

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Elba Crescent, Swansea

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared by RPS, on behalf CarneySweeney to support an outline planning application (Neath Port Talbot Council reference P2022/0563) for the development of up to 165 dwellings (including affordable housing), associated infrastructure, public open space and landscaping. It assesses 4.61 ha of vacant land to the north of Elba Crescent, Crymlyn Burrows Swansea (NGR SS 6992 9308). The study site is allocated for housing (H1/LB/3 Elba Crescent, Crymlyn Burrows).

This desk-based assessment is designed to provide baseline information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential of the study site, and to enable informed decisions about managing any impacts that may potentially arise on any significant archaeological assets in the study site, in accordance with government policy and relevant guidance (Planning Policy Wales and associated guidance and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020). This report discusses the potential for encountering below-ground archaeology during the course of the development within the study site, using data from a study area radius of 1km.

There are no designated archaeological assets located within the study site. No archaeological heritage assets located outside of the study site are assessed to be sensitive to the proposed development.

The impact on the setting and significance of Built Heritage Assets does not fall within the scope of this report.

The HER records that the study site was within the area of the 20th century King's Dock Tinplate Works – a non-designated heritage asset (HER reference GGAT08974w), which was demolished around 2008. A review of historic mapping and plans shows the original building and earliest phase of the works was located c.60m to the north of the study site. After the works was bought in c.1927 by construction engineers Archibald D. Dawnay and Sons Ltd, a building was constructed within the study site. The available documentary sources indicate the detached building within the study site was comparable to other 'typical' Dawnay shops and likely consisted of a standard shop floor that supported machine equipment. A GGAT assessment of the condition of survival and significance of the demolished King's Dock Tinplate Works concluded it was of poor survival and of minor significance. The Dawnay building within the study site was detached from the King's Dock Tinplate Works, was of a later construction and more likely comprised a standard industrial shop floor. Any surviving remains are assessed to be of little archaeological interest. A Bronze Age burial was encountered c.250m to the north-east of the study site. Though the study site was formerly wetland, and peat deposits form in these environments, Welsh Government data and nearby boreholes indicate no peat deposits survive within the study site. The study site is assessed to have a low potential for Bronze Age remains in the eastern area of the study site and a negligible potential for significant remains for all other periods.

This assessment has not identified any archaeological remains that are a constraint to development.

Paratowyd yr Asesiad Archeolegol Desg hwn gan RPS ar ran CarneySweeney, i gefnogi cais cynllunio amlinellol (Cyfeirnod Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot P2022/0563) i ddatblygu hyd at 165 o anheddau (gan gynnwys tai fforddiadwy), seilwaith cysylltiedig, mannau agored cyhoeddus a thirlunio. Mae'n asesu 4.61 ha o dir gwag i'r gogledd o Elba Crescent, Twyni Crymlyn, Abertawe (NGR SS 6992 9308). Dyrannwyd safle'r astudiaeth ar gyfer tai (H1/LB/3 Elba Crescent, Twyni Crymlyn).

Cynlluniwyd yr asesiad pen desg hwn i ddarparu gwybodaeth sylfaenol er mwyn egluro arwyddocâd treftadaeth a photensial archeolegol safle'r astudiaeth, ac i alluogi penderfyniadau gwybodus ynghylch rheoli unrhyw effeithiau a allai godi gydag unrhyw asedau archeolegol sylweddol yn safle'r astudiaeth, yn unol â pholisi'r llywodraeth a chanllawiau perthnasol (Polisi Cynllunio Cymru a chanllawiau cysylltiedig, a Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr 2020). Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn trafod y potensial ar gyfer dod ar draws archaeoleg o dan y ddaear yn ystod y datblygiad o fewn safle'r astudiaeth, gan ddefnyddio data o radiws ardal astudiaeth o 1 cilometr.

Nid oes unrhyw asedau archeolegol dynodedig o fewn safle'r astudiaeth. Nid aseswyd unrhyw asedau treftadaeth archeolegol y tu allan i safle'r astudiaeth fel rhai fyddai'n sensitif i'r datblygiad arfaethedig.

Nid yw'r effaith ar osodiad ac arwyddocâd Asedau Treftadaeth Adeiledig yn dod o fewn cwmmpas yr adroddiad hwn.

Mae'r HER yn nodi bod safle'r astudiaeth o fewn ardal Gwaith Tunplat Doc y Brenin o'r 20fed ganrif – ased treftadaeth heb ei ddynodi (cyfeirnod CAH GGAT08974w), a gafodd ei ddymchwel tua 2008. Mae adolygiad o fapiau a chynlluniau hanesyddol yn dangos yr adeilad gwreiddiol, ac yr oedd cam cynharaf y gwaith tua 60m i'r gogledd o safle'r astudiaeth. Ar ôl i'r gwaith gael ei brynu tua 1927 gan y peirianwyr adeiladu Archibald D. Dawnay and Sons Ltd, codwyd adeilad o fewn safle'r astudiaeth. Mae'r ffynonellau dogfennol sydd ar gael yn dangos bod hwn yn adeilad ar wahân o fewn safle'r astudiaeth, yn debyg i siopau Dawnay 'nodweddiadol' eraill, a'i fod yn debygol o gynnwys llawr siop safonol a oedd yn cynnal offer peiriannau. Daeth asesiad GGAT o gyflwr goroesiad ac arwyddocâd Gwaith Tunplat Doc y Brenin a ddymchwelwyd i'r casgliad ei fod wedi goroesi'n wael ac o arwyddocâd bychan. Roedd adeilad Dawnay o fewn safle'r astudiaeth wedi ei osod ar wahân i Waith Tunplat Doc y Brenin, ac wedi'i adeiladu'n ddiweddarach; roedd yn ôl pob tebyg yn cynnwys llawr siop diwydiannol safonol. Asesir mai ychydig o ddiddordeb archeolegol sydd i unrhyw weddillion a oroesodd. Daethpwyd ar draws claddedigaeth o'r Oes Efydd tua 250m i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o safle'r astudiaeth. Er mai gwlyptir oedd safle'r astudiaeth yn flaenorol, a bod dyddodion mawn yn ffurfio yn yr amgylcheddau hyn, mae data Llywodraeth Cymru a thyllau turio cyfagos yn dangos nad oes unrhyw ddyddodion mawn wedi goroesi o fewn safle'r astudiaeth. Asesir mai potensial isel sydd ar gyfer olion o'r Oes Efydd yn ardal ddwyreiniol safle'r astudiaeth, a photensial dibwys ar gyfer olion sylweddol o bob cyfnod arall.

Nid yw'r asesiad hwn wedi nodi unrhyw weddillion archeolegol sy'n cyfyngu ar ddatblygiad

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1 INTRODUCTION, SCOPE OF STUDY AND STANDARDS

- 1.1 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared by RPS, on behalf CarneySweeney to support an outline planning application (Neath Port Talbot Council reference P2022/0563) for the development of up to 165 dwellings (including affordable housing), associated infrastructure, public open space and landscaping. It assesses 4.61 ha of vacant land to the north of Elba Crescent, Crymlyn Burrows Swansea (NGR SS 6992 9308; Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site, hereafter referred to as the study site, comprises vacant, brownfield land to the north of Elba Crescent and contains areas of hardstanding associated with a disused car park, in the central and eastern areas of the study site, and dense vegetation in the western area. The Local Planning Authority for the study site is Neath Port Talbot Council.
- 1.3 The study site is bounded by Elba Crescent to the south, by housing and an industrial unit to the west, by an access lane and a second industrial unit to the north and vacant land, access lanes and a third industrial unit to the east.
- 1.4 This desk-based assessment is designed to provide baseline information in order to clarify the heritage significance and archaeological potential of the study site, and to enable informed decisions about managing any impacts that may potentially arise on any significant archaeological assets in the study site. This assessment has been produced in compliance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (RPS 2023) and in accordance with government policy and relevant guidance (Planning Policy Wales and associated guidance and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2020). This report discusses the potential for encountering below-ground archaeology during the course of the development within the study site, using data from a study area radius of 1km.
- 1.5 This assessment reviews evidence from the Glamorgan-Gwent Historic Environment Record (GGAT HER), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) and other sources, including the results of a comprehensive map regression exercise. A site visit was undertaken as part of the assessment on the 24th of November 2023.
- 1.6 The impact on the setting and significance of Built Heritage Assets does not fall within the scope of this report.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

Legislation

- 2.1 National (UK-wide) legislation regarding archaeology, including scheduled monuments, is contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002, and updated in April 2014.
- 2.2 The Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 places duties on public bodies requiring them to act in accordance with the 'sustainable development principle'. The Act also establishes well-being goals which include achieving 'a Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language', described as 'a society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language'. The Act lays down the principle that a properly protected, conserved and enhanced historic environment can improve the quality of life and well-being for everyone.
- 2.3 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 was given Royal Assent in March 2016. This Act provides the legislative framework for managing the historic environment in Wales. Accompanying the Act is new policy and guidance in the form of a Technical Advice Note (TAN) specific to the Historic Environment (TAN24, see below), and changes to Planning Policy Wales (PPW). This legislation and guidance supersedes the previous Welsh Office Circulars which formed the basis of historic environment policy in Wales.
- 2.4 The Welsh Government has published Planning Policy Wales (PPW), currently updated to Version 11 from February 2021 (PPW11). This sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs). Procedural advice is given in circulars and policy clarification letters.
- 2.5 PPW is additionally supported by guidance published by Cadw. This includes Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (2017), and Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017).

National Planning Policy

Future Wales –the National Plan 2040 (February 2021)

- 2.6 Future Wales is the national development framework, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040. It addresses key national priorities, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of communities.
- 2.7 Policy 18 of Future Wales – 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance' – makes reference to the historic environment, with clause 6 stating that renewable developments will be permitted as long as 'there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on statutorily protected built heritage assets'.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

- 2.8 Chapter 6 of PPW11, entitled 'Distinctive and Natural Places', has a section entitled 'The Historic Environment' (section 6.1 - pp. 125-131) which provides policy for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 6.1 in relation to the historic environment can be summarised as seeking to:
 - protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Sites;
 - conserve archaeological remains, both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy;

- safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved;
- preserve or enhance the character or appearance of conservation areas, whilst the same time helping them remain vibrant and prosperous;
- preserve the special interest of sites on the register of historic parks and gardens; and
- protect areas on the register of historic landscapes in Wales.

- 2.9 Section 6.1 of PPW11 describes the historic environment as comprising all the surviving physical elements of previous human activity and illustrates how past generations have shaped the world around us. The historic environment is made up of individual historic features, archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks, gardens, townscapes and landscapes, collectively known as historic assets.
- 2.10 Welsh planning legislation and policy guidance outlines that the conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application, whether those remains are scheduled or not (PPW11 Para. 6.1.23). In order to take account of archaeological considerations and deal with them from the beginning of the development control process, Local Planning Authorities in Wales need to be fully informed about the nature and importance of archaeological remains, and their setting, and the likely impact of any proposed development upon them.
- 2.11 Paragraphs 6.1.26 of PPW11 states that 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.
- 2.12 Paragraph 6.1.27 of PPW11 states that if the planning authority is minded to approve an application and where archaeological remains are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them, the planning authority must be satisfied that the developer has secured appropriate and satisfactory provision for their recording and investigation, followed by the analysis and publication of the results and the deposition of the resulting archive in an approved repository. On occasions, unforeseen archaeological remains may still be discovered during the course of a development. A written scheme of investigation should consider how to react to such circumstances or it can be covered through an appropriate condition for a watching brief.
- 2.13 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance PPW11, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

Local Planning Policy

- 2.14 Local planning policy for the study site is provided by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's **Local Development Plan (2011 – 2026)** which was adopted January 2016.
- 2.15 The study site is allocated for housing (H1/LB/3 Elba Crescent, Crymlyn Burrows).
- 2.16 The following policy is relevant to heritage assets associated with the site:

Policy SP 21

Built Environment and Historic Heritage

The built environment and historic heritage will, where appropriate, be conserved and enhanced through the following measures:

1. *Encouraging high quality design standards in all development proposals;*

2. Protecting arterial gateways from intrusive and inappropriate development;
3. Safeguarding features of historic and cultural importance;
4. The identification of the following designated sites to enable their protection and where appropriate enhancement:
 - (a) Landscapes of Historic Interest;
 - (b) Historic Parks and Gardens;
 - (c) Conservation Areas;
 - (d) Scheduled Ancient Monuments; and
 - (e) Listed Buildings and their curtilage.

LDP Objectives: OB 2, OB 23 and OB 24

Objectives

OB 2: Reduce people's exposure to the determinants of poor health and provide an environment that encourages healthy, active and safer lifestyles.

OB 23: Protect and enhance the County Borough's historical heritage, built environment and identity.

OB 24: Conserve and enhance the County Borough's main arterial gateways.

Definitions and Guidance

- 2.17 The 'Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales' published by Cadw in March 2011 provides the basic principles under which all subsequent guidance has evolved. The six principles expressed are:

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

Definition of the historic environment

- 2.18 The historic environment is defined in TAN 24 (at para. 1.7) as:

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

Definition of Heritage Assets

- 2.19 Heritage assets are defined by Cadw (March 2011) and TAN 24 (2017) as:

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

- 2.20 A Designated Heritage Asset is considered to be a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area. In Wales areas of landscape have been designated and included in the non-statutory Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales.

Significance

2.21 Significance in relation to heritage policy considerations is defined as:

- The sum of the cultural heritage values (Cadw 2011).

Setting

2.22 Guidance on the assessments of impact on the settings of heritage assets is provided by Cadw in '*Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*' (May 2017). This provides a 4-stage process for determining if any impact on the settings of historic assets would arise from a proposed development, and how it could be mitigated if impacts are identified

3 GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology and Soils

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey 1:50,000 mapping records the bedrock geology across the study site as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the South Wales Middle Coal Measures Formation ((<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk> – accessed 1st December 2023). Overlying the bedrock geology are superficial deposits of blown sand (ibid.).
- 3.2 The Cranfield Soil and Agrifood Institute identified the soils of the study site as loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater (Soilscape 20; <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> – accessed 1st December 2023).

Topography

- 3.3 The study site is located c.500m to the north of Swansea Bay. Originally, the local landscape comprised an area of sand dunes and scrubland associated with the Crymlyn Burrows until the early 20th century development of the area as an industrial zone.
- 3.4 The study site once contained a 20th century industrial works which was demolished between 1964 and 1980. Currently, the study site contains a disused car park within the central area and overgrown vegetation and vacant land elsewhere. The study site is relatively level, sitting at a height of c.8 – 9m Above Ordnance Datum.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Timescales used in this report

Prehistoric

Palaeolithic	900,000 -	12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12,000 -	4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 -	1,800 BC
Bronze Age	1,800 -	600 BC
Iron Age	600 -	AD 43

Historic

Roman	AD 43 -	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD 410 -	1066
Medieval	AD 1066 -	1485
Post Medieval	AD 1486 -	1799
Modern	AD 1800 -	Present

Introduction

- 4.1 This chapter reviews the available archaeological evidence for the study site and the archaeological/historical background of the general area, and, in accordance with national and local policy, considers both the potential for any as yet to be discovered archaeological evidence on the study site, and the potential for impacts on the settings of designated archaeological heritage assets.
- 4.2 What follows comprises a review of known heritage assets within a 1km radius of the study site boundary, also referred to as the search area. This assessment is based on a consideration of evidence held by the GGAT HER for the study site and search area. Data held by the RCAHMW's National Monuments Record (NMR) was also consulted, together with a historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study site and search area, from the 19th century onwards.
- 4.3 LiDAR data available on-line from Natural Resources Wales was examined (Figure 5). The digital terrain model data analysed was processed using multi-hillshade processing, with the data captured on the 23rd January 2000 and logged at 1m intervals. No hitherto unknown potential archaeological features were identified from the surveys.
- 4.4 A review of historic aerial photographs dating from 1939 – 2003, provided by the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales (CRAPW), was carried out. This information is detailed within the relevant sub-section below. Given the site was developed from c.1927, and further changes on site are clearly visible on historic mapping and satellite imagery, a visit to the RCAHMW at Aberystwyth was not necessary.
- 4.5 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the site conditions and whether the proposed development will impact the theoretical archaeological potential identified below.

Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.6 There are no designated archaeological assets (Scheduled Monuments & Registered Battlefields) within the study site.
- 4.7 The Scheduled Monument of 'St Margaret's Chapel' (SAM Number GM362) is located approximately 950m to the north-east of the study site.
- 4.8 Owing to the distance from the study site, the topography and intervening modern landscape, there is no intervisibility between the study site and the Scheduled Monument. The illustrative masterplan (RPS – dated January 2023) provided by the client, shows the western, northern and eastern boundaries of the study site are proposed for a landscape buffer which will further screen the study site.
- 4.9 No designated archaeological assets are assessed as being sensitive to the proposed development.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

- 4.10 The HER records the study site within the area of the 20th century King's Dock Tinplate Works – a non-designated heritage asset (HER reference GGAT08974w). The works were built in 1909 by the Baldwins (Minchinton 1957, 83) and was the first tinplate works in the country to be powered wholly by electricity (Brooke 1944, 71). The works closed in 1957 (Richards 2008, 141) and the buildings were demolished by 2008. The GGAT survey of industrial sites in South Wales (E007293; Roberts 2019) assessed the significance and condition of survival of tinplate works across South Wales. Those sites considered destroyed, or effectively destroyed (i.e., reclaimed/redeveloped land) were not assessed in detail but listed in Appendix 1 of the report. Using the GGAT152 Scoring System, the report assessed the King's Dock Tinplate Works' survival/condition as 1 '*Poor: Substantially destroyed: now largely lost*' and the overall significance of the site as D '*Minor significance*' (ibid., 11 & 97).
- 4.11 A review of historic mapping and plans shows the earliest phase and original structure of the works was located c.60m to the north of the study site, as shown on the 1921 Ordnance Survey (Figure 8). A rectangular building, along with a number of outbuildings and railway sidings, are first illustrated within the study site on a 1940s plan (Figure 9) and was demolished in the late 20th century, with the building last illustrated on the 1964 OS. The 1940s plan labels the building on site as 'Dawnays', separated from the King's Dock Tinplate Works. The available documentary sources indicate the building within the study site was built c.1927 once King's Dock Works was acquired by Archibald D. Dawnay and Sons Ltd (Graces Guide). By 1947, the Kings Dock Tin Plate Works was sold once more, to The Steel Company of Wales Ltd (Brooke 1949, 201). A late 20th century plan (Figure 10), undated but c.1970 – 1980, continues to label the building on site as Dawnays, despite the acquisition in the 1947. This suggests the building within the study site is a separate entity from the King's Dock Tinplate Works, and was likely similar to other 'typical' Dawnay shops, an example of which is illustrated by a photograph on the Grace's Guide website, which depicts a standard shop floor with machinery and interior railways (<https://graces-guide-s3-live.s3.amazonaws.com/gracesguide/c/c1/lm1930IB-A006.jpg>).

Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.12 No intrusive archaeological work has previously been carried out within the study site.
- 4.13 The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain Project (E005431 – not illustrated on any figure) collated excavated evidence of Roman activity from both published and grey literature reports from across England, with the inclusion of Welsh settlement data since 2015. A map of the projects sites are recorded on the Archaeological Data Service website

(<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/romangl/map.html> - accessed 26/10/2023).

No Roman sites are recorded within the study site or search area.

- 4.14 The study site is within the study area for GGAT's Rapid Coastline Zone Assessment (E006100). However, this project does not inform our understanding of the study site's archaeological potential.

Prehistoric

- 4.15 No Palaeolithic to Neolithic activity is recorded within the study site or the search area on the HER or the RCAHMMW.
- 4.16 During the late Mesolithic/early Neolithic, the coastal shoreline was located roughly 8km – 11km further to the south-west than the current shore (Cambrian Archaeological Projects 1999 (CAP). During this period, the study site was within a wetland environment, dominated by mud flats, probably containing lagoons with possible peat deposits, and salt marshes of which the sand dunes would have later accumulated.
- 4.17 Previous investigations along the coastline show that from c.3000 – 2000 BC, the wetlands subsided by approximately 9.5m because of sea level rises, establishing a new coastline (Culver 1977 cited by Kenneth Pye Associated Ltd 2014, 4). This would have resulted in the earlier Prehistoric landscape being gradually buried under increasing accumulations marine sediments. The sands of Swansea Bay were reworked landwards, forming a series of barrier islands and spits around the bay (Kenneth Pye Associated Ltd 2014, 4). Located behind these barriers, salt and brackish marshes formed, creating a 2km to 3km wide coastal plain (ibid.), with peat forming in the lower lying and poorly drained areas (Carr and Blackley 1977 cited by Kenneth Pye Associated Ltd 2014, 5).
- 4.18 The sea levels gradually stabilised in the later Neolithic period, with the local landscape of the study site potentially containing fresh water lakes or pools that were damned by sand and sealed beneath alluvium (CAP 1999).
- 4.19 The wet environment of the study site during this period means it was not a preferred area for settlement prior to the Bronze Age, with human activity predominately comprising seasonal exploitation of the area and comprising ephemeral activity. Within the Neath Port Talbot/Swansea area, Mesolithic and Neolithic activity is represented by limited chance finds recovered mostly from upland areas, and Neolithic monuments in the form of chambered tombs, such as near Britton Ferry, c.5km to the north-east (Lewis 2004). However, there was seasonal exploitation of the coastal and estuarine areas during this period.
- 4.20 Bronze Age activity within the wider area is represented by upland funerary monuments, whilst for the Iron Age, hillforts and other enclosures are found in the uplands (Lewis 2004). Beyond these, there is little evidence for settlement (ibid.). However, coastal and lowland sites are likely to have been exploited in both periods. A Bronze Age palstave and a Middle Bronze Age inhumation (GGAT00638w), was discovered c.250m to north-east of the study site, during construction of the Elba Tinplate Works in 1926.
- 4.21 The study site's potential for in-situ Palaeolithic to Neolithic and Iron Age remains is negligible. However, given that a Bronze Age inhumation was encountered c.250m to the north-east, a slightly elevated potential for activity of this period may be allocated to the eastern, undeveloped area of the study site. However, any such remains, will have been truncated because of the historic land use.
- 4.22 Though peat deposits have the potential to provide environmental data for the Prehistoric period, the *Peatlands of Wales Maps* provided by the Welsh government (<https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/peatlands-of-wales-maps/>) using data up to 2022 does not record any surviving peat deposits on or within vicinity of the study site. An available borehole

record (BGS 2023 – ref: SS69SE2) c.30m to the north of the study site and site investigation works (planning app P2007/0671 - Hyder Consulting 2003) for the industrial unit immediately north of the study site, did not record any peat deposits, and confirmed blown sand deposits beneath the made ground of approximately 8m thick. The above indicates peat deposits are highly unlikely to survive within the study site.

Roman

- 4.23 No Roman remains are recorded within the study site or search area on the HER or RCAHMW.
- 4.24 The GGAT (2004) '*Roman Roads in Southeast Wales*' project details the projected route of the east/west aligned Neath-Loughor-Pontardulais-Carmathen Roman road (RR60d) c.460m to the north of the study site. There is little archaeological evidence for this road in the search area and its exact route is uncertain. The only generally accepted part of the route is fossilised as the B4620, c.13km to the north-west (Sherman and Evans 2004, 27).
- 4.25 Land reclamation was undertaken in the intertidal zone of the Neath Estuary during the Roman period, as evident by studies undertaken on the Wentlooge levels in Gwent (CAP 1999). However, there is no evidence of Roman activity within vicinity of the study site.
- 4.26 The potential for Roman remains within the study site is negligible.

Early Medieval to Medieval

- 4.27 There are no remains dating to this period recorded within the study site or search area on the HER or RCAHMW.
- 4.28 Though there is evidence for use of the River Neath during the Early Medieval period, there is no evidence for Early Medieval activity within vicinity of the study site.
- 4.29 The site of the 12th century St Margarets Chapel (GGAT00642w) and earlier St Margarets Well (GGAT00907w), are located c.950m to the north-east of the study site.
- 4.30 The study site would have remained too wet for settlement during this period. The nearest known Medieval sites, c.950m to the north-east, are located on notably much higher ground, sitting at c.35m Above Ordnance Datum.
- 4.31 The potential for significant archaeological remains dating to this period is negligible.

Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression exercise)

- 4.32 Similar to as depicted on early 19th century mapping (Figure 7), the study site would not have been settled during the Post Medieval period.
- 4.33 The study site's potential for significant Post Medieval archaeological remains is negligible.
- 4.34 The earliest cartographic evidence to show the study site in detail is the 1813 Ordnance Survey (OS) drawing (Figure 6) and the 1830 OS (Figure 7), both of which, depict the study site located within a race course.
- 4.35 The study site remained as such on the 1844 tithe map of Cadoxton juxta Neath in the County of Glamorgan (not reproduced but available online at <https://places.library.wales/viewer/4641064#?cv=&h=1393&xywh=823%2C35831%2C24067%2C22117>).

- 4.36 The study site remained vacant land during the 19th to early 20th century. The King's Dock Works was built to the north of the study site in 1909, with the 1921 OS (Figure 8), depicting the western two-thirds of the study site being located within an associated yard.
- 4.37 King's Dock Works was sold in 1927 to Archibald D. Dawnay and Sons. After this, and as evident by a 1939 aerial photograph (1939 RAF Med. A388) and the 1940s site plan (Figure 9), a large rectangular building was built on the study site. To the east of this building, seven ancillary buildings, and a number of railway sidings, are depicted.
- 4.38 The study site was cleared of all buildings and the railway siding in the 1970s, as depicted on the 1980- 1989 OS (Figure 11).
- 4.39 Satellite imagery dating to 1999 (Figure 12), shows the area of the demolished building as vacant ground, with concrete foundations visible in places. The central and eastern areas of the study site was used for car parking, container storage and also comprised landscaped greenspace.
- 4.40 The 2008 satellite imagery (Figure 13) shows the King's Dock Works buildings to the north and south of the study site were demolished, and the land redeveloped, to support modern industrial units. The western area of the study site was subject to disturbance at this time but the extent of excavation into the ground or the impact on any surviving below-ground structural remains associated with the Dawnays building on site is uncertain.
- 4.41 Further disturbance is identifiable in the northern area of the study site on the 2015 satellite image (Figure 14), a result of the construction to the north and west of the study site. 2023 satellite imagery (Figure 15) shows the study site was left undisturbed since and is now completely overgrown, as confirmed by the site visit. LiDAR data (Figure 5) shows a number of mounds within the western area of the study site, highly likely to be spoil heaps from the adjacent development works.
- 4.42 Though there has been no redevelopment of the study site since the Dawnays building was demolished, the western area of the study site has seen significant disturbance as a result of adjacent development, though the evidence for sub-surface truncation in this area is uncertain. It is assessed that there is a high potential for sub-surface structural remains of Dawnays building to survive within the western end of the study site. The remaining areas of the study site has negligible potential for significant modern remains.

Assessment of Significance (Non-Designated Assets)

- 4.43 The study site is assessed to have a high potential for sub-surface structural remains associated with the 20th century Dawnays building, which at one point was part of the wider King's Dock Tinplate Works. The earliest phase of the tinplate works was located c.60m to the north of the study site. The remains of the King's Dock Tinplate Works were assessed by the GGAT survey of industrial sites in South Wales to be of minor significance. The available cartographic and documentary sources indicate the Dawnays building within the study site, was comparable to other 'typical' Dawnay shops (<https://graces-guide-s3-live.s3.amazonaws.com/gracesguide/c/c1/lm1930IB-A006.jpg>), and highly likely consisted of a standard shop floor that supported machine equipment. The western area of the study site appears to have suffered truncation during the construction of adjacent development. Given the Dawnays building is a later addition, and any sub-surface structural remains are anticipated to comprise fragmented foundation walls and concrete foundations, the remains are assessed to hold little archaeological interest.
- 4.44 This assessment has considered the potential for other as-yet to be discovered archaeological assets within the study site, unrelated to the above. The study site is assessed to have a low potential for Bronze Age remains and a negligible potential for significant remains of all periods.

5 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS

Site Conditions

- 5.1 A site visit was carried out on the 24th November 2023 in fine conditions (Plates 1 – 7).
- 5.2 The study site comprised heavily overgrown vegetation in the western and eastern areas, with hardstanding of the former carpark located in the central area of the study site. Remains of drainage were visible along the southern boundary of the study site.
- 5.3 No archaeological remains or earthworks were identified during the site visit.

Proposed Development

- 5.4 The illustrative masterplan provided by the client (RPS – dated January 2023) demonstrates how the study site is proposed for a 165 dwelling residential development with associated infrastructure, areas of landscaping and a public open space. A deep landscape buffer is planned along the site boundary to the west, north and east of the study site.

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Non-Designated Assets

- 5.5 Given the construction techniques employed in modern development, such as soil stripping/overburden removal, excavation of foundation trenches and ground level reduction associated with the roadways and drainage, it is unlikely that any potential archaeological remains present within the footprint of any future proposed development would survive the development process.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared by RPS, on behalf CarneySweeney to support an outline planning application (Neath Port Talbot Council reference P2022/0563) for the development of up to 165 dwellings (including affordable housing), associated infrastructure, public open space and landscaping. It assesses 4.61 ha of vacant land to the north of Elba Crescent, Crymlyn Burrows Swansea (NGR SS 6992 9308). The study site is allocated for housing (H1/LB/3 Elba Crescent, Crymlyn Burrows).
- 6.2 There are no designated archaeological assets located within the study site. No archaeological heritage assets located outside of the study site are assessed to be sensitive to the proposed development.
- 6.3 The impact on the setting and significance of Built Heritage Assets does not fall within the scope of this report.
- 6.4 The HER records that the study site was within the area of the 20th century King's Dock Tinplate Works – a non-designated heritage asset (HER reference GGAT08974w), which was demolished around 2008. A review of historic mapping and plans shows the original building and earliest phase of the works was located c.60m to the north of the study site. After the works was bought in c.1927 by construction engineers Archibald D. Dawnay and Sons Ltd, a building was constructed within the study site. The available documentary sources indicate the detached building within the study site was comparable to other 'typical' Dawnay shops and likely consisted of a standard shop floor that supported machine equipment. A GGAT assessment of the condition of survival and significance of the demolished King's Dock Tinplate Works concluded it was of poor survival and of minor significance. The Dawnay building within the study site was detached from the King's Dock Tinplate Works, was of a later construction and more likely comprised a standard industrial shop floor. Any surviving remains are assessed to be of little archaeological interest. A Bronze Age burial was encountered c.250m to the north-east of the study site. Though the study site was formerly wetland, and peat deposits form in these environments, Welsh Government data and nearby boreholes indicate no peat deposits survive within the study site. The study site is assessed to have a low potential for Bronze Age remains in the eastern area of the study site and a negligible potential for significant remains for all other periods.
- 6.5 This assessment has not identified any archaeological remains that are a constraint to development.

Sources Consulted

General

Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)

Glamorgan-Gwent Historic Environment Record

Internet

British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk>

Cranfield Soil and AgriFood Institute - <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>

Google Earth - <https://earth.google.com/web/>

Grace's Guide - https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/1930_Industrial_Britain:_Archibald_D._Dawnay_and_Sons

National Planning Policy Framework – <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

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Cartographic

1813 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Swansea Sheet)

1830 Ordnance Survey

1844 Tithe Map of Cadoxton juxta Neath in the County of Glamorgan

1884 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560

1900 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560

1921 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560

1938 - 1951 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560

1940s Site plan of the Elba and Kings Dock Tinplate Works, near Port Tennant, scale 1:1250. Shows proposed new road (the road from Swansea to Neath and Port Talbot), drains and water pipes. West Glamorgan Archive Reference GB 216 D/D Z 75/95

1951 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560

1964 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000

c1970s - 1980s Plan showing general area, Prestcold Factory, King's Dock Tinplate Works, Crymlyn Chemical Works, Elba Tinplate Works and extensive railway sidings in the area West Glamorgan Archive Reference GB 216 RD/N PI 13/6524

1976 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000

1980 - 1989 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000

1999 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000

2006 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000

2023 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000

Aerial Photographs

National Monuments Record of Wales

1939 RAF Med. A388	1941 4120 M3022 027
1941 RAF Med. T950	1942 4202 RAF Medmenham 262 14ac42
1945 4559 RAF106GLA_242 3135	1946 4604 RAF106G UK_1625 6265
1947 4710 RAFCPE UK_1989 5140	1952 5210 540_RAF_699 5250

FIGURES

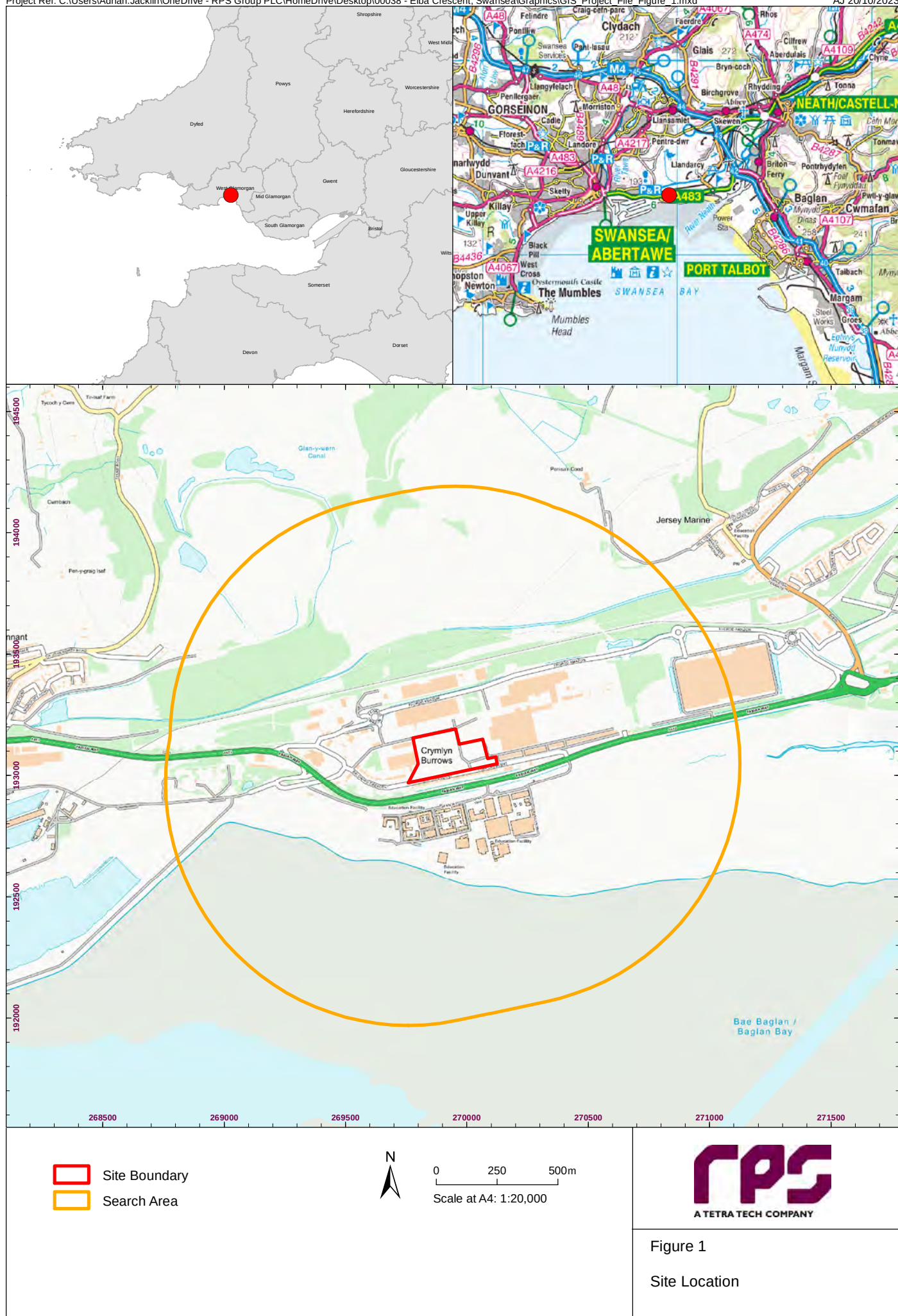
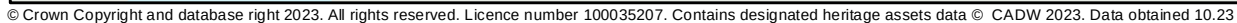
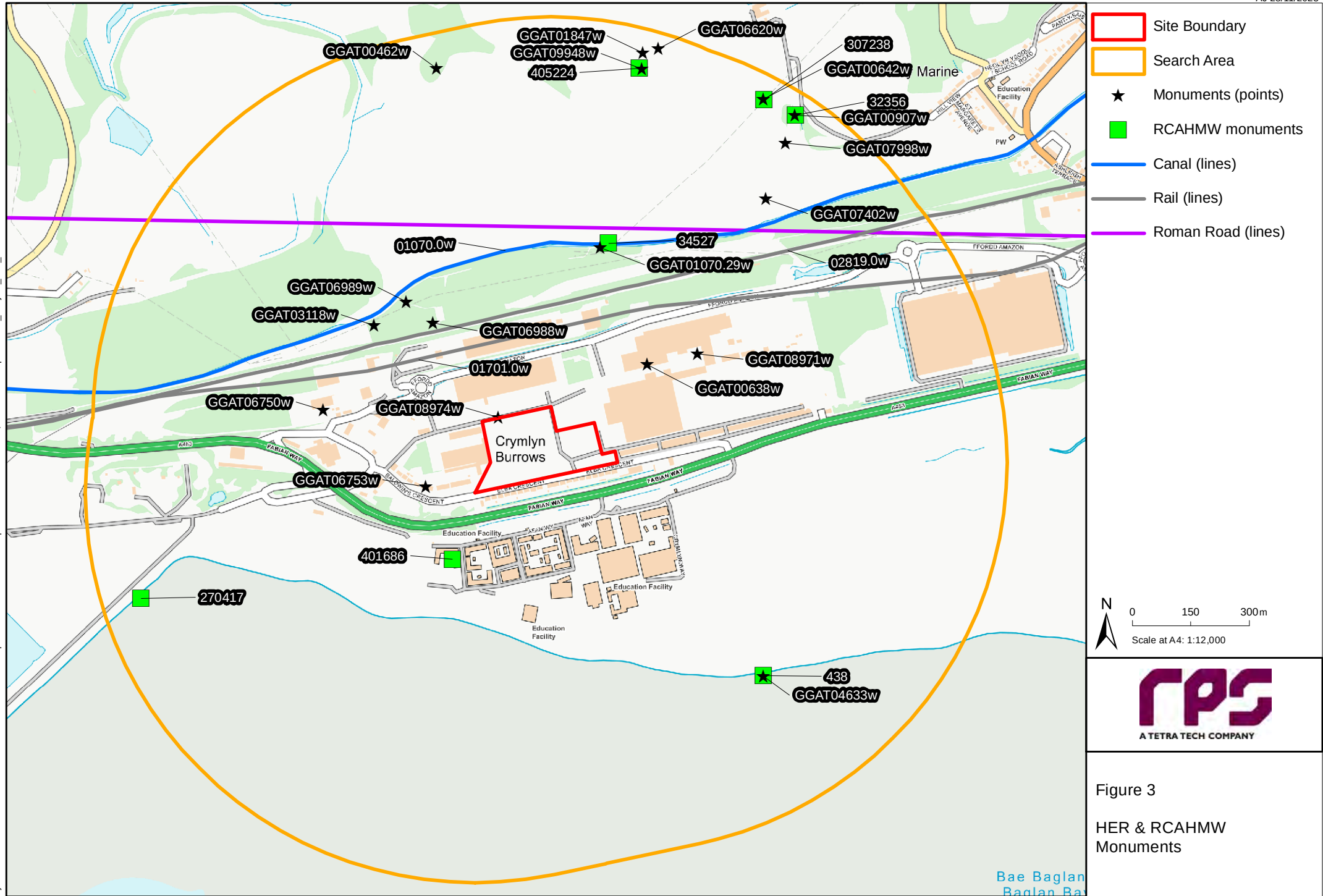


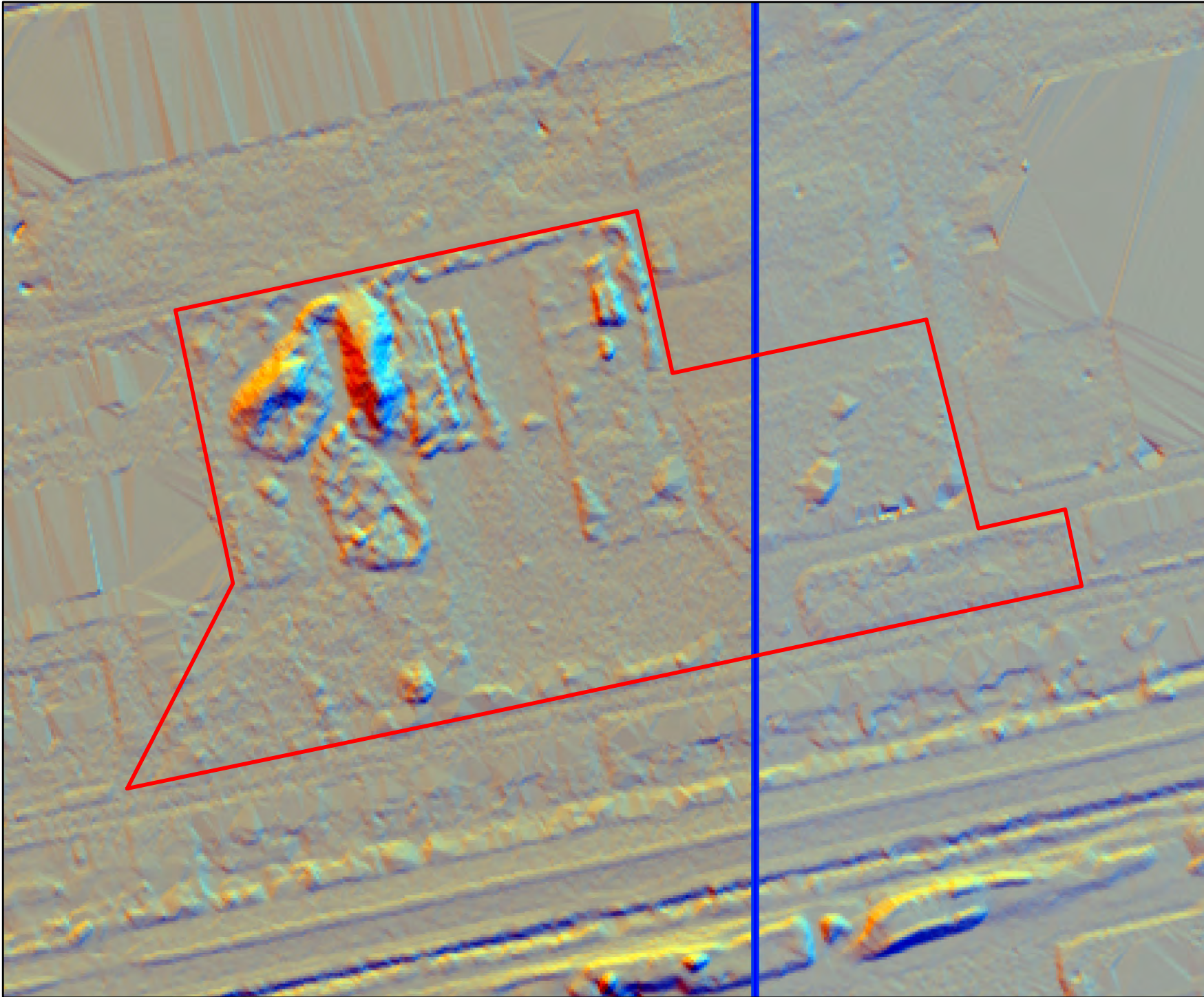
Figure 1

Site Location









 Site Boundary

Digital Terrain Model
Multi-hillshade Processing
@1m Resolution
Data capture: 13th January
2000

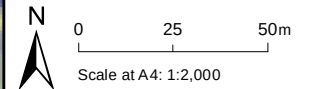


Figure 5
LiDAR Data

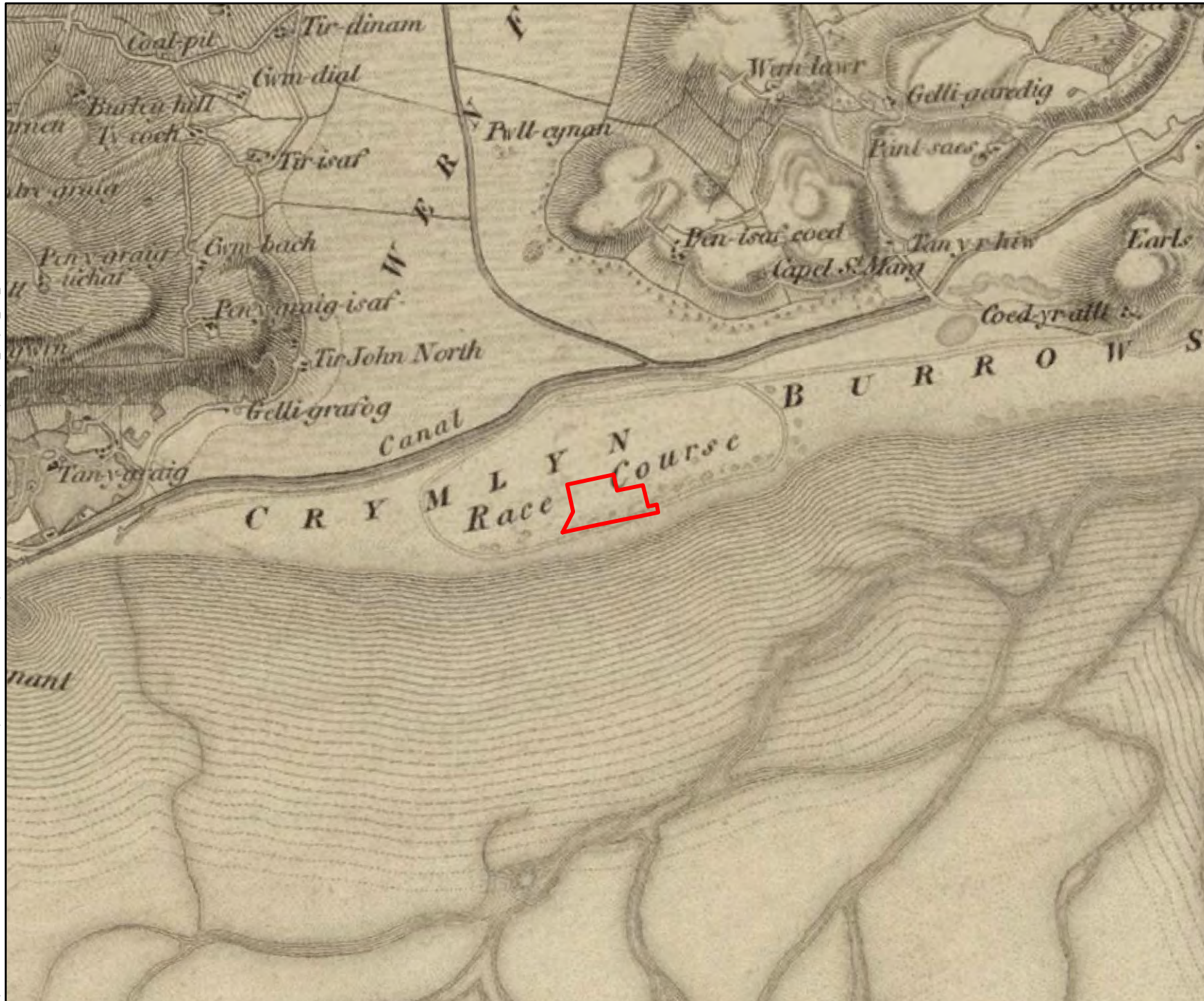





 Scale at A4: 1:20,000



1813 Ordnance Survey
Drawing (Swansea Sheet)



 Site Boundary

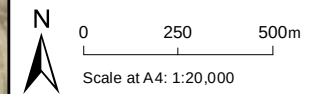
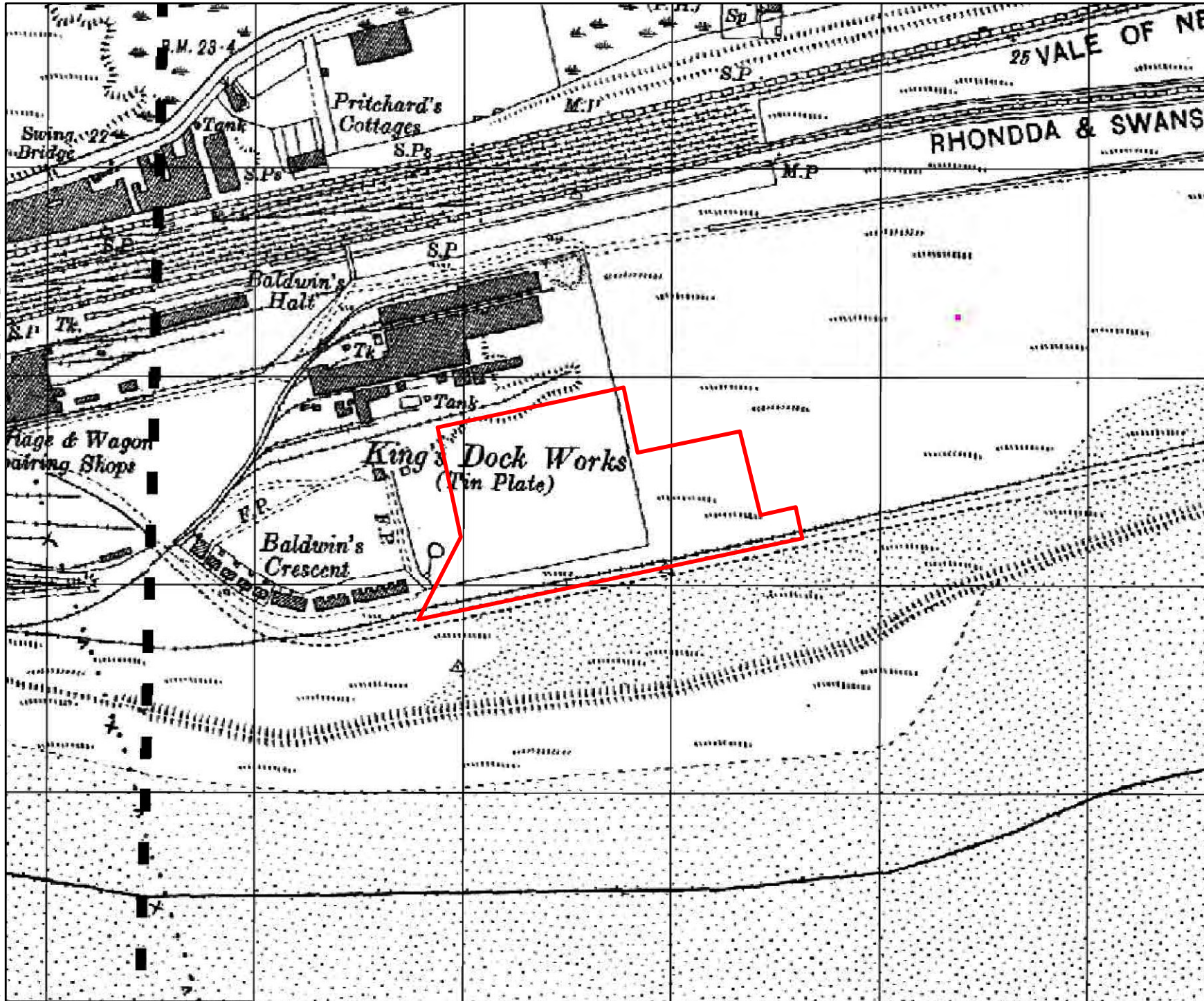


Figure 7
1830 Ordnance Survey



 Site Boundary

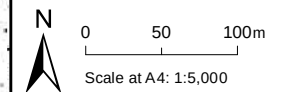
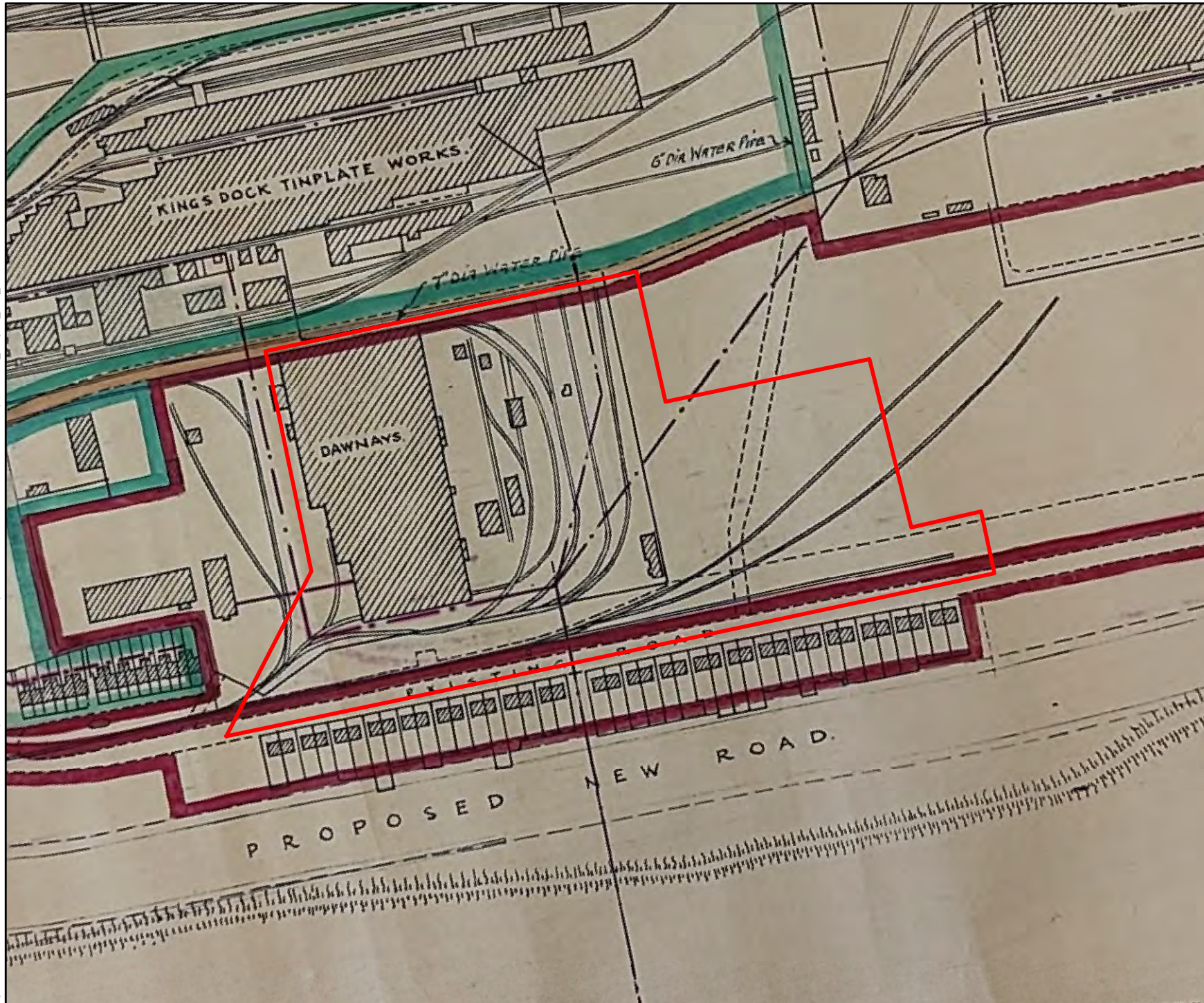


Figure 8
1921 Ordnance Survey

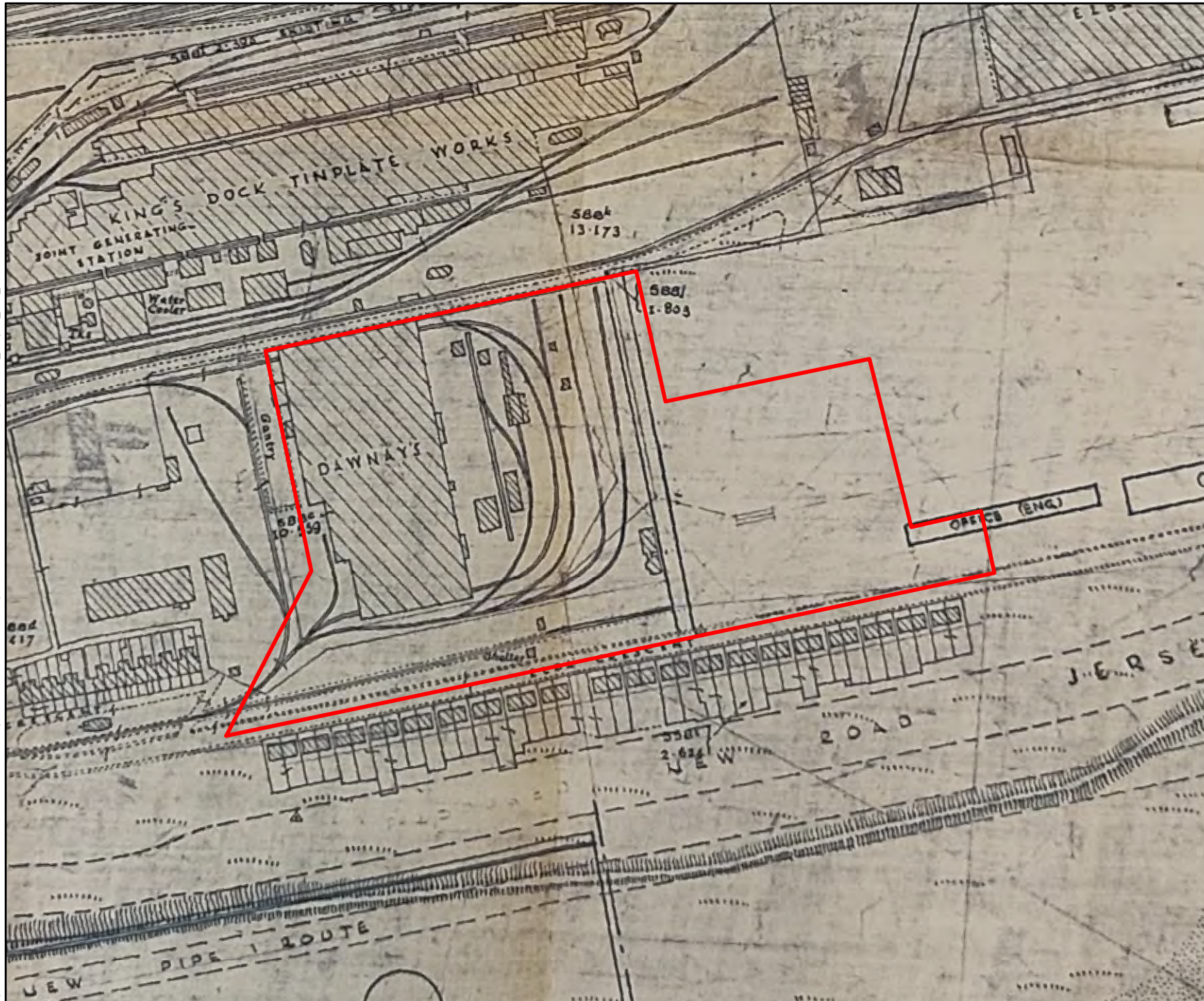


 Site Boundary

 0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,500

RPS
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

Figure 9
1940s Site Plan



 Site Boundary

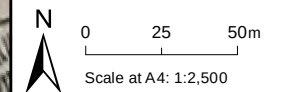
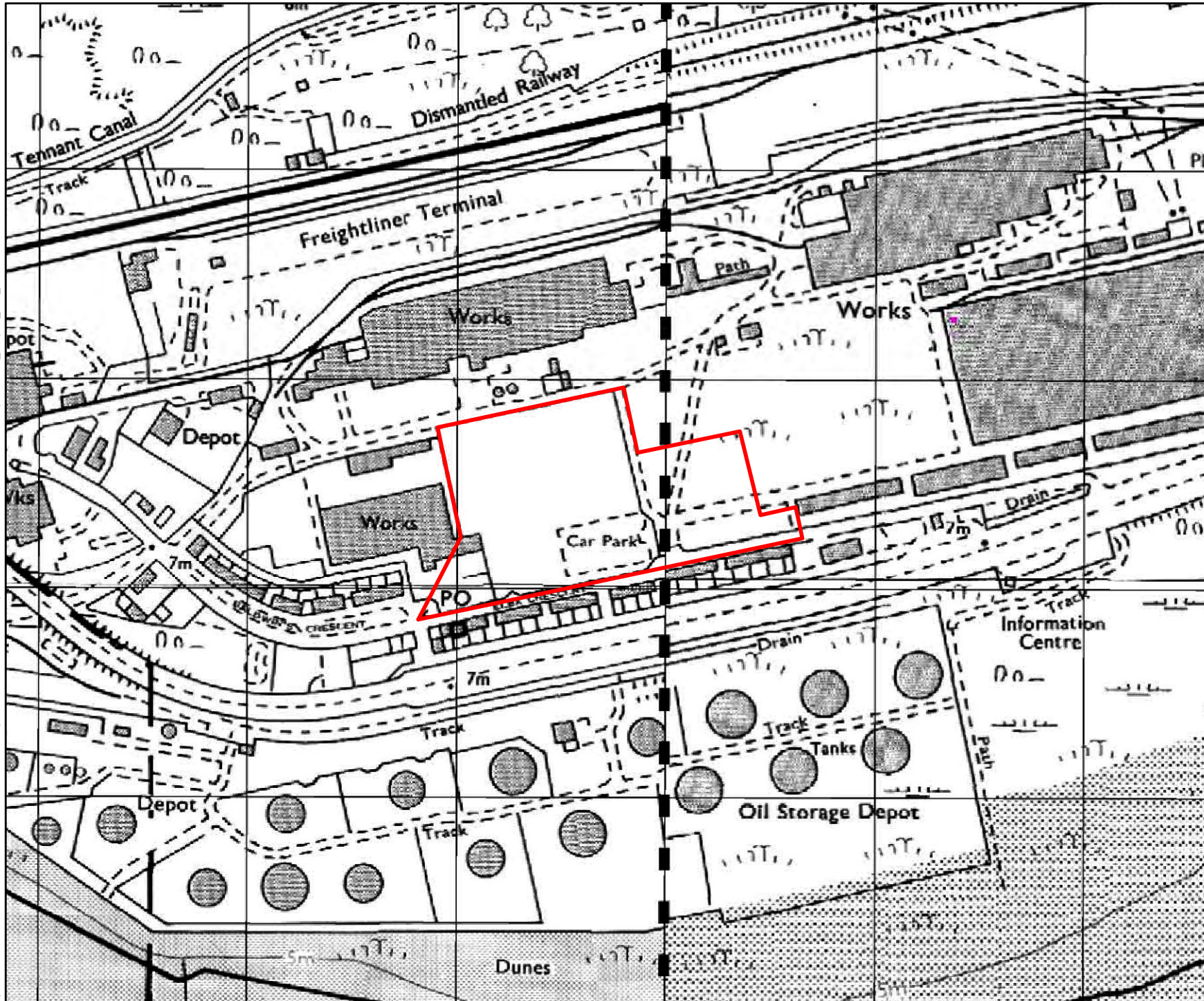
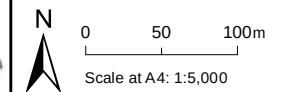


Figure 10
c.1970s - 1980s Site Plan



 Site Boundary



rps
A TETRA TECH COMPANY

Figure 11
1980 - 1989 Ordnance
Survey



 Site Boundary

 0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000



Figure 12
1999 Satellite Image



 Site Boundary

 0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000



Figure 13
2008 Satellite Image



 Site Boundary

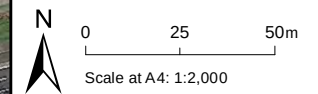


Figure 14
2015 Satellite Image

 Site Boundary



 0 25 50m
Scale at A4: 1:2,000



Figure 15
2023 Satellite Image

PLATES



Plate 1: View south-east across site.



Plate 2: view south across site from the northern boundary.



Plate 3: View east across the overgrown eastern area.



Plate 4: North-west across site from the south-eastern entrance.#



Plate 5: Disused drainage at the southern end of the site.



Plate 6: View west across the site of the demolished building.



Plate 7: View south along western boundary of the site.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Historic Environment Record Data

HER No.	Name	Summary	Location	Date
	Monuments			
GGAT00462w	Gellir Allor	A large oval gently sloping mound covered with turf and surrounded by marsh. It is 80m. by 50m. in size and 3m. high. It is thought that the site is natural and not an antiquity.	SS 6966 9406	Unknown
GGAT00638w	Bronze palstave and human skeleton	Bronze palstave and human skeleton	SS 702 933	Bronze Age
GGAT00642w	St Margarets Chapel	Chapel of St Margaret's Grange, belonging to Neath Abbey (Williams 2001, 149-50 fig 61, 308). There	SS 7050 9398	Medieval
GGAT00907w	St Margarets Well	In the late 12 th century the chapel of St Margaret (Ffynnon Verad/Ffynnon Farget) was built close to St Margaret's well.	SS 7058 9394	Medieval
GGAT01070.29w	Tennant Canal overbridge at Glanywern	Remains of bridge abutments at the junction of the Tennant and Glanywern Canals.	SS 7008 9360	Post Medieval
GGAT01701.0w	Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway	Promoted and built during the 1880's to connect the Rhondda and Afan coalfields with the port of Swansea and opened in stages between 1885 and 1895.	SS 93800 98205	Modern
GGAT01847w	Barn, Penisa'r-coed	Post medieval stone barn.	SS 7019 9410	Post Medieval
GGAT03118w	Burrows Chemical Works, Crymlyn, Swansea	Chemical Works (Burrows Works (chemical) on the 1st ed. OS map of 1879. By the 2nd edition OS Map of 1899 the chemical works is identified as the 'Crymlyn Works'.	SS 695 934	Modern
GGAT04633w	Crumlyn Burrows Wreck	The remains of a flat-bottomed, carvel-built, wooden vessel, were exposed on the open beach of Swansea Bay, close to Crymlyn Burrows, following storms in November. It is suggested that the vessel was either a barge or trow, dating to the post medieval period.	SS 7050 9250	Post Medieval
GGAT06620w	Old Quarry, Crymlyn Bog, Crymlyn Burrows	Quarry listed as "old" on 1st (1879 edition map. Appears on all subsequent maps but is not named.	SS 7023 9411	Post Medieval
GGAT06750w	Railway Carriage and Wagon Repairing Shops, Crymlin	A Railway Carriage and Wagon Repairing Shops is shown on the 2nd (1899) and 3rd (1919) edition OS maps.	SS 69369 93182	Modern

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: ELBA CRESCENT, SWANSEA

GGAT06753w	Baldwin's Crescent, Crymlin	Baldin's Crescent is a row of 30 semi-detached houses, each pair appear to have shared a privy. The houses are shown on modern mapping.	SS 69633 92985	Modern
GGAT06988w	Pritchard's cottages, Coedffranc	Row of cottages depicted on 2nd edition OS mapping, still extant in 1945.	SS 69650 93406	Modern
GGAT06989w	Cottages, Coedffranc	Cottages depicted on 1st edititon OS mapping.	SS 69582 93461	Modern
GGAT07402w	Aqueduct	The site comprises a Post-medieval aqueduct situated within the community of Coedffranc. No further information is currently available.	SS7 0506 93725	Post Medieval
GGAT07998w	Supermarine Spitfire P9454 crash site	Crash site of Supermarine Spitfire P9454.	SS 70555 93867	Modern
GGAT08971w	Elba Tinplate Works, Swansea	Tinplate works site added during GGAT152 Cadw funded project.	SS 70330 93327	Modern
GGAT08974w	King's Dock Tinplate Works, Swansea	Tinplate works site added during GGAT152 Cadw funded project.	SS 69818 93163	Modern
GGAT09948w	Settlement, Pen Isar Coed	Group of quarry and deserted settlement features found near the barn (01847w) west of Pen Isar Coed farm. They are a likely candidate for the main focus of St Margaret's Grange (00906w).	SS 70187 94058	Unknown
	Events			
GGATE000453	St Margarets Chapel, partial excavation, 1931	A partial excavation was undertaken at St. Margaret's Chapel by G. Hammond prior to 1931. The excavation revealed the remains of a building, some small finds and three skeletons were recovered.	SS 7050 9398	
GGATE004315	Crymlyn Burrows Intertidal Wreck, Swansea Bay	A field survey of the remains of a flat-bottomed, carvel-built, wooden vessel, which were exposed on the open beach of Swansea Bay, close to Crymlyn Burrows, following storms in November 1996. Vessel suggested to be a barge or trow used to carry heavy cargos like coal and/or ore and dated to around the post-medieval period or later.	SS 705 925	
GGATE007293	Industrial Sites in South Wales: The Tinplate Industry	Following a scoping project conducted in 2015, which reviewed the need to assess various classes of industrial sites, a project examining Tinplate sites in Glamorgan and Gwent has been undertaken by the Glamorgan – Gwent Archaeological Trust with grant aid from Cadw. Of the 47 sites assessed, five were considered to be of National significance, all existing Scheduled Monuments or grade II* listed, 19 sites were considered to be of at least Regional Significance. Recommendations for further work, including survey and conservation/consolidation have been made. Recommendations for consideration for protection are provided in a separate report.	SS 70330 93327	
GGATE006941	Cistercian Granges in Glamorgan and	Field visit undertaken by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust at St Margaret's Grange (00906w) as part of the Cistercian Granges in Glamorgan project (GGAT129) carried out on behalf of CADW.	SS 70401 94080	

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT: ELBA CRESCENT, SWANSEA

	Gwent: St Margaret's Grange			
GGATE005002	St Margaret's Chapel, Llandarcy, Neath	An archaeological excavation carried out by Cambria Archaeology for University of Leicester Archaeological Services of land at St Margaret's Chapel Llandarcy, Neath, recorded a metalled surface and the remains of a possible corn dryer.	SS 705 939	
GGATE005000	St Margaret's Chapel, Llandarcy, Neath	Geophysical Survey carried out by Stratascan on land surrounding St Margaret's Chapel Llandarcy for University of Leicester Archaeological Services.	SS 7055 9403	
GGATE004316	Crymlyn Burrows Intertidal Wreck	A field visit following the storms in November 1996, where substantial remains of a timber wreck became exposed on the beach off Crymlyn Burrows in Swansea Bay.	SS 705 925	
007229	Swansea Docks to Baglan Burrows	BACTEC was commissioned by Atkins Ltd to undertake a risk assessment of the potential for unexploded ordnance at a site stretching from Swansea Docks to Baglan Burrows, to contribute for development plans of the site.	SS 70999 93221	
E005431	The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain	The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain project was undertaken by Reading University and Cotswold Archaeology, on behalf of Historic England and the Leverhulme Trust, with the aim of creating a resource that brings together the excavated evidence for the rural settlement of Roman Britain with the over-arching aim to inform a comprehensive reassessment of the countryside of Roman Britain.	SS 58585 87907	
E006100	GGAT150: Rapid Coastline Zone Assessment	A series of Rapid Coastline Zone Assessments were undertaken by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts in the 1990s around the whole of the coast of Wales. They have since been used to inform our input into coastline management plans and other conservation measures, but with the advances made elsewhere in methodology and techniques, they are no longer fit for this purpose in the 21st century. The purpose of this project is to bring the existing Rapid Coastline Zone Assessment, carried out in the 1990s, into line with recent assessments in England, where a rolling programme of Rapid Coastline Zone Assessment is still ongoing.	SS 57115 99529	

Appendix 2

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales Data

RCAHMW No.	Name	Location	Date
	Monuments		
438	Crymlyn Burrows Wreck	SS 70 92	Post Medieval
32356	St Margaret's Well (Site)	SS 70 93	Medieval
34527	Tennant Canal: Glanwern Canal Junction	SS 7093	Post Medieval
270417	Pillbox, Swansea	SS 68 92	Post Medieval
307238	St Margaret's Chapel	SS 70 93	Medieval
401686	Storage Drums, Crymlyn Burrows	SS 69 92	Modern
405224	Settlement Features West of Pen-Isar-Coed	SS 70 94	Unknown



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