

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
15 December, 2010

REPORT OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT OFFICER

SUBJECT:

To consider the following planning applications in which the National Park Authority has an interest, e.g. the National Park Authority is the applicant, or owns the land the subject of the application.

Members are reminded that, while the Authority may have an interest in the application(s), or in the land the subject of the application(s), Members must set aside this aspect and confine their consideration and determination of the application exclusively to the merits of the planning issues arising. The Authority's land owning function, or other interests in the matter must not be taken into account when determining the planning application(s).

Replies to consultations carried out in respect of the application(s) and not received by the date of the preparation of the report will be given verbally at the meeting.

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|---|------------------|----------|
| 1. | Application Type: | Full | Grid Ref: | SN082401 |
| | Reference: | NP/10/467 | | |
| | Applicant: | Nevern Community Council | | |
| | Agent: | Pembrokeshire Coast National Park | | |
| | Proposal: | 3 x interpretation panels, 1 orientation panel, 1 wooden throne | | |
| | Location: | Nevern Castle, Moylegrove Road, Nevern | | |

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 2. | Application Type: | Full | Grid Ref: | SM756252 |
| | Reference: | NP/10/474 | | |
| | Applicant: | St David's City Council | | |
| | Agent: | Pembrokeshire Coast National Park | | |
| | Proposal: | Erection of orientation sign | | |
| | Location: | Oriol y Parc, St David's | | |

PWYLLGOR RHEOLI DATBLYGU
17 Rhagwr, 2010

ADRODDIAD Y SWYDDOG RHEOLI DATBLYGU

PWNC:

Ystyried y cais/ceisiadau canlynol y mae gan yr Awdurdod fuddiant ynddo/ynddynt, e.e. lle mae APC yn ymgeisydd, neu'n berchen ar y tir sy'n destun y cais/ceisiadau.

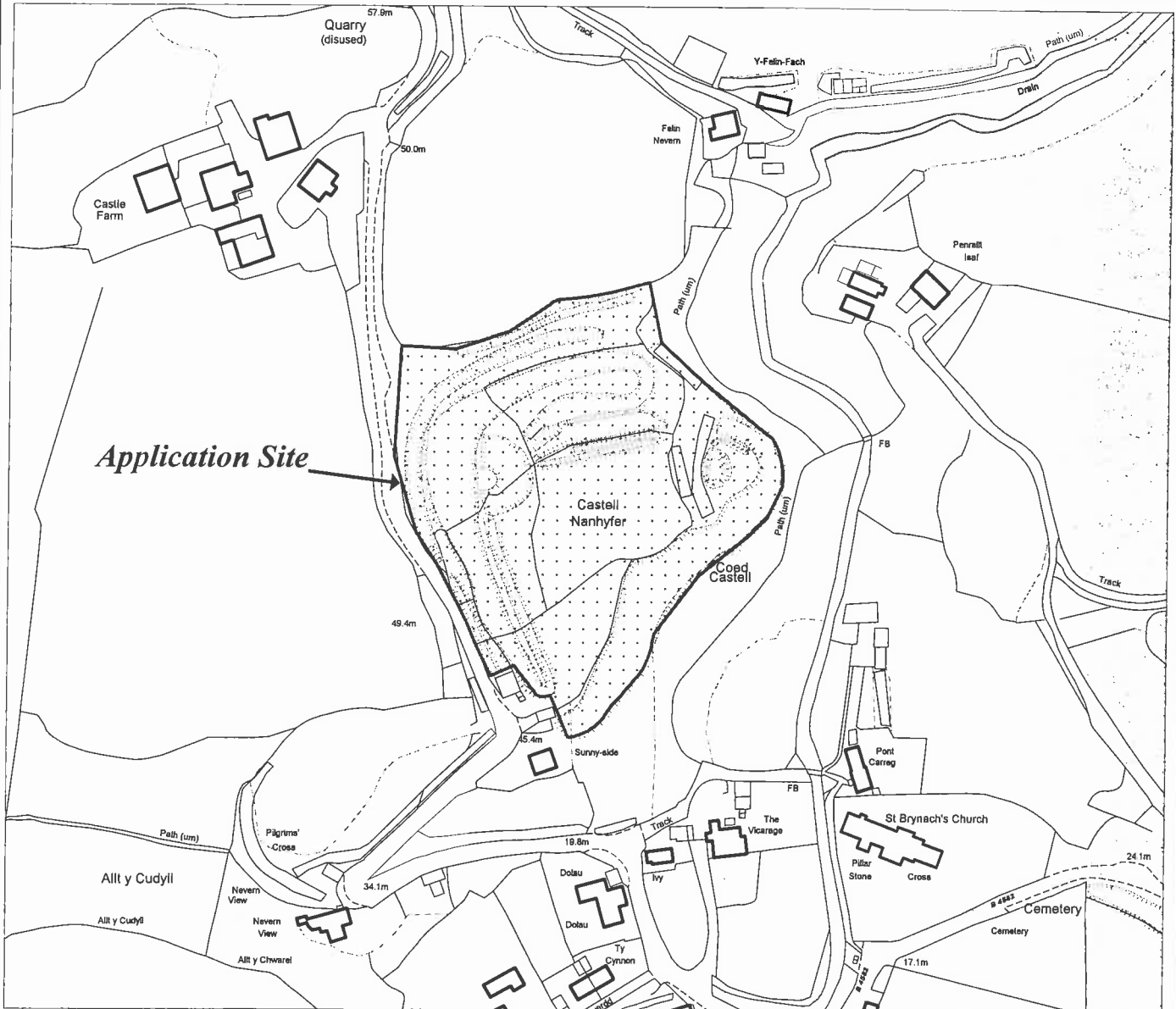
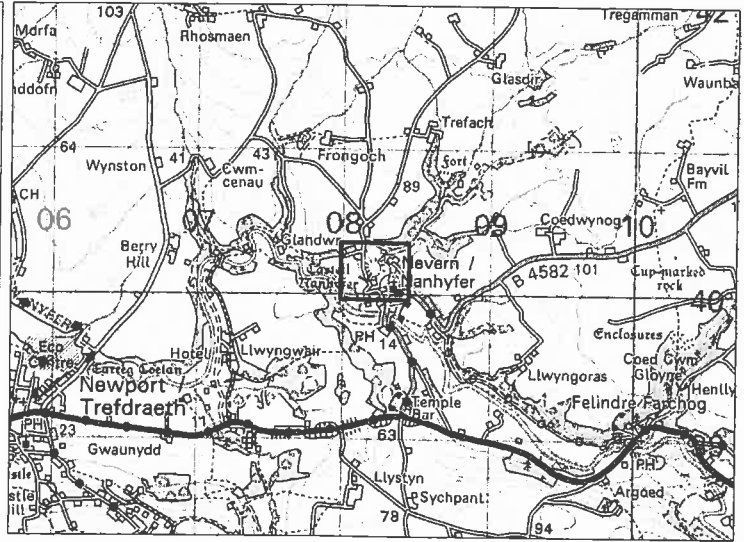
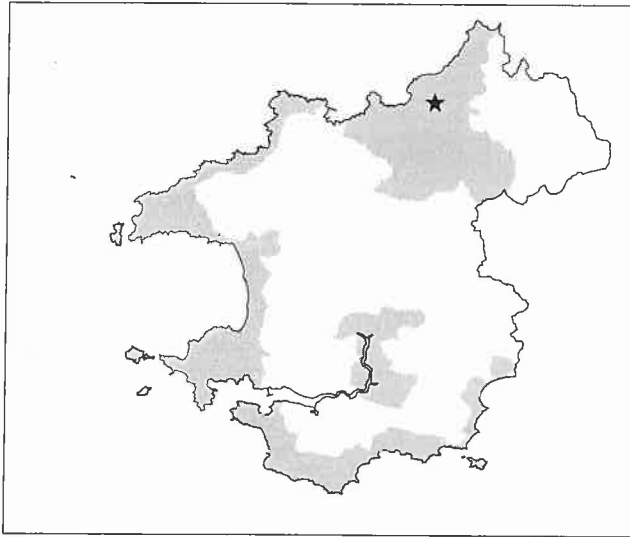
Er bod gan yr Awdurdod o bosib ddiddordeb yn y cais/ceisiadau, neu yn y tir sy'n ymwneud â'r cais/ceisiadau, fe atgoffwyd yr Aelodau na ddylid rhoi sylw i'r materion yma wrth ystyried y cais/ceisiadau. Dylid cyfyngu eu hystyriaethau i faterion sy'n ymwneud â rhinweddau'r materion cynllunio sy'n codi. Ni ddylid cymryd i ystyriaeth berchnogaeth tir yr Awdurdod, nac unrhyw ddiddordebau eraill yn y mater, wrth benderfynu'r cais/ceisiadau.

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|--|---------------------------|
| (1) | Math O Gais: | Llawn | Cyf.Grid: SN082401 |
| | Cyfeirnod: | 10/467 | |
| | Ymgeisydd | Cyngor Cymuned Nyfer | |
| | Asiant | Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol (APC) Arfordir Penfro | |
| | Cynnig: | 3 phanel gwybodaeth, 1 panel cyfeiriadu, 1 orsedd bren | |
| | Lleoliad: | Castell Nyfer, Heol Trewyddel, Nyfer | |
| (2) | Math O Gais: | Llawn | Cyf.Grid: SM756252 |
| | Cyfeirnod: | 10/474 | |
| | Ymgeisydd | Cyngor Dinas Tyddewi | |
| | Asiant | Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol (APC) Arfordir Penfro | |
| | Cynnig: | Gosod arwydd cyfeirio | |
| | Lleoliad: | Oriel y Parc, Tyddewi | |

NP/10/467

Nevern Castle, Moylegrove Road, Nevern

Scale 1:2500



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Application Type: Full
Reference: 10/467 Grid Ref. SN082401
Applicant: Mrs J Weston,
Agent Mr Bennett Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Proposal: 3 x interpretation panels, 1 orientation panel, 1 wooden throne
Site Location: Nevern Castle, Moylegrove Road, Nevern

Description:

Approval is sought for the provision of three panels sited at strategic locations within the castle site along with a carved oak seat within the bailey; a further panel is also to be located on a local stone cairn adjacent to the entrance to Nevern Church. It is considered that the current proposal will provide an enhanced level of interpretation to Nevern Castle and its surrounding area whilst also providing this in sustainable local materials. The panels and throne will add to the public understanding and enjoyment of the castle and will cause minimal visual intrusion, with sympathetic siting within the landscape. The information provided will help to conserve the cultural heritage, not just of Nevern Castle, but of the wider area whilst also benefitting local businesses through increased publicity. As such, officers consider that the current proposal is acceptable and can be supported.

Consultee Response:

NEVERN COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Recommend approval

TRANSPORTATION & TECHNICAL SERVICES: Conditional consent.

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY WALES: Standard advice applies

CADW: Cadw considers that the panels & the carved throne will enhance the visitor experience (see letter of file for full report).

COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES: No comment received

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST: No comment received

Public Response:

None to date.

Officers Appraisal:

The application is on the agenda as the agent is an officer of the Authority.

Policies:

LDP Policies –

Policy 1 - National Park Purposes and Duty

Policy 7 – Countryside

Policy 8 – Special Qualities

Policy 11 – Protection of Biodiversity

Policy 13 – Historic Landscapes Parks and Gardens

Policy 15 – Conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Policy 29 – Sustainable Design

Policy 30 – Amenity

Policy 31 – Minimising Waste

PPW 3 chapters -

4 (Planning for Sustainability)

5 (Conserving and Improving Natural Heritage and the Coast)

6 (Conserving the Historic Environment)
8 (Transport)
11 (Tourism, Sport and Recreation)
12 (Infrastructure and Services)

Technical Advice Notes -
5 (Nature Conservation and Planning)
12 (Design)

Supplementary Planning Guidance –
3 (Sustainable Design)
8 (Validation of Planning Applications)

Background & Description

Nevern Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument located off the A487 between Newport and Felindre Farchog in the north of the National Park. The site is owned by the Nevern Community Council and, since 2008, has been the focus of an excavation in partnership with Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Durham University. In 2009 the project benefited from a grant from the Welsh Assembly Government through Cadw to improve the interpretation of the site through excavation followed by conservation and enhanced interpretation.

Nevern Castle is considered to be one of the most important medieval castles in Wales; the site is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Given this status, several programmes of restoration work have been undertaken at the site over recent years with grant assistance from many sources including the Welsh Cultural Heritage Initiative funded by Cadw. Further work is planned in the near future; however as part of this initial funding an element of interpretation is planned and considered important to offer visitors a better understanding of the site in its present form and also showing the reconstruction of how Nevern Castle appeared in the 12th century.

Current proposal

This current application seeks to fulfil the enhanced interpretation element of the project with the construction of three panels sited at strategic locations within the site along with a carved oak seat within the bailey; a further panel is also to be located on a local stone cairn adjacent to the entrance to Nevern Church.

Siting and Design

The current application seeks consent for three panels in the form of lecterns and supported by oak frames. The first panel is to be sited near to the main entrance to the castle, for an introduction and plan of the site, the second panel will be sited in the Bailey (the area within the castle) and illustrating the reconstruction of the castle, the third panel is to be located at the top of the Motte displaying a reconstruction of the surrounding landscape. These panels will be made from glass reinforced polyester (GRP) and supported off two oak posts sourced from managed woodlands. There will be minimal archaeological and environmental disturbance, as one panel will be located near an existing fence, with the two remaining panels only requiring two post holes each and these will be dug by hand.

Within the Bailey the application also seeks to install a large carved oak seat in the form of a throne, the back of the seat will be 2.4metres high and the width will be 1.2metres with a depth of 0.9metres. The throne will be carved with Celtic knot work and with the arms of Lord Rees and the Fitz Martin family thus, representing the lords who once lived at the castle. The carved seat will be made from locally sourced oak and will fit in with the woodland on the slopes of the castle. Shields and other decorative elements will be made from bog oak, laminated layers of dyed redwood and harewood. The siting of the throne within the Bailey has been carefully considered given that there is little archaeological value to this area due to past agricultural ploughing.

The remaining panel will have the same dimensions and specifications as the previous panels and will be seated on a stone cairn of nominal height allowing wheelchairs users to view the panel. The cairn will be constructed using local stone similar to that of the Church wall nearby and will be sited adjacent to an area of hard standing to enable easy access. This panel will have a pictorial map of the area, with local footpaths clearly marked to enhance visitor enjoyment of the area and castle site.

The condition of the panels and carved seat will be reviewed every three years as will the lectern stands for the three panels within the castle and will be repaired or replaced as necessary. Given that there will be additional excavations in the future there may also be need to change the content of the interpretation provided and this will also be reviewed on a three year basis.

It is considered that the siting and design of the proposals are acceptable in this location.

Amenity and Trees

The proposal is considered to enhance the amenity of the Nevern area through enhanced interpretation of the castle attraction and associated access paths and walks within the area.

Given the extent of trees within the site of which some are protected the Authority's Tree and Landscape officer has been consulted and has visited the site, following this several recommendations have been made to ensure that the proposed works will not have an adverse impact on these existing trees. It is also noted that the proposed works are not located near to any of the protected trees within this site.

Highways, Accessibility and Parking

Transportation and Environment Highways and Construction section has been consulted and support the proposal subject to a condition which requires the interpretation panel adjacent to the entrance to Nevern Church to be a minimum of 1.5 metres from the edge of the adjacent highway in the interests of road safety.

Given that the main site is a visitor attraction and that the current proposal will enhance the attraction the current access and parking provisions need to be carefully considered. Officers consider that the accessibility to the castle is limited and not all parts of this site are accessible. However given the nature of the attraction and its status, it is considered that additional works should not be carried out to improve the access provision on the site as this could have a detrimental impact on the Scheduled Ancient Monument but merely to interpret the existing facility.

Public transport can be used to gain access to within a mile of Nevern with walking promoted through many well used footpaths located within and around the village. The existing limited parking for the site is located at the main entrance with additional parking provided within the village of Nevern. This existing provision is considered to be acceptable given the limited space to accommodate additional parking and access without having an adverse impact on the existing site and surrounding landscape.

Conclusion

It is considered that the current proposal will provide an enhanced level of interpretation to Nevern Castle and its surrounding area whilst also providing this in sustainable local materials. The panels and throne will add to the public understanding and enjoyment of the castle and will cause minimal visual intrusion, with sympathetic siting within the landscape. The information provided will help to conserve the cultural heritage, not just of Nevern Castle, but of the wider area whilst also benefitting local businesses through increased publicity. As such, officers consider that the current proposal is acceptable and can be supported.

Recommendation:

The application be delegated to officers to issue consent on receipt of satisfactory consultee responses. Any consent should be subject of appropriate conditions in respect of the proposed recommendations made by the Authority's Tree and Landscape Officer and any others indicated appropriate through consultee responses.

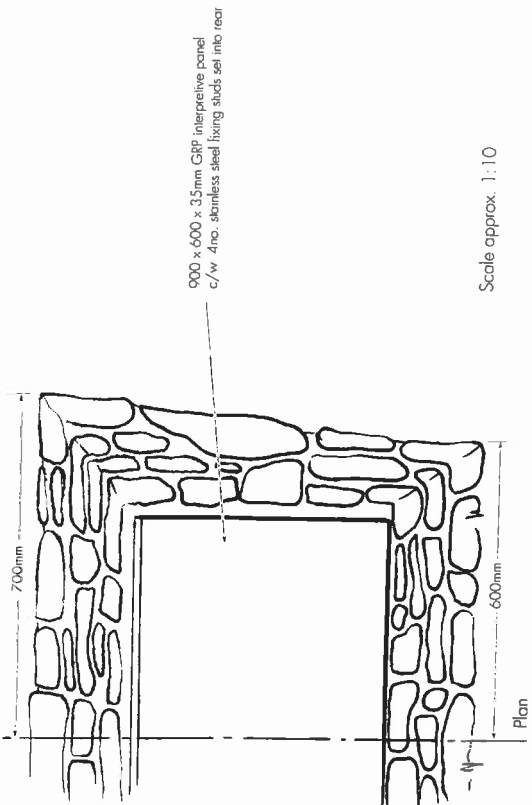
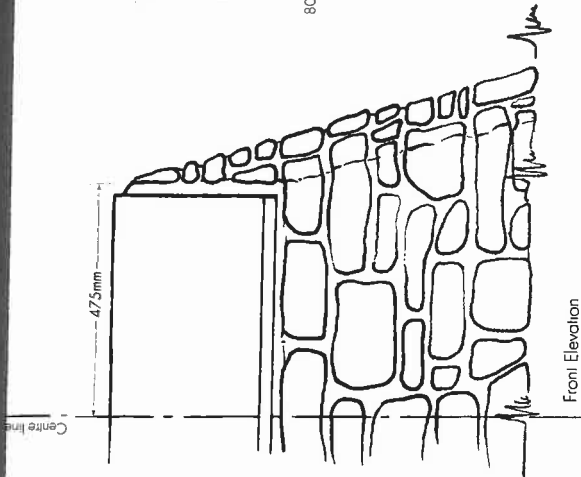
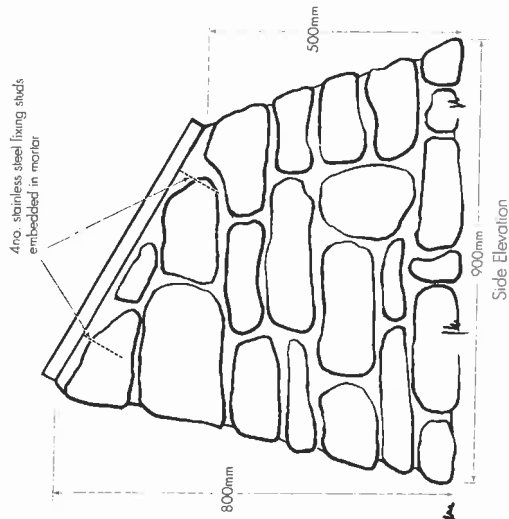
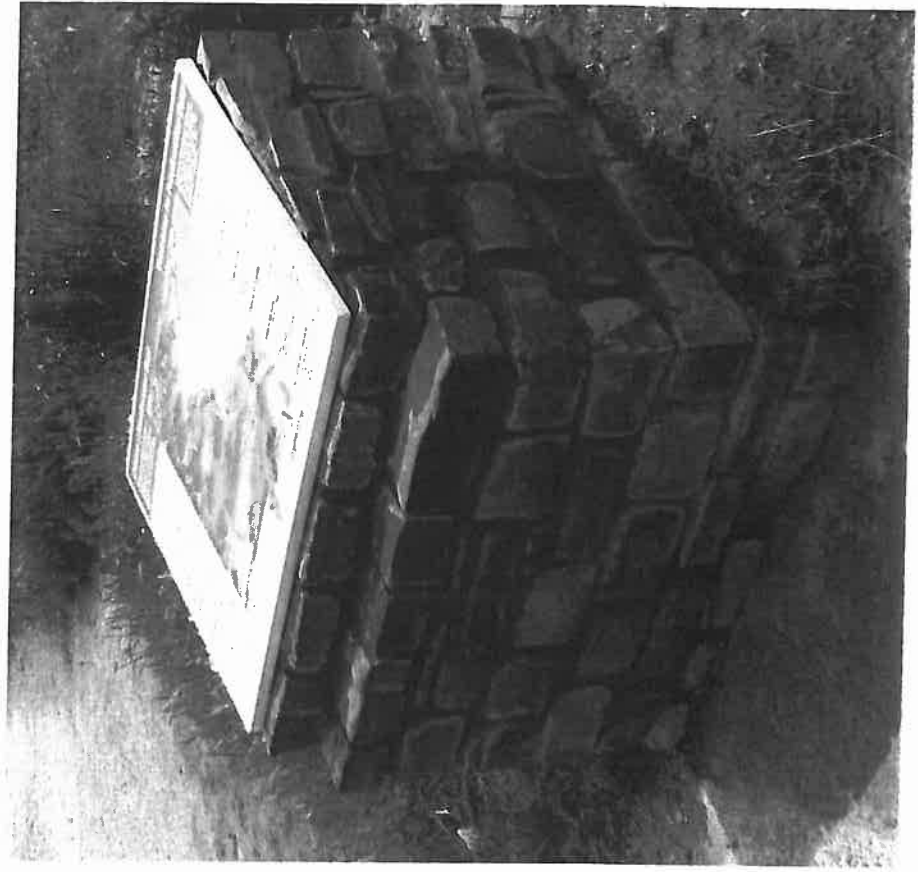
Design for panel 5

Stone Cairn

Pembrokeshire

15 OCT 2010

National Park Auth.

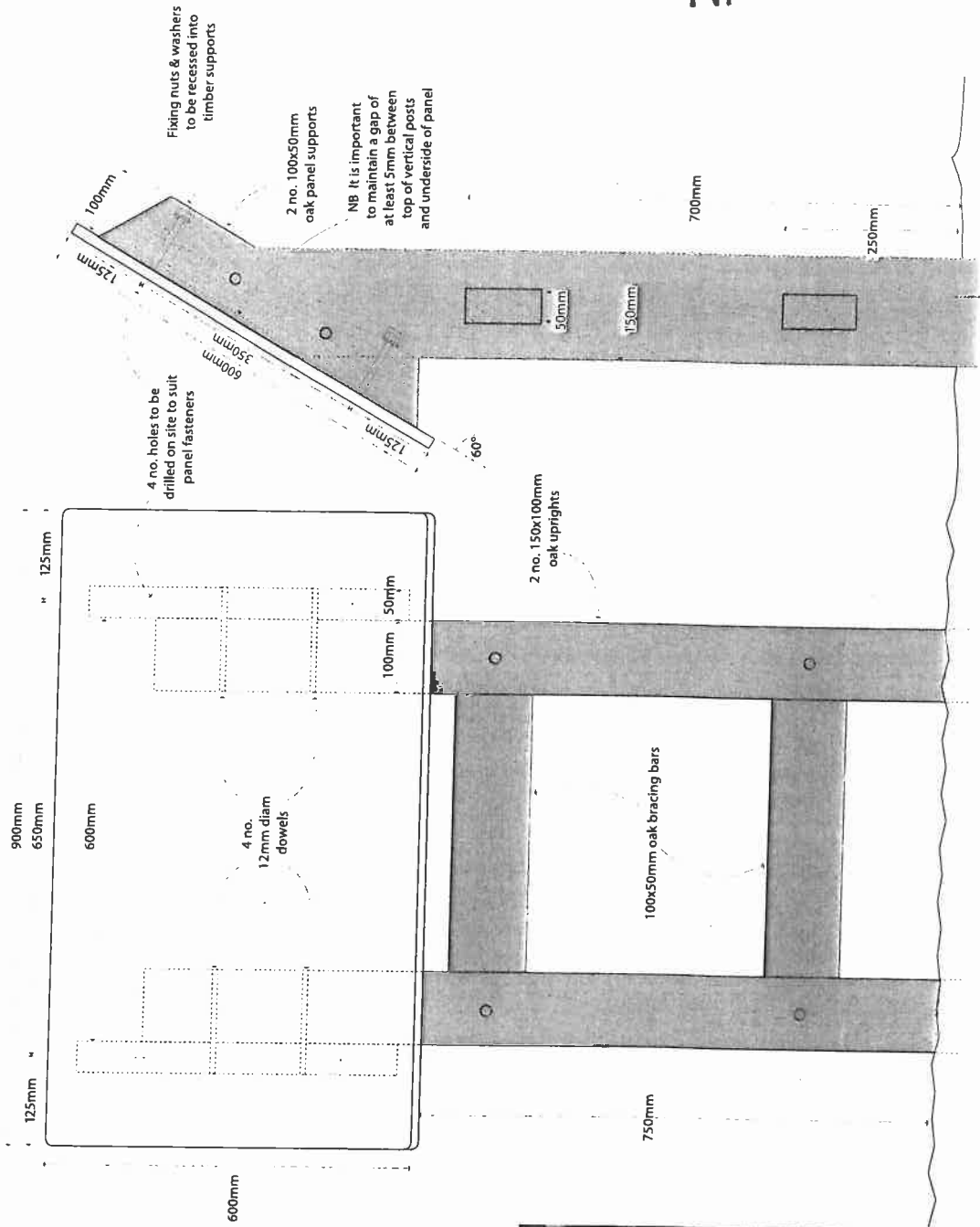


Scale approx. 1:10

NP 10 4 6 7

Design for panels 1,2,3

Lectern



15 OCT 2010

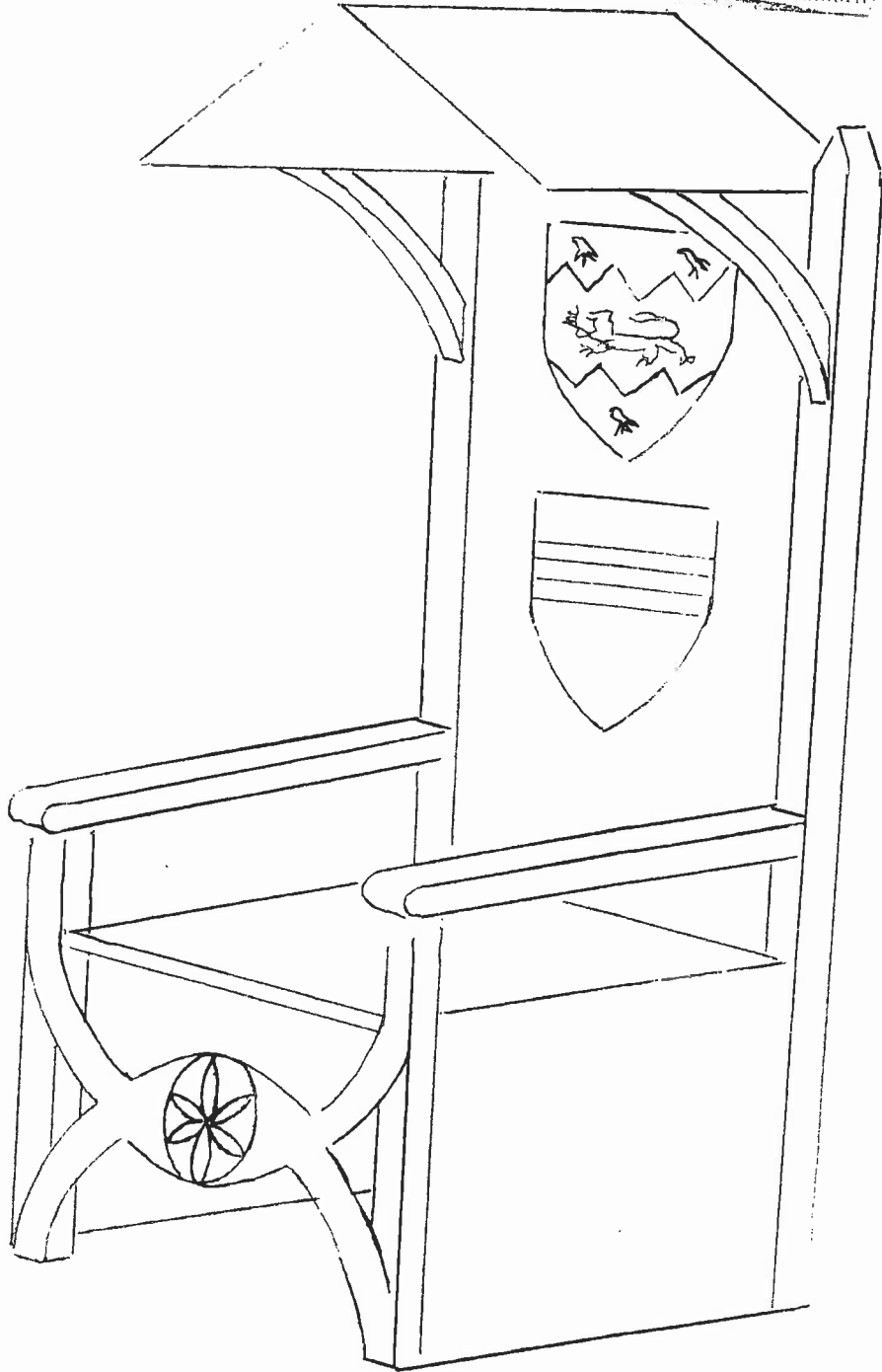
National Park, Aberystwyth

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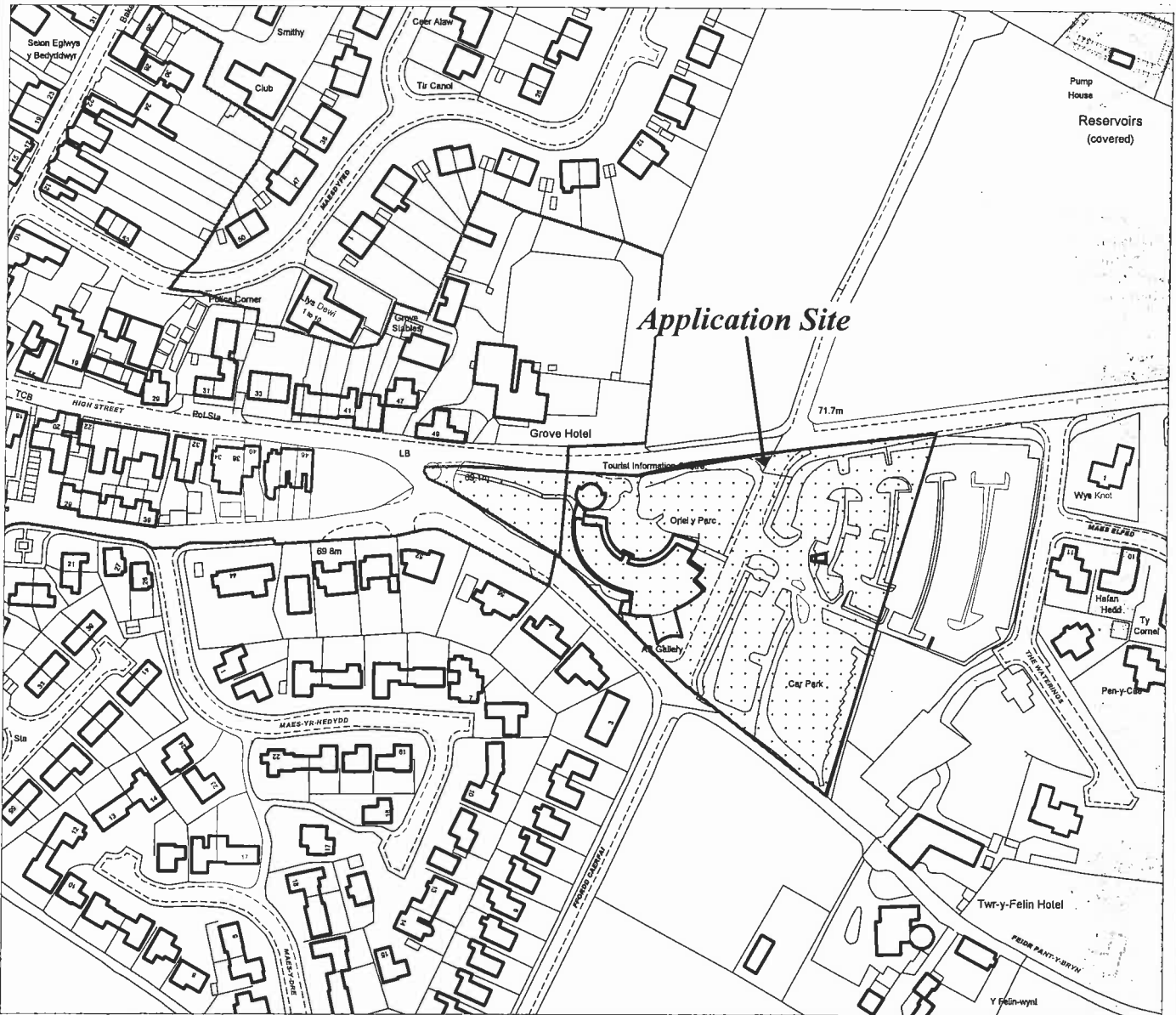
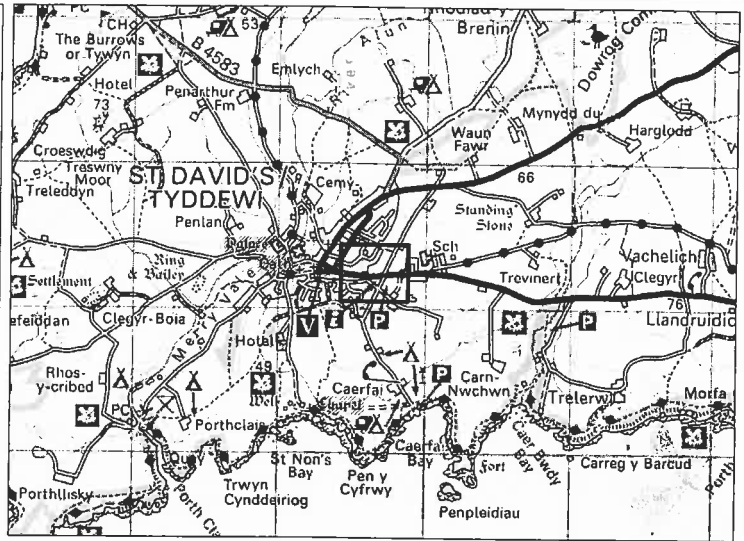
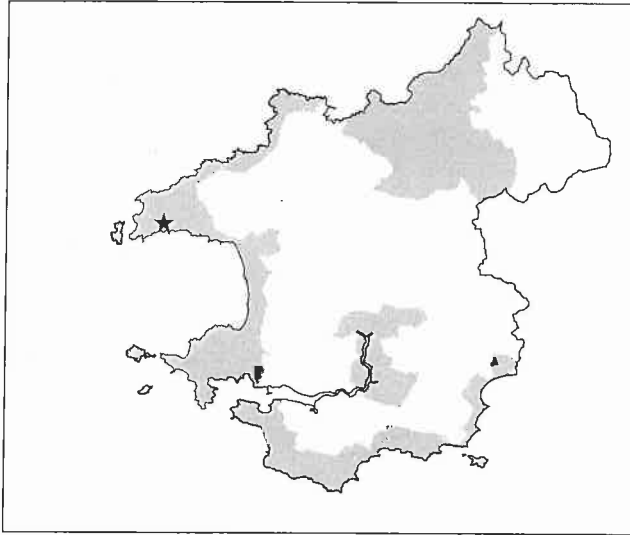
National Park Authority



NP/10/474

Oriel-y-Parc, St Davids

Scale 1:2500



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Application Type: Full
Reference: 10/474 Grid Ref. SM756252
Applicant: St David's City Council,
Agent Mr Hare PCNPA
Proposal: Erection of orientation sign
Site Location: Oriel y Parc, St David's
Description:

Full permission is sought for the erection of an orientation panel on one of the stone walls bounding the inner courtyard of the Oriel Y Parc visitor centre in St.Davids. The proposal, by reason of its sympathetic siting and design is considered to be acceptable and as such the application is recommended for approval.

Consultee Response:

ST DAVIDS CITY COUNCIL: No comment received

Public Response:

None to date.

Officers Appraisal:

This application is being reported to your meeting because the site is owned/controlled by the National Park Authority.

Policies:

LDP Policies –

1. National Park Purposes and Duty
8. Special Qualities
15. Conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
29. Sustainable Design
30. Amenity

PPW 3 chapters -

4. Planning for Sustainability
5. Conserving and Improving Natural Heritage and the Coast

Technical Advice Notes -

12. Design

Supplementary Planning Guidance –

3. Sustainable Design

Background & Description

Oriel Y Parc is situated at the entrance to St.Davids and is an established visitor centre being operated by the National Park Authority.

Current proposal

Full permission is sought for the erection of an orientation panel on one of the stone walls bounding the inner courtyard of the Oriel Y Parc visitor centre. The panel would measure 960mm x 960mm and it would be framed in painted timber. The panel would contain a street plan of St.Davids and also include information about places of interest within the City for the benefit of visitors and tourists

alike. The scheme has come about further to the granting of planning permission in 2009 for the erection of 4 similar panels at different locations about St.Davids. One of those was to be mounted on the new w/c block in the main car park, however, it is now felt that it would be better to locate it on part of the main visitor centre as outlined above.

Key Issues

Having regard to the proposal and the policy framework identified above, the key issues are considered to be the siting, design and impact of the development upon the character of the area.

The panel would be sited so that it is visible within the courtyard without being intrusive and the use of a sustainable material such as timber is also welcomed in this sensitive location. It would enable pedestrians, including wheelchair users, to orientate themselves before setting off to explore the city and the panel would also complement the other information signs previously installed at this site. This inclusive approach is considered to be responsive to context and therefore in keeping with its surroundings and would also help to preserve the special character and qualities of the National Park as required by planning policy.

Conclusion

The proposal, by reason of its sympathetic siting and design would help to conserve the character of the area and as such a favourable recommendation is given in this instance.

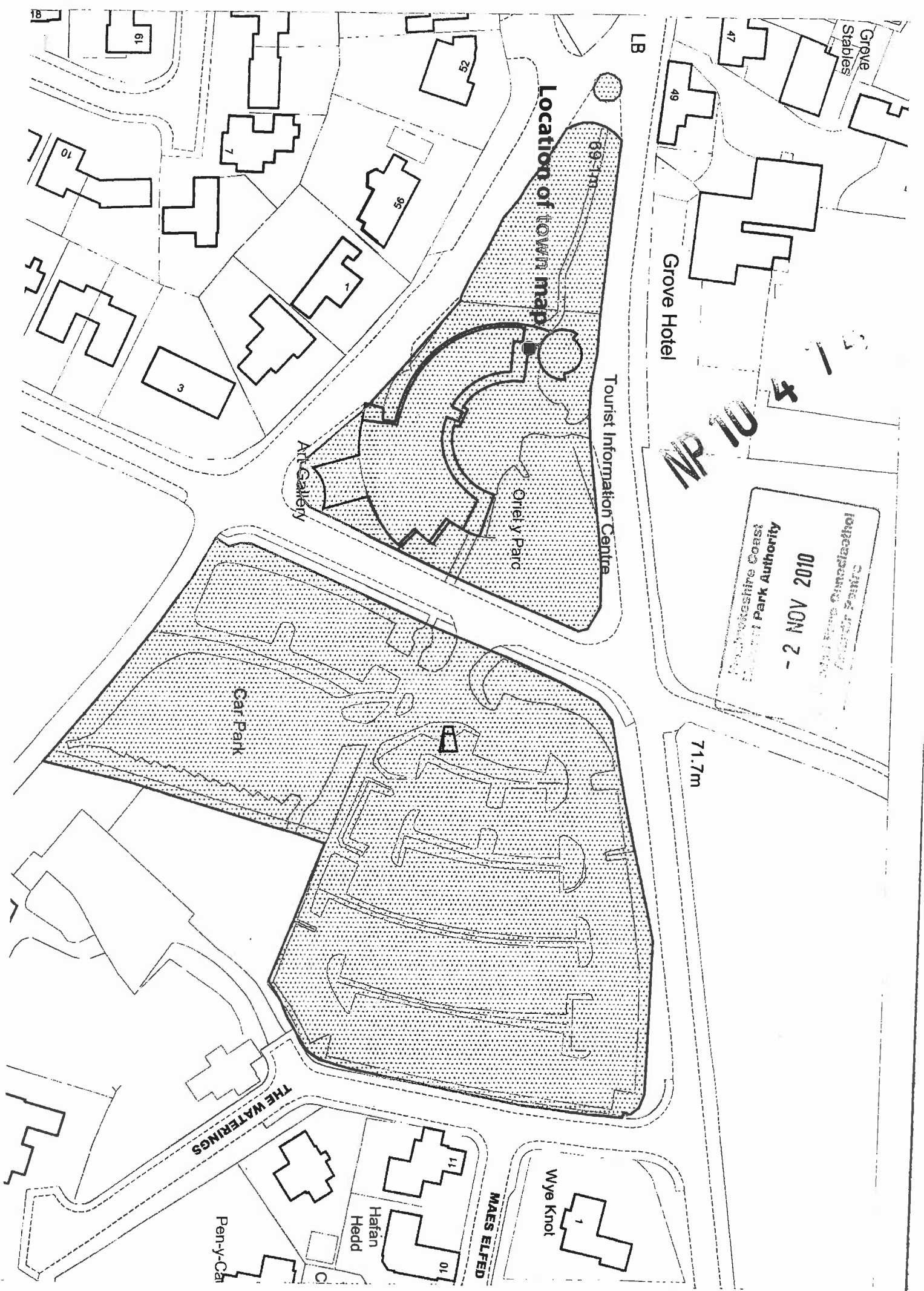
Recommendation:

That the application be approved subject to conditions

Conditions / Reasons / Informatives

1. Development to commence within 5 years
2. Development in accordance with submitted plans
3. Approved panel and all fittings to be removed when no longer needed

The applicant will need to obtain the separate consent of the Authority's estates officer prior to implementing the above planning permission.



Location of town map

Tourist Information Centre

Orchard Park

Car Park

Grove Hotel

Grove Stables

THE WATERINGS

Hafan Hedd

Pen-y-Ca

MAES ELFED

Wye Knot

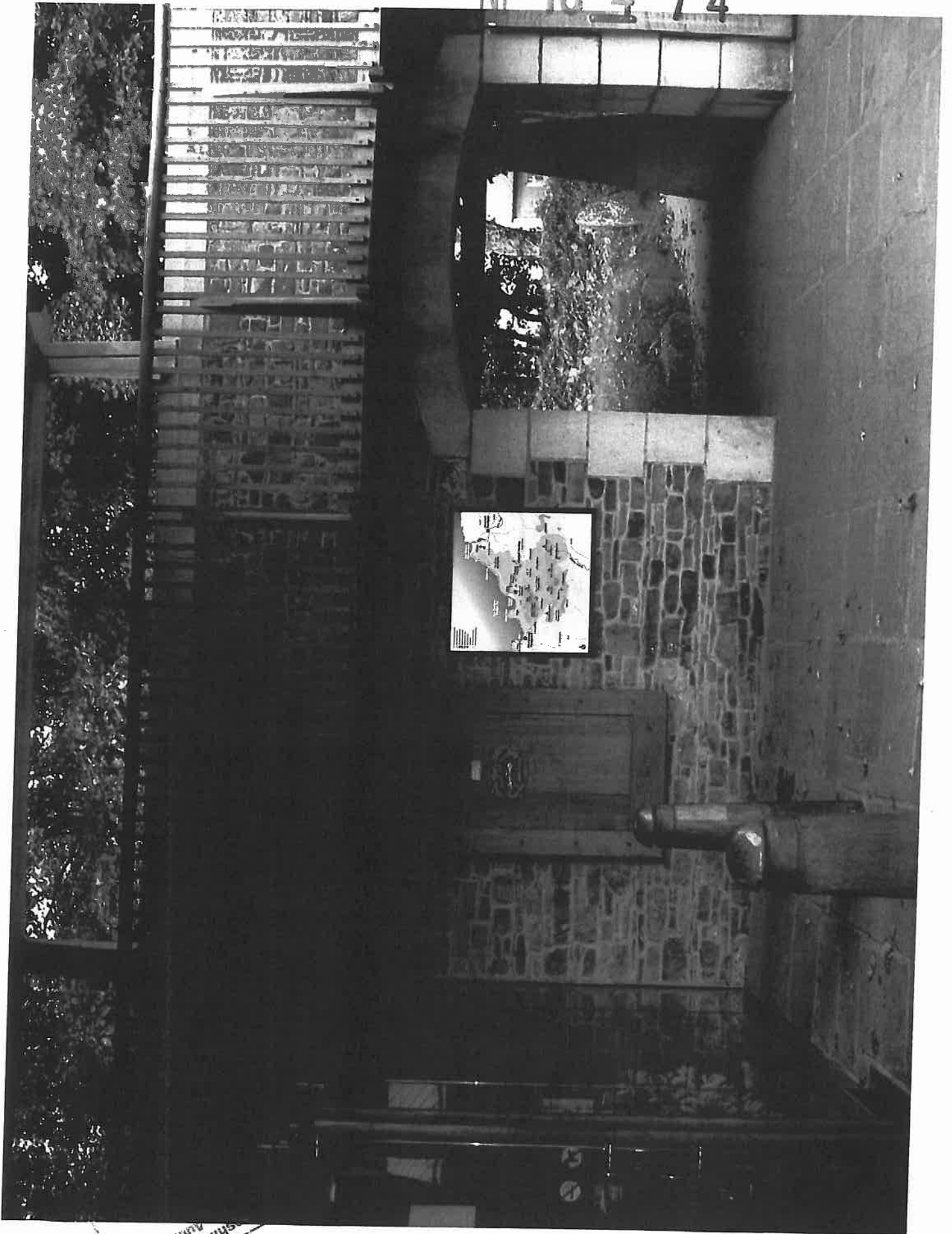
71.7m

69.7m

Wiltshire Coast
Tourist Park Authority
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Cwm Ystradgynlais

AP 10

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White Coast
Agency