Llanwern Rail Facilities - Phase 1 Planning
Desk Based Archaeological Assessment

September 2018

Transport for Wales (TfW)
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Executive Summary

Mott MacDonald has been commissioned by Transport for Wales (TfW), on behalf of Welsh Government, to prepare and submit a planning application, seeking full planning permission for the design and construction of a 1.6km long Major Events Stabling Line (MESL) on land adjacent to the existing Tata Steelworks Service Lines in Llanwern, South Wales. This is Phase 1 of the Llanwern Rail Facilities Programme which has already been subject to a Historic Environment Impact Assessment (Mott MacDonald, 2017).

This document has been prepared by Mott MacDonald as a stand-alone historic environment desk-based assessment (DBA). The construction of the Scheme will involve the clearance of vegetation and construction of MESL which will necessitate the excavation of areas within the red line boundary. This DBA considers those assets relevant to Phase 1 of the project. As such it does not include in-depth assessment of such assets as were deemed to be unaffected by the overall project within the Historic Environment Impact Assessment (Mott MacDonald, 2017).

Vegetation levels are high within the confined, linear space of the Scheme. There has been a degree of ground disturbance associated with the existing infrastructure in this confined area, including the construction of the railway lines, associated alterations to the drainage channels and erection and maintenance of pylons running the length of the Scheme. However, the extent to which this disturbance will have impacted upon archaeological features is unknown. As such it must be assumed any underlying archaeological features remain intact.

The Scheme lies within an Archaeologically Sensitive Area. Built heritage assets and a Registered Park and Garden have been identified within 1km of the Scheme. It is considered within this report that the Scheme will have no detrimental impact upon the built heritage assets and the Registered Park and Garden.

There is high potential for the survival of geoarchaeological deposits, however these are thought to lie at depths beyond the level of excavation required for the Scheme, and as such should remain undisturbed. Should such deposits be encountered, appropriate mitigation strategies should be employed.

There is low-moderate potential for survival of prehistoric, Roman and early medieval remains. Should such remains be discovered these would be considered of significant archaeological interest.

There is a moderate/high chance of Medieval and Post-Medieval remains. However, such remains are likely to consist of field boundaries and drainage features of minimal archaeological significance. Deposits, artefacts and features relating to the former roads/trackways and the construction of the railway may also be present. There is also a moderate-high chance of remains of unknown date, related to excavations north of the Scheme which are visible on google satellite imagery. There is currently no available records of these excavations.

It is recommended that the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust be consulted in advance of development. This DBA recommends an archaeological watching brief be maintained during all ground-breaking activities associated with construction. However, the final decision for archaeological mitigation rests with GGAT.
1 Introduction

1.1 Project Description

Mott MacDonald has been commissioned by Transport for Wales (TfW), on behalf of Welsh Government, to prepare and submit a planning application, seeking full planning permission for the design and construction of a 1.6km long Major Events Stabling Line (MESL) on land adjacent to the existing Tata Steelworks Service Lines in Llanwern, South Wales. This is Phase 1 of the Llanwern Rail Facilities Programme.

The MESL will be used for stabling of rolling stock for major events in the area, to enable flexibility for future train requirements, and proving of trains prior to use on the rail network. The MESL will be electrified in a future phase of work. This proposed 1.6km length of MESL to the west of Monk’s Ditch was formerly known as Option 6a.

The wider Llanwern Rail Facilities Programme will include an extension of the MESL by circa 2.4km east (to achieve a total length of circa 4km), electrification of the MESL, a new Llanwern railway station and passenger line (including Park & Ride and footbridge), and connections to the South Wales Main Line (Relief Lines). The further phases of the project will be the subject of a subsequent planning application.

The key parameters for the Scheme are listed below:

- Whole Site area is 3.1 hectares. This land is contained within the red line boundary shown on the Site Location Plan (Drawing number: 367590-MMD-48-XX-DR-C-0400 (Appendix B)); and
- The Site length is approximately 1.6km long and 19m wide.

1.2 Scope of Works

The General Arrangement drawings (Drawing numbers: 367590-MMD-48-XX-DR-C-0002 to 367590-MMD-48-XX-DR-C-0005) demonstrate the project scope which includes the design and construction of the following:

- A single track stabling line (MESL) circa 1.6km long;
- Associated earthworks and landscaping; and
- Drainage and other engineering works.

In order to obtain full planning permission for Phase 1, we have carried out the outline design and technical assessment of the above scope, as well as multiple assessments in terms of ecology, environment, heritage and archaeology.

1.3 Site Location

The proposed rail development Site is located approximately 8 miles east from the centre of Newport, South Wales (Figure 1).

The Site is aligned roughly west–east and bordered by the existing South Wales Mainline to the north and the Tata Steelworks to the south. Along the southern boundary of the steelworks site runs the A4810 which links the M4 from junction 23A at Magor at the A48 at Lliswerry (a predominantly residential suburb on the south-eastern side of Newport. The Site is more widely bordered by the M4 which runs approximately two and a half miles to the north and the Severn...
Estuary which lays approximately three miles to the south. The Gwent Levels to the south is a significant area of wetlands.

The existing South Wales Mainline passes north of the proposed Site and provides opportunity for transport links for both passengers and freight.

**Figure 1: Proposed Location Plan**

Source: OS Open Data
2 Assessment Methodology

2.1 Standards, Guidance, and Sources

This DBA follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ (CIfA) Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments (CIfA, 2014). This defines a DBA as a collation of existing written and graphic information to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource of a given area or site. DBAs are primarily used to assess the likely impact of a proposed development on the archaeological resource and to enable appropriate mitigation strategies to be formulated in line with national and local historic environment planning policies.

The DBA is informed by accessing available historical and archaeological records. Sources consulted include:

- Archaeological Data Service;
- British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer;
- Coflein: The online catalogue of archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage in Wales;
- Google Earth satellite imagery;
- Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Historic Environment Record (GGAT HER);
- Mott MacDonald Reports; and
- National Library of Scotland, historic mapping.

The potential impacts on the historic environment has been assessed using Cadw’s (2011) Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales. In addition, this assessment is also based on the guidance contained in Cadw’s (2016) Setting of Historic Assets in Wales. This outlines the steps which should be taken to establish the potential impact of a scheme on the setting of heritage assets and which may have an impact on the significance of these assets. These steps are to:

- Identify the historic assets;
- Define and analyse the setting;
- Evaluate the potential impact of change of development; and
- Consider options to mitigate the impact of a proposed change or development.

The guidance also provides an introduction to offsetting/compensating for impact, as well as identifying measures to enhance the setting of an asset.

Much of the information contained within this report is in relation to an earlier study based on the larger overall project. The red line boundary of Phase 1 is wholly contained within the earlier project proposal. As such the study area for this Scheme projects 1km from the new red line boundary. It is not intended to fully recreate the original document, therefore assets considered to be unaffected by the larger Scheme will not be considered within this document.

2.2 Consultation

Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Services (GGAT) were contacted about the earlier project proposals and have approved the Historic Environment Impact Assessment that was created to
support this work. They have also been informed of the change in the immediate design plan relating to this latest phase of work.

2.3 Assumptions and Limitations

This DBA accesses readily available sources to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development site. As such, the limitations of such sources must be acknowledged.

Information provided by local HER can be limited because it depends on random opportunities for research, fieldwork and discovery. Where nothing of historic interest is shown in an area, this can be due to a lack of research or investigation rather than no assets being present.

In addition, documentary sources are rare before the medieval period, and many historic documents are inherently biased based on the image the author wants to project of historical peoples or events. Older primary sources often fail to accurately locate sites and interpretation can be subjective.
3 Designation and Policy

3.1 Legislation
The overarching legislation in relation to the historic environment in Wales is provided by:

- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016;
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; and

Planning Policy Wales (PPW, 2016) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government, translating their ‘commitment to sustainable development into the planning system so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability’. The historic environment policies relevance to the Scheme are found in Chapter 6, Conserving the Historic Environment. The introduction to the chapter provides insight into the objectives of PPW 2016:

The historic environment of Wales is made up of individual historic features, archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks, gardens, townscapes and landscapes, collectively known as historic assets. The most important of these historic assets have statutory protection through scheduling, listing or designation as a conservation area. Other assets are included in formal registers, which identify them as being of special historic interest. Many others make a positive contribution to local character and sense of place. Some, such as buried archaeological remains, have still to be identified. It is important to protect what is significant about these assets and sustain their distinctiveness. Historic assets should be the subject of recording and investigation when they are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them. Historic assets are a non-renewable resource.

The historic environment is relevant to and is a vibrant part of the culture and economy of Wales. To enable the historic environment to deliver rich benefits to the people of Wales, what is of significance needs to be identified and change that has an impact on historic assets must be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.

Decisions on planning applications and listed building and conservation area consents must be based on adequate information provided by the applicant and any action must be in proportion to the impact of the proposals, and the effects on the significance of the assets and their heritage values.

3.3 Local Planning Policy

3.3.1 Newport Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026 Adopted Plan January 2015
Objective No. 5 of the Newport LDP seeks to ‘ensure that all development or use of land does not adversely affect, and seeks to preserve or enhance, the quality of the historic and built environment’.

This objective informs the following policies, which are relevant to the Scheme:
3.3.1.1 SP9 Conservation of the Natural, Historic and Built Environment

Policy SP9 states that ‘The conservation, enhancement and management of recognised sites within the natural, historic and built environment will be sought in all proposals’. It also states that ‘The protection, retention, safeguarding, conservation and enhancement of heritage assets will be sought, and where new development is proposed that affects the building or site or its setting, this should be of the highest quality’.

3.3.1.2 CE4 Historic Landscapes, Parks, Gardens and Battlefields

Policy CE4 states that ‘Sites included in the register of landscapes, parks and gardens or special historic interest and identified historic battlefields should be protected, conserved, enhanced and where appropriate, restored, attention will also be given to their setting’. It also states that where a development requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) an Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL2) will be required.

3.3.1.3 CE6 Archaeology

Policy CE6 states that ‘Development proposals will normally be required to undertake an archaeological impact assessment before the proposal is determined:

i) Where groundworks and/or the installation of services are proposed within the archaeologically sensitive areas of Caerleon, the levels, Lower Machen and the City Centre, or;

ii) Within other areas of recognised archaeological interest.'
4 Baseline Conditions

4.1 Overview
The boundary of the Scheme encloses a 1600m by 30m linear stretch of land running east to west from NGR ST 336067 187515 to NGR ST 335009 187434. Running between and parallel to the existing Tata Steel railway line and the South Wales mainline, the proposed development area is currently scrubland, covered with bushes and trees and crossed with multiple drainage watercourses, with the eastern end of the scheme bounded by the Monk’s Ditch.

The level of made ground and disturbance within this area is unknown but is expected to be high, given the proximity to the Tata Steel tracks, the presence of overhead pylons and the man-made watercourses and dense vegetation present on-site.

The project will involve the installation of railway tracks necessitating the removal of vegetation along the length of the Scheme and the potential repositioning of the overhead cables. It is unlikely that excavations of significant depth (over 0.5m) will be required for this work.

4.2 Site Conditions
Much of the following information is derived from the South Wales Metro Llanwern Station Historic Environmental Impact Assessment (Mott MacDonald, 2017).

4.2.1 Topography and Geology
The area is mostly a flat plain north of the Severn estuary with low hills rising to the north of the Scheme.

The geology in this area is comprised of superficial deposits of Tidal Flat clay and silt formed of consolidated soft silty clay with layers of peat. Ground investigations to the south of the Scheme have demonstrated up to 6m of peat deposits in some areas. These deposits are likely to have formed during the Holocene geological epoch, the beginning of which coincides with the start of the Mesolithic period of human history. Such deposits have the potential to cover and carry important prehistoric and early historical archaeological information.

Peat deposits are organic rich layers which have a high level of preservation, particularly of organic material such as wood and Eco facts such as pollen and seeds. In this area they have been formed by the sporadic inundation by the Severn Estuary sealing the organic rich layers beneath.

The Scheme itself sits on a division between Mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group to the south and St Mary's Well Bay Member Limestone and Mudstone to the north, with an interceding band of Penarth Group Mudstone. Laverne Shales Member Mudstone is recorded on the peaks of the hills to the north. Bands of Blue Anchor Formation - Mudstone and Siltstone are also recorded on the northern edges of the hills.

4.3 Historic Landscape Character
Historically the wider landscape within which the Scheme is situated, was fen-edge reclaimed wetland forming part of the Gwent Levels Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA), which stretches south to the Severn Estuary. The construction and operation of the steelworks (see 4.5.7) from the mid-20th century, immediately to the south of the Scheme area, truncates the
northern landscape at the fen-edge, from that of the rest of the Gwent Levels landscape to the south.

4.3.1 Cartographic Evidence

Relevant cartographic resources were consulted to identify the recorded development of the site as well as any additional features that may previously have gone unrecorded within the limits of the Scheme.

Table 3.1 below summarises the key cartographic evidence for the Scheme area. No detailed maps prior to the construction of the South Wales mainline were available for this study however the 1839 Tithe map reproduced within the earlier Heritage statement (Mott MacDonald, 2017) shows field systems prior to the railways construction. The subsequent field and drainage systems are shown to remain in place until the construction of the Steelworks. In the mid-20th Century.

Table 4.1: Llanwern Cartographic Evidence

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Poolpan Farm</td>
<td>Pre-railway construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>1887</td>
<td>Monmouthshire XXXIV.NW/XXXIX.SW</td>
<td>Christchurch Ph</td>
<td>Post-railway construction</td>
</tr>
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<td>1902</td>
<td>Monmouthshire XXXIV.NW/XXXIX.SW</td>
<td>Christchurch Ph</td>
<td>Decoy Pool becomes old Decoy Pool</td>
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<td>1922</td>
<td>Monmouthshire XXXIV.NW/XXXIX.SW</td>
<td>Christchurch Ph</td>
<td>No change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Monmouthshire XXXIV.NW/XXXIX.SW</td>
<td>Christchurch Ph</td>
<td>Llanwern Lime Works replaced by Golf Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Monmouthshire XXXIV.NW/XXXIX.SW</td>
<td>Christchurch Ph</td>
<td>No change</td>
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Source: National Libraries of Scotland

4.4 Designated Assets

There are no designated heritage assets located within the proposed scheme area, however there are eight recorded within the 1km study area. These are:

- MM02 Barn at The Barn Farm, Grade II listed building (post-medieval) 150m north;
- Llanwern Park, Grade II registered park and garden (post-medieval) 320m north MM18;
- MM01 Parish Church of St Mary, Grade II listed building (medieval) 530m north;
- MM17 St. Mary’s Churchyard Cross, scheduled monument (medieval) 530m north;
- MM04 Old Lime Kiln, Grade II listed building (post-medieval) 600m northwest; and
- MM03 Great Milton, Grade II listed building (post-medieval) 950m north.

Of the above assets only, those deemed to have be potentially impacted within the South Wales Metro Llanwern Station Historic Environmental Impact Assessment, are discussed in detail within the following baseline narrative. These were St Mary’s church and Llanwern Park, a brief description of the setting and heritage significance of each is given in Section 5 of this report, along with an assessment of the potential impact resulting from the Scheme.

4.5 Non-Designated Assets

The former course of Monks’ Ditch forms the eastern boundary of the site, however no further non-designated assets have been identified within the limits of the Scheme. There are several non-designated heritage assets recorded within the study area which help to inform the archaeological conditions of the proposed scheme area. These are referred to within the following baseline narrative.
4.5.1 Geoarchaeological

Historic boreholes directly south of the eastern and western end of the Scheme have recorded consistent upper layers of clay, followed by laminated layers of fibrous Peat, and grey blue clay which have been recorded to depths of approximately 7m, which overlie bands of clay-silt and pebbles above the local bedrock.

During the 1990’s archaeological evaluation for the Gwent Euro Park, to the east of the Scheme, a deposit model demonstrating the post-glacial landscape was produced. Peat islands were identified 2-3m below current ground level, which are recognised as preferred sites for Late Bronze Age to Iron Age activity. The Roman ground surface is suggested as approximately 1m below current ground level (Gerrard and Lewis 2007, p5). The lamination of the peat layers by blue grey clay is representative of the inundation of the Gwent levels salt marsh. The upper layers of this lamination correspond with the Roman horizon.

4.5.2 Prehistoric 500,000BC – 43AD

To the north east of the scheme, approximately 650m from the western boundary, an early prehistoric worked flint scatter (MM16) was discovered and represents the only evidence of this period to date.

Later prehistoric periods are represented by the isolated find spot of a Bronze Age Palstave axe (MM13) 610m to the west of the western extent of the Scheme. Evidence of Iron Age Peat extraction, settlement activity and an Iron Age Hillfort are present in the wider area and on the eastern edges of the original Study area.

4.5.3 Roman 43AD – 410AD

Roman activity is noted primarily by burial grounds 850m to the west (MM11) of the western extent and 180m north (MM05) of the Scheme towards its eastern end. In the wider area a settlement site 1.8km to the east of the Scheme has been identified. Further evidence is demonstrated by a brass Vespasian coin (MM06) recovered in proximity to the northern cemetery, and Ceramic Building Material (CBM) (MM15) found 750m to the north west of the eastern extent of the Scheme. In the wider area the reclamation of the Gwent Levels began in the Roman era.

The western cemetery (MM11) is comprised of a single stone burial and multiple cremations along with other artefacts. The northern cemetery (MM05), found in 1925, consists of six burials within rock cut graves. The finds of CBM do not appear to represent the presence of a building directly but the suggest that there were buildings within the area.

The Scheme is approximately 3km south west of the major Roman legionary fort and settlement of Caerleon. In the wider area a consolidated effort to manage the land of the Gwent Levels was begun during this period.

4.5.4 Early Medieval 410AD - 1066AD

Early Medieval origins for the Llanwern Church (MM18 - St Mary’s church, 530m north) are suggested by registry charters from the church sites of Llandaff and Llancarfan. The curvilinear form of the graveyard may also be indicative of early medieval origins.

4.5.5 Medieval 106AD – 1500AD

Land reclamation and consolidation continued within this period, with areas divided between manorial estates and granges. The land was mostly given over to agriculture with isolated
farmsteads and the occasional small village. The land would have been divided by medieval field systems and drainage.

Running north - south on the eastern extent of the Scheme is Monks' Ditch a medieval drain feature thought to have been built by the Monks at Goldcliffe Priory to provide a fresh water supply. This feature was the primary drainage for the area with many of the smaller drains (reens) emptying in to it. It is likely that the drain was constructed in the approximate location of a natural watercourse, as evidenced by features noticeable on Lidar and satellite imagery in the field east of Llanwern village.

A deserted Medieval settlement (MM09) lies 760m to the north east of the Scheme, consisting of possible house platforms and a holloway, it is identifiable by earthworks and ceramic building material has been recovered from this location. The settlement is thought to have been removed as part of the creation of the Llanwern House estate parkland.

The deserted settlement lies directly north of St Mary’s church (MM01) a Grade II listed building which may have lain at the heart of a wider settlement area, this may be corroborated by further medieval ceramics recovered to the east of the church (MM10).

At the northern extent of the study area, north west of St Mary’s church, the name Milton is noticeable on modern and historic mapping, including the public house, street names and two farms. The name derives from the presence of a medieval mill (MM08); however, the location of the mill is not known. Llanwern Moat (MM14), is of potential medieval date is located over 950m north of the Scheme, to the east of Monks’ Ditch.

A 13th Century Grange was located 200m to the north of the Scheme, extensive foundations may still be evident within the grounds, the name Chapel Field associated with the Pall-Pan gardens also provides evidence of the former grange. The grange was replaced in the 14th Century by Pwll-Pan Manor (MM07) which will have included the area of the Scheme as part of its estate.

### 4.5.6 Post-Medieval 1500 - 1900

Great Milton farmstead (MM03) is a Grade II listed 16th Century building which lies on the northern edge of the Study area within the village of Llanwern. Llanwern House was built in 1760 with the estate parkland surrounding it and potentially in part causing the relocation from the deserted medieval settlement. The Llanwern estate kitchen garden was laid out within Llanwern Moat (MM14) to the west. The Barn at The Barn Farm (MM02) is a Grade II listed building 265m north east of the Scheme and consists of a 19th Century Barn probably associated with the Llanwern estate.

The Old Lime Kiln (MM04) approximately 665m to the north east is listed Grade II and is considered a good surviving example of a 19th Century limekiln.

The construction of the South Wales mainline in the mid-19th century, separated the hillier land to the north from the flat plain of the Gwent Levels. Bridges which originally spanned the railway line were dismantled as the steelworks were built, however the embankments remain to some extent.

### 4.5.7 Modern 1900 - Present

The Steelworks was constructed in the 1950’s and 60’s and changed the previously agricultural landscape to the south of the Scheme into an industrial one. This included the construction of the service line to the south of the South Wales Mainline. At this time many of the drains were
diverted, including the Monks’ Ditch, another larger east-west drain was constructed to feed water from the other reens into the Monks’ Ditch between the two sets of rails.

4.5.8 Unknown

Archaeological excavations (MM12) are visible on 2016 Google Earth satellite imagery, 130m north of the Scheme, west of the RSPCA Newport Animal Centre. The results of these excavations are not publicly available. While it is clear there are archaeological features there is no available dating for the features present. Given the proximity to the Medieval Manor House of Pwll-Pan and the preceding Grange, it is possible the features present relate to this period. However, there is a potential Iron Age roundhouse and enclosure feature visible on the imagery.
5 Archaeological Potential and Impact Assessment

The extent of ground disturbance resulting from construction of the railway lines, excavation and maintenance of the drainage ditches construction of the pylons is unknown. It is also likely that vegetation growth will have disturbed underlying features should these have survived, through the movement of roots and bioturbation. It is also unclear as to whether the ground between the tracks has been built up as this will affect the potential for reaching lower deposits during construction.

5.1 Geoarchaeology
The potential for significant geoarchaeological deposits such as Peat, is considered high.

5.2 Prehistoric
Prehistoric activity is noted across the wider area of the Gwent levels, however there is no local evidence to suggest a presence within the Scheme boundary, so the archaeological potential is considered low.

5.3 Roman
There is strong evidence of Roman activity in the wider area however the cemetery identified to the north of the Scheme is the only site identified near, as such there is considered to be a low to moderate potential for Roman remains.

5.4 Early Medieval
There is little evidence of the Early Medieval period in this area therefore the archaeological potential is considered low.

5.5 Medieval
The concentration of Medieval settlement and activity is to the north, centred around St Mary’s church, however the Monks’ Ditch marks the eastern extent of the site, and the former course of the ditch may be visible in the works. Equally the course of other drainage and field boundary features from this period may be uncovered. Features associated with the land belonging to Pwll-Pan Manor and the earlier grange may extend into the Scheme. The potential for the survival of medieval remains is considered moderate to high.

5.6 Post-Medieval
As with the medieval period, the main concentrations of activity are to the north, however the agricultural landscape extended through the Scheme in the form of boundaries and drainage. Assets relating to the construction of the railway line and related crossings may still exist within the boundaries of the Scheme. There is considered a high potential for post-medieval remains.
5.7 Modern

Features related to the construction of the steelworks railway line and the drainage management may be present within the Scheme boundary making the potential for modern remains high.

5.8 Unknown

The excavations to the north of the South Wales mainline, suggest there may be continuation into the Scheme boundary, as such there is a moderate to high potential for below ground archaeology of an unknown date.

5.9 Impact Assessment

The impact is somewhat dependent on construction details; however, it is assumed that no deep excavations (more than 0.5m) will be taking place, therefore there should be minimal impact on any peat or other important geoarchaeological deposits. Should deeper excavations be required the impact on such deposits will be high in those areas. Given the information from the area, it is likely that prehistoric features will be related to these lower layers, therefore the impact on them is low, as per the previous assumptions.

The works are likely to have a direct physical impact on any remaining below ground archaeology, post-medieval/19th Century drainage, field boundaries and remains of roads/tracks, in particular in the area where the bridges formerly crossed the South Wales mainline. These features are likely to be altered or removed by the works. All modern features listed within the Scheme are likely to be removed or altered as part of the Scheme.

The loss of archaeological remains would constitute significant impact in line with national planning policy.
6 Assessment of Significance and the Potential Impact of Development Buildings

6.1 Overview
As stated in Section 4.4, this section will concentrate on those listed structures within the reduced study area, assessed as to be potentially impacted upon by the previous heritage report for the larger Scheme.

6.2 Parish Church of St Mary, Grade II* listed

6.2.1 Setting and Significance
The Grade II* listed medieval church of St Mary is located 720m north east of the Scheme area. The church is situated within the parish of Llanwern on the corner of Bishton road and a lane leading south toward the back of Barn Farm. The church lies south of the known deserted settlement, and potentially at the heart of a wider former settlement. The Scheme area is on the periphery of the historic setting of the asset.

The church is partially surrounded by trees including Yews, while it is likely the church would have historically had inter-visibility across the Gwent Levels to the south, it is unknown what the vegetation cover would have been within this period. Currently there is significant screening for a ground level view from the church to the south west, which is created not only by the vegetation around the church, but by that in field boundaries and along the Monks’ Ditch as well as the intentional screening created after the construction of the Steelworks. The church would historically have been seen in within an agricultural background, despite the construction of the steel works which currently dominates the horizon to the south east, the church still largely resides within this setting.

The overall heritage significance of the asset is derived from its value as a medieval building and the additions and changes through time. The heritage value is contributed to by the rural character of the area, as well as its use as a spiritual and communal building within the local landscape.

6.2.2 Potential Impact
The original study conducted by Mott MacDonald (2017), determined there would be a slight detrimental impact on the heritage value of this asset should there be significant clearance of vegetation. This chiefly refers to clearance to the south west which may open up the views towards the Steelworks and the larger Scheme itself. However, the removal of the vegetation within the Scheme area will have no impact upon the setting of this building.

6.3 Llanwern Park, Grade II Registered Park and Garden

6.3.1 Setting and Significance
Llanwern Park, at its closest point to the Scheme, lies some 750m to the north east beyond St Mary’s Church. It consists of an area of estate parkland associated with the former Llanwern House, demolished in the mid-20th Century. The parkland was created alongside the construction of the house which was completed in 1760, the park was bounded to the west and
north by Monks’ Ditch, to the east and south by Great Wood and Longditch Wood. Within the grounds a driveway leading to the house passed ancillary buildings, including a buried Ice House, which remains intact.

Built on higher ground the parkland would have commanded views across the Gwent levels to the south as well as to the hills to the north. These views centred from Llanwern House would have helped create the aesthetic value of the designed landscape, as such the construction of the Steelworks in the 20th Century would have significantly impacted on this. Especially as the screening created after the Steelworks construction will have had minimal effect due to the height of its central location.

The demolition of the house combined with the construction of the Steelworks had a significant detrimental effect on the heritage value of the parkland and its setting. However, the parkland remains mostly undisturbed, with Llanwern Farm sited on the location of the house but with no further construction within its grounds. The systematic planting of trees has seen the encroachment of the forests which previously acted as boundaries and the enclosure of the central parkland.

6.3.2 Potential Impact

The Scheme is not thought to impact on the registered park and garden or its setting as it will continue to be screened by the existing treelines related to the South Wales mainline, Monks’ Ditch and the existing field boundaries.
7 Conclusions and Recommendations

7.1 Overview
This DBA has identified several assets within and around the Scheme, including the moderate – high potential for medieval and post-medieval remains. While this level of potential has been identified and any impact is likely to include removal or truncation, such features as have been identified rarely warrant any special measures or preservation in-situ.

Prehistoric and Roman potential has been identified as low – moderate, however assets have been identified within the area.

Geoarchaeological deposits are of high archaeological value and will be present within the Scheme, however the design of the Scheme should leave these undisturbed.

Vegetation clearance will take place however this will not be extensive enough to alter the existing screening for the assets to the north of the Scheme equally the project itself will not change the current nature of use.

Despite the potential for extensive disturbance in this area it should be assumed that any archaeological remains are intact, and the recommendations below reflect this assumption.

This report states there will be no impact either direct, or on the setting of, any listed buildings.

7.2 Recommendations
Due to the high level of vegetation, the nearby railway lines and the disturbed nature of the ground geophysical survey would not yield useful results, furthermore the size and nature of the Scheme and the various ground and health and safety factors preclude trial trenching.

Further consultation with GGAT will be required on the detailed Scheme proposals in particular relating to any potential deeper excavations which may impact upon geoarchaeological deposits. The minimum of a watching brief on all ground works, including any Geotechnical Investigation which may take place is recommended. Key features to be investigated would be any construction features related to the railway lines and associated structures, and any former courses of Monks’ Ditch, as well as any other archaeological features extending into the area.
8 References


- National Libraries of Scotland, 2018, Available at: http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#zoom=14&lat=54.2253&lon=-1.3237&layers=102&b=1&point=0,0 [Last Accessed: 26 August 2018].


- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.


Appendices

A. Gazetteer  
B. Site Location Plan

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22
## A. Gazetteer

**Key:**
- Scheduled Monument – SM
- Listed Building – LB
- Registered Park and Garden – RPG
- Non-designated Heritage Asset – NDHA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MM No.</th>
<th>CADW No.</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Name/description</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MM01</td>
<td>2926</td>
<td>LB, Grade II*</td>
<td>Parish Church of St Mary</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM02</td>
<td>17078</td>
<td>LB, Grade II</td>
<td>Barn at The Barn Farm</td>
<td>Post-Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM03</td>
<td>3064</td>
<td>LB, Grade II</td>
<td>Great Milton, Farmhouse</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM04</td>
<td>85290</td>
<td>LB, Grade II</td>
<td>Old Lime Kil</td>
<td>Post-Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM05</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>6 Roman Burials found during construction of road.</td>
<td>Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM06</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Roman Brass Coin, Vespasian c. 71AD</td>
<td>Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM07</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Medieval Manor House known as Pwl-Pan, within garden named Chapel Field (GGAT08322g) and Grange associated with Pwl-Pan (GGAT08321g). Extensive foundations and some sort of enclosure in the orchard. Tradition holds that burials have been found.</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM08</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Milton’s mill, as described in a 1677 boundary document, is somewhere between Langstone and Milton. Exact location unknown</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM09</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Deserted rural settlement seen via earthworks. Remains consist of a well-defined hollow way and several platforms, possibly house sites.</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM10</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Ceramic Scatter, fragments of pottery found during ditch clearing</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM11</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Roman Cremations and graves found in quarry in 1910, south of farm and immediately north of railway embankment, with material culture, 1st and 2nd century coinage, pendant, beads, rings and a spear-head. These, along with a stone coffin may indicate a cemetery in use over an extended period.</td>
<td>Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM12</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Archaeological excavations noted on 2016 Google Earth Imagery</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM13</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Unlooped Bronze Age palstave</td>
<td>Bronze Age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM No.</td>
<td>CADW No.</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Name/description</td>
<td>Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM14</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Site of Llanwern Moat, potentially medieval. Historic mapping shows a garden within the site. It is within Llanwern House estate</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM15</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Tile Scatter. Fragments including roof tile found.</td>
<td>Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM16</td>
<td></td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>Undated flint scatter, with signs of some secondary working</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM17</td>
<td>MM324</td>
<td>NDHA</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Churchyard Cross, Llanwern</td>
<td>Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM18</td>
<td>2128</td>
<td>RPG, Grade II</td>
<td>Llanwern Park. The house and kitchen garden have gone but the park survives in its entirety and there is a well-preserved icehouse</td>
<td>Post-Medieval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Site Location Plan (367590-MMD-48-XX-DR-C-0400)

Demonstrating the location of Heritage Assets in relation to the Scheme
Figure 2
Location of designated heritage assets, Gwent Levels ASA and Study Area

Key to Symbols

- Cadw List of National Heritage
- GGAT/Cadw Archaeologically Sensitive Area data

Notes

- Mapping includes:
  - Cadw List of National Heritage
  - GGAT/Cadw Archaeologically Sensitive Area data

Transport for Wales (TfW)