Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters

Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

Client: Greentech Invest UK (8) Limited

AB Heritage Project No: 62813

Date: 25/03/2025

Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters

Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

Client	**Greentech Invest UK (8) Limited**
Project Number	**62813**
Prepared By	**Paul Cooke**
Illustrated By	**Pighill Illustrations**
Approved By	**Daniel Dodds & Sarah Bradley**

Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
1.0	Draft	PC	DD	18/04/2024
1.1	Final	PC	SB	13/05/2024
1.2	Figure update	PC	SB	21/11/2024
1.3	Update after Statutory Consultation	PC	DD	18/03/2025
1.4	Addition of Welsh technical summary	PC	DD	25/03/2025

This document has been prepared in accordance with AB Heritage standard operating procedures. It remains confidential and the copyright of AB Heritage Limited. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited.

Enquiries To:

AB Heritage Limited, North Office (Head Office)

102 Beach Road, South Shields

Tyne and Wear, NE33 2NE

Email: info@abheritage.co.uk

Tel: 03333 440 206

CONTENTS

1. Introduction 8
1.1 Project Background 8
1.2 Site Location & Description 8
1.3 Geology & Topography 9
1.4 Overview of Proposed Development 9
1.5 Planning Background & Consultation 9
1.6 Project Qualifiers 11
2. Aims & Methodology 12
2.1 Aims of Report 12
2.2 Methodology 12
3. Planning & Legislative framework 17
3.1 Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 17
3.2 Planning Policy Wales 17
3.3 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Local Plan 18
4. Archaeological & Historic Background 20
4.1 Previous Archaeological Works in the Study Area 20
4.2 Archaeology & History Background 20
5. Site Visit 28
5.1 Introduction 28
5.2 Solar site 28
5.3 The Access Track 30
5.4 Wider historic environment 31
6. Archaeology: Known & Potential Resource 36
6.1 Known Archaeological Resource 36
6.2 Past Impact Within the Site Boundary 36
6.3 Potential Archaeological Resource 36
7. Heritage: Statement of Significance 37
7.1 Focus of Study 37
7.2 Claypon's Tramroad [AB 31] 37
7.3 Coed Ddu cairn [AB 10] and Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure [AB 23] 38
7.4 Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead [AB 26] and Ynis Fforch Farmstead [AB 29] 40
8. Combined Impact Assessment 42
8.1 Development Proposals 42

8.2 Assessment of Change 42
8.3 Impact Assessment 43
9. Recommendations & Conclusions 44
9.1 Outline Recommendations 44
9.2 Archiving 44
9.3 Conclusion 44
10. References 46

PLATES

Plate 1: Aerial photograph of proposal site
Plate 2: 1799 Yate's map of Glamorgan
Plate 3: 1841 tithe map
Plate 4: 1876 - 77 six-inch OS map
Plate 5: 1913 six-inch OS map
Plate 6: LiDAR image of the proposal site (north-east plot)
Plate 7: LiDAR image of the proposal site (south-east plot)
Plate 8: LiDAR image of the proposal site (junction of access track and solar site)
Plate 9: 2009 aerial photograph of site
Plate 10: Solar site, looking south
Plate 11: Former field boundary and general ground conditions
Plate 12: South-east plot of solar site, view from west
Plate 13: South-west plot of solar site, view from west
Plate 14: Example of soil and geological sequence on site
Plate 15: Field to hold north end of new access track
Plate 16: Access track route along the former Dillwyn Colliery tramway
Plate 17: Claypon's Tramroad [AB 31]
Plate 18: Mynydd Drum 1 [AB 4]
Plate 19: View south from Mynydd Drum 1 [AB 4]
Plate 20: Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead
Plate 21: View west to site, Bryn-dulais Farmstead [AB 39] centre of shot
Plate 22: View to site from iron footbridge [AB 35]
Plate 23: View towards site from broad area of Scheduled Monuments [AB10 & 23]

TABLES

Table 1: Examination of Appropriate Sources

Table 2: Assessing the Significance of an Archaeological Asset

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteer

Appendix 2: Approved Written Scheme of Investigation for HEDBA

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Proposed Solar PV Site Plan

Figure 3: Cultural Heritage Features Map

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AB Heritage was commissioned by Greentech Invest UK (8) Limited to provide a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for a proposed PV solar array development on a site at Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters, within the Dulais Valley.

This report collates existing data for the built heritage and known archaeological resource within a 3km study area from the site boundary, in conjunction with evidence gathered from LiDAR, aerial photographs, geophysical survey of part of the site, and a site visit.

The present evidence suggests that the Dulais Valley was home to Bronze Age communities, particularly evident in the cairns which they erected in prominent locations. Evidence for later periods is currently more limited, and maps from 1799 and the 19th century depict a rural and sparsely populated landscape dotted with a network of farmsteads. From 1799 this appears to have included Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead and Ynis Fforch Farmstead, both of which are still in use, and on the farmland of which the proposal site and access track will be located.

From the late 19th century into the early 20th century, exploitation of coal in the valley led to the establishment of the Seven Sisters colliery, from which the modern settlement 1km east of the site derives. Map evidence shows that coal extraction occurred in the vicinity of the proposed access track, but no confirmed workings are shown within the proposal site.

This report consequently considers that there is some potential for the survival of previously unrecorded archaeological remains within the site dating to the Bronze Age. Should this comprise evidence of settlement or ceremonial activity, it would be of predicted High to Medium Significance.

The anticipated works associated with the proposals are identified as having the potential to result in an adverse impact to the heritage significance of any surviving archaeological resource, through truncation and disturbance.

This report has also considered the potential for settings impacts from the proposed development. The solar site in particular sits on an exposed hillslope which the site visit has demonstrated will be part of background views in the valley, and with regards to heritage, particularly from the Scheduled Monument of Claypon's Tramroad, an 1832 engineered route moving resources to and from the Brecon Valley. The tramroad is assessed to be a heritage asset of High Significance, deriving particularly from the evidential value.

Two other Scheduled Monuments, the probable Bronze Age Coed Ddu ring cairn, and probable Medieval upland farm Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure were also assessed, both also considered to be of High Significance, deriving principally from the evidential value.

In the case of all three Scheduled Monuments, the proposals are not considered to affect their setting value, and consequently result in No Impact to their heritage significance.

The proposals will also result in a change in the appearance and use of the farmland associated with Pen-cae'r-lan and Ynis Ffoch Farmsteads, both assessed to be heritage assets of Low Significance, deriving from the historical, evidential, and setting value. These impacts are assessed to result in a Low Adverse Impact to the setting of, and heritage significance of, Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead, and No Impact to the heritage significance of Ynis Ffoch Farmstead.

The anticipated heritage impacts from the proposals are considered by this report to be outweighed by the perceived benefits of providing a renewable energy source.

This report has no further recommendations regarding built heritage.

Regarding archaeology, this report therefore recommends that relevant groundworks which would expose any archaeological remains be subject to archaeological watching brief, providing preservation by record.

All final decisions are the preserve of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

A digital copy of this report will be provided to the Heneb: Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology Historic Environment Record.

Crynodeb Gweithredol

Comisiynwyd AB Heritage gan Greentech Invest UK (8) Limited i baratoi Asesiad Desg Amgylchedd Hanesyddol ar gyfer datblygiad araeau solar PV arfaethedig ar safle ar Fferm Pen-cae'r-lan, Blaendulais, o fewn Cwm Dulais.

Mae'r adroddiad hon yn coladu data presennol ar gyfer y dreftadaeth adeiledig a'r adnoddau archeolegol hysbys o fewn ardal astudiaeth 3km o'r ffin y safle, yn cysylltu gyda thystiolaeth wedi ymgasglu o LiDAR, ffotograffau awyrol, arolwg geoffisegol o ran o'r safle, ac ymweliad safle.

Mae'r dystiolaeth bresennol yn awgrymu fod Cwm Dulais yn gartref i gymdeithasau Oes Efydd, yn arbennig o amlwg yn y carneddi a wnaethant adeiladu mewn lleoliadau amlwg. Mae tystiolaeth ar gyfer cyfnodau hwyrach yn fwy prin, ac mae mapiau o 1799 ar 19eg ganrif yn darlunio tirwedd wledig gyda phoblogaidd gwasgarog yn dotiog gyda ffermydd. O 1799 ymlaen mae hyn yn ymddangos i gynnwys Fferm Pen-cae'r-lan a Fferm Ynis Fforch, y ddau ohonynt ddal mewn defnydd, ac ar y tir ffermio o'r hyn fydd y safle arfaethedig ar lwybr mynediad wedi'i lleoli.

O'r 19eg ganrif hwyr i mewn i'r 20fed canrif, arweiniodd y datblygiad o glo i'r sefydliad o bwll glo Blaendulais, o hyn mae'r anheddiad 1km i'r dwyrain yn deilio. Mae tystiolaeth map yn dangos fod tyniad glo wedi'i digwydd o fewn y cylchoedd y llwybr mynediad, er does dim gweithfeydd wedi'i arddangos o fewn y safle datblygiad.

Mae'r adroddiad hon yn ystyried yn gyson fod yna potensial ar gyfer y goroesiad o olion archeolegol yn flaenorol hab ei recordio o fewn y safle yn dyddio i'r Oes Efydd. Os oedd hyn yn cynnwys tystiolaeth o anheddiad neu actifedd seremonïol, fe fyddent yn rhagweld i fod o arwyddocâd Uchel i Ganolig.

Mae'r gwaith a rhagwelir sydd yn gysylltiedig â'r cynigion wedi'i adnabod i gael potensial i ddeillio mewn effaith gwrthwynebus i'r arwyddocâd treftadaeth o unrhyw nodweddion archeolegol sydd yn goroesi, trwy drychiad ac aflonyddwch.

Mae'r adroddiad hon hefyd wedi ystyried y potensial ar gyfer effeithiau lleoliad o'r datblygiad arfaethedig. Mae'r safle solar yn arbenigol yn eistedd ar goledd bryn agored mae'r ymweliad safle wedi arddangos bydd yn rhan o'r olygfa cefndir yn y cwm, o ran treftadaeth, yn enwedig o'r Heneb Gofrestredig o Lwybr Wagenni Claypon, llwybr peirianyddol 1832 yn symud adnoddau i ac o'r Cwm Honddu. Mae'r Llwybr Wagenni wedi'i asesu i fod yn ased treftadaeth i Arwyddocâd Uchel, yn deilio yn arbenigol o'r gwerth tystiolaethol.

Cafodd dwy Heneb Gofrestredig arall ei astudio, Carnedd Cylch Coed Du syn debyg i fod yn Oes Efydd, Platfformau tŷ a thir caeedig Fferm Fynydd Coed Du yn debyg i fod yn Oes Ganoloesol, y ddau yn ei ystyried i fod o Arwyddocâd Uchel, yn deilio yn bennaf o'r gwerth tystiolaethol.

Mewn achos y tair Heneb Gofrestredig, nad yw'r cynigion wedi'i ystyried i gael effaith ar ei lleoliad a'i werth ac o ganlyniad y canlyniad yw fydd Dim Trawiad ar ei arwyddocâd treftadaeth.

Mae'r cynigion hefyd yn canlynu mewn newid i olwg a'r defnydd i dir ffermio yn gysylltiedig ar ffermydd Pen-cae'r-lan ac Ynis Ffoch, mae'r ddau wedi'i ei asesu i fod yn nodweddion o Arwyddocâd Isel, yn deilio o'r gwerth hanesyddol, tystiolaethol a lleoliad. Mae'r effeithiau wedi'i asesu i ganlyni mewn Trawiad Gwrthwynebus Isel i'r gosodiad o, a'r arwyddocâd treftadaeth o, Fferm Pen-cae'r-lan, a Ddim Trawiad i'r arwyddocâd treftadaeth o Fferm Ynis Ffoch.

Mae'r trawiadau a rhagweld o'r cynigion wedi'i ei ystyried yn yr adroddiad hwn i gael ei gorbwyso gan y buddion a rhagweld gan ddarparu ffynhonnell egni adnewyddadwy.

Yn ôl archaeoleg, mae'r adroddiad hwn yna yn awgrymu tyle unrhyw gwëith tir perthnasol a gall datgelu unrhyw olion archeolegol yn destun i friff gwylio archeolegol, yn arlwyo cadwedigaeth trwy gofnod.

Mae penderfyniadau terfynol i gyd yn warchodaeth i Gyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot.

Fydd copi digidol o'r adroddiad hon yn cael ei darparu i'r Heneb: Cofnod Amgylchedd Hanesyddol Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Morgannwg-Gwent.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AB Heritage Limited has been commissioned by Greentech Invest UK (8) Limited to produce an Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) covering proposed works on land at Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters, Neath Port Talbot, Wales, SA10 9ER.

1.1.2 The client seeks to redevelop the site to provide a photovoltaic (PV) solar array, with associated access and services.

1.1.3 The site is not covered by any heritage designations, although Pen-cae'r-lan Farm is recorded as an historic farmstead within the Gwent and Glamorgan Trust Historic Environment Record (HER).

1.1.4 The surrounding landscape within a study area of 3km from the site boundary includes a variety of heritage assets, including Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings.

1.1.5 This report includes a description of the baseline conditions, from an examination of readily available sources on the history and archaeology of the site, identifying any known and potential heritage assets subject to potential impact. Where such works are deemed appropriate, it proposes a suitable mitigation strategy.

1.2 Site Location & Description

1.2.1 The site is in the Dulais Valley and immediately east of Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters, Neath, Wales, SA10 9ER (Figure 1). The main photovoltaic solar array site will be at the north end of the proposal site, in farmland (rough pasture) covering an area of approximately c. 33 hectares (solid red outline, Plate 1). There will also be a new access track laid out leading south from the site and linking with an existing track which connects to the A4109 (Plate 1).

Plate 1: Aerial photograph of proposal site (Google Maps, 2024)

1.2.2 The nearest settlement is Seven Sisters, the centre of which is located c. 1km north-east of site. Ribbon development follows the A4109 south out of the settlement, running to within c. 220m east of site.

1.3 Geology & Topography

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology for the site is recorded as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the South Wales Middle Coal Measures Formation. Overlying superficial deposits of glacial till are recorded across much of the site. Peat is also recorded c. 240m north-east of the site boundary (British Geological Survey, 2024).

1.3.2 The site lies on a broad, east facing slope, sloping down from c. 200m Ordnance Datum in the north-west to c. 150m Ordnance Datum along the east.

1.4 Overview of Proposed Development

1.4.1 The scheme proposal is to develop the proposal site to provide a photovoltaic solar array, with associated cables, fencing, substations, etc (Figure 2).

1.4.2 A new access track to the site would be provided leading south, partially incorporating an existing track (Figure 1; Plate 1).

1.5 Planning Background & Consultation

1.5.1 In-line with Cadw's *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (2017), Paul Cooke (Senior Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage) emailed the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council planning department on the 4th of April 2024, to discuss the scope of this HEDBA, and to provide an opportunity for comment. Using information gathered from the sources identified in Table 1 (below), this email summarised the known archaeological and built heritage resource within a 3km study area from the site boundary, identifying key periods and heritage assets. The email identified the site location, including boundary, outline aspirations of the development, and confirmed that this assessment would be accompanied by a site visit, identifying that it would look to establish the potential for settings impacts from the proposals, particularly to the local Designated assets.

1.5.2 Claire Hall (Senior Planner, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council) responded by email on the 15th of April 2024, to confirm that the County Borough Council team can only provide pre-application planning advice as part of their paid service. Ms Hall noted that the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust are retained as heritage advisors to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, should pre-application advice be required.

1.5.3 Paul Cooke emailed the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) on 15th of April 2024 to outline the intended scope and focus of this HEDBA, as per the previous email to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and provide an opportunity for comment.

1.5.4 Rob Dunning (Archaeological Planning, GGAT) responded by email on the 17th of April 2024. Mr Dunning agreed that a DBA would be appropriate (GGAT ref. NPT0845). Mr Dunning confirmed that details including the scope, methodology, archiving etc., would need to be set out in a formal Written Scheme of Investigation, to be agreed with GGAT. Mr Dunning also recommended consulting Cadw with regards to designated heritage assets.

1.5.5 These comments were passed to the client team on the 18th of April 2024, while a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment was provided for submission to GGAT by the client team on the 25th of April 2024.

1.5.6 Following the commencement of statutory consultation feedback was provided on the WSI and this report by Rob Dunning, in his capacity as a Stewardship Officer for Heneb, the Trust for Welsh Archaeology, which in 2024 replaced Wales' four separate regional archaeological trusts.

1.5.7 Regarding the WSI, on the 17th of February 2025, Mr Dunning provided feedback to Lighthouse Development Consulting (acting as agents for the client), which noted elements of the WSI which needed updating with regards to Welsh archiving and HER submission, including the provision of a bilingual technical summary for the final HEDBA. The necessary amendments were made to the WSI, which was resubmitted to Heneb, and approved by Mr Dunning by the 19th of February 2025.

1.5.8 Regarding this HEDBA, Mr Dunning reviewed the version issued November 2024 and provided feedback to Lighthouse Development Consulting on the 21st of February 2025, summarised as follows:

- The HEDBA would need to be amended to be suitable for deposition to the HER in-line with *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records*. The report has been updated accordingly, including the addition of a bilingual technical summary.
- Archwilio should not be used for commercial purposes and should be removed as a source. The source of aerial photographs reviewed for the site should be clarified. The report has subsequently been updated accordingly.
- Regarding the standard AB Heritage methodology of using 'AB numbers' to identify cultural heritage assets referred to in the HEDBA, Mr Dunning stated that the relevant unique identifiers, whether from the HER, Cadw, etc, should be retained, so the source of the information is readily apparent. This HEDBA has been updated to include these throughout the report, excluding where AB references are being used to quantify a resource and the provision of a long list of associated references would detract from the text, or where references have previously been provided. Source references for the sites discussed in this report are present in the Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteer (Appendix 1).
- Finally, Mr Dunning noted that, should an application similar to the one outlined be submitted, Heneb would be unlikely to recommend any pre-determination works. Instead, Heneb would be likely to recommend a condition ensuring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work detailed in an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). Such a programme of work would include a watching brief during the construction phase and consideration of the impact on any historic boundaries, as well as sampling, and post-excavation works including reporting, archiving

1.5.9 Paul Cooke (AB Heritage) spoke to an advisor at the Heneb: Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology branch over the phone on the 13th of March 2025 regarding submission of this report. The advisor confirmed that a digital pdf would be sufficient.

1.6 Project Qualifiers

1.6.1 This report has been prepared under instruction and solely for the use of Greentech Invest UK (8) Limited, and any associated parties they elect to share this information with.

1.6.2 Measurements and distances in this report are approximations only and should not be used for detailed design purposes. All distances to site used in this report are to the main solar site, and not the access track route, unless otherwise noted.

1.6.3 All work undertaken is based upon the professional knowledge of AB Heritage and relevant standards, technology and legislation at the time of writing. Changes in these areas may occur in the future, causing changes to the conclusions, recommendations or advice given. AB Heritage is not responsible for advising any parties on the implications of such changes.

1.6.4 This report utilises information obtained from third party sources. AB Heritage takes no responsibility for the accuracy of such information.

1.6.5 Where recommendations are provided these need to be approved by the Local Planning Authority and do not themselves comprise mitigation of impacts.

2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Report

2.1.1 Early assessment of the implications of proposed development on the heritage resource is key to informing reasonable planning decisions. Planning Policy Wales paragraph 6.1.8 notes the importance of considering heritage when designing new proposals, whilst paragraph 6.1.9 states:

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

2.1.2 This assessment therefore has the following objectives:

- To inform the client of the known heritage resource within and around the site to assist them in developing a scheme which seeks to, as much as possible, protect, conserve and enhance the significance of heritage assets, and minimise any perceived adverse effects.
- To take account of the potential for this assessment, and any future work on the proposal site, to meet research aims detailed in *A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales* (IFA Wales/Cymru, 2008).
- To provide sufficient evidence on the heritage of the site and any potential impacts on such a resource, to inform the Local Planning Authority's decision-making process in relation to the current proposal; and
- To develop appropriate recommendations / mitigation responses, where necessary, to assist the work of the planning team.

2.2 Methodology

Study Area

2.2.1 Following a review of the known heritage resource from available and relevant sources (see Table 1), a study area of 3km around the site boundary was considered sufficient to investigate and assess the heritage baseline of the site and surrounding area.

Standards & Guidance Used

2.2.2 The assessment has been carried out in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment* (2020), along with a range of other guidance, including:

- *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales* (Cadw, 2011).
- *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).
- *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).
- *Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).
- *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (*Welsh Government, 2017*)*

Selection and Assessment of Sources

2.2.3 In line with para 3.3.6 and Annex 1 of the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment*, this report considers appropriate sources of information and a rationale behind their use. These have been detailed in Table 1:

Table 1: Examination of Appropriate Sources

SOURCE	TYPE OF EVIDENCE	CONSULTED	COMMENT
Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust's Historic Environment Record	The primary source of information concerning the current state of archaeological, heritage and architectural knowledge in this area. Contains published and unpublished archaeological and historical sources, including any previous investigations undertaken within the study area.	04/03/2024	Data received for a study radius of 3km from the site boundary, including access track. The HER Commercial dataset search reference number for this project is 8073.
Consult Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	*Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* notes that the local planning authority should be able to advise on the scope of heritage impact assessments.	04/04/2024	See Section 1.5.

SOURCE	TYPE OF EVIDENCE	CONSULTED	COMMENT
Site Visit	This task allows for development of a greater understanding of the on-site heritage resource, or any historic issues of the site, including information the general condition and setting of the area of proposed development and the site in which it stands.	09/04/2024	Some parts of the proposed access route are under private ownership and so the proposal route was viewed from public footpaths.
Coflein	The online catalogue of archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage in Wales	28/02/2024	
West Glamorgan Archives	Readily accessible information on the site's history from readily available historic documentary sources, maps and photographs.	04/04/2024	Online catalogue consulted. 19th century records pertaining to Pen-cae'r-lan Farm held.
Archaeology Data Service	The ADS is a digital repository for heritage records that supports the long-term digital preservation of such data to support future research, learning and teaching.	08/04/2024	No sites beyond those listed in Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust's Historic Environment Record.
Historic Wales	Historic Wales is a web portal that provides access to the records of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, National Museum Wales and Cadw	28/02/2024	
Aerial Photographs and LiDAR	Various sources were consulted for aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery of the site, to check for archaeological features surviving as earthworks or cropmarks. Sources checked: Archwilio; Britain From Above; Google Earth; Historic Wales; National Library of Scotland; West Glamorgan Archives catalogue.	04/04/2024	Relevant data showing features has been incorporated into the report, comprising LiDAR data from National Library of Scotland and aerial photographs showing features from Google Earth.
Local Historic Societies	Checks were made for relevant organisations where there was a specific and obvious benefit to consulting local expertise on the history of the proposed development site.	02/04/2024	The Welsh Coal Mines register includes an entry for Seven Sisters Colliery, from which the settlement originated.

2.2.4 For reporting purposes, any relevant archaeological information gathered from the above sources has been allocated AB numbers, which can be viewed in the Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteer (Appendix 1), and on the Cultural Heritage Features Plan (Figure 3). The Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteer includes the data source and monument UID, where one exists.

Assessment of Archaeological Potential

2.2.5 This report contains a record of the known historic environment resource of the area. It also assesses the potential for archaeology to survive within the limits of the site, using the following scale:

- No Potential - Clear evidence of past impacts / site sterilisation.
- Low - Very unlikely to be encountered on site.
- Medium - Features may occur / be encountered on site.
- High - Remains almost certain to survive on site.

2.2.6 In relation to buried archaeological remains, where a site is known *or* there is a medium or above potential for archaeology to survive, full impact assessment will be undertaken.

Assessment of Archaeological Significance

2.2.7 Assessment of the heritage significance of an asset is judged upon various factors, including any existing designation, plus information on any relevant architectural, archaeological, or historical factors. Considering these criteria, each identified feature is assigned a level of significance in accordance with a five-point scale (Table 2, below).

Table 2: Assessing the Significance of an Archaeological Asset

SCALE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE	
VERY HIGH	The highest status of site, e.g., Scheduled Monuments (or non-designated assets of schedulable quality and importance), or other designated / non-designated assets that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations. Receptors of known or likely clear national importance, including extremely well-preserved historic landscapes, whether inscribed or not, with exceptional coherence, time depth, or other critical factors.
HIGH	Other designated / non-designated archaeological sites or assets with strong and coherent survival of key factors, such as extent / condition / context associations, providing clear evidence of occupation / settlement, ritual, industrial activity, etc. Examples may include archaeological remains that contribute significantly to research priorities, burial sites, deserted medieval villages, Roman roads, dense finds scatters, etc.
MEDIUM	Evidence of human activity that retains clear archaeological value, albeit with lesser coherence and / or merit than listed above. Such features will have the potential to contribute to research objectives and may include more ephemeral and / or degraded settlement activity to that listed above, defined historic field systems, finds scatters more dispersed in nature, or deposits with the potential for the recovery of meaningful environmental data.
LOW	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest. Examples include destroyed antiquities, structures of almost no architectural / historic merit, buildings of an intrusive character or relatively modern / common landscape features such as quarries, drains and ponds etc.
UNCERTAIN	Insufficient information exists to assess the importance of a feature (e.g. unidentified features on aerial photographs).

2.2.8 The significance of known assets is typically determined by reference to existing designations. **Where an asset's interest or value covers a range of the above possibilities or, for previously unidentified features, where no designation has yet been assigned, the significance of an asset is based on professional judgement**. For example, while all nationally registered, Listed Buildings can range in scale and importance from a single milestone to the site of St Davids Cathedral. For this reason, adjustments are made on a case-by-case basis.

Assessment of Heritage Significance

2.2.9 Assessment of heritage significance is judged on various factors, including existing designation(s) and the perceived heritage interests or values of a feature and / or its setting in-line with criteria set out by Cadw in *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales* (2011)

2.2.10 As a result, this report will assess significance against **Evidential**, **Historical**, **Aesthetic**, **Communal** and **Setting** values. Each relevant category discussed will result in an overall level of significance being defined for the feature, in accordance with a five-point scale comprising Very High, High, Medium, Low and Uncertain.

Combined Impact Assessment

2.2.11 The degree of impact upon the heritage resource is determined based on professional judgement as to the level of effect from a proposed development on the baseline conditions of the site and the cultural heritage resource identified. The criteria for assessing the level of impact will be expressed against a five-point scale comprising Very High, High, Medium, Low and Uncertain.

2.2.12 Overall, the degree of change will be assessed in terms of harm or benefit to heritage significance, and, where appropriate, against relevant local planning policy.

3. PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

3.1 Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023

3.1.1 In 2023 the Welsh Government passed the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023. This consolidates previous legislation regarding designated heritage assets, including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, etc. This act makes provisions for the legal protection of important archaeological sites, monuments, buildings, and Conservation Areas.

3.2 Planning Policy Wales

3.2.1 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out government policy on the historic environment, which comprises 'all the surviving physical elements of previous human activity'.

3.2.2 Paragraph 6.1.6 outlines the Welsh Government's specific objectives for the historic environment, which are as follows:

- 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.

3.2.3 Paragraph 6.1.7 states 'It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.'

3.2.4 Paragraph 6.1.8 notes 'It is the responsibility of all those with an interest in the planning system, including planning authorities, applicants, developers and communities, to appropriately care for the historic environment in their area. The protection, conservation and enhancement of historic assets is most effective when it is considered at the earliest stage of plan preparation or when designing proposals new proposals.'

3.2.5 Paragraph 6.1.9 describes how 'Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place.'

3.2.6 Regarding Listed Buildings, paragraph 6.1.10 states '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 building, its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.'

3.2.7 Regarding Archaeological Remains, paragraphs 6.1.24 and 6.1.25 explain that, where proposed development is likely to affect nationally important archaeological remains and their settings, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ; for '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.'

3.2.8 6.1.26 notes 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.'

Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (2017)

3.2.9 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24 is intended to be used in conjunction with PPW to provide guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning applications.

3.2.10 Paragraph 1.26 confirms that 'It is for the applicant to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information to allow the assessment of their proposals in respect of scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered historic parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, or other sites of national importance and their settings. These principles, however, are equally applicable to all historic assets, irrespective of their designation'.

3.3 Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Local Plan

3.3.1 The Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) Local Plan was formally adopted in 2016. It is supported by Supplementary Planning Guidance on the Historic Environment (2019). It contains the following policies relating to the historic environment:

Policy SP 21: Built Environment and Historic Heritage

3.3.2 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.

Policy BE 2: Buildings of Local Importance

3.3.3 Development proposals that would affect buildings that are of local historic, architectural or cultural importance will only be permitted where:

1. They conserve and where appropriate enhance the building and its setting; or
2. It is demonstrated that the development could not reasonably be accommodated without affecting or replacing the building and the reasons for the development outweigh the heritage importance of the site.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC BACKGROUND

4.1 Previous Archaeological Works in the Study Area

4.1.1 The client has undertaken a Magnetic Gradiometry Survey of the proposed area of the PV solar array (TerraDat, 2023). This excluded the proposed access track and due to ground conditions and covered c. 11ha of the proposed c. 33ha PV solar array site. The survey report notes that it recorded *very little in the way of interpretable features within the areas surveyed at Pen-cae'r-lan Farm. Those features that do exist are likely to be historical agricultural features* (these are plough furrows). Three areas of increased magnetic response within 'agricultural lineation' (plough furrows) in the north-west field are discussed as potentially resulting from increased anthropogenic material in the subsoil but could also result from various natural cause (TerraDat, 2023).

4.1.2 There are 17 event records provided in the GGAT HER data for the study area:

- Seven are Desk-Based Assessments. The closest one, for an area c. 1.1km to the SE of the proposal site (record E003771), noted that the Seven Sisters hoard [**AB 20**] (HER ref: 00543w) and past mining activity meant there was the potential for archaeological remains on site.
- Five are field visits to extant monuments.
- Two are archaeological watching briefs, both over 2km from, and of no relevance to, the proposal site.
- One was a 1953 excavation at Farteg Hill c. 2.43km west of site, with no further details provided.
- One was a geophysical survey at a Roman road [**AB 21**] (HER refs: 03738w; E002674), which runs 2.5km SE of site.
- One is a woodland management plan.

4.2 Archaeology & History Background

The Prehistoric Period (c .500, 000 BC – AD 43)

4.2.1 There is clear evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area. Whilst a single findspot of a Neolithic axe [**AB 1**] is recorded c. 2.08km south-east of site (HER ref: 02223w), the main evidence for activity appears to derive from the Bronze Age. This predominantly takes the form of burial mounds / cairns, of which there are 14 recorded within the study area [**AB 3 – 6; 8; 10 – 18**]. The closest to the site are an alignment of three along the top of Mynydd Drum [**AB 4 – 6**], the nearest of which is 730m north of site (HER refs: 00535w - 00537w, respectively). Four examples in the study area are Scheduled Monuments:

- Bryn Llechwen ring cairn [**AB 8**], c. 1.56km north-east of site (Cadw ref: BR327).
- Coed Ddu ring cairn [**AB 10**], c. 1.77km south of site (Cadw ref: GM 592; HER ref: 00529w).

- Carn Cornel cairns [**AB 12 – 13**], c. 2.08km south of site (Cadw ref: GM275 for both; HER refs: 00533w - 00534w, respectively).

4.2.2 None of these features has been subject to modern excavation but typologically they would be expected to be Bronze Age in date (c. 2300 BC - 800 BC), with a ritual or ceremonial purpose, and including burials (e.g., Cadw, 2024; Scheduled Monument reference BR327).

4.2.3 No survey has been undertaken to locate where the populations who erected these monuments were settled. A few probable stone hut-circles and enclosures [**AB 7, 9** & **19**] are located within the study area, the nearest, [**AB 7**], located c. 1.38km north-east of site (identified on aerial photographs during production of this assessment, information sent to GGAT). As with the cairns, none of these has been subject to modern excavation, but typologically might be expected to be Bronze Age in date. Across the UK, data shows upland occupation peaked during the Bronze Age, and declined from the Iron Age (e.g., Rackham, 2000).

4.2.4 Finally, a cropmark of an oval enclosure [**AB 2**] has been identified c. 180m west of site, at Hengaer; the word 'Gaer' implies the existence of a fort / defence of some kind, which may relate to the enclosure, which typologically may have been Bronze Age or Iron Age in date (HER ref: 01110w).

The Roman Period (c. AD 43 – AD 410)

4.2.5 There is limited but clear evidence for activity within the study area during the Roman period.

4.2.6 The 'Seven Sisters hoard', [**AB 20**], was recovered from a stream c. 1.4km south-east of the site in the late 19th century (HER ref: 00543w). Spratling and Davies (1976) consider the assemblage of 35 pieces containing waste and worn objects to represent a 'workshop' hoard, deposited by a native actor, likely not far from their forge. It incorporates native pieces and Roman metalwork, and a mid-1st century date is suggested.

4.2.7 A Roman military presence is indicated by a Roman Road [**AB 21**] and signal station [**AB 22**] atop the Hirfynydd ridge, c. 2.5km and 2.62km south-east of site, respectively (HER refs: 03738w & 00541w, respectively. The signal station is Cadw ref: GM274). Both survive as earthwork features, the road surviving as a north-east by south-west aligned track which linked with a Scheduled Roman Fort north of Dyffryn Cellwen, beyond the limit of the study area (Cadw, 2024; Scheduled Monument reference GM343).

The Medieval Period (AD 410 – AD 1536)

4.2.8 Evidence for the Medieval period in the study area is limited to three sites [**AB 23 – 25**] (HER refs: 00545w - 00546w, 04732w and 00501w, respectively). At Hirfynydd, on the west slope, building platforms and remains are present, one within an earthwork enclosure [**AB 23**], 1.77km south of site (HER refs: 00545w - 00546w). The site is Scheduled Monument and suggested as a possible monastic grange (Cadw, 2024; reference GM593).

4.2.9 At Fforch-dwm, a rounded, possible house platform [**AB 24**] is also recorded by the HER as potentially Medieval and is located c. 1.22km north-east of site (HER ref: 04732w).

4.2.10 The only confirmed Medieval site within the study area is the Crynant Chapel of Ease [**AB 25**], located c. 3.5km south of site, and Grade I Listed (HER ref: 00501w; Cadw ref: 82547). This would have provided a shelter where monks and other pilgrims would break their journeys and served those parishioners unable to attend the parish church.

The Post Medieval Period (AD 1537 – AD 1800)

4.2.11 The 1610 John Speed map of Glamorganshire (not depicted) shows no settlement within the Dulais Valley, noting only the Chapel of Ease [**AB 25**] at Crynant (People's Collection Wales, 2024).

4.2.12 The 1799 Yate's map of Glamorgan (Plate 2) shows the site and surrounding area in limited detail. The River Dulais and roads are depicted, as are areas of high ground. The map includes black rectangles apparently representing houses / farmsteads. This appears to include Pen-cae'r-lan Farm [**AB 26**] (HER ref: 09540w),indicated in red on Plate 2, and accessed via a track leading south and serving other homesteads / farmsteads [**AB 27 – 30**]. Of these the nearest two, possibly Henllan-Uchaf [**AB 27**] and Henllan-Isaf [**AB 28**] are located c. 610 – 650m south-west of site respectively and appear to be ruins (HER refs: 01855w & 01854w, respectively). Ynys-forch Fawr Farmstead [**AB 29**], and Ty-n-y-wern Farmstead [**AB 30**], are located c. 900m and 1.36km south-west of site, respectively, and are still active (HER refs: 09577w & 09578w, respectively).

4.2.13 Yate's map shows the Dulais Valley remained sparsely populated at the end of the post-Medieval period, largely comprising farmsteads and farmland.

Plate 2: 1799 Yate's map of Glamorgan (People's Collection Wales, 2024)

The Modern Period (AD 1801 – present)

4.2.14 In 1832 Claypons Tramroad [**AB 31**] was laid out around the base of the steep slope of Mynydd Drum, c. 200m north of site (HER ref: 00716w; Cadw ref: GM399). This linked the

Brecon Forest Tramroad to Ynyscedwyn Ironworks, and the Tramroad is a Scheduled Monument (Cadw, 2024; reference GM399).

4.2.15 The 1841 tithe map of Cadoxton juxta Neath (Plate 3) shows the site and surrounding area in greater detail than the Yates' map. Pen-cae'r-lan Farm [**AB 26**] (HER ref: 09540w) is depicted west of the site, consisting of two east-west aligned building ranges either side of a central yard.

4.2.16 The area of the proposed solar site (shaded red) was farmland, described in the apportionments as pasture / meadow, apart from the south-eastern field, which was arable. The various subdivisions were attributed to different occupiers, all named Evans, and all part of Pen-cae'r-lan.

4.2.17 The former access track linking Pen-cae'r-lan and the other farmsteads which was depicted on the Yate's map (Plate 2), can be seen to survive as an intermittent lane and field boundary alignment leading south from Pen-cae'r-lan Farm on the tithe map.

4.2.18 The proposed access road would be routed through meadows and pasture associated with Ynis Fforch farm [**AB 29**] (HER ref: 09577w), including part of a lane shown on the tithe map.

4.2.19 The wider area remained rural and agricultural (Plate 3).

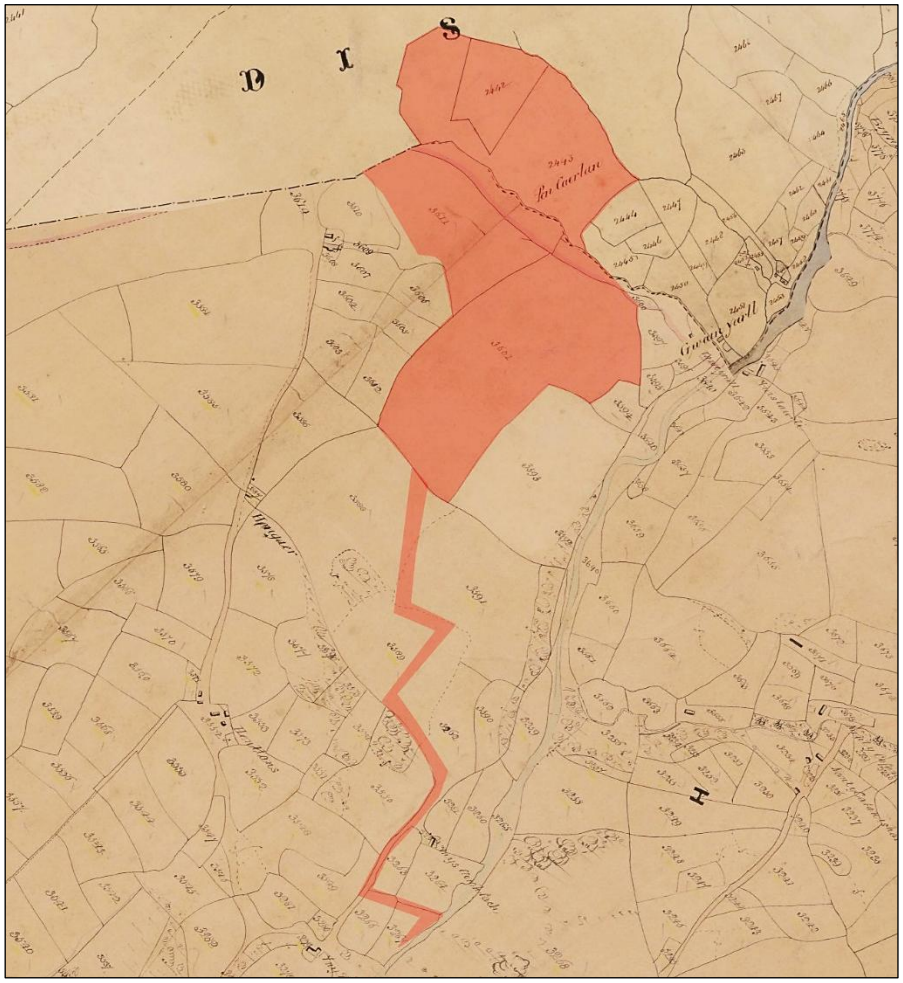


Plate 3: 1841 tithe map (The National Library of Wales, 2024)

4.2.20 In 1872, the Seven Sisters colliery was established c. 440m east of the site, served by a railway line, and it was around this which the existing village sprang up. The name derives from the seven daughters of the owner, David Bevan (Welsh Coal Mines, 2024).

4.2.21 Plate 4 shows the proposal site on the 1876 – 77 six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map. Apart from some limited variations to the field boundaries, including new sub-divisions, no other changes were shown within the site.

4.2.22 In the wider landscape, the main change was the creation of a railway line c. 600m west of site and shown on Plate 4. Also marked was Claypons Tramroad [**AB 31**], c. 200m north of site, already disused and labelled as 'Old Tramway' (HER ref: 00716w; Cadw ref: GM399). Coal levels and coal pits are also marked in the surrounding landscape, but none in the proposal site.

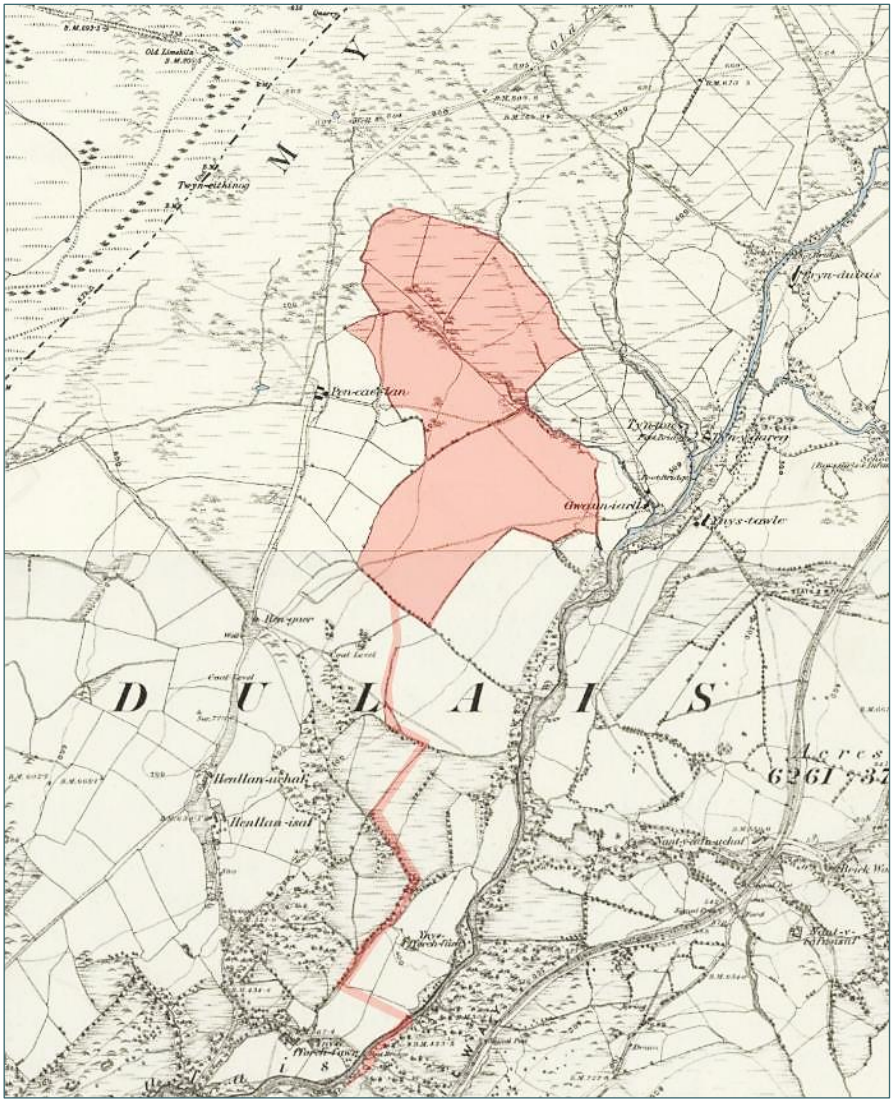


Plate 4: 1876 - 77 six-inch OS map (National Library of Scotland, 2024)

4.2.23 The 1913 six-inch OS map (Plate 5) shows that the Dillwyn Colliery [**AB 42**] had been established c. 840m south-west of the main proposal site and immediately north of the proposed access track route (Figure 2; HER ref: 07631w). One active coal level, and a series

of old coal levels and trial pits are depicted in the fields and on the slope to the west of the proposed access track where it would link with the solar site.

4.2.24 A tramway had also been constructed leading south-east from Dillwyn Colliery, which the proposed access track would follow (Plate 5). The colliery had gone out of use by the 1940s.

4.2.25 The only change in the northern part of the proposal site shown on the 1913 and subsequent OS maps is all the plots are depicted specifically as rough pasture, with areas of marsh and reeds (not depicted – maps surveyed in 1903 and 1914 available at National Library of Scotland, 2024).

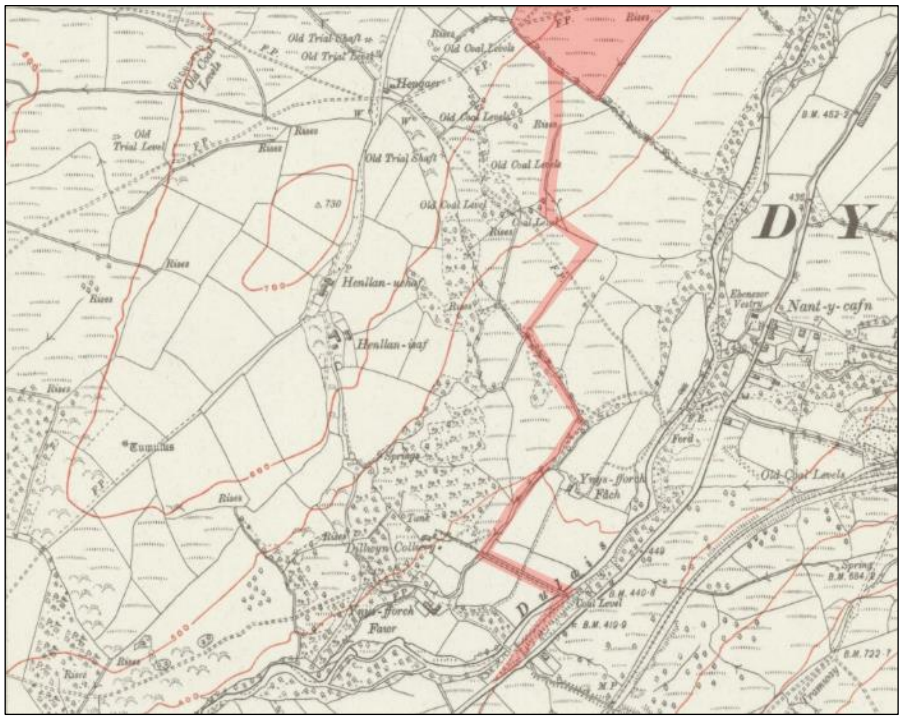


Plate 5: 1913 six-inch OS map (National Library of Scotland, 2024)

4.2.26 Detailed LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) imagery is available for the site, and this shows a range of apparent regular former field boundaries across the north-east and south-east fields in the proposed solar site, as well as streams and / or drainage channels, and apparent plough furrows (Plates 6 – 7).

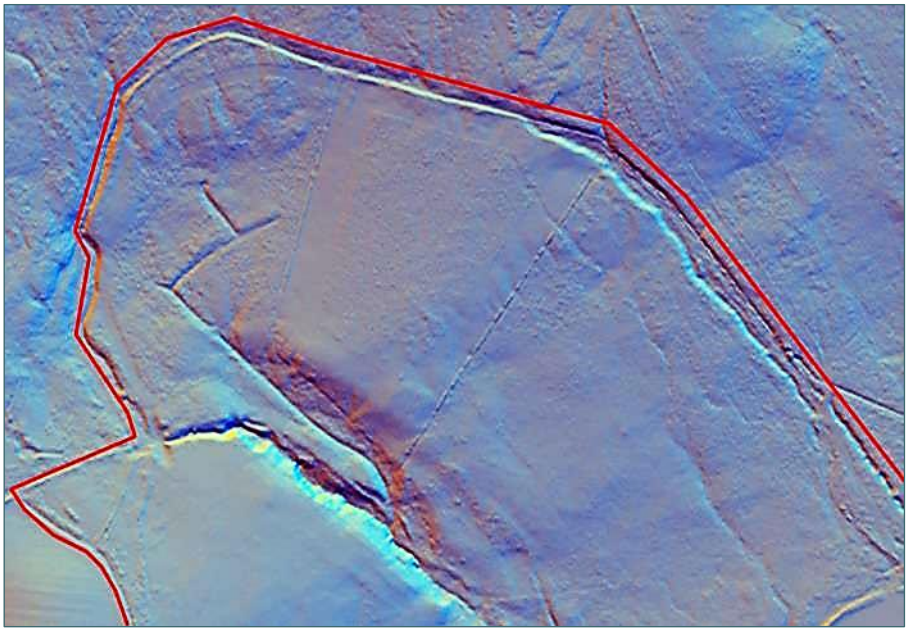


Plate 6: LiDAR image of the proposal site (north-east plot) (National Library of Scotland, 2024)

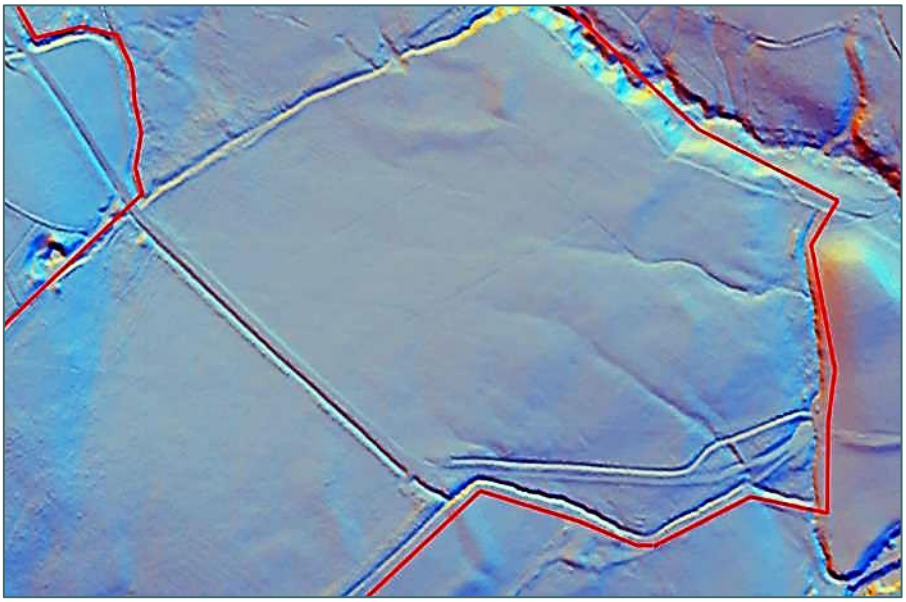


Plate 7: LiDAR image of the proposal site (south-east plot) (National Library of Scotland, 2024)

4.2.27 The proposed route of the access trackway, where it connects to the solar site, appears to cross a possible former ditch or trackway, and an ephemeral former field system with regular boundaries is visible to the west on Plate 8. There is the suggestion of a circular feature partially abutting, or close to, the proposed route – this corresponds with a small copse (see Section 5).

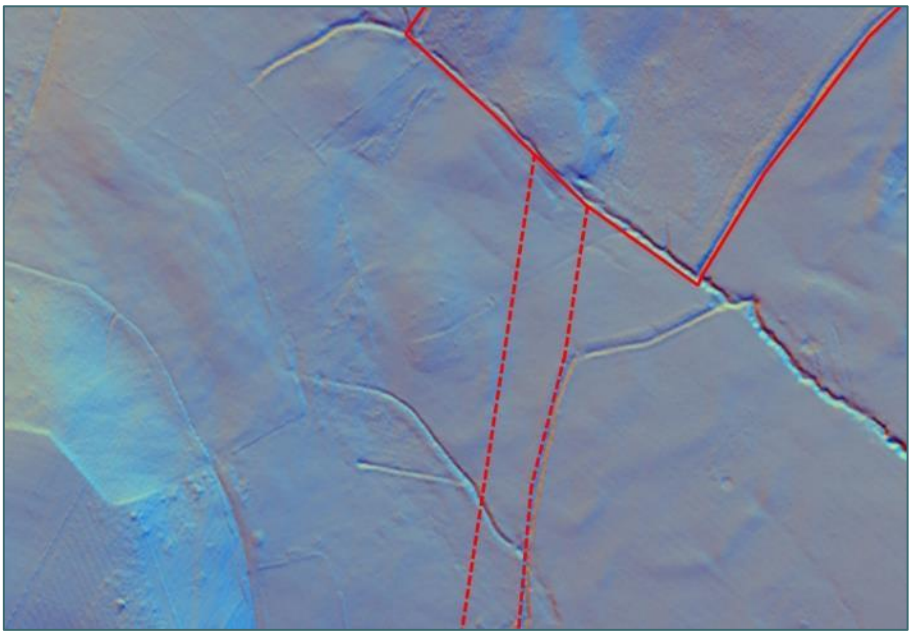


Plate 8: LiDAR image of the proposal site (junction of access track and solar site) (National Library of Scotland, 2024)

4.2.28 Aerial photographs of the solar site support the LiDAR data, showing the remnants of regular field boundaries, and plough furrows, in the south-east and south-west plots (Plate 9).

Plate 9: 2009 aerial photograph of site (Google Earth, 2024)

5. SITE VISIT

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A site visit was undertaken by Paul Cooke (Senior Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage) on 9th of April 2024. The purpose of the visit was to gain a first-hand understanding of the existing land use and past impacts within the current site limits, along with an appreciation for the potential survival of, and impacts to, the above and below-ground historic environment.

5.2 Solar site

5.2.1 The bulk of the proposal site comprises the proposed solar PV site, which would be created across four existing fields, the northern two of which are divided by a watercourse which in places forms a deep gully.

5.2.2 Plate 10 shows an overview of the site from the north, taken from Claypon's Tramroad [**AB 31**]. The northern fields are a boggy rough pasture, wet underfoot with frequent areas of standing water or small springs. The poor ground, large tufts of rushes and sedge and some shrubs made detailed inspection for earthworks impractical, but one of the former field boundaries visible on LiDAR and aerial photographs in the north-west field survives as an earthen boundary (Plate 11).

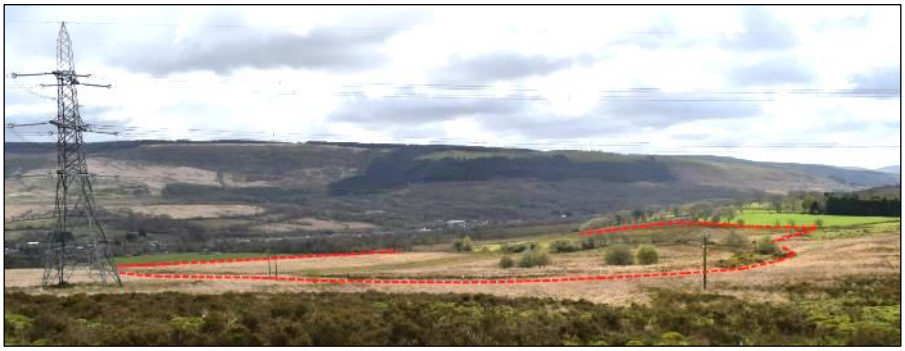


Plate 10: Solar site, looking south

Plate 11: Former field boundary and general ground conditions

5.2.3 The southern fields are similarly boggy to the northern ones (Plates 12 – 13). Neither appear as affected by watercourses and springs as the northern plots, which is likely why traces of plough-marks are present in both on LiDAR and aerial photographs (Plates 6 and 7).

Plate 12: South-east plot of solar site, view from west

Plate 13: South-west plot of solar site, view from west

5.2.1 An area of former quarrying associated with Pen-cae'r-lan Farm and just west of the proposal site boundary illustrates the soil sequence well (Plate 14). A thin, dark layer of topsoil (with overcast above) overlies a pale orange deposit of glacial till, comprising common stones in a silty clay matrix, with a variable thickness. Below this is solid bedrock geology. No subsoil was observed.

Plate 14: Example of soil and geological sequence on site

5.3 The Access Track

5.3.1 The access track will be largely routed beside field boundaries along its northern half, before utilising an existing track along the southern half.

5.3.2 The fields the track will be routed through are, to varying degrees, rough and marshy pasture, with sedge and rushes present. Plate 15 shows the field adjacent to the proposed solar site. The copse in the middle is overlying a possible faint circular feature on the LiDAR imagery (Plate 8), and from a distance the ground does appear raised (Plate 15).

Plate 15: Field to hold north end of new access track

5.3.3 The existing trackway is a metalled farm track, a mix of stone and modern gravel in varying condition, possibly originating when the colliery was in use. The track will use the tramway route (Plate 16) which includes a bridge over the River Dulais, before connecting to the A4109.

Plate 16: Access track route along the former Dillwyn Colliery tramway

5.4 Wider historic environment

5.4.1 The site visit also considered the potential for settings impacts from the development proposals.

Mynydd Drum

5.4.2 Mynydd Drum is a prominent hill to the north of the proposal site, upon which are sited several monuments [**AB 4 – 6, 8** and **31**]. It is traversed by numerous electricity pylons, and there are views to wind turbines further north-east along the Dulais Valley.

5.4.3 The nearest monument is the Scheduled Monument of the 1832 Claypon's Tramroad [**AB 31**] (Plate 17), located c. 200m north of the proposed solar site, on the southern slope of Mynydd Drum. The section explored in proximity to the site was a slightly raised trackway, incorporating stone, and tyre prints show it is used as such. The only visible engineering/landscaping of note was where the trackway crossed gullies, which had been infilled and presumably culverted, or where the tramroad was slightly excavated into the slope.

5.4.4 The proposal site forms part of the wider valley backdrop to the tramroad, albeit, as noted above, this includes numerous electrical pylons (see Plate 10 above).

Plate 17: Claypon's Tramroad [AB 31]

5.4.5 Further to the north-east, along the top of Mynydd Drum, are four cairns [**AB 4 – 6 & 8**]. The closest, Mynydd Drum 1 [**AB 4**], is c. 730m north of site and sits in a north-east by south-west alignment with [**AB 5 – 6**]. It is a low, grassed mound with some visible stone and a depression in the centre where it has been previously disturbed (Plate 18).

Plate 18: Mynydd Drum 1 [AB 4]

5.4.6 From the elevated location at Mynydd Drum 1 [**AB 4],** there is no possible view to the proposal site (Plate 19). This was found to be the case for the entire cairn alignment, and so the views from Bryn Llechwen ring cairn [**AB 8**], which is a Scheduled Monument (Cadw ref: BR327), were not checked, as this sits at a lower elevation c. 1.56km north-east of the site. None of these cairns will therefore be taken forward to Impact Assessment.

Plate 19: View south from Mynydd Drum 1 [AB 4]

Pen-cae'r-lan Farm

5.4.7 The proposal site is located within the farmland of Pen-Cae'r-lan Farm [**AB 26**], which this report has identified as likely of at least late 18th century date. It comprises two historic ranges facing each other across an open yard, with a farmhouse to the east which was first depicted on the 1876 – 77 OS map (Plate 20). The two farm ranges were not subject to detailed inspection but were seen to contain surviving hand-cut timber beams. More modern farm buildings are present to the south and east of the range.

5.4.8 The farmstead is encircled by mature trees, including many evergreens which may conceivably have been planted when the farmhouse was constructed, and may be shelter stands. As shown on Plates 10, 11, and 20), the farmstead is well screened by planting and topography, and is not apparently visible from the proposal site.

Plate 20: Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead

Seven Sisters

5.4.9 The village of Seven Sisters contains several built heritage assets, comprising two Listed Buildings [**AB 36 & 39**] and four Locally Listed structures [**AB 32 – 35**].

5.4.10 Plate 21 is a view towards the site taken on the access lane to Bryn-dulais Farmstead [**AB 39**] (HER ref: 09543w), to the west of the village core. The farmstead includes a Grade II Listed pigsty (Cadw ref: 82048), which is c. 520m north-east of the site. Plate 21 shows there is limited to no appreciation of the proposal site, even from above the farmstead, due to topography and vegetation.

Plate 21: View west to site, Bryn-dulais Farmstead [AB 39] centre of shot

5.4.11 The other Listed and Locally Listed buildings within the village are concentrated at the north-east end. There are no clear views to the proposal site from street level, but the site does form part of glimpsed views of the wider valley backdrop from the Locally Listed iron colliery footbridge [**AB 35**] (HER ref: 09320w; LPA ref: SEV009), c. 1.1km north-east of site (Plate 22), albeit these will simply form a tiny part of the wider valley backdrop, and not as prominent as the slopes of Mynydd Drum (right of Plate 22).

Plate 22: View to site from iron footbridge [AB 35]

5.4.12 The heritage assets in Seven Sisters have no historic association with the proposal site and are simply too far from it to have their settings affected. Therefore, this report scopes out these heritage assets from further assessment.

Hirfynydd

5.4.13 A range of monuments are located along the Hirfynydd ridge and slopes (Figure 2), many of which overlook the Dulais Valley. These include two Scheduled Monuments: Coed Ddu ring cairn [**AB 10**] (HER ref: 00529w; Cadw ref: GM592); and a possible Medieval monastic grange in the form of building platforms and an enclosure [**AB 23**] (HER refs: 00545w - 00546w; Cadw ref: GM593). Both are are c 1.77km south of the proposal site.

5.4.14 Plate 23 shows a view towards the proposal site (outlined in red), with the Scheduled Monuments behind the shot (the cairn is in private land – Plate 23 is intended to provide an overall appreciation, rather than the exact view from both monuments). The earthwork in front is a remnant of former coal extraction works.

5.4.15 The photograph shows that the proposal site (outlined in red) forms a very small and largely obscured vista of part of the wider valley from this location on Hirfynydd Ridge.

Plate 23: View towards site from broad area of Scheduled Monuments [AB10 & 23]

6. ARCHAEOLOGY: KNOWN & POTENTIAL RESOURCE

6.1 Known Archaeological Resource

6.1.1 Within the proposal site geophysical survey, LiDAR, aerial photographs, and the site visit demonstrate former field divisions and plough-marks are present, some of which appears to pre-date the 1841 tithe map. The geophysical survey, which covered c. 11ha of the c. 33ha site, otherwise recorded no clear archaeological features.

6.1.2 In the study area, the current data suggests that Bronze Age communities were active in the Dulais Valley. The many cairns, and occasional hut circles, are typologically likely to date to this period, when climactic and ground conditions were more favourable to upland farming. There is little evidence for anything other than dispersed, discrete farmstead-based settlement in the Dulais Valley up to the 20th century.

6.1.3 The 1913 OS map shows that trial pits and coal levels were excavated west of the access track route associated with the Dillwyn Colliery [**AB 42**], and some evidence for this may survive along or near the proposed route in the form of trial pits or heaps of waste material.

6.2 Past Impact Within the Site Boundary

6.2.1 There is currently no suggestion that the site has seen any impacts of note beyond agricultural activity – digging of ditches, ploughing, animal and vehicle movement, etc, none of which are anticipated to have been deep or widespread enough to have completely erased any archaeological remains present on the site. This is evident from the surviving field boundary and plough-furrow cropmarks shown on Plates 6, 7 and 9.

6.3 Potential Archaeological Resource

6.3.1 Based on the available data the following is predicted:

- Low to Medium potential for the presence of Bronze Age remains within the site. Any surviving remains relating to settlement or ceremonial activity, such as roundhouses or cairns, might be anticipated to be of High to Medium Significance, in line with Table 2, i.e., '*archaeological remains that contribute significantly to research priorities, burial sites, dense finds scatters, et*c' or, '*ephemeral and / or degraded settlement activity…finds scatters more dispersed in nature, or deposits with the potential for the recovery of meaningful environmental data*.'
- Low potential for the recovery of complex or significant archaeological remains from all other periods. Whilst the access track is routed past areas of former coal workings there is no indication that it would encounter any features or remains of particular interest beyond trial excavations and upcast. The agricultural features identified by the geophysical survey would be of predicted Low Significance, in line with Table 2, i.e., '*Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest. Examples include…relatively modern / common landscape features such as quarries, drains and ponds etc.*'

7. HERITAGE: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

7.1 Focus of Study

7.1.1 In accordance with CADW guidance *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales* (2011), and the Welsh Government's *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (2017), Heritage Assets derive their significance from a defined range of values. These are **Evidential, Aesthetic, Historical, Communal** and **Setting**. This report will assess those factors relevant to the overall understanding of the importance of the feature under consideration.

7.1.2 The site is in proximity to several heritage assets (see Sections 4 & 5, Figure 2, and Appendix 1). No identified heritage assets will be directly impacted by the development proposals.

7.1.3 Based on the site visit, as well as historic research, this report will focus on providing an understanding of the significance of the following monuments, including their settings:

- The Scheduled Monument of Claypon's Tramroad [**AB 31**].
- The Scheduled Monuments of Coed Ddu ring cairn [**AB 10**] and Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure [**AB 23**].
- Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead [**AB 26**] and Ynis Fforch Farmstead [**AB 29**].

7.2 Claypon's Tramroad [AB 31]

Description & General Condition

7.2.1 The section closest to the site comprises part of a 6.44km link line to the Brecon Forest Tramroad that enabled limestone to be brought directly down to the Ynyscedwyn Ironworks (Cadw, 2024). The Cadw record notes, *The whole length remains an impressive monument - the track runs through large cuttings and over impressive stretches of embankment on the expanse of Mynydd y Drum.*

7.2.2 The record also states that the *monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance and illustrate our knowledge and understanding of the development of the raw materials supply and transportation network associated with nineteenth century iron industry. It is well preserved and retains significant archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to layout, building techniques and functional detail. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them within which related evidence may be expected to survive.*

Assessment of Significance

Evidential Value

7.2.3 As noted by Cadw, the surviving tramroad holds the potential for surviving data to inform on construction and engineering details for this monument, and infrastructure development of the time. The evidential value is the key contributor to the heritage significance of the Scheduled Monument.

Historical Value

7.2.4 The tramroad is a tangible link to the early 19th century industrial heritage of the area, with much of the route apparently well preserved and traceable, despite the apparently short-lived duration of its use. This historical value is a secondary, but positive contributor, to the heritage significance of the Scheduled Monument.

Setting Value

7.2.5 It is the opinion of this report that the key elements of the setting of the tramroad would be the site of the former Ynyscedwyn Ironworks (c. 2.1km north-east of site), and the former Brecon Forest Tramroad (outside the study area), which the tramroad was explicitly constructed to connect. Neither of these are appreciable from, nor related to, the proposal site.

7.2.6 In proximity to the site, the tramroad can only be experienced, appreciated, and understood in proximity; as an earthwork feature running along the slope of Mynydd Drum, it does not stand out among the vegetation and grassy slopes until a visitor is effectively on it.

7.2.7 In the context of this appraisal, therefore, the setting value is considered to contribute little to the heritage significance of the Scheduled Monument, and the setting is not assessed to extend to the proposal site.

Summary

7.2.8 As a short-lived but impressive length of early 19th century industrial infrastructure, still very traceable along its length, Claypon's Tramroad is assessed to be a heritage asset of High Significance.

7.3 Coed Ddu cairn [AB 10] and Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure [AB 23]

Description & General Condition

7.3.1 Both the Coed Ddu ring cairn and Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure were Designated in 2006. Both share a similar location, on the west facing slope of Hirfynydd with broad views of the Dulais Valley and beyond. Both features are Scheduled Monuments.

7.3.2 The Coed Ddu ring cairn is thought to be Bronze Age in date and comprises a c. 14m diameter circular ring with external bank and level interior. The Cadw record records that *the monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. Excavated examples have shown these monuments to be essentially ceremonial - although with a consistent link with the burial of the dead (some cremation burials have been revealed). Rituals involving the burning and deposition of charcoal, perhaps symbolic of the funeral pyre, would seem to have been important - and the position of many ring cairns within the surrounding landscape would seem to indicate the importance of showmanship, with ceremonies viewed from outside. The well-preserved monument is an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both intact burial or ritual deposits and environmental and structural evidence.*

7.3.3 The Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure also includes some rubble stone wall footings and is considered to be a *seasonal hafotai, the platforms once boasting buildings associated*

with summer grazing - perhaps a dwelling house and barn. It may have been a monastic grange associated with Neath Abbey. The Cadw record notes *The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval and post medieval land use, settlement and economy. It is a relatively well-preserved example of an upland settlement and retains great archaeological potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval and post medieval stock rearing practices in the upland zone, whether as permanent settlement, regular transhumance (such as the hafod system of summer pasture), or intermittent opportunistic expansion. Its importance is further enhanced by the possibility that the site represents the remains of the Crynant monastic grange.*

7.3.4 Neither monument has been subject to modern archaeological investigation.

Assessment of Significance

Evidential Value

7.3.5 Coed Ddu ring cairn is likely to preserve archaeological data which could advance our understanding of the date, form and function of the monument, particularly as to whether it had a ceremonial use, and whether it does, or did, incorporate burials.

7.3.6 Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure may also preserve archaeological data which advances our understanding of the date and function of the former buildings and enclosure, and potentially upland occupation and settlement in the Medieval period.

7.3.7 The evidential value is the key contributor to the heritage significance of both Scheduled Monuments.

Historical Value

7.3.8 Coed Ddu ring cairn has potentially been a visible landscape feature for millennia, providing a tangible link to that distant past, and may have been part of local folklore in the intervening years.

7.3.9 Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure also provide a tangible link to past ways of life, landscape use, and the rural economy. The potential that the house platforms and enclosure were linked to Neath Abbey also provides the opportunity to tie physical remains to documentary records.

7.3.10 The historical value is a secondary, but positive contributor, to the heritage significance of both Scheduled Monuments.

Setting Value

7.3.11 Coed Ddu ring cairn was not accessible and was not appreciable from publicly accessible land. As with other cairns in the Dulais Valley, it has been sited in a position with long-distance views. Whilst we cannot fully understand the intention of the builders, and function of the site, the choice of a prominent location appears to be deliberate, as evidenced by the other cairns throughout the valley, such as on Mynydd Drum (Section 5.4).

7.3.12 The setting of Coed Ddu is therefore the hill and extends as far as the cairn is visible, which the proposal site is a small part of. Regardless of the nature and quality of any evidence which the cairn may or may not still hold, the setting speaks to a desire of the builders to mark prominent locations within the landscape. The setting value is therefore considered to

contribute positively to the heritage significance of this Scheduled Monument, and arguably only slightly less so than the evidential interest.

7.3.13 Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure are covered over by vegetation and are only appreciable in proximity; they were not visible from the location that Plate 23 was taken, for example. There are no other identified features in the vicinity which allow for an understanding of the purpose or date of the house platforms and enclosure. The setting value is considered to contribute little to the heritage significance of the Scheduled Monument, and the setting is not assessed to extend to the proposal site.

Summary

7.3.14 Both monuments have a range of demonstrable heritage values, including the potential of providing new data to contribute both to our understanding of the monuments themselves, and of wider details about people and the landscape from their respective periods. Both are assessed to be of High Significance.

7.4 Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead [AB 26] and Ynis Fforch Farmstead [AB 29]

7.4.1 Pen-cae'r-lan and Ynis Fforch farmsteads have no heritage designation, but both are extant farmsteads recorded in the GGAT HER, and possibly dating to the 18th century (Plate 5).

7.4.2 Based on the tithe apportionments, the extent of the farmland attached to both farmsteads is apparently unchanged, and nearly identical to the arrangement shown in 1841. Neither farmstead is within, nor historically lay within, the proposal site.

7.4.3 Ynis Fforch was not accessible for this assessment, but at least one stone building was visible from a distance.

Assessment of Significance

Historical Value

7.4.4 Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead provides illustrative historic value as a surviving, working, post-Medieval farmstead.

7.4.5 Both Glamorgan Archives and People's Collection Wales hold documentary records and photographs of the farmstead and past occupants which further enhances the historic interest. The historical value is considered the key contributor to the heritage significance of the farmstead.

Evidential Value

7.4.6 The outbuilding ranges are at least of 1841 date and may relate to the c. 18th century origin of the farmstead. Both have surviving historic fabric and features and could provide data on vernacular farm building construction and use from the c. 18th / early 19th century. The evidential value is considered a secondary, and positive, contributor to the heritage significance of the farmstead.

Setting Value

7.4.7 The farmstead retains all the key elements of the historic setting: the historic buildings, enclosed farmstead, and surrounding fields. This enhances the legibility and interest of the

farmstead and is a positive contributor to the heritage significance, albeit less than the historical and evidential value.

Summary

7.4.8 As a c. 18th century farmstead with surviving historic buildings and associated farmland intact, Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead is assessed to be of Low Significance, recognising that whilst it has a range of values, none are particularly unique.

7.4.9 Ynis Fforch Farmstead could not be accessed for this report but is predicted to have similar heritage values, and therefore to also be of Low Significance.

8. COMBINED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 Development Proposals

8.1.1 Detailed construction and operational details were not available during the production of this assessment, but based on typical solar array sites the following works would be anticipated:

- Piling to mount PV solar panels.
- Excavation to provide service trenches, road surfaces, foundation platforms or footings trenches for substations, etc.
- The provision of PV solar panels and associated substations and monitoring buildings across the site.
- Security fencing, lights and cameras, around the site, typically c. 2 – 5m tall.
- Access tracks.
- Retention of existing field boundaries, including any associated trees / shrubs.

8.1.2 Typically, the installation of solar PV panels and associated infrastructure does not preclude the ongoing use of farmland as pasture, which is the current use.

8.2 Assessment of Change

Archaeology

8.2.1 Should the proposed development works take place, these would be predicted to result in a Low - Medium Adverse impact to the predicted Low significance of the identified archaeological resource within the area covered by the geophysical survey, through truncation and disturbance.

8.2.2 For the rest of the site, the degree of impact from the works to the archaeological resource is Uncertain, as there are no identified sites or features.

Heritage

8.2.3 The proposed development would introduce modern electrical infrastructure elements into what is presently farmland. It should be noted, however, that there are already numerous electricity pylons present on Mynydd Drum, as well as wind turbines further north-east along the Dulais Valley.

8.2.4 The proposal would result in an appreciable change to a small part of the setting of the Scheduled Monument of Coed Ddu cairn, which was placed in a location that can be viewed from a long distance. The proposals will not, however, impact on the value or legibility of the setting interest and will therefore result in No Impact to the heritage significance of Coed Ddu cairn.

8.2.5 The proposal will be a large change in character of some farmland associated with Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead, albeit it will be largely imperceptible from the farmstead itself and will not impact on the ability of visitor to recognise that it is sited within farmland. Furthermore, it is

likely that the fields will still be utilised as pasture. Therefore, the proposals would result in a predicted Low Adverse impact to the farmland setting, and heritage significance of, Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead.

8.2.6 There will be a small change to some of the farmland associated with Ynis Ffoch Farmstead, through the extension of an existing access track across farmland, and the introduction of occasional traffic to the site. This will be largely imperceptible from the farm itself and will not impact on the ability of a viewer to understand the farmstead and the new track. The proposed changes are assessed to result in no harm to the heritage significance of Ynis Ffoch Farmstead.

8.2.7 The site is not assessed to be within the setting of the Scheduled Monuments of Claypon's Tramroad, Coed Ddu Cairn, and Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure, as assessed in Section 7. The proposals will therefore result in No Impact to the heritage significance of these features.

8.3 Impact Assessment

8.3.1 This assessment has identified the potential for a Low Adverse impact to the heritage significance of Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead, through changes to the setting, albeit the setting is not considered to be the key heritage value of what is a non-designated asset of low significance.

8.3.2 This assessment has also identified the potential for a Low – Medium adverse impact to the archaeological resource identified by geophysical survey, at present likely to principally comprise agricultural features. The archaeological impact in other areas remain Uncertain, any such impact being dependant on the presence, nature, and extent of any remains.

8.3.3 Planning Policy Wales requires that, 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.

8.3.4 Based on available information, it is considered that the limited identified heritage impacts would be outweighed by the perceived public benefits of providing a renewable energy source.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Outline Recommendations

Archaeology

9.1.1 This report has identified a Low to Medium potential for the survival of Bronze Age remains within the proposal site, based on the evidence present within the wider study area.

9.1.2 Given the ground conditions on-site it is recommended that a programme of archaeological watching brief should be maintained during proposal construction works to allow any archaeological features or finds to be identified and recorded.

Heritage

9.1.3 This report has no recommendations with regards to built heritage.

9.2 Archiving

9.2.1 The *Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention And Disposal Guidelines For Wales* notes that, for desktop assessments/site visits, if no original material is produced then it is not necessary to produce an archive, and that where original material is produced (such as photographs, sketches etc.), then attaching data to the HER will be appropriate (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW), 2019).

9.2.2 Based on these guidelines a digital pdf copy of this HEDBA will be submitted to Heneb: Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology, to be incorporated within the HER, including a bilingual technical summary in accordance with the Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Heneb Historic Environment Record (HER) (Heneb: The Trust for Welsh Archaeology, 2024). A Welsh technical summary has been produced for this report by Archaeology Wales.

9.2.3 The report will be submitted to the HER (Heneb: Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology) by AB Heritage on behalf of the client once either a formal planning application is submitted, or it is confirmed that the project is being discontinued.

9.3 Conclusion

9.3.1 AB Heritage was commissioned by Greentech Invest UK (8) Limited to provide a Combined Archaeology Desk-Based Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement in advance of pre-application consultation for a proposed PV solar array development on a site at Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters, within the Dulais Valley.

9.3.2 Existing data for the built heritage and known archaeological resource within a 3km study area from the site boundary has been reviewed and collated, in conjunction with evidence gathered from LiDAR, aerial photographs, and the site visit.

9.3.3 The archaeological evidence is suggestive of Bronze Age occupation, and then limited rural settlement largely comprising scattered farmsteads until the 19th century, when Seven Sisters colliery created the settlement which now lies 1km east of the site. The proposal site appears to have been farmland through the 19th century to the present-day.

9.3.4 Geophysical survey of the proposal site identified only agricultural features, of Low Significance. Based on the evidence for Bronze Age activity within the study area, this report has identified the potential for remains to be present within the wider proposal site. Any remains of settlement or burial activity could be of predicted High to Medium Significance.

9.3.5 While detailed construction designs were not available, the typical works anticipated in the construction of a solar PV site would be predicted to result in a low - medium adverse impact to the heritage significance of the archaeological features identified by geophysical survey. The presence, and therefore impact, to the heritage significance of any archaeological remains outside the surveyed area remains uncertain.

9.3.6 Having considered the potential for indirect impacts to heritage assets, in the form of settings effects, this report has identified the potential for a low adverse impact to the setting and heritage significance of Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead, through a change to the use and character of the associated farmland. Pen-cae'r-lan Farmstead is assessed to be a heritage asset of Low Significance, deriving from the historical, evidential, and setting value.

9.3.7 The anticipated heritage impacts from the proposals are considered by this report to be outweighed by the perceived benefits of providing a renewable energy source.

9.3.8 This report has no further recommendations regarding built heritage.

9.3.9 Regarding archaeology, it is recommended that relevant groundworks which would expose any archaeological remains be subject to archaeological watching brief, providing preservation by record.

9.3.10 A digital copy of this report will be submitted to Heneb: Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology HER.

9.3.11 All final decisions are the preserve of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

10. REFERENCES

Cartographic Sources

- People's Collection Wales, 2024. https://www.peoplescollection.wales/
- National Library of Scotland, 2024. Ordnance Survey maps and LIDAR. https://maps.nls.uk/
- The National Library of Wales, 2024. Tithe maps. https://places.library.wales/

Documentation & Online Sources

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/contents
- Archaeology Data Service, 2024. https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/
- Archwilio, 2024. https://archwilio.org.uk/wp/
- British Geological Survey, 2024. Geology of Britain viewer https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/
- Cadw, 2007. Guide to Good Practice on using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-assets/conservation-areas-and-other-historic-assets/other-historic-assets-0
- Cadw, 2011. Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-assets/conservation-principles
- Cadw, 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/placemaking/heritage-impact-assessment/heritage-impact-assessment
- Cadw, 2017. Setting of Historic Assets in Wales. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/placemaking/heritage-impact-assessment/setting-historic-assets
- Cadw, 2017. Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-assets/listed-buildings/managing-change-to-listed-buildings
- Cadw, 2024. Records of Designated Historic Assets. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru/search-cadw-records
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GBuildings_3.pdf

- Heneb, 2024. Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Heneb Historic Environment Record (HER). Supplied to AB Heritage by Heneb.
- Institute for Archaeologists Wales/Cymru, 2008. A Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales. https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/index.html
- National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2019. Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention And Disposal Guidelines For Wales. https://museumsfederation.cymru/resource-type/collections/
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, 2016. Local Development Plan (2011-2026). https://beta.npt.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/adopted-ldp-2011-2026/
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, 2019. The Historic Environment: Supplementary Planning Guidance. https://beta.npt.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/supplementary-guidance/
- Rackham, O., 2000. The History of the Countryside. Phoenix Press: London.
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, 2024. Coflein: online catalogue of archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage in Wales. https://coflein.gov.uk/en/
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, 2024. Historic Wales, 2024. www.historicwales.gov.uk
- Spratling, M. G, & Davies, J. L., 1976. The Seven Sisters hoard W Glamorgan: a centenary study. In Lewis, J. M., and Boon, G. C., (eds.), Welsh Antiquity. Abstract available via Archaeology Data Service.
- TerraDat, 2023. Geophysical Survey Report: Archaeological Magnetic Gradiometry Survey, Pen Caer Lan Farm, Seven Sisters. Unpublished report provided by client.
- Welsh Coal Mines, 2024. Summary of Seven Sisters colliery. https://www.welshcoalmines.co.uk/
- Welsh Government, 2017. Technical advice note (TAN) 24: the historic environment. https://www.gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-24-historic-environment
- Welsh Government, 2023. Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-environment-wales-act-2023
- Welsh Government, 2024. Planning Policy Wales. https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

Appendices

Appendix 1 Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteer

This gazetteer incorporates relevant archaeological, heritage and historic environment assets identified during a search of sources listed in Table 1 within 3km of the site.

Abbreviations and Reference Number notes

SM – Scheduled Monument GII LB – Grade II Listed Building LLB – Locally Listed Building

'02223w': HER Monument UID and suffix BR / GM: Cadw Scheduled Monument Prefix

AB No.	Period	Description	Status	NGR	Ref. No.
1	Prehistoric	Tynewydd Farm: Findspot of polished Neolithic stone axe	-	SN826097	02223w
2	Prehistoric	Oval crop mark, Hengaer: 'Gaer' in the local farm name implies the former existence of a defence/fort of some kind.	-	SN80250815	01110w
3	Prehistoric	Henllan SW: Bronze Age round barrow, plough damaged.	-	SN7969007440	00498w;
4	Prehistoric	Mynydd Drum 1: One of a group of 3 cairns, a circular mound, robbed.	-	SN8072109756	00535w
5	Prehistoric	Mynydd Drum 2: One of a group of 3 cairns, an oval mound, probably through disturbance, robbed. Central and best preserved of 3.	-	SN8089309885	00536w
6	Prehistoric	Mynydd Drum 3: One of a group of 3 cairns, a circular mound much disturbed.	-	SN8105910008	00537w
7	Prehistoric	Possible hut circle identified on aerial photography during production of this assessment	-	SN 81592 10094	-
8	Prehistoric	Bryn Llechwen ring cairn: Well-preserved ring cairn at the ENE end of a prominent plateau with wide views all around; robbed	SM	SN 81526 10344	BR327
9	Prehistoric	Onllwyn hut on Hirfynydd. Single hut circle.	-	SN81460641	00544w
10	Prehistoric	Coed Ddu ring cairn: Probable Bronze Age ring cairn with views to W/NW	SM	SN8073006287	00529w; GM592
11	Prehistoric	Crynant cairn Cornel: Possible site of round cairn, destroyed / obscured by afforestation	-	SN81350621	00550w
12	Prehistoric	Carn Cornel: Larger of a pair of cairns, robbed and altered to create a shelter	SM	SN8168006290	00533w; GM275
13	Prehistoric	Carn Cornel NE: Smaller of a pair of cairns, robbed with ruined cist at centre	SM	SN8170506296	00534w; GM275
14	Prehistoric	Onllwyn Carn Cornel SW: Location of robbed circular cairn, now obscured by afforestation	-	SN81600619	00532w

AB No.	Period	Description	Status	NGR	Ref. No.
15	Prehistoric	Gellibenuchel NE 1: Larger of a pair of cairns, robbed, but enlarged by stones from field clearance	-	SN8115605922	00530w
16	Prehistoric	Gellibenuchel NE 2: Smaller of a pair of cairns, robbed, but enlarged by stones from field clearance	-	SN8121305900	00531w
17	Prehistoric	Gellibenuchel: Possible cairn.	-	SN8105205855	00539w
18	Prehistoric	Onllwyn Cairn Hirfynydd: Possible disturbed cairn / cist or setting of former upright stone, which might make it an early Christian site	-	SN82290582	00538w
19	Prehistoric / Medieval	Circular stone enclosure NE of Coed.	-	SN80720627	00548w
20	Roman	Hoard of bronze objects recovered c. 1875, most of IA type but some of c. 1st century AD Roman type	-	SN 820073	00543w
21	Roman	Course of Roman Road, Sarn Helen, survives as partial vehicle trackway. Geophysical survey suggests in some places a cobbled surface survives below-ground.	-	SN8160204443	03738w; E002674
22	Roman	Possible Roman signal station on the Hirfynydd ridge	SM	SN82840663	00541w; GM274
23	Medieval	Coed Ddu house platforms and enclosure: Building platform within large bank and ditch enclosure; second adjacent building platform outside enclosure. Suggested as monastic grange of Crynant.	SM	SN80570632	00545w, 00546w; GM593
24	Medieval	Fforch-dwm: Rounded platform, possible house platform	-	SN81700976	04732w
25	Medieval	Crynant Chapel of Ease: Crynant is first mentioned in 1294 as a grange of Neath Abbey. After the Reformation, the grange chapel became a chapel-of-ease to the parish of Cadoxton-juxta-Neath.	GII LB	SN79420477	00501w; Cadw 82547
26	Post-Medieval - Modern	Pen-caer'-Ian Farmstead: Potential historic farmstead identified as part of GGAT and Cadw's Historic Farmsteads project. Appears to be shown on 1799 Yates' map of Glamorganshire.	-	SN 80378 08617	09540w
27	Post-Medieval - Modern	Henllan Uchaf: Post-medieval house. Appears to be shown on 1799 Yates' map of Glamorganshire.	-	SN80070772	01855w
28	Post-Medieval - Modern	Henllan-Isaf: Post-Medieval house. Appears to be shown on 1799 Yates' map of Glamorganshire.	-	SN80110764	01854w
29	Post-Medieval - Modern	Ynys-forch Fawr Farmstead: Potential historic farmstead identified as part of GGAT and Cadw's Historic Farmsteads project. Appears to be shown on 1799 Yates' map of Glamorganshire.	-	SN 80257 07119	09577w
30	Post-Medieval - Modern	Ty-n-y-wern Farmstead: Potential historic farmstead identified as part of GGAT and Cadw's Historic Farmsteads project. Appears to be shown on 1799 Yates' map of Glamorganshire.	-	SN 79926 06856	09578w

AB No.	Period	Description	Status	NGR	Ref. No.
31	Modern	Claypon's tramroad, Ystradgynlais: Tramroad constructed c. 1832 linking Brecon Forest Tramroad to Ynyscedwyn Ironworks	SM	SN790097	00716w; GM399
32	Modern	Bryndulais Public House, Seven Sisters: Early 20th century.	LLB	SN8169708837	09324w; LPA ref: SEV008
33	Modern	United Methodist Church and Schoolroom, Glyncorrwg: Large church of traditional design with pre-1898 mission church to the rear.	LLB	SN8180809017	09135w; LPA ref: SEV007
34	Modern	Brick Row, Seven Sisters: Terrace of altered 19th century miners' cottages	LLB	SN8195608988	09319w; LPA ref: SEV004
35	Modern	19th century iron railway footbridge, Winding wheels and single dram truck associated with Seven Sisters colliery and railway station, formerly on adjacent land.	LLB	SN8203108978	09320w; LPA ref: SEV009
36	Modern	War Memorial of 1921 of white marble soldier on granite plinth, said to have been designed by a local man and similar to examples by E. Jones of Llanybydder found across S and W Wales.	GII LB	SN 81878 09046	Cadw 82050
37	Modern	Gwaun-iarll Farmstead: Potential historic farmstead identified as part of GGAT and Cadw's Historic Farmsteads project. On 1841 tithe map but not Yates' map of 1799.	-	SN 81113 08340	09541w
38	Modern	Ynys-dauly Farmstead: Potential historic farmstead identified as part of GGAT and Cadw's Historic Farmsteads project	-	SN 81250 08298	09542w
39	Modern	Bryn-dulais Farmstead: Potential historic farmstead identified as part of GGAT and Cadw's Historic Farmsteads project. Includes a Grade II Listed circular pigsty.	GII LB	SN 81470 08866	09543w; Cadw 82048
40	Modern	Ynys-forch Fach Barn: Potential historic farmstead identified as part of GGAT and Cadw's Historic Farmsteads project. Present on 1841 tithe map.	-	SN 80523 07341	09579w
41	Modern	Nant-y-cafn Uchaf Farmstead: Potential historic farmstead identified as part of GGAT and Cadw's Historic Farmsteads project	-	SN 81343 07563	09580w
42	Modern	Dillwyn Colliery: Depicted on 1913 OS map, marked as disused by 1948 OS map. Coal workings marked to the north.	-	SN8026107254	07631w
43	Modern	Nant-y-cafn Uchaf Isaf: Potential historic farmstead identified as part of GGAT and Cadw's Historic Farmsteads project	-	SN 81439 07335	09581w

Appendix 2 Approved Written Scheme of Investigation

Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters

Written Scheme of Investigation for Historic Environment DBA

Client: GREENTECH INVEST UK (8) LIMITED

AB Heritage Project No: 62813

Date: 18/02/2025

Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters

Written Scheme of Investigation for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

Client	**Greentech Invest UK (8) Limited**
Project Number	**62813**
Prepared By	**Paul Cooke**
Illustrated By	**Pighill Illustrations**
Approved By	**Daniel Dodds & Andy Buckley**

Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
1.0	DRAFT	PKC	DD	25/04/2024
1.1	FINAL	PKC	AB	18/02/2025

This document has been prepared in accordance with AB Heritage standard operating procedures. It remains confidential and the copyright of AB Heritage Limited. Any unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person other than the addressee is strictly prohibited.

Enquiries To:

AB Heritage Limited, North Office (Head Office)

102 Beach Road, South Shields

Tyne and Wear, NE33 2NE

Email: info@abheritage.co.uk

Tel: 03333 440 206

CONTENTS

1.1 Project Background 4
1.2 Site Location & Description 4
1.3 Geology & Topography 5
2. Aims & Methodology 6
2.1 Aims 6
2.2 Methodology 6
3. The Report and Archive 10
3.1 Report 10
3.2 Archiving 10
4. References 11

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AB Heritage Limited has been commissioned by Greentech Invest UK (8) Limited to produce a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) covering proposed works on land at Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters, Neath Port Talbot, Wales, SA10 9ER.

1.1.2 The client seeks to redevelop the site to provide a photovoltaic (PV) solar array, with associated access and services. This assessment will be an element in a forthcoming formal pre-application consultation.

1.1.3 The site is not covered by any heritage designations, although Pen-cae'r-lan Farm is recorded as an historic farmstead within the Gwent and Glamorgan Trust Historic Environment Record (HER).

1.1.4 This document has been produced to outline the scope and methodology for the assessment. It was requested during consultation with Rob Dunning, Archaeological Planning Officer at Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT).

1.2 Site Location & Description

1.2.1 The site is in the Dulais Valley and immediately east of Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters, Neath, Wales, SA10 9ER (Figure 1). The main photovoltaic solar array site will be at the north end of the proposal site, in farmland (rough pasture) covering an area of approximately c. 33 hectares (solid red outline, Plate 1). There will also be a new access track laid out leading south from the site and linking with an existing track which connects to the A4109 (Plate 1).

Plate 1: Aerial photograph of proposal site (Google Maps, 2024)

1.2.2 The nearest settlement is Seven Sisters, the centre of which is located c. 1km north-east of site. Ribbon development follows the A4109 south out of the settlement, running to within c. 220m east of site.

1.3 Geology & Topography

1.3.1 The underlying solid geology for the site is recorded as mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the South Wales Middle Coal Measures Formation. Overlying superficial deposits of glacial till are recorded across much of the site. Peat is also recorded c. 240m north-east of the site boundary (British Geological Survey, 2024).

1.3.2 The site lies on a broad, east facing slope, sloping down from c. 200m Ordnance Datum in the north-west to c. 150m Ordnance Datum along the east.

2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The HEDBA will clarify the known and potential cultural heritage resource within the proposal area, determining the likely effect of the proposed development on such a resource. In areas where the archaeological resource cannot be determined using current information it will indicate recommendations for further investigation.

2.1.2 The HEDBA will assist in informing the Planning Archaeologist's decision-making process about the effect of the application on the cultural heritage resource when the planning application is submitted.

2.1.3 The aims of the HEDBA proposed in this Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) are to:

- Elucidate and describe the character, distribution, extent and importance of any known cultural heritage assets that may be present within the site.
- Determine the likely impacts the proposed development will have on any identified cultural heritage assets.
- Provide clear recommendations for further investigation or mitigation on known impacted cultural heritage assets.
- Where impacts or potential is unclear, provide clear recommendations for further investigation or mitigation work that will best support protection or recording of the cultural heritage resource.

2.2 Methodology

Scope of Works

2.2.1 The aims of the HEDBA will be achieved through progression of the following objectives:

- Collection of all readily available information on the cultural heritage resource within the site boundary and a study area of up to 3km from the site boundary.
- A Site Walkover to understand key cultural heritage issues on the site, identifying any previously unrecorded features and areas of past impact.
- A wider appreciation of the site and its environs. This will inform the Planning Archaeologist of the prevailing local patterns of archaeological land-use. This archaeological understanding of the wider area might highlight any shortcomings in the readily available archaeological sources and indicate areas that might benefit from a renewed focus of investigation.
- A determination of the significance of identified sites subject to potential impact by the proposed development (see below).
- A determination for the requirement for further investigation of the identified impacted heritage assets.

- Preparation of a fully illustrated report detailing the results of the above points.

2.2.2 All works will be carried out in line with the most up to date guidance available, including:

- *Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2020).
- *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales* (Cadw, 2011).
- *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).
- *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).
- *Managing Change to Listed Buildings in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).
- *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (*Welsh Government, 2017*)*

Data Collection

2.2.3 The DBA will comprise the collection of all readily available documentary sources that are relevant to the study area. Below is a list of the sources to be consulted:

- GGAT Historic Environment Record.
- Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments held by CADW.
- Cartographic data, including all readily available editions of OS, Tithe and Apportionment maps, Estate Maps and County Maps.
- Documentary sources, including relevant manorial and estate papers, contemporary published accounts (e.g. travel guides, agricultural surveys), antiquarian histories, placename and written surveys relevant to the site at the West Glamorgan Archives.
- Aerial Photographs and LiDAR held by any relevant repositories, including West Glamorgan Archives, Historic Wales, etc.
- Geo-Technical reports, where available and relevant.
- Any relevant landscape or settlement surveys, including Historic Landscape Character Assessments, etc.
- A detailed site visit including walkover. This will cover all aspects of the site from topography, land-use and condition, which may have a bearing on the understanding of the potential for buried archaeological remains or settings impacts.

2.2.4 Where such sources are not consulted, or are missing or incomplete, the fact will be noted in the HEDBA.

Assessment of Cultural Heritage Resource

2.2.5 In relation to buried archaeological remains, where there is a potential for encountering a particular resource within the proposed development site this will be assessed according to the following scale:

- No Potential - Clear evidence of past impacts / site sterilisation.
- Low - Very unlikely to be encountered on site.
- Medium - Features may occur / be encountered on site.
- High - Remains almost certain to survive on site.

Assessment of Archaeological Significance

2.2.1 Assessment of the heritage significance of an asset is judged upon various factors, including any existing designation, plus information on any relevant architectural, archaeological, or historical factors. Considering these criteria, each identified feature is assigned a level of significance in accordance with a five-point scale (Table 1, below).

Table 1: Assessing the Significance of an Archaeological Asset

SCALE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE	
VERY HIGH	The highest status of site, e.g., Scheduled Monuments (or non-designated assets of schedulable quality and importance), or other designated / non-designated assets that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations. Receptors of known or likely clear national importance, including extremely well-preserved historic landscapes, whether inscribed or not, with exceptional coherence, time depth, or other critical factors.
HIGH	Other designated / non-designated archaeological sites or assets with strong and coherent survival of key factors, such as extent / condition / context associations, providing clear evidence of occupation / settlement, ritual, industrial activity, etc. Examples may include archaeological remains that contribute significantly to research priorities, burial sites, deserted medieval villages, Roman roads, dense finds scatters, etc.
MEDIUM	Evidence of human activity that retains clear archaeological value, albeit with lesser coherence and / or merit than listed above. Such features will have the potential to contribute to research objectives and may include more ephemeral and / or degraded settlement activity to that listed above, defined historic field systems, finds scatters more dispersed in nature, or deposits with the potential for the recovery of meaningful environmental data.
LOW	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest. Examples include destroyed antiquities, structures of almost no architectural / historic merit, buildings of an intrusive character or relatively modern / common landscape features such as quarries, drains and ponds etc.
UNCERTAIN	Insufficient information exists to assess the importance of a feature (e.g. unidentified features on aerial photographs).

2.2.2 The significance of known assets is typically determined by reference to existing designations. **Where an asset's interest or value covers a range of the above possibilities or, for previously unidentified features, where no designation has yet been**

assigned, the significance of an asset is based on professional judgement. For example, while all nationally registered, Listed Buildings can range in scale and importance from a single milestone to the site of St Davids Cathedral. For this reason, adjustments are made on a case-by-case basis.

Assessment of Heritage Significance

2.2.3 Assessment of heritage significance is judged on various factors, including existing designation(s) and the perceived heritage interests or values of a feature and / or its setting in-line with criteria set out by Cadw in *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales* (2011)

2.2.4 As a result, this report will assess significance against **Evidential**, **Historical**, **Aesthetic**, **Communal** and **Setting** values. Each relevant category discussed will result in an overall level of significance being defined for the feature, in accordance with a five-point scale comprising Very High, High, Medium, Low and Uncertain.

Combined Impact Assessment

2.2.5 The degree of impact upon the heritage resource is determined based on professional judgement as to the level of effect from a proposed development on the baseline conditions of the site and the cultural heritage resource identified. The criteria for assessing the level of impact will be expressed against a five-point scale comprising Very High, High, Medium, Low and Uncertain.

2.2.6 Overall, the degree of change will be assessed in terms of harm or benefit to heritage significance, and, where appropriate, against relevant local planning policy.

3. THE REPORT AND ARCHIVE

3.1 Report

3.1.1 The product of the data collection and site visit will be presented as a fully illustrated HEDBA. This report will fully represent all of the work undertaken, even where evidence has been shown to be negative in nature.

3.1.2 The report will as a minimum contain:

- An Executive Summary outlining the background and results of the project.
- A description of the site topography, geology and current land use.
- A plan showing the site location.
- A plan showing the study area and cultural heritage features.
- A written, chronological description of potentially impacted sites accompanied where possible with images that best illustrate the item.
- Copies of all relevant maps where referred to in the report, where copyright permits.
- Any areas of known truncation not shown on maps.
- Copies of any relevant photographs, drawings, or engravings, where copyright permits.
- Clear and unambiguous recommendations for the requirement for further archaeological investigations or mitigation measures.
- A detailed record of the author(s), the location and eventual destination of the paper and digital archive and the relevant statutory conditions adhered to for such storage.

3.2 Archiving

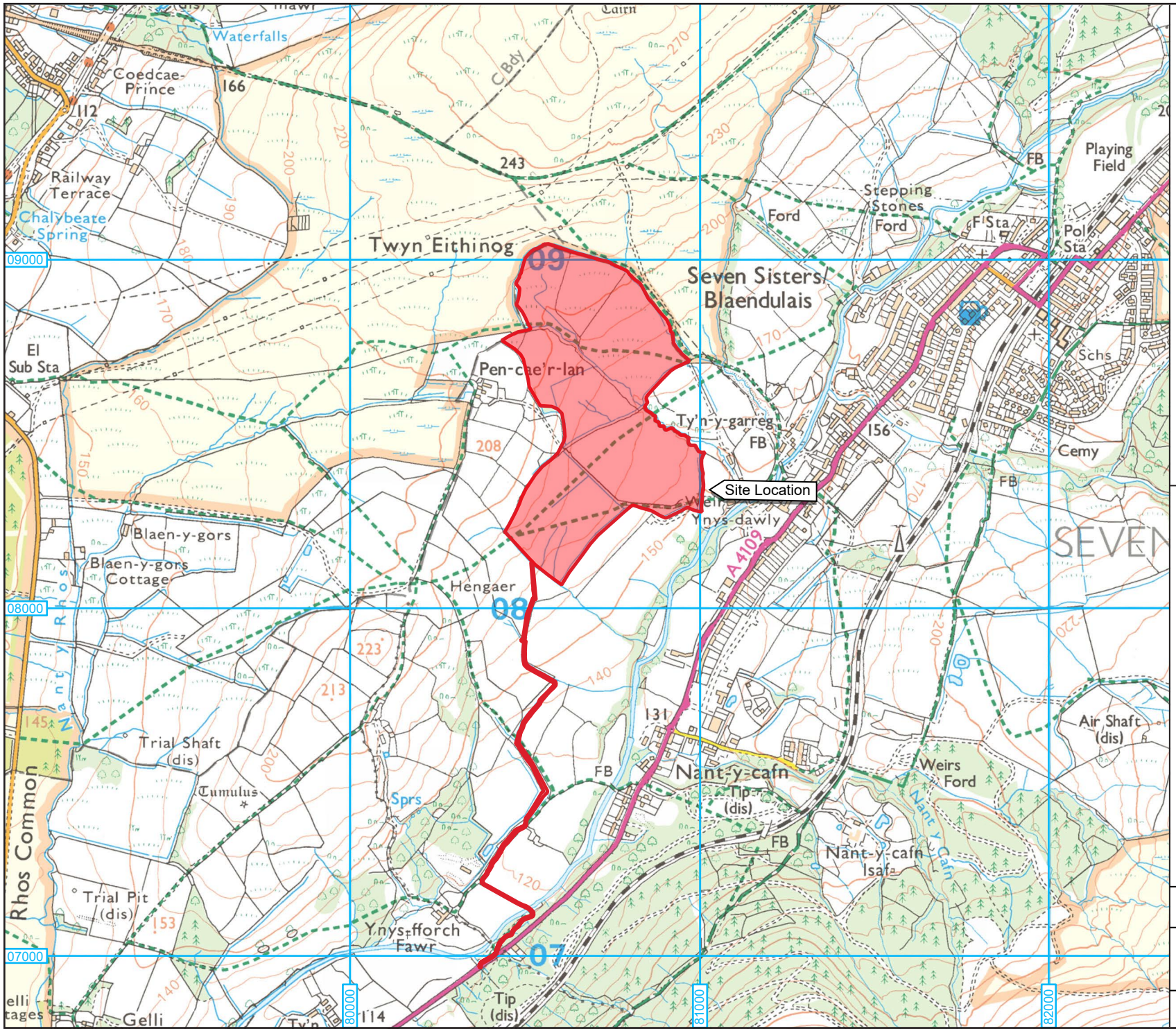
3.2.1 The *Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention And Disposal Guidelines For Wales* notes that, for desktop assessments/site visits, if no original material is produced then it is not necessary to produce an archive, and that where original material is produced (such as photographs, sketches etc.), then attaching data to the HER will be appropriate (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW), 2019).

3.2.2 Based on these guidelines, and the projected methodology, on completion of the project, a copy of the report will be submitted to GGAT to be incorporated within the HER. This will include a bilingual technical summary in accordance with the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2022).

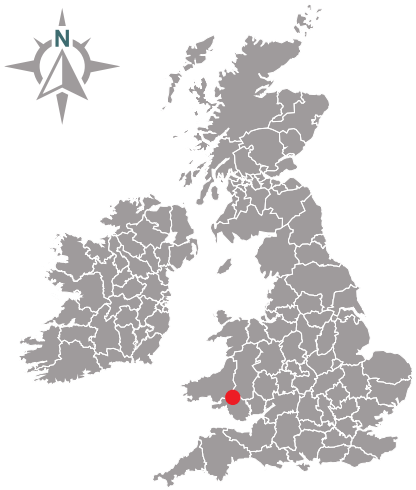
3.2.3 Should the works record any previously unidentified heritage assets, these will be recorded and registered with the GGAT in accordance with relevant guidance (The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2022).

4. REFERENCES

- British Geological Survey, 2024. Geology of Britain viewer https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/
- Cadw, 2011. Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-assets/conservation-principles
- Cadw, 2017. Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/placemaking/heritage-impact-assessment/heritage-impact-assessment
- Cadw, 2017. Setting of Historic Assets in Wales. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/placemaking/heritage-impact-assessment/setting-historic-assets
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CIfAS%26GDBA_4.pdf
- National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2019. Archaeological Archives: Selection, Retention And Disposal Guidelines For Wales. https://museumsfederation.cymru/resource-type/collections/
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, 2015. RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives. https://www.rcahmw.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/RCAHMW-Guidelines-for-Digital-Archives.pdf
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, 2024. Historic Wales, 2024. www.historicwales.gov.uk
- The Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2022. Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs). http://www.ggat.org.uk/her/her.html
- Welsh Government, 2017. Technical advice note (TAN) 24: the historic environment. https://www.gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-24-historic-environment
- Welsh Government, 2023. Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023. https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-environment-wales-act-2023
- Welsh Government, 2024. Planning Policy Wales. https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales



AB HERITAGE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY



KEY

- Site Location (inset)
- Site Boundary

0 750m
1:15,000

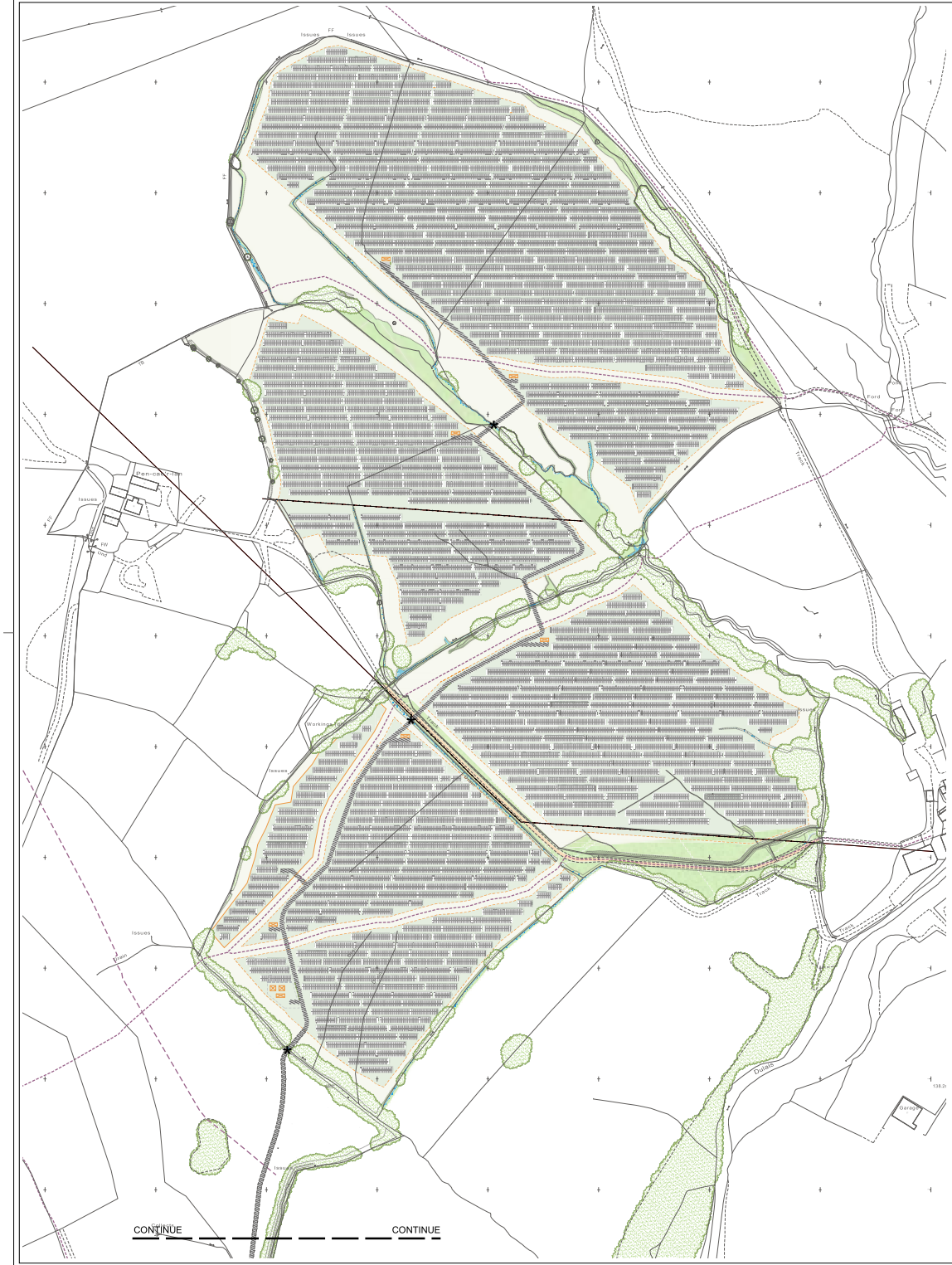
Figure 1: Site Location

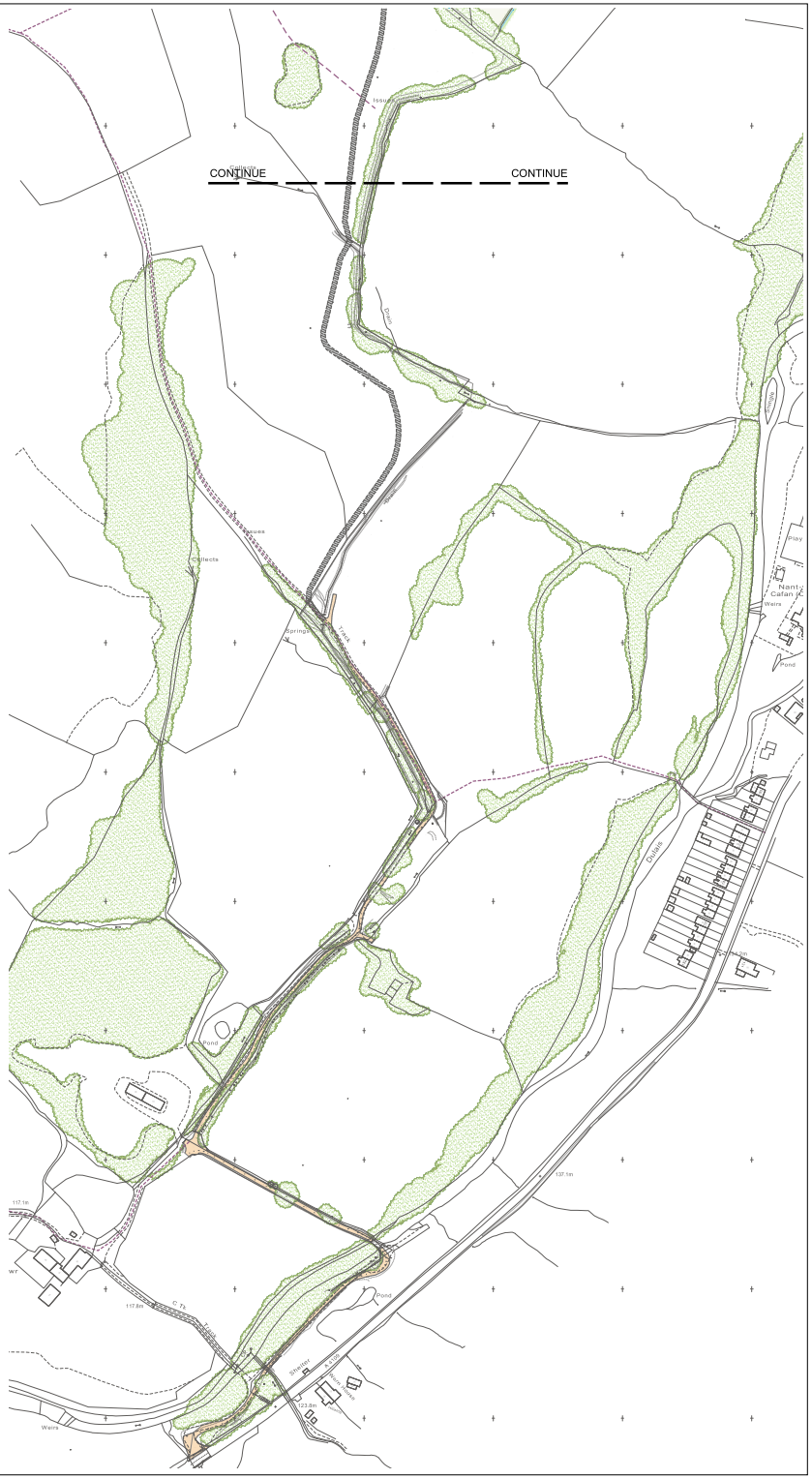
Project:
Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Blaendulais

Date: 13/11/23 | Job No: 62813

© Crown Copyright 2023. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100050237

Drawn by: Pighill





This drawing is copyright of Lighthouse Development Consulting based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller Crown Copyright Reserved O.S. LICENCE No. 0100031673. This plan is of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

Legend:

- Existing Vegetation Retained
- Overhead Power Lines
- Existing PRoW
- Existing Improved Grassland
- Existing Rough Grassland
- Existing Access Track
- Proposed Solar Panels
- Proposed Internal Access Track
- Proposed Perimeter Security Fence
- Proposed Sub-Station
- Proposed Temporary Bridge Crossing over watercourse
- Proposed Improved Grassland and Species Rich Grass Seed Mix (under arrays)
- Proposed Inverter Cabinets

Note:

Unless identified differently within the drawing, the proposed off-set distances have been applied:

- 5m between existing hedgerows and proposed fencelines or solar arrays;
- 5m between proposed fencelines and solar arrays;
- 5m between field drains and fencelines / solar arrays;
- 10m between main water courses (upper edge of embankment) and fencelines or solar arrays; and
- 15m between existing woodland and any element of the proposed development, noting distance is taken from base of identified feature and not the plotted canopy overhang.

Do not scale from this drawing unless for Planning purposes. Illustrated dimensions only are to be used.

All dimensions must be checked on site by the contractor prior to the commencement of any building works.

Where applicable, dimensions and details are to be read in conjunction with specialist consultants' drawings or available information, with any discrepancy between drawings brought to the attention of the project manager prior to the commencement of any fabrication or building works.

0m 40m 100m

1:2000

N

Rev:	Date:	Note:	By:
-	01/09/2024	FIRST ISSUE - Draft v0.1	ICS
-	14/10/2024	FIRST ISSUE - Draft v0.2	ICS
-	18/10/2024	FIRST ISSUE - Draft v0.3	ICS
-	29/10/2024	FIRST ISSUE - Draft v0.4	ICS

Pencaerlan Solar Project

lighthouse

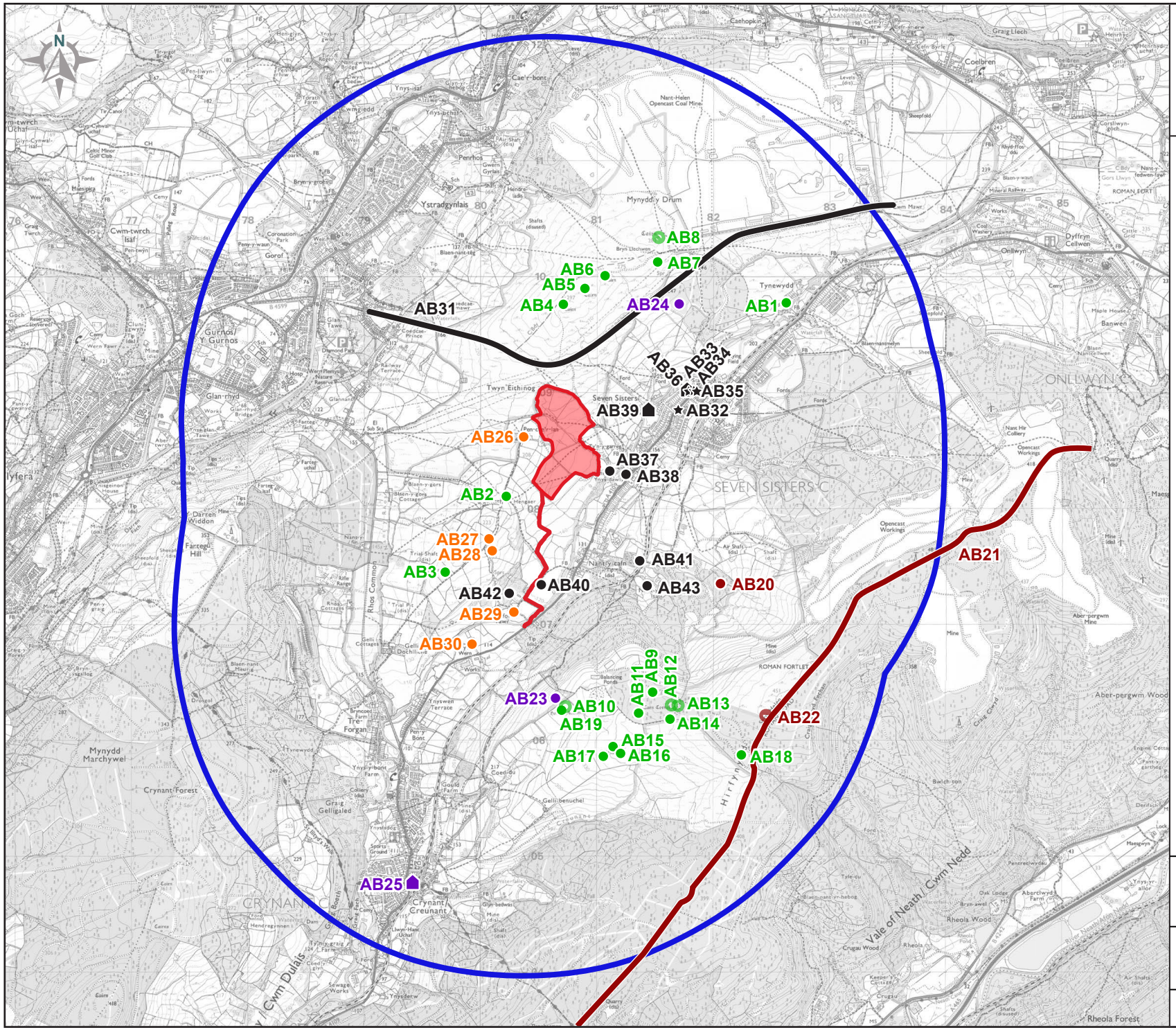
Web: https://www.lighthouse-dc.co.uk/

Site:
Pencaerlan

Drawing Title:
Site Block Plan - Proposed

Drawing No or Client Ref:	Revision:	Scale:
Figure 2	Draft v0.4	1:2,000 @ A1

Drawn:	Appr By:	Date:	CAD Ref:
ICS	NB	01.09.24	01-25-27 - 09X02 - Draft v0.4 - Fig 2 Site Block Plan



AB HERITAGE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY

KEY

- Site Boundary
- Search Area (3Km)
- Locally Listed Building
- Listed Building
- Scheduled Monument
- Archaeological Features (point)
- Archaeological Features (line)

PERIOD

- Prehistoric
- Roman
- Medieval
- Post Medieval
- Modern
- Undated

0 — 1km

1:45,000

Figure 3: Cultural Heritage Features Map

Project:
Pen-cae'r-lan Farm, Seven Sisters

Date: 16/04/24 | Job No: 62813

© Crown Copyright 2024. Ordnance Survey Licence Number 100050237

Drawn by: Pighill

AB Heritage Limited
North Office (Head Office)
102 Beach Road, South Shields
Tyne and Wear, NE33 2NE
Tel: 03333 440 206
e-mail: info@abheritage.co.uk