

Kenson River Restoration Written Scheme of Investigation for a Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment

Draft

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Contract

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This report describes work commissioned by Natural Resources Wales, by an instruction dated 19/02/2025. The Client's representative for the contract was Serena Ashdown of Natural Resources Wales. Lauren Womersley of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Site Location and Description	1
3	Aims, Objectives and Methodology	1
	3.1 Methodology for a desk-based assessment	2
	3.2 Site Visit	2
	3.3 Report Production	2
	3.4 Archiving	3
4	Staff	3
5	Quality Assurance	3
6	Health and Safety	4
7	Further Information	4
8	References	4
A	Appendix	A-1
	A.1 Figures	A-1

Abbreviations

BGS	British Geological Survey
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
DBA	Desk-Based Assessment
HER	Historic Environment Record
LiDAR	Light Detection And Ranging
NGR	National Grid Reference
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
RCAHMW	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monument of Wales
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

1 Introduction

The following document provides a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) for the proposed river restoration scheme at the River Kenson, Fonmon, Vale of Glamorgan, South Wales, Barry CF62 3ZN. This WSI has been prepared by Lauren Womersley of JBA Consulting on behalf of Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The WSI has been prepared in line with the requirements in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA 2020a).

2 Site Location and Description

The proposed works include a range of river restoration measures along the River Kenson located between approximately NGRs ST 03348 67797 and ST 05169 68719 (herein referred to as 'the Site'). The underlying geology of the Site is part of the Porthkerry Member - Limestone and mudstone, interbedded. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 201.3 and 190.8 million years ago during the Jurassic period. Superficial deposits of Alluvium - Clay, silt, sand and gravel formed between 11.8 thousand years ago and the present during the Quaternary period, and Head - Clay, silt, sand and gravel formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period are also recorded (BDS 2025).

3 Aims, Objectives and Methodology

The main objective will be to assess any impacts the works could have on the historic environment through a DBA. Archaeological data sources will be examined in order to identify heritage features within the locality of the Site, their significance and the potential impacts the works could have upon them. The assessment will include a thorough examination of regional context and will help to inform future decision making and recommend any necessary mitigations.

The work will also include the following:

- Site visit
- Archive visit

- Figures contained within the report
- Supporting photographs from the site visit

3.1 Methodology for a desk-based assessment

A 500m buffer around the Site location will be utilised as the basis for the study area considered in the DBA (Figure 1).

The DBA will incorporate the following:

The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological assets within the study area. This will be carried out through assessment of readily available resources detailed below:

- The collation and examination of relevant information within Cadw, The National Monuments Record/Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), and the local Historic Environment Record (HER) to understand designated and non-designated assets within the Site;
- Utilisation of available reports to gather information on the study area and its setting;
- Map regression analysis using the National Library of Scotland, the Genealogists and any other available resources;
- Aerial photographs, plans, LiDAR data;
- Place name evidence; and
- Historic documents.

3.2 Site Visit

A site visit will be undertaken as an element of the DBA comprising a walkover of the proposed area of works. The ground surface will be visually inspected for any upstanding earthworks, structures and archaeological features, both known and unknown. The locations of any archaeological features will be photographed and recorded. The results will be written up in a section of the DBA detailing the site visit, what features were viewed and their setting. Relevant photographs will also be included, either in the text or as an appendix and will be captioned and referenced appropriately.

3.3 Report Production

A DBA will be produced providing information on the archaeological context within the area of the Site. the report will be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance and planning policies (ClfA 2020a, 2021). The report will include illustrations showing archaeological assets within the area alongside text detailing what is known regarding the assets. The historic development of the Site will be outlined using historic mapping, clearly showing the boundary of the Site. all data, photographs and historic mapping used for the production of the report will be fully referenced. The report will include the following:

- Summary description - provided in English and Welsh
- An introduction to the report
- A brief description of the site location (including grid references)
- A description of the geology and ground conditions
- A description of the proposed works
- Legislative and policy context
- Information on the sources consulted
- The assessment methodology
- Baseline, including description of designated and non-designated assets and their setting, historic mapping analysis
- An assessment of the significance of the assets within the study area
- An impact assessment based on the proposed works
- A conclusion with any necessary recommendations for further work
- References and bibliography of all sources used
- An appendix containing site photographs and figures produced using designated and non-designated data with a gazetteer of all assets/sites within the study area.

3.4 Archiving

Upon completion of the DBA, a digital copy will be provided to the HER in accordance with the Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) (Heneb, 20204). This will be consistent with the ClfA standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2020b). A digital copy will also be deposited with the National Monuments Record (Wales)/RCAHMW, with a paper copy deposited upon request.

4 Staff

The work will be managed by Stuart Noon (MCIfA) and undertaken by Patrick Mayer and Lauren Womersley. Any alterations to staffing before or during works will be brought to the attention of NRW.

5 Quality Assurance

Monitoring does not and should not take the place of proper self-regulation. The work will be monitored by Stuart Noon and will be carried out in accordance with the ClfA Standard and guidance for historic environment Desk-Based Assessment (2020a) and the ClfA code of conduct (2021).

6 Health and Safety

Health and Safety must take priority over archaeological matters. Anyone attending site must comply with all Health and Safety legislation, and if undertaking the fieldwork survey should ensure that they are appropriately qualified and adequately insured to undertake such projects. Prior to any site visit activities, a risk assessment will be produced, a copy of this will be sent to the client upon request.

7 Further Information

Further information or clarification of any aspects of this WSI may be obtained from: Lauren Womersley, Salts Mill, Victoria Road, Saltaire, Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD18 3LF. Email: lauren.womersley@jbaconsulting.com

8 References

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2025. Viewer. Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/mapviewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> [Accessed April 2025]

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2021. Code of Conduct.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2020a. Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2020b. Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives.

Heneb. 2024. Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Heneb Historic Environment Record (HER)

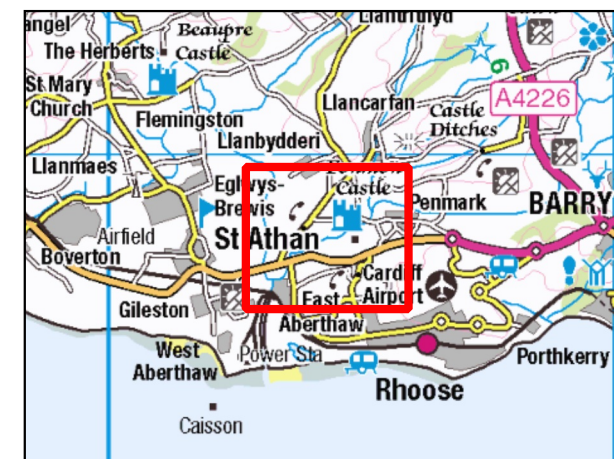
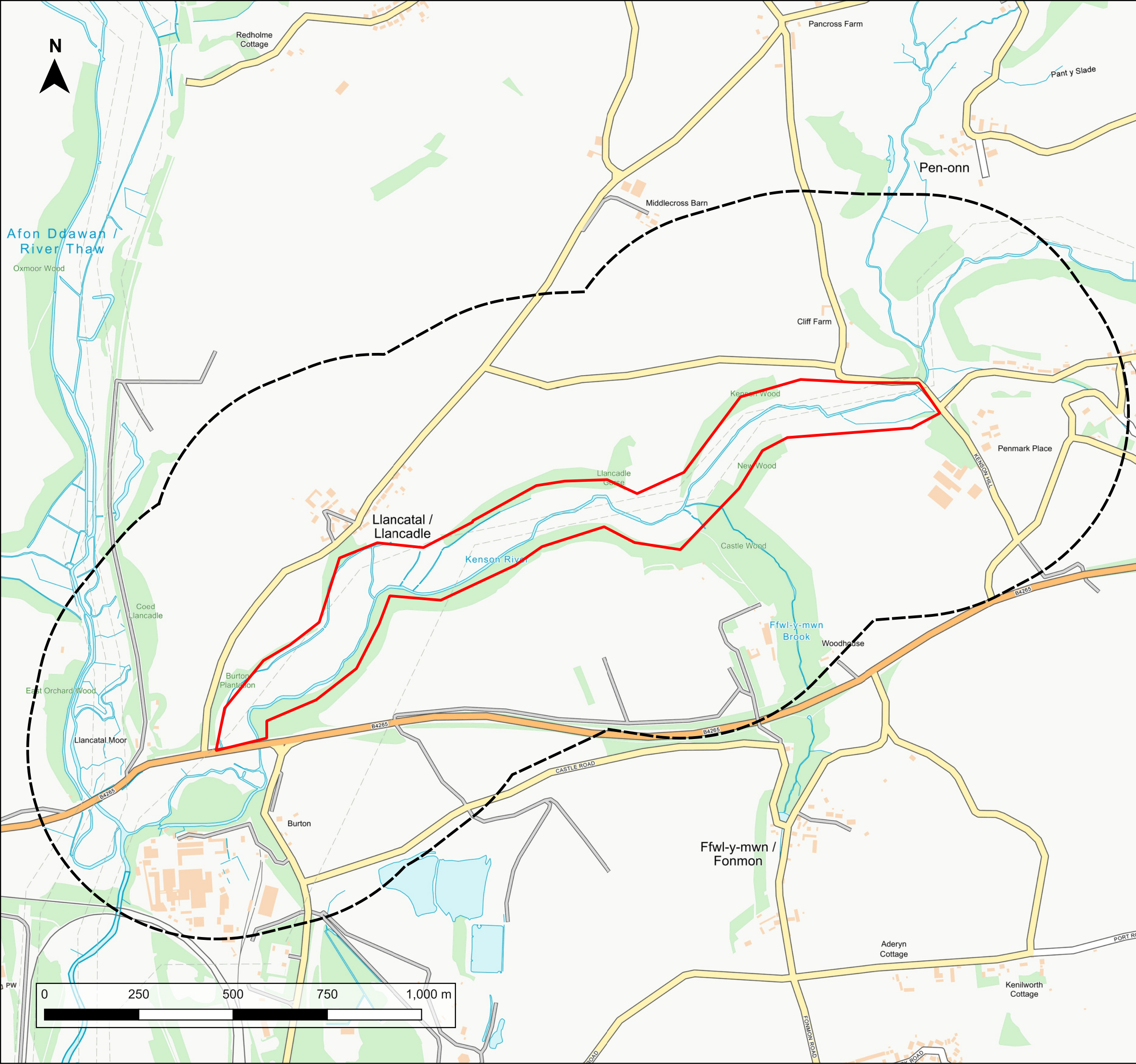
A Appendix

A.1 Figures





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NRW Kenson River Restoration WSI

-  River Restoration Scheme
-  Study Area (500m)



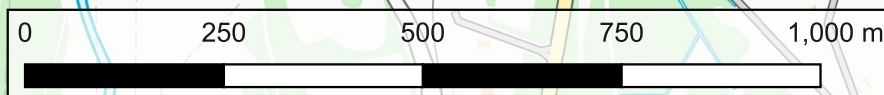
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Figure Title: Figure 1: Site Location

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