

Footbridge over the Gwendraeth, Kidwelly Historic Environment Assessment



Report by: Trysor

For: CK Planning Ltd

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By

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Trysor Project No. 2016/481

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Cover photograph: From the approximate location of the footbridge, looking north up the Gwendraeth Fach with Kidwelly Castle on the west bank.

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan bartneriad Trysor. Mae wedi ei gael yn gywir ac yn derbyn ein sêl bendith.

This report was prepared by the Trysor partners. It has been checked and received our approval.

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Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

We welcome any comments on the content or structure of this report.

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1. Summary

1.1 This historic environment assessment has been undertaken by Trysor to examine likely impacts on the historic environment from a proposed footbridge across the Gwendraeth Fach river, Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire.

1.2 A field visit was undertaken to examine the location of the footbridge and record previously unknown historic assets. Information was also gathered on the indirect, visual impacts on historic assets within the wider landscape.

1.3 The assessment has studied the impacts on all recorded historic assets within an area measuring 300m in radius, focused on SN4094006910, the location of the proposed footbridge. The regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record were consulted, as well as readily available historical mapping.

1.3.1 There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the revised 300m radius assessment area, one of which, Kidwelly Castle, is also a Listed Building. There would be no direct impacts on the Scheduled Monuments. There would be a Very Low indirect, visual impact and a High (Positive) impact on Setting on Kidwelly Castle (ID number 1, CM002). Giving access to the river area south of the castle allows the size and location of the castle can be understood. There would no impact on the other Scheduled Ancient Monument, Kidwelly town defences (ID number 2, CM183)

1.3.2 There are five Listed Buildings within the 300m radius assessment area, one of which, Kidwelly Castle, is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument, see 1.3.1 above. Kidwelly parish church (ID number 3) would experience a Very Low indirect visual impact, but with no impact on its setting. There would be no impacts on the remaining three Listed Buildings.

1.3.3 There are no Registered Parks & Gardens in the 300m assessment area.

1.3.4 There would not be a significant indirect, visual impact or direct, physical impact on the historic environment, or on individual historic assets from the proposed development within the 300m radius assessment area.

1.3.5 Four non-statutory historic asset within a 300m radius would experience a Very Low, indirect, visual impact.

1.3.6 There would be a Very Low, indirect, visual impact on two Listed Buildings within a 300m radius, namely St. Mary's Church and Kidwelly Castle.

1.3.7 There would be no impacts on the setting of St. Mary's Church, but it is felt that there would be a High, positive, impact on the setting of Kidwelly Castle as the footbridge would make a key viewpoint of the monument much more accessible to the general public and enhance experience and understanding of the monument. Kidwelly Castle is also the only Scheduled Ancient Monument within a 300m radius.

- 1.4 The footbridge will lay within the Kidwelly conservation area, but would not have an impact on any of its characteristic elements.
- 1.5 There is no evidence to suggest that any buried archaeological features exist at the proposed footbridge site. The constructed footprint of the bridge will be minimal using piles to support the bridge.
- 1.6 No archaeological mitigation is thought necessary in relation to the construction of the proposed footbridge.

2. Copyright

- 2.1 Trysor holds the copyright of this report. Further copies may be made of this report without gaining permission to reproduce but it must be noted that Figures 3 and 6 include other copyrighted material and should not be copied.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Chris Kimpton of CK Planning Ltd has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants on behalf of his client to write an Historic Environment Assessment for the provision of a footbridge over river Gwendraeth, downstream over Kidwelly Castle.
- 3.2 This specification has been guided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (CIfA, 2014) as well as a site visit on 18th March 2016. The specification, see Appendix A, was approved by the Planning Archaeologist at Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

4. The proposed development

- 4.1 The development site is a footbridge over the river Gwendraeth in Kidwelly at approximately SN4094006910, see Figure 1.

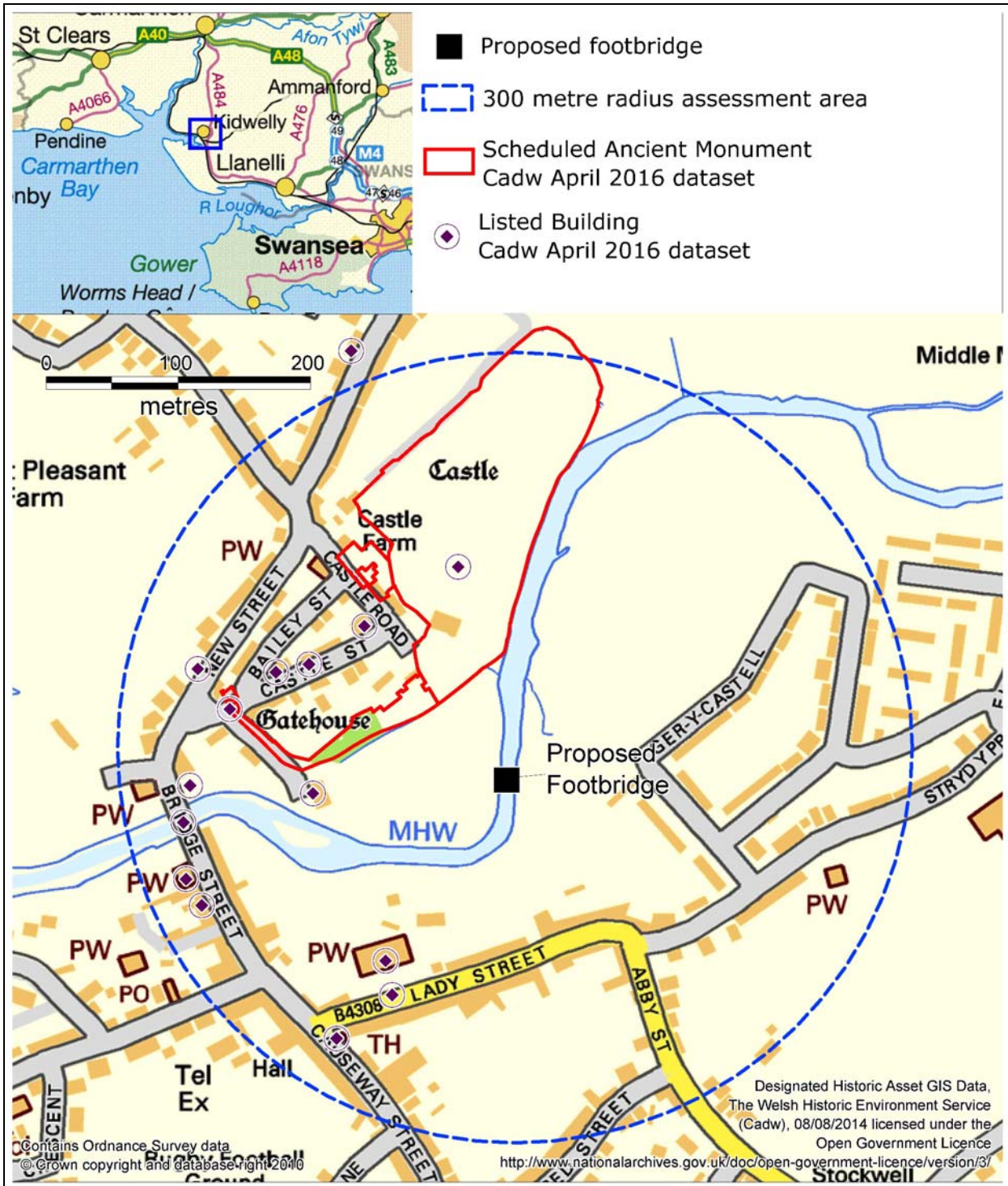


Figure 1: Location of the proposed footbridge, showing the 300m radius assessment area.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The assessment initially considered known historic assets within a 300 metre radius circle centred on SN4094006910, the approximate centre of the development area, see Figure 1. Historic assets were excluded from further assessment where there was no intervisibility between the footbridge and the historic asset and where there could be no impact on setting, or archaeological implications, see Figure 2.
- 5.2 Data from the regional Historic Environment Record held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust was acquired for the 300m assessment.
- 5.3 Historic mapping was consulted. The maps used included 19th and 20th century 1:2500 scale Ordnance Survey mapping and the Kidwelly parish tithe map of 1840 and accompanying tithe schedule of 1839.
- 5.4 A site visit was made to the proposed footbridge site, and the surrounding area, on March 18th, 2016. Visible archaeological features within the area directly affected by the footbridge proposal were searched for and any other historic assets that on which there may be a direct impact recorded. The wider landscape was also studied taking note of topography, vegetation and structures.
- 5.5 The aerial photographs on Google Earth, dating to 2006, 2009, 2010 and 2015 were used to inform the assessment as well as the more recent aerial photographs on the People's Collection. The aerial photographs now available online from the Welsh Government Aerial Photography Unit were also used, including photographs from 1947 and oblique photographs on the Britain from Above website. LiDAR data available from Natural Resources Wales via the Lle website was also consulted.
- 5.6 Elevation profiles, in conjunction with photos from the site visit, were used assess to intervisibility, views and impact on setting as well as a ZTV created by Trysor.
- 5.7 Modern mapping was used to assess current public access.
- 5.8 All information gathered during the desktop assessment and site visit was entered into a bespoke database created in Access 2003 to form an assessment dataset.
- 5.9 The dataset is the source of the material output in this report, including the GIS mapping which illustrates the location of sites in the area, and the tables and appendices which provide detailed information on the sites within the study area.

- 5.10 Each of the records in the final assessment 300m dataset was assessed for Period, Rarity, Documentation, Group Value¹, as well as Evidential Value, Historical Value, Aesthetic Value, Communal Value². Once these had been considered the significance of each site was determined and scored in accordance with the categories adopted by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts i.e. Nationally Important, Regionally Important, Locally Important, Minor and Features Needing Further Investigation (Unknown), see Figure 3. Full details of this exercise are given in Appendix B.
- 5.11 Sites of Minor Importance, or Locally Important but in a very poor condition/destroyed, were not assessed further unless there would be a direct impact on them.

6. The Development Site

- 6.1 The proposed development site includes both banks of a stretch of the Gwendraeth Fach river upstream of Kidwelly town. It lies below the imposing medieval castle which dominates the lower valley, and upstream of the fine medieval parish church, the spire of which rises to the south. The land either side of the river is flat and on the floodplain. Historically both banks have been used for pasture in recent centuries, with their earlier history less clear. The proposed site is only 3 metres above sea level and situated on a tidal section of the river.
- 6.2 The underlying strata at the proposed development site consist of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Bishopston Mudstone Formation. These were formed of sediments laid down in an environment characterised by swamps, estuaries and deltas on a coastal plain some 313 to 326 million years ago during the Carboniferous Period. The bedrock at the development site is deeply buried beneath more recent tidal flat deposits in the lower Gwendraeth Fach valley, which have been laid down during the Quaternary period when the Carmarthen Bay coastline developed, primarily during the past 10,000 years, since the last Ice Age.

¹ Period, Rarity, Documentation and Group Value are criteria defined in the Welsh Office Circular 60/96, 1996.

² Evidential Value, Historical Value, Aesthetic Value and Communal Value are criteria defined in Cadw's Conservation Principles publication, 2011.

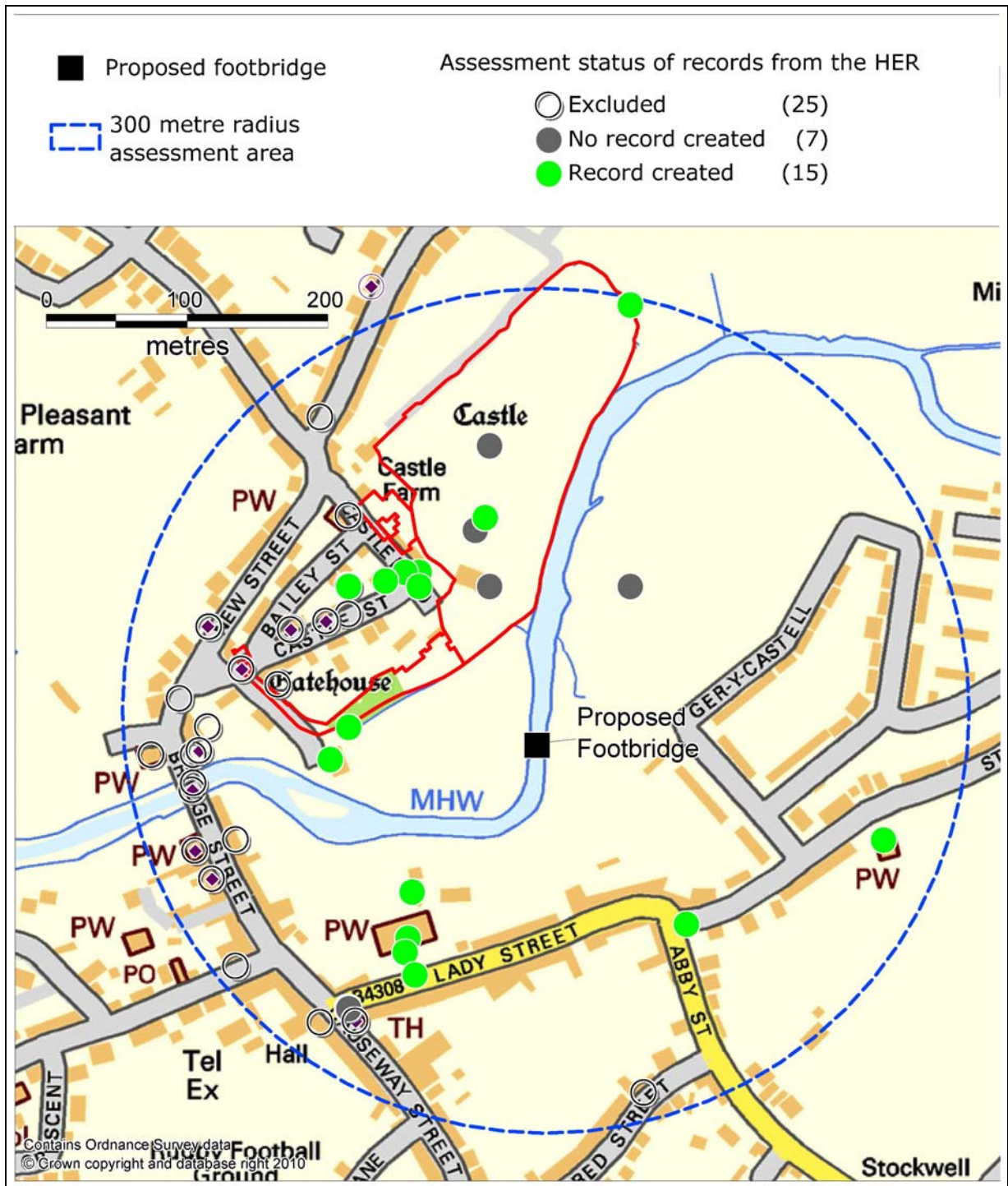


Figure 2: Sites excluded from further assessment as no intervisibility shown on the ZTV generated by Trysor, and no possible impact on setting.

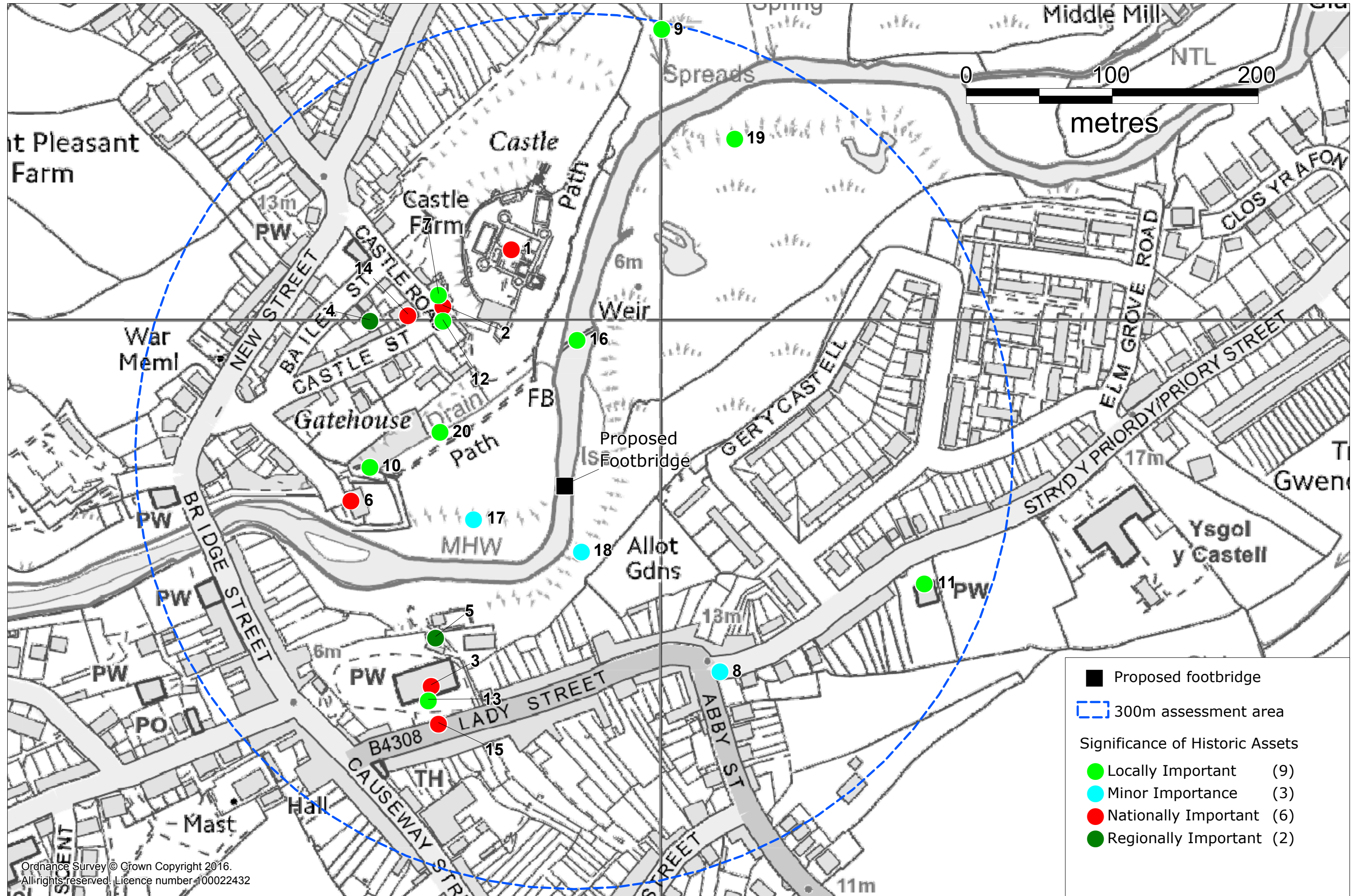


Figure 3: The 300m assessment area showing significance of assessed heritage assets, labelled with Project ID number

7. The Lower Gwendraeth Fach and Kidwelly Castle and Town; Archaeology and History

7.1 The development site is situated in a landscape which is central to the history of the development of Kidwelly town over the past 900 years. To the west of the Gwendraeth Fach stands the medieval castle and its small borough town, sometimes referred to as the "Old Town". To the east and south of the river is the medieval church of St. Mary, which marks the site of the lost medieval Priory and its own associated settlement, sometimes known as the "New Town" of Kidwelly.

7.1.1 The origins of Kidwelly appear to lay in the early 12th century AD when Kidwelly Castle (ID number 1) was founded between AD1106 and 1115 and held by Roger, Bishop of Salisbury. By the mid-12th century it came into the possession of Maurice de Londres, Lord of Ogmore. The original castle was an earth and timber earthwork, but at some point during the 12th century or early 13th century a stone curtain wall was built atop the ringwork ramparts to strengthen the western defences. The de Chaworth family held the castle by the second half of the 13th century and by 1283 they had further strengthened the defences, including the addition of the strong inner ward, which is a square enclosure with round towers at each corner. The impressive gatehouse at the southern end of the castle was added in the 14th century by Henry of Lancaster, and a large hall and chapel tower were also added soon afterwards. Sir Rhys ap Thomas added a second hall in the late 16th century as the gentrification of the castle proceeded under the Tudors. Courts were still held in the hall into the early 17th century but the importance of the castle declined thereafter and by the 18th century it was certainly in a state of dereliction. Kidwelly castle was owned by the Vaughan family of the Cawdor estate from the 17th century until they gifted it to the state in 1927. Excavations were undertaken by Sir Cyril Fox in 1930-31 and during the 20th century state guardianship has seen the castle being restored and maintained to recapture much of its former glory.), This is one of the largest and most imposing Norman castles in South Wales and is now a popular visitor attraction, under the management of Cadw.

7.1.2 A small borough town (ID number 4) grew outside the castle from its earliest inception, along Castle Street to the southwest of the castle and also possibly along Mount Pleasant to the west. This is referred to as the "Old Town" or "Castle Town" in some literature. The area to the southwest of the castle was protected by town walls, which seem to have still been standing in the 16th century. When John Leland visited Kidwelly in the 1530s he noted that the old town was "prettily walled". There is now little evidence of the town walls, with one section alone (ID number 2) still standing to the west of the castle. The most significant element in the town's defences is which still stands is the medieval gateway (PRN 60382) at the southwestern end of Castle Street, which would not be intervisible with the proposed

development. No medieval buildings now stand within the area of the Old Town.

7.1.3 A Benedictine priory was established in Kidwelly in 1114, by Roger of Salisbury, on the opposite bank of the Gwendraeth Fach from the castle. After the Dissolution its history is not charted in detail and by modern times even the location of the Priory had become unclear. St. Mary's Parish Church is known to have served as the Priory Church and is thought to have stood within the complex, but it is not known with any certainty where the rest of the Priory buildings were located. They may have stood to the north or northeast of the parish church, on the banks of the Gwendraeth Fach. The Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments, in 1917, suggested that the Priory buildings stood to the east of the present church. The Prior's House (PRN 7886) stood some 100 metres to the west, until 1932, and was said to date to the 13th century.

7.1.4 In medieval times a settlement was also associated with the area surrounding the Priory. This is referred to in literature as the "New Town" or "Priory Town" of Kidwelly and grew on land owned by the Priory. The "New Town" had its own market place in Lady Street and was outside the boundaries of the castle and its borough to the north of the Gwendraeth Fach.

7.1.5 St Mary's parish church (ID number 13), the former Priory church, is an important medieval survival and is also the largest parish church in southwest Wales. It was originally used as the church for the Benedictine Priory at Kidwelly, which was founded in AD1114. A church had been built on the site by the 13th century but was burned down in 1223. It was repaired and the 13th century plan and the crossing piers survive, but the present church is largely of 14th century date. The impressive spire has been damaged and repaired many times by lightning since the 14th century but still dominates the local area. The building was restored in 1885-89 and it continues in use as a parish church.

7.1.6 There were several other medieval sites of interest along this section of the Gwendraeth Fach valley, of which only a documentary record survives. It is thought that the river was navigable to the castle during medieval times, but the location of any wharves used to resupply the castle has not been identified and no record for such features exists in the Historic Environment Record. It is possible that they were further upstream, below the northern bailey of the castle, but this has not been proven. They might equally have been located downstream in the vicinity of the present bridging point on the river, to the southwest of the medieval town gates, but again this is not proven. There is no evidence that they would have been positioned in the area of the proposed development. There are also records of at two mills along the lower Gwendraeth Fach. A fulling mill (ID number

9) was recorded on the river during the 13th century, possibly situated upstream from the development site in the vicinity of the north bailey of the castle. Its location has not been proven in modern times. Another medieval fulling mill, the Caldecot Mill (ID number 10), is said to have stood downstream from the development site, where the Castle Corn Mill (ID number 6) was built in 1804. The Castle Corn Mill is now used as an antique shop.

7.2 Examination of early Ordnance Survey mapping and the parish tithe map for Kidwelly show that the land around the proposed development site has not been on for at least two centuries. There is no indication that the land here has been used for any purpose other than riverside pasture in post-medieval times.

7.2.1 The Ordnance Survey's Original Surveyors Drawing of 1811 is the earliest available map, see Figure 5. This map is indistinct but appears to show that the area around the proposed development site was within the area of enclosed farmland, unlike the unenclosed marshland of Morfa Mawr, downstream beyond the Castle Corn Mill.

7.2.2 The Kidwelly Parish tithe map of 1840, see Figure 4 gives a much clearer depiction of the land divisions at that time. This shows the west bank of the Gwendraeth Fach at the development site was within field parcel number 815, and the land on the east bank was within parcel 816, both owned by the Kidwelly Corporation.

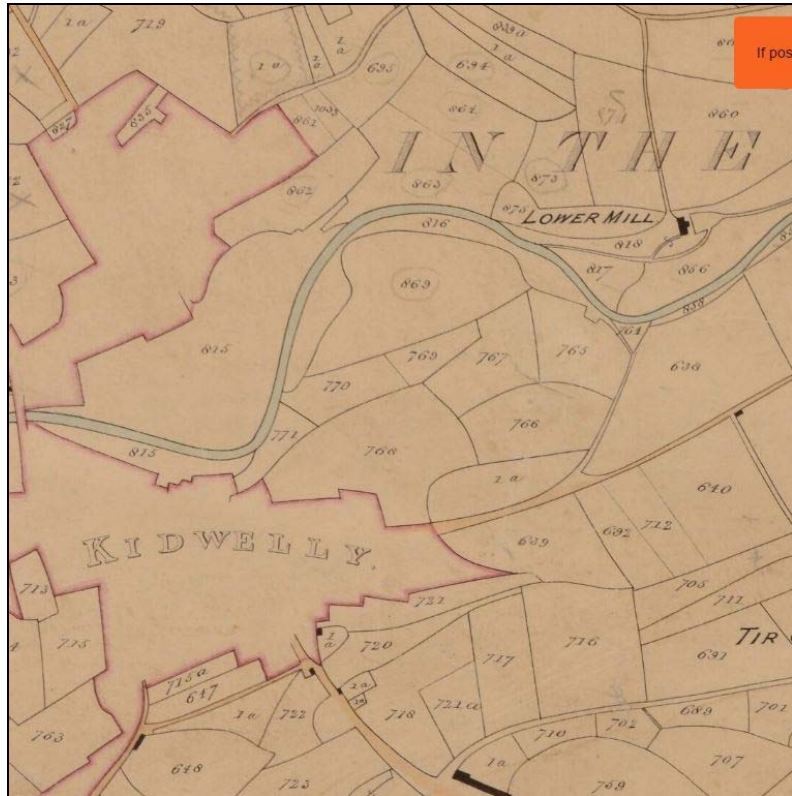


Figure 4: An excerpt of the Kidwelly parish tithe map (1840), showing the outline of Kidwelly town and the lower Gwendraeth Fach flowing between the two parts of the settlement, with the “Old Town” to the north of the river and the “New Town” to the south. The proposed bridge would link the field parcels numbered 815 and 816.



Figure 5: Kidwelly on the 1811 Ordnance Survey Original Surveyor's Drawings.

8. Impact Assessment

- 8.1 The HER enquiry for the 300m radius area yielded 47 records for historic assets.
- 8.2 The proposed development site and its environs were visited on 18th March 2016. The fields on either side of the Gwendraeth Fach are rough grasslands at the time. The wider landscape context of the proposed development was also considered and the impact on the setting of designated sites. This visit was undertaken on a partially cloudy day, but with good visibility.
- 8.3 Of the initial 47 historic assets recorded in the HER for the 300m assessment area, 25 were excluded as there was no intervisibility, and no possible impact on setting, see Figure 2. A further 7 records were removed from the dataset; 3 as they were poorly located and no assessment could be made, 1 as it was within the church, and again no impact, 1 as it was a place name only record, 1 as it was a DELETED record only kept in the HER for administrative purposes and 1 as it was for a motte at Kidwelly, which actually appears to have been a ringwork.
- 8.4 Five new records for historic assets were created in the project database by Trysor. Two were for former weir and leat for Castle Mill (ID numbers 16 & 17). The remaining three were for three banks on the low-lying ground adjacent to the river (ID numbers 18, 19 & 20).
- 8.5 After the site visit, the historic map search, and the rapid assessment of the readily available data the final dataset for the 300m radius assessment area contained 20 records for historic assets.
- 8.6 The significance of the historic assets represented by these records was assessed and graded in accordance with the categories adopted by the Welsh Archaeological Trusts i.e. Nationally Important, Regionally Important, Locally Important, Minor and Features Needing Further Investigation (Unknown).
- 8.7 Within the 20 records there were two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, one of which is also a Listed Building, and five Listed Buildings, one of which is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

8.8 The Direct and Indirect impact on the remaining historic assets was assessed taking into account both physical and non-physical impacts. Each impact was assessed within the scale Very Low, Low, Moderate, High and Very High, taken into account the significance of the site and the nature of the impact. A full table is found in Appendix B but a summary is tabulated in Table 1 below and illustrated in Figure 6. These impacts are further discussed in Section 10.

8.9 Impacts are negative unless identified as positive.

ID Number	Site Name	Site Type	Level of Direct Impact	Level of Indirect Impact	Level of Impact on Setting
18	GWENDRAETH FACH	FLOOD DEFENCES	Very Low	Very Low	None
1	KIDWELLY CASTLE	CASTLE	None	Very Low	High (Positive)
3	KIDWELLY PARISH CHURCH; ST MARY THE VIRGIN; ST MARY'S PRIORY	CHURCH	None	Very Low	None
13	KIDWELLY PARISH CHURCH; ST MARY THE VIRGIN	CHURCHYARD	None	Very Low	None
16	CASTLE MILL WEIR	WEIR	None	Very Low	None
20	CASTLE MILL LEAT	LEAT	None	Very Low	None
2	KIDWELLY TOWN	TOWN DEFENCES	None	None	None
4	KIDWELLY TOWN	TOWN	None	None	None
5	KIDWELLY PRIORY	PRIORY	None	None	None
6	LOWER MILL; CASTLE MILL	CORN MILL	None	None	None
7	CASTLE CRAFTS	DWELLING	None	None	None
8	ABBEY STREET NO.1	DWELLING	None	None	None
9	KIDWELLY CASTLE MILL	FULLING MILL	None	None	None
10	CALDECOT; CASTLE MILL	FULLING MILL	None	None	None
11	CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING	CHURCH	None	None	None

ID Number	Site Name	Site Type	Level of Direct Impact	Level of Indirect Impact	Level of Impact on Setting
12	BETHESDA WELSH WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL	CHAPEL	None	None	None
14	THE OLD MOAT HOUSE	RESTAURANT	None	None	None
15	WALL ALONG S SIDE OF CHURCHYARD	CHURCHYARD WALL	None	None	None
17	GWENDRAETH FACH	FLOOD DEFENCES	None	None	None
19	GWENDRAETH FACH	BANK (EARTHWORK)	None	None	None

Table 1: Impact on assessed historic assets in the 300m study area around the proposed footbridge site

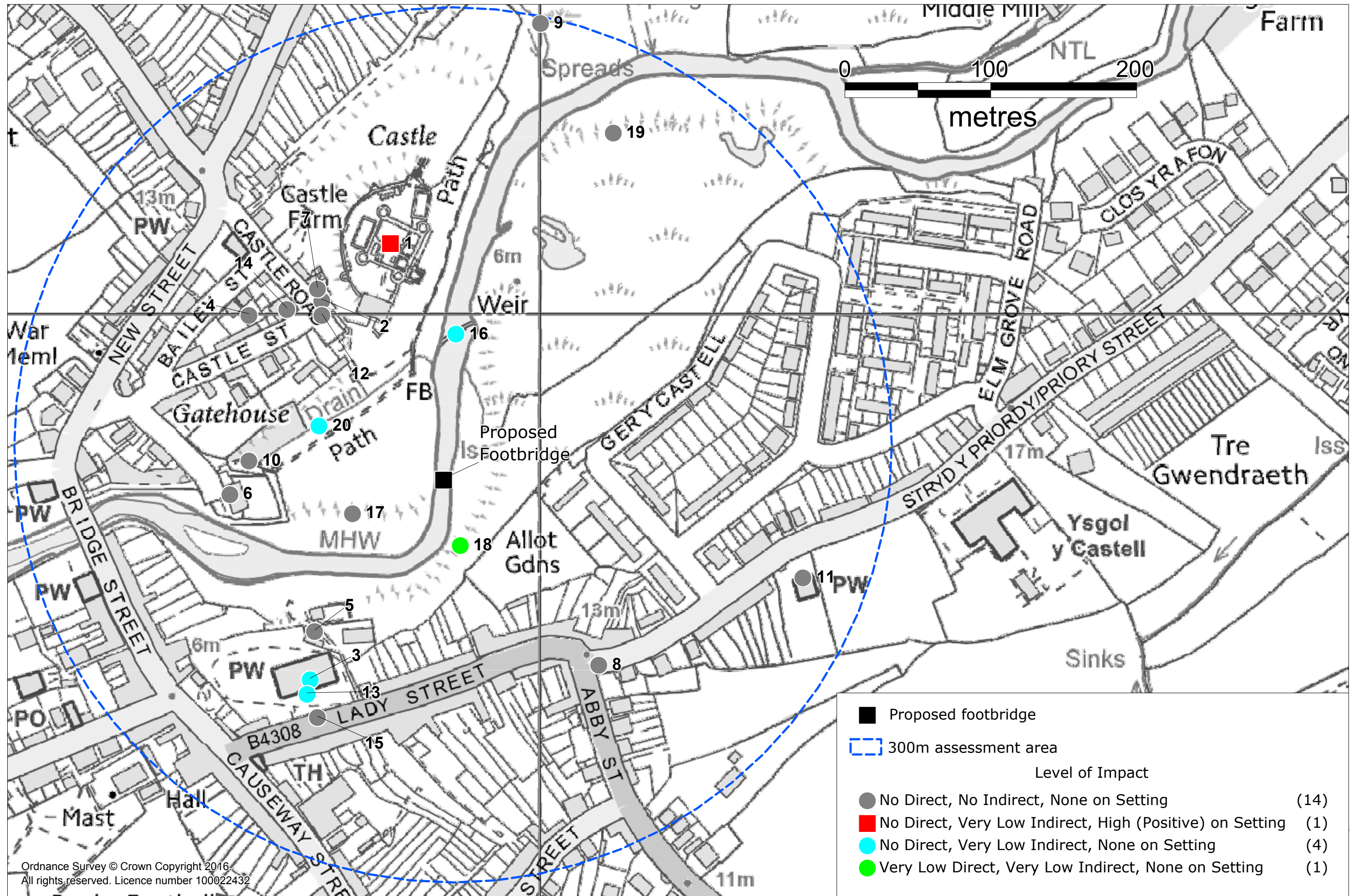


Figure 6: The 300m assessment area showing the level of impact on assessed heritage assets, labelled with Project ID number

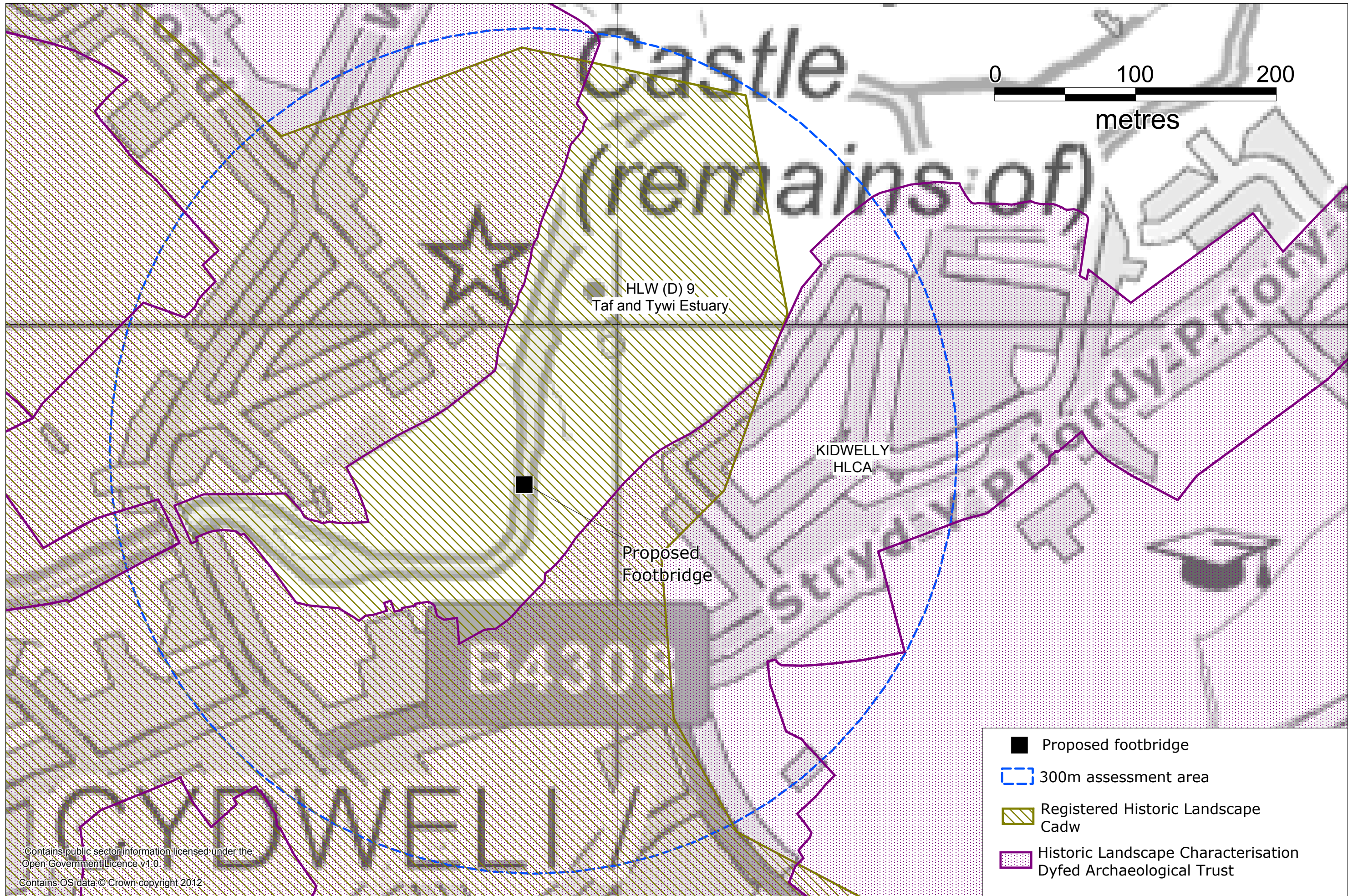


Figure 7: The 300m assessment area showing the Registered Historic Landscape, and the Historic Landscape Characterisation Areas.

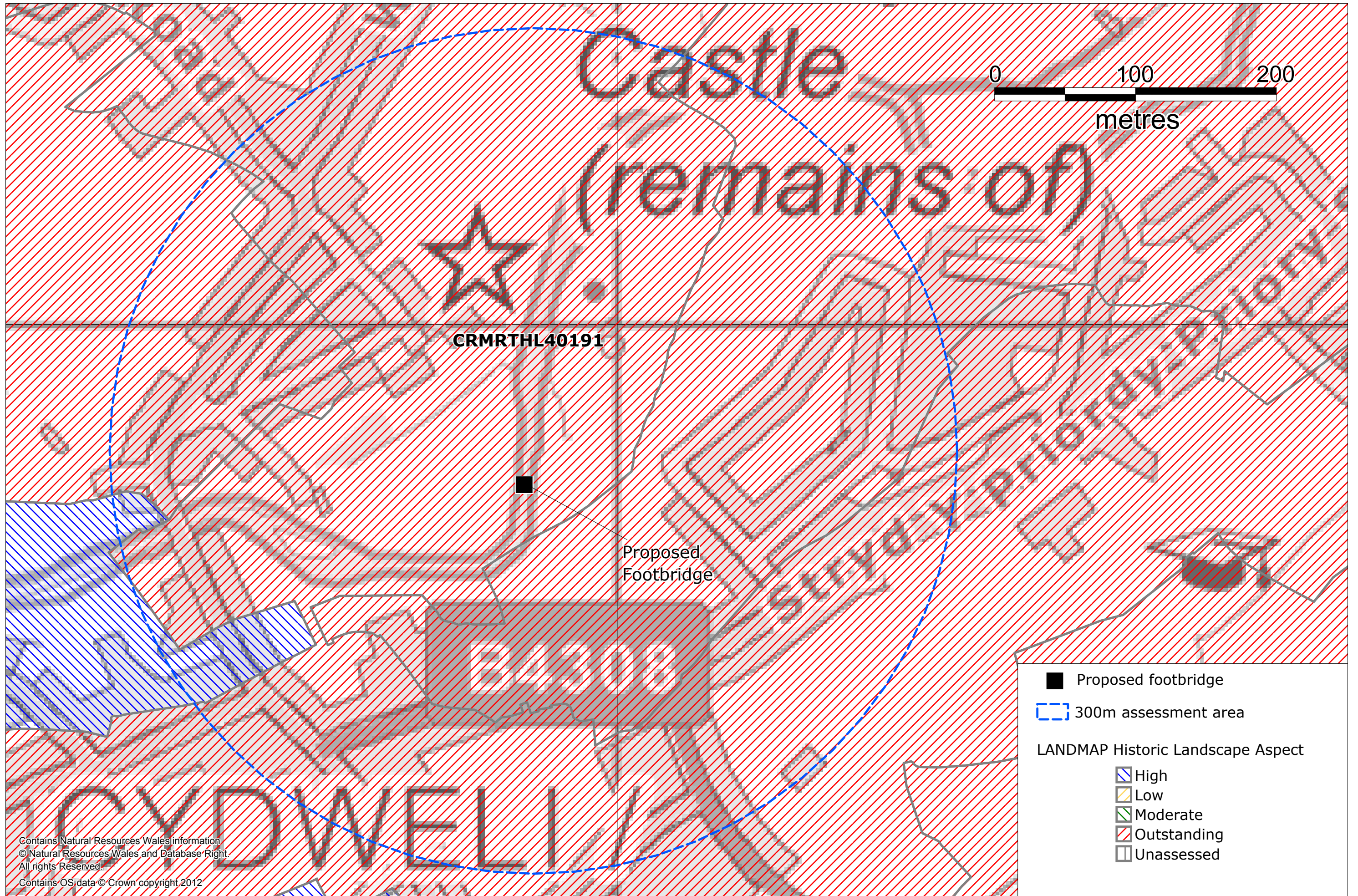


Figure 8: The 300m assessment area showing the LANDMAP Historic Landscape aspect, labelled with LANDMAP Aspect Area Number

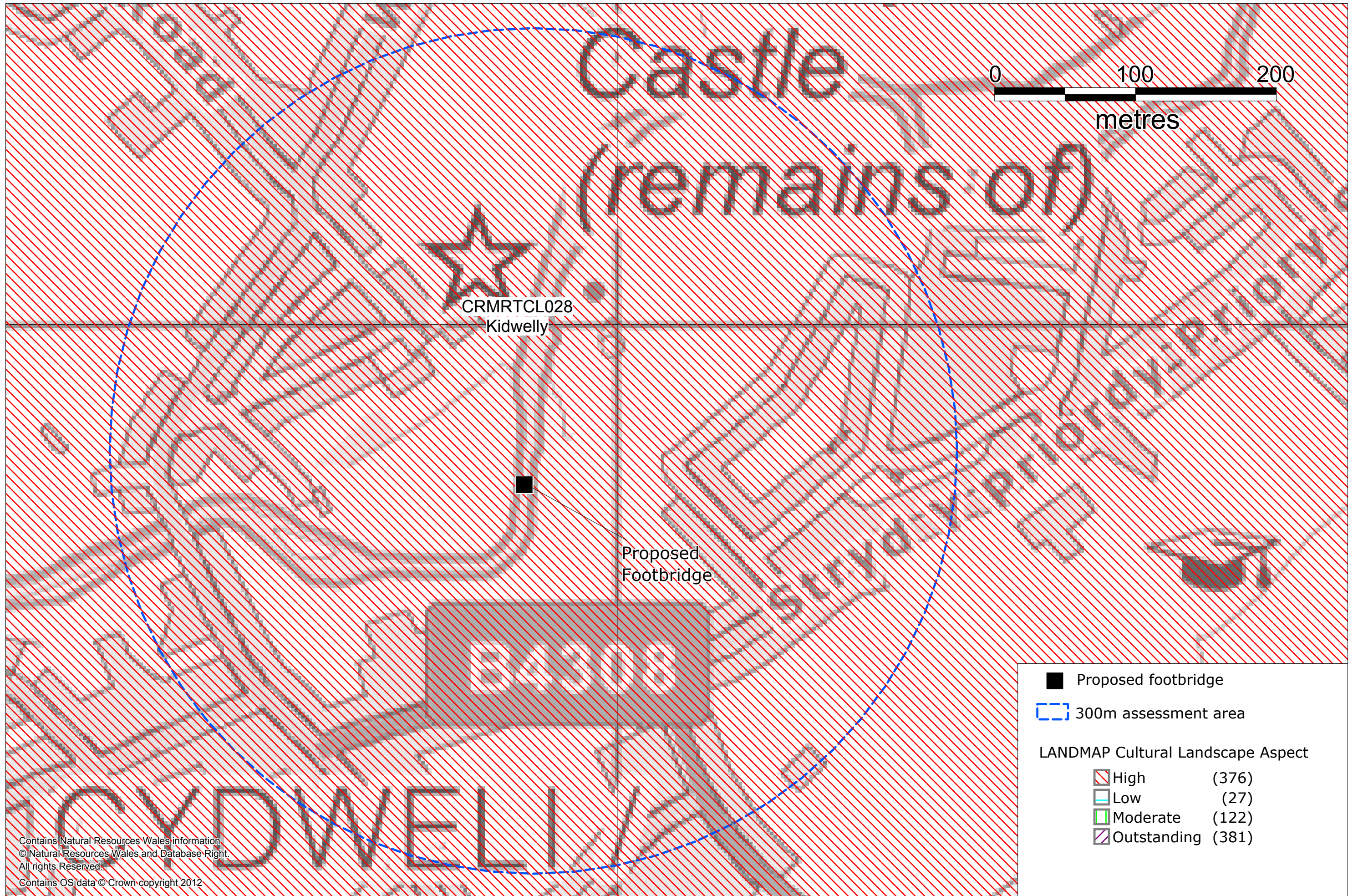


Figure 9: The 300m assessment area showing the LANDMAP Cultural Landscape aspect, labelled with LANDMAP Aspect Area Number

9. Impact on Historic Environment Aspects

9.1 Following the impact assessment, aspects of the historic environment around the proposed footbridge site have been considered as outlined in the specification agreed by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management Section (see Appendix A).

9.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments and their settings

9.2.1 There are two Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the 300m assessment area. One is the medieval town defences of Kidwelly (ID number 2, CM183) and there would be no direct or indirect on this largely buried feature. The other Scheduled Ancient Monument is Kidwelly Castle itself (ID number 1, CM002). There would be no direct impact on the historic asset or its scheduled area. It would be another visible element in the landscape from the castle and therefore there would be a Very Low indirect visual impact. However, the bridge and footpath will open up access to this area to the south of the castle from where there are good views of the castle, showing how it stands in an imposing manner on the ridge alongside the Gwendraeth Fach. Housing has blocked many former views of the castle and this is assessed as being a positive High impact on the setting of the castle. For further details see Table 2, Figures 3 & 6 and Appendix B.

ID Number	SAM Number	Site Name	Site Type	Level of Direct Impact	Level of Indirect Impact	Level of Impact on Setting
1	CM002	KIDWELLY CASTLE	CASTLE	None	Very Low	High (Positive)
2	CM183	KIDWELLY TOWN	TOWN DEFENCES	None	None	None

Table 2: Impacts on Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the 300m area

9.3 Listed Buildings and their settings

9.3.1 There are five Listed Buildings within the revised 300m assessment area. One of these is Kidwelly Castle (ID number 1, CM002) which is discussed above in 10.2. There would be a Very Low indirect visual impact on the parish church (ID number 3, Listed Building number 11878) but no impact on its setting. The remaining three Listed Buildings would not experience any impact, see Table 3, Figures 3 and 6 and Appendix B for more details

ID Number	Listed Building Number	Site Name	Site Type	Level of Direct Impact	Level of Indirect Impact	Level of Impact on Setting
1	11876	KIDWELLY CASTLE	CASTLE	None	Very Low	High (Positive)
3	11878	KIDWELLY PARISH CHURCH; ST MARY THE	CHURCH	None	Very Low	None

		VIRGIN; ST MARY'S PRIORY				
6	20192	LOWER MILL; CASTLE MILL	CORN MILL	None	None	None
14	20187	THE OLD MOAT HOUSE	RESTAURANT	None	None	None
15	20191	WALL ALONG S SIDE OF CHURCHYARD	CHURCHYARD WALL	None	None	None

Table 3: Listed Buildings on which there would be an impact in the 300m assessment area.

9.4 Previously Recorded, Non-Designated Historic Assets

9.4.1 There are no significant impacts on Non-designated Historic Assets within 300m of the footbridge site. Further details in Appendix B, Figures 3 and 6 and listed in Table 4 below.

ID Number	Site Name	Site Type	Level of Direct Impact	Level of Indirect Impact	Level of Impact on Setting
13	KIDWELLY PARISH CHURCH; ST MARY THE VIRGIN	CHURCHYARD	None	Very Low	None
4	KIDWELLY TOWN	TOWN	None	None	None
5	KIDWELLY PRIORY	PRIORY	None	None	None
7	CASTLE CRAFTS	DWELLING	None	None	None
8	ABBEY STREET NO.1	DWELLING	None	None	None
9	KIDWELLY CASTLE MILL	FULLING MILL	None	None	None
10	CALDECOT; CASTLE MILL	FULLING MILL	None	None	None
11	CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING	CHURCH	None	None	None
12	BETHESDA WELSH WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL	CHAPEL	None	None	None

Table 4: List of non-designated historic assets and buildings

9.5 Newly identified historic assets

9.5.1 Five newly recorded historic assets were noted for this assessment at or near the footbridge site. Two were for former weir and leat for Castle Mill (ID numbers 16 & 17). The remaining three were for three banks on the low-lying ground adjacent to the river (ID numbers 18, 19 & 20). There would be a Very Low direct impact on one of the flood defence banks (ID number 18) as the footfall increases on the east side of the river and erosion of the bank may

occur. The details of these sites are included in Table 5, Appendix B and Figures 3 and 6.

ID Number	Site Name	Site Type	Level of Direct Impact	Level of Indirect Impact	Level of Impact on Setting
18	GWENDRAETH FACH	FLOOD DEFENCES	Very Low	Very Low	None
16	CASTLE MILL WEIR	WEIR	None	Very Low	None
20	CASTLE MILL LEAT	LEAT	None	Very Low	None
17	GWENDRAETH FACH	FLOOD DEFENCES	None	None	None
19	GWENDRAETH FACH	BANK (EARTHWORK)	None	None	None

Table 5: Impacts on newly recorded historic assets

9.6 Registered Parks & Gardens and their essential settings.

9.6.1 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the 300m study area

9.7 Registered Historic Landscapes

9.7.1 The proposed footbridge site is not located within a Registered Historic Landscape as defined by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust. However, the urban parts of Kidwelly town, which stand immediately adjacent to the northwest and southeast are included in the Kidwelly Character Area of the Tâf and Tywi Estuaries HLC (HLW (D) 9), see Figure 7.

9.7.2 The proposed footbridge would however be situated within the boundaries of the Tâf and Tywi Estuaries HLC (HLW (D) 9) as defined by Cadw. The Cadw boundaries take precedence over those defined by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust for Historic Landscape Characterisation purposes.

9.7.3 The footbridge would not represent a significant new element within the historic landscape and would not cause any significant impacts on those elements which define the character of the Registered Historic Landscape

9.8 Non-registered Historic Landscapes

The development site does not lay within any of the Special Landscape Areas defined by Carmarthenshire County Council (June, 2011).

9.9 LANDMAP and landscape characterisation information

9.9.1 The proposed footbridge would stand in the *Kidwelly* LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Area (CRMRTL40191), see Figure 8, which is described as;

"Most significant archaeological element(s): medieval; Kidwelly castle, medieval walled town"

9.9.2 The overall evaluation of this aspect area is Outstanding.

9.9.3 The addition of this small scale feature to the urban landscape would not alter the overall character of the aspect area.

9.9.4 The proposed footbridge would stand in the "Kidwelly" LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Aspect Area (CRMRTCL028), which is described as;

"Historic town now reliant on leisure and recreation. Kidwelly has developed around and subsequently away from the medieval castle. It formerly had a tinplate works, now an industrial museum. It is also the location for a Roman coastal fort, abandoned early in the 2nd century. Its importance as a communications and transport hub declined as the waterway silted up. Maes Gwenllian, to the northeast of the town, is reputedly the site of a famous battle, closely associated with the history and folklore of the town."

NB the reference to a Roman coastal fort is erroneous. There is no known Roman fort in the Kidwelly area.

9.9.5 This area is much larger than the Historic Landscape Aspect Area and includes the whole of the 300m assessment area.

9.9.6 The overall evaluation of this aspect area is High and is described as "High as a regionally significant but possibly underplayed leisure and recreation destination".

9.10 Conservation Areas

10.10.1 The proposed footbridge lies within the Kidwelly Conservation Area. It would not cause any significant impacts on those elements which define the character of the Conservation Area.

9.11 Agri-environmental interests or requirements

10.11.1 No agri-environmental interests were identified.

9.12 Buried archaeological potential

10.12.1 During the field visit, no physical, visible evidence was noted suggestive of significant buried archaeology at the proposed development site. There is also no documentary, cartographic or aerial photographic evidence of buried archaeology at the proposed location for the footbridge.

9.13 Palaeoenvironmental potential

10.13.1 There are deep fluvial deposits along this section of the Gwendraeth Fach valley, defined the British Geological Survey as part of the area of "tidal flats" associated with the estuary to the south. The deposits are likely to have palaeoenvironmental potential but the nature of the development means that no deep excavations will be undertaken which will expose or disturb buried deposits.

9.14 Hedgerows and field patterns

10.14.1 The proposed footbridge site is in an area where there are no maintained field boundaries, with only relict, earthwork banks visible to either side of the river, which will not be disturbed by the development.

9.15 Ancient woodland

10.15.1 There no areas of Ancient and Semi-natural Woodland or Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites within the 300m assessment area.

9.16 Place-names

10.16.1 There are no placenames of archaeological or historical significance at the proposed footbridge site.

9.17 Cumulative impact

10.17.1 None. This will be the only footbridge across this section of the river.

9.18 National Park

10.18.1 There are no National Parks close to the assessment areas.

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 There would not be a direct, physical impact on any historic assets, arising from the development.
- 10.2 An indirect physical impact could be caused to the nearby earthwork bank (ID number 18) if a footpath is routed across it from the footbridge. This bank appears to postdate the tithe map may have been built as a flood defence bank to protect pasture land to the east of the river. The footpath or walked route associated with the footbridge is likely to cross this bank and some erosion may occur.
- 10.2 There would not be a significant indirect, visual impact on the historic environment, or on individual historic assets from the proposed development within the 300m radius assessment area.
- 10.2.1 There would be a Very Low, indirect, visual impact on 4 historic assets which are not statutorily protected, with no impact on their settings.
- 10.2.2 There would be a Very Low, indirect, visual impact on two Listed Buildings within a 300m radius, namely St. Mary's Church and Kidwelly Castle. There would be no impacts on the setting of St. Mary's Church, but it is felt that there would be a High, positive, impact on the setting of Kidwelly Castle as the footbridge would make a key viewpoint of the monument much more accessible to the general public and enhance experience and understanding of the monument. Kidwelly Castle is also the only Scheduled Ancient Monument within a 300m radius.
- 10.2.3 There are no Registered Historic Parks & Gardens within 300m radius of the proposed development.
- 10.2.4 The footbridge lies within the Kidwelly Conservation Area but would not alter its character, although it may alter the way that people move around the conservation area on foot.
- 10.3 Although there is always potential for archaeological features to have become buried in fluvial deposits along the course of the river, there is no ground, cartographic or documentary evidence to suggest that any buried archaeological features exist at the proposed footbridge site.
- 10.4 The constructed footprint of the bridge is minimal, the weight of the bridge being carried by piling.
- 10.5 No archaeological mitigation is thought necessary in relation to the construction of the proposed footbridge

11. Reporting

11.1 Copies of this report will be provided to the client, The National Monument Record and the Regional Historic Environment Record.

12. References

12.1 Map sources

Ordnance Survey, 1811, 2" to 1 mile Original Surveyors drawing, Carmarthen Sheet

Ordnance Survey, 1840, 1" to 1 mile Sheet 37

Kidwelly parish tithe map 1840 and apportionment 1839

Ordnance Survey, 1880, 1:2500

Ordnance Survey. 1906, 1:2500

Ordnance Survey. 1968, 1:10560

12.2 Web-based materials

Natural Resources Wales, Online LiDAR mapping

<http://naturalresources.wales/lidar?lang=enRCAHMW>

Historic Wales Portal

Research Framework for the Archaeology of Wales,

www.archaeoleg.org.uk

Britain from Above

www.britainfromabove.org.uk

WPW055511, 1937, View of Kidwelly Castle showing nearby buildings, oblique aerial view

WAW033706, 1950, View of Kidwelly Castle showing nearby buildings, oblique aerial view.

12.3 Published sources

Cadw, 2011, *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment of Wales,*

Cadw & CCW, 2007, *Guide to the Good Practice on using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the planning and development process.*

Welsh Office, 1996, *Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*
Welsh Office Circular 60/96

12.4 Unpublished sources

Trysor, 2015, Specification for an Historic Environment Assessment for
Footbridge over the Gwendraeth, Kidwelly

12.5 Data Sources

Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Historic Environment Record, data received
20/08/2015

Cadw, Listed Building all-Wales dataset, created August 2015

Cadw, Parks and Gardens all-Wales dataset, created August 2015

Cadw, Scheduled Ancient Monument all-Wales dataset, created August 2015

Cadw, Registered Historic Landscapes dataset, supplied June 2014

Cadw, Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset, supplied June 2014

Note: People undertaking historic environment desk-based assessments in Wales have been told by Cadw not to use Historic England, 2015, *The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3* as this is directly linked to NPPF in England and therefore not part of planning policy in Wales.

13. Reliability & Limitations of Sources

13.1 In line with the requirements of the ClfA Standards & Guidance notes for undertaking Desk-based Assessments (Point 3.3.6), the following observations on the usefulness and reliability of the sources used have been made.

13.2 The cartographic sources used include a range of Ordnance Survey maps produced during the 19th and 20th centuries, all of which provided sufficiently clear and accurate representations of the evolving landscape of the assessment area. The earliest map source was the 1811 Ordnance Surveyors Original Surveyors Drawing, of which adequate digital copies are available through the British Museum website. The Kidwelly parish tithe map (1840) is a good source. The map is clear and the accompanying tithe schedule, dating to 1839) gives land ownership and tenancy details, although field names are not provided across most of the parish.

13.3 The main source of data for the assessment was the Dyfed HER. The National Monuments Record for Wales was also used.

12.3.1 HER data supplied by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust was of variable use. Many records did not have descriptions supplied, including significant historic assets such as Kidwelly Castle and its medieval town. Several records had incorrect grid-references, which were corrected in the project database.

12.3.2 The National Monuments Record is available online, through Coflein. It was found that the NMR was of limited use in terms of providing additional detail and was not of great significance for this assessment.

12.3.3 Overall, neither the HER or the NMR currently give a clear picture of the historic significance of Kidwelly.

12.3.4 Comment on all the records supplied by the HER is given below in Table 6.

13.4 Cadw's Listed Building descriptions were accessed via the Historic Wales Portal where necessary. These records were found to be reasonably informative and accurate where required for the assessment.

13.5 The Historic Landscape and the Cultural Landscape aspect area layers of LANDMAP were used. These were of reasonable accuracy, although the Cultural Aspect Area makes a curious reference to a Roman coastal fort which appears to be erroneous.

13.6 Google Earth aerial images of the assessment area were also used online. These date to 2006 to 2015 and provide good coverage for the

whole assessment area. More recent aerial images used on the People's Collection for Wales website were also used and found to be generally clear and useful. The aerial photographs on the Britain from Above website offered alternative images from the mid-20th century which were of some use.

13.7 Natural Resources Wales online LiDAR mapping was consulted but was found to be useful to this assessment.

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Trysor, May, 2016

PRN	Site Name	Site Type	Record created?	Trysor comments
1613	HEN BLAS	Dwelling	Excluded	
1621	KIDWELLY MOTTE	Motte	No record created	No motte at Kidwelly, the original castle was a ringwork according to all sources
1622	KIDWELLY CASTLE	Castle	Record created	
1623	KIDWELLY TOWN	Town Defences	Record created	
1628	KIDWELLY	Findspot	No record created	Poorly located findspot
1629	KIDWELLY PARISH CHURCH; ST MARY THE VIRGIN; ST MARY'S PRIORY	Priory, Church	Record created	
5329	KIDWELLY TOWN	Town	Record created	
5331	ST TEILO'S CHURCH	Church	Excluded	Not here? Presumably St Teilo's in Mynyddygarreg
6543	ALSTRED STREET NOS.10-12	Cottage	Excluded	
6546	PRIORS HOUSE - CAUSEWAY STREET NO.14	Dwelling	Excluded	Duplicated by 7886
7360	KIDWELLY PARISH CHURCH; ST NICHOLAS' CHANTRY CHAPEL	Chantry Chapel	No record created	Part of the church
7361	KIDWELLY PRIORY	Priory	Record created	
7555	CASTLE STREET	Town Gate	Excluded	Duplicated by 60832
7831	LOWER MILL; CASTLE MILL	Corn Mill	Record created	
7886	PRIOR'S HOUSE	Dwelling	Excluded	Duplicated by 6546
8188	CASTLE STREET NOS.6-10	Dwelling	Excluded	
8189	CASTLE CRAFTS	Dwelling	Record created	Better NGR is SN4084707018
8220	ABBEY STREET NO.1	Dwelling	Record created	Building now demolished
8221	WATER STREET NO.5	Dwelling	Excluded	
8422	KIDWELLY BRIDGE	Bridge	Excluded	

*Footbridge over the Gwendraeth, Kidwelly
Historic Environment Assessment*

PRN	Site Name	Site Type	Record created?	Trysor comments
8423	KIDWELLY BRIDGE	Bridge	Excluded	
8872	BAILEY STREET	Dwelling	Excluded	The true location of this is difficult to work out.
9438	KIDWELLY	Tower House, Dwelling	Excluded	Not sure what this is
10163	ST TEILO DEDICATION	Deleted	No record created	
10576	TINWORKS LANE	Trackway	No record created	Poorly located
11675	CASTLE STREET NO.?	Dwelling	Excluded	Not in the right location
12832	KIDWELLY CASTLE	Midden	No record created	Poorly located
12938	KIDWELLY CASTLE MILL	Fulling Mill	Record created	Better NGR is SN4097507114 according to Jack, but not clear where it should be
12943	CALDECOT; CASTLE MILL	Fulling Mill	Record created	
16379	CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING	Church	Record created	
16384	CAPEL SUL	Chapel	Excluded	
16385	TRINITY CHURCH	Church	Excluded	
17168	CONIGAR BACH; THE TWO CONIGARS	Rabbit Warren	No record created	Place name only
17169		Chapel	Excluded	
17729	BETHESDA	Chapel	Record created	
20417	KIDWELLY TOWN HALL	Town Hall	Excluded	
20450		Blacksmiths Workshop	Excluded	
20467		School	Excluded	Duplicated by 61046
49258	KIDWELLY PARISH CHURCH; ST MARY THE VIRGIN; ST MARY'S PRIORY	Churchyard	Record created	
60832	THE TOWN GATE	Gatehouse Remains	Excluded	Duplicated by 7555
61044	NO 16 (MORFA HOUSE)	House	Excluded	
61045	THE OLD MOAT HOUSE	Restaurant	Record created	
61046	CASTLE SCHOOL AND SCHOOL HOUSE	School	Excluded	Duplicate of 20467
61047	NO 6	Shop	Excluded	
61048	RUINED WAREHOUSE BY KIDWELLY BRIDGE	Warehouse	Excluded	
61049	WALL ALONG S SIDE OF CHURCHYARD	Churchyard Wall	Record created	
61050	THE WAR MEMORIAL AND RAILINGS	War Memorial	Excluded	

Table 6: Comments on HER data supplied for the assessment

Appendix A: Specification

**SPECIFICATION FOR AN HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT
FOR FOOTBRIDGE OVER THE GWENDRAETH, KIDWELLY**

1. Introduction

1.1 Chris Kimpton of CK Planning Ltd has commissioned Trysor heritage consultants on behalf of his client to write an Historic Environment Assessment for the provision of a footbridge over river Gwendraeth, downstream over Kidwelly Castle.

1.2 The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (CifA, 2014) was used to write this specification.

2. The proposed development

2.1 The development site is a footbridge over the river Gwendraeth in Kidwelly at approximately SN4094006910.

3. Planning context of the proposed development

3.1 A planning application has not been submitted for this development yet.

3.2 This assessment is to provide sufficient information on the potential historic environment resource, and the effect of the footbridge on this resource, to allow interested parties to make an informed decision about the impact of the proposal.

4. Objective of the specification

4.1 The objective of this specification is to outline the method to be used for the assessment in order to identify any potential historic environment dimension associated with the proposed planning applications, in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (CifA, 2014)

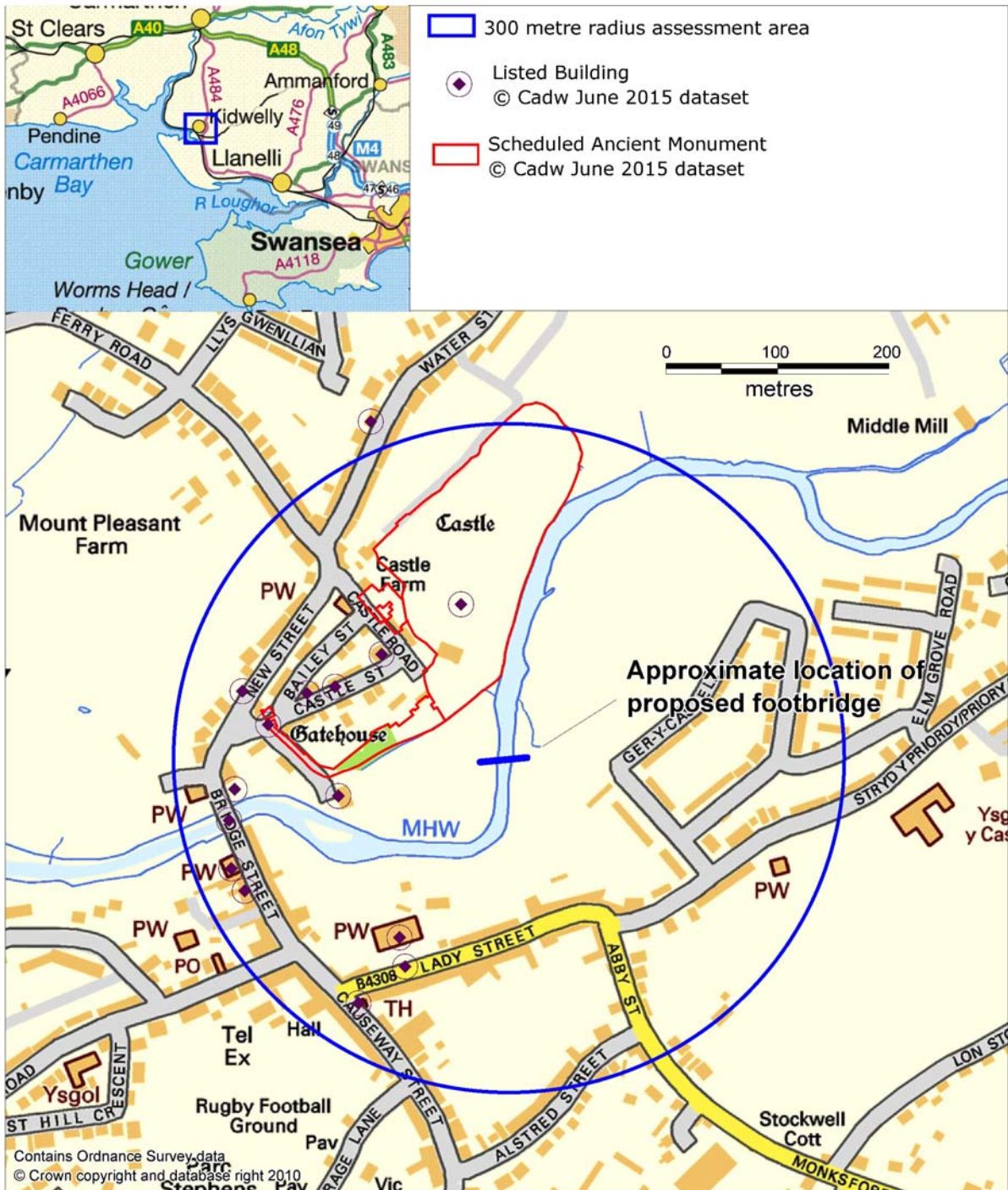


Figure 1: The approximate location of the footbridge and the proposed 300 metres assessment area

5. Scope of Work

5.1 The assessment will initially consider known historic assets within a 300 metre radius circle centred on SN4094006910, the approximate centre of the development area (see Figure 1). This study area may be revised once the importance, proximity and intervisibility of the sites have been established.

5.2 The following components of the historic environment will be considered, where relevant;

- a. Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) and their settings.
- b. Listed buildings and their settings.
- c. Previously Recorded Non-Designated Historic Assets and Buildings and their settings
- d. Newly identified sites of historic importance
- e. Registered Parks and Gardens and their essential settings.
- f. Registered Historic Landscapes
- g. Non-registered historic landscapes
- h. LANDMAP and landscape characterisation information
- i. Conservation Areas
- j. Any Tir Gofal interests or requirements
- k. Buried archaeological potential
- l. Palaeoenvironmental potential
- m. Hedgerows and field patterns
- n. Ancient woodland
- o. Place-name evidence
- p. Cumulative impacts, e.g. static caravans etc in close proximity
- q. National Parks

5.3 An assessment will be made of the development's possible impact on all known archaeological and historic sites recorded in the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Monuments Records (NMR), the National Museum of Wales' Artefact Records, and Cadw's SAM and Listed Building registers within the revised study areas. Historic assets determined to be of minor importance or wholly unaffected by the development will be excluded from the final assessment.

5.4 This assessment will be based on criteria guided by *Welsh Office Circular 60/96* and the ASIDOHL2 Process outlined in the *Guide to Good Practice on using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process*.

5.5 Historic Ordnance Survey maps and tithe map will be consulted to guide the assessment, as well as aerial photographs. Archive sources and documents will also be consulted.

5.6 A site visit will be carried out in accordance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (CIfA, 2014)*. The site visit will be record any unknown features in the vicinity of the proposed development. It will also assess the condition of known historic assets. A rapid record of features will be made, including a written description on pro-forma record sheets.

5.7 Colour digital photographs will be taken, using a 16M pixel camera. A written record will be made on site of the photographs taken. Appropriate photographic scales will be used.

6. Reporting

6.1 A written report will be submitted to the client to inform the current planning application. The report will include;

- a. a non-technical summary
- b. a site location plan
- c. a bibliography
- d. a limited gazetteer of all historic assets included in the assessment giving significance and impact, with descriptions.
- e. an assessment of the value and significance of each historic asset
- f. an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the historic assets of the study area – impacts will be assessed whether negative or positive, direct or indirect.
- g. statement of the local and regional context of the historic assets identified as have being impacted on by the development.
- h. statement on reliability of resources used during assessment.

6.2 The report will be guided by the requirements of Annexe 2 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*. (CIfA, 2014). Copies of the report will be provided to the client, the Regional Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record.

7. Sources

Cadw & CCW, 2007, *Guide to Good Practice on using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process – Revised (2nd) edition including revision to the assessment process (ASIDOHL2)*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*.

Welsh Office Circular 60/96; *Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology* (1996)

8. Health & Safety

8.1 Trysor will undertake a risk assessment in advance of any field visit in accordance with their health and safety policy.

9. Dissemination

9.1 A summary of the work undertaken and its findings will be submitted to *Archaeology in Wales* if appropriate. Paper copies of the report will be submitted to the regional Historic Environment Record, as well as the National Monument Record as well as in pdf format.

10. Archive

10.1 The paper archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. Photographs will be supplied in TIFF format in a file size greater than 11MB, following the standard required by the RCAHMW.

11. Resources to be used

11.1 Two members of staff will undertake the assessment. They will be equipped with standard field equipment, including digital cameras, GPS and first aid kits. Trysor have access to the computer hardware and software required to deliver the completed final report and archive to a professional standard.

12. Qualification of personnel

12.1 Trysor is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and both partners are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, www.archaeologists.net

12.2 Jenny Hall (BSc Joint Hons., Geology and Archaeology, MCIfA) had 12 years excavation experience, which included undertaking watching briefs prior to becoming the Sites and Monuments Record Manager for a Welsh Archaeological Trust for 10 years. She has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based assessments and assessments, and watching briefs.

12.3 Paul Sambrook (BA Joint Hons., Archaeology and Welsh, MCIfA, PGCE) has extensive experience as a fieldworker in Wales. He was involved with Cadw's pan-Wales Deserted Rural Settlements Project for 7 years. He also undertook Tir Gofal field survey work and watching briefs. He has been an independent archaeologist since 2004 undertaking a variety of work including upland survey, desk-based assessments/assessments, and watching briefs.

13. Insurance & Professional indemnity

13.1 Trysor has Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance.

14. Project identification

14.1 The project has been designated Trysor Project No. 2015/481

Jenny Hall & Paul Sambrook
Trysor
July 2015

**Appendix B:
Site Gazetteer
within 300 metres**

ID number: 1 KIDWELLY CASTLE
CASTLE

Shropshire HER PRN: 1622 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4089707049 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Medieval **Broadclass:** Monument (By Form); Defence

Form: Building **Condition:** Damaged

Site Status: Scheduled Ancient Monument; Listed Building; Guardianship Ancient Monument

SAM number: CM002 **LB number:** 11876 **grade:** I

Trysor Description: This imposing Norman castle was founded between AD1106 and 1115 and held by Roger, Bishop of Salisbury. By the mid-12th century it came into the possession of Maurice de Londres, Lord of Ogmores. The original castle was an earth and timber earthwork, but at some point during the 12th century or early 13th century a stone curtain wall was built atop the ringwork ramparts to strengthen the western defences. The de Chaworth family held the castle by the second half of the 13th century and by 1283 they had further strengthened the defences, including the addition of the strong inner ward, which is a square enclosure with round towers at each corner. The impressive gatehouse at the southern end of the castle was added in the 14th century by Henry of Lancaster, and a large hall and chapel tower were also added soon afterwards. Sir Rhys ap Thomas added a second hall in the late 16th century as the gentrification of the castle proceeded under the Tudors. Courts were still held in the hall into the early 17th century but the importance of the castle declined thereafter and by the 18th century it was certainly in a state of dereliction. Kidwelly castle was owned by the Vaughan family of the Cawdor estate from the 17th century until they gifted it to the state in 1927. Excavations were undertaken by Sir Cyril Fox in 1930-31 and during the 20th century state guardianship has seen the castle being restored and maintained to recapture much of its former glory.

Rarity: Not common

Distance from development: 110m to the northwest

Group Value: Associated with the medieval town and priory of Kidwelly

Evidential Value: Large stone castle in good condition

Historical Value: Associated with the Marcher Lords and the Princes of Deheubarth

Aesthetic Value: Imposing medieval castle

Communal Value: None

Setting: This castle was founded in the early 12th century and considerably strengthened in the 13th and 14th centuries. It occupies the top of a natural bluff to the western side of the Gwendraeth Fach river, from where there are commanding views over the surrounding countryside. The proximity of the river suggests that the site may have been selected as it would have been possible to supply the fortification from the sea.

Significance: Nationally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Yes

Impact?: Very Low
Intervisibility. Enhancement of public experience of the castle.

**Level of Impact
on Setting:** High (Positive)

**Comment on
Impact:** Although the proposed footbridge would represent a new feature in the landscape visible from the castle, its indirect, visual impact would be minimal.

The addition of the proposed footbridge across the Gwendraeth Fach at this point would however bring identifiable benefits to the ability of the public to experience and enjoy the castle. It would be part of a circular walk which will unite both parts of Kidwelly town and significantly enhance the public view of the castle from the riverside. This view is not currently enjoyed by many visitors, but is key to understanding the landscape context of the castle and its relationship with the town, priory, church and river, along which trade was once possible to resupply the castle.

ID number: 2 KIDWELLY TOWN
TOWN DEFENCES

Shropshire HER PRN: 1623 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN40850701 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Medieval **Broadclass:** Defence

Form: Earthwork **Condition:** Damaged

Site Status: Scheduled Ancient Monument

SAM number: CM183 **LB number:** **grade:**

Trysor Description: The medieval town of Kidwelly stood to the southwest of the castle. It was a walled town. Most of the town wall has been lost and the most important remnant of the town's defences is the medieval gateway at the southwestern end of Castle Street. An area covering the presumed extent of the medieval town is now scheduled and would include any buried evidence of the town defences which might survive.

Rarity: Not common

Distance from development: 80m to the northwest

Group Value: Associated with the medieval town and castle

Evidential Value: Slight remains

Historical Value: Described in archaeological and historical sources

Aesthetic Value: Some medieval fabric survives

Communal Value: Enclosed the medieval town

Setting: The defences of the medieval town of Kidwelly enclosed an elevated area to the southwest of the castle, overlooking the Afon Gwendraeth Fach. Post-medieval buildings now occupy the area and little evidence of the medieval defences survive, most notable the medieval town gateway.

Significance: Nationally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: There are no evident physical remains of the medieval town defences to the southern side of the town and therefore no impacts can be discerned from the development.

ID number: 3 KIDWELLY PARISH CHURCH; ST MARY THE VIRGIN; ST
PRIORY, CHURCH
MARY'S PRIORY

Shropshire HER PRN: 1629 **NMR NPRN:** 301847

NGR: SN4084206750 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Medieval **Broadclass:** Religious Ritual and Funerary

Form: Building **Condition:** Intact

Site Status: Listed Building

SAM number: **LB number:** 11878 **grade:** I

Trysor Description: This is the largest parish church in southwest Wales and is noted for its fine Gothic detail. It was originally used as the church for the Benedictine Priory at Kidwelly, which was founded in AD1114. A church had been built on the site by the 13th century but was burned down in 1223. It was repaired and the 13th century plan and the crossing piers survive, but the present church is largely of 14th century date. The impressive spire has been damaged many times by lightning since the 14th century but still dominates the local area. The building was restored in 1885-89 and has continued in use as a parish church.

Rarity: Not rare

Distance from development: 160m to the southwest

Group Value: Associated with the historic town of Kidwelly

Evidential Value: Standing building, in use

Historical Value: Described by Cadw for listing purposes.

Aesthetic Value: Fine medieval church

Communal Value: Place of worship

Setting: This church was originally built within the complex of Kidwelly Priory, the precise extent and location of which has not been proven. In more recent centuries it has evolved to serve as a parish church and now stands within a rectilinear churchyard, defined by walls dating in part at least to the 18th century. The church is situated just above the southern bank of the Afon Gwendraeth Fach, some 60 metres from the river's edge.

Significance: Nationally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: Yes
Very Low
Intervisibility

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The proposed bridge is a low-lying feature which would not impact on any key views of the church and would not be visible from ground level from the area to the north of church and not from the area to the south of church at all.

ID number: 4 KIDWELLY TOWN
TOWN

Shropshire HER PRN: 5329 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN408070 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Medieval **Broadclass:** Domestic; Civil

Form: Urban Landscape **Condition:** Damaged

Site Status:

	SAM number:	LB number:	grade:
Trysor Description:	The old town of Kidwelly, which flourished in medieval times, stood to the southwest of the castle. It was a walled town, but most of the town wall has been lost and the most important remnant of the town's defences is the medieval gateway at the southwestern end of Castle Street. John Leland visited Kidwelly in the 1530s and noted that the old town was "prettily walled". This walled for is referred to as the "Old Town" or "Castle Town", which should be distinguished from the "New Town" on the southern side of the Afon Gwendraeth Fach, which grew around the Priory during medieval times.		

Rarity: Not common

Distance from development: 170m to the northwest

Group Value: Associated with Kidwelly Castle

Evidential Value: Documentary sources, slight remains

Historical Value: Described in historical sources

Aesthetic Value: Some medieval fabric survives, most notably the medieval town gatehouse

Communal Value: Origins of Kidwelly as a settlement

Setting: This medieval town of Kidwelly was a walled settlement outside the castle gates. It occupied elevated ground to the southwest of the castle, overlooking the lower reaches of the Afon Gwendraeth Fach, to the south.

Significance: Regionally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The development will not impact physically or visually on any surviving element of the medieval town.

ID number: 5 KIDWELLY PRIORY
PRIORY
Shropshire HER PRN: 7361 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4084506783 Unknown

Period: Medieval **Broadclass:** Religious Ritual and Funerary

Form: Documentary Evidence **Condition:** Near Destroyed

Site Status:

	SAM number:	LB number:	grade:
Trysor Description:	A priory was established in Kidwelly during the mid- to late-13th century by the de Chaworth family. After the Dissolution its history is not charted in detail and by modern times even the location of the Priory had become unclear. St. Mary's Parish Church is known to have served as the Priory Church and is thought to have stood within the building complex, but it is not known with any certainty where the remaining buildings were located. The Ordnance Survey's 1:2500 maps of the late 19th and early 20th century show the site of the "Monastery Remains" in the area north of the parish church, between the church and the Gwendraeth Fach. The Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments, in 1917, suggested that the Priory buildings stood to the east of the present church. The Prior's House stood some 100 metres to the west, until 1932, and was said to date to the 13th century.		

Rarity: Not common

Distance from development: 135m to the southwest

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Documentary sources

Historical Value: Mentioned in historical sources

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: A priory was established in Kidwelly c.AD1114, on the southern banks of the Afon Gwendraeth Fach. After the Dissolution its history is not charted and by modern times the location of the Priory had become unclear, but they are likely to have stood to the north or east of St. Mary's Parish Church, which originally served as the Priory Church. The area where the priory buildings are thought to have stood is occupied by paddocks, gardens and the cemetery of the parish church.

Significance: Regionally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: There are no surface traces of the Priory buildings and no assessment of impact can be made.

ID number: 6 LOWER MILL; CASTLE MILL
CORN MILL

Shropshire HER PRN: 7831 **NMR NPRN:** 24832

NGR: SN4078706877 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Industrial

Form: Building **Condition:** Converted

Site Status: Listed Building

SAM number: **LB number:** 20192 **grade:** II

Trysor Description: This corn mill was built in 1804 on the site of an earlier mill of likely medieval origin. It has been converted into an antique shop and stores in modern times. The mill was fed by a leat which drew water from the Afon Gwendraeth Fach at a weir, 170m to the northeast.

Rarity: Not rare

Distance from development: 145m to the west

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Standing building, converted for use as a shop

Historical Value: Described by Cadw for listing purpose

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: A 19th century corn mill, converted into a shop in modern times, which stands on the northern bank of the Afon Gwendraeth Fach, just below the core of the medieval town of Kidwelly.

Significance: Nationally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: Mature trees to the east of the mill building would block views towards the development.

ID number: 7 CASTLE CRAFTS
DWELLING

Shropshire HER PRN: 8189 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4084707018 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Domestic

Form: Building **Condition:** Near Intact

Site Status:

Trysor Description: **SAM number:** **LB number:** **grade:**
This dwelling is of likely 19th century date and stands immediately to the southwest of Kidwelly castle, within the area of the walled medieval town. It has been used as a craft shop in the past but is now a private dwelling.

Rarity: Common

Distance from development: 155m to the north-northwest

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Standing building, in use

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: This dwelling is of likely 19th century date and stands immediately to the southwest of Kidwelly castle, within the area of the walled medieval town. It has been used as a craft shop in the past but is now a private dwelling.

Significance: Locally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The development would not be visible from this location.

ID number: 8 ABBEY STREET NO.1
DWELLING

Shropshire HER PRN: 8220 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN41040676 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Domestic

Form: Building **Condition:** Destroyed

Site Status:

Trysor Description: **SAM number:** **LB number:** **grade:**
This building has been demolished.

Rarity: Common

Distance from development: 170m to the southeast

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Historic mapping

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: This building has been destroyed

Significance: Minor Importance

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: This house has been demolished

ID number: 9 KIDWELLY CASTLE MILL
FULLING MILL
Shropshire HER PRN: 12938 **NMR NPRN:**
NGR: SN410072 Not accurate
Period: Medieval **Broadclass:** Industria
Form: Documentary Evidence **Condition:** Not Known
Site Status:

Trysor
Description: **SAM number:** **LB number:** **grade:**
This medieval fulling mill, operation in the 13th century, is thought to have been located on the Gwendraeth Fach somewhere below the North Bailey of Kidwelly Castle. Its location has never been fixed and there are no known surface features associated with it.

Rarity: Not common

Distance from development: Unknown

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Documentary sources

Historical Value: Mentioned in historical sources

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: This medieval fulling mill, operation in the 13th century, is thought to have been located on the Gwendraeth Fach somewhere below the North Bailey of Kidwelly Castle. Its location has never been fixed and there are no known surface features associated with it.

Significance: Locally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The position of this mill is unknown but it was almost certainly well upstream from the proposed development. No evidence of it now survives.

ID number: 10 CALDECOT; CASTLE MILL
FULLING MILL

Shropshire HER PRN: 12943 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN408069 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Medieval **Broadclass:** Industrial

Form: Documentary Evidence **Condition:** Not Known

Site Status:

	SAM number:	LB number:	grade:
Trysor Description:	A fulling mill was recorded as being built to the south of Kidwelly Castle in 1443. It is thought that Castle Mill, the corn mill built by Benjamin Haselwood in 1804, may occupy the same site.		

Rarity: Not rare

Distance from development: 135m to the west

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Documentary sources

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: The location of this fulling mill has not been identified but it is thought to have been to the south of Kidwelly Castle, perhaps on the site now occupied by the former Castle Corn Mill. No assessment of setting is possible.

Significance: Locally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The location of this fulling mill has not been identified but it is thought to have been to the south of Kidwelly Castle, perhaps on the site now occupied by the former Castle Corn Mill. No assessment of impact is possible.

ID number: 11 CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING
CHURCH

Shropshire HER PRN: 16379 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN41180682 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Modern **Broadclass:** Religious Ritual and Funerary

Form: Building **Condition:** Intact

Site Status:

Trysor Description: **SAM number:** **LB number:** **grade:**
A Catholic church built in 1975 and still in use in 2016.

Rarity: Common

Distance from development: 254m to the east-southeast

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Standing building

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: Place of worship

Setting: Built in a large, open plot of ground to the southern side of Priory Street, Kidwelly.

Significance: Locally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: This modern church remains in use. Houses on the opposite side of Priory Street block views to the proposed development.

ID number: 12 BETHESDA WELSH WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL
CHAPEL

Shropshire HER PRN: 17729 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN40850700 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Religious Ritual and Funerary

Form: Building **Condition:** Not Known

Site Status:

Trysor **SAM number:** **LB number:** **grade:**
Description: Bethesda was built in 1816 by the Wesleyan Methodists. This chapel
was demolished in 1962 and a car park created for the adjacent castle.

Rarity: Common

Distance from 140m to the north-northwest
development:

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Documentary sources

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: Former place of worship

Setting: Bethesda was built in 1816 by the Wesleyan Methodists, outside the
gates of Kidwelly Castle. The chapel was demolished in 1962 and a car
park created for the adjacent castle.

Significance: Locally Important

Any Direct No
Impact?: None

Any Indirect No
Impact?: None

Level of Impact None
on Setting:

Comment on This chapel has been demolished.
Impact:

ID number: 13 KIDWELLY PARISH CHURCH; ST MARY THE VIRGIN; ST
CHURCHYARD
MARY'S PRIORY

Shropshire HER PRN: 49258 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN40840674 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Religious Ritual and Funerary

Form: Earthwork **Condition:** Intact

Site Status:

	SAM number:	LB number:	grade:
Trysor Description:			
	The rectilinear churchyard surrounding St. Mary's Church, Kidwelly is of uncertain origin. It may have been extant before the first Priory of Kidwelly was founded in AD1114-15 although that Priory may have been established on a different site. By the mid- to late-13th century the de Chaworth had certainly established the Priory and St. Mary's church on the south banks of the Afon Gwendraeth Fach. The Priory buildings are thought to have stood to the north or east of the church, which suggests that the churchyard's present form could not have come into existence until after the Dissolution in the 1530s. The southern boundary of the churchyard is defined by an 18th century wall.		

Rarity: Not rare

Distance from development: 150m to the southwest

Group Value: Associated with St. Mary's parish church

Evidential Value: Graveyard in use

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: Public burial place

Setting: The churchyard surrounds the parish church at Kidwelly, to the south of the Afon Gwendraeth Fach. There are mature deciduous trees within the western side of the churchyard and around its northern side.

Significance: Locally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: Yes
Very Low
Intervisibility

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The proposed bridge is a low-lying feature which would not impact on any key views of the churchyard and would not be visible from ground level from southern part of the graveyard, but may be intermittently visible from the area to the north of the church, although trees may block or screen such views.

ID number: 14 THE OLD MOAT HOUSE
RESTAURANT

Shropshire HER PRN: 61045 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4082607004 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Commercial

Form: Building **Condition:** Converted

Site Status: Listed Building

SAM number: **LB number:** 20187 **grade:** II

Trysor Description: A single-storey house, with a loft, which is probably late 18th century in date and is one of the oldest surviving buildings in the former walled town outside the gates of Kidwelly Castle. A large extension to the rear of the cottage served as a restaurant in the late 20th century. It is now a dwelling.

Rarity: Common

Distance from development: 160m to the northwest

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Standing building, in use

Historical Value: Described by Cadw for listing purposes

Aesthetic Value: Character cottage in historic town

Communal Value: None

Setting: A single-storey house, with a loft, which is probably late 18th century in date and is one of the oldest surviving buildings in the former walled town outside the gates of Kidwelly Castle.

Significance: Nationally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The development would not be visible from this location.

ID number: 15 WALL ALONG S SIDE OF CHURCHYARD
CHURCHYARD WALL

Shropshire HER PRN: 61049 **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4084706724 Grid reference taken at point along linear site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Monument (By Form)

Form: Building **Condition:** Intact

Site Status: Listed Building

SAM number: **LB number:** 20191 **grade:** II

Trysor Description: A high, stone wall which defines the southern side of St. Mary's parish churchyard, Kidwelly. It dates to the 18th century and incorporates slag waste into its fabric.

Rarity: Not rare

Distance from development: 180m to the southwest

Group Value: Associated with St. Mary's church and churchyard

Evidential Value: Standing wall, intact

Historical Value: Described by Cadw for listing purposes

Aesthetic Value: A high, stone, churchyard wall integral to the setting of the church and churchyard

Communal Value: None

Setting: This wall defines the southern side of the parish churchyard and has the imposing St. Mary's church as its backdrop when viewed from the south.

Significance: Nationally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: Trees and the church building to the north of this wall would block any views towards the proposed development.

ID number: 16 CASTLE MILL WEIR
WEIR

Shropshire HER PRN: **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4094206987 Grid reference taken at centre of site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Water Supply and Drainage

Form: Other Structure **Condition:** Damaged

Site Status:

Trysor Description: **SAM number:** **LB number:** **grade:**
This weir was built to feed the leat which served the Castle Corn Mill in 1804. The leat runs for some 165 metres southwestwards to the Corn Mill to the Gwendraeth Fach river. The remains of the much eroded, stone-built weir are still visible in the river bed. The corn mill fell out of use during the 20th century and the leat and weir have not been maintained in modern times.

Rarity: Common

Distance from development: 95m to the north

Group Value: Associated with the Castle Corn Mill and a leat

Evidential Value: Survives as an eroded feature in the river bed

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: This weir is located in the Gwendraeth Fach river and was built to feed the leat which served the Castle Corn Mill in 1804. The remains of the much eroded, stone-built weir are still visible in the river bed.

Significance: Locally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: Yes
Very Low
Intervisibility

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The proposed bridge may be visible from the weir but would cause only a minimal visual impact. The creation of a circular walk incorporating the bridge will have a positive impact as it will bring more visitors to investigate the area around the weir, for which a partial footpath network already exists.

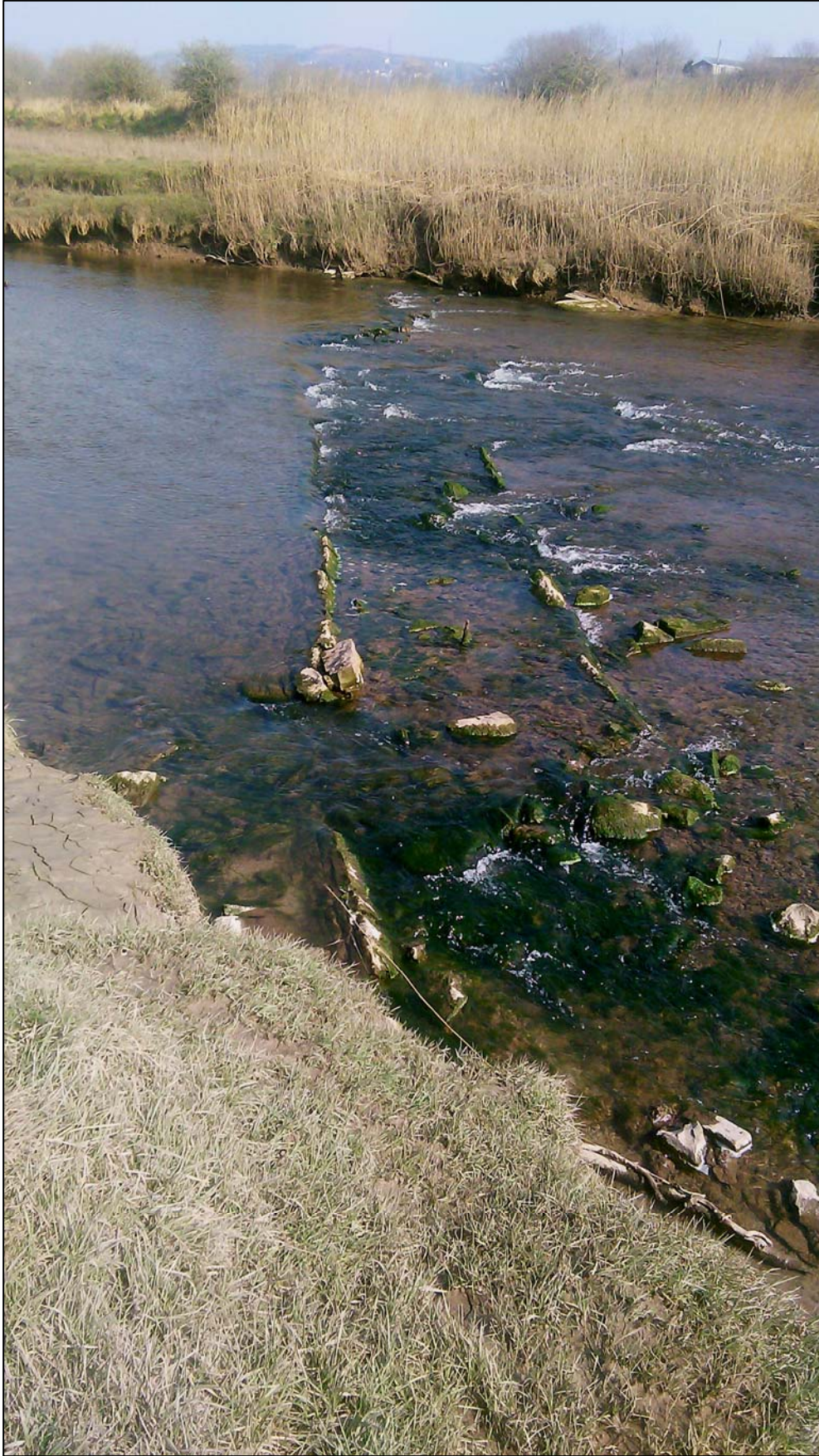


Plate 1: The former weir, ID number 6, across the Gwendraeth Fach.

ID number: 17 GWENDRAETH FACH
FLOOD DEFENCES

Shropshire HER PRN: **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4087106864 Grid reference taken at point along linear site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Monument (By Form)

Form: Earthwork **Condition:** Damaged

Site Status:

	SAM number:	LB number:	grade:
Trysor Description:	This denuded earthwork bank runs for some 100 metres, east to west, parallel to the northern side of the Gwendraeth Fach, to the east of the Castle Corn Mill. It is not shown on the parish tithe map of 1838 but does appear on the 1880 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map as a boundary bank. By the time of the 1906 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map it is shown as a simple bank, perhaps a relict bank. Whether it was intended as a flood defence to protect the pasture to the west of the river is not clear.		

Rarity: Common

Distance from development: 20m to the west

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Denuded earthwork

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: This denuded earthwork bank runs for some 100 metres, east to west, parallel to the northern side of the Gwendraeth Fach, to the east of the Castle Corn Mill. It seems to be present in the 19th century.

Significance: Minor Importance

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: No
None

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The proposed bridge is a low-lying feature which would not impact on this earthwork bank.

ID number: 18 GWENDRAETH FACH
FLOOD DEFENCES

Shropshire HER PRN: **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4094506842 Grid reference taken at point along linear site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Monument (By Form)

Form: Earthwork **Condition:** Damaged

Site Status:

Trysor Description: **SAM number:** **LB number:** **grade:**
This denuded earthwork bank seems to originate from the area between the parish church and the Gwendraeth Fach river, running initially eastwards and then turning north. It runs parallel to the west bank of the river for some 370 metres and then joins an earlier, more substantial boundary bank (ID number 19) at SN4099007065.

The bank does not appear on the parish tithe map of 1838, but is present by the time of the 1880 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map and crosses land owned by the Kidwelly Corporation. It may have been built as a flood defence bank to protect pasture land to the east of the river.

Rarity: Common

Distance from development: 33m to the east-southeast at closest point

Group Value: None

Evidential Value: Denuded earthwork

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: This denuded earthwork bank dates to the mid- to late-19th century and seems to originate from the area between the parish church and the Gwendraeth Fach river, running initially eastwards and then turning north. It runs parallel to the east bank of the river for some 370 metres.

Significance: Minor Importance

Any Direct Impact?: Yes
Very Low
Associated footpath may breach this bank

Any Indirect Impact?: Yes
Very Low
Erosion of the bank may be a result of increased footfall

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The construction of the bridge itself will not have a direct impact on this bank. Any associated footpath to the east is likely to cross the bank and care would need to be taken to ensure that any breach of the bank was planned to be clearly defined so that braiding of any pathway didn't erode a wide section of the bank. Consideration may also be needed as to whether the bank acts as a flood defence, in which case a pathway might need to be raised over the bank as a boardwalk-type crossing, to ensure the bank is not breached.



Plate 2: Looking across the Gwendraeth Fach to the earthwork bank, ID number 18, probably a flood defence on the other side.

ID number: 19 GWENDRAETH FACH
BANK (EARTHWORK)

Shropshire HER PRN: **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4105007125 Grid reference taken at point along linear site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Monument (By Form)

Form: Earthwork **Condition:** Various

Site Status:

	SAM number:	LB number:	grade:
Trysor Description:	This denuded earthwork bank was originally the western and northern boundary of a pasture field parcel shown on the parish tithe map in 1838 (parcel number 869). The northern section of the bank, above SN4099007065, survives intact. To the east and south of this point the bank has become denuded since the mid-20th century and in the early 21st century part of the bank has been destroyed by the creation of a man-made pond (at SN4100907038) on the area of marshland it now encloses.		
Rarity:	Common		
Distance from development:	230m to the north-northeast		
Group Value:	None		
Evidential Value:	Denuded earthwork		
Historical Value:	None		
Aesthetic Value:	None		
Communal Value:	None		
Setting:	This denuded earthwork bank was originally the western and northern boundary of a pasture field parcel shown on the parish tithe map in 1838 (parcel number 869). The northern section of the bank, above SN4099007065, survives intact. To the east and south of this point the bank has become denuded since the mid-20th century and in the early 21st century part of the bank has been destroyed by the creation of a man-made pond (at SN4100907038) on the area of marshland it now encloses.		
Significance:	Locally Important		
Any Direct Impact?:	No None		
Any Indirect Impact?:	No None		
Level of Impact on Setting:	None		
Comment on Impact:	The proposed bridge is a low-lying feature which would not impact on this earthwork bank.		

ID number: 20 CASTLE MILL LEAT
LEAT

Shropshire HER PRN: **NMR NPRN:**

NGR: SN4084806924 Grid reference taken at point along linear site

Period: Post Medieval **Broadclass:** Water Supply and Drainage

Form: Earthwork **Condition:** Near Intact

Site Status:

Trysor Description: **SAM number:** **LB number:** **grade:**
This leat served the Castle Corn Mill, built in 1804, possibly on the site of an earlier, medieval corn mill. It is not known whether this leat was newly created in 1804 to power the mill, or if it was built for an earlier mill. It runs for some 165 metres northeastwards from the Corn Mill to the Gwendraeth Fach river, where stone-built weir is still visible in the river bed. The corn mill fell out of use during the 20th century and the leat is no longer used, but survives as an earthwork feature which still holds some water.

Rarity: Common

Distance from development: 75m to the northwest

Group Value: Associated with the Castle Corn Mill and a weir

Evidential Value: Survives as an earthwork feature

Historical Value: None

Aesthetic Value: None

Communal Value: None

Setting: This leat connected the Castle Corn Mill, Kidwelly with the Gwendraeth Fach river, 165 metres to the northwest. It runs across the floodplain to the west of the Gwendraeth Fach.

Significance: Locally Important

Any Direct Impact?: No
None

Any Indirect Impact?: Yes
Very Low
Intervisibility

Level of Impact on Setting: None

Comment on Impact: The proposed bridge may be visible from the leat but would cause only a minimal visual impact. The creation of a circular walk incorporating the bridge will have a positive impact as it will bring more visitors to investigate the area around the leat, for which a partial footpath network already exists.



Plate 3: The leat, ID number 20, on the left hand side of the photograph with the more recent path that runs along its southern side, looking east.