



**Extended Phase 1 and Protected
Species Survey**

**Land to the north of
Nant Y Ffynnon, Letterston,
Pembrokeshire**

Enfys Developments Ltd

Updated Report

November 2024

Contents

1	Executive summary	3
2	Introduction and site description	3
3	Desk study and survey methodology	5
4	Baseline (results and findings)	6
5	Limitations to survey	15
6	Legislation and planning	15
7	Discussion and key recommendations	16
8	Additional Recommendations	17
9	Conclusions	19
10	References	19

Copyright kite ecology. All rights reserved.

No part of the report may be altered or extracted without the prior written consent of kite ecology as to the form and context in which it may appear. Ownership of the report remains with kite ecology until full payment has been received.

kite ecology have prepared this report for the sole use of client and no other party may use or copy (either in part or whole) any part of the report without the written confirmation of kite ecology. Any part of the report cannot be altered or extracted without the prior written consent of kite ecology as to the form and context in which it may appear. kite ecology accepts no responsibility for any use of or reliance on the contents of this report by any third party.

This report, and the information contained in it, is intended to be valid for a maximum of 12 months from the date of the survey, providing no significant baseline changes have occurred.

kite ecology
Chelston Narberth Road Tenby Pembrokeshire SA70 8JD

enquiries@kiteecology.co.uk

Project number	Report number	Revision number	Date of issue
1963	002	Draft	27/11/2024
1963	002	Final	27/11/2024

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 An extended phase 1 and protected species survey of land to the north of Nant Y Ffynnon, Letterston, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by RLH Architectural Ltd on behalf of Enfys Developments Ltd in relation to a planning application. Under the current proposals, the land would be developed for housing.
- 1.2 A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 5th August 2020 when it was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats, birds, dormice and reptiles as these were considered the species most likely to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. Due to the time that had elapsed, a repeat walkover survey was completed on 27th November 2024 to ensure no baseline changes has occurred. All surveys were completed by a suitably licensed and experienced ecologist.
- 1.3 No evidence of protected species was found on site. The site comprises two improved agricultural fields which have recently been cut for hay. The hedgerows surrounding the site are species rich, but are well maintained as boundary features and are beyond an existing post and wire fence, so out of the proposed development. The only hedgerow to be impacted is the central hedgerow which separates the two fields.
- 1.4 While there was no evidence of protected species on site, the development should be used as an opportunity to improve the biodiversity of the site. It is considered unlikely that the development would impact on the biodiversity of the area, particularly if the recommendations of this report are included in the scheme.

2 Introduction and site description

- 2.1 An extended phase 1 and protected species survey of land to the north of Nant Y Ffynnon, Letterston, Pembrokeshire were commissioned by RLH Architectural Ltd on behalf of Enfys Developments Ltd in relation to a planning application. Under the current proposals, the land would be developed for housing. The centre of the site is located at OSGR SM93562990.
- 2.2 The survey relates to two agricultural fields situated to the north west of the village of Letterston. The extent of the survey is shown in Figure 1 with a panoramic view of the site in Figures 2 and 3.

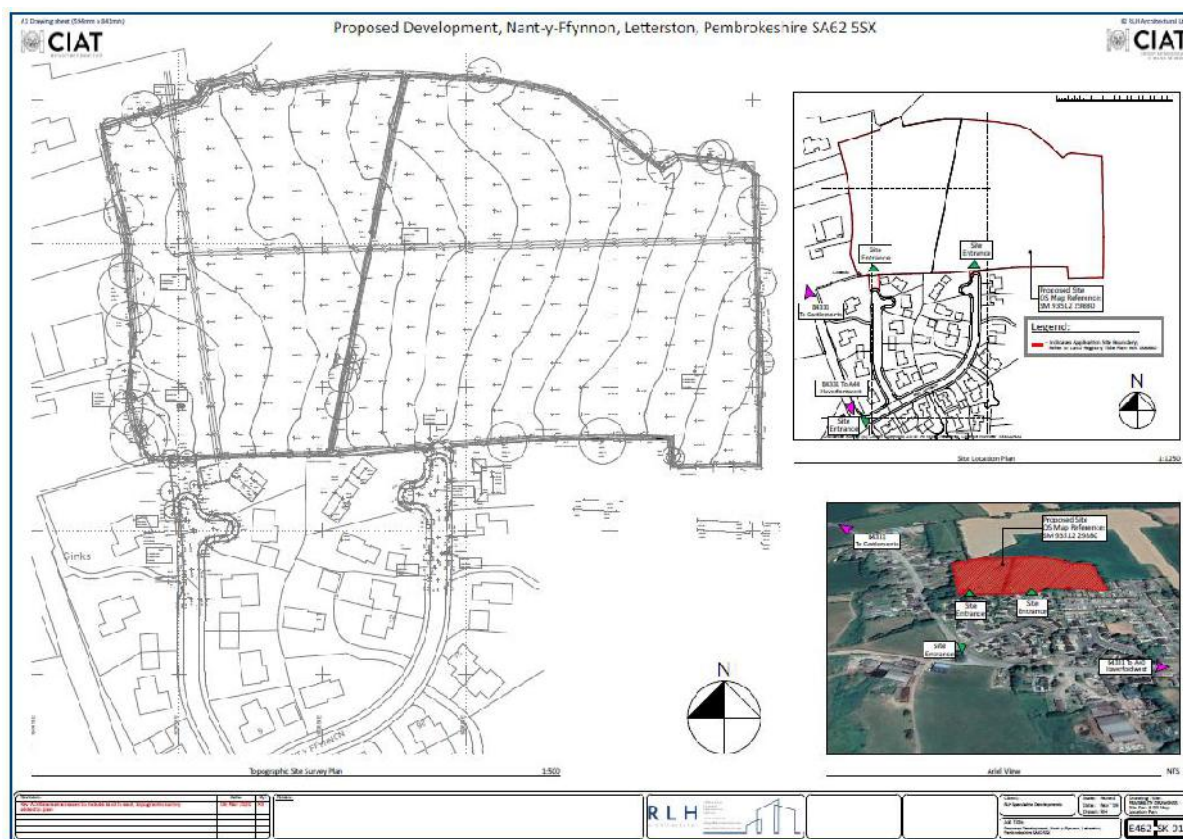


Figure 1. Survey area.



Figure 2. Panoramic photograph of the eastern field taken from the south western corner facing north eastwards.



Figure 3. Panoramic view of the western field taken from the north eastern corner facing south westwards.

- 2.3 Unless the client indicates otherwise, all species records will be submitted to the relevant biological records centre.

3 Desk study and survey methodology

3.1 General

A walkover survey of the site was carried out on 5th August 2020 when it was surveyed for evidence of use by protected species including badgers, bats, birds, dormice and reptiles as these were considered the species most likely to utilise the site. Habitats on site were also recorded. The weather during the surveys was cloudy (100% cover), with south westerly winds of Force 2, an average temperature of 17°C. Due to the time that had elapsed, a repeat walkover survey was completed on 27th November 2024. All surveys were undertaken by a suitably licensed ecologist who is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and a Chartered Environmentalist. Surveys and reports have been completed following accepted guidelines and in accordance with CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing (2015) and BS 42020:2013 *Biodiversity. Code of practice for planning and development.* (2013).

3.2 Desk study

- 3.2.1 A data search for a radius of 2km was commissioned from the West Wales Biological Information Centre.

3.2.2 Aerial photographs

Google Earth was used to identify any important landscape features surrounding the site.

3.2.3 Designated sites

The Multi-Agency Geographic Information website (www.magic.gov.uk) was used to identify the presence of any protected sites within 2km of the survey area.

3.3 On site surveys

3.3.1 Phase 1

A Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out following the standard field methodology set out in the *Handbook for Phase 1 Habitat Survey – A Technique for Environmental Audit*, Joint Nature Conservation Committee 1990 (2016 edition).

3.3.2 **Badgers**

The site, and where possible, a radius of 30 metres from the site boundary was searched for badger setts. Sett entrances are recognised by entrances c.300mm wide and c.200mm high and tend to have large accumulations of earth outside. Other signs searched for included 'snuffle holes' (holes dug by badgers when searching for invertebrates), 'dung pits' (small pits in which badgers deposit their faeces) and 'day nests' (nests of bedding material made by badgers for sleeping above ground).

3.3.3 **Bats**

3.3.3.1 **Trees**

Any trees were assessed for their potential use by roosting bats. Features such as peeling bark, woodpecker holes, splits and cracks were recorded. Trees were classed as being of low, medium or high bat potential depending on their suitability.

3.3.4 **Dormice**

The hedges, scrub and woodland were assessed for their potential use by dormice and any areas of fruiting hazel were searched for hazel nuts opened in the characteristic way.

3.3.5 **Birds**

Any birds seen or heard on site during the survey were recorded.

3.3.6 **Reptiles**

The habitat was assessed for its potential use by reptiles with any suitable habitat or features also being recorded.

3.3.7 **Other species**

Incidental records of any other species seen or heard on site during the survey were also recorded.

4 **Results**

4.1 **Data search**

There are over 2400 individual records within a 2km radius of the site. The most relevant records in relation to this proposed development relate to a brown long eared *Plecotus auritus* roost 300m to the south east, as well as mobile bat records for common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and noctule *Nyctalus noctula*. Badger *Meles meles* and hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* have also been recorded within 500m of the site. The species records are summarised on Figure 4. There is also an area of ancient woodland within a 2km radius of the site. These are summarised on Figure 5.

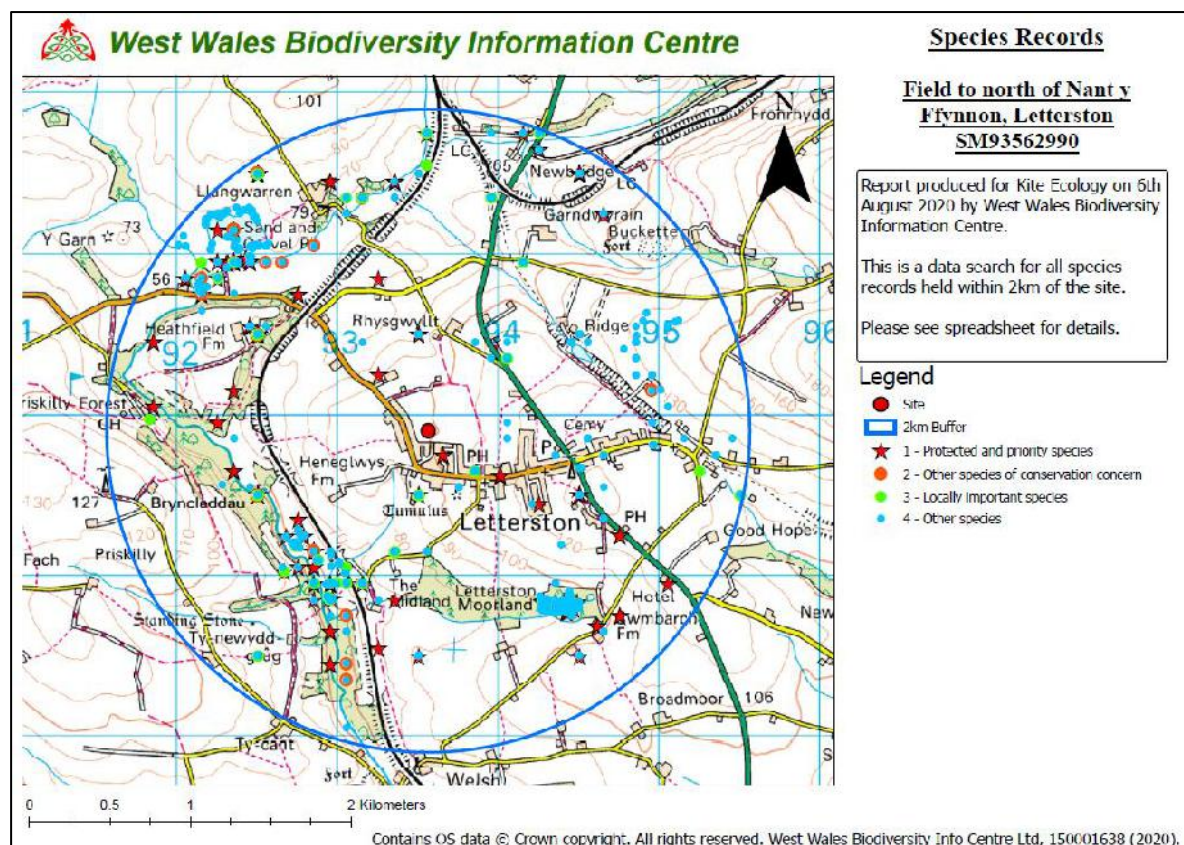


Figure 4. Summary of species records within a 2km radius of the site.

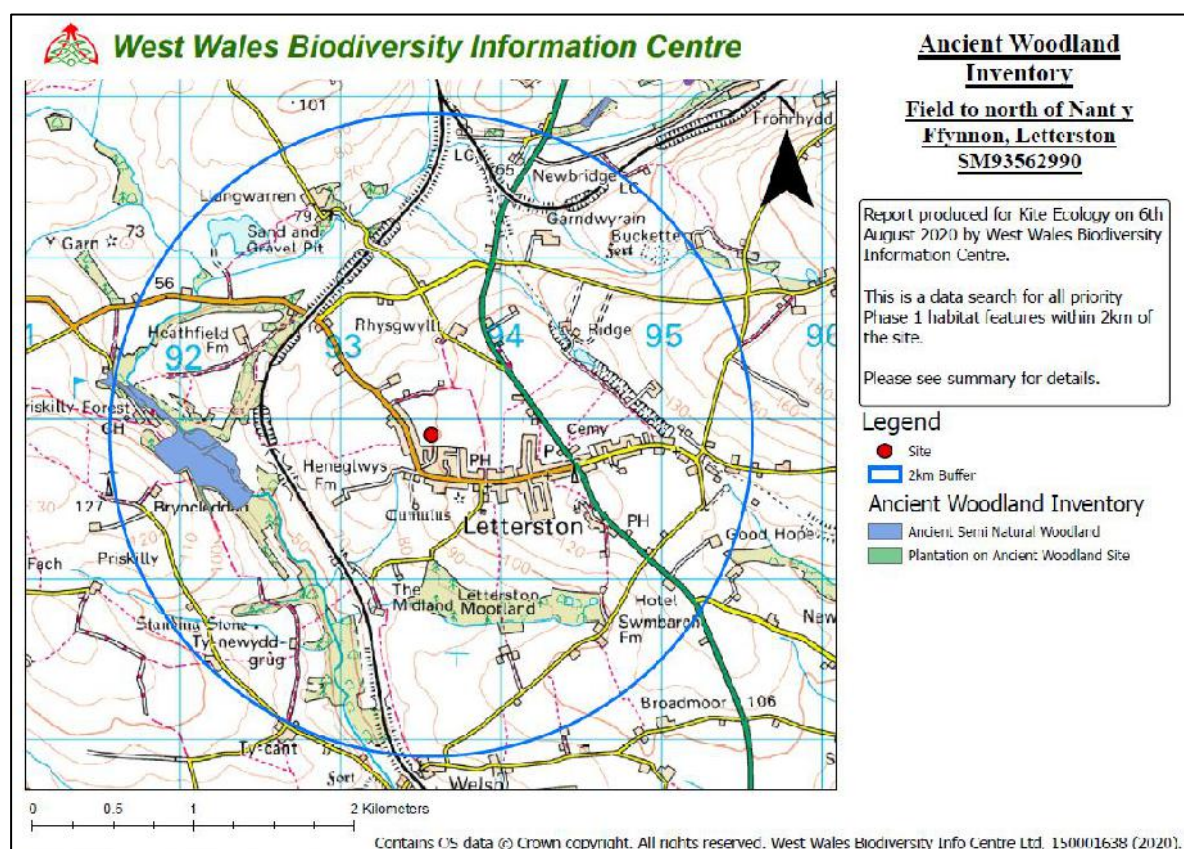


Figure 5. Location of ancient woodlands within a 2km radius of the site.

4.2 Aerial photographs

Situated to the north west of the village of Letterston, the two fields included in the survey have existing housing to the south and west, with further agricultural fields to the north and east. The hedgerows surrounding the fields extend north and eastwards providing suitable links to the surrounding habitat. The surrounding habitats are visible in Figure 6.



Figure 6. Aerial photograph of the site in relation to the surrounding habitats.

4.3 Designated sites

At its closest point, the site is 900m north east of the Western Cleddau River Site of Special Scientific Interest which also forms part of the Cleddau Rivers Special Area of Conservation. The designated sites are summarised in Figure 7.

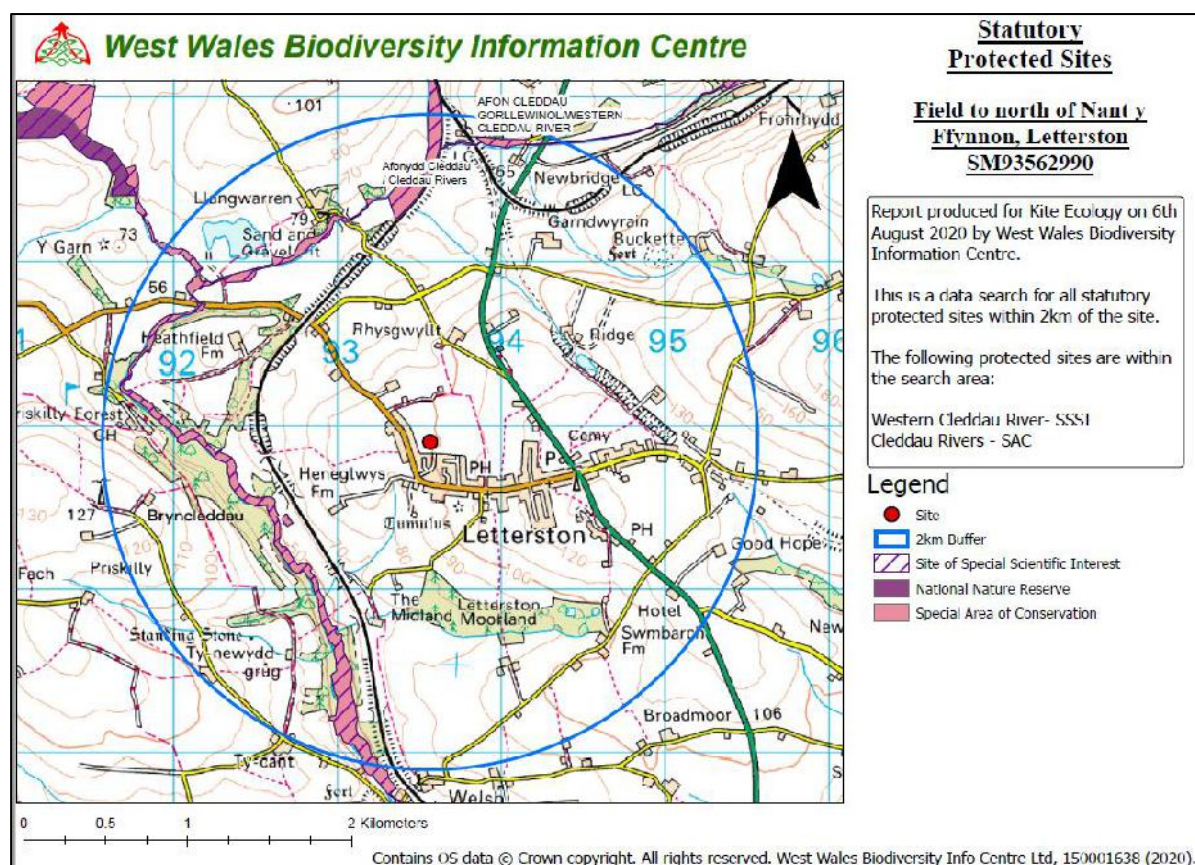


Figure 7. Designated sites in relation to the site.

4.4 On site surveys

4.4.1 Phase 1

4.3.1.1 H1 – south eastern hedgerow

A mature hedgerow dominated by hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* with occasional ash *Fraxinus excelsior*.



Figure 8. H1 – south eastern boundary hedgerow.

4.3.1.2 *H2 – central hedgerow*

A mature hedgerow dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn with occasional elder *Sambuca nigra* and ash. The hedgerow is located on a low, stone wall.



Figure 9. H2 – Central hedgerow.

4.3.1.3 *H3 – south western boundary*

A gappy hedgerow dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn. Several sections of the hedgerow have been cut down and replaced with new planting.



Figure 10. H3. South western boundary.

4.3.1.4 *H4 – western boundary*

A mature hedgerow dominated by hawthorn, blackthorn, ash and sycamore. There are several mature hazel bushes towards the northern end. These were heavily fruiting at the time of the survey.



Figure 11. H4. Western boundary hedgerow.

4.3.1.5 *H5 – North western boundary*

A mature hedgerow following the course of a drainage ditch (dry at the time of the survey). The hedgerow is dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn, with occasional patches of gorse *Ulex* sp, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, willow *Salix* sp., hazel and bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*.



Figure 12. H5. North western boundary hedgerow.

4.3.1.6 *H6 – North eastern boundary*

A mature hedgerow dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn with frequent ash, gorse and sycamore.



Figure 13. H5. North eastern boundary hedgerow.

4.3.1.7 *H7 – Eastern boundary*

A mature hedgerow set on a bank and dominated by hawthorn, blackthorn, sycamore and ash.



Figure 14. H6. Eastern boundary hedgerow.

4.3.1.8 *F1 – eastern field*

The field has recently been cut for hay. It includes perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne*, Timothy *Phleum pratense*, rough meadow grass *Poa trivialis*, red clover *Trifolium pratense*, white clover *Trifolium repens*, broad leaved dock *Rumex obtusifolius* and common sorrel *Rumex acetosa*.



Figure 15. F1. Eastern field.

4.3.1.9 *F2 – western field*

The field has recently been cut for hay. It includes perennial rye grass, Timothy, rough meadow grass, red clover, white clover, broad leaved dock and common sorrel.



Figure 16. F2. Western field.

4.3.1.10 The habitats are summarised in Figure 17.



Figure 17. Phase 1 habitat map.

4.3.2 Badgers

There was no evidence of badgers on site, or within a 30m radius of the boundary. There are records of badgers within a 2km radius of the site.

4.3.3 Bats

4.3.3.1 Trees

There are a number of mature trees in the hedgerows surrounding the site. However, the trees lacked any features suitable for roosting bats and can be classed as being of low Bat Roosting Feature potential. It is however likely that the site would be used by foraging and commuting bats.

4.3.4 Dormice

There are no known records for dormice within a 2km radius of the site. There were areas of fruiting hazel (particularly in H4), but while nuts opened by squirrel were found, none relating to dormice were identified.

4.3.5 Birds

Blackbird *Turdus merula* and crow *Corvus corone* were all seen or heard on site during the survey. It is likely that the hedgerows are used by nesting birds at appropriate times of year.

4.3.5 Reptiles

The uniformly short sward height of the vegetation on site makes it very unlikely to be used by reptiles.

4.3.6 Other species

No other species were recorded.

5 Limitations to surveys

- 5.1 The results and recommendations of the report are based on findings as they were at the time of the survey. Kite Ecology cannot be held responsible for any base line changes to the site that have occurred since the survey was carried out that may have any effect on the results and recommendations.

6 Legislation and planning policy

6.1 Designated sites

Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest are strictly protected through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

6.2 Bats

All species of bat and their breeding sites or resting places (roosts) are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 which transcribes the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna) into UK law. Bats are also protected under Section 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). It is an offence for anyone intentionally to kill, injure or handle a bat, to possess a bat (whether live or dead), disturb a roosting bat, or sell or offer a bat for sale without a licence. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place used by bats for shelter, whether they are present or not. Licences are available from Natural Resources Wales to allow actions that would otherwise be unlawful.

6.3 Birds

All birds, their nests and eggs are protected under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

6.4 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Section 40 of the NERC Act places a 'Biodiversity Duty' on local planning authorities as far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions. This replaces Section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.

6.5 Technical Advice Notes 5

TAN 5 gives advice to local authorities on development control issues for Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). It also covers the selection and designation of non-statutory nature conservation sites, such as local nature reserves, and the protection of species, commons and greens.

6.6 Local Development Plan

Policy GN.37 (Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity) from the Pembrokeshire Local Development Plan states:

'All development should demonstrate a positive approach to maintaining and, where ever possible, enhancing biodiversity. Development that would disturb or otherwise harm protected species or their habitats, or the integrity of other habitats, sites or features of importance to wildlife and individual species, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where the effects are minimised or mitigated through careful design, work scheduling or other appropriate measures.'

7 Discussion and key recommendations

7.1 Designated sites

The proposed development lies adjacent to existing residential developments. However, as the site is adjacent to proposed developments, it is very unlikely to impact on the designations.

7.2 Habitats

7.2.1 The proposed development relates to the construction of new dwellings (shown on Figure 18). This will inevitably lead to the loss of the improved grassland, therefore any planting should utilise locally sourced, native species in all gardens and landscaping. Hedgerows could be used to demarcate property boundaries as these can also act as natural wildlife corridors. Buffer zones have also been included around the existing hedgerows to protect them in the future.



Figure 18. Proposed development.

7.3 Bats

7.3.1 Habitats

Given that there are a number of known roosts in the area for a variety of species (pers comm.), it is very likely that the habitat would be used by foraging and commuting bats. Of particular importance are the hedgerows. Under the proposals, the existing boundary features are to remain unaffected. All lighting must be hooded and downward facing and positioned to avoid shining directly onto the features such as woodland edges and hedgerows. The lighting should also be PIR sensitive LED type which have a much more directional lighting range. An example is shown in Figure 19.



Figure 19. Example of PIR LED light.

7.4

Birds

Any scrubby vegetation or tree removal will be restricted to the period between late August and early March in any year to avoid the bird nesting season. If it is necessary to carry out such work during the bird nesting season then initial works will be conducted carefully, and the presence of birds and their active nests checked for immediately before and throughout vegetation removal. If an active nest is discovered, then work in that area will cease and the nest protected until the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active.

8

Additional recommendations

8.1

Hedgerows

8.1.1

Management

- only cut each hedge every 2 years; this reduces maintenance and labour costs, creates a bushier hedge for wildlife and allows flower and berry production in the intervening years.
- hedges with slow growing species, such as hawthorn, can be cut on a 3 year cycle.
- do not cut back to the same height repeatedly, raising the cutting height each time will avoid placing the hedge under stress and allow it to regenerate more vigorously.
- cut hedges to a variety of shapes and sizes; “A” shaped hedges provide good stock proofing and shelter, create song posts for birds and enable hedgerow trees to develop if left untopped.
- leaving 1-2 metre (or wider) verges of tall grass by hedges provides nesting habitat for birds and protects hedgerows from pesticide or fertiliser spray drift.
- hedges can be trimmed, laid and coppiced from September to February but try and cut as late in the winter as possible so wildlife can take advantage of the nuts and berries produced in the autumn.

8.2

Enhancements

8.2.2

Birds

Bird boxes should be incorporated into the scheme to enhance the nesting potential of the site. Nest boxes which can be incorporated into the fabric of buildings themselves are recommended (Figure 20), although these should be sited high up on walls (immediately below the wall plates or soffit boxes) and avoid being positioned above windows or doors. These should be included on 20% of all buildings on site.



Figure 20. Example of a bird box which can be built into new buildings.

8.2.3 Bats

Measures to allow bats to utilise the new buildings would enhance the roosting potential of the site. Such measures could include the incorporation of 'bat tubes' (Figure 21). These are prefabricated boxes which are built into the external wall structure. It is recommended that bat tubes are included on 20% of the new buildings (but different ones to the bird boxes). They should be positioned at least 3m above ground, but avoid being positioned above windows or doors.



Figure 21. Example of a bat tube.

8.2.4 Hedgehogs

One of the reasons for a decline in hedgehogs is a loss of habitat and fragmentation of habitat. As hedgehogs have been recorded in the area, it would be beneficial if the boundary hedgerows could be retained as much as possible and new planting included so providing additional corridors around the site and surrounding habitat. Any property fences should include 'hedgehog highways', where a 15cm by 15cm hole is cut in the base of any fences to allow hedgehogs to move between gardens, so increasing their access to foraging and nesting sites. An example of such a 'hedgehog highway' is included in Figure 22.



Figure 22. Hedgehog highway included in base of fence to allow hedgehog movement.

9 Conclusions

While there was no evidence of protected species on site, there are records in the area for a number of mobile species which may on occasion utilise the site. It is considered unlikely that the development would impact on the biodiversity of the area, particularly if the recommendations of this report are included in the scheme.

10 References

Bat Conservation Trust (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines. 3rd Edition. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Collins, J. (ed.) (2023) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (4th Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Reason, P.F. and Wray, S. (2023). UK Bat Mitigation Guidelines: a guide to impact assessment, mitigation and compensation for developments affecting bats. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Ampfield.

Gent, A.H and Gibson, S.D eds (1998) Herpetofauna Workers Manual. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

JNCC (1993) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey: A technique for environmental audit. Joint Nature Conservancy Committee, Peterborough.

Harris, S and Yalden, D.W. eds (2008). Mammals of the British Isles (4th Edition). The Mammal Society.

Mitchell-Jones, A.J. & McLeish, A.P. (2004). Bat Workers' Manual (3rd Edition). Joint Nature Conservancy Committee, Peterborough

Mitchell- Jones, A.J. (2004). Bat Mitigation Guidelines. English Nature, Peterborough.

Rose, F. (2006). The Wildflower Key – How to Identify wild flowers, trees and shrubs in Britain and Ireland.

Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Technical Advice Note 5, Nature Conservation and Planning.



Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment of Land Adjacent to Nant y Ffynnon, Letterston

Text, Plans, Photographs & Appendices

Prepared for Wales & West Housing Association

November 2024

TDA/3015/LC&VIA/RhC/11.24

CONTENTS

Text

Section 1	Introduction
Section 2	Qualifications & Experience
Section 3	Letterston: Planning Context & Landscape Character
Section 4	Landscape Mitigation & Enhancement
Section 5	Visual Appraisal & Landscape Character Assessment
Section 6	Summary & Conclusion

Plans

TDA/3015/01	Location of Photo Viewpoints
TDA/3015/02	Structural Landscape Strategy

Photo Viewpoints

Photo Viewpoint 1	Mid-range view looking west from St. Davids Road
Photo Viewpoint 2	Short-range view looking west from a public bridleway off St. David's Road
Photo Viewpoint 3	Long-range view looking south west from a public footpath linking St Davids Road with the A40
Photo Viewpoint 4	Short-range view looking south from a public bridleway off St. Davids Road
Photo Viewpoint 5	short-range view looking east from a public footpath off St Davids Road
Photo Viewpoint 6	Short-range view looking east from St. Davids Road
Photo Viewpoint 7	Short-range view looking north from the entrance to Old Rectory Close
Photo Viewpoint 8	Short-range view looking north west from Min y Llan

Appendices

Appendix 1	LANDMAP DATA
Appendix 2	LCA 5 'Scleddau Lowlands'
Appendix 3	Significance Criteria for Visual Impact. Extract of 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment produced by The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment.

Section 1

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tirlun Design Associates (TDA) have been instructed to undertake a landscape character and visual impact assessment of a proposed development site on land adjacent to Nant y Ffynnon, Letterston ('The Site'), and assess the general visual and landscape character impacts a proposed new residential development would have upon its surrounding landscape.
- 1.2 Desktop research and site surveys were carried out in November 2024 and their findings are contained herein.
- 1.3 The primary question asked within this document is:

Can the proposed site at Letterston accommodate a residential development without adverse impacts upon the character and visual amenity of the site's surroundings.

- 1.4 The document has been set out as follows:
 - **Section 2 - Qualifications & Experience** introduces the member of staff dealing with this assessment on behalf of TDA and highlights their qualifications and experience relevant to this study.
 - **Section 3 – Letterston: Planning Context & Landscape Character** introduces the site, its planning context and landscape character.
 - **Section 4 – Landscape Mitigation & Enhancement** outlines the structural landscape strategy for the residential development
 - **Section 5 - Visual Appraisal & Landscape Assessment** is a visual appraisal and landscape assessment of the site.
 - **Section 6 - Summary & Conclusion** provides a summary of the study and presents a conclusion to the question raised within paragraph 1.3.

Section 2

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- 2.1 This assessment has been carried out on behalf of TDA by Rhodri Crandon and Andrew Perrigo.
- 2.2 Rhodri's qualifications include an honours degree in Landscape Architecture gained from Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education (CGHE) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture also from CGHE.
- 2.3 Mr. Crandon is the director of TDA, a landscape consultancy practice based in South Wales, and has 21 years professional practice experience within the field of landscape architecture. Over this period, he has undertaken many projects relevant to this development which have dealt with issues relating to landscape design, landscape planning and landscape & visual assessment.
- 2.4 Mr. Crandon has worked as an expert witness in relation to landscape character and visual issues on many relevant projects both in the private and public sector, including Monmouthshire County Council during their Unitary Development Plan Inquiry in 2004.
- 2.5 Andrew's qualifications include an honours degree in Psychology gained from Cardiff Metropolitan University, a City & Guilds Level 2 in Computer Aided Design and a Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture from the University of Gloucestershire.
- 2.6 Mr. Perrigo is the Senior Landscape Architect at TDA, and has 18 years professional practice experience within the field of landscape architecture. Over this period, he has undertaken many projects relevant to this development which have dealt with issues relating to landscape design, landscape planning and landscape & visual assessment.

Section 3

LETTERSTON: SITE, LANDSCAPE, PLANNING CONTEXT AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Site Context

- 3.1 The proposed development site is located on the northern edge of Letterston, a linear village 4km north west Of Wolf's Castle and 7km west of Punctheston.
- 3.2 The northern and eastern boundaries are defined by field boundary hedgerows. The southern and western boundaries are defined by existing residential properties.
- 3.3 TDA drawing no. TDA/3015/01 – Location of Photo Viewpoints (refer to Plans section of this document) clearly illustrates the site and its context.

Landscape & Planning Context

- 3.4 The site made up of two parcels of greenfield land, located outside of (but immediately adjacent to) the settlement boundary.
- 3.5 The site is not located within a conservation area and is not covered by any local or national landscape designations.
- 3.6 The site is surrounded by a number of public footpaths, byways & other routes public access. Refer to TDA drawing no. TDA/3015/01 – Location of Photo Viewpoints.
- 3.7 Based upon the study of up-to-date mapping provided by Sustrans there are no local or national cycle routes adjacent to, nor within close proximity of the site.
- 3.8 The site does not contain any tree preservation orders, listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments.

Adopted Local Plan Policies

Policy GN.1 – General Development Policy (Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan 2013)

- 3.9 Policy GN1 (General Development Policy) states that:

“Development will be permitted where the following criteria are met:

1. The nature, location, siting and scale of the proposed development is compatible with the capacity and character of the site and the area within which it is located;

2. It would not result in a significant detrimental impact on local amenity in terms of visual impact, loss of light or privacy, odours, smoke, fumes, dust, air quality or an increase in noise or vibration levels;

3. It would not adversely affect landscape character, quality or diversity, including the special qualities of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park⁶³ and neighbouring authorities;

4. *It respects and protects the natural environment including protected habitats and species;*
5. *It would take place in an accessible location, would incorporate sustainable transport and accessibility principles and would not result in a detrimental impact on highway safety or in traffic exceeding the capacity of the highway network;*
6. *Necessary and appropriate service infrastructure, access and parking can be provided;*
7. *It would not cause or result in unacceptable harm to health and safety"*

Policy GN.37 – Protection & Enhancement of Biodiversity (Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan 2013)

3.10 Policy GN.37 (Protection & Enhancement of Biodiversity) states that:

"All development should demonstrate a positive approach to maintaining and, wherever possible, enhancing biodiversity.

Development that would disturb or otherwise harm protected species or their habitats, or the integrity of other habitats, sites or features of importance to wildlife and individual species, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances where the effects are minimised or mitigated through careful design, work scheduling or other appropriate measures".

3.11 Consequently, from a landscape perspective, providing the development:

- Does not have a significant detrimental impact on local amenity in terms of visual impact
- Does not adversely affect landscape character, quality or diversity
- respects and protects the natural environment
- Maintains and, where possible, enhances biodiversity

Then it is consistent with the planning policies listed above.

Landscape Character

LANDMAP – The Countryside Council for Wales

3.12 The Countryside Council for Wales, now Natural Resources Wales, has undertaken an extensive landscape character assessment of Wales using the LANDMAP information system (Refer to Appendix1).

3.13 LANDMAP is a GIS (Geographical Information System) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set.

- 3.14 Specialists collect LANDMAP Information in a structured and rigorous way that is defined by five methodological chapters, the Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual & Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape. Each of these elements and how they assess the site and its surroundings (including principal management recommendations and long-term guidelines) are further explored below:

Geological Landscape

- 3.15 LANDMAP has located the site within the 'Letterston' aspect area.
- 3.16 It states that the aspect area, which is classified as being of moderate overall value, comprises a platform-like feature at around 130m, with slopes rising up from the Western Cleddau valley to the west and below Skybir Mountain to the north east. Bounded by river/ valley systems to the north west, south west and south east. Bedrock is dominated by Ordovician slates and sandstone.
- 3.17 The principal management recommendations and long-term guidelines for the aspect area are to ensure that no features or natural systems of geological or geomorphological significance in the area are lost or damaged.

Landscape Habitats

- 3.18 LANDMAP has located the site within the 'Surrounding Letterston' aspect area.
- 3.19 It states that the aspect area, which is classified as being of low overall value, comprises an area of predominately improved grassland with some arable areas. It is bordered by broadleaved woodland.
- 3.20 The principal management recommendations or guidelines are to encourage landowners to participate in agri-environmental schemes.

Visual & Sensory

- 3.21 LANDMAP has located the site within the 'Letterston' aspect area.
- 3.22 It states that the aspect area, which is classified as being of moderate overall value, comprises an undulating agricultural landscape with large villages including Letterston and Scloddau villages and smaller scattered settlements throughout. The area includes small occasional patches of moorland scrub and woodland and contains scattered streams throughout. Raised areas of land offer views out to north/east to Preseli Hills which add to the sense of place.
- 3.23 The principal management recommendation and guidelines are to preserve rural character with an emphasis on the development style at village edges. Hedgerows should be improved where possible.

Historic Landscape

- 3.24 LANDMAP has located the site within the 'Letterston Strip Fields' aspect area.
- 3.25 It states that the aspect area, which is classified as being of high overall value, comprises system of fossilised medieval strip fields surrounding the village of Letterston. Some strip fields survive in their original form, although many fields are now quite regular in shape and all are now enclosed by hedgerows.
- 3.26 The assessment does not contain any principal management recommendations or guidelines.

Cultural Landscape

3.27 LANDMAP has located the site within the 'Letterston' aspect area.

3.28 The assessment does not provide any further information.

Pembrokeshire County Landscape Character Assessment (2019- updated 2022)

3.29 Based on the LANDMAP information system methodology above, Pembrokeshire County Council has undertaken an extensive landscape character assessment of the county. The results of this study are summarised by the 'Pembrokeshire County Landscape Character Assessment', produced by White Consultants, 2019 (updated 2013).

3.30 Using this methodology Pembrokeshire is divided into 29 landscape character areas. The site falls within Landscape Character Area 5 'Scloddau Lowlands' (Refer to Appendix 2).

3.31 The landscape assessment describes the overall character of the 'Scloddau Lowlands' as:

"An undulating predominantly pastoral landscape with low open hills and small wooded valleys sloping from the Preselis to the east down to the valley floor of the Cleddau to the west. There are larger rural settlements such as Letterston and Scloddau on the busy A40 but smaller scattered settlement elsewhere, especially to the east. The area includes remnant medieval strip fields in places and small occasional patches of moorland scrub and commons to the east."

3.32 The key landscape guidelines the LCA are listed as follows:

- Integrate further residential development to reflect linear (eg Letterston) or other relevant pattern, with appropriate planting mitigation and vernacular boundary treatments like walls, hedgebanks or native hedges and avoid skylines.
- Avoid ribbon development on A40.
- Encourage sensitive lighting schemes to minimise spread and intensity and help maintain and reduce current localised light pollution.
- Maintain the openness and unspoilt character of the low hills and ridges and associated skylines.
- Conserve and enhance areas of less intensively managed habitat in farmland including hedge margins, moorland (Tregroes and Letterston) and marshy grassland.
- Conserve semi-natural habits in valley floors and narrow valley sides including ancient woodland to reinforce green infrastructure connection.
- Conserve traditional field pattern especially strip fields.
- Avoid larger scale wind energy development particularly where it would affect the setting of the National Park and consider cumulative effects.
- Avoid solar farms on noticeable slopes and close to the Preselis and consider cumulative effects.
- Conserve character of nucleated farm buildings of appropriate scale and muted colour.
- Consider caravan and camping development in line with county guidance.

- 3.33 Following our own, more detailed, site-specific visual appraisal and landscape assessment carried out in November 2024 (refer to Section 4), we can confirm that the summaries made by LANDMAP and the council's landscape character assessment are a broadly accurate description of the landscape which defines and surrounds the site.
- 3.34 Landcover beyond the edges of the settlement to the north comprises a relatively flat landscape with an extensive network of fields defined by field boundary hedgerows. There is a small scattering of linear woodland groups associated with traditional field boundaries.
- 3.35 South of the site, the landscape is more residential in character. The original linear shape of Letterston has been expanded to the north and south of St Davids Road by late 20th century housing developments.

Section 4

LANDSCAPE MITIGATION & ENHANCEMENT

4.1 Landscape mitigation and enhancement proposals will be developed to sensitively integrate the development into the landscape (refer to TDA.3015.02 for details). Proposals will include:

- The retention of all existing field boundary hedgerows and associated hedgerow trees wherever possible.
- The infilling of any gaps / thin spots within existing hedgerows to conserve and enhance existing landscape features
- Allowing selected superior hedgerow plants to grow on as hedgerow trees.
- New native tree planting to improve the site's arboricultural character.
- New multifunctional public open spaces for residential amenity and ecological enhancement.

The primary function of the landscape proposals will be to enhance biodiversity and to maintain and enhance links to the wider green infrastructure network.

Section 5

VISUAL APPRAISAL & LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Assessment Methodology

- 5.1 The following section has been produced in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition)' produced by The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2013).

Desktop Assessment

- 5.2 In addition to the research undertaken to establish the site's landscape/planning context and landscape character described in Section 3, a desktop assessment of the site was undertaken to identify local visual receptors.
- 5.3 Drawing no. TDA/3015/01 – Location of Photo Viewpoints, located in the Plans section of this document, clearly identifies local visual receptors (including areas accessible to the general public.)

Visual Appraisal

- 5.4 As a consequence of the assessment described above, photo viewpoints were carefully selected to represent the development's possible impacts upon visual receptors located within surrounding area.
- 5.5 For document clarity and ease of interpretation views are categorised according to their distance from the site as follows:
- Short-range – 0-0.5 kilometres from the nearest site periphery.
Mid-range – 0.5-1.0 kilometres from the nearest site periphery.
Long-range – 1.0+ kilometres from the nearest site periphery.
- 5.6 The significance of the development's impact upon existing views from areas accessible to the general public has been assessed using the significance criteria for visual impact included in Appendix 3. The visual impact of the proposed development upon each photo viewpoint is described in *italics* below.
- 5.7 As can be seen from the photographs below, the site's visual envelope is generally restricted. the site is predominantly screened by intervening topography, existing built form and field boundary hedgerows.

Photo Viewpoints

- 5.8 Photo viewpoints 1-8 below can be found in the Photographs section of this document. Their locations and view angles are illustrated by TDA drawing no. TDA/3015/01 – Location of Photo Viewpoints, located in the Plans section of this document.
- 5.9 **Photo Viewpoint 1** is mid-range view looking west from St. Davids Road. The site is screened by existing buildings on St. Davids Road.
Development's visual impact: no change
- 5.10 **Photo Viewpoint 2** is a short-range view looking west from a public bridleway off St. David's Road. The site is screened by intervening field boundary hedgerow.
Development's visual impact: no change
- 5.11 **Photo Viewpoint 3** is a long-range view looking south west from a public footpath linking St Davids Road with the A40. The site is screened by intervening field boundary hedgerows.
Development's visual impact: no change
- 5.12 **Photo Viewpoint 4** is a short-range view looking south from a public bridleway off St. Davids Road. The site is screened by intervening field boundary hedgerows.
Development's visual impact: no change
- 5.13 **Photo Viewpoint 5** is a short-range view looking east from a public footpath off St Davids Road. The site is screened by intervening field boundary hedgerows.
Development's visual impact: no change
- 5.14 **Photo Viewpoint 6** is a short-range view looking east from St. Davids Road. The site is screened by existing residential properties and field boundary hedgerows.
Development's visual impact: no change.
- 5.15 **Photo Viewpoint 7** is a short-range view looking north from the entrance to Old Rectory Close. The site is screened by intervening topography and existing buildings.
Development's visual impact: no change
- 5.16 **Photo Viewpoint 8** is a short-range view looking north west from Min y Llan. The site is predominantly screened by intervening field boundary hedgerows and existing buildings.
Development's visual impact: slight adverse impact / no change

Landscape Assessment

- 5.17 The visual appraisal has established that the site is not visible from viewpoints 1-7. The viewpoints are screened by a combination of intervening topography, existing built form and field boundary hedgerows. Small glimpses of the development may be possible from viewpoint 8
- 5.18 With regards to viewpoints 8, it should be noted that this viewpoint is short-range, located within close proximity to the site boundary. As such, any visual impact is highly localised.
- 5.19 It should also be noted that, as existing residential properties form part of this view, additional built form will not be out of context, and will not appear visually incongruous

Landscape Character Assessment

5.20 It is clear from the above assessment that a future development would be viewed in the context of the existing residential properties adjacent to the site. Whilst any proposed development would change the character of the site itself, the development would be in keeping with the established semi-rural / residential character within the site's immediate setting. The introduction of a new, well screened, sensitively designed residential development would, therefore, be neither out of character nor visually intrusive.

5.21 Consequently, based on the established landscape character of Letterston, the screening provided by a combination of the natural topography of the area, existing built form and field boundary hedgerows, it is considered that the site could accommodate a new residential development without unacceptable landscape character or visual amenity impacts upon its immediate setting or the wider landscape.

Assessment of Residual Effects

5.22 Landscape proposals will be carefully developed to reduce the development's visual and landscape character impacts whilst improving the arboricultural/landscape value of the site.

Visual Amenity

Post Establishment of Landscape Proposals

5.23 **Photo Viewpoint 8** – Once the existing native boundary enhancements and tree planting are established (2-3 years) it is considered that the **slight adverse impact / no change** will be reduced to **no change** only.

Landscape Character

Post Establishment of Landscape Proposals

5.24 Whilst the impact the development will have upon the landscape character of the site itself will remain, the landscape mitigation/enhancement proposals described in Section 4 will reduce the influence of the proposed development upon its setting and the local landscape.

Section 6

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

Summary

6.1 In assessing whether the site at Letterston can accommodate a new residential development without impacting upon the surrounding landscape this study has:

- Undertaken a desktop assessment of the site's landscape/planning context and landscape character during November 2024;
- Undertaken an on-site visual appraisal and landscape assessment during November 2024.

6.2 Section 1 of this document identified a key question in relation to the site, this being:

Can the proposed site at Letterston accommodate a residential development without adverse impacts upon the character and visual amenity of the site's surroundings.

6.3 This section of the document will summarise the assessments findings in helping to answer the question.

6.4 Firstly Section 3 established that, providing the proposed development does not have a significant detrimental impact on local amenity in terms of visual impact, does not adversely affect landscape character, quality or diversity, respects and protects the natural environment and maintains and, where possible, enhances biodiversity. Then it is consistent with planning policies GN.1 and GN.37 of the Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan.

6.5 Secondly, Section 4 – Landscape Mitigation & Enhancement described how biodiversity and screening of the site will be enhanced through a carefully designed landscape strategy.

6.6 Thirdly, Section 5 - Visual Appraisal & Landscape Assessment established that, viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are screened by a combination of the natural topography of the area, existing built form and field boundary hedgerows.

6.7 It was noted that any visual impact upon viewpoint 8 was highly localised.

6.9 Furthermore, it was established that due to views of existing residential properties adjacent to the site, additional built form will not be out of context and will not appear visually incongruous.

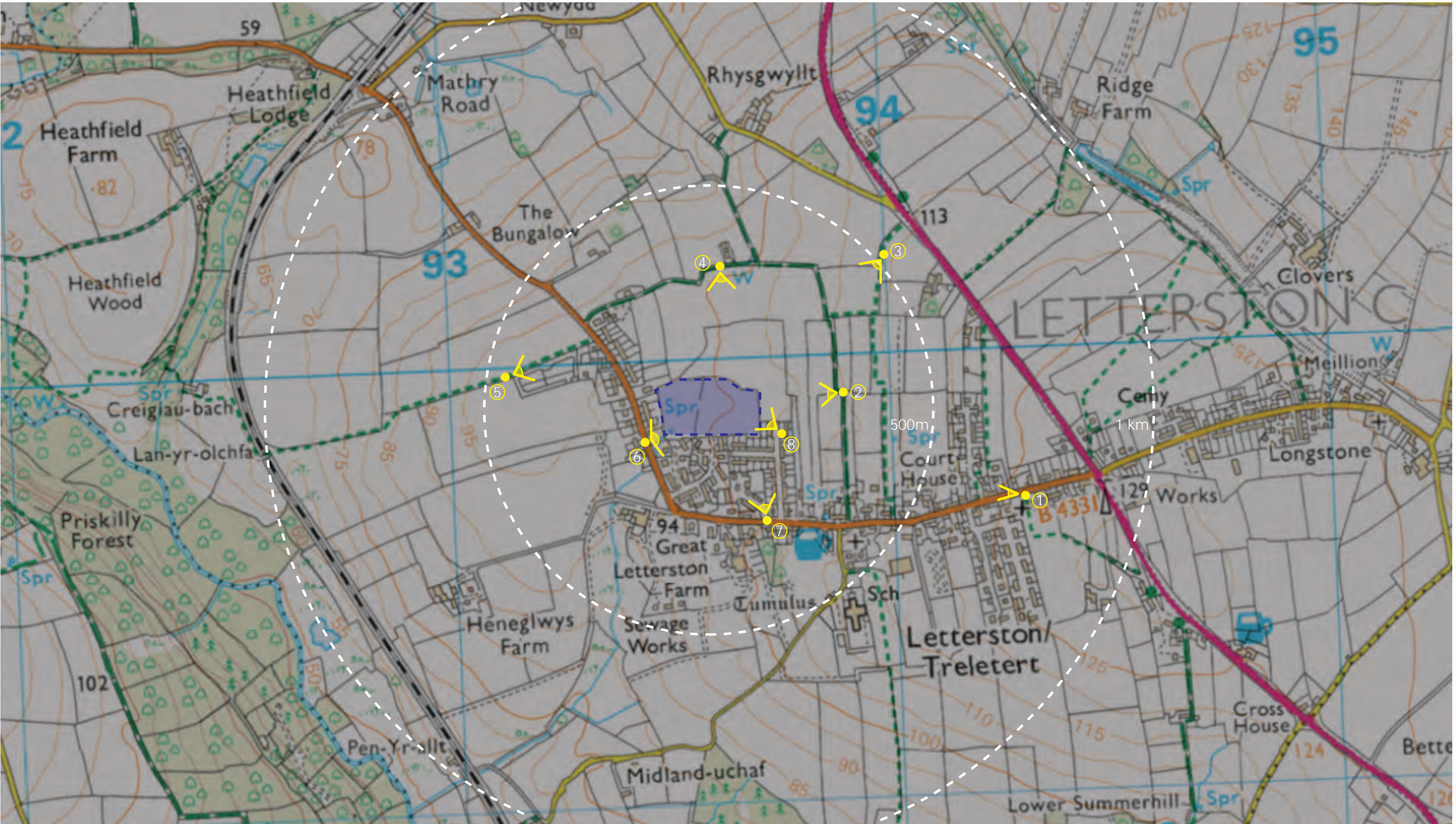
6.10 Finally, it was established that once landscape mitigation measures were established, visual and landscape character impacts would be reduced.

Conclusion

6.11 Overall it is therefore considered that the site can accommodate a new residential development without unacceptable landscape character or visual amenity impacts upon its immediate setting or the wider landscape in which it is located.

PLANS

TDA/3015/01	Location of Photo Viewpoints
TDA/3015/02	Structural Landscape Strategy



Key



Location of Site



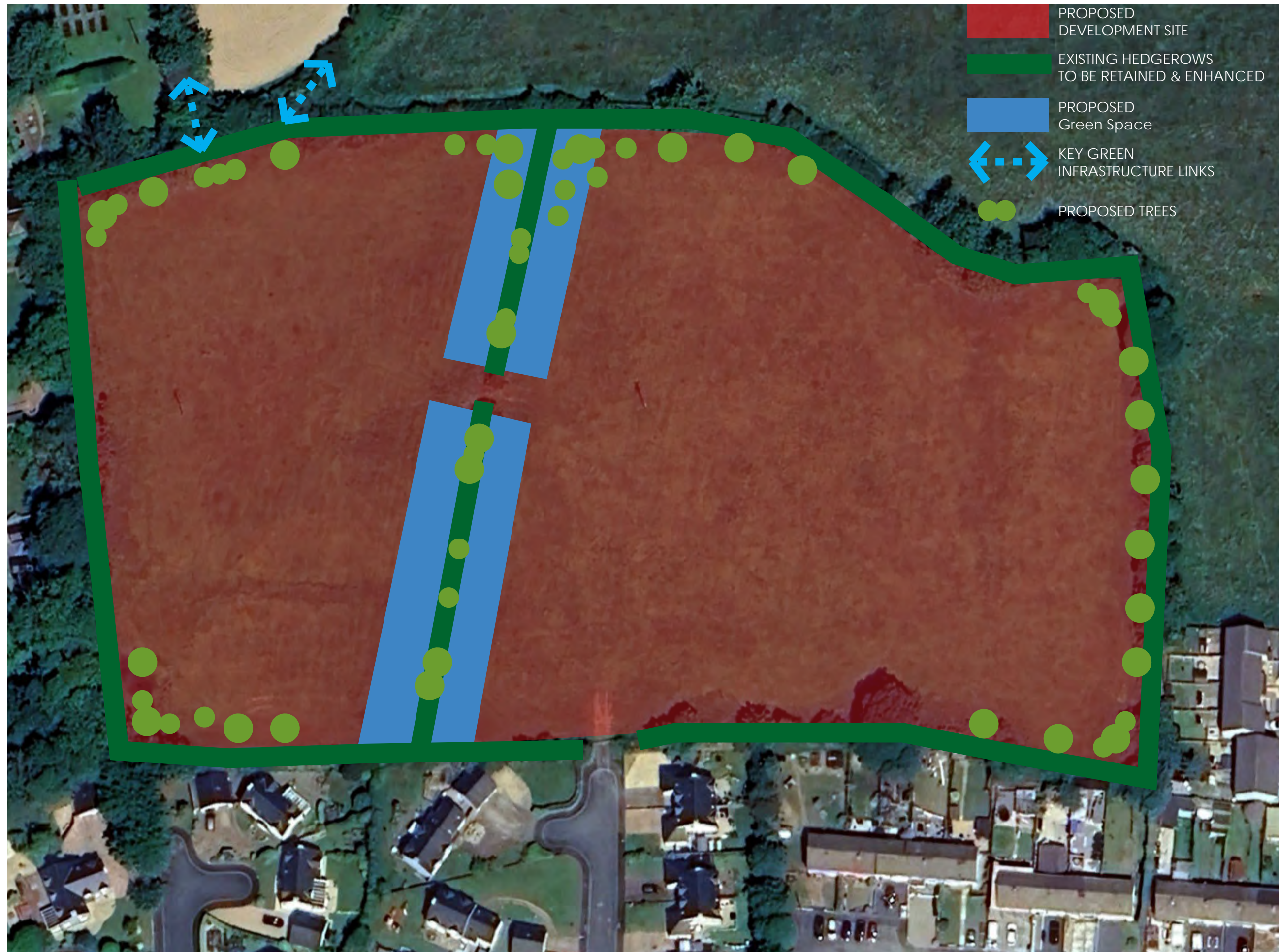
Photo Viewpoints & Approximate View Angles

Note:

Public rights of way, other routes of public access and roads / paths represented by standard Ordnance Survey symbols

Client	Wales & West Housing Association
Project	Nant Y Ffynnon, Letterston
Drawing Title	Location of Photo Viewpoints
Drawing No.	TDA/3015/01
Scale	Not to Scale
Date	November 2024
Checked	<u>RHC</u>





NOTE:

Existing hedgerows to be cut once annually, outside of the bird nesting season, to maintain a minimum height of 2.5 metres. Selected superior specimens within existing hedgerows to be allowed to grow on as hedgerow trees approximately 10m centres.

Existing hedgerows to be inter-planted with Hawthorn, Hazel, Holly, Field Maple and Elder



The Granary
Newland Fawr Farm,
Llangan, CF35 5DN Tel: 01446 789367
admin@tirlun-design.co.uk

Structural Landscape Strategy (TDA.3015.02) Proposed Residential Development, Letterston

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo Viewpoint 1	Mid-range view looking west from St. Davids Road
Photo Viewpoint 2	Short-range view looking west from a public bridleway off St. David's Road
Photo Viewpoint 3	Long-range view looking south west from a public footpath linking St Davids Road with the A40
Photo Viewpoint 4	Short-range view looking south from a public bridleway off St. Davids Road
Photo Viewpoint 5	Short-range view looking east from a public footpath off St Davids Road
Photo Viewpoint 6	Short-range view looking east from St. Davids Road
Photo Viewpoint 7	Short-range view looking north from the entrance to Old Rectory Close
Photo Viewpoint 8	Short-range view looking north west from Min y Llan

615 metres
Distance to Site Boundary



Photo Viewpoint 1: Mid-range view looking west from St. Davids Road

195 metres
Distance to Site Boundary



Photo Viewpoint 2: Short-range view looking west from a public bridleway off St. David's Road

450 metres

Distance to Site Boundary



Approximate location
of site (screened)



Photo Viewpoint 3: Long-range view looking south west from a public footpath linking St Davids Road with the A40

450 metres

Distance to Site Boundary



The site (screened)



Photo Viewpoint 4: Short-range view looking south from a public bridleway off St. Davids Road

354 metres
Distance to Site Boundary

Existing properties
on St. Davids Road

Approximate location
of site (screened)



Photo Viewpoint 5: Short-range view looking east from a public footpath off St Davids Road

50 metres
Distance to Site Boundary

St. Davids Road

The site (screened)



Photo Viewpoint 6: Short-range view looking east from St. Davids Road

214 metres
Distance to Site Boundary

Old Rectory Close
Approximate location
of site (screened)



Photo Viewpoint 7: Short-range view looking north from the entrance to Old Rectory Close

43 metres
Distance to Site Boundary

The site (predominantly screened)
Min y Llan



Photo Viewpoint 8: Short-range view looking north west from Min y Llan

APPENDIX 1

LANDMAP Data

spectname Geological Landscape

surveyid 9244

surveydate 2007-04-03T00:00:00Z

uid PMBRKGL082

areaname Letterston

region Pembrokeshire

cls_1 Lowland hills and valleys

cls_2 Undulating lowland hill terrain

cls_3 Undulating lowland hill terrain

cls_4

gl_1 null

gl_1a null

gl_1b null

gl_1c null

gl_1d null

gl_1e No

gl_2 No

gl_3 N/A

gl_4 Forms a platform-like feature at around 130m, with slopes rising up from the Western Cleddau valley to the W and below Skybir Mountain to the NE. Bounded by river/ valley systems to the NW, SW and SE. Bedrock dominated by Ordovician slates and sandstones.

gl_4a Sedimentary

gl_4b Ordovician

gl_4c Slate

gl_4d null

gl_4e null

gl_5 Undulating lowland hill terrain

gl_6 Stratigraphic formation(s). Active processes. Past processes

gl_7 null

gl_8 Slope. Hill top. Spring. Urban / industrial development

gl_9 tream, spring..

gl_10 Yes

gl_11 Not known

gl_12 No

gl_13 Not known

gl_14 No

gl_15 No

gl_16 Moderate

gl_17 Good

gl_18 Constant

gl_19 Generally Appropriate

gl_20 Dominantly rural area with limited significant development.

gl_21 Ensure that no significant geological or geomorphological features are lost or damaged (e.g. due to development/ forestry, etc), including through carrying out a survey to identify candidate RIGS for protection through develop plan policies and constraint mapping.

gl_22 Immediate. Long Term

gl_23 Yes

gl_24 Level 3

gl_25 Most

gl_26 Other

gl_27 1:25,000

gl_28 Break of slope at base of solid geology area and junction with valley systems and base of higher Skybir Mountain massif.

gl_29 Moderate

gl_29a Low

gl_30 Moderate

gl_31 Low

gl_32 Low

gl_33 Moderate

gl_34 No regionally significant sites/ landforms noted during present survey and geology/ geomorphology considered to be typical of feature/ process and is either widespread or not currently known to be exceptional.

gl_35 BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (1994), The Rocks of Wales / Gregiau Cymru (1:250000); BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (in preparation), Fishguard (Sheet 210, 1:50,000) (NERC)*; ORDNANCE SURVEY (2006a), North Pembrokeshire / Gogledd Sir Benfro, Explorer Map OL35 (1:25, 000).

gl_36 None.

gl_37

spectname Landscape Habitats

surveyid 5626

surveydate 2006-01-17T00:00:00Z

uid PMBRKLH693

areaname Surrounding Letterston

region Pembrokeshire

cls_1 Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats

cls_2 Grassland & Marsh

cls_3 Improved Grassland

cls_4

lh_1 2016-01-15T00:00:00Z

lh_1a Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Environment Systems in conjunction with the local planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by TACP.

lh_1b This record remains unchanged following monitoring work

lh_1c null

lh_1d null

lh_1e No

lh_2 No

lh_3 1862 hectares

lh_4 Brown soils. Lithomorphic (a/c) soils. Surface-water gley soils

lh_5 Improved Grassland. Arable. Buildings. Planted Coniferous Woodland. Dense Scrub

lh_6 Not known

lh_7 Purple moor-grass meadows

lh_8 Yes

lh_9 Purple Moor Grass & Rush Pastures

lh_10 Yes

lh_11 SAC. SSSI

lh_12

lh_13 Yes

lh_14 Area is very likely to support some commoner bird BAP species such as Songthrush and bat species such as Pipistrelles.

lh_15 Not known

lh_16 Hedgerows

lh_17 Some

lh_18

lh_19 Cultivation. Stock grazing

lh_20 None

lh_21 Some

lh_22 Not known

lh_23 Yes

lh_24 An area that comprises largely of improved grassland but also with smallish amounts of arable. Much of the area is divided into a considerable number of fields with associated field boundaries. Also present is some small areas of a number of other habitats, most notably marshy grassland.

lh_25 Low

lh_26 Unassessed

lh_27 Constant

lh_28 Unassessed

lh_29 Managed as farmland.

lh_30 Encourage landowners to participate in agri-environmental schemes and leave overgrown area around the margins of arable fields for the benefit of wildlife.

lh_31 Long Term. Immediate. Long Term

lh_32 Level 3

lh_33 All

lh_34 Other

lh_35 1:10,000

lh_36 They comprise an area of predominately improved grassland but also with some arable areas. It is bordered by broadleaved woodland.

lh_37 Moderate

lh_38 Low

lh_39 Moderate

lh_40 Low

lh_41 Low

lh_42 Low

lh_43 Low

lh_44 Moderate

lh_45 Low

lh_45a Main habitats present are generally of low ecological value. There are likely to be some key species present but these are probably commoner ones. Priority habitat is present but only in small areas. No part of the Aspect Area is designated. The area obviously has some ecological value and very small parts will have considerable ecological value but overall and in comparison with similar improved grassland dominated areas this area was felt to be of lesser value.

lh_46 Pembrokeshire LBAP, CCW Phase 1 habitat data, Soils, Land Classification and Land Use of West and Central Pembrokeshire (Rudeforth & Bradley 1972)

lh_47 N/A

lh_48

spectname Visual and Sensory

surveyid 4380

surveydate 2002-09-26T00:00:00Z

uid PMBRKVS041

areaname Letterston

region Pembrokeshire

cls_1 Lowland

cls_2 Rolling Lowland

cls_3 Open Rolling Lowland

cls_4 Rolling Farmland

vs_1 2015-02-06T00:00:00Z

vs_1a Stages 1, 2 and 3 change detection, field verification and amendment completed by Bronwen Thomas, in conjunction with the planning authority. Quality Assurance completed by White Consultants.

vs_1b This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area

vs_1c OS Data, Aerial Photographs. Policies, plans & information resources. Fieldwork

vs_1d Description. Condition & Trend. Boundaries

vs_1e Yes

vs_2 No

vs_2a Late summer

vs_3 This relatively large Aspect Area is comprised of an undulating agricultural landscape with large villages including Letterston and Scloddau villages & smaller scattered settlements throughout. The area includes small occasional patches of moorland scrub and woodland and contains scattered streams throughout. Raised areas of land offer views out to north/east to Preseli Hills which add to the sense of place. Change detection 2014: housing developments at Letterston village, Scloddau and along

vs_4 Rolling/Undulating

vs_5 Field Pattern/Mosaic

vs_6 Village

vs_7 Clawdd/Hedgebanks

vs_8 Medium

vs_9 Open

vs_10 Simple

vs_11 Smooth

vs_12 Angular

vs_13 Colourful

vs_14 Balanced

vs_15 Unity

vs_16 Regular

vs_17 Mixed

vs_18 Frequent

vs_19 Question 19 night time light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58.

vs_20 Generally Inappropriate

vs_21 There are a large proportion of modern agricultural buildings utilising steel frame and metal sheeting construction as well as modern residential buildings constructed largely of brick and blockwork with render.

vs_22 ...both in and out

vs_23 ...both in and out

vs_24 Attractive. Unattractive. Tranquil. Sheltered. Settled

vs_25 Moderate

vs_26 Moderate

vs_27 Fair

vs_28 Declining

vs_29 Generally Appropriate

vs_30 Hedgerows throughout the Aspect Area are varied with some overgrown hedges and some hedgerows having been removed. The development of Letterston village has not been sensitively planned in the past.

vs_31 Retain rural character of the area

vs_32 Long Term. Medium Term

vs_33 Rural character

vs_34 Development style on village edges particularly Letterston.

vs_35 Naturalistic areas should be increased where opportunities arise, for example through agricultural set aside.

vs_36 Hedgerows throughout and moorland areas at Tregroes and Letterston.

vs_37 Hedgerow management should be improved in some areas to reduce leginess and overgrowth of old hedgerows whilst retaining species richness. Agri-environmental schemes can be used to assist landowners in achieving this. Areas of moorland particularly at Letterston should be managed to retain moorland species and avoid development of the area to scrub.

vs_38 Village edge at Letterston to be softened.

vs_39 Not known

vs_40 Level 3

vs_41 Some

vs_42 OS Landline

vs_43 1:10,000

vs_44 The Aspect Area boundary defines the area of rolling farmland with scattered settlements and dwellings in this part of Pembrokeshire around the vicinity of Letterston. 2014 - boundary change to exclude housing on edge of Fishguard

vs_45 OS plans and aerial photographs

vs_46 Moderate

vs_47 Moderate

vs_48 Moderate

vs_49 Moderate

vs_50 Moderate

vs_51 The value of "moderate" given for all criteria of scenic quality, integrity, character and rarity accounts for the overall value of "moderate" which considers the rolling agricultural landscape with scattered settlements that is common throughout the study area.

vs_52 None

vs_53 Restoration of naturalistic areas should take into account the recommendations within the Landscape Habitats LANDMAP plan for Pembrokeshire.

vs_54 Valleys, rolling and flat lowland (grassland >50%, open, <20% wooded, lacking hedgerow trees)

vs_55 Lowland open >50% grassland, <20% wooded

vs_56 Moderate

vs_57a 83.9

vs_57b 12.1

vs_57c 3.2

vs_57d 0.7

vs_57e 0

vs_57f 0

vs_57g 0

vs_57h 0

vs_58a 55

vs_58b 7.9

vs_58c 2.1

vs_58d 0.5

vs_58e 0

vs_58f 0

vs_58g 0

vs_58h 0

vs_59a 0

vs_59b 0

vs_59c 0

vs_59d 0

vs_59e 0

vs_59f 1.12

vs_59g 35.08

vs_59h 62.2

vs_59i 1.6

vs_59j 0

vs_59k Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, the report and webapp, visit the Storymap available from <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/865c1876d9f64280a3dfc6e2769a46a5>

vs_60 No

vs_61 Not applicable

vs_62 https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/downloads/landmap_areas_viewsheds/PMBRKVS041_Visible_setting_of_LANDMAP_Visual_and_Sensory_landscape_area.pdf

vs_63 https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/visual_settings_and_key_views_list.php

vs_64 https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/visual_settings_and_key_views_list.php

[Default](#)

[LandMap Geological Landscape](#)

[Landmap Cultural Landscape Services](#)

[Landmap Visual Sensory](#)

[Landmap Landscape Habitats](#)

[Landmap Historic Landscape](#)

[Skip to breadcrumb navigation](#)

[Skip to main content](#)

[GOV.WALES](#)

[You are here:](#)

[Home](#) [New map](#)

surveyurl https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=8064

definitions https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/downloads/GN007d_Guidance_Note_LANDMAP_Methodology_Survey_Question_Definitions_March_2024_Portal_version.pdf

aspectname Historic Landscape

surveyid 8064

surveydate 2003-05-30T00:00:00Z

uid PMBRKHL46214

areaname Letterston Strip Fields

region Pembrokeshire

cls_1 Rural environment

cls_2 Agricultural

cls_3 Regular Fieldscapes

cls_4 Strip Fields - Medieval

hl_1 2017-03-15T00:00:00Z

hl_1a Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.

hl_1b This record remains unchanged following monitoring work

hl_1c null

hl_1d null

hl_1e No

hl_2 Yes

hl_3 .

hl_4 Letterston Strip Fields is a distinct, medium-sized inland aspect area (6.464 sq km) representing a system of fossilised medieval strip fields surrounding the village of Letterston. Some strip fields survive in their original form, although many fields are now quite regular in shape and all are now enclosed by hedgebanks. The area is more-or-less a treeless landscape. It is bisected by the A40 trunk road and a dismantled railway line, while the western edge of the area is represented by a rail

hl_5 Other Settlement. Regular Fieldscapes. Communications. Military

hl_6 null

hl_7 null

hl_8 null

hl_9	null
hl_10	null
hl_11	null
hl_12	Hedgebank
hl_13	Buildings & Structures. Relict-Earthworks. Documentary. Buried-dry. Relict-Stone Monuments
hl_14	Prehistoric. Medieval (to 1536). Post Medieval (1536+). Recent. Roman
hl_15	No
hl_16	Yes
hl_17	No
hl_18	No
hl_19	No
hl_20	No
hl_21	No
hl_22	No
hl_23	High
hl_24	Fair
hl_25	Constant
hl_26	Unassessed
hl_27	.
hl_28	.
hl_29	
hl_30	Level 3
hl_31	Most
hl_32	OS Landline
hl_33	1:10,000
hl_34	.
hl_35	Outstanding
hl_36	High
hl_37	Moderate
hl_38	Moderate
hl_39	High

hl_40 High

hl_41 The high overall value assigned to this area reflects the particularly well-preserved state of the medieval strip fields surrounding Letterston, a fine example of a fossilised medieval open-field system, and the reasonably diverse scope of the archaeological resource for this area.

hl_42 Kissock, J., 1997, 'God made Nature and Men made Towns: Post Conquest and Pre-Conquest Villages in Pembrokeshire' in Edwards, N. (ed.) 'Landscape and Settlement in Medieval Wales', Oxbow Monographs 81, Oxford

hl_43 .

hl_44

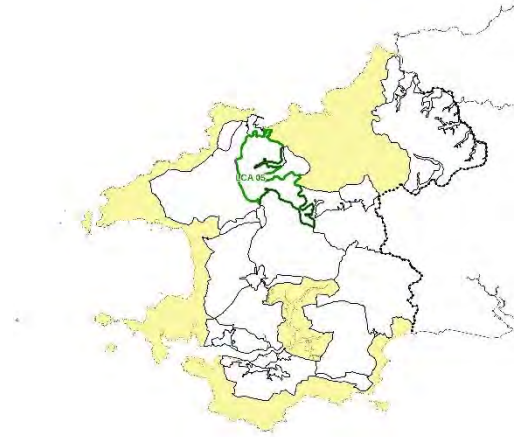
APPENDIX 2

Landscape Character Area 5 'Sceddau Lowlands'

Landscape Character Area 5: Scleddau Lowlands

Location

This LCA is located to the north of Pembrokeshire and bordering Fishguard to the north and the Preseli fringes to the east. It extends south through Letterston and towards Wolf Castle. The A40 runs through the area.





View south west towards Treffgarne from near Puncheston



View north into small area of relic Medieval strip fields to the east of Scleddau

Summary description

This LCA comprises undulating predominantly pastoral landscape with low open hills and small wooded valleys sloping from the Preselis to the east down to the valley floor of the Cleddau to the west. There are larger rural settlements such as Letterston and Scleddau on the busy A40 but smaller scattered settlement elsewhere, especially to the east. The area includes remnant medieval strip fields in places and small occasional patches of moorland scrub and commons to the east.

Key characteristics

- **Undulating landform and incised valleys falling from the north and Preselis fringes to the east, with minor ridges and rounded hills upto 210mAOD, down to the broader Western Cleddau valley to the west running south down to 40mAOD at Wolf's Castle.**
- Geology is formed by broad ridges of Ordovician sedimentary slate bedrock, interspersed within branches of the Western Cleddau valley river system and associated glacial meltwater channels with glacial and fluvioglacial valley deposits.
- **Sinuuous watercourses** of the Cleddau, Crinel Brook, Nant-y-Bugail, Afon Anghol and Spittal Brook, **some with narrow valley floors to the east and some with distinctive flat bottoms eg Esgyrn Bottom** (U shaped glacial valley).
- **The valley floors include areas of marshy grassland, wet modified bog, scrub and trees and the small scale steeper valley sides to the east also include broadleaved woodland, much of it ancient.**
- Cleddau Rivers SAC covering various tributaries, Afon Cleddau, Esgyrn Bottom and Wallis Moor SSSIs.
- High quality agricultural land means this is **a largely pastoral landscape of improved grassland mixed regular and irregular small to medium scale fields with hedgebanks and post and wire boundaries which contribute to openness. Trees are limited outside valley bottoms. Medieval strip fields are a feature often associated with settlements such as Letterston and near Puncheston. Merged medieval open fields, enclosed into strips by stony banks survive south of Fishguard.** Arable use occurs in isolated areas such as in larger fields to the west.
- **Series of commons on the edge of the Preselis** including Puncheston, and Castlebythe

Commons and Wallis Moor with upland grassland, moorland and scrub.

- **Distinctive settlements such as the linear Letterston and Puncteston**, largely well spaced rural farmsteads and various widely scattered listed buildings such as the house at Ciliauwen, chapels such as Capel Saron in Letterston and Sion in Scloddau and Ty Newydd and Long Hook Fawr farmhouse to the south.
- **Scattered scheduled monuments, often on open high ground** including Castell Pant-y-Philip and Pen Bicas enclosures and Cwm-Wyntyll, and Bucket Camp all in the vicinity of Trecwn valley and Castle Flemish to the south.
- Plas Glyn-y-Mel historic park and garden on the south western edge of Lower Fishguard largely located within Cwm Gwaun. Essentially this valley is a continuation of the valley PCNP LCA 26 within the National Park with similar characteristics.
- Many settlements have medieval origins but have been extended markedly in the 20th century and later, particularly near the A40, and modern developments are largely of brick and blockwork with render.
- A large proportion of agricultural buildings are modern and utilising steel frame and cladding construction.
- Solar farm at Trecoed, north of Letterston.
- Transport corridors such as the A40 and railway to Fishguard cut through the landscape utilising the Cleddau valley in parts. Elsewhere there is a **network of narrow lanes and single track roads with relatively few public footpaths**. National Cycle Route 47 runs to the east.
- **Generally open including hills and ridge tops with their open skylines with low hedgebanks and hedges at lower levels and few trees allowing views to the Preselis.**
- **Enclosed, sheltered narrow tributary valleys and enclosed valley bottom of the Cleddau valley with more woodland.**
- **The eastern part of the area forms part of the setting of the National Park at Mynydd Castlebythe and the Gwaun valley and the sloping setting to Llys-y-fran to the east.**
- The northern edge of the area overlooks Fishguard harbour and is included in SCA7.
- Culturally this area lies north of the Landsker Line and forms part of a wider area, more bi-lingual in character than lowlands to the south of the County, and reflected in a general mix of Welsh and English place names.

* **Note: Bold text** indicates key characteristics and qualities contributing most to sense of place.

Landscape change

- Intensification of farming practices has introduced arable and improved grassland use, modern agricultural buildings and lighting into the landscape, reduced biodiversity and increased use of post and wire fencing.
- Small-medium scale wind turbines in places.
- Large scale solar farm development has taken place within the area.
- Introduction of 20th century development on some settlement edges.
- Lighting mainly associated with main road corridor.
- Caravan and camping sites are largely limited to touring sites.

Landscape guidelines

- Integrate further residential development to reflect linear (eg Letterston) or other relevant pattern, with appropriate planting mitigation and vernacular boundary treatments like walls, hedgebanks or native hedges and avoid skylines.
- Avoid ribbon development on A40.
- Encourage sensitive lighting schemes to minimise spread and intensity and help maintain and reduce current localised light pollution.
- Maintain the openness and unspoilt character of the low hills and ridges and associated skylines.

- Conserve and enhance areas of less intensively managed habitat in farmland including hedge margins, moorland (Tregroes and Letterston) and marshy grassland.
- Conserve semi-natural habits in valley floors and narrow valley sides including ancient woodland to reinforce green infrastructure connection.
- Conserve traditional field pattern especially strip fields.
- Avoid larger scale wind energy development particularly where it would affect the setting of the National Park and consider cumulative effects.
- Avoid solar farms on noticeable slopes and close to the Preselis and consider cumulative effects.
- Conserve character of nucleated farm buildings of appropriate scale and muted colour.
- Consider caravan and camping development in line with county guidance.

Adjacent National Park landscape character areas:

LCA 27 Mynydd Preseli

LCA 26 Cwm Gwaun / Afon Nyfer

Adjacent/nearby National Park seascape character areas:

SCA 7 Fishguard and Goodwick Harbours- overlaps area

SCA 6 Fishguard Bay east- overlaps area

LANDMAP aspect areas and value:

Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas	Historic Landscape Aspect Areas	Geological Aspect Areas	Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas	Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas
<i>041 – moderate</i> 020 – high 043 – moderate	<i>46060 – high</i> 46150 – moderate 46113- moderate 46213 – moderate 46106 – moderate 46105 – moderate 46103 – moderate 46104 – moderate 46232 – high 46193 – high 46194 – high 46112 – high 46214 – high 46111 – high 46108 – high 46208 - outstanding	110 – outstanding 045 – high 044 – high 046 – high 245 – moderate 078 – moderate 076- moderate 065 – moderate 067 – moderate 066- moderate 083 – moderate 082 – moderate 082- moderate 069 – moderate 062 – high 081 – high 049 – high 179 – high	<i>096</i> 098	<i>315 – moderate</i> 693 – low 358 – moderate 767 – moderate 409 – moderate 832 – moderate 512 – moderate 077 –high 304 – high 800 – high 722 – high 675 – high 838 – high 825 – high 053 - outstanding

Bold italic text indicates the prevailing aspect area where one exists

APPENDIX 3

Significance Criteria for Visual Impact.

Extract of 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact
Assessment produced by The Landscape Institute and Institute
of Environmental Management & Assessment.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA FOR VISUAL IMPACT

Extract of 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2nd Edition) produced by The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2002).

Substantial adverse impact.

Where the scheme would cause a significant deterioration in the existing view.

Moderate adverse impact

Where the scheme would cause a noticeable deterioration in the existing view.

Slight adverse impact

Where the scheme would cause a barely perceptible deterioration in the existing view.

Slight beneficial impact

Where the scheme would cause a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.

Moderate beneficial impact

Where the scheme would cause a noticeable improvement in the existing view.

Substantial beneficial impact

Where the scheme would cause a significant improvement in the existing view.

No change

No discernable deterioration or improvement in the existing view.