

HEOL GOI, ST CLEARS, CARMARTHENSHIRE: SETTING IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE



Prepared by: Dyfed Archaeological
Services, a contracting arm of
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Archaeology

For: Obsidian Developments
Limited



Heneb



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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HEOL GOI, ST CLEARS, CARMARTHENSHIRE: SETTING IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

by

Philip Poucher MCIfA



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Heneb – Archaeoleg Dyfed
Gynt Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Corner House, 6 Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19
6AE
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Ebostr: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Heneb – Dyfed Archaeology
Formerly Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AE
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

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HEOL GOI, ST CLEARS, CARMARTHENSHIRE:

SETTING IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

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Report Prepared By	Philip Poucher
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Fieldwork Undertaken By Philip Poucher

Illustrated By	Philip Poucher
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HEOL GOI, ST CLEARS, CARMARTHENSHIRE: SETTING IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dyfed Archaeological Services (a contracting arm of Heneb - The Trust for Welsh Archaeology) were commissioned to undertake an assessment of the potential impact of proposed residential development on land north of Heol Goi, adjacent to Brynheulog, St Clears, Carmarthenhire, on the setting of scheduled monument CM322 Eithin Bach Round Barrow. A four-stage process was used, Stage 1 identified and described the historic asset, Stage 2 defined and analysed the setting, Stage 3 evaluated the potential impact and Stage 4 recommended mitigation measures. Overall, there was considered to be a slight negative impact upon the setting of CM322. Further measures to reduce potential negative impacts were recommended.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Gwasanaethau Archaeolegol Dyfed (cangen gontractio Heneb - Yr Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeoleg Gymreig) i gynnal asesiad o effaith bosibl datblygiad preswyl arfaethedig ar dir i'r gogledd o Heol Goi, Sanclêr, Sir Gaerfyrddin, ar osod cofeb gofrestredig CM322 Crug Crwn Eithin Bach. Defnyddiwyd proses pedwar cam, Cam 1 yn nododd a disgrifiodd yr ased hanesyddol, mae cam 2 yn diffiniodd a dadansoddodd y lleoliad, a gwerthusodd cam 3 yr effaith bosibl a cham 4 lliniaru argymelledig. Yn gyffredinol, ystyriwyd bod effaith negyddol fach ar osodiad CM322. Argymhellwyd mesurau pellach i leihau effeithiau negyddol posibl.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposals and Commission

- 1.1.1 Dyfed Archaeological Services (a contracting arm of Heneb – The Trust for Welsh Archaeology) were commissioned by Obsidian Developments Ltd to carry out an assessment of the impact of a proposed residential development on the setting of surrounding designated historic assets. The proposed development lies to the north of Heol Goi, St Clears, Carmarthenshire, centred on NGR SN 27622 15980 (Figs 1 and 2). An impact assessment was carried out previously in 2021 (Poucher 2021) to assess the implications of another such development immediately to the east. This report both updates that assessment and provides additional information relating to the current development.
- 1.1.2 Cadw responded to an initial pre-application consultation on the adjoining development on the 3rd June 2019, requesting further information in relation to the proposed works. It identified three scheduled monuments within 1km of the proposed development, two of which would not be impacted upon by the proposal; the third however lay 100m to the southwest of the proposed development. Known as Eithin Bach Round Barrow (CM322), this monument is the remains of a large prehistoric round barrow, likely dating from the Bronze Age. It was considered possible that the proposed development could impact upon the setting of this monument, and this should be a material consideration in determining the planning application (as indicated in Planning Policy Wales 2018 (since updated 2024) section 6.1.23).
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this assessment, detailed in the following report, is to provide Cadw and the local planning authority with the information they may request in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy (edition 12, February 2024), Section 6, and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment (2017).

1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology

- 1.2.1 This assessment reproduces the methodology, layout and much of the content of the previous assessment (Poucher 2021). Many elements concerning the identification of setting remain consistent, therefore this report duplicates much of the previous one whilst serving to include all the relevant information within a single report without the requirement for continual reference to the original piece of work.
- 1.2.2 The scope of the assessment follows the guidance and methodology offered in the publications:
- 'Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales' (Cadw 2017)
 - 'Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales' (Cadw 2017)
 - 'Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales' (Cadw 2011)
- 1.2.3 This assessment conforms to the Standard And Guidance For Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment as laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).
- 1.2.4 The methodology within 'Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales' (Cadw 2017) sets out a four stage approach:
- Stage 1:** Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development and their significance. Cadw has stated in its initial

response that it considers there to be a potential impact upon Eithin Bach round barrow (CM322).

Stage 2: Define and analyse the setting to understand how it contributes to the ways in which the historic assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that setting.

Stage 4: Consider options to mitigate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that setting.

1.2.5 The report utilises relevant information from a number of sources which are discussed in Section 4.

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

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

A historic asset is:

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

1.3 Abbreviations

1.3.1 All sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Records (HERs) are identified by a Primary Reference Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Record (NGR).

Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (NPRN).

References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

1.4 Illustrations

1.4.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.5 Timeline

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

Table 1: Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales

Period	Approximate Date	
Palaeolithic	c.450,000 – 10,000BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic	c.10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) period	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / early medieval period	c.AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval period	1086 – 1536	
Post-medieval period*	1536 – 1750	
Industrial period	1750 – 1899	
Modern	20th century onwards	

* The post-medieval and Industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Heneb - Dyfed Archaeology

2. POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

2.1 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act

2.1.1 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 was previously the primary legislation for protecting archaeological remains and scheduled monuments. This has more recently been superseded by The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which has three main aims as defined by Cadw:

- To give more effective protection to Listed Buildings and scheduled monuments;
- To improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- To introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

2.1.2 The New Act amends the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and also the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It is supported by a number of planning guidance documents. The Act most specifically provides better safeguards for the protection of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and historic parks and gardens. It will also include further guidance on place names.

2.2 Planning Policy Wales

2.2.1 Planning Policy Wales (2024) 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.

2.2.2 Chapter 6, 'Distinctive and Natural Places', explains how the 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.

2.3 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment

2.3.1 This technical advice note provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and Listed Building Consent applications. It also provides specific guidance on how the following historic assets should be considered:

- Scheduled monuments
- Archaeological remains
- Listed buildings
- Conservation areas
- Historic parks and gardens
- Historic landscapes
- Historic assets of special local interest

- World Heritage Sites

2.3.2 The technical advice note usefully gathers together the selection criteria employed in the designation of scheduled monuments and listed buildings, and the registration of historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes.

2.3.3. Advice and decisions on planning applications affecting nationally significant historic environment features (or designated historic assets) is provided by Cadw acting on behalf of the Welsh Government.

2.4 Carmarthenshire County Council Policies

2.4.1 The historic environment is subject to the relevant policies and procedures as laid out in the Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018 – 2033.

2.4.2 The historic environment is referenced throughout the document in numerous policies, emphasising its significance to the county. The main policy references to the historic environment are outlined in the strategic policy **SP 14: Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment:**

Development proposals should preserve or enhance the built and historic environment of the County, its cultural, townscape and landscape assets, and, where appropriate, their setting. Proposals will be expected to promote high quality design that reinforces local character and respects and enhances the cultural and historic qualities of the plan area

2.4.3 Further, more specific reference to the Built and Historic Environment is provided in sections 11.445 to 11.448 and section 11.451 of SP14.

3 STAGE 1: IDENTIFYING THE HISTORIC ASSETS

3.1 Development Proposals

- 3.1.1 The proposed development comprises plans for twelve new dwellings and associated infrastructure including access roads, attenuation basins and boundary treatments, covering an area of approximately 0.6 hectares. The development for which the previous assessment was undertaken lies immediately to the east and is currently under construction (as of June 2024). The current proposals would extend that development, bringing the total area of new development to just under 3 hectares and infilling an area between the development under construction and the existing Cae Glas development to the west.
- 3.1.2 The twelve new dwellings will include ten detached four-bedroom dwellings of three differing designs and a pair of semi-detached two-bedroom affordable housing units. The access road will continue through the new development to the east, with no individual access onto Heol Goi or Cae Glas. Development proposals are not yet finalised but the proposals at present are illustrated in Figure 3.

3.2 Site Location

- 3.2.1 The site will lie between the ongoing modern development to the east and the established modern developments of Gerddi Mair and Cae Glas to the west. Heol Goi local road will form the southern boundary to the site, with wooded slopes and the A40 dual carriageway forming the northern boundary. The ground falls from around 34.8mOD at the southwest corner of the development to 28.2mOD at the northern edge.
- 3.2.2 At present the site comprises a field of enclosed agricultural pasture, accessed via a gateway from Heol Goi to the south. The ground slopes away gradually to the north, leaving the southwest corner as the high point at approximately 35.8mOD. The southern boundary is formed by wooden fencing, fronted by a grass verge and then Heol Goi. To the west the field is bounded by post and wire fencing, beyond which lies the access road of Cae Glas and a row of modern detached dwellings, with further modern development to the west (Gerddi Mair). The northern boundary of the field is formed by a hedgerow, beyond which lies the steeped-sided cutting containing the A40 dual carriageway to the north. The easternmost area is currently under construction, separated by a post-and-wire fence.
- 3.2.3 Topographically the landscape rises to a high point of around 44mOD approximately 200m to the south of the proposed development. The landscape generally falls into the valley of the Afon Cynin to the east, which runs north to south, and also northward into a local stream valley that feeds the Cynin. The Cynin itself then feeds the Afon Taf, which enters Carmarthen Bay at Laugharne, approximately 6km to the south. The A4066 runs along the lower slopes of the valley to the east, towards Laugharne. The modern A40 dual carriageway runs through a cutting to the north of the site, with a roundabout to the west, with the A40 continuing west towards Haverfordwest, and the A477 continuing southwest into southern Pembrokeshire. St Clears has developed as a ribbon settlement along the Laugharne road (A4066), with its original historic core set around the river crossing to the south and later development along the A4066 to the north of the current A40 dual carriageway.
- 3.2.4 The area lies in the undulating lowlands of southern Carmarthenshire, which rise into a range of hills around Meidrim, approximately 2.5km to the north.

The site itself lies on a band of mudstone of the Didymograptus Bifidus Beds (BGS viewer).

3.3 Designated Historic Assets

3.3.1 This assessment is primarily concerned with scheduled monument CM322 Eithin Bach Round Barrow, as originally identified by Cadw in their response to the pre-application consultation.

3.3.2 Scheduled monument CM290 St Clears Priory lies 320m to the southeast of the proposed development area and scheduled monument CM095 St Clears Mound and Bailey Castle lies 490m to the southeast, but both sites should remain unaffected by the proposed development and share no known link to the site.

3.3.3 There are also 16 listed buildings within 500m of the proposed development area. These are primarily roadside structures along the A4066 (High Street), the closest being a Grade II listed water pump (LB 25476) immediately south of Wesley Villa and 60m south of the access to the new development to the east, and the Grade II listed Gothic Villa (LB 9745), 70m to the south of the access. No impacts on the setting of these buildings were identified in the previous assessment.

3.3.4 The site also lies on the edge of the Taf and Tywi Estuary Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 9) and the St Clears Conservation Area, but is largely outside both areas and potential impacts upon these assets are not addressed within this report.

3.3.5 **CM322 Eithin Bach Round Barrow** comprises the remains of a large prehistoric round barrow, probably dating to the Bronze Age (c.2300 BC – 800 BC). This substantial round barrow is circular in plan with a rounded profile, slightly truncated on its northwest edge by a hedge-line and track; when visited in 2001 it was noted that the southern edge appeared to have been dug into at some point. It measures around 16.5m in diameter and 1.2m to 1.3m in height. It has been scheduled as a site of national importance for:

its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual. The monument is an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability the presence of both intact burial or ritual deposits and environmental and structural evidence, including a buried prehistoric land surface. Its survival within an area of improved agriculture is also very rare and further enhances its importance” (Cadw Scheduled Monument description – Cof Cymru).

3.3.6 The scheduled monument lies 60m to the southwest of the proposed development area.



Figure 1: Location of development area (red).

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 02/07/24.



Figure 2: Location of development area (red), and surrounding scheduled monuments (blue). Also shown are listed buildings (orange triangles) and the boundary of the conservation area (purple).

Map data from OpenStreetMap (OSM) <https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright> 02/07/24.



Figure 3: Proposed development layout and landscaping plan, produced by Hammond Architectural Ltd and provided by the client. The development in grey on the right is currently under construction. Not reproduced to original scale.

4 STAGE 2: DEFINE AND ANALYSE THE SETTING

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The setting of monuments such as those described in Section 3.3 includes *the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surrounding evolve* (Cadw 2017).

As such it often extends beyond the physical boundaries of the monument itself. This may include physical elements in its surroundings, such as boundaries of other monuments, relationships with other historic assets and natural features, or associated agricultural, industrial or other surroundings. Less tangible elements are also included, such as function, sensory perceptions, historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations.

- 4.1.2 In order to understand this setting, research has included an examination of the known archaeological record based on data held in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) and National Monuments Record (NMR), as well as reports on relevant archaeological investigations, as of June 2024. Research has also included an examination of readily available historical data, such as mapping and modern information from, for example, aerial photographs and LiDAR, and finally a walkover survey of the site itself. The results of this research are presented below.

4.2 Known Archaeological Record

Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic

- 4.2.1 There are remarkably few records of archaeological sites pre-dating the Bronze Age in the local area, the closest perhaps being a late Neolithic henge monument discovered at Vaynor Farm, around 2km to the west. This suggests a greater presence of human activity than is currently understood but there is little evidence of how the local landscape was settled and utilised prior to the Bronze Age period.

Bronze Age

- 4.2.2 CM322 (PRN 3878) is likely to be a Bronze Age feature; although it has not been investigated archaeologically it conforms well to monuments of a similar size, appearance and location that have been shown to relate to Bronze Age funerary and ritual activity. There is a suggestion in the archaeological record that this barrow may have been one of a pair of barrows. Correspondence to Edward Lloyd in *circa* 1698 made reference to:

two small tumps near one another on a common here called Wein Fach.

It is believed one of these 'tumps' refers to CM322. According to the HER, PRN 3879 (Fig 4) is a possible second barrow approximately 60-80m to the northeast of CM322 and was suggested in aerial photographs. This location was visited in both 1984 and 2001 but no trace of a mound remained at the given location. The 1984 visit did however record another possible mound, this time to the northwest at SN27441595, 1.1m high and 15.2-24.7m in diameter. Several surface irregularities were also noted in the same field, leading to the conclusion that the possible barrow may have been a natural feature. This area has since been developed, and depending on the precise location of PRN 3879, this site may also have been built upon. These records do raise the possibility that this area of high ground, close to the confluence of the Afon Taf and Cynin and overlooking a small stream valley to the north,

may have been the site of a barrow cemetery, where several such monuments would have been built in close proximity.

- 4.2.3 Round barrows are typically the most prevalent Bronze Age monuments recorded in the landscape. Generally such monuments are found in prominent locations, and whilst the lack of intensive development in these areas may be a contributory factor to their survival it is also often thought that visibility played an important role in their siting. A study of such monuments in east Carmarthenshire suggests that:

It seems likely that the visibility from and to sites and the visibility between sites was a key factor in the determination of site location... a common topographic location for the round barrows... was on or near a fairly rounded summit on a gently sloping hillslope, which tended to get steeper towards the bottom" (Cook et al 2003).

A further study by Davey (2002) also found such sites favoured gentle slopes and high elevations, particularly west and south-facing aspects but avoiding north facing ones. This particular barrow does have a more northerly aspect but otherwise conforms well to a location on a rounded summit with gentle hillslopes surrounding it, before the gradient increases into the surrounding valleys. Standing stones are also a prominent feature of the local Bronze Age landscape and the studies mentioned above also suggested that these stones had views dominated by distant views and/or opposite slopes, rather than views into the adjacent valley bottoms. These views also tended to be restricted to a dominant direction of view, rather than all-round, generally because they were sited on hillslopes but below ridgetops.

- 4.2.4 Beyond the possible barrows in the immediate vicinity of CM322 there are records, albeit sporadic, for Bronze Age activity in the surrounding landscape:

- Approximately 450m to the east a cluster of standing stones (PRNs 126594, 126595 and 126596) stand around Gerlyd Farm, although these lie on relatively low-lying ground close to the confluence of the Afon Dewi Fawr and the Afon Cynin, and there appears to be no visual link to CM322.
- Around 1.2km to 2km to the south lie a cluster of standing stones (PRNs 11737 and 11742) and a burnt mound (PRN 106808), close to possible Bronze Age settlement activity (PRNs 106806 and 106807). This lies on the south side of the Taf valley, overlooking a small watercourse that feeds into the river, and visually the site is blocked by rising ground to the south of CM322.

- 4.2.5 Whilst the closest records to the site largely appear to be of standing stones with barrows generally further afield, the closest record for another barrow cites it as around 400m to the northwest (PRN 8034), with two nearby standing stones (PRNs 8032 and 48826), all located on southeast facing slopes overlooking the stream valley that separates them from CM322. All three records however come from place name evidence only, and no physical remains of Bronze Age sites have been recorded here.

- 4.2.6 As noted above, identified round barrows generally appear further afield:

- Approximately 2km to the east lies a series of relatively high points on an undulating north – south ridge between the Afon Taf to the west and the Afon Cywyn to the east, which appears to have been a focus of round barrow construction.

- Near to the A40 lies a cluster of barrows at Clyn Coch (PRNs 13019, 42526 and 42590), close to the head of a small stream valley, although the main focus of their views are to the southeast across the Cywyn valley and not towards CM322.
- Further south lies Parc y Twmp (PRN 5049), although again this is located on the more easterly facing side of a summit. Further south again lies a cluster on more westerly facing slopes at Brynhelig (PRNs 3882, 3902 and 42581) but these barrows appear to be too far south to have any visual connection with CM322, blocked as they are by rising ground immediately to the south of CM322.
- Around 3km to the north three round barrows are recorded to the west of the Afon Cynin Valley (PRNs 8031, 10755 and 10756). These locations do have some extensive views southward that may incorporate inter-visibility with CM322, but all three sites are known from place-name evidence only and no definitive evidence of barrows at these locations has been recorded.
- 3km to the west lies the barrow cemetery at Zabulon (PRN 27045), but again these barrows have a north-easterly aspect that has no obvious connections with CM322.

Iron Age and Roman

- 4.2.7 There are very few records of Iron Age activity in the area and so the understanding of the development of this landscape subsequent to the Bronze Age is not well understood.
- 4.2.8 The remains of a road dating to the Roman period and running east to west approximately 1.2km to the north are well documented. There is also a record of a potential Roman period settlement close to the east end of the proposed development area (PRN 114775). There is however no detail of these remains and reference sources appear inaccurate, therefore the presence of activity in the area during the Roman period remains unclear.

Early Medieval and Medieval

- 4.2.9 During the medieval period the focus of settlement and activity was concentrated approximately 800m to the southeast, at the confluence of the Afon Taf and Afon Cynin. A castle (PRN 5054) was likely established during the Anglo-Norman invasions of the early 12th century, and to the north a Cluniac Priory was established in the mid-12th century, centred around St Mary's Church (PRN 3880), then dedicated to St Clarus. There is a suggestion that this church may have early medieval origins, predating the Anglo-Norman incursions. The first mention of the town (PRN 5055) is in 1248, but it is likely a settlement had already been established around the castle by this point. The town appears to have functioned largely as a small inland port and was significant enough to be enclosed with defences (PRN 8462).
- 4.2.10 The town is likely to have been surrounded by managed agricultural land, although as is known from the 17th century reference to CM322 (see Section 4.2.2) the area surrounding the monument may have been open common land during this period, presumably used for grazing. It is possible that Heol Goi, which runs past CM322, was established during this medieval period as a route out from the settlement of St Clears heading westward. The monument would likely have been a noticeable and prominent feature on this route.

Post Medieval

- 4.2.11 The focus of the town shifted in the mid-18th century with the establishment of a turnpike trust to upgrade the road between Carmarthen and Tavernspite, which lead to an important crossroads being established at the junction of the Tenby, Pentre and Pwll-Trap roads. Settlement expanded along High Street, up to and around the junction with the turnpike road. The majority of post-medieval sites recorded on the HER lie alongside these roads and largely comprise dwellings, municipal and religious buildings, and semi-industrial sites. With the establishment of the new roads, Heol Goi may have become more of a back route. The focus of the town shifted further north again with the arrival of the Carmarthen to Haverfordwest railway in 1854.
- 4.2.12 The closest recorded sites to CM322 (of post-medieval date) include a group of cottages at the west end of Heol Goi and a series of chapels and a school at its east end, including Capel Graig (NPRN 6656). This chapel was built in 1826 within the cutting on the north side of the road, around 200m to the east of the proposed development area. The chapel was closed and the site built over with the two current houses (Walnut Cottage and Craig Villa) in 1901.

4.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 4.3.1 There have been no recorded archaeological investigations into CM322.
- 4.3.2 In 2003 a condition requiring archaeological evaluation was added to the planning permission for the construction of properties on Cae Glas, a development to the northeast, potentially on the location of the second barrow PRN 3879. These properties were built in 2005 but no record of any archaeological investigation is recorded.
- 4.3.3 In 2018 the replacement of a rising water main resulted in an archaeological watching brief being undertaken on a series of small test holes and connection pits in the field to the west of CM322, and along Heol Goi to the north. No features, finds or deposits of archaeological interest were noted within the limited areas of excavation (Day and Enright 2018).
- 4.3.4 As part of the previous scheme of works, a geophysical survey was undertaken which included the proposed development site (Enright 2021). The survey identified some small features of possible archaeological interest within the field to the east, a former field boundary running north–south a short distance to the east of the proposed development area and a series of modern features partly spread across the proposed development area (Fig 4). No features of archaeological interest were identified in the vicinity of the supposed location of second barrow PRN 3879. It was noted within the geophysical survey report that such a method of surveying may not necessarily identify such remains if the barrow was constructed largely of stone, as has occurred elsewhere (Enright 2018), although a lack of any identifiable activity in this area may suggest a limited potential for such remains to exist.
- 4.3.5 Further archaeological investigations were recommended following on from the geophysical survey, but no archaeological conditions were attached to the current development works to the east of the proposed development and it is understood that no further archaeological investigations have been undertaken in this area.

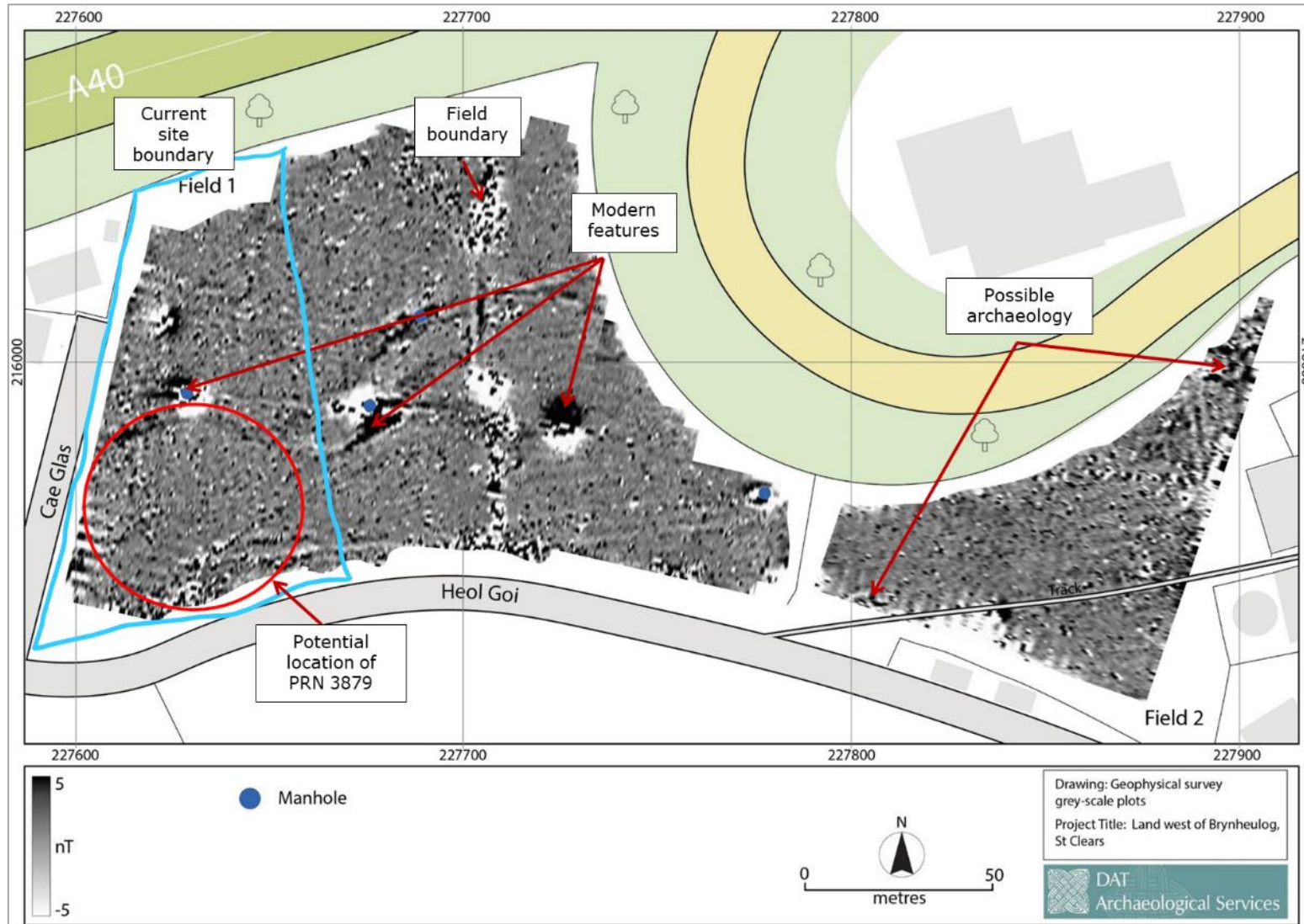


Figure 4: Geophysical survey results taken from Enright 2021.

4.4 Map Regression

4.4.1 One of the earliest detailed maps of the area is from the Ordnance Survey series of original surveyors' drawings of 1811 (Budgen). Although lacking much fine detail, this map presents an intriguing picture for CM322 (Fig 5). The route of Heol Goi is shown, as is the farm track and footpath that enclose the field in which it currently sits. The monument itself appears to be shown as a roughly circular area, separate from the field, and marks the meeting of several tracks, one being Heol Goi which continued westward to link with a number of dispersed dwellings, another running southeast towards the traditional centre of St Clears (still marked as a footpath today), and another running north towards the northern centre of St Clears forming around the new turnpike roads (since lost to new road developments). Whilst there is no indication of a secondary mound, the impression is that CM322 is forming a focal point for local roads in and around the landscape.



Figure 5: Extract from the 1811 Ordnance Survey drawings. The possible depiction of CM322 is highlighted.

4.4.2 The St Clears parish tithe map (Goode and Philpott 1841) does not show the monument, nor does it give any indication of its presence (Fig 6). The road layout appears unchanged from that depicted on the 1811 map. The corner of the field in which CM322 lies is separated into three small fields, each labelled as 'garden' and described as either 'Poors Land' or being owned by the Corporation, so rather than being in individual ownership the land was shared or used to help relieve local poverty. Many of the surrounding fields were similarly owned. The rest of the field within which CM322 now stands is called 'Tir ty tlody', the latter word likely to be a form of 'tloty', meaning poorhouse, thereby referring to poorhouse land. Waun Fach, the common land referred to in the late 17th century as containing two 'tumps' (see 4.2.2) is the name given to the field immediately to the west of CM322, on the other side of the farm track. This may suggest the potential second barrow was in fact located to the west, although the field divisions apparent on the tithe map may post-date the late 17th century and, given the references to

the poorhouse, some of these field enclosures may have been created in association with the Poor Law reforms of the 1830s. Eithin Fach, the name attributed to CM322, is given to a field to the southwest, within which the current Maes-y-coed house is located (the house is a 20th century creation). The proposed development area lies largely within a field called 'Park Newydd', part of a farm based on High Street to the east (possibly an original siting of Brynheulog Farm), with smaller enclosures on the southern edge of the field, around the current field entrance, which form part of the Corporation land.

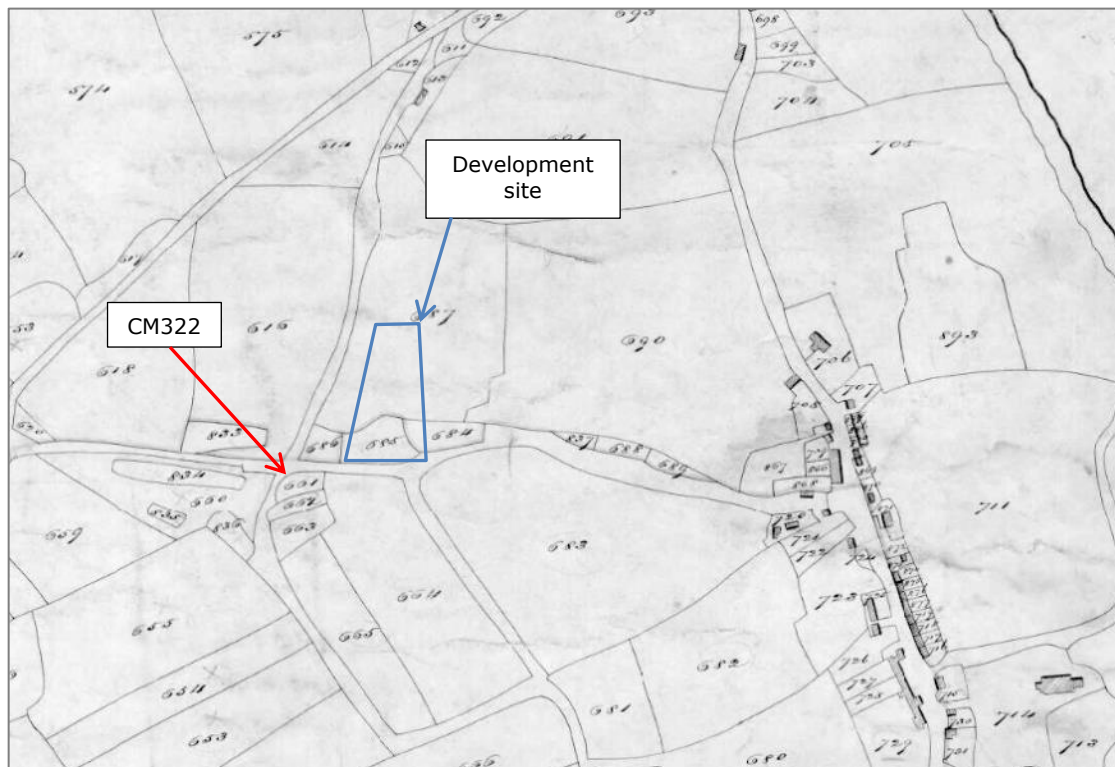


Figure 6: Extract from the St Clears parish tithe map of 1841. Approximate locations of CM322 and the proposed development area are illustrated.

4.4.3 The first edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1889 is a more detailed record of the landscape. Features of archaeological interest are often indicated on these maps, however there is no indication of CM322. The smaller fields marked on the tithe map have been amalgamated into a single field, still within the corner of the current field, a process that appears to have occurred for many of the small 'Poors Land' or Corporation units in the locality. Otherwise, the only notable change from the 1841 map is the establishment of Capel Graig in the cutting on the edge of Heol Goi to the east and the construction of new barns at Brynheulog. The second edition mapping of 1905/6 shows no change in the local area and little change is noted on the subsequent mapping of 1948, other than the establishment of Maes-y-Coed to the southwest.

4.5 Aerial Photographs and LiDAR

4.5.1 Historic and modern aerial photographs and satellite imagery have been examined, including aerial photography from 1946 and 1950. Three sorties were made across the site in 1946 (Fig 7) and one in 1950. The site of CM322 is visible on the resulting images but no other features of interest

are noted in the surrounding area, specifically there is no identifiable indication of PRN 3879.

- 4.5.2 Modern satellite imagery covering the period from 2006 adds little to the understanding of surrounding development and archaeological sites. Within the proposed development area there is no clear indication of a second barrow, although a former field boundary can be traced running north – south across the western field, and areas of modern drainage and service excavations can be picked out. There is no clear indication of any features associated with CM322.



Figure 7: Aerial photographic image from 1946, showing location of CM322 (red arrow).

- 4.5.3 LiDAR imagery at 1m DTM/DSM is available for the site (Fig 8) which gives greater detail than available in the original assessment (Poucher 2021). This suggests a possible curvilinear depression within the field that may represent an original line of Heol Goi continuing through the present field gateway and curving around the southern side of CM322 to then meet up and run along the southern field boundary of the field to the west, a route that would pre-date the mapping evidence (i.e. pre-19th century). CM322 is visible as a slight, smoothed mound along the edge of the field, the curving field boundary being particularly distinctive. A similar possible spread mound is suggested at the northern edge of the field to the west (at SN27451592). This is indistinct as a feature, and lies in a general area of surface undulations, but it potentially represents the site of the second mound referred to by antiquarians. No features of interest are noted within the bounds of the proposed development.

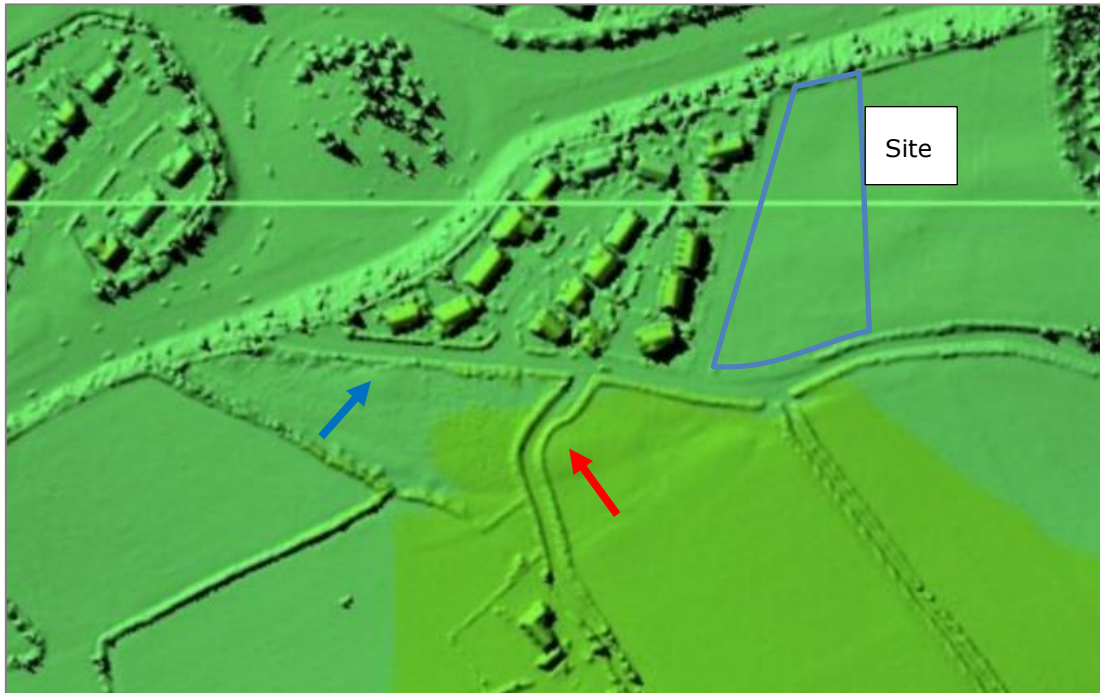


Figure 8: LiDAR image at 2mDSM. CM322 is marked (red arrow), with a curvilinear depression around the south. A second possible mound is marked by the blue arrow.

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4.6 Site Visit

- 4.6.1 A site visit was carried out for the original assessment on the 16th November 2021. The site was revisited on the 19th June 2024 as part of the current re-assessment. The weather was dry and bright with good all round visibility.
- 4.6.2 CM322 comprises a low, turf-covered circular mound when viewed from the east (Photos 1 and 2), lying on gentle north-facing slopes. The western edge of the mound is crossed by a hedgerow, beyond which a section of the mound is visible to a height of around 1.2m, slightly truncated by a farm track that curves around it (Photo 3).
- 4.6.3 Wetter ground lines the northern edge of the field, defining a slight, but noticeable, ridgeline, upon which the barrow sits. The ground to the south and southeast of the barrow continues to rise slightly to a high point around 120m to the southeast (Photos 4 – 6).
- 4.6.4 Slight undulations are visible across the higher ground within the field but no clear archaeological features are discernible. The possible road line around the southern edge of the barrow suggested on the LiDAR data (see 4.5.3) is partly visible as the edge of the ridgeline into the field but is otherwise difficult to pick out amongst the general slight undulations (Photo 4).
- 4.6.5 The field to the west is more noticeably undulating and uneven, falling gradually westward, with rushy vegetation marking a central wetter channel running westward and a possible raised mound against the northern boundary, as suggested on the LiDAR (Photo 7).



Photo 1: *CM322 viewed from the east in 2021, visible as the mound in the centre.*



Photo 2: *CM322 viewed from the east in 2024, the mound less distinct amongst the summer vegetation.*



Photo 3: *The mound of CM322 protruding from the hedge-line on the left.
1m scale.*

Photo taken 2021.



Photo 4: *View from the east, showing CM322 on the right and rising ground to
the left (south).*

Photo taken 2021.



Photo 5: *View looking east, taken from CM322, showing the lower ground along the northern edge of the field to the left, and the slight undulations across higher ground. Hills along the Cywyn valley are visible to the rear.*

Photo taken 2024.



Photo 6: *View looking south from CM322 across rising ground to the south.*

Photo taken 2021.



Photo 7: *View looking west from CM322 across the field to the west, showing the undulating ground and possible mound against the northern field boundary suggested by the LiDAR data (arrow).*

Photo taken 2021.

Views from CM322

- 4.6.6 Current views from within the field with the barrow are most extensive to the northeast and east, looking out over the undulating landscape of southern Carmarthenshire (Photos 5 and 8–10). The views take in the high ground between the Dewi Fawr/Taf valley and the Cywyn valley and include some of the higher hills on the east side of the Cywyn valley, but no particular focal point is noted.
- 4.6.7 Views northward are blocked by hedgerows and modern housing development, but as the ground falls away to the north these views would presumably have been relatively extensive as well, as far as the range of hills to the south of Meidrim, although even without the buildings mature trees disrupt any clear views.
- 4.6.8 Views west are blocked by a hedge-line that crosses the western part of the barrow, although from the barrow to the west of this hedge the view extends over the falling ground in the neighbouring field, but more extensive views are broken up by hedgerows and mature trees and are unlikely to extend too far beyond the higher ground on which Pwll-trap sits, although the wooded uplands of the Pale Woods over 4km to the west are visible (Photo 11).
- 4.6.9 Views south are blocked by gently rising ground (Photo 6).



Photo 8: *View northeast from CM322 across the proposed development area. The house at the southern end of Cae Glas lies on the left. The view indicates the distant uplands visible from the barrow.*

Photo taken 2024.



Photo 9: *View north from CM322, showing the housing blocking the view.*

Photo taken 2024.



Photo 10: *View north from higher ground above CM322, to demonstrate the potential view beyond the housing.*

Photo taken 2021.



Photo 11: *View west from the western edge of CM322, showing the distant wooded hilltops visible.*

Photo taken 2021.

4.6.10 The proposed development area comprises a pasture field on land falling gradually to the north, with the highest ground along the southern edge of the field but no surface trace of a secondary barrow was visible, and no change in vegetation was noted on either visit (Photos 12-14). Areas of modern disturbance were noted in the centre of the field during 2021.

CM322 was not visible at ground level beyond the hedge-banks that surround the fields (Photo 15). To the east modern development works were underway. Beyond the northern edge of the field the ground drops away sharply and artificially towards modern roads.



Photo 12: *View northeast across the proposed development area from Heol Goi. Embanked material from the adjacent development marks the boundary.*

Photo taken 2024.



Photo 13: *View north across the proposed development area from Heol Goi.*

Photo taken 2024.



Photo 14: *View northeast across the proposed development area from Cae Glas. Embanked material from the adjacent development marks the boundary.*

Photo taken 2024.



Photo 15: *View SSW along Cae Glas. The proposed development lies on the left.*

Photo taken 2024.

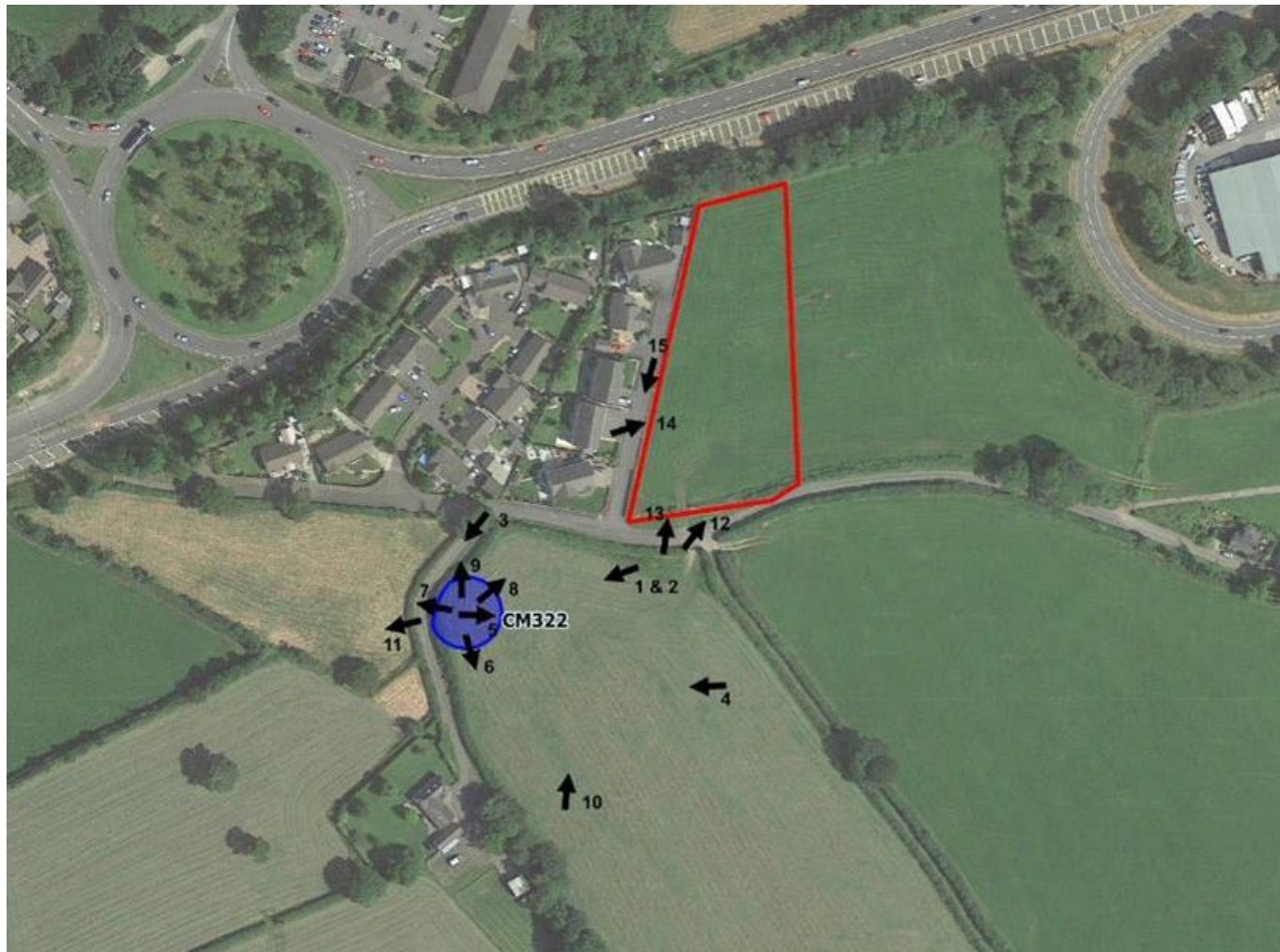


Figure 9: Map showing the locations and directions of photos mentioned in the text. Development area outlined in red.

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4.7 Summary of Setting for CM322 Eithin Bach Round Barrow

- 4.7.1 The scheduled area encompasses the physical remains of the round barrow itself which is described in Section 3.3. The current setting is its location in the corner of an agricultural field, bounded by hedgerows, with a hard boundary to the north formed by Heol Goi and modern development beyond.
- 4.7.2 As the recorded archaeology of the area suggests, this monument may have formed a pair of contemporary structures, potentially even a complex of such monuments. Defining the extent of this however is difficult as definitive evidence of surrounding archaeological remains has proven elusive. There was no surface indication of a second barrow to the northeast, no indication on re-examined aerial photographs or LiDAR data, and no indication on the geophysical survey. It is possible the site may have been lost to modern development on the north side of Heol Goi. Improved LiDAR and a reassessment of land to the west has suggested that this area may be a viable location for the second barrow, with suggestions of a denuded raised mound against the northern boundary of the field. Slight undulations in the field to the south and west of CM322 may be an indicator of further associated archaeological remains but they do not conform to clear archaeological features when viewed either from ground level or from aerial imagery and LiDAR data. This element of the setting is therefore confined to the scheduled area, potentially encompassing land to the south and west.
- 4.7.3 Traditionally it has been thought that views to and from such Bronze Age monuments would have formed an important factor in their placement, and therefore a visual element would be an important part of the setting. Assuming the siting of this monument on a local high point with gentle north-facing slopes was a deliberate choice, then general views to and from the north, and to some extent to and from the west and east, are important. Once again however, no specific contemporary focal point could be established in the surrounding landscape, therefore no significant points of inter-visibility could be established. Views from the monument in general took in the higher points of the surrounding landscape, and as the ground generally falls away more rapidly to the north and northwest this would presumably be the location from which the monument would have been more visually prominent. Modern urban development to the north of site has likely impacted upon its original visual setting by cutting off views to and from the north and northwest. Current development works to the northeast will also likely reduce some views in that direction.
- 4.7.4 The setting is likely to have changed through time. Its depiction on early 19th century mapping may be significant, suggesting the monument acted as a focal point for local roads through the area, something it may have done since the medieval period. Views of the monument and its relationship to and accessibility from both Heol Goi and the farm track immediately to the west are therefore elements of its setting. From the early to mid-19th century onwards however there appears to have been an erosion of its visibility and significance as it was enclosed by agricultural land.
- 4.7.5 Currently therefore the main elements of the setting are:
- Sited within agricultural fields with limited views from surrounding hedgerows; a distinct break with modern development to the north.
 - Archaeological remains within the scheduled area, potential archaeological spread to the northeast, west and south.
 - General views from the monument to the west, north and east, with a particular focus to the north and northwest.
 - Visibility and access from Heol Goi and adjacent farm track.

5 STAGE 3: EVALUATION OF THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CHANGE/ DEVELOPMENT

5.1 The proposed development is described in section 3.1 and its layout illustrated in Figure 3. Whilst the final design layout has not yet been established, the quantity and massing of structures is unlikely to alter significantly. Along the southern, most visible end of the development, the proposed dwellings are two-storeys high with four bedrooms, approximately 9m by 8.6m in plan, 5m high to the wall plate, and brick built, potentially rendered, with solar panels on the roof. Two further variations on this design are included to the north, along with the two-bedroom semi-detached affordable unit. An example of the four-bedroom dwelling is illustrated in Figure 10.



Figure 10: An example of one of the main housing unit styles proposed within the development. This example is fully rendered.

5.2 The proposals will introduce a new area of modern residential development into what had previously been a field of pasture, although modern residential development lies to the west, and current development is underway to the east which will incorporate dwellings of similar design and scale. There will be no physical impact upon the designated monuments discussed in the report but a potential impact upon the setting of CM322 Eithin Bach Round Barrow is highlighted.

5.3 As determined in the previous assessment, there are two main potential impacts, one associated with the possibility of archaeological remains associated with the complex within which the monument would have originally stood, and the other being a visual impact.

- 5.4 There is the potential for associated archaeological remains to extend to the northeast of CM322, part of its original setting. The proposed development would involve groundworks, including landscaping, levelling and trenched excavations, all of which would adversely impact upon buried archaeological remains, reducing the potential for the elements of the original setting to survive and similarly, the ability to understand the character and function of CM322 itself and therefore its evidential value. However, the area was re-examined during this assessment and has been investigated by geophysical survey. This revealed no evidence of potential archaeological remains associated with CM322 or a second barrow site within the proposed development area. Some potential archaeological features were identified, but their location and appearance suggest they are unlikely to be associated with CM322. The geophysical survey report (Enright 2021) does state that denuded barrow remains may not necessarily be identifiable with this type of survey if they were entirely stone-built, although associated ditches and burials are more likely to be detected and the lack of any identifiable activity within the area of the possible barrow suggests a low archaeological potential. LiDAR data has suggested some of the undulations visible to the west may represent the location of the second barrow recorded by antiquarians; alternatively this second barrow may already have been lost to development. This assessment would suggest that the proposed development is unlikely to alter the remaining features of this particular element of the setting.
- 5.5 In terms of the potential visual impact, the monument is likely to have had extensive views across the surrounding landscape and, as with the previously assessed development, the current proposal will result in a change to that view, introducing modern built elements into a former agricultural element of the setting which are likely to block views across this area. Views could have ranged from the west, through the north and to the east, although no focal point or significant viewpoint has been identified. The local topography would suggest main views are to the north and northwest. Many of these views have been compromised in the current landscape, with modern development to the north and northwest blocking views in that direction. Hedgerow development across the western side of the barrow has interrupted views in that direction. Views to the northeast and east remain open, although modern development does intrude, and will intrude further with the current ongoing development to the northeast. Hedgerows and mature trees also break up this view and prevent any view of the monument itself from beyond the immediate field boundaries. The introduction of residential housing will be clearly visible however and will block distant views from the monument over the landscape, perhaps one of the last remaining open views in a northerly aspect (illustrated in Photo 8). The current proposed development will infill the final gap in these views, with modern development then forming a continuous feature of the views to the north. No significant specific point of interest has been identified in the current view from CM322 across the proposed development area.
- 5.6 The other main aspects of the setting include the relationship of CM322 to Heol Goi and the farm track to the west. The visibility of the monument and access to it from these routes will remain unaltered by the proposed development. Its current setting within the corner of a pasture field, surrounded by hedgerows and with a distinct change from agricultural land and developed land to the north (a boundary represented by Heol Goi) will also remain unchanged by the proposed development.
- 5.7 In terms of potential impact on the setting and how this may affect the Cadw's Conservation Principles (Cadw 2017) then there is a potential

reduction in the evidential value. The view to the northeast may be the last remaining vestige of original views from the monument, helping in part to explain why it was sited in this particular location. This will be lost through development, impacting the evidential value. Although the area of development is less than assessed previously (Poucher 2021), the current proposed development will have a cumulative impact of extending modern development across the northerly view from the monument and is therefore of equal impact. There is a further potential loss of evidential value if associated archaeological remains do extend into the proposed development area, although studies to date would suggest the potential for this is low. The historical, aesthetic and communal values of the monument should remain unchanged.

- 5.8 In summary the main potential negative impacts of the proposed development is considered to be:
- A loss of original views from the monument, decreasing the evidential value of the visual setting.
- 5.9 Overall this is considered to be a slight negative impact upon the setting of CM322 Eithin Bach Round Barrow.

6 STAGE 4: MITIGATION OPTIONS

- 6.1 The main impact of the proposed development will be a visual one on views from CM322. As with the previous assessment, this impact can only be fully mitigated by removing a significant element of the development area, unlikely in terms of balancing the viability of the proposed development and the impact it would have on CM322. Efforts have been made to 'soften' the visual impact through the establishment of vegetation along parts of the boundary to Heol Goi, particularly in the southwest corner of the proposed development area. However, any new 'natural' element along this boundary that is higher than the current hedgerow of the field surrounding CM322 also serves to impact upon the view, and therefore screening the development in vegetation will not alter the impact. In summary therefore no further mitigation is suggested to further reduce visual impacts.
- 6.2 A possible impact on potential associated archaeological remains is highlighted with an associated loss of evidential value, although the presence of such remains is considered to be low given the results of this assessment and geophysical survey. Any potential loss of such evidential value could be mitigated against, either through the positive identification of archaeological remains via intrusive archaeological evaluation prior to development, or the preservation through record of archaeological remains through the identification and subsequent recording of archaeological remains by maintaining an archaeological watching brief during construction activity. Both methods have differing advantages. It is likely that an archaeological evaluation would identify the presence of archaeological remains that can then be fully factored into the proposed development. However, the archaeological potential that specifically relates to CM322 would appear to be low, and therefore prior evaluation may prove to be an additional expense; should any less substantial archaeological remains be identified during development works then these could be dealt with via a watching brief.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 This report assesses the impact of the proposed development upon the site and setting of designated archaeological monuments in the surrounding landscape. This impact has been assessed using the guidance and methodology outlined in the 'Setting of Heritage Assets in Wales' (Cadw 2017), which outlines a four stage approach. This report updates a previous assessment undertaken in 2021. The assessment repeated the same processes, utilising any new information and changes in legislation, and assessing against new development proposals. However there has been very little change to the outcomes of that original assessment.
- 7.2 Stage 1 identified the historic assets, established as the site of CM322 Eithin Bach Round Barrow, a large prehistoric round barrow of likely Bronze Age date.
- 7.3 Stage 2 defined and analysed the setting of the monument. Four main elements were identified, comprising:
- the current setting within an agricultural field surrounded by hedgerows with a distinct boundary to modern development to the north;
 - associated archaeological remains at the monument with a potential spread to the northeast, west and south;
 - general views from the monument to the west, north and east, with a particular focus on the north and northwest; and
 - the relationship of the monument to the adjacent road and farm track.

The only alteration to the original assessment was the suggestion that a second barrow site may lie to the west instead of to the northeast of CM322 (which may have been within the proposed development area), as has previously been suggested.

- 7.4 Stage 3 evaluated the potential impact of the proposed development which comprises plans for residential development occupying part of a former pasture field to the northeast of CM322. Modern development lies to the west and current development is underway to the east, which will adjoin the proposed development. There is the potential to impact upon associated archaeological remains spreading into this area, although an accompanying geophysical survey and re-assessment could find no positive evidence of such remains, with a further suggestion they may instead lie to the west. The main potential impact would appear to be the loss of original views from the monument to the northeast and the cumulative impact of this alongside ongoing development works in the area, and the decrease in the evidential value of the visual setting. This impact is considered to be a **Slight negative impact** upon the setting of CM322.
- 7.5 Stage 4 suggested mitigation options associated with the proposed development. No further mitigation is offered to reduce visual impacts. Further intrusive archaeological investigations and/or recording through pre-development evaluation trenching, or watching brief during construction, is suggested as mitigation for the potential associated archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

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