

**Impact on Setting and Significance
relating to a Proposed
Agricultural Building and Access Track
Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey,
Abermule, SY15 6JP
Planning Application 24/0468/FUL**



Report by: Trysor

For: Gareth Pugh

July 2024



**Impact on Setting and Significance
relating to a Proposed
Agricultural Building and Access Track
Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey,
Abermule, SY15 6JP
Planning Application 24/0468/FUL**

By

Jenny Hall, MCIfA & Paul Sambrook, MCIfA
Trysor

Trysor Project No. 2024/945
HER Event Record PRN – Heneb - CPA 218165

For: Gareth Pugh

July 2024

38, New Road
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 1UN

www.trysor.net
enquiries@trysor.net



Cover photograph: RHN2024_013. A view towards the castle site from the field to the south of the monument, near the road bridge over the River Severn. The proposed new building would not be visible from this position. Modern houses are in view to the right. The break of slope across the middle of the image appears to be an outwork of the castle. Looking north-northeast.

**Impact on Setting and Significance relating to a Proposed
Agricultural Building and Access Track
Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey, Abermule, SY15 6JP
Planning Application 24/0468/FUL**

RHIF YR ADRODDIAD - REPORT NUMBER: Trysor 2024/945

EVENT RECORD HER PRN – Heneb - CPA PRN 218165

DYDDIAD 10^{fed} Gorffennaf 2024 **DATE** 10th July 2024

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.

JENNY HALL MCIFA

Jenny Hall

PAUL SAMBROOK MCIFA

Paul Sambrook

Croesawn unrhyw sylwadau ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn.

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

*38, New Road,
Gwaun-cae-Gurwen
Ammanford
Carmarthenshire
SA18 1UN
01269 826397*

*82, Henfaes Road
Tonna
Neath
SA11 3EX
01639 412708*

www.trysor.net

enquiries@trysor.net

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

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 a partner in Trysor since 2004 undertaking a variety of work that includes upland survey, desk-based assessments, heritage impact assessments, setting assessments and watching briefs.

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 has been a partner in Trysor since 2004 undertaking a variety of work including upland survey, desk-based assessments, heritage impact assessments, setting assessments and watching briefs.

Event Record PRN – Heneb - CPA HER

PRN	Heneb – CPA 218165
Name	Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey, Abermule, SY15 6JP Planning Application 24/0468/FUL
Type	HERITAGE ASSESSMENT
NGR	SO1638895292
Easting	316388
Northing	295292
Summary (English)	During June 2024 Trysor carried out an assessment of the impact of a proposed agricultural building at Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey, Abermule, SY15 6JP on the setting and significance of the scheduled monument. Planning application 24/0468/FUL (Powys). © Trysor 2024
Crynodeb (Cymraeg)	Yn ystod Mehefin 2024 cynhaliodd Trysor asesiad o effaith adeilad amaethyddol arfaethedig ar Gastell Mwnt a Beili Bryn Derwen, Aber-miwl, SY15 6JP ar osodiad ac arwyddocâd yr heneb gofrestredig. Cais cynllunio 24/0468/FUL (Powys). Trysor 2024
Description	During June 2024 Trysor carried out an assessment of the impact of a proposed agricultural building at Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey, Abermule, SY15 6JP on the setting and significance of the scheduled monument. Planning application 24/0468/FUL (Powys). © Trysor 2024
Sources	<i>Trysor, 2024, Impact on Setting and Significance relating to a Proposed Agricultural Building and Access Track Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey, Abermule, SY15 6JP Planning Application 24/0468/FUL</i>
Copyright	© Trysor 2024

Contents

Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
2. The Proposed Development Site	5
3. Methodology	6
4. Impacts on Setting Stage 1	7
5. Impacts on Setting Stage 2	8
6. Impacts on Setting Stage 3	14
7. Impacts on Setting Stage 4	16
8. Bibliography	17
Appendix A: Photographs	18
Appendix B: Setting Assessment Notes Stages 2 & 3 Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Scheduled Monument, MG054	27

Summary

This report is an assessment of potential impacts on the setting and any resulting impact on the significance of the Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey scheduled monument, MG054 from a proposed agricultural building centred on SO1638895292.

Due to the built-up nature of the surrounding landscape, Cadw did not require the assessment to include designated historic assets further afield. A full assessment for the mound and bailey was undertaken following current Cadw guidance "Managing Setting of Historic Assets in Wales" (Cadw, 2017).

This demonstrates that the significance of the monument is drawn chiefly from its Evidential Value, with Moderate value coming from its Aesthetic (with regard to its setting) and Communal Values. It currently has a Low Historic Value due to the paucity of information relating to the origin, development and form of the monument.

The proposed agricultural building near Bryn Derwen would have an Unknown impact on the Evidential Value and a Moderate impact on the Aesthetic Value of the monument. The Communal Value would be maintained as Moderate.

With regard to the Evidential Value, the location of the development adjacent to the scheduled area indicates there may be archaeological potential. Accordingly, some mitigation should be considered, such as archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks as outlined by Heneb-CPA.

With regard to the Aesthetic Value of the monument it is suggested it is suggested that the building is finished in a dark green, using non-reflective or matt coatings, including the roofing, walling and doors. This would reduce the visual impact of the structure considerably and reduce the impact on the Aesthetic Value of the monument to Low-Moderate.

The proposed development would cause a Moderate impact on the setting of the monument, but this could be reduced to Low-Moderate with mitigation. There would be no impact on the significance of the historic asset from impacts to its setting.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Trysor, at the request of Gareth Pugh, Agrimont Depot, Station Yard, Abermule, Montgomery SY15 6NH, on behalf of their client, to assess the impact on the setting and significance of a nationally-important historic asset, Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Scheduled Monument, MG054 from a proposed agricultural building centred on SO1638895292, just north of the scheduled site in Abermule, Powys, see Figures 1 & 2.
- 1.2 The proposed development is an agricultural building and a crushed stone access track. The access track lies within the scheduled area of the Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey for which Scheduled Monument Consent has been already granted, with conditions. The impact on setting of the access track was considered by Cadw when assessing the Scheduled Monument Consent application and the track is not further considered here.
- 1.3 A field visit was made by Trysor to the proposed location of the development, and the surrounding area, on 18th June 2024 to examine the development site and its surroundings.
- 1.4 A planning application, 24/0468/FUL, was submitted on 5th April 2024 and validated by the local planning authority on 12th April 2024.
- 1.5 In response to the planning application, in a letter dated April 24th, 2024, Cadw stated that an assessment of the impact of the proposed agricultural building on the setting of Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle, MG054, should be prepared by a competent and qualified historic environment expert, in accordance with the methodology outlined in the Welsh Government's best-practice guidance *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017)*. Cadw stated that they should be reconsulted once an assessment was available.
- 1.6 Trysor was commissioned to undertake this assessment on 18th June 2024.



Figure 1: Location of the development and the scheduled Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle.



Figure 2: Detail of the location of the development, showing the agricultural building as well as the access track/hardstanding, and the scheduled Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle.

2. The Proposed Development Site

- 2.1 This is an application for planning for the erection of an agricultural building and construction of a crushed stone track to the building from the road to the south.
- 2.2 The proposed agricultural building will stand at approximately 94 metres AOD on a level area above the eastern bank of the River Severn, adjacent to and west of the gardens and buildings of Bryn Derwen farmstead.
- 2.3 The proposed agricultural building would be accessed via a newly constructed farm track which will approach it from the southeast, linking it to the B4386 road, some 180 metres to the south.

3. Methodology

3.1 This document assesses the impact on the setting and significance of Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle, MG054 from a proposed agricultural building centred on SO1638895292 in Abermule, Powys.

3.1.1 The process outlined in "Setting of Historic Assets in Wales" (Cadw, 2017) has been followed in order to assess impacts on the setting of the historic asset and any impacts on its significance.

3.1.2 This process has four stages;

Stage 1: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.

Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and in particular the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

Stage 4: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

4. Impacts on Setting Stage 1: *Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.*

- 4.1 Cadw identified the setting of Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle scheduled monument, MG054, as potentially affected by the development. The site is recorded in the National Monuments Record under NPRN 306217 and in the regional Historic Environment Record under PRN 151.
- 4.2 A full assessment of the settings of the Bryn Derwen Mound & Bailey Castle and the impacts on its settings and significance from the proposed development is the subject of the rest of this report, with detailed commentary notes in Appendix B.

5. Impacts on Setting Stage 2: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

5.1.1 The significance of an historic asset is derived from the sum of four heritage values according to *Conservation Principles (Cadw, 2011, p.10)*. These four values are:

- Evidential value
- Historical value
- Aesthetic value
- Communal value

5.1.2 *Conservation Principles* outlines that setting is part of the Aesthetic Value (Cadw, 2011, p.10, section 2.3 and p.17 *Aesthetic Value*).

5.1.3 Guidance on assessing the setting of historic assets was introduced in 2017 (Cadw, 2017). Cadw states that: *Setting is not itself a historic asset, though land within a setting may contain other historic assets. The importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of a historic asset.* (Cadw, 2017, p.2, Section 1, second para).

5.1.4 In section 5.2 and 5.3 below, the setting and significance of Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle, MG054, are assessed.

5.2 Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle (MG054) (see Appendix B for more detail of setting)

- 5.2.1 **Historic Setting:** There is no documented history relating to the origins and period of occupation of this medieval castle site (Spurgeon, 1968, p.19). It is thought likely to date to the time of early Norman incursions into the Severn Valley, launched by Roger de Montgomery, the Earl of Shrewsbury during the 1070s AD. Bryn Derwen is thought to belong to a chain of mound and bailey castles which were built on the southeastern side of the River Severn representing the initial extent of the Norman advance, creating a defensible border with the Welsh-controlled lands to the west.
- 5.2.2 The condition of the castle makes it a difficult monument to interpret. There is no evidence that a stone castle was ever built here, which would suggest that it fell out of use quite quickly, certainly before the 13th century, by which time stone was increasing being used. There is no mention of an existing castle at Abermule when Llywelyn ap Gruffydd of Gwynedd was laying plans to build a new castle (Dolforwyn) near Abermule in 1273 (Spurgeon, 1968, p.40).
- 5.2.3 Bryn Derwen castle is situated in a slightly elevated position, about 94 Metres above sea level, above the eastern bank of the River Severn. From this location there would have been good views across the river and also along the valley to the northeast and southwest. The castle effectively sat on a natural platform overlooking the river, making it a defensible site surrounded by lower ground, with the river passing close to the west.
- 5.2.4 The relationship between the River Severn and its valley seems to be a key factor in understanding the setting of the castle, which is believed to have been one in a chain of early Norman castles built along the eastern side of the valley to protect lands to the east, newly won from the Welsh in the late 11th century (Spurgeon, 1968, p.2). It is likely that the castle was located here to guard a section of the valley, and possibly monitor a crossing point on the river.
- 5.2.5 It seems likely that the key views from the castle are those which were gained directly across the valley, where a minor tributary valley runs down to the Severn at Dolforwyn, creating a break in the hills forming the western side of the Severn Valley. The view up this minor valley from Bryn Derwen castle may be significant.
- 5.2.6 It is also likely that the views to the north and south along the Severn Valley were also important, although these were not long views. The Zone of Theoretical Visibility extends for less than a

kilometre in either direction. This may suggest that the direct view across the river or over a ford across the Severn were greater considerations.

- 5.2.5 The castle is likely to have been abandoned during the 12th century and became a relict feature in the landscape. It may have been used as a quarry source for road building by the 18th or early 19th century as a local tradition has it that the motte or mound was removed to supply stone for road building (Spurgeon, 1968, 19).
- 5.2.6 During early post-medieval times the landscape around the castle would have been rural in character, with only a scattering of farms and cottages in the area. One of these was Bryn Derwen farm, which appears to have been built on the northern end of the castle bailey before the 19th century. The turnpike road between Newtown and Welshpool was built in the later 18th century and ran through Abermule, to the east of the castle, turning west to bridge the River Severn to the north of Bryn Derwen farm. Before the Oswestry and Newtown Railway was built through the area in 1860, the road was diverted to cross the Severn via a new bridge to the south of the castle site. This bridging point remains in use today.
- 5.2.7 The railway was provided with a station at Abermule and this caused some growth in the village, the historic core of which lies at the southern end of the modern settlement.
- 5.2.8 **Modern Setting:** During the later 20th century and early 21st century Abermule has grown considerably, with several housing estates added to the north of its historic core, now extending as far north as the land adjacent to the east of Bryn Derwen mound and bailey site. In terms of its modern setting, the castle appears to be associated with the village which can be seen from its ramparts on lower ground to the south and east. This is a purely modern phenomenon, however, as there is no evidence that there was any settlement associated with the castle when it was in use.
- 5.2.9 In the modern landscape, the castle is not a prominent feature, as its rather denuded condition and elevated position mean that it is not prominent in ground views. It is best viewed in aerial views or LiDAR imagery.
- 5.2.10 The probable site of the castle bailey is thought to extend to the north east of the main castle ramparts. This area is now partially obscured by the buildings of Bryn Derwen farm, with the area adjacent to the ramparts maintained as a large mown grassy area, separated from Bryn Derwen farmhouse by a high and well-

maintained garden hedge. The upper parts of the farmhouse and farm buildings at Bryn Derwen are visible over this hedge from the main castle enclosure.

- 5.2.11 The sloping field to the south of the main castle enclosure is an area of pasture which had been mown at the time of the site visit. The RCAHMW believe that an outer bailey may have been attached to this side of the castle (RCAHMW, 1911, 77).
- 5.2.12 At the time of the site visit, the interior of the castle it was largely covered in long grass, with some mature deciduous trees and smaller thorn trees growing on the ramparts of the castle enclosure, particularly to the east, west and north sides. These trees give something of a sense of seclusion within the heart of the monument, although houses are still visible over the ramparts to the south and east.
- 5.2.13 The modern views of the River Severn are truncated to the north and south by mature trees. The floor of the valley is largely out of sight and within 100 metres in either direction, trees screen views of the adjacent valley.
- 5.2.14 It is likely that views across the river were particularly important when the castle was built. Today there is still a good view from the western side of the castle down to the river itself, though the far bank is now tree-lined, which screens views of the immediately adjacent landscape beyond. The valley slopes rise above these trees and are themselves generally thickly wooded.



Figure 2: The 1839 Llandysul parish tithe map shows Brynderwen Farm but does not map the castle, which occupies the area of the curved woodland parcels to the left of Brynderwen in the image. Field Parcels 626, 627 and 629 are simply called "Piecce by the House" (Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru – The National Library of Wales).

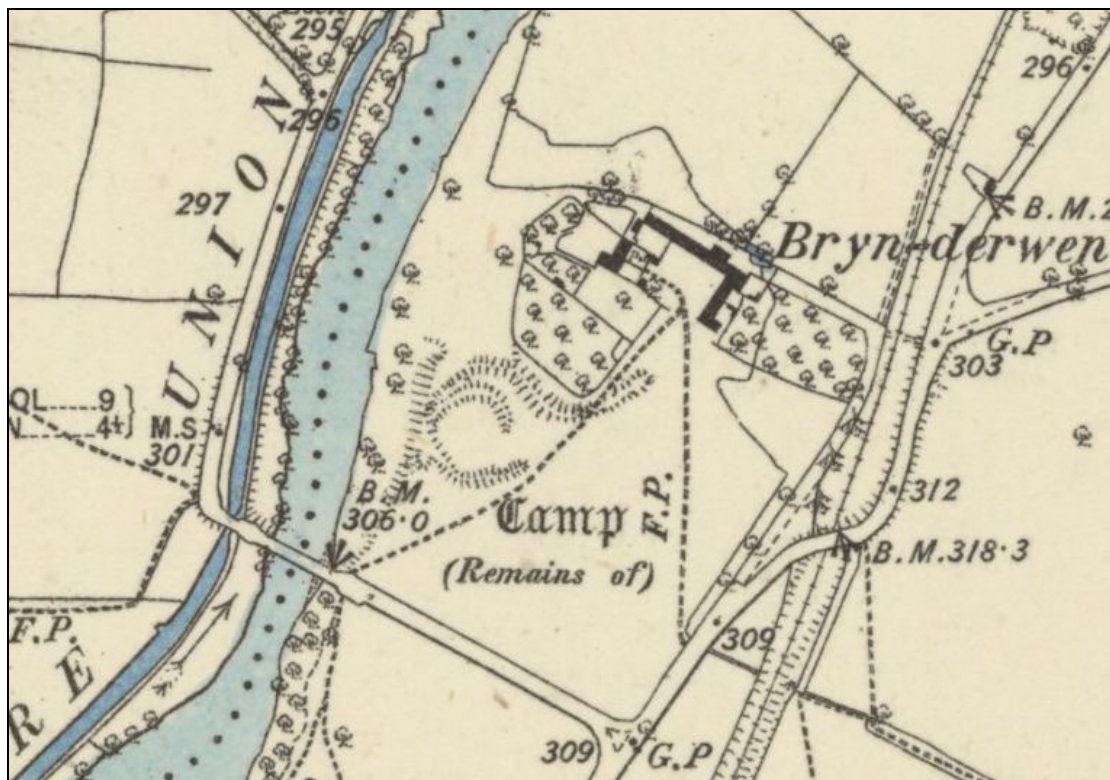


Figure 3: The 1885 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 scale map shows the castle relatively well. It shows the upstanding earthworks which can still be seen today, but does not map the whole of the monument, which may extend further northeast and southwest as buried archaeological features. (Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland).

5.3 The significance of the mound and bailey castle are drawn from its four values.

5.3.1 Evidential value: The physical earthworks are visible in the landscape, but are complex and difficult to interpret, possibly due to historical damage caused by quarrying/robbing. The complexity may be deepened by multiple, short-lived phases of development. It is likely that there is significant buried archaeology at this site. The Evidential Value for this monument is High.

5.3.2 Historical value: There are no historic accounts relating to the foundation and use of the castle. Since the 19th century there has been some antiquarian and archaeological interest. However, no archaeological excavations have been undertaken, no modern topographical surveys or geophysical surveys have been carried out. To date there is no definitive interpretation of the complex and partial remains of this monument. The published descriptions of the monument conflict in many respects, with no clear agreement about the location of the motte or mound, the bailey or how the monument came to be in the condition that it is in. The Historical Value for this monument is Low.

5.3.3 Aesthetic value: Apart from archaeological site plans or Ordnance Survey mapping, there are no published representations of this monument. In modern times there has been some photography undertaken including some aerial photographs, but these do not greatly assist in the understanding and interpretation of the monument. The most important element contributing to the aesthetic value of the castle is its setting in the landscape. It retains its relationship with the low, elevated site it was built on and views of the surrounding ground are still possible. It also retains its close link to the River Severn, which it overlooks to the west. To the north and west the landscape is largely wooded and undeveloped, although the busy A483 does bring the intrusion of traffic noise into the environment. To the east and south the modern housing developments of Abermule have changed the landscape and encroached into close proximity to the monument. The Aesthetic Value is Moderate.

5.3.4 Communal value: There is no formal public access to this privately owned monument. Informally, the landowner does allow local people and the village school to use the site as an outdoor space. There is no on-site interpretation of the monument or signage. The Communal Value is therefore Moderate.

6. Impacts on Setting Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

6.1 Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle, Scheduled Monument MG054 (see Appendix B for more detail of setting)

6.1.1 The Bryn Derwen castle site is a poorly understood monument in many ways. It has no documented history and it is not clear what its original layout or form was. The possibility might even be entertained that the castle was never in fact completed and that the remains are those of an unfinished fortification. Despite being categorised as a motte or mound and bailey castle, there is no clear understanding of where the motte or castle mound was located. Traces of earthwork outworks to the southwest and northeast of the central enclosure also suggest that the monument was much more extensive than is presently apparent. It appears that the bailey enclosure was to the northeast and is now overlain in part by the buildings of Bryn Derwen farm, but there may have been another enclosure extending almost to the road to the southwest.

6.1.2 The uncertainty surrounding the character of the monument make any assessment of impact on its significance relatively complex exercise. It has to take the impact on setting into account as well as the impacts on the four heritage values overall (the Evidential, Historic, Aesthetic, and Communal values).

6.1.3 The proposed development includes the creation of a new access track to the proposed building. This track would run from the B4386 road to the south, along the eastern edge of the field parcel south of the castle (possible the area of an outer bailey), then turning west to run along the outside the rampart of the main castle enclosure, to reach the proposed building. Cadw have previously given Scheduled Monument Consent for the creation of this track and have stated that;

"The introduction of the track itself will have a visual impact on the monument as a new feature within the field it but will be of a common agricultural type, following the topography of the site and running immediately alongside modern boundary fences, that to the north over 1.5m high and of semi-industrial appearance. The division between the enclosure and the bank to the north-east has already been established by the existing property boundary. In my view the track will therefore have a minor to moderate impact on the aesthetic value of the monument as it will be peripheral to and will not significantly affect the layout of the earthworks, or the overall experience of the site. Visual impacts will be offset by proposed improvements elsewhere on the site through the removal

of encroaching scrub and damaging saplings from the earthworks, enabling them to be more easily viewed. The applicant allows the field/monument to be used by locals and the village school as an outdoor space. The proposed works will therefore also have some communal benefits by making the earthworks more visible and aiding its continued management by grazing.” (Cadw Inspector, Will Davies, 31/5/2023).

- 6.1.4 With regard to the proposed building, for clarity, the potential impacts on each of the four heritage values can be analysed separately.
- 6.1.5 The **Evidential Value** has been assessed to be High. The construction of the proposed building would take place outside the scheduled area and also outside the recognisable extent of the monument. There may, however, still be archaeological evidence associated with the castle in this area and it should be stated that the proposed development site has archaeological potential. The impact on the Evidential Value is therefore Unknown.
- 6.1.6 The **Historic Value** has been assessed to be Low. The development will occur outside the scheduled monument and castle and will not change its history. The impact on the Historic Value is None.
- 6.1.7 The **Aesthetic Value** has been assessed to be Moderate. The proposed building would partially block the view northwards up the Severn Valley, although that is already truncated by trees in the modern setting. It would not impact views in other directions, including the important view of, and across, the River Severn. It would also be visible from within the monument when looking north. It would also be partially visible from the B4386 road to the southwest. The impact on the Aesthetic Value is therefore Moderate.
- 6.1.8 The **Communal Value** has been assessed to be Moderate. Trysor concur with Cadw’s finding that the proposed development will bring improved access to the monument, bringing the site under management. The impact on the Community Value is therefore positive, but it would remain Moderate.

7. Impacts on Setting Stage 4: *If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.*

7.1 Bryn Derwen Mound and Bailey Castle, Scheduled Monument MG054 (see Appendix B for more detail of setting)

7.1.1 It has been established that the proposed development of a new agricultural building at Bryn Derwen castle would have an Unknown impact on the Evidential Value and a Moderate impact on the Aesthetic Value of the monument.

7.1.2 In terms of impacts on the Evidential Value, the fact that the location of the development lies outside the monument and the scheduled area does not mean that there may not be archaeological potential at that site. Therefore, some archaeological mitigation should be considered, such as archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks or an archaeological evaluation in advance of development.

7.1.3 With regards to impacts on the Aesthetic Value of the monument, the proposed building will be visible from within the monument and from the B4386 road to the south. It will however be visible from those directions against the background of dark, evergreen trees. In mitigation, it is suggested that the building is finished in a dark green, using non-reflective or matt coatings, including the roofing, walling and doors. This would reduce the visual impact of the structure considerably and reduce the impact on the Aesthetic Value of the monument to Low-Moderate.

8. Bibliography

Cadw, 2011, *Conservation Principles*

Cadw, 2017, *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*

CIfA, 2020, *Standards and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment*

RCAHMW, 1911, *Inventory of Ancient Monuments of Wales and Monmouthshire - County of Montgomery*, p.77, no 386

Spurgeon, C. J., 1968, "The castles of Montgomeryshire" in *The Montgomeryshire Collections for the years 1965-1966: Vol. 59: 1-59*.

Clark, GT, 1877, *The Moated Mounds of the Upper Severn Collections Historical and Archaeological relating to Montgomeryshire and its Borders, Vol X, p.342-343*

8.1 Map sources

Ordnance Survey, 1817, Original Surveyors Drawings, 2 inch to 1 mile, Sheet 198, Newtown

Ordnance Survey, 1885, First Edition 1:10560 scale, Sheet number Glamorganshire XXXVII.NW

Llandysul Parish Tithe Map and Apportionment, 1839

8.2 Data Sources

Cadw, Scheduled Ancient Monument all-Wales dataset, downloaded January 2024

LiDAR, DataMapWales, 1st March 2023

APPENDIX A Photographs



Figure 7: Location of photographs.



Plate 1: BDR2024_001. A view towards Bryn Derwen Mound & Bailey from the road to the south. A new entrance for the access track would be created right of centre in this image. The roof of the proposed building would be visible in front of the trees arrowed in red. Looking north.



Plate 2: BDR2024_002. A view along the route of the proposed new access track, which would run inside the field boundary to the right. Looking north-northeast.



Plate 3: BDR2024_003. A view along the route of the proposed new access track, which would run to the hedge at the centre of the image and turn left. Looking north-northeast.



Plate 4: BDR2024_004. A view along the route of the proposed new access track, which would run to the right of the fence seen here, along the outside of the earthwork representing the north rampart of the castle. Looking east-southeast.



Plate 5: BDR2024_005. A view from the northern rampart of the castle, looking towards Bryn Derwen farm. The proposed access trackway would run in front of the line of the fence in the foreground. Looking north-northeast.



Plate 6: BDR2024_006. A view towards the proposed site of the new building, which would stand to the left of the fence on the level area at the centre of the image. Looking north.



Plate 7: BDR2024_007. A view from 4 metres above ground, taken using a camera pole. The proposed new building would stand in the foreground and the access track would run along the fence to the left. Note the modern housing in Abermule which has appeared close to the monument in modern times. Looking south-southeast.



Plate 8: BDR2024_008. A view across the site of the proposed new building, with the castle site beyond and the roofs of modern houses in Abermule in the distance. Looking south-southwest.



Plate 9: BDR2024_009. A view towards the site of the proposed new building at the centre of the image, looking from the centre of the castle site. Looking north-northeast.



Plate 10: BDR2024_010. A view towards Abermule village, looking from the centre of the castle site. Note the well-preserved ramparts defining the southern edge of the monument. Looking south-southeast.



Plate 11: BDR2024_011. A view towards the site of the proposed new building at the centre of the image, looking from the rampart defining the southern edge of the castle site. Looking north.



Plate 12: BDR2024_012. A view towards Abermule village, looking from the rampart defining the southern edge of the monument. Looking south-southwest.



Plate 13: BDR2024_013. A view towards the castle site from the field to the south of the monument, near the road bridge over the River Severn. The proposed new building would not be visible from this position. Modern houses are in view to the right. The break of slope across the middle of the image appears to be an outwork of the castle. Looking northeast.



Plate 14: BDR2024_014. A view across the River Severn from the western rampart of the castle. Looking west-southwest.

APPENDIX B

SETTING ASSESSMENT NOTES
STAGES 2 & 3

BRYN-DERWEN
MOUND & BAILEY CASTLE
Scheduled Monument MG054

Bryn-Derwen Mound & Bailey Castle MG054

Stage 2: How do the present surroundings contribute to our understanding and appreciation of the historic asset today?

Thinking about when the historic asset was first built and developed:

<p>Origins of the historic asset</p>	<p>There is no documented history relating to the origins and period of occupation of this medieval castle site. It is thought likely to date to the time of early Norman incursions into the Severn Valley, launched by Roger de Montgomery, the Earl of Shrewsbury during the 1070s AD. Bryn Derwen is thought to belong to a chain of motte, or mound, and bailey castles which were built to the southeastern side of the River Severn are thought to represent the initial extent of the Norman advance, creating a defensible border with the Welsh-controlled lands to the west.</p> <p>The condition of the castle makes it a difficult monument to interpret. There is no evidence that a stone castle was ever built here, which would suggest that it fell out of use quite quickly, certainly before the 13th century, by when stone was increasingly being used. There is no mention of an existing castle at Abermule when Llywelyn ap Gruffydd of Gwynedd was laying plans to build a new castle (Dolforwyn) near Abermule in 1273.</p>
<p>What were its physical, functional and visual relationships with other structures/historic assets and natural features?</p>	<p>The site of the castle appears to have been chosen as it is a slightly elevated position rising above the eastern bank of the River Severn, from where there would have been good views across the river and also along the valley to the northeast and southwest. The castle effectively sat on a natural platform overlooking the river therefore, making it a defensible site surrounded by lower ground, with the river passing close to the west. It must be assumed that the castle would have been a prominent feature in the local landscape when in use. It is not known if there was a fording or bridging point across</p>

	the Severn in this area in medieval times which might have been protected by the castle.
What topographic or earlier features influenced its location?	It seems likely that a position close to the River Severn was sought, and this location offered an elevated site immediately above the eastern side of the riverbank.
What was its relationship to the surrounding landscape/streetscape?	It appears likely that the castle occupied this slightly elevated position which allowed it to have good views over the immediate landscape in all directions, with a dominant view over the adjacent section of the River Severn to the west. The castle would have been a prominent feature in view of anyone passing along this section of the valley.
Was it constructed to take advantage of significant views or to be a part of a significant view? Although there may be a 360 degree view, some areas of the view may be more significant than others.	As above. It is not known if a view over a fording or bridging point across the river was a factor, but that is possible.
Has its function or use changed?	Yes. The castle is likely to have been abandoned during the 12 th century and became a relict feature in the landscape. It may have been used as a quarry source for road building by the 18 th or early 19 th century as a local tradition has it that the motte or mound was removed to supply stone for road building.
What changes have happened to the surrounding landscape/streetscape?	During early post-medieval times the landscape around the castle would have been rural in character, with only a scattering of farms and cottages in the area. One of these was Bryn Derwen farm, which appears to have been built on the northern end of the castle bailey before the 19 th century. The turnpike road between Newtown and Welshpool was built in the later 18 th century and ran through Abermule, to the east of the castle, turning west to bridge the River Severn to the north of Bryn Derwen farm.

	<p>When the Oswestry and Newtown Railway was built through the area in 1860, the road was amended to cross the Severn via a new bridge to the south of the castle site. This bridging point remains in use today. The railway was provided with a station at Abermule and this caused some growth in the village, the historic core of which lies at the southern end of the modern settlement. During the later 20th century and early 21st century Abermule has grown considerably, with several housing estates added to the north of its historic core, now extending as far north as the land adjacent to the east of Bryn Derwen mound and bailey site.</p>
<p>Have changes happened because of changes to the historic asset or to its historical setting?</p>	<p>The changes have occurred due to the growth of the settlement, changing the setting of the monument.</p>
<p>Has the presence of the historic asset influenced changes to the landscape, for example, where a monument has been used as a marker in the layout of a field enclosure?</p>	<p>The fact that the monument is scheduled, and that the scheduled area extends to the road to the south has restricted residential developments at the northern end of Abermule to the land to the east of the castle.</p>
<p>Has the presence of the historic asset influenced the character of the surrounding landscape /streetscape?</p>	<p>Not particularly. It has not prevented road and rail developments or the expansion of the village, or the development of Bryn Derwen farm across part of the site.</p>
<p>Have historic and designed views to and from the historic asset changed</p>	<p>Yes. The spread of housing in Abermule village has brought development into view to the south and east of the castle. Bryn Derwen farm is an older development, but is visible from the northern edge of the castle. The later 19th century road to the south is also visible.</p>

Thinking about the original layout of the historic asset and its relationship to its associated landscape:	
<p>Were these relationships designed or accidental?</p> <p>How did these relationships change over time?</p>	<p>The castle site was deliberately chosen as it offered a defensible position and good viewpoint over the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Once the castle was abandoned it became a relict feature and has been softened by erosion and vegetation, possibly also suffering from the robbing of material from the centre of the monument.</p>
<p>How do these relationships appear in the current landscape; are they visual or buried features?</p>	<p>The relationship is largely visual as the castle earthworks are still recognisable in their elevated position adjacent to the river. The castle site also still overlooks the river and the surrounding lower ground, although trees growing around the margins of the monument do block some views from and towards the monument. The most undisturbed views of the monument are gained from within its ramparts.</p>
<p>• Are there other significant factors, such as historical, artistic, literary, place name or scenic associations, intellectual relationships (for example, to a theory, plan or design), or other non-visual factors such as sounds or smells that can be vital to understand the historic asset and its setting?</p>	<p>There are no historical, artistic or literary associations to the castle, other than 19th and 20th century antiquarian descriptions and plans.</p>

Stage 2 should also identify the viewpoints from which the impact of the proposed change or development should be assessed, taking into account, for example:	
● views to, from and across the historic asset that were designed and developed when the historic asset was first created – for example, in the case of a defensive or ritual structure	<p>It is not possible to know which views towards the castle were significant when it was in use. There are no contemporary buildings or sites known in the vicinity. Neighbouring castles such as Cefn Bryn Talch and Dolforwyn are theoretically intervisible, but aren't contemporary as they are of a later date. It is reasonable to assume that the castle would have been a prominent feature when in use, when viewed from surrounding lower ground or the opposite side of the river, due to its elevated position which would have undoubtedly been kept free of trees and shrubs.</p> <p>It is likely that the castle enjoyed general views across the surrounding lower ground in all directions when in use. The view across the river and along the adjacent valley floor may be thought to have been particularly significant if the castle was one in a line of fortifications designed to protect the Severn as the boundary between Norman-controlled lands and the Welsh-controlled lands to the west.</p>
● views to, from and across the historic asset which are linked with a time in its history - for example, a historic artistic depiction of the site	<p>There are no known historic depictions of the castle.</p>
● important modern views to, from and across the historic asset – for example, popular visitor viewing points.	<p>There are no popular viewing points of the castle. Significantly, there are no photographs of the site on Geograph and the only online images of the site are limited to those taken by archaeologists or castle enthusiasts. As it is a site on a slight elevation and not now highly visible and without public access, its profile is very low.</p>

Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of change or development.			
POSSIBLE IMPACT	COMMENT	IMPACT ON SETTING	IMPACT ON SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HISTORIC ASSET
<p>The visual impact of the proposed change or development relative to the scale and location of the historic asset and its setting</p>	<p>The proposed building will be situated to the north of the castle, just outside the scheduled area. It will stand in an area where there are no other buildings and on a line of view towards the north, up the valley, against a backdrop of some coniferous trees at Bryn Derwen farm and wooded slopes in the distance on the opposite side of the valley. It would be a building of modest proportions, 18 metres x 9 metres and standing 6.7 metres high to its ridge.</p>	<p>Moderate.</p> <p>The scale and proximity of the proposed building would have a Moderate impact on the Aesthetic Value of the monument as it would partially block the view northwards up the valley. It would also be visible from within the monument, looking north, as well as from the road to the southwest.</p>	<p>The significance of the monument is largely drawn from its Evidential Value, which is High. Any information gained from a watching brief on groundworks would improve the Evidential Value and potentially the Historic Value of the monument.</p> <p>The scale and proximity of the proposed building would impact on the Aesthetic Value of the monument, which is moderate. This would be a Moderate impact.</p> <p>The Communal Value could be increased from Moderate to High with improved access.</p> <p>The proposed development would not impact on the Significance of the</p>

			monument.
Whether the proposed change or development would dominate the historic asset or detract from our ability to understand and appreciate it – for example, its functional or physical relationship with the surrounding landscape and associated structures and/ or buried remains	<p>The proposed building will stand just to the north of the monument on relatively high ground and would be visible from the northern edge of the monument.</p> <p>The roof of the building would be visible from the road to the south of the castle. It would be partially visible from within the castle itself when looking north, as the upper part of the building would be in view. It would also be visible from the southern rampart defining the monument when looking north.</p>	<p>Moderate.</p> <p>The scale and proximity of the proposed building would impact on the Aesthetic Value of the monument as it would be visible in views of and within the monument. The proposed building would be viewed on slightly higher ground in some views from inside the monument, looking north, but would be seen against the background of mature coniferous trees.</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>The proposed development would not impact on the Significance of the monument.</p>
The presence, extent, character and scale of the existing built environment within the surroundings of the historic asset and how the proposed change or development compares with this	<p>There are modern housing developments close to the castle site, to the east and south. The modern farmstead at Bryn Derwen lies close to the north.</p>	<p>Moderate.</p> <p>The proposed development is minor in scale to the existing developments. It is an agricultural building which is in keeping, though smaller, than the buildings at the adjacent Bryn Derwen farm.</p>	<p>As above.</p> <p>The proposed development would not impact on the Significance of the monument.</p>
The lifespan of the proposed	<p>Long term. The building and track</p>	<p>None. The site could be cleared</p>	<p>None.</p>

change or development and whether or not the impact might be reversible	could be removed, leaving only a slight trace of their existence.	of the development in future if it fell out of use.	
The extent of tree cover, whether it is deciduous or evergreen, and its likely longevity	<p>The are scattered deciduous trees around and on the monument.</p> <p>There are some conifers to the north towards Bryn Derwen Farm. These currently block the view northwards and would be a backdrop to the new building when viewed from the south.</p>	<p>None.</p> <p>There are no proposals to remove existing trees or add any.</p> <p>Maintain the conifer stand to the north of the proposed building.</p>	None.
The impact of artificial lighting – for example, on night-time views	There would be no artificial lighting at the development site.	None	None.
The capability of a landscape setting to absorb change or new development without the erosion of its key characteristics	There are buildings in view to the north, east and south of the monument, but the proposed building would be on undeveloped land and would change views northwards from the monument, which are currently dominated by wooded hills along the Severn Valley.	<p>Low</p> <p>The proposal brings a new structure into close proximity to the monument and in an area which is currently undeveloped.</p>	None.
The impact of the	The proposal would	Moderate	None.

<p>proposed change or development on non-visual elements of the setting and character of the historic asset, such as sense of remoteness, evocation of the historical past, sense of place, cultural identity or spiritual responses</p>	<p>bring an agricultural building and a focus of pastoral activity into a presently undeveloped location. This would change the character of the location.</p>		
<p>The impact of non-visual elements of the proposed change or development, such as the removal or addition of noises and smell</p>	<p>There would be a focus of activity such as sheep grazing, sheep feeding and farm vehicles accessing the proposed building.</p>	<p>None Grazing animals and farm machinery can already make use of this land.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>The cumulative effect of the proposed change or development – sometimes relatively small changes, or a series of small changes, can have a major impact on our ability to understand, appreciate and experience a historic asset.</p>	<p>This would be a single building and there would be no cumulative effect.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None.</p>