributes to its value as a scheduled monument of national importance. The understanding of the function of the promontory fort is defined by its location atop a tidal island in the Bristol Channel, exhibiting far-reaching views along the coastline towards Barry in the west and Lavernock Point to the east, as well as the surrounding Bristol Channel (**Plates 16-17**).

Planned Group of Farmyard Buildings at Cog Farm & Cog House

5.4.19. The Grade II listed asset comprising the planned group of farmyard buildings at Cog Farm is an asset of medium heritage significance (**A88**). This asset is recorded just over 1 km to the north-west of the Site and retains evidential, and historical and aesthetic values as a post-medieval rural farm complex. Forming a group of assets with the adjacent Grade II listed Cog House (**A90**), these assets have been assessed below as a group.

5.4.20. Evidential value is derived from the preserved historic fabric of the buildings, and any buried deposits within the farm complex indicative of the past use and function of the farm. The buildings were constructed between 1816-17 by Evan Thomas and exhibit later 19th century enlargements. The E-plan form of the farm buildings was deliberately designed to contribute to the functionality of the farm in providing the most efficient distribution of feed from the barn to the animal sheds (**A88**). Aesthetic value is reflected through the buildings' construction of local rubble stone finished with limewash, exhibiting an architectural design characteristic of this area of the Vale of Glamorgan (**Plate 18**), contrasting to the distinctive blue lias limestone used in other areas of the Vale. The main farmhouse and associated buildings are also constructed with a slate roof (**Plate 19**).

5.4.21. The buildings were constructed by Evan Thomas, who was the estate farmer from 1811. Throughout his ownership of Cog Farm and the surrounding estate, he reorganised the existing farms and reduced them from five to two, comprising Cog Farm and Hayes Farm (which is no longer extant, but was formerly located 1.3 km to the south-west of Cog Farm). Thomas farmed the whole parish and paid all tithes and rates between 1814-1817, prior to the tenancy of John Bland, who is recorded as the occupier of Cog Farm within the tithe apportionment of 1846.[49] By 1813, Thomas had been appointed as High Sheriff of Brecknockshire and Chairman of Glamorgan Quarter Sessions from 1823 up to his death in 1832. The farm was taken over by JJ Guest, owner of Sully Estate, and first Chairman of the Taff Vale Railway. Historical documents cite that in 1885, Cog Farm comprised 700 acres, 550 of which were arable and the land was managed on 4 and 5 course rotation.[50]

5.4.22. The setting of Cog Farm and its buildings only partially retains its historically rural environment, with land to the north comprising arable farmland exhibiting rural landscape features visible on historic 19th century mapping. Extensive modern development has impacted the wider setting of the asset and is visible in a southward

[49] National Library of Wales (2026) *Tithe Maps of Wales*. Available at: https://places.library.wales/ [Accessed September 2026]
[50] Cadw (2026) Full Report for Listed Buildings: Planned Group of Farmyard Buildings at Cog Farm. Available at: https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=13458 [Accessed September 2026].

direction from the assets. It is considered that the rural landscape to the north of Cog Farm contributes to its significance as a post-medieval farmstead, as well as its inter-spatial relationships with associated assets including the Grade II listed rickstands located to the north of the farmstead (**A89**). While the function of the assets has changed over time, with modern conversion of the units into individual dwellings, the preservation of its historic fabric and wider placename of 'Cog' are considered to be key contributing elements to the significance of these assets.

Barn at Home Farm

5.4.23. The Grade II listed and County Treasure of Barn at Home Farm is an asset of medium heritage significance (**A126**). This asset is recorded 830 m north-west of the Site and retains evidential, and historical and aesthetic values as a post-medieval farm building.

5.4.24. The barn was constructed in the 18th century to serve the nearby domestic property Nicells, which dates to the 17th century (**A131**). Evidential and aesthetic values are exhibited through the architectural design of the barn, composed of stone rubble with a slate roof. The asset represents a small, regional barn and is listed for its special interest as an example of pre-1840 character.

5.4.25. Historically, the barn retains value through its depiction on historic mapping from the 19th century onwards, and its association with the 17th century Nicells property. Further to changes in land distribution and ownership throughout history, the asset is also associated with the nearby Cog Farm estate (**A88-A90**).

5.4.26. The setting of the barn comprises a rural, agricultural environment of which within the immediate vicinity of the asset, appears to be relatively well-preserved. The asset's setting is further defined by its historic-spatial relationship with Nicells and the buildings at Cog Farm, as well as later development to the east with the establishment of a farmstead at Home Farm (**Plate 20**).

Homestead Cottage, Swanbridge Road, Cog

5.4.27. The County Treasure of Homestead Cottage is an asset of medium heritage significance (**A230**). This asset is recorded 785 m north-west of the Site and retains evidential, and historical and aesthetic values as a post-medieval building.

5.4.28. The cottage represents a 19th century dwelling, comprising two storeys and a veranda to the south. The front of this asset exhibits a large gable, and key architectural features include a drip mould on the ground floor window. The building materials used conforms aesthetically to the surrounding buildings, such as those within Cog Farm, composed of local rubble stone with a slate roof (**Plate 21**).

5.4.29. Historical value is retained to the building's 19th century origins and inclusion on historic mapping throughout this period. Further historical value is exhibited through the tithe

map and apportionment, which lists the asset as a 'Cottage and Garden' under the ownership of J.J. Guest, who owned the wider Cog Farm estate.[51]

5.4.30. The setting of Homestead Cottage is defined by its rural surroundings to the east, and its spatial relationships to the buildings at Cog Farm (**A88**, **A90**), Nicells (**A131**) and Home Farm (**A126**) to the north and west. By contrast to Cog Farm, the visual surroundings are less impacted by modern development, retaining a sense of isolation and rural environs, although glimpses of modern housing are experienced beyond Nicells which lies opposite this asset. The principal elevation of this building fronts the junction with Sully Road, Cog Road and Swanbridge Road, in the opposite direction to the Site, and forms part of its historical context as a post-medieval dwelling within a formerly small hamlet, centred on the Cog Farm estate to the north-west.

[51] National Library of Wales (2026) *Tithe Maps of Wales*. Available at: https://places.library.wales/ [Accessed September 2026]

6. Bibliography

Archaeology Wales (2016) *Sully Road, Cogan, Vale of Glamorgan: Archaeological Watching Brief.* Report No. 1520.

British Geological Survey [BGS] (2026a) BGS Geology Viewer. Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/bgs-geology-viewer/ [Accessed September 2026].

BGS (2026b) *Borehole Records*. Available at: https://www.bgs.ac.uk/information-hub/borehole-records/ [Accessed September 2026].

Cadw (2007) *Guide to Good Practice on using The Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in The Planning and Development Process*. Revised (2nd) Edition. Cardiff: Cadw.

Cadw (2011) *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales*. Cardiff: Cadw.

Cadw (2017) *Managing Historic Character in Wales*. Cardiff: Cadw.

Cadw (2026) *Full Report for Listed Buildings*. Available at: https://cadwpublic-ui.azurewebsites.net/ [Accessed September 2026].

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA] (2020a) *Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*. Reading: CIfA.

CIfA (2020b) *Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment*. Reading: CIfA.

DataMapWales (2026) *LiDAR Data Download*. Available at: https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/lidar-data-download/ [Accessed September 2026]

Evans, E. (2001) *Romano-British South East Wales Settlement Survey: Final report.* Swansea: Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Heneb Dyfed Archaeological Services (2025) *Land South of Cosmeston, South Wales: Geophysical Survey*. Unpublished Client Report.

Heneb Dyfed Archaeological Services (2026) *Technical Note*. Unpublished Client Report.

Heneb Historic Environment Record [HER] (2026) *HER Data Search*. Enquiry Ref: 9133.

Holbrook, N. and Thomas, A.T., (2013) 'An early-medieval Monastic Cemetery at Llandough, Glamorgan: Excavations in 1994' In *Medieval Archaeology*. PP. 1-92.

LandIS (2026) *Soilscapes*. Available at: https://www.landis.org.uk/ [Accessed September 2026].

Margary, I. (1955) *Roman Roads in Britain*. Available at: https://www.romanroads.org/index.html [Accessed September 2026].

National Library of Wales (2026) *Tithe Maps of Wales*. Available at: https://places.library.wales/ [Accessed September 2026]

Natural Resources Wales (2014) *National Landscape Character – NLCA36: Vale of Glamorgan*. Available at: https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en [Accessed September 2026].

Rees, S., Knight, J., and Hilling, J.B., (1993) 'South-East Wales in the Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon Periods.' *The Archaeological Journal*. Vol. 150, pp. 6-16.

Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales [RFAW] (2023) *Research Framework for the Archaeology of Early Medieval Wales c. AD 400-1100.* Version 4. Available at: https://researchframeworks.org/wales/ [Accessed September 2026].

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales [RCAHM] (2000) *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan*. Volume III. Cardiff: His Majesty's Stationery Office.

RCAHMW (2026) *List of Historic Place Names Map*. Available at: https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/placenames/map [Accessed September 2026].

UK Public General Acts (1979) *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*.

UK Public General Acts (1990) *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.*

Vale of Glamorgan Council (2017) *Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026*. Barry: Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Welsh Government (2021) *Future Wales: the national plan 2040*. Available at: https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040 [Accessed September 2026].

Welsh Government (2024) *Planning Policy Wales*. Edition 12. Available at: https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales [Accessed September 2026].

Welsh Government (2025a) *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*. Merthyr Tydfil: Welsh Government [Cadw].

Welsh Government (2025b) *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*. Merthyr Tydfil: Welsh Government [Cadw].

Welsh Government (2026) *Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Cardiff: Welsh Government.

7. Site Visit Plates



*Plate 1: North-west view of Church of St Lawrence, Grade II listed building (**A113**)*



*Plate 2: Upstanding remains within the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)*



*Plate 3: Site of 18th century farmhouse recorded by the HER (**A168**), looking north-west*



*Plate 4: Site of two limekilns recorded by the HER (**A200**; **A201**), looking west*



*Plate 5: Site of Rowland's Well (**A244**), looking south-east*



*Plate 6: Site of former modern field boundaries (**A269**) (no longer extant), looking north-west*



*Plate 7: Upstanding remains within the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)*



*Plate 8: North-east view towards the Site from the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)*



*Plate 9: Upstanding remains within the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)*



*Plate 10: South-east view of the gun house of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)*



*Plate 11: North-east view of the coastal searchlight emplacement of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)*



*Plate 12: South view from the coastal searchlight emplacement of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)*



*Plate 13: South-east view across Bristol Channel from the southern edge of the Battery complex of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery scheduled monument (**A1**)*



*Plate 14: West view towards St Mary's Well Bay Pillbox (**A15**), indicated by red arrow*



Plate 15: Sully Island "Danish" Fort (A16), beneath dense vegetation, looking north-west



Plate 16: Eastern edge of Sully Island, looking north-east towards Lavernock Point



Plate 17: Sully Island, from northern edge of island looking north-west towards Sully and Barry



*Plate 18: Planned group of farmyard buildings at Cog Farm (**A88**), looking north-west*



*Plate 19: Cog House (**A90**), looking north-east towards western elevation*



*Plate 20: Barn at Home Farm (**A126**), looking east towards Home Farm*



*Plate 21: Homestead Cottage (**A230**), looking north-east*