

CWL C, Bro Tathan

Heritage Statement

784-B034343 V1


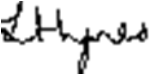





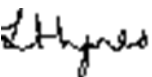


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1. Non-Technical Summary

This Heritage Statement has been prepared to support the consideration of this site for future development. This study examines the impact of any proposed development upon designated and non-designated assets and their setting, as well as that of the surrounding area. The site was found to contain potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains relating to all periods, given the known evidence for the application site and surrounding areas. Potential intervisibility between any proposed development and Picketston House, St Athan (81302), and with non-designated assets such as the St Athan Battle Headquarters (GGAT05774s) and the unlisted air-raid shelter at OSGB NGR SS 99994 69384 has been identified. A programme of archaeological mitigation has been advised, with any further archaeological work being undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidance from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed in advance with the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

Paratowyd yr Asesiad Effaith Treftadaeth hwn i gefnogi ystyried y safle hwn ar gyfer datblygiad yn y dyfodol. Mae'r astudiaeth hon yn archwilio effaith y datblygiad arfaethedig ar asedau dynodedig a heb eu dynodi a'u gosodiad, yn ogystal â'r ardal gyfagos. Canfuwyd bod y safle yn cynnwys potensial ar gyfer olion archeolegol yn ymwneud â phob cyfnod nas cofnodwyd o'r blaen, o ystyried y dystiolaeth hysbys ar gyfer safle'r cais a'r ardaloedd cyfagos. Mae rhyngweledd rhwng y datblygiad arfaethedig a Picketston House, Sain Tathan (81302), a chydag asedau heb eu dynodi megis Pencadlys Brwydr Sain Tathan (GGAT05774s) a'r lloches cyrch awyr anrhestredig yn OSGB NGR SS 99994 69384 wedi'i nodi. Cyngorwyd rhaglen o liniaru archeolegol, gydag unrhyw waith archeolegol pellach yn cael ei wneud yn unol â safonau a chanllawiau Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archeolegwyr, a Chynllun Ymchwilio Ysgrifenedig y cytunwyd arno ymlaen llaw gydag Ymddiriedolaeth Archeolegol Morgannwg-Gwent.

2. Introduction

This Heritage Statement has been prepared by Dr Paul Tubb, Senior Heritage Consultant, Tetra Tech to inform the consideration of this site for future development and to evaluate the impact of development upon designated and non-designated assets, as well as the impact upon the settings of the assets.

2.1 Aim and Objectives

This report has been prepared in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation and approved by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust. It has been prepared following Cadw guidance, Guidance for the Submission of Data to Welsh Historic Environment Record and RCAHMW digital archives and deposition, and in respect of the guidelines established by ClfA (2014) Standard and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessment (DBA):

This Heritage Statement (HS) will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent, and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. It will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the

Code of Conduct and other relevant regulations of ClfA (2014, 2017). The HIA will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so) and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept effects of the proposed development.

This study examines the cultural heritage potential of the proposed development site and the surrounding area. The aim of the study is to:

- Identify recorded cultural heritage sites within the site boundary and located nearby with settings and significance affected by the proposal;
- Identify potential impacts, whether directly or indirectly on cultural heritage sites within the site boundary and located nearby;
- Identify mitigation strategies where appropriate; and,
- Make recommendations for further work where required.

Cultural heritage within this context includes all buried and upstanding archaeological remains, built heritage sites, historic landscapes and any other features that contribute to the archaeological and historic interest of the area. Designated and non-designated historic assets have been considered. This baseline assessment considers the heritage potential within the site itself, the surrounding area and wider local and regional context. In terms of its archaeological content, this assessment does not attempt to plot and review every archaeological find and monument; rather, it aims to examine the distribution of evidence and to use this to predict the archaeological potential of the study area and the likely impacts of the development proposals on those remains.

3. Site Location and Conditions

The application site is located to the north of the Northern Access Road within Picketston. The site is 14 hectares and centred on grid reference SS 99888 69467 and is characterised by rough pasture and scrub. Altitude ranges from approximately 42m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 47m aOD. The village of Picketston, after which the site is named, is located less than a kilometre to the east. A site location plan can be seen in Appendix A.

The site is an irregular polygon in plan. A site access road forms the eastern boundary of the proposed development area, onto which the South Wales Aviation Museum and other associated buildings face. This road provides the only access into the site. The site is bounded to the south by the Northern Access Road, with Bro Tathan airfield, the Aston-Martin Lagonda factory and Eglwys-Brewis, situated to the south of the road. A buffer strip of approximately 75m width lies between the road and the southern boundary of the proposed development (see site location plan). This buffer strip includes mature coniferous trees, and a steel

aircraft-like structure used for fire training. The irregular northern boundaries are formed by mature hedges, while the western boundary is formed by a hedged and ditched field boundary. The site is characterised by a mixture of grassland, scrub, and trees, with some tracks that survive from the former use of the site as an airfield.

The geology of the application site comprises of Porthkerry Member, Limestone and Mudstone, Interbedded, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 191 to 201 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. It is noted that the local environment was previously dominated by shallow lime-mud seas (NERC, 2020). The application sites consist of freely draining slightly acid but base-rich soils (Soilscape 7) (Cranfield University, 2020).

4. Methodology

An impact assessment has been carried out through the consideration of baseline conditions in relation to the elements of the scheme that could cause heritage impacts. Baseline conditions are defined as the existing environmental conditions and in applicable cases, the conditions that would develop in the future without the scheme. In accordance with best practice, this report assumes that the scheme will be constructed, although the use of the word 'will' in the text should not be taken to mean that implementation of the scheme is certain.

The HS has been undertaken in line with the guidelines established by ClfA (2014). Tetra Tech has developed its own heritage evaluation and assessment method using a combination of the Welsh Government's criteria for scheduling monuments (Cadw, What is Scheduling, Annex 1), Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Part 3, Section 2, HA 208/07 and Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG Unit 3.3.9, Heritage of Historic Resources Sub-Objective). Professional judgment is used in conjunction with these criteria to undertake the impact assessment. Assessment of significance will also be assessed using the principles outlined in Cadw's 2011 Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales, in particular, the four heritage values and how they contribute to significance. The full assessment methodology is included as Appendix B.

4.1 Sources Consulted

A study area of 1km around the application site has been examined to assess the nature of the surrounding cultural heritage sites and place the recorded assets within their local context. This study area was defined in consultation with the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record. This study has taken into consideration the historical and archaeological background of the area. The sources consulted were:

- Glamorgan-Gwent Historic Environment Record;
- Cadw for designated sites;

- Archwilio for designated and non-designated heritage assets;
- Aerial photographs – the Central Registry for Aerial Photography Wales (CRAPW), Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (Coflein), and the Welsh Government’s Aerial Photography Unit, online, alongside Google Earth;
- Historic mapping including Tithe maps and early Ordnance Survey; and,
- Secondary research including, previously completed archaeological reports for the surrounding area, regional research frameworks and grey literature and journal articles, as appropriate.

The site has previously been the subject of Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments for the whole of the Bro Tathan site (WYG A090395-2, May 2020) and the proposed BV GIGA plant that included the current proposed development site at Picketston site (WYG A090395-28-1, December 2020). A further Desk-Based Assessment for this specific site was completed for CWL C, Bro Tathan (784-B034704) in February 2022. Comprehensive site visits were undertaken for both of these initial assessments. In addition, a site walkover survey was undertaken on 1st April 2021 at the adjacent Y Porth site by Dr. Paul Tubb, Senior Heritage Consultant, Tetra Tech to assess the site for potential features of archaeological or historic interest, and suitability for mitigation measures. Dr Tubb also undertook additional site visits to Bro Tathan Y Porth on 23rd January 2023 and 9th February 2023.

This Heritage Statement should be read in conjunction with the Desk-Based Assessment for the same site, prepared by Tetra Tech in 2022 (Project reference: 784-B034704).

5. Planning Policy Context

5.1 National Legislation and Guidance

5.1.1 Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Scheduled Monuments are designated by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of Historic England as selective examples of nationally important archaeological remains. Under the terms of Part 1 Section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 it is an offence to damage, disturb or alter a Scheduled Monument either above or below ground without first obtaining permission from the Secretary of State. This Act does not allow for the protection of the setting of Scheduled Monuments.

5.1.2 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

The Act outlines the provisions for designation, control of works and enforcement measures relating to Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. Section 66 of the Act states that the planning authority must have special regard to the desirability of preserving the setting of any Listed Building that may be affected by the grant of planning permission. Section 72 states that special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of Conservation Areas.

5.1.3 Historic Environment (Wales) Act, 2016

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act, 2016 amends aspects of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) and Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 strengthening the protection for Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings and streamlining the consent process. Further changes within the Act will require either supplementary regulations or non-legislative preparations and these will be commenced and come into force by order of Welsh Ministers at an appropriate time. The further changes include a statutory register of parks and gardens, a statutory list of Welsh place names, and Heritage Partnership Agreements, amongst other measures.

5.1.4 Planning Policy Wales, 2021

Planning Policy Wales sets out the Welsh Government's land use planning policies. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation.

Chapter 6, 'Distinctive and Natural Places', explains how planning system must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. It also sets out the planning policies for the sustainable management of specific categories of historic assets.

5.1.5 Technical Advice Note 24- Historic Environment, 2017

The Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN 24) provides guidance on how the planning system should consider the historic environment during both the preparation of development plans and decision-making for listed building consent application and planning application affecting the historic environment, including World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Archaeological remains, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens, Historic Landscapes and Historic Assets of special local interest.

The TAN states that a heritage impact statement must form part of any listed building consent and conservation area consent, whilst Design and Access Statements may be required for planning applications which could have an impact on historic assets. It also states that for any development within the setting of a historic asset, some of the factors to consider and weigh in the assessment include:

- the significance of the asset and the contribution the setting makes to that significance;
- the prominence of the historic asset;
- the expected lifespan of the proposed development;
- the extent of tree cover and its likely longevity; and

- non-visual factors affecting the setting of the historic asset such as noise.

5.2 Local Policy and Guidance

5.2.1 The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (adopted 2017)

The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (2011-2016) was adopted on the 28th June 2017. Policy MD8 as associated with the historic environment. Policy SP10 is associated with the built and natural environment; including historic landscapes, parks and gardens.

- Policy MD8: Development proposals must protect the qualities of the built and historic environment of the Vale of Glamorgan, specifically:
 1. Within conservation areas, development proposals must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area;
 2. For listed and locally listed buildings, development proposals must preserve or enhance the building, its setting and any features of significance it possesses.
 3. Within designated landscapes, historic parks and gardens, and battlefields, development proposals must respect the special historic character and quality of these areas, their settings or historic views or vistas;
 4. For sites of archaeological interest, development proposals must preserve or enhance archaeological remains and where appropriate their settings.
- Policy SP10: Development proposals must preserve and where appropriate enhance the rich and diverse built and natural environment and heritage of the Vale of Glamorgan including:
 1. The architectural and / or historic qualities of buildings or conservation areas, including locally listed buildings;
 2. Historic landscapes, parks and gardens;
 3. Special landscape areas;
 4. The Glamorgan Heritage Coast;
 5. Sites designated for their local, national, and European nature conservation importance; and Important archaeological and geological features.

The full details of the above policies can be found in Appendix D

6. Historic Environment Resource

6.1 Designated Assets

A study area of 1km around the application site has been examined to assess the nature of the surrounding cultural heritage sites and place the recorded sites within their context. There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Monuments, or Conservation Areas within the study area. There are four Listed Buildings within the study area. Details of the designated heritage assets can be seen in Appendix E and their locations are shown on Figure 2. Bracketed numbers within the text refer to the identifiers within the table and on Figure 2 in Appendix E.

There is one Grade II* Listed Building, the Church of St. Brise (13142) located 0.55km south-east of the site. This is of probable c1200 origin and built of local lias limestone with Welsh stone slate roofs. The building includes later additions of a porch and new windows, dating to the early 16th century. The building has a pointed arch priest's door, with another Tudor window on the south wall. The interior includes a simple whitewashed nave and chancel with collar beam roofs strengthened with scarf repairs and replacement timber. The interior also includes a Norman tub front with a rope mould, a fresco painting of William and Mary Royal Arms.

Grade II Listed Picketston House (81302) is the only designated asset within the study area that is likely to be impacted by the proposed development. The identified potential is due to its proximity to the proposed development.

The remaining designated assets are all Grade II; Bethesda'r Fro Chapel with attached mounting block (13242), built of cream washed local rubblestone walls with dressed quoins dating to the early to mid-19th century, located 0.30km north-east of the site; the Tudor Gothic style c1840 house of Picketston (81302), located 0.42km south-west of the application site and is displayed on the Tithe map of 1843; and the Forecourt and Graveyard Gates, Gate piers and Walls of Bethesda'r Fro Chapel (83388), a limestone rubble wall with two gate piers dating from c1840, and appears on the 1840 Tithe map with no building within the walls, situated 0.4km south-west of the application site.

6.2 Non-Designated Assets

The Glamorgan-Gwent Historic Environment Record for holds details for thirteen recorded archaeological monuments and findspots (excluding designated assets), as well as four non-designated buildings and farms, and thirteen archaeological events, within the 1km study area. The details of these sites can be seen in Appendix E and on Figures 3 and 4. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a list of locally listed assets, referred to as 'County Treasures', the study area overlaps two localities; Llanmaes and St Athan, with Picketston House located in the former area.

A single non-designated asset is recorded as lying within the proposed application site at OSGB NGR SS 996 694: a Pill Box (GGAT02041s), which has group value when considered in its association to St Athan Battle Headquarters Bunker (GGAT05774s) and two further pillboxes recorded approximately 300m to the east. Both the Pill Box (GGAT02041s), the Battle Headquarters, and other pillboxes, have significance in that they relate to the function of the wider St Athan site and its importance as a Second World War RAF station. A number of assets are also located within close proximity of the application site, including Picketston House (81302). The three aforementioned assets and their settings will be the primary focus of the Heritage Statement due to their proximity to the proposed development site.

Archaeological evaluation in the surrounding area of the site uncovered two prehistoric ring ditches on land off Cowbridge Road, St Athan (E005676), as well as geophysical survey which revealed possible ring ditches, field systems and pits around the same area (E005677). An Iron Age/Roman rural settlement was discovered at RAF St Athan (43010) as part of the Rural Settlement of Roman Britain Project (E005431). Excavations by Cotswold Archaeology revealed evidence of roundhouses, several four-post, and two-post structures, corn-driers, and two inhumation burials (E005345; (Archaeology Data Service, 2015). Further evaluation revealed evidence of a medieval ditch and two possible burials, as well as a cremation dating between the 18th and 19th century and garden features from the same period (E004688).

7. Assessment of Significance

7.1 The Application Site

The application site includes a number of fields, with evidence of trackways relating to the historic function of the site as an RAF base. There is a single asset recorded as being located within the proposed application site; a Pill Box (GGAT02041s) dating to the Modern period. However, recent inspection of the location of GGAT02041s has shown that the structure was destroyed at some point in the past 25 years or so.

A number of assets are also located within close proximity of the application site.

- Bro Tathan Battle Headquarters (GGAT05774s) located 350m east of the application site;
- St Brise's / St Brewis' Church (GGAT00481s) and its associated churchyard (GGAT03730s), as well as possible grave cuts (GGAT05127s) and the findspot of a medieval coin hoard located 800m to the south-east of the application site. Further assets in this cluster include a cremation burial dating to the 18th/19th century (GGAT005128s), the Former Rectory (GGAT05129s) and Eglwys Brewis Farm and Garden (GGAT05130s), dating to the post-medieval period, and;
- Bethesda'r Fro Chapel (GGAT1769s) located 700m south-west of the application site.

7.1.1 Picketston House (81302)

The Grade II Listed Picketston House is a Tudor Gothic Style House which is characteristic of c.1840 which lies on the eastern boundary of the Llanmaes community. The building is likely to be roughcast over local rubblestone with Welsh slate roofs (Cadw, 2022). Picketston has associated farm buildings and cottages and it is included on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's County Treasures list (1103).

Picketston House is situated approximately 500m north-east from the centre of the proposed site of development. Due to its close proximity to the proposed site and lacking extensive vegetation between the asset and the site, there is intervisibility between the two. The Grade II designation of this asset contributes to a high heritage significance in its surrounding setting and location.

7.1.2 Church of St Brise (13142)

The Grade II* Listed Church of St Brise dates to c.1200 with later additions in the 16th century and a later restoration and re-roofing in 1900 by William Weir. The church is built of a local lias limestone rubble with a Welsh slate roof. The church is significant as it retains frescoes to the interior including a fresco of William and Mary Royal Arms, which was amended for George I with the addition of his initials and an early C18 date but no alteration for his heraldry.

8. Historic Mapping Survey

A selection of historic maps, including the early Ordnance Survey maps and the Llantwit Major, Llanmaes and Eglwys-Brewis and the tithe map were viewed online during the preparation of this report and are presented in Appendix E. Due to copyright issues it has not been possible to reproduce all images here.

On the Second Edition (1885) Ordnance Survey County Series map (1:10,560), Picketston is situated to the north-east of the site. The proposed development site is composed of a series of hedged and enclosed former strip fields and larger, rectangular fields.

Both the Ordnance Survey County Series 1914 and 1921 maps (1:10,560) display little to no change from the previous 1897-1900 surveys. All field boundaries and buildings appear the same as previously.

There is limited visibility of the surrounding areas of the application site on the Ordnance Survey County Series 1947 map (1:10,560); however, some buildings have been added by the road running north to south adjacent to the town of Picketston. The airfield is not shown, for security reasons.

There is little change identified on the Ordnance Survey Provisional 1964 map (1:10,560).

The eastern areas of the 1969 Ordnance Survey Provisional mapping (1:10,560) displays the surrounding areas of the site to have changed considerably from the previous year's mapping. The airfield is now shown

and Eglwys-Brewis shows evidence of development. Picketston appears to be relatively unchanged, apart from the addition of a small number of buildings in the village centre.

The eastern part of the 1972-1975 Ordnance Survey National Grid mapping (1:10,000) displays little change to the 1969 map; however, a Police House and Picketston House are now shown as present within Picketston.

There is little change to the previous mapping from the Ordnance Survey National Grid 1982-1984 and the 1989 mapping (1:10,000).

The only notable change from previous years to the 2001 Ordnance Survey National Grid map (1:10,000) is the addition of multiple airfields surrounding Picketston with the addition of roads to accompany this. All of the untouched fields feature the same boundaries as previously.

There is little change to this on the 2010 Ordnance Survey National Grid map (1:10,000), whilst the only notable change on the 2012 Ordnance Survey National Grid map (1:10,000) is the addition of roads surrounding the western areas of St Athan.

The 1843 Parish of Llanmaes Tithe Map (1 Inch to 6 chains) shows the field pattern of the proposed development site as identical to the Ordnance Survey maps.

9. LiDAR and Aerial Photographic Analysis

9.1 LiDAR data

LiDAR coverage of the site was accessed via Lle, a Geo-Portal for Wales; the composite dataset coverage of the proposed development was available at 1m spatial resolution, and the Digital Terrain Model (DTM) LiDAR tiles were viewed using ArcMap in order to use hill-shade analysis to bring out the detail of potential archaeological features. It was also viewed via Lle a Geo-Portal for Wales and the LiDAR map available on the House Prices website.

The central areas of the site appear as hardstanding, evident as trackway, whilst the grassland areas show no obvious archaeological features beyond roadways and evidence of recent dumping. The Type 22 pillbox is not apparent on the LiDAR plot although the Stanton air-raid shelter is present. A large, roughly square mound up to 3m high is shown located at approximately OSGB NGR SS 99797 69403. The central grassland area in close proximity to the trackway reveals an irregular shaped mark which can also be viewed in Google Earth Pro in 2009, see the image below.



Figure 1: After Author (2022) Images from House Prices (2006) and Google Earth (2009) displaying an irregular shaped mark and the square-shaped mound located on the proposed development sit.

The data viewed is presented in Figure 6, Appendix E.

9.2 Aerial Photography

Available aerial photographs were consulted from the Central Registry for Aerial Photography Wales (CRAPW), and the Welsh Government's Aerial Photography Unit, online, alongside Google Earth. The details of the aerial photographs viewed are listed in the references.

A Luftwaffe Aerial Photograph of RAF St Athan, dated 1940 is held in the Vale of Glamorgan Archives. It, shows Y Porth, and Y Gogledd (North), with E Type hangars and other buildings highlighted as potential targets.

Central Registry imagery from 1942 shows the application site and neighbouring Y Gogledd (North) and Y Porth. Y Gogledd (North) is shown to consist of numerous fields of differing sizes, with two E type hangars to the east. The current road layout is visible in this imagery. Y Porth is shown to consist of numerous complexes of buildings, within a grid pattern. Central Registry imagery from 1944 shows the application sites in similar condition to the 1942 imagery but displaying increased development consistent with wartime expansion. Y Gogledd (North) displays further trackways to the south-west corner. Y Porth is similar to 1942 imagery, with two buildings to the south-west and trackways to the north.

Central Registry Imagery dating to 1945 displays the site. The site is shown to be similar to the 1944 imagery, although a large number of aircraft are visible at Y Gogledd (North). Much of the site and Y Porth is not visible within this imagery.

Welsh Government imagery from 1947 displays the site in use as an airfield. There are multiple runways across the site, and these are surrounded by fields.

The Welsh Government imagery from 1969 shows little change from the 1947 imagery. At Picketston, the trackways to the south-west corner appeared to have faded slightly and may no longer be in use. The buildings lining the road running east of the site are still present. The areas north of the site in between the two RAF base airfields now appears to be characterised as grassland. There are multiple linear crop marks across this area, presumably as a result of the disused airfields.

The 2013 imagery from the site from the Welsh Government displays little change from the previous mapping. The trackways at the site are displayed as being unused and of bad condition. There are multiple field marks surrounding the disused trackways creating the appearance of crop marks, however, they are modern. There are some circular crop marks to the east of the application site. These can also be seen on current images of the site.

The earliest available aerial photography available on Google Earth is from 2001. The central area of the site appears in a similar rundown way as on previous mapping. The same crop marks as can be seen in previous mapping are still present. To the north and western areas of the site, the land is characterised as fields, separated into two areas by hedgerows. The buildings that line the road running east to the application site are still present and are labelled as the South-Wales Aviation Museum.

There is little change on any future mapping available on Google Earth since the 2001 image. The site is still displayed as a disused runway, with the buildings to the north-east still present. However, the former runway appears to worsen in condition from this time, and it appears derelict and in poor condition. Imagery from 2007 and 2009 shows evidence of marks to the central grassland of the site (as previously discussed in Section 9.1).

No other previously unrecorded or potential archaeological features were identified.

10. Site Walkover Survey

Site walkover surveys were undertaken in March 2020, by Samantha Hilton (PCIfA), Archaeological Consultant, and in November 2020 by Dr Paul Tubb, Archaeological Consultant, Tetra Tech. Dr Tubb also undertook additional site visits to Bro Tathan Y Porth on 1st April 2021, 23rd January 2023 and 9th February 2023. Each of these site visits considered potential effects on setting for the listed buildings within the study

area. We are confident that the situation at the site will not have significantly changed since these visits, based on discussions with key stakeholders.

The site is located to the north of the recently constructed Northern Access Road at Bro Tathan. Access to the site is via the airfield road that forms the eastern boundary of the site, and which serves the South Wales Aviation Museum and the hangars in commercial use.

The ground cover in this area is a combination of rough grass, scrub, airfield defence structures, roads, recently deposited overburden, and spoil heaps, and partial remains of structures. The western part of the site (effectively the majority of Plot 9) has seen dumping of overburden and much of the area is covered by tussocky grass with clumps of Soft Rush indicating a waterlogged soil. Plot 9 is bounded to west and north by large, overgrown Enclosure Period hedges composed of a stone-built hedge-bank with substantial trees and bushes including Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) that show evidence of historic hedgerow management. The Type 22 pillbox (GGAT02041s) recorded as being present in this area was not located, apparently having been destroyed at some time in the past 25 years (Figure 2). A concrete pad was located at OSGB NGR SS 99658 69420 and probably relates to the pillbox.

The proposed development's eastern boundary runs parallel to a chain-link fence and the site access road. The eastern portion of the site is fenced off and parts of it have been inaccessible, presumably in connection with the use of the area around the aircraft mock-up for fire and rescue training purposes, until the last visit on 9th February 2023. Immediately to the east of the fence, an unrecorded Stanton Air-Raid Shelter (Figure 3) was identified at OSGB NGR SS 9999 6938 on 1st April 2021 having previously been obscured from view by brambles and undergrowth.

The eastern and central areas of the proposed development area has hardened tracks and areas of hard-standing. The central area has large patches of scrub, that on the last visit, had been mostly cut down revealing scrap metal, building rubble and large areas of made ground. Excavation of a spoil heap on the site revealed a previously unrecorded Type 22 pillbox (Figure 4) at OSGB NGR SS 99862 69376.

10.1 Twentieth Century Military Remains

Type 22 Pill Box (GGAT02041s) is recorded as being located at OSGB NGR SS 996694 within the proposed area of development, but no structure was apparent on the walkover of 1st April 2021, or on a subsequent visit on January 23rd, 2023. Significantly, the pillbox is not recorded on the Airfield Perimeter Defence Gazetteer dated 2008 and it appears to have been destroyed. The asset was a Type 22 Pillbox, which is hexagonal in shape with walls that are 12" to 24" thick, and it was designed primarily for the use of riflemen during the Second World War (Pillbox Study Group, 2022b). An area of concrete pad was identified at OSGB NGR SS 99658 69420 and this may be associated with this structure.

St Athan Battle Headquarters (GGAT05774s) is located 125m due east of the eastern boundary of the proposed development at OSGB NGR ST 00159 69446. When it was visited in 2010 (by an external source) it was in a poor condition with flooding of up to 5 feet or more. The main entrance, with metal railings around, was covered with concrete slabs although access was still possible. The emergency access was covered with a very large concrete slab (Subterranea Britannica, 2010). Battle Headquarters were primarily built close to airfields so that the 'Station Commander' would have a secure location from which he could command the defence of the airfield in the event of attack by either airborne or ground forces (Pillbox Study Group, 2022a). This substantial concrete structure was built into an existing field hedge bank on the periphery of the site. It is best viewed from the paddock to the north (Fig 10), being completely obscured by vegetation when viewed from the survey site. The structure is aligned north-east/south-west, built into, and following the orientation of the pre-existing hedge-bank. It appears to be built to Air Ministry drawing 11008/41 and was designed to enclose five underground rooms. The bunker is entered by a flight of concrete steps at the north-east end with the Command Post observation cupola at the south-west end.

The exposed exterior of the Battle Headquarters appears to be in excellent condition with no evidence of concrete decay on the cupola or stairwell roof-slab. The above ground structure appears intact except for the corroded and loose guard rail around the entrance. The entrance has been blocked in the past with concrete slabs, but these have been shifted at some point, making the interior accessible. At the time of inspection, the interior was flooded to a depth of at least 1.5m and, judging by the sediment accumulated in the stairwell, this flooding has been noted on a number of visits but in 2018, the bunker was apparently, accessible (Subterranea Britannica, 2018). Access to the Battle Headquarters is difficult with the site being overgrown with brambles (*Rubus ssp.*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) trees on and around the structure.

Three additional pillboxes, currently not recorded on the GGAT HER lie in close proximity to the Battlefield Head Quarters. From east to west, they are:

Site No. 2: Variant Bunker is located at OSGB NGR ST 00209 69498 at the junction of the hedge-bank associated with the Battle Headquarters and Picketston Lane, and 240m north-east of the eastern boundary of the proposed development site. This is a rectangular concrete-built pillbox with external red brick shuttering aligned NW-SE along the axis of the hedge-bank. The structure measures 2m in height, 5m in length and 4m in width. It features a protected entrance on the NW side opening directly onto Picketston Lane. The bunker is intact but surrounded by dense scrub on three sides except the north-west Picketston Lane side, where clearing has recently taken place. It was not possible to access the interior, so the internal condition is unknown. This is a non-designated asset.

Site No. 3: FW3/22 type pillbox is located at OSGB NGRST 00177 69419, some 45m south of the Battle Headquarters on open ground, and 175m north-east of the eastern boundary of the proposed development.

This is a hexagonal pillbox of concrete construction built to defend the adjacent Battle Headquarters and conforms to the FW3/22 type (<http://www.pillbox-study-group.org.uk/types-of-pillbox/type-22/> consulted 03/04/2021). The structure is partially buried and surmounted by an earth-and-turf cap for camouflage purposes. It measures 1m in height and some 4m in diameter with a flat concrete roof. It has a sealed SW-facing entrance. The bunker is intact although the embrasures and entrance are blocked. Consequently, the condition of the interior is unknown. Surrounded on four sides by thick blackthorn scrub, the south and south-eastern sides have been recently cleared of brambles. This is a non-designated asset.

Site No. 4: FW3/22 variant type pillbox is located at OSGB NGR ST 0008 6948, some 80m WNW of the Battle Headquarters in a NW-SE aligned hedgerow, and some 145m north-east of the eastern boundary of the proposed development. This is a hexagonal-shaped pillbox built from reinforced concrete with a red brick skin. The eastern sides of the bunker are inserted into the pre-existing hedge-bank. There is a low and protected entrance structure adjoining the SE face, again partially dug into the adjoining boundary feature. The structure measures some 1.6m in height. Notably, the embrasures are pre-cast concrete and of stepped design and feature hinges for protective embrasure covers on the external bunker surface below the embrasures. Each embrasure measures 0.35m in height and 1.2m in width externally. The flat concrete roof features metal studs at each corner. The bunker is intact and, externally, in good condition. The surrounding brambles have been recently cleared by the MoD. Some embrasures are blocked, others open but it was not possible to access the interior. This is a non-designated asset.

Stanton Air-Raid Shelter located at OSGB NGR SS 9999 6938, some 10 metres from the eastern boundary of the proposed development, is in good external condition. The Stanton air-raid shelter was manufactured by the Stanton Ironworks Co Ltd near Nottingham. They could be built in any length but usually consisted of 18 precast concrete arched-shaped units (each one in two parts), bolted together to form a standard (after 1941) Air Ministry shelter for 50 personnel. The entrance can be a brick-lined with concrete steps (where required) and the rear unit has an emergency escape hatch. They are often semi-sunken with the upcast earth thrown over the concrete form in order to provide further protection. This is a non-designated asset.

Type 22 pillbox: An additional Type 22 pillbox is located at OSGB NGR SS 99862 69376 within the area of the proposed development. It is newly discovered, having previously been concealed during the removal of a spoil heap. The pillbox is largely of brick construction with poured-and-shuttered concrete embrasures and roof. Each face of the pillbox measures 2.2m in width and the structure is 4.5m at its maximum external width. The structure is in good condition with original wood surrounds to most of the loopholes and the angled mild steel of a Turnbull Mount present in the north-east embrasure. The interior of the structure was not inspected. This is a non-designated asset.

Only the destroyed pillbox and the extant Battlefield Headquarters appear on the GGAT HER and neither are designated. These two assets, as well as the other examples identified, have a group value that relates to

the historic military aviation function of the site and its significance. These assets form a distinct group and should be regarded as having supporting heritage value: the HQ bunker was the command-and-control centre for the defence scheme of which these pillboxes are a part, while the pillboxes were built as part of a mutually supportive network of prepared positions. The pillboxes and other positions were intended to provide interlocking field of fire and to form hardened strongpoints within the defence system. They retain a local importance as undesignated assets, but their significance is supported by group value and the relative rarity of Battle HQ structures, particularly with elements of their network of pillboxes.

No other archaeological remains pre-dating the Modern era were identified during previous site visits.

11. Heritage Potential and Impacts

11.1 Designated Heritage Assets

The following assessments of potential settings effects are based on previous site visits to Picketston and the adjacent Y Porth sites.

Landscape Character

The massing and scale of the proposed building introduces a new element into the site; however, it is not inconsistent with the character of the surrounding area with similarly large industrial buildings to north and south, including historic aircraft hangers.

Picketston House (81302)

The Grade II Listed Picketston House dates to 1840. The building is Tudor Gothic in style and is of roughcast stone with Welsh slate roofs. The House is associated with a series of farm buildings and cottages which have an important group value, and which provide its immediate setting.

The House is located approximately 0.49km north-east from the centre of the proposed development site. As much of the proposed site is flat, open grassland and there is little intervening vegetation, there is some intervisibility between the site and the asset. As a result, any proposed development has identified potential to cause moderate intermediate effect upon the setting of the asset; however, it is deemed to cause no direct material harm to the asset because the proposed development is not considered likely to result in diminution of the opportunity to understand or appreciate the asset, nor in reduction of significance.

Church of St Brise (13142)

The Grade II* Listed Church of St Brise dates to c.1200 with later additions in the 16th century and a later restoration and re-roofing in 1900 by William Weir. The church is built of a local lias limestone rubble with a Welsh slate roof. The church is significant as it retains frescoes to the interior including a fresco of William

and Mary Royal Arms, which was amended for George I with the addition of his initials and an early C18 date but no alteration for his heraldry.

The church is located approximately 0.76km south-east from the centre of the proposed development site. Due to intervening terrain and vegetation, there is no intervisibility between the site and the asset. Therefore, there will be no change to the asset or to its setting.

11.2 Non-Designated Assets and Assets of Local Importance

Pill Box (GGAT02041s)

This apparently destroyed Pill Box lies within the site boundary and dates to the Modern period. The asset is described as a Type 22 Pillbox, hexagonal in shape with walls that are 12" to 24" thick and designed primarily for the use of riflemen during the Second World War (Pillbox Study Group, 2022a).

The asset was previously located on the proposed application site to the north-west; however, in consideration of its absence, there is considered to be no direct harm to the asset.

St Athan Battle Headquarters (GGAT05774s)

The St Athan Battle HQ is an example of a defence structure in close relation to an airfield which would have allowed the 'Station Commander' to have a secure location from which he could command the defence of the property in the event of attacking ground forces (Pillbox Study Group, 2022b). In 2010, the asset was in a poor condition with flooding of up to 5 feet or more. The main entrance, with metal railings around, was covered with concrete slabs although access was still possible. The emergency access was covered with a very large concrete slab.

St Athan Battle Headquarters sits approximately 0.37km east from the centre of the proposed development site. Due to the flat terrain and lack of vegetation, there is direct intervisibility between the site and the asset and the viewshed from the cupola, which supported its role in airfield defence will be affected. Therefore, there will be a significant change to the setting of the asset, which includes the other pillboxes within the site; however, the landscape has seen a series of changes since the end of the Second World War, and it may be argued that the current views do not reflect the situation when the asset was operational. There is considered to be no direct impact upon the asset.

Pillboxes

The FW3/22 pillboxes at OSGB NGR ST 00177 69419 and ST 00090 69473 have direct intervisibility between the site and the assets due to the flat terrain and lack of vegetation. Therefore, there will be a significant

change to the setting of the asset and appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place. There is proposed to be no direct impact upon the asset.

The FW/22 uncovered in February 2023 at OSGB NGR SS 99862 69376 lies beneath the footprint of one of the buildings and has potential to have major adverse direct effect from the proposed development.

Stanton Air-Raid Shelter

The recently identified Stanton Air Raid lies directly beneath the proposed development red line and will be directly and substantially adversely affected by the development. This is not a rare form of shelter and numerous other examples remain extant across the wider site, as well as on other sites across Wales (e.g., MOD Caerwent). In addition, it has lost its context following the demolition of the buildings that it formerly served. Although there will be a major effect on this asset this may be mitigated by record.

County Treasures

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a list of locally listed assets called 'County Treasures'. The County Treasures project is unique in Wales providing a unified list of historic built assets located in the Vale of Glamorgan. It therefore describes nationally recognised lists and schedules as well as 362 entries recognised as being of local merit (Vale of Glamorgan 2009, 3). The original list of local entries was selected on the basis of criteria designed to assist in recognising and quantifying candidates of merit.

These criteria are as follows:

- Architectural interest – buildings which are of importance to the Vale of Glamorgan for the interest of their architectural design, decoration, and craftsmanship; also, important examples of particular building types and techniques;
- Historic Interest – this includes buildings which illustrate important aspects of the Vale of Glamorgan's social, economic, cultural or military history;
- Close Historical Association – with the Vale of Glamorgan's important people or events;
- Group Value – especially where local buildings comprise an important architectural or historic unity;
- Old or rare local buildings that have been altered too much to warrant being included on the national statutory list, but nonetheless retain character.

The key policy contained in the LDP relating to locally listed entries in the 'County Treasures' list is MD8 which states as follows:

Policy MD8: Development proposals must protect the qualities of the built and historic environment of the Vale of Glamorgan, specifically:

- 1. Within conservation areas, development proposals must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area;*
- 2. For listed and locally listed buildings, development proposals must preserve or enhance the building, its setting and any features of significance it possesses.*
- 3. Within designated landscapes, historic parks and gardens, and battlefields, development proposals must respect the special historic character and quality of these areas, their settings or historic views or vistas;*
- 4. For sites of archaeological interest, development proposals must preserve or enhance archaeological remains and where appropriate their settings.*

Entry on the County Treasures list confers a level of added status to the perceived value of a building. This will be reflected in several further ways when considering planning applications which involve or affect a County Treasure:

- Applications for external alteration, extension and change of use of a building should take into account its special local interest in terms of appropriateness of design and use of materials.
- New buildings that are to be located within the setting of a County Treasure should be designed to be sympathetic to the County Treasure in terms of form, scale and appearance.

Assets within the area of the proposed site included in the County Treasures List are Picketston House (1103), Bethesda'r Fro Chapel (612) and Forecourt and Graveyard Gates, Gateposts and Walls (2269), all of which are also listed by Cadw.

12. Conclusions and Recommendations

12.1 Archaeological Remains

As previously discussed, the CWL-C Desk-Based Assessment (2022) has identified negligible potential for archaeological remains of Palaeolithic to Neolithic date, a low potential for remains of an Industrial date, low to moderate potential for archaeological remains of a Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, early medieval and post-medieval date, with moderate potential for archaeological remains of medieval date and high potential for archaeological remains of a Modern date to be present within the application site.

The recommendations of the Desk-Based Assessment led to a geophysical survey and the scheduling of a subsequent watching brief (approved by GGAT) based upon these results. Given this potential and the

presence of Historic Environment Record assets within the application site, a programme of archaeological mitigation works is recommended. It is also recommended that the hedgerows identified on the northern and western boundaries of Plot 9 are preserved.

Any further archaeological work should be undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidance from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, any requirements stipulated by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, and a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed in advance with the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust. It is recommended that these recommendations and suggestions are confirmed with the Archaeological Planning Officer for Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust. Any further work required would satisfy the PPW requirement. Assuming appropriate archaeological mitigation is secured, the proposal is also considered to comply with local policy.

12.2 Built Heritage

The impact on setting and material harm to the assets identified as receptors has been outlined in Section 11. Following the Desk-Based Assessment and site walk-over survey, intervisibility has been identified between the proposed site of development and Picketston House. However, the proposed development is not considered likely to result in diminution of the opportunity to understand or appreciate the asset, nor reduce its significance and thus no mitigation is considered necessary.

It will not be possible to mitigate for the loss of the Type 22 bunker (GGAT02041s) apart from identifying and confirming its location and loss during groundworks.

The potential impact on the recently uncovered Type 22 bunker at OSGB NGR SS 99862 69376 of any construction is likely to be substantial and negative, and the site will need to be subject to mitigation in the form of archaeological recording at an appropriate level.

The potential impact on the air-raid shelter will be substantial negative but there are other examples of this building type on the airfield. The mitigation required will include archaeological recording at an appropriate level. The results of these archaeological investigations could form the basis of a series of archaeological interpretation boards.

It is recommended that consultation is undertaken with the local planning authority and their built heritage and archaeological advisers, to discuss any further heritage requirements associated with the proposed works.

13. Archive

This Heritage Statement will be submitted to the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (HER) for HER enhancement purposes and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). This should include the submission of all digital data generated, which

may include but may not be limited to: CAD files, GIS files, geophysics results and photographs. All digitised survey information should be geo-referenced to the Ordnance Survey. The Guidance for Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) will also be adhered to.

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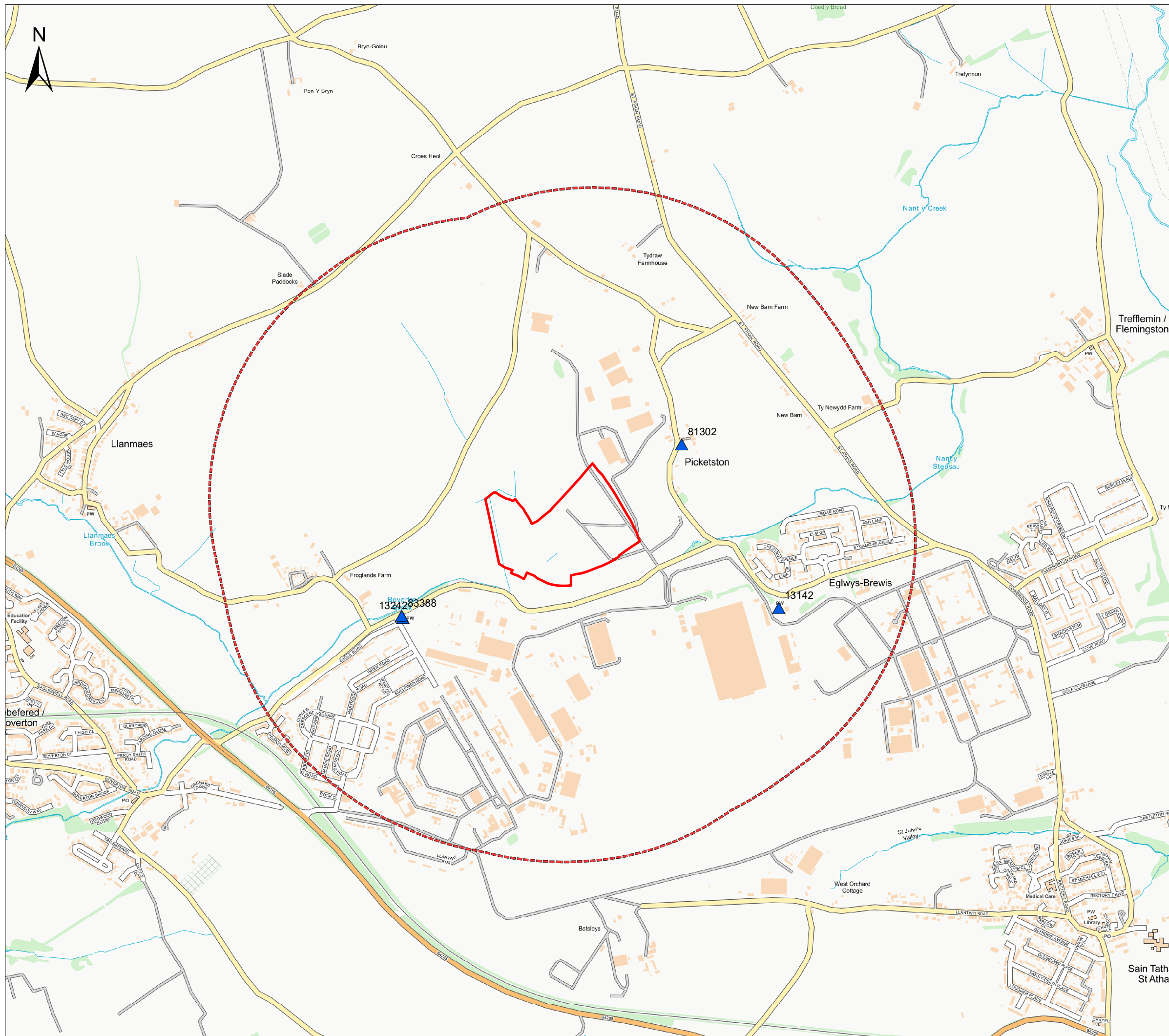
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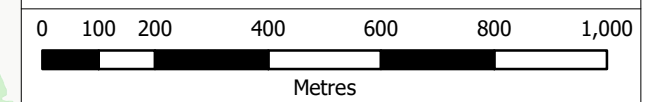
APPENDICES

A- SITE LOCATION PLAN



Legend

- Site Boundary
- Study Area
- ▲ Listed Building



TM Created:	MB Checked:	February 2022 Date:	V1 Version:
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Office: 4154	Project No: 784-B034704	Figure No: 2
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