

CPAT Report No. 1659




Proposed Development at Denbigh WWTW, Denbighshire

Heritage Impact Assessment



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Summary

In April 2019 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust were engaged by Intec to conduct a heritage impact assessment on behalf of Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water in connection with proposals for a small extension to the existing waste water treatment works to the east of Denbigh.

The assessment identified two undesignated assets within the development area, both of which are considered to be of negligible significance, while the area of the extension has the potential to contain previously unrecorded, buried features or deposits.

There are considered to be no impacts on a small number of designated and registered assets within 500m, comprising three listed buildings and the Vale of Clwyd registered historic landscape.

Crynodeb

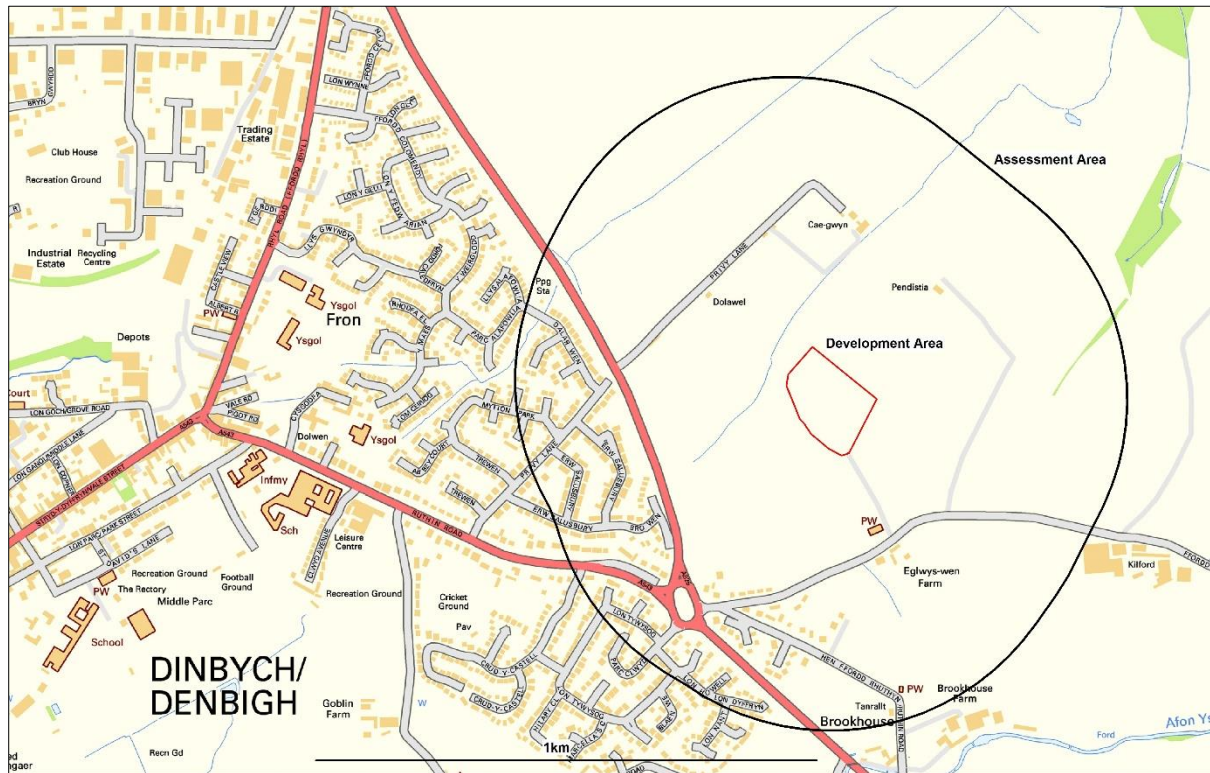
Ym mis Ebrill 2019, comisiynwyd Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd-Powys gan Intec i gynnal asesiad o effaith ar dreftadaeth ar ran Dŵr Cymru, mewn cysylltiad â chynigion ar gyfer estyniad bach i'r gwaith trin dŵr presennol i'r dwyrain o Ddinbych.

Nododd yr asesiad ddau ased heb eu dynodi o fewn ardal y datblygiad, a'r farn yw nad oes fawr o arwyddocâd i'r un ohonynt, er ei bod yn eithaf posibl bod gan ardal yr estyniad nodweddion neu ddyddodion claddedig sydd heb eu cofnodi o'r blaen.

Y farn yw na fydd unrhyw effeithiau ar nifer fach o asedau dynodedig a chofrestredig o fewn 500m, sy'n cynnwys tri adeilad rhestredig a thirwedd hanesyddol gofrestredig Dyffryn Clwyd.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust was engaged by Caulmert, on behalf of Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water, to carry out a heritage impact in relation to proposals for a small extension to the Denbigh Waste Water Treatment Works in Denbighshire. The treatment works lies to the east of Denbigh town, around 300m east of the A525 (Fig. 1; SJ SJ070 46649).



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Fig. 1 Location of proposed Development and extent of the assessment area

- 1.2. The proposals are depicted in Fig. 7 at the end of this report and comprise three new settlement tanks, two new sludge holding tanks and associated infrastructure. The proposed extension lies on the north-west side of the existing operational area and measures around 18m in width, occupying an area of around 0.18ha. Two of the proposed settling tanks would partly extend into the extension, while the remaining changes would be within the existing operational area.
- 1.3. The assessment comprised a desk-based study of readily available sources to identify the archaeological resource of the Development Area and its environs and was undertaken in April 2019 prior to the submission of a planning application.

2 Legislative Provisions and Published Guidance

- 2.1. At a national level it is Cadw, the historic environment service within Welsh Government, which holds the remit for the cultural heritage resource. Another national body, Natural Resources Wales, has a particular interest in historic landscapes.

- 2.2. At a regional level, the cultural heritage resource is monitored by the Heritage Management Sections of the regional Welsh Archaeological Trusts, and in this instance the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust acts as archaeological advisers to Denbighshire County Council.
- 2.3. The legislative framework for the historic environment in Wales was revised by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The 2016 Act amended the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It extended the definition of scheduled monuments and enhanced their protection, as well as making changes to the process of scheduled monument consent. Changes were also made to the protection of listed buildings. The 2016 Act also provided for a statutory register of historic landscapes, a statutory list of place names, and imposed a statutory duty on Welsh Ministers to compile and maintain Historic Environment Records (HERs).
- 2.4. National policy within Wales is set out in Planning Policy Wales (10th edition, 2018) (PPW). Issues relating to the historic environment are set out in Chapter 6, Distinctive and Natural Places. This notes that the 'protection, conservation and enhancement of historic assets is most effective when it is considered at the earliest stage' of a project; hence the need for a reasonable and proportionate impact assessment to ensure that any proposed development is sustainable and to prevent unnecessary harm to historic assets.
- 2.5. PPW is supported by Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (TAN 24). It is designed to assist local authorities with developing their local plans and for determination of planning applications or listed building consent in relation to historic assets. PPW is also supported by associated Cadw best practice guidance on the historic environment.
- 2.6. The assessment follows guidance produced by Cadw, on behalf of the Welsh Government, for managing historic assets: Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (2017); The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017); and Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales (2011). The assessment of potential impacts to the Registered Historic Landscape utilizes the Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in the Planning and Development Process (2nd edition, 2007), produced jointly by Cadw and CCW.
- 2.7. The revised Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB), Volume 11 Section 3 Part 2, HA 208/07 (August 2007), though not specifically focused on developments of this nature, provides a suitable, general framework for assessing the cultural heritage.

3 Historical Background

- 3.1. This section provides a brief summary of the archaeology and history of the assessment area and its immediate surrounds, to enable the findings of the assessment to be placed in a wider context.

Prehistoric Era (10,000BC – AD 43)

- 3.2. Evidence for prehistoric settlement within the assessment area is well attested, with a recent discovery of Neolithic settlement at the southern extent of the area, close to Brookhouse. An archaeological evaluation here in 2016 identified 13 pits containing Neolithic pottery dated to around 3300–3000 cal BC.
- 3.3. To the north of Whitchurch Road, in the fields immediately to the east of the Development Area, several crop marks have been identified from aerial photography, including four circular

ring-ditches, representing the ploughed-down remains of prehistoric burial mounds, and one rectangular enclosure, thought to be of Iron Age date.

Roman Period (AD 43 – 410)

- 3.4. Currently, the only object recorded within the assessment area as Roman in date is a coin, a contemporary copy of a *nummus* of Constantine dating to c. 321-5.

Medieval Period (410 - 1500)

- 3.5. A medieval well, known as Ffynnon Farcel, was noted by Edward Lhuyd in 1698 though the site is now occupied by a roundabout on the Denbigh bypass and a housing development. Also of medieval date, the church tower at St Marcellus is thought to be of 13th- or early 14th-century date, the rest of the church being 15th- century. A smaller church yard, evidenced by a manuscript map of c.1811 (Silvester 2014) may also be of medieval date, in which the church itself was eccentrically placed.
- 3.6. Evidence of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation has also been recorded within the assessment area, in fields to the immediate north and west of the Development Area and this can also be seen on the 1m-resolution LiDAR data viewed via the Welsh Government's Lle Geo-Portal.

Post-medieval and Modern Periods

- 3.7. The southernmost corner of the Development Area falls within the Historic settlement of Llanfarchell, which consists of little more than the church and a farm, although the church was originally the parish church for Denbigh. Its history and the development of any associated settlement is obscure. The dedication is to a 6th-century saint, and this is a strong candidate for an early medieval beginning.
- 3.8. Llanfarchell Church is a 15th-century double-naved structure with most of the internal features being 17th and 18th-century in origin, although there are some 16th-century monuments including that to the antiquary, Humphrey Llwyd. The building fell out of use in the 19th century but was later restored.
- 3.9. A manuscript map depicting the liberty and borough of Denbigh from c.1809 depicts the church and adjacent farm, together with a lane leading up from the south which is now reduced to a footpath (Silvester 2014). The lane is also shown on the 1819 Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing and the Tithe map for Denbigh of 1840 (Fig. 2). The accompanying apportionment shows the Development area as occupying part of two fields: 38 - Arable, owned by Lord Dinorben and occupied by William Hooke; and 84 - Gwerglodd and Cae Egwyswen, owned by Harriet Myddleton and occupied by Anne and Jane Roberts.
- 3.10. The churchyard has been extended probably in the last century and a half and although it is difficult to determine the original line of the boundary, there is a hint of curvilinearity on the south side which is not matched elsewhere. The boundary of the Church of St Marcella grave yard borders the Development Area along its south-eastern boundary. Generally there is little difference between the tithe survey and the later Ordnance Survey maps in terms of field patterns and buildings



Fig. 2 Extract from the 1840 Tithe Survey for Denbigh showing the Development Area outlined in red

- 3.11. The suburbs of Denbigh have encroached to within two hundred metres of Llanfarchell church, while the centre of the town is little more than a kilometre away. When comparing the modern day mapping to the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 25" map of 1875, the expansion of the town is clear, having almost doubled in size.
- 3.12. At the time of the 1875 mapping, the Development Area is shown as a single field, bisected by a footpath running from the fields to the north-west of the Development to the main road beside the Church of St Marcellus and Eglwys-wen Farm at the south-east. The line of this footpath is visible on modern aerial photography as a part hedged field boundary.
- 3.13. By 1899, the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25" map depicts a rectangular feature to the south of the Development Area. This was a settling tank and formed part of an earlier phase of the Denbigh Waste Water Treatments Works, which by 1912 had been extended further with additional workings to the north-west, again, part of which extends slightly into the Development Area (Fig. 3)

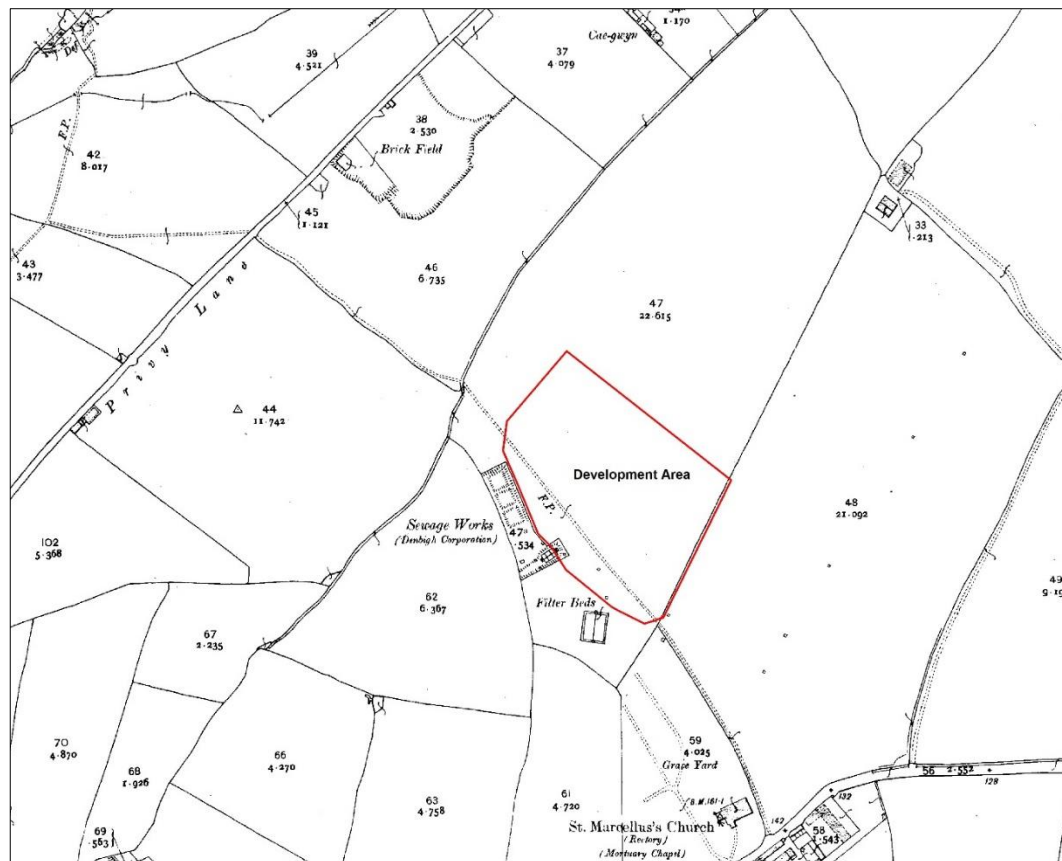


Fig. 3 1912 Ordnance Survey map showing the location of the footpath, early Sewage Works and the 'Brick Field' to the north.

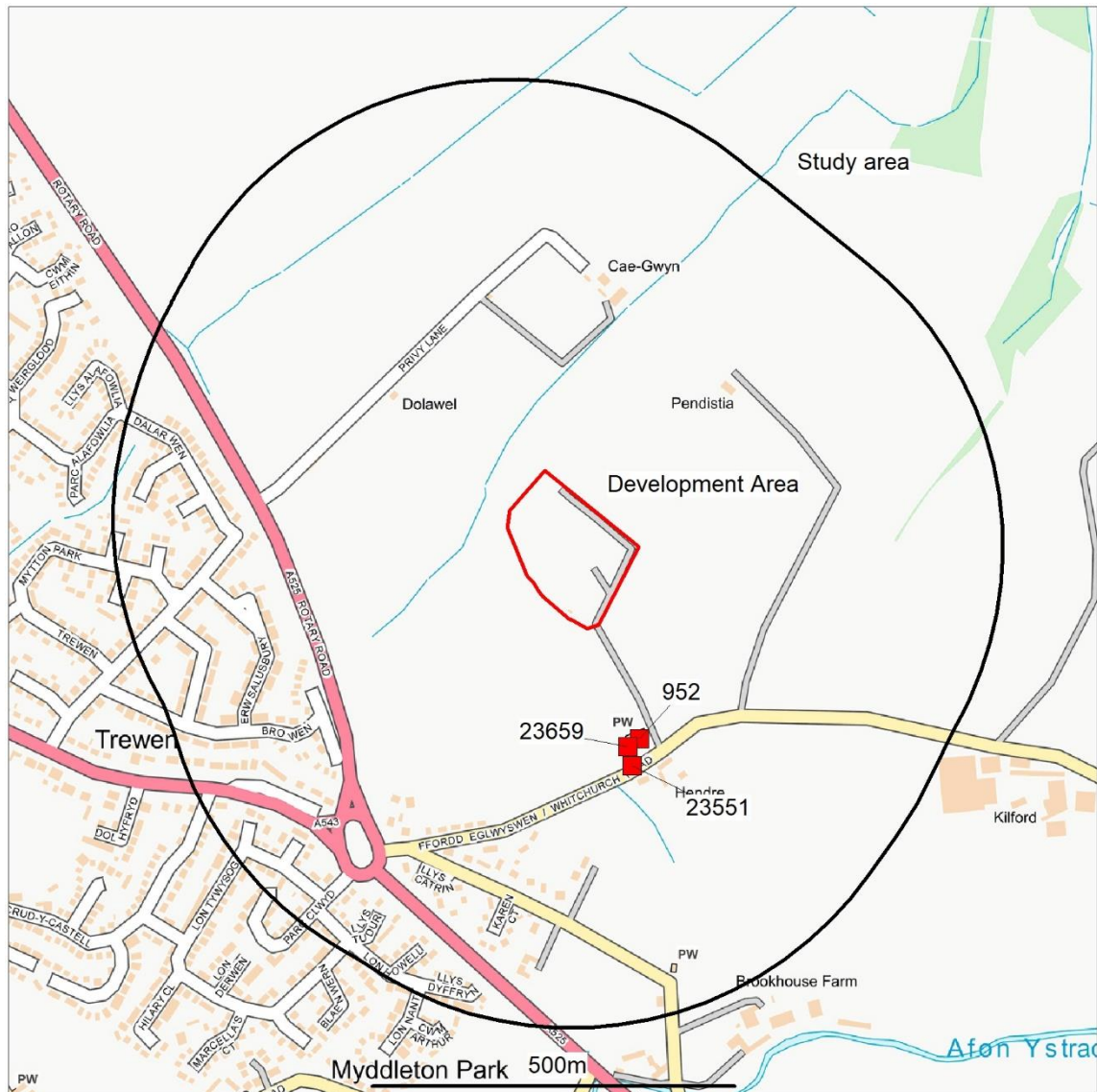
- 3.14. Beyond the Development Area, the assessment area is predominantly pasture with some arable fields as on the earlier mapping, with three farms located towards the southern extent of the study area alongside Whitchurch Road.

4 Baseline Assessment

- 4.1. The assessment involved the interrogation of data held by the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), together with searches of the online catalogues for the National Library of Wales, the National Monuments Record and Denbighshire Record Office, although these revealed no further sources or relevant information for the Development Area over and above that within the HER.
- 4.2. Information regarding scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered historic landscapes and registered parks and gardens, is based on a dataset dated 18 April 2019, which was downloaded from the Welsh Government's Lle Geo-Portal.
- 4.3. The baseline assessment has considered all known heritage assets within the development area, together with designated and registered assets which lie within 500m.

Designated and Registered Heritage Assets within 500m of the Development Area

- 4.4. There are no designated or registered heritage assets within the Development Area, although there are three designated assets within 500m, all of which are Listed Buildings, as well as one registered historic landscape.



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Fig. 4 Designated Assets (Listed Buildings) within 500m of the proposed Development

Listed Buildings

- 4.5. The Parish Church of St Marcella (LB 952) is a grade I listed church, established as the parish church of Denbigh following the construction of a new town and castle by Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln at the turn of the 13th/14th centuries. The church is first mentioned in the Norwich Taxation of 1291 and is a classic example of the twin-naved 'Vale of Clwyd' type, having parallel north and south chambers of equal dimensions and with no architectural division between nave and chancel spaces. The present building is largely the result of a late perpendicular remodelling of c.1500.

- 4.6. The Lychgate and churchyard walls (LB 23551) are also listed grade II, the Neo-Perpendicular lychgate probably erected in 1908 at the time of a general restoration of the church. The churchyard walls are mostly 19th or early 20th-century in date, though the section to the east of the Lychgate, and curving around to define the northern perimeter of the churchyard, is earlier.
- 4.7. Also associated with the church is a grade II listed early 19th-century chest tomb (LB 23659) to Thomas Edwards 'Twm O'r Nant' (1739-1810), bard and playwright, known as the Cambrian Shakespeare.

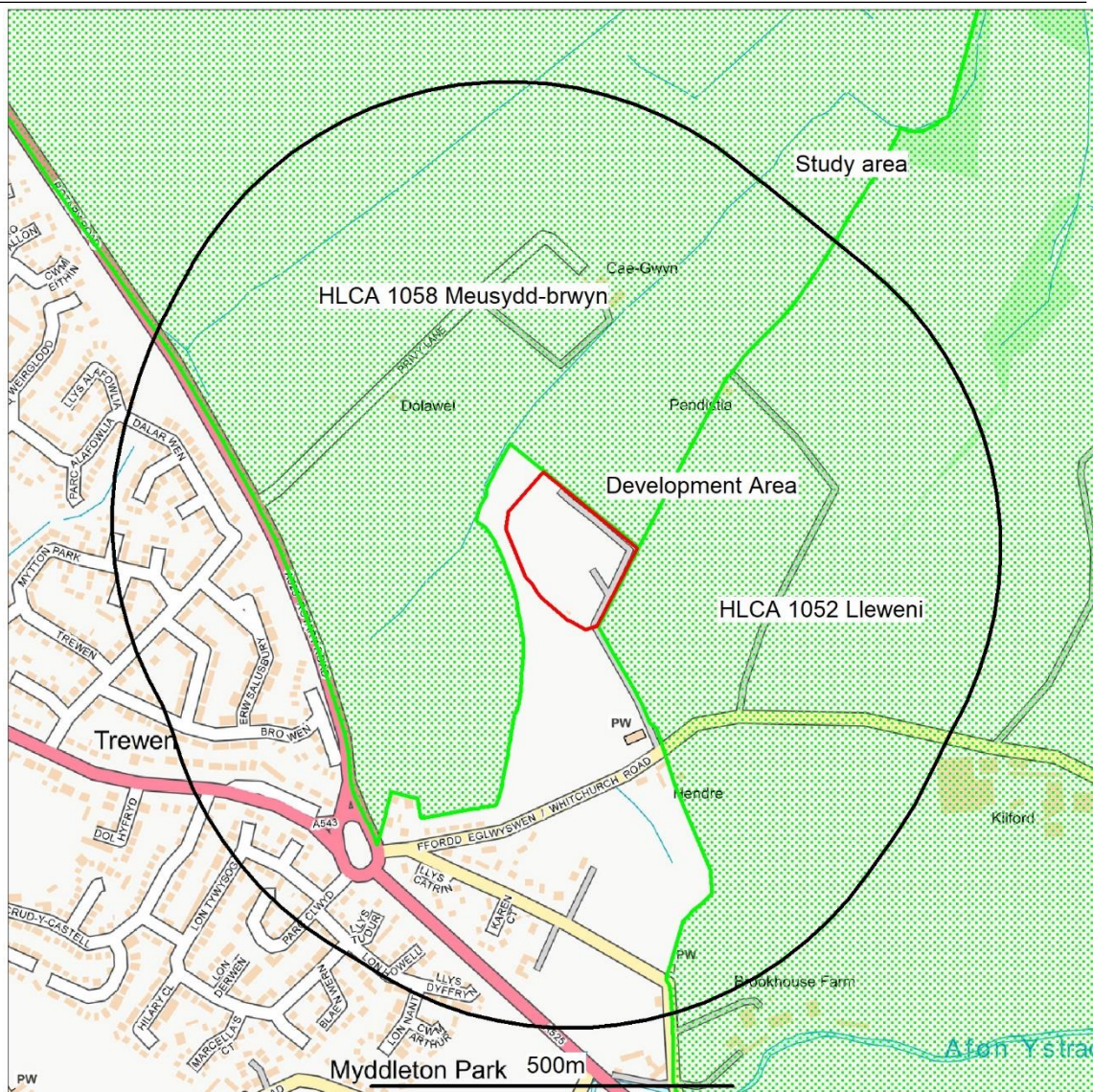
Table 1: Designated Heritage Assets within 500m of the proposed development.

No	Site Name	Grade	Period	Type	NGR
952	Parish Church of St Marcella	I	Post-medieval	Church	SJ07136623
23659	Chest Tomb of Twm O'r Nant	II	Post-medieval	Tomb	SJ07126621
23551	St Marcella Lychgate and Churchyard Walls	II	Post-medieval	Lychgate and walls	SJ07126619

- 4.8. The three listed structures retain considerable evidential, historic and aesthetic value in their fabric and architectural style, while their function in society as a place of worship and memorial to past generations imbues considerable communal value and collectively these enhance their overall significance.
- 5.14. The setting for the church, lychgate and listed tomb is provided by the surrounding churchyard. The church is best appreciated in views from the adjacent road and the main churchyard entrance, through the lychgate, which itself is best appreciated in views from the road and from the church. The listed tomb is best appreciated from within the churchyard. The existing treatment works and proposed extension do not form part of the setting for these assets and also do not unduly affect the principal views of them or their appreciation.

Registered Historic Landscapes

- 4.9. The assessment area falls partly within the Vale of Clwyd registered historic landscape (Cadw/ICOMOS/CCW 1998), one of the most distinctive landscapes of north-east Wales, although the Development Area itself lies outside the registered landscape. The study area includes a small part of two Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA):
- HLCA 1058, Meusydd-brwyn extends across much of the northern half of the assessment area and is a distinctive landscape of rectangular and strip fields, drainage dykes and small ponds, with scattered farms and smallholdings.
 - HLCA 1052, Lleweni, extends across the eastern part of the assessment area and defines a landscape of flat, low-lying, large irregular meadows, large farm estates and evidence of prehistoric and early medieval activity.

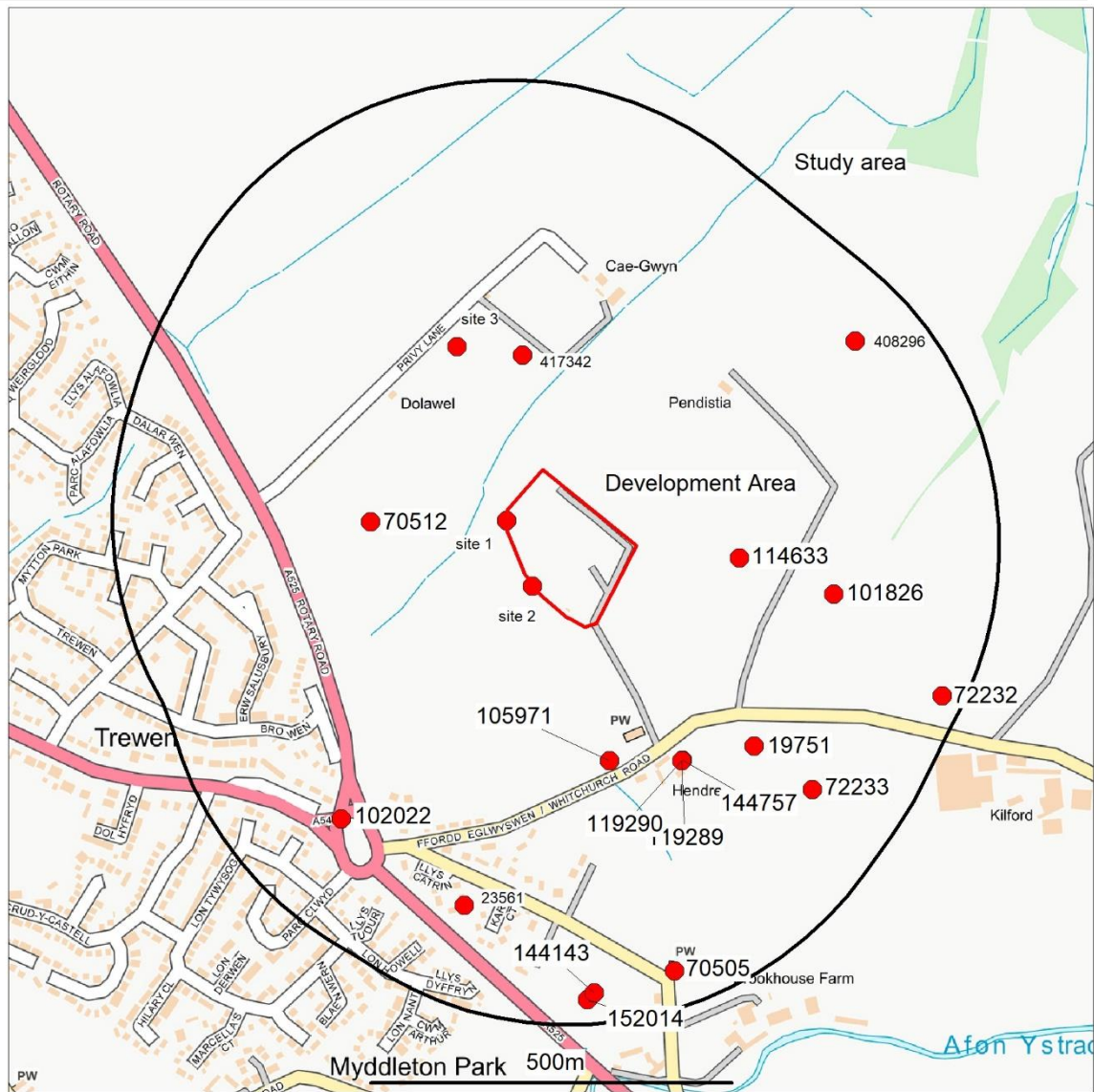


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Fig. 5 Registered and Characterised Historic Landscapes within 500m of the Development Area.

Undesignated Assets

- 4.10. The assessment has identified two undesignated assets within the Development Area including a former trackway (Site 1), leading to St Marcella's Church. Although not wholly within the Development Area, part of the former workings of the Waste Water Treatment Works (Site 2), extends marginally into the proposed Development Area. The former works included a settling tank and other workings which appear on the 1899 and 1912 Ordnance Survey maps (Fig. 3). Both assets are likely to have been impacted on by the construction of the existing treatment works and are considered to be of only negligible value.
- 4.11. Fourteen undesignated assets are recorded in the HER within 500m of the Development Area while the NMR records a further three assets and the assessment has added three further assets. Collectively, these are listed in Table 2 and depicted on Fig. 6.



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Fig. 6 Undesignated Assets within 500m of the Development Area.

Table 2: Undesignated Heritage Assets within 500m of the proposed development.

PRN/NPRN	Site Name	Period	Type	NGR
PRN 19751	Llanfarchell ridge and furrow	Medieval	Ridge and Furrow	SJ07306622
PRN 70505	Brookhouse Chapel	Post Medieval	Nonconformist Chapel	SJ07196591
PRN 70512	Green Acres ridge and furrow	Post Medieval	Ridge and Furrow	SJ06776653

PRN 72232	Tandderwen cropmark complex, enclosure II	Iron Age	Enclosure	SJ07566629
PRN 72233	Kilford Farm Ring Ditch II	Bronze Age	Ring Ditch	SJ07386616
PRN 101826	Kilford Farm Ring Ditch I	Bronze Age	Ring Ditch	SJ07416643
PRN 102022	Ffynnon Farcel Well (site of)	Medieval	Holy Well	SJ06736612
PRN 105971	Llanfarchell	Multiperiod	Settlement	SJ07106620
PRN 114633	Kilford Farm, ring ditch III	Bronze Age	Ring Ditch	SJ07286648
PRN 119289	Denbigh, Kilford Farm, Coin	Post Medieval	Find spot	SJ07206620
PRN 119290	Denbigh, Kilford Farm, Coin	Roman	Find spot	SJ07206620
PRN 144143	Neolithic Pit Group	Prehistoric	Funerary Site	SJ07076587
PRN 144757	Denbigh, Denbigh, war memorial	Modern	War Memorial	SJ07206620
PRN 152014	Excavation at Brookhouse, Denbighshire	Neolithic	Archaeological Feature	SJ07076587
NPRN 417342	Cae-Gwyn, Ridge and Furrow	Post Medieval	Ridge and Furrow	SJ06986676
NPRN 408296	Kilford Farm Barrow	Bronze Age	Cropmark	SJ07446678
NPRN 23561	Pen-y-Palmant	Unknown	Placename	SJ06906600
Site 1	St Marcella, trackway	Post-medieval	Track	SJ07026648
Site 2	Denbigh Corporation Sewage Works	Post-medieval	Sewage Works	SJ06886677
Site 3	Cae-gwyn, brick field	Post-medieval	Brick field	SJ06996644

5 Impact Assessment

Designated and Registered Assets

- 5.1. The assessment has determined that the Development Area plays no part in the setting of the three listed buildings and consequently no impacts are predicted.
- 5.2. With regard to the Vale of Clwyd registered historic landscape the Development Area lies outside the area, although is almost entirely surrounded by it. There will therefore be no direct impacts on the landscape and the assessment has concluded that the nature of the proposed development is such that any visual impacts on the landscape would be no more than negligible owing to the majority of the proposed changes lying entirely within the existing operational boundary of the treatment works.

Undesignated Assets

- 5.3. The assessment has identified two undesignated assets within the Development Area, although both are considered to be of negligible value and are likely to have been largely or entirely destroyed by the construction of the existing treatment works.
- 5.4. Evidence from the surrounding area demonstrates that the area of the proposed extension has the potential to contain previously unrecorded, buried archaeology, although this is limited by the small size of the area while it is also possible that parts of the area may have been disturbed during the construction of the existing treatment works.

6 Sources

Unpublished sources

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Welsh Government, 2017a. *Heritage Impact Assessments in Wales*.

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Cartographic sources

1819 Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing 309

1840 Tithe map for Denbigh Parish

1875 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 1st edition Denbighshire 14.01

1899 Ordnance Survey 1:2500 2nd edition Denbighshire 14.01

7 Archive deposition Statement

- 7.1. The project archive has been prepared according to the CPAT Archive Policy and in line with the CIfA *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives guidance* (2014). The archive is entirely digital and will be deposited jointly with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust and the National Monuments Record (RCAHMW).



Fig. 7 Plan showing the proposed extension and new infrastructure in relation to know undesignated heritage assets