



**ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION REPORT**  
**FOR**  
**REPLACEMENT CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**PLAN 2018-2033**

**LAND ADJOINING PLUDDS MEADOW, LAUGHARNE**

on behalf of  
Mr K Davies

**Our Ref:** 1582.a  
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**Prepared by:** JDE

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**Email:** [REDACTED]

2 Llandeilo Road, Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire, SA14 6NA

**Tel:** [REDACTED]

**Web:** [www.evansbanks.com](http://www.evansbanks.com)

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Evans Banks Planning Ltd. has been instructed by Mr K Davies to prepare and submit an Alternative Allocation Report for the allocation of land at Pludds Meadow, Laugharne, Carmarthen for the purposes of residential development in the forthcoming replacement *Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan* (LDP).
- 1.2 This statement has been prepared in line with the Authority's published site assessment and selection documents. The contents of this Statement therefore address each point raised within these documents as well as ensuring that it complies with regards to the guidance and requirements of *Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)* when it comes to the preparation of development plans and the allocation of land for residential purposes as part of them.
- 1.3 The contents of this Statement therefore provide a comprehensive case for the allocation of the land for residential development purposes, and it should also be read in conjunction with the accompanying information and indicative drawing package and Transport Statement, as well as a sustainability assessment undertaken in-line with the Authority's requirements.

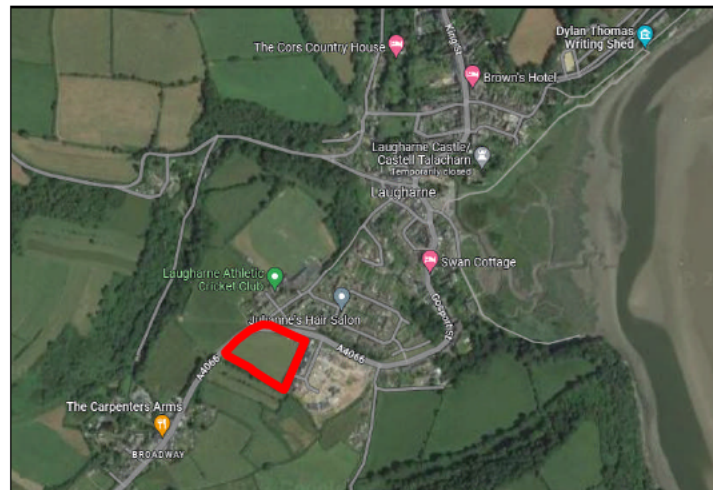
## 2.0 SITE CONTEXT

### 2.1 THE SITE AND CURRENT CONTEXT

2.1.1 The Candidate Site relates to a parcel of land measuring approximately 2.8 acres in area, edged red on the plan and image below.



Plan A



Photograph 1

2.1.2 The site currently consists of a level field that is currently laid to grass, as illustrated by the photographs below.



**Photograph 2**

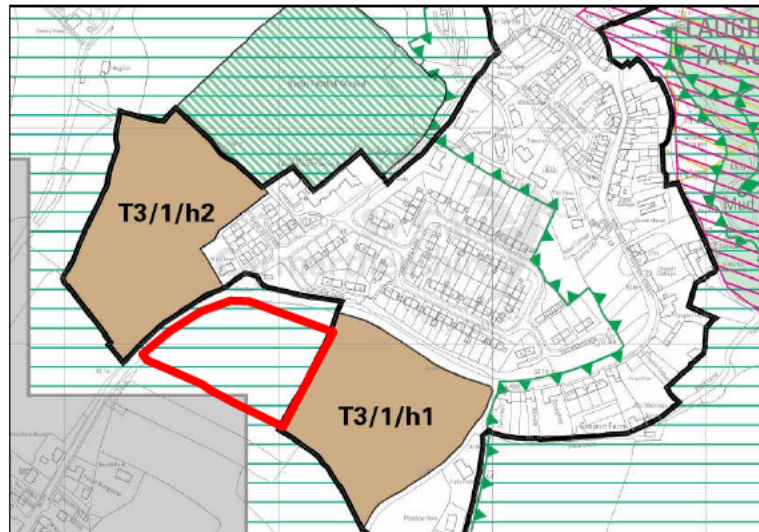


**Photograph 3**

2.1.3 All boundaries of the Site are currently well defined by existing features, predominantly mature hedgerows. The exception to this is a post and wire fence along its northern boundary, which it shares with an adjoining development compound.

2.1.4 Access to the Site is currently obtained via the aforementioned compound and adjoining enclosures to the south, also in our Client's ownership. However, any new access to serve the proposed development would be at the Site's south western corner in the manner indicated on the accompanying plans.

2.1.5 Under the provisions of the current Carmarthenshire LDP, the Site presently lies at the south western edge of the defined Development Limits of the settlement of Laugharne. However, as the extract of the Proposals Map below illustrates, the Site (outlined in red) adjoins the current built form of the urban area directly to the north and is in effect positioned between two existing housing allocations in the settlement.



**Plan B**

2.1.6 As can be seen, the Alternative Site is therefore well related to the existing defined Development Limits for Laugharne and the settlement's built form as a whole when existing residential development directly to its east, west and north is taken into consideration. Its position and proposed use therefore represent a natural and logical location for the settlement's expansion.

## **2.2 THE ADJOINING SETTLEMENT**

2.2.1 As detailed above, the Alternative Site adjoins the existing built form of the settlement of Laugharne. The existing built form and pattern of the settlement follows key access routes, with then further development leading off those along roads such as the adjoining development of Pludds Meadow.

2.2.2 Due to this position and close association with the existing built form, the Alternative Site has excellent access to the range of community facilities and local services the settlement of Laugharne has to offer, with such facilities and services being within walking distance of the site, as well as being accessible via regular bus services. Such facilities and services include the following:

- Nursery
- Primary School
- Several Retail Units (A1 and A3)
- Several Public Houses (A3)
- Sports Clubs
- Several Places of Worship
- Community Hall

2.2.3 In addition to the above, the Alternative Site is also within a short distance and bus journey from the nearby larger settlement and centre of Carmarthen, which includes a wider range of community facilities and local services. The strong sustainable position of the Alternative Site should therefore be given full consideration when considering potential future growth options.

2.2.4 In terms of planned growth, the proposed Alternative Site forms part of one of Service Centre's, as defined by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit LDP, where second only to Principal Centres, the Council expects a large portion of the planned growth in the County to take place due to their sustainable attributes. In turn, the Service Centre then forms part of a group of settlements defined as Cluster 6 in the Settlement Framework and having undertaken a comprehensive review of the proposed allocations put forward by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit LDP for the Cluster in question, it has been identified that a number have significant questions over their ability to be delivered within the Plan period, including the following:

Ref. No.	Site Name	Units
SeC18/h1	Adjacent to Brittani Terrace, St Clears	60
SeC18/h3	Land adjacent to Cefn Maes, St Clears	100
SuV60/h1	Land at College Bach, Llangynog	6
SuV61/h1	Land at Nieuport Farm, Pendine	10
SuV63/h1	Land at Woodend, Llanmilow	28

**Table 1**

2.2.5 As a result of the above, separate objections have been made in relation to the above allocations and it is therefore important that alternative more deliverable sites should be identified, to ensure the Plan can be regarded as being 'sound'.



## 3.0 THE PROPOSAL

3.0.1 As part of the requirements for the promotion of sites for residential development, this Statement is accompanied by an indicative layout for a potential residential scheme that could be developed on the site. It should be emphasised that the accompanying layout is for illustrative purposes and that other design solutions for the site could also be reached. Notwithstanding this, the accompanying layout drawing has taken account of all the potential assets and constraints of the site, as well as current Authority design guidance, and demonstrates that it is capable of delivering 17 units in a deliverable and sustainable manner. The following information therefore expands on this principle.

### 3.1 DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

3.1.1 It is proposed that the Candidate Site be allocated in the forthcoming replacement LDP for the purposes of 17 residential units. As detailed above, the accompanying illustrative layout (reproduced below) demonstrates that the site is capable of accommodating this number in a deliverable and sustainable manner.



Plan C

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- 3.1.2 As illustrated above, the site is capable of accommodating a mix of unit sizes and types, with the associated density – 17 units – having therefore taken into consideration this potential mix, as well as striking a balance of being reflective of the existing form and density of residential development in the immediate locality. The positioning of the proposed units has also taken into account the topography of the site.
- 3.1.3 With regards then to access, as detailed previously, the Alternative Allocation will be served by a new access road leading from the existing public highway running alongside its western boundary. This will then lead into the Site and be to full adoptable standards.
- 3.1.4 It is recognised and supported that an element of the proposed units would be affordable in nature, with the level of provision forming part of the review of the current LDP. For the purposes of the accompanying viability assessment however, it is proposed that 2 of these units would be affordable in nature.

## **3.2 INFRASTRUCTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

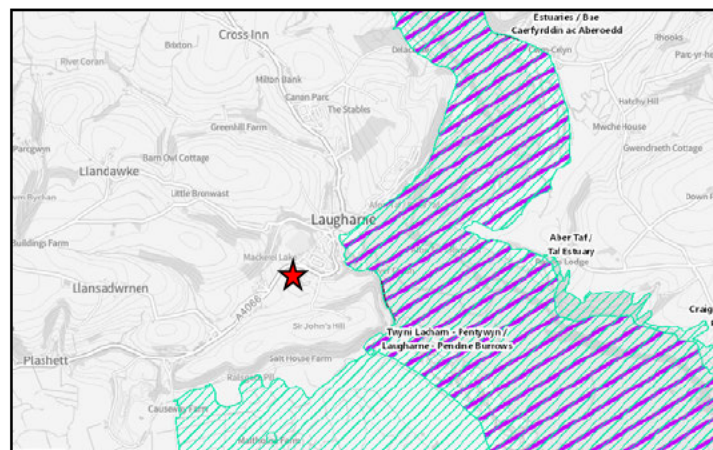
- 3.2.1 Any development of the Candidate Site for residential units would be served by mains water, public sewer and electricity, connections to which we understand lie within or in close proximity to the Site.
- 3.2.2 With regards then to surface water, it is considered that as a result of on-site features, there would be a number of options available to any development of the site in terms of its disposal, ensuring its development adheres to current regulatory requirements.

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

### 4.1 ECOLOGICAL ATTRIBUTES

4.1.1 Any potential biodiversity assets the Site may include have been given full consideration with regards to exploring its potential for residential development. This has included the proposed retention and management of existing site boundary features.

4.1.2 The Alternative Allocation has been assessed against data held on the “Magic” website which details statutory and non-statutory National and Local sites of ecological importance. Plan D below provides an extract of those records applied to the Laugharne locality. The red star denotes the position of the Alternative Site.

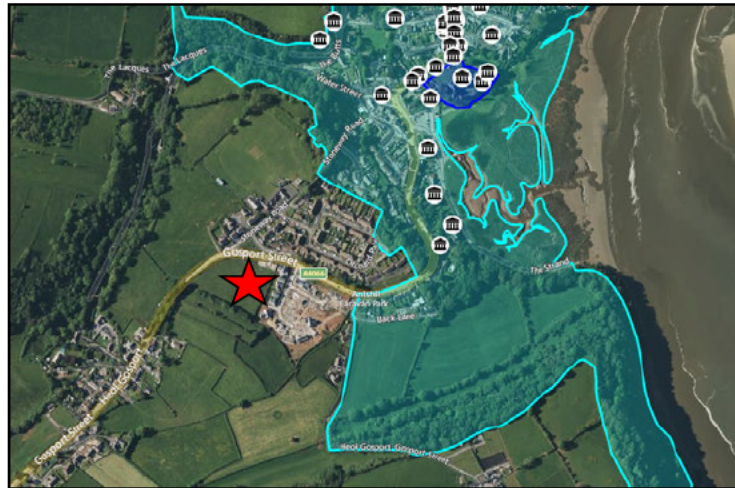


Plan D

4.1.3 As can be seen from the above, the Alternative Site does not form part of and neither is it adjacent to any national or local designations. The nearest designation is the River Taf Estuary SSSI/SAC, but due to the intervening distance and topography, the development of the Alternative Site will not have any detrimental impact on this feature.

## 4.2 HISTORICAL ASSETS

4.2.1 Below is an extract from the 'Archwilio' website that represents a resource for the Historic Environment Records of Wales, with the Alternative Site indicated by a red star.



Plan E

4.2.2 As can be seen, neither the Alternative Site nor immediately adjoining element of the settlement includes any Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings or Conservation Area's. As a result, the development of the Site would not have any detrimental impact on the setting or interest of any nearby historical asset.

## 4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS

4.3.1 The Candidate Site is not categorised as being at risk of flooding in terms of the Development Advice Maps or those produced by Natural Resources Wales, as illustrated by the plans below (Alternative Site indicated by the red star).



**Plan F**  
**(Development Advice Maps)**



**Plan G**  
**(Flood Maps for Planning)**

4.3.2 Due to its greenfield nature, the Candidate Site has no ground contamination related constraints.

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## 5.0 VIABILITY

5.0.1 As part of the preparation of any development plan, it is vital to ensure that allocations within it are both viable and deliverable. To not make efforts to explore both these aspects is to then risk that the Plan may be unsound and so in turn fail to meet its own targets or objectives.

5.0.2 Although detailed viability appraisals are difficult to prepare at this stage of the Plan's preparation due to the absence of, for example, such things as full engineering details, it is possible to undertake such appraisals at a strategic or in-principle level. The following therefore represents such a process and is fit-for-purpose in providing confidence with regards to both the viability and deliverability of the Candidate Site at this stage, but it should be noted, that more detailed analysis at a planning application stage may result in some variance.

### 5.1 VIABILITY APPRAISAL

5.1.1 The following provides an indication of the viability of delivering the proposed 17 units on the Alternative Site in question. It is based very much on its greenfield status and uses figures and costings previously accepted by the local authority through its determination of planning applications and other works. The following appraisal is therefore based on the assumptions set out below in order to provide a residual value for the scheme, prior to ascertaining an indicative land value.

#### Costs

- Dwelling construction costs are based on £1,150 per metre.
- Adoptable road construction cost based on £1200 per metre
- Connections for all utilities include water, foul water and electric
- Developer's Profit based on RICS guidelines (18%)
- Professional Fees include planning application fee, associated professional fees, estate agency fees (1%) and LABC Warranty fee.

## **Sales**

- Sale Prices based on LPAs Affordable Housing SPG, market research and ACG figures where relevant.

5.1.2 Using the above, the following represents a strategic viability appraisal for the proposed 17 units, with 2 units being made available on an affordable basis (based on 3 two bed units).

<b>Costs</b>	<b>Cost Per Unit/Metre</b>	<b>No. Units/Metres</b>	<b>Total</b>
3 Bed semi(90 sqm)	103500	8	828000
3 bed bungalow (110sq m)	126500	4	506000
4 bed det. (160sq m)	184000	5	920000
Road Construction	1200	150	180000
Utility Connections	5000	17	85000
Professional Fees	-		95718
Sprinklers	3500	17	59500
Parks and Education Cont.	5000	17	100000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2774218</b>
<b>Sales</b>			
3 Bed semi(90 sqm) (Aff.)	78286	3	234858
3 Bed semi(90 sqm)	285000	5	1425000
3 bed bungalow (110sq m)	325000	4	1300000
4 bed det. (160sq m)	350000	5	1750000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>4709858</b>
Developers Profit		<b>Total</b>	<b>847774.44</b>
		<b>Residual Land Value</b>	<b>1087865.56</b>

**Table 2**

5.1.3 Although the above figures have not been able to take into account any future changes to construction costs as a result of other external factors (e.g. changes to Building Regulations), it is considered that in-principle, the development of the site would be financially viable.

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## 5.2 DELIVERABILITY

- 5.2.1 In terms of deliverability, it should be firstly noted, as illustrated above, that the site is financially and physically viable, with no environmental, geo-physical or technical constraints prohibiting immediate development. Furthermore, there are no ownership or third-party interests preventing the site's delivery.
- 5.2.2 In terms of a delivery timescale, it is envisaged that the site could be capable of being completed within 2-3 years from the adoption of the Replacement Local Development Plan, as Laugharne remains an attractive part of Carmarthen given its panoramic views over the surrounding landscape and good access to nearby schools, shops, services and community facilities.



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## 6.0 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

6.0.1 In the preparation of any development plan, consideration must be given to national policy and guidance. At present, this takes the form of *Planning Policy Wales* (PPW) (Edition 11) and a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN) that deal with a range of topic areas.

### 6.1 HOUSING SUPPLY

6.1.1 With regards to the provision of housing, Paragraph 4.2.2 of PPW gives the following requirements the planning system must fulfil:

- *Identify a supply of land to support the delivery of the housing requirement to meet the differing needs of communities across all tenures;*
- *Enable the provision of a range of well designed, energy efficient, good quality market and affordable housing that will contribute to the creations of sustainable places; and*
- *Focus on the delivery of the identified housing requirement and the related land supply*

6.1.2 In addition to the above, Paragraph 4.2.10 of PPW states “*the supply of land to meet the housing requirement proposed in a development plan must be deliverable*”. As detailed previously, it is considered that the LPA has to date failed to accomplish this requirement under the provisions of the current LDP and will continue to do so under the provisions of the proposed allocations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deposit LDP.

6.1.3 In order therefore to re-dress this deficiency in provision, and provide a more robust approach to housing provision through a mixed site-scale approach, there is an urgent need to identify alternative deliverable housing allocations in the replacement Plan. Based on the accompanying information, it is clear that the Alternative Site represents one such example.

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## 7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Although currently undeveloped, the Alternative Site forms a logical extension to an existing settlement, being well related to it and being positioned at a location within the wider landscape to not form a prominent or logical part of the surrounding open countryside.
- 7.2 In addition to the above, the site lies within close proximity and walking distance of the existing community services and local facilities of the adjoining settlement, which will ensure it makes a positive contribution to both national and local sustainable development objectives.
- 7.3 From a wider sense, the Site will also benefit from well served excellent public transport links to the adjoining larger town of Carmarthen, together with other locations within and adjoining the County, further increasing the facilities and services available to future residents of the Site via sustainable transport means.
- 7.4 In tandem to the above, the development of the Site will in turn ensure a viable and so deliverable source of future housing for the Cluster is forms part of, which has seen a dangerous level of under supply prior to and since the adoption of the current LDP. The development of the Site will help to redress this imbalance and it is strongly suggested that the Authority closely scrutinises those sites currently allocated in the LDP in terms of their suitability and deliverability if it is to continue to allocate them. National planning policy however would suggest that in view of the uncertainty in relation to their delivery, such sites should not form part of the replacement LDP.
- 7.5 With the Alternative Site having no access, ground condition, flood risk, hydrological, ecological, archaeological or land ownership related constraints, its delivery if allocated is assured. Combined therefore with its locational characteristics, the Site in question represents a sustainable candidate for future housing development.

7.6 In view of the above and information provided in this Statement, it is respectfully requested that the Alternative Site in question be designated for residential development.