

COWBRIDGE (Y BONT-FAEN)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT



PREPARED

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DATE:

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Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

| | |
|--------------------|---|
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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report was commissioned by Redrow Homes Ltd. and presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment to inform pre-planning application discussions with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) regarding a proposed residential development off St Athan Road, Cowbridge, in the Vale of Glamorgan. This report describes and assesses the significance of known heritage assets within and beyond the site boundary, and the potential for archaeological remains within the site in order to identify potential heritage constraints for future development.

The proposed development site is located directly to the south of Cowbridge, west of St Athan Road. The site is irregular in plan, roughly following historic field boundaries shown on 1885 OS mapping.

The study area comprises a 1 km buffer surrounding the proposed development site boundary, within which the archaeological and historical development of the site and surrounding area has been considered. Data was gathered for the study area to inform the baseline and provide a comprehensive overview of the local area.

There are no designated assets located within the site boundary. 98 designated assets are located within the study area, including four Scheduled Ancient Monuments, two conservation areas, two grade I listed buildings, six grade II listed buildings, and 84 grade II listed buildings.*

There are a total of three known non-designated assets located within the site boundary: a bivate hillslope enclosure (02443S), a Medieval settlement (02145S), and a medieval field boundary (00268S). There are a further 136 non-designated assets located within the study area.

Direct impacts upon buried archaeological remains have the potential to occur during the construction phase of the proposed development as a result of any intrusive groundworks required.

Indirect impacts upon heritage assets in the area surrounding the site may occur as a result of the construction and operation of the development causing visual or other sensory changes within their settings, such that the ability to understand or appreciate the significance of heritage assets is affected.

Based on the location and significance of known sensitive heritage receptors in the study area, and the location of the proposed development site alongside existing residential development, significant indirect effects to the setting of heritage assets are not considered likely as a result of the proposed development.

As the anticipated direct development impact would represent the potential loss of three non-designated heritage assets is likely that the Local Planning Authority may require a programme of geophysical survey to identify potential archaeological features and a GPS survey of any above ground remains of the non-designated assets located within the site. These may then be used to inform a scheme of targeted trial trenching to ascertain to extent of archaeological remains present within the site boundary.

Dependent upon the result of trial trenching, a programme of archaeological mitigation works may then be required, such as a watching brief or set piece excavation, secured as a condition of consent prior to any development within the site boundary.

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 This report was (E006770) commissioned by Redrow Homes Ltd. and presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment support a planning application for a proposed development off St Athan Road, Cowbridge, in the Vale of Glamorgan (approximate NGR 299596 174002, nearest post code CF71 7HP, Figure 1). At the time of writing detailed development proposals have not been confirmed. It is understood that a residential development numbering between 90 to 100 properties is proposed.
- 1.1.2 This report describes and assesses the significance of known heritage assets within and beyond the site boundary, and potential archaeological remains within the site in order to identify potential heritage constraints for future development. This approach is consistent with the requirements of national and local planning policies on the historic environment in the planning process.

1.2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 1.2.1 Headland Archaeology staff involved in the preparation of this report were Kate Brown BA (Hons) ACIfA (data gathering, report text and figures), Peter James BA (Hons) ACIfA (site walkover survey) and Owen Raybould BSc MCIfA Assoc. IHBC (technical review).

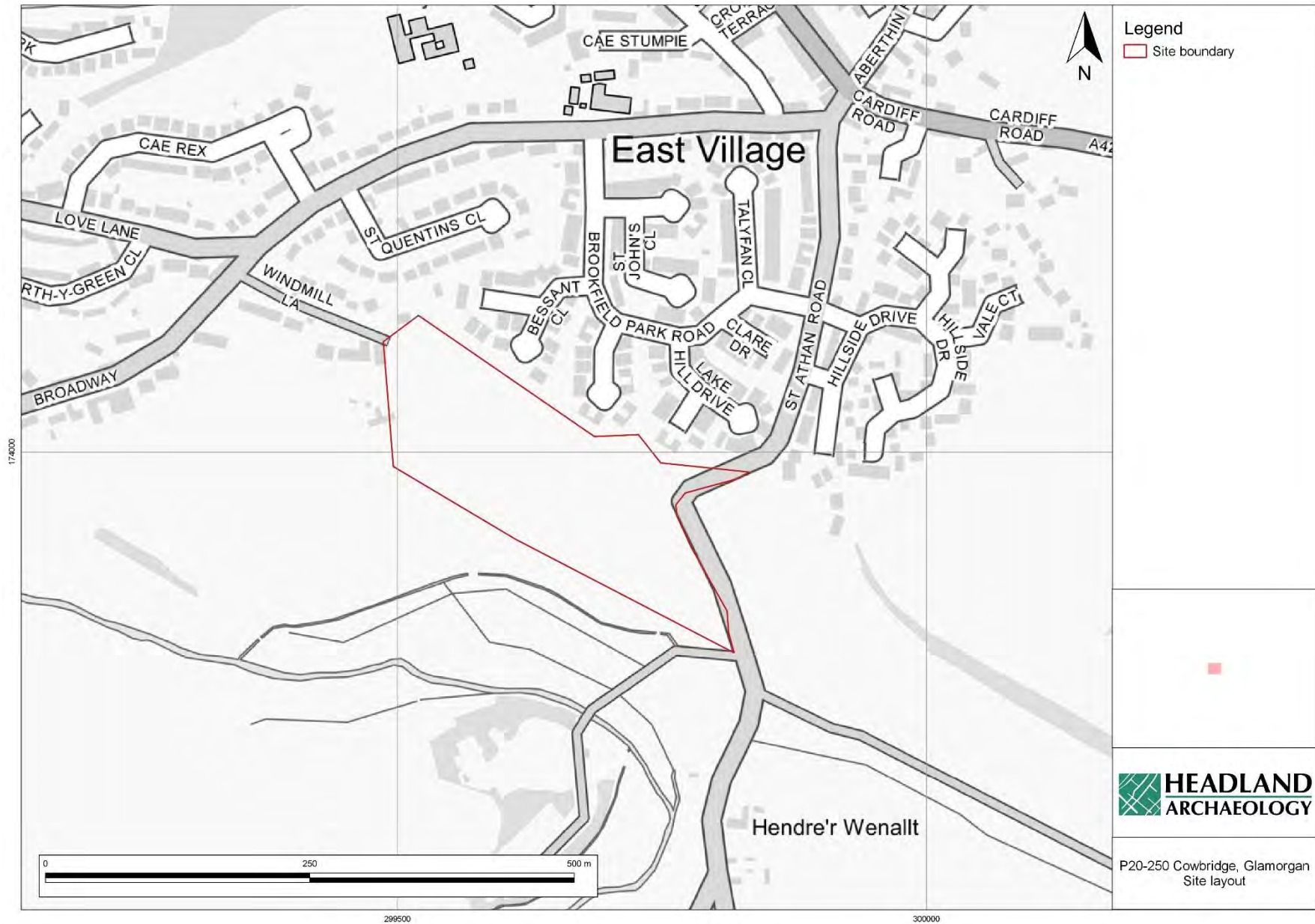


Figure 1. Site location

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 Cowbridge (Y Bont-faen)
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2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 2.1.1 The proposed development site is located directly to the south of Cowbridge, west of St Athan Road (Figure 1). The site is irregular in plan, roughly following historic field boundaries shown on 1885 Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping. The site slopes downwards from 49 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the north west to 29 m AOD in the east.
- 2.1.2 The site is currently pasture and is divided by a single dog-leg hedge field boundary, as such the site comprises a larger western field and part of a smaller eastern field. It is bounded by a housing estate to the north and west comprising Windmill Lane, St Quentins Close, Bessant Close, Llanquian Close and Lake Hill Drive. St Athan Road runs on the easternmost boundary of the site. To the south are agricultural fields.
- 2.1.3 In general, the surrounding area is predominantly characterised by agricultural and industrial land use, particularly from the late post-medieval/Victorian period.
- 2.1.4 The bedrock geology of the site comprises deposits of Blue Lias Formation (marginal facies) shell limestone. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed between 199.3 and 190.8 million years ago during the Jurassic period. There are no superficial deposits recorded (British Geological Survey, 2020).

2.2 SITE VISIT

- 2.2.1 A site visit was conducted on the 3 November 2020 by Headland Archaeology (E006771, Figure 2 to Figure 15). The weather conditions were clear. Ground conditions were wet underfoot, and the site was under short grass currently in use as pasture.
- 2.2.2 In the large western field (an area defined by the HER as containing a Medieval field boundary (00268S)) was under pasture. Topography comprises an east facing slope and the field is bounded by hedgerows. A subtle depression was visible which appeared to respect the contour of the hillside. It was unclear whether this was a natural undulation or related to possible below ground archaeological remains (Figure 7). Possible earthworks were visible in the north western area of site on the crest of slope (Figure 3) which may represent a hillside enclosure (02443S) or remains of Medieval settlement activity (02145S) and related agricultural activity as recorded in the HER. There is no clear indication of enclosure or terracing of the hillside however it is possible that this may be masked by later medieval landscaping.
- 2.2.3 Anomalies visible on LiDAR data (Figure 21) were noted during the walkover. One was found to be to be a large pit (06878s) with heavily overgrown vegetation (Figure 8). Due to its location adjacent to the recorded Medieval settlement (02145S), it is likely to relate to settlement activity. Another in the north east of the site was a subtle depression (06879s).
- 2.2.4 A boundary wall enclosed the north-eastern extent of the western field, visible beneath the hedgerow and at an access into the field (Figure 10). Structural remains were visible on the ground surface, interpreted as remnants of another wall field boundary within the area defined 00268S (Figure 5 & Figure 9). It is possible this is part of remains from a Medieval settlement (02145S).
- 2.2.5 The small eastern field was also under pasture, at the base of the valley and bounded by hedgerows (Figure 12). Agricultural fields to the south contained drainage channels and ponds indicative of 'catchwork' water meadow system (Figure 11). No earthworks or features were visible in this field during the walkover.
- 2.2.6 A visit to Caer Dynnaf hillfort (HDL4) demonstrated that the proposed development site was partially visible but is predominantly screened by tree cover and the townscape (Figure 13). A visit to Llanblethian Castle (Figure 14) demonstrated that the site was visible from a pedestrian bridge over the River Thaw located to the north of a lime kiln (03994S). A visit to Llandough Castle demonstrated that the site was not visible and is well screened by woodland (Figure 15).



Figure 2. View from western end of western field, facing south



Figure 3. Western field, visible earthworks 002685, facing north east



Figure 4. General view of site from the south west corner of 00268S, facing south east



Figure 5. Remains of wall within 00268S, facing north



Figure 6. General view of site from eastern end of western field, looking west



Figure 7. Subtle depression (068795) viewed from western field north west corner, facing south



Figure 8. Possible disused pit (06878S) with overgrown vegetation, facing south



Figure 9. Remains of wall within 00268S, facing south west



Figure 10. Remains of boundary wall in western field north east corner, facing north west



Figure 11. View of the site from the north east corner of 00268S, facing south



Figure 12. View of eastern field from south east corner, facing north



Figure 13. View from Caer Dynnaf hillfort (HDL4), facing west towards site



Figure 14. View from Llanblethian Castle (GM094), facing west towards site



Figure 15. Llandough Castle, facing north towards site

3 LEGISLATION, POLICY AND GUIDANCE

3.1 LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

3.1.1 This desk-based assessment has been prepared in accordance with all relevant current legislation, national and local planning policy and guidance pertaining to the historic environment, summarised below.

3.2 STATUTORY PROTECTION

3.2.1 The relevant heritage legislation in the context of the present site is described below in Table 1.

Table 1. Historic environment statutory legislation

| Legislation | Key Issues |
|---|--|
| Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 | It is a criminal offence to carry out any works on or near to a Scheduled Monument without Scheduled Monument Consent. Development must preserve in-situ protected archaeological remains and landscapes of acknowledged significance and protect their settings. |
| Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990) | The 1990 Act is amended by the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 to introduce additional controls for works to listed buildings. Section 1 of the Act requires the Secretary of State to compile and maintain lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. The principal statutory duty under the Act is to preserve the special character of these historic assets, including their setting. Buildings on the list are assessed and graded against the criteria of architectural and historic interest. Buildings listed at Grade I are defined as those considered to be of exceptional interest. Grade II* listed buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest, while Grade II listed buildings are of special interest. ¹ This may include the extent to which the exterior of a building contributes to the interest of a group of buildings, i.e. 'group value'. |
| Treasure Act (1996) | The 1996 Act defines 'Treasure' as any object that is at least 10% gold or silver, associated with coins or groups of coins which are over 300 years old, objects formerly classed as 'treasure trove' (i.e. deliberately deposited items with a high content of gold or silver) and any objects found in association with the above. Any find of 'Treasure' must be reported to the local Coroner. |
| Burial Act (1857) | Under Section 25 of the 1857 Act, it is generally a criminal offence to remove human remains from any place of burial without an appropriate licence issued by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), although recent legislative changes indicate that some cases are exempt from this requirement. |
| The Planning Act (Wales) (2015) | Outlines a legal framework for the National Development Framework, making provision for pre-application consultation and introduces a streamlined planning system "delivering timely, fair and consistent decisions that will enhance the built, natural and historic environment in Wales". |

¹ <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/listed-buildings/>

| Legislation | Key Issues |
|---|---|
| The Historic Environment (Wales) Act (2016) | <p>This Act makes amendments to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, primarily in relation to ancient monuments in Wales. It also makes provision for the Welsh Ministers to compile and maintain a register of historic parks and gardens.</p> <p>It also makes amendments to the Planning (listed buildings and conservation areas) Act 1990 (c.9) in relation to buildings in Wales that are of special architectural or historic interest ("listed buildings").</p> <p>The Act makes other provisions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) for the compilation of a list of historic place names in Wales (section 34), (b) for the compilation of a historic environment record for each local authority area in Wales (sections 35 to 37), and (c) for the establishment, constitution and functions of the Advisory Panel for the Welsh Historic Environment (sections 38 and 39). |
| Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (2021) | <p>Sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales.</p> <p>TAN 24: The Historic Environment includes guidance on world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains, listed buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens, historic landscapes and historic assets of special local interest.</p> |

3.3 PLANNING POLICY WALES

- 3.3.1 TAN 24: The Historic Environment provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and Listed Building (LBC) applications.
- 3.3.2 This report contributes to meeting the following Policies on the historic environment contained in the document (paragraph numbers in bold text):

1.15 *Heritage impact assessment is a structured process that enables the significance of a designated asset to be taken into account when considering proposals for change. Heritage impact assessments should be proportionate both to the significance of the historic asset and to the degree of change proposed, and should include sufficient information to enable both the significance of the asset and the impact of change to be understood. The results of the heritage impact assessment should be summarised in a heritage impact statement which must form part of any listed building consent, conservation area consent and, when requested, scheduled monument consent applications.*

1.23 *Planning Policy Wales identifies how local planning authorities must treat World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, unscheduled nationally important archaeological remains²¹, listed buildings, conservation areas and registered historic parks and gardens in Wales in their consideration of planning applications and producing development plans. This includes the impact of proposed developments within the settings of these historic assets.*

1.25 *The setting of an historic asset includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced, and appreciated embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral. Setting is not a historic asset in its own right but has value derived from how different elements may contribute to the significance of a historic asset.*

3.4 LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

3.4.1 The Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (Vale of Glamorgan Council, 2017 'MD8: Historic Environment', which states:

'Development proposals must protect the qualities of the built and historic environment of the Vale of Glamorgan, specifically:

1. *Within conservation areas, development proposals must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area;*
2. *For listed and locally listed buildings, development proposals must preserve or enhance the building, its setting and any features of significance it possesses;*
3. *Within designated landscapes, historic parks and gardens, and battlefields, development proposals must respect the special historic character and quality of these areas, their settings or historic views or vistas;*
4. *For sites of archaeological interest, development proposals must preserve or enhance archaeological remains and where appropriate their settings'.*

3.5 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

3.5.1 Headland Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), an audited status which confirms that all work is carried out in accordance with the highest standards of the profession.

3.5.2 This assessment has been prepared with reference to the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (2020)* and *Code of Conduct (2019)*, the Welsh Government's *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (2017a)*, and Cadw's guidance on *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (2017)* and *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017b)*.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 STUDY AREA

4.1.1 The study area comprises a 1 km buffer surrounding the proposed development site boundary, within which the archaeological and historical development of the site and surrounding area has been considered. Data was gathered for the study area to inform the baseline and provide a comprehensive overview of the local area.

4.2 GAZETTEER

4.2.1 A gazetteer of all known heritage assets within the study area has been compiled, using information from the data sources listed below. The gazetteer is included as 'Appendix A: Gazetteer' and the location of each gazetteer asset is presented in the heritage constraints map (Figure 16, Figure 17, Figure 18, Figure 19), and the previous archaeological events map (Figure 20). All heritage assets have been assigned a unique reference code prefixed 'HDL' for ease of reference in the report.

4.3 DATA SOURCES

4.3.1 Sources consulted in the preparation of this assessment include:

- Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales (Cadw);
- Historic Environment Record data held by The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT)
- Historic Ordnance Survey, and earlier mapping;
- Published and unpublished documentary sources;
- LiDAR data
- Geological mapping (British Geological Survey); and
- A site visit.

4.4 SITE VISIT

4.4.1 A site visit was undertaken on Tuesday 3 November 2020, during which notes were made regarding site characteristics, any visible archaeology and geographical/geological features which may have had a bearing on previous land use and archaeological survival, as well as those which may constrain subsequent archaeological investigation.

4.4.2 Records were made regarding extant archaeological features, such as earthworks or structural remains, any negative features, local topography and aspect, exposed geology, soils, watercourses, health and safety considerations, surface finds, and any other relevant information.

4.5 HISTORIC MAP REGRESSION

4.5.1 Historic mapping corresponding with the site boundary was consulted to collect information on former land use and development throughout the later historic periods.

4.6 LIDAR DATA

4.6.1 Freely available LiDAR data was gathered for the study area from the Natural Resources Wales. In the case of the study area the most detailed available data was 2 m spatial resolution, flown in 2016.

4.6.2 The DTM model has been processed using a standard hillshading procedure in order to create a three-dimensional image of the ground surface, highlighting potential surface earthwork features of anthropogenic origin.

4.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE ASSESSMENT

DATA SOURCES

4.7.1 Information held by public data sources is generally considered to be reliable; however, the following general points are noted:

- HER records can be limited because opportunities for research, fieldwork and discovery depend on the situation of commercial development and occasional research projects, rather than the result of a more structured research framework. A lack of data within the HER records does not necessarily equal an absence of archaeological remains;
- The significance of sites can be difficult to identify from HER records, depending on the accuracy and reliability of the original source; and
- There can often be a lack of dating evidence for archaeological sites.

SITE VISIT

4.7.2 Any archaeological site visit has inherent limitations, primarily because archaeological remains below ground level may have no surface indicators.

4.8 IMPORTANCE

4.8.1 The relative importance of each heritage asset identified within the gazetteer (Appendix A) has been determined in accordance with Table 2 to provide a framework for comparison between heritage assets, and to inform subsequent stages of archaeological assessment or appropriate mitigation which may be required. The categories of importance do not reflect a definitive level of significance or value of a heritage asset, but a provisional one based on a range of factors including current legal status, rarity, completeness, historic and cultural associations, contribution to the regional research agenda, and community, research and place-making potential.

Table 2. Scale of importance of each identified asset

| Importance | Definition |
|------------|--|
| Very High | Assets and structures of acknowledged international significance. Examples include World Heritage Sites, and buildings of recognised international significance |
| High | Assets and structures of acknowledged national significance. Examples include Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings at Grade I and II*, Registered Parks and Gardens at Grades I and II*, and Conservation Areas containing buildings of equivalent importance. |
| Medium | Assets and structures of acknowledged regional significance. Examples include Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens of less than the highest significance (i.e. listed at Grade II), Conservation Areas containing buildings of equivalent importance, non-designated assets of regional value within the HER. |
| Low | Assets and structures of acknowledged local significance. Examples include locally listed buildings, assets of local value registered in the HER. |
| Negligible | Assets and structures known to be of low archaeological or historical significance. Examples include remains previously subject to large-scale destruction, assets with very little or no surviving archaeological or historic interest and assets that hold little intrinsic archaeological value. |
| Unknown | Assets and structures of uncertain character, extent and/or/date where the significance cannot be ascertained. |

5 AIMS

- 5.1.1 The aim of this report is to provide supporting information to assist in the determination of a planning application for the proposed development.
- 5.1.2 The desk-based assessment has been undertaken in order to identify any cultural heritage assets present within and beyond the proposed development site and to provide an indication of its archaeological potential, and also to identify any heritage assets whose settings may be adversely affected hence providing the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisors with sufficient information to consider the planning application.
- 5.1.3 The aims of this assessment are therefore:
- To establish, from documentary sources, the location and extent of any known heritage assets at the site and surrounding area;
 - To determine from documentary sources and by means of a site visit the potential for, and survival of, previously unknown archaeological remains within the site boundary;
 - To assess the heritage significance of any identified assets;
 - To assess the likely impact of future development upon archaeological remains; and
 - To inform any subsequent archaeological surveys or phases of mitigation which may be required.
- 5.1.4 The information presented in this report permits a balanced understanding of the importance of the known and potential heritage assets within the site, against which can then be weighed the potential impact of the proposed development on potential archaeological remains.

6 RESULTS

6.1.1 A full list of known heritage assets within the study area is presented in the gazetteer at the end of this report (Appendix A: Gazetteer), the locations of heritage assets are shown on Figure 16, Figure 17, Figure 18 & Figure 19, the locations of previous archaeological work are shown on Figure 20, and processed LiDAR data is shown on Figure 21.

6.2 HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT SITE BOUNDARY

DESIGNATED ASSETS

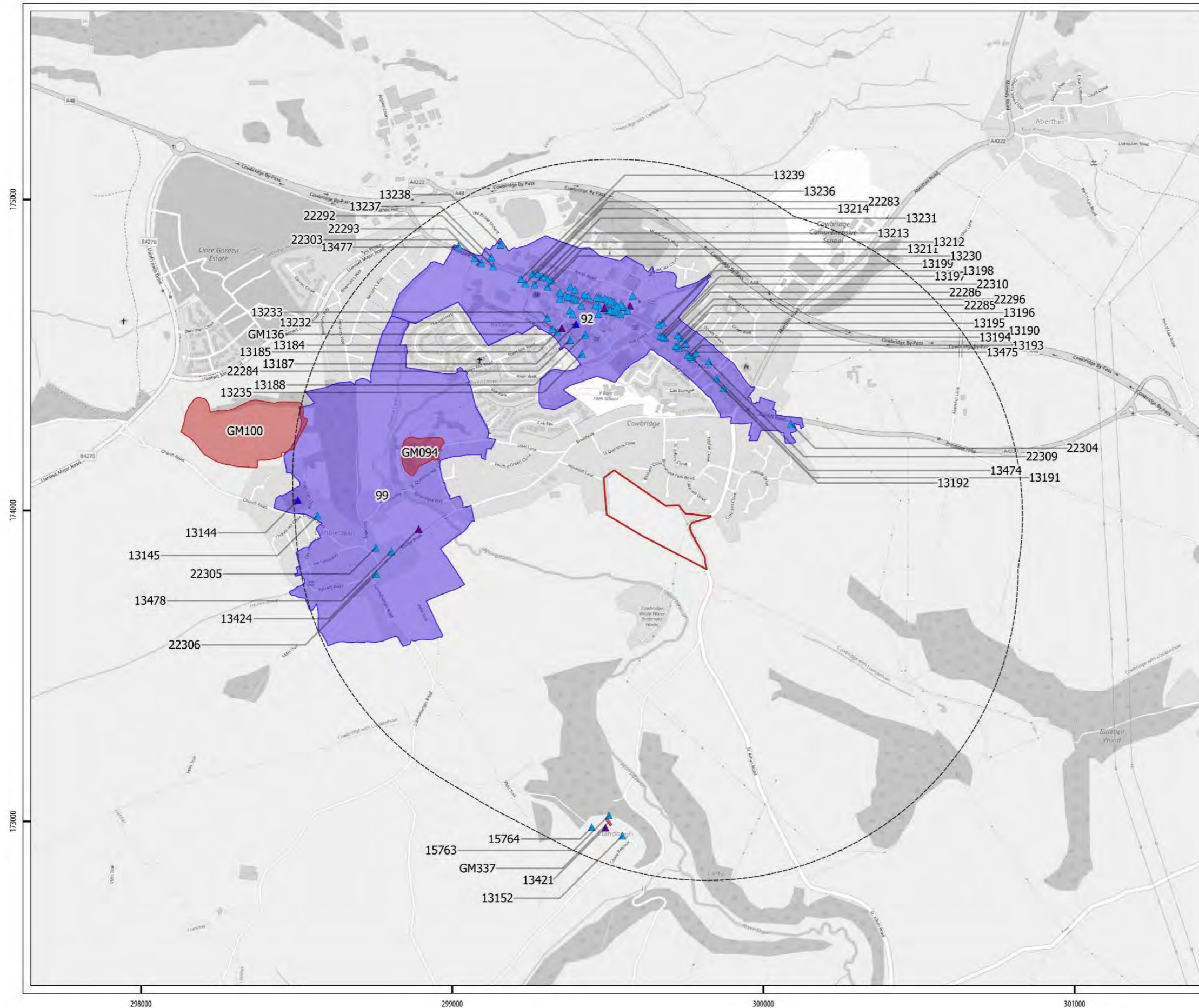
- 6.2.1 There are no designated assets located within the site boundary.
- 6.2.2 98 designated assets are located within the study area, including four Scheduled Ancient Monuments, two conservation areas, two grade I listed buildings, six grade II* listed buildings, and 84 grade II listed buildings.
- 6.2.3 These assets are discussed in further detail in section 7: Archaeological and historical narrative.

NON-DESIGNATED ASSETS

- 6.2.4 There are a total of three non-designated assets located recorded by the HER within the site boundary: a private hillside enclosure (02443S), a Medieval settlement (02145S), and a medieval field boundary (00268S).
- 6.2.5 There are a further 136 non-designated assets located within the study area.
- 6.2.6 These assets are discussed in further detail in section 7: Archaeological and historical narrative.

6.3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 6.3.1 Four instances of previous archaeological work are recorded within the site boundary, as outlined below:
- A field visit (E001472) was carried out by GGAT as part of a project to study prehistoric defended enclosures across Wales. The report covers a desktop study of known defended sites in Glamorgan;
 - A predictive model of Early Medieval settlement location (E000792) was completed for Wales, with a case study undertaken in the Vale of Glamorgan. The study mapped the distribution of Romano-British and medieval settlement evidence in relation to the landscape characteristics of the area and was able to divide the study area into zones reflecting past settlement intensity;
 - The Rural Settlement of Roman Britain project (E005431) was undertaken by Reading University and Cotswold Archaeology, on behalf of Historic England and the Leverhulme Trust, with the aim of creating a resource that brings together the excavated evidence for the rural settlement of Roman Britain with the over-arching aim to inform a comprehensive reassessment of the countryside of Roman Britain; and
 - A watching brief (E005503) was carried out in April 2013 during ground works for an extension at Llyswen, Llanblethian. No archaeological finds or features were recorded. The site appears to extend into the western part of the site, but due to the small overlap this may be a mapping discrepancy.



Key

- Site boundary
- Study area
- Listed building point**
- ▲ Grade I
- ▲ Grade II*
- ▲ Grade II
- Scheduled monument area
- Conservation area

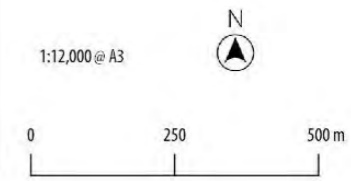
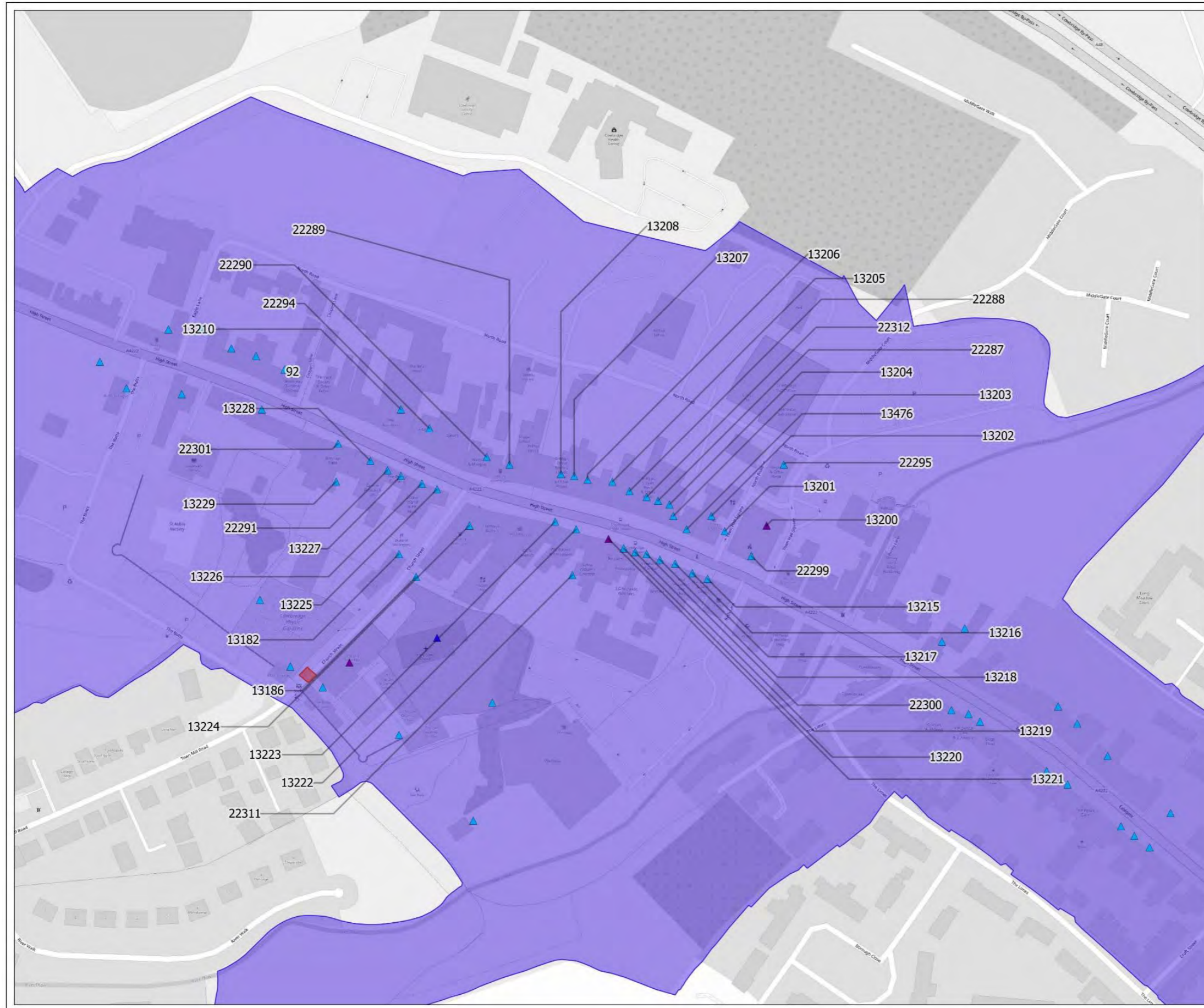


Figure 16. Designated assets



Key

- Site boundary
- Study area
- Listed building point**
- ▲ Grade I
- ▲ Grade II*
- ▲ Grade II
- Scheduled monument area
- Conservation area

1:2,000 @ A3

N
▲

0 50 100m

Figure 17. Detail of designated assets within Cowbridge town walls

