



**Haydn Terrace, Merthyr
Tydfil**

**Archaeological and
Heritage Assessment**

Prepared by:
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On behalf of:
**Merthyr Tydfil Housing
Association Ltd**

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(edp7529_d001a 02 July 2024 DJo/EBR)

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Executive Summary

HEADING

- S1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association Ltd, to support a planning application submitted to Merthyr Tydfil District Borough Council for the proposed development of Haydn Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil (hereafter referred to as 'the site').
- S2 It concludes that the site does not contain any World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens or listed buildings, where there would be a presumption in favour of their physical retention or preservation in situ.
- S3 This assessment has established that the only designated asset which could be sensitive to an effect on its significance from the proposed development is the Grade II listed St Illtyd's Chapel. This is due to a very limited visual relationship between the site and the chapel. However, the assessment concluded that this view has no relevance to the significance of the asset, and thus there will be no negative effects upon the listed building as a result of the change to this view from the proposed development.
- S4 The site is located within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (MTLOHI) specifically with Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) 050. The assessment concludes that development within the site would result in a very minor direct effect on HLCA 050, due to the loss of historic quarrying remains in the site which contribute to a very minor degree to the industrial character of the HLCA, as well as the loss of the prevailing openness of the site, which preserves an element of the historically open landscape. However, these features of the site are considered to contribute in a very minimal way to the historic character of the much larger HLCA. As such, the resultant effect would be limited to a very minor localised change to a HLCA already characterised by considerable, modern urban development. As such, this change would equate to an extremely minor effect on the overall MTLOHI.
- S5 In terms of the site's archaeological potential, consideration of the HER data suggests a very low potential for archaeology other than post-medieval remains to exist within the site. This is concluded from consideration of the Historic Environment Record (HER) as well as consideration of the effects of wide scale quarrying across the southern portion of the site. Archaeology from periods pre-dating the post-medieval era would most likely comprise low value features relating to agriculture or artefact find spots of low heritage value. There is also a moderate to high potential for the site to contain buried archaeological remains dating from the post-medieval and modern period. Any such remains would likely be of low value, relating to industrial quarrying practices.
- S6 Based on the paucity of known or recorded features or deposits of value within the landscape, it is considered that no further archaeological investigation warranted to support this planning application.
- S7 It is thus concluded that, while the very minor impact upon the MTLOHI should be considered within the planning process, no designated or non-designated assets are

assessed to receive any adverse effects from the development which would constrain the sites development. As such, the proposals are considered to meet the requirements specified within the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*, the relevant paragraphs of the Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 and Policy CW1 of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (2016-2031).

Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association Ltd and presents the results of an archaeological and heritage assessment of the land at Haydn Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil, (hereafter referred to as 'the site').
- 1.2 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment has been prepared to support a planning application submitted for the consideration of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC).
- 1.3 The first aim of this assessment is to consider the available historical and archaeological resources for the site and to establish its likely potential to contain historic assets in accordance with Welsh Government guidance in *Planning Policy Wales Edition 12* (2024), *Technical Advice Note 24* (TAN 24) and local planning policy.
- 1.4 In accordance with good practice and guidance, desktop sources have been augmented through the completion of a walkover survey, which in this case was undertaken in January 2022.
- 1.5 The second aim of this assessment is to identify and assess possible changes to the setting of surrounding historic assets as a result of the proposed development, and to determine whether, and to what extent, those changes will affect their heritage significance.

LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

- 1.6 The 2.2 hectare (ha) site is centred on approximately National Grid Reference (NGR) 305779, 208005, within the community of Penydarren: its location is shown in **Appendix EDP 1**.
- 1.7 The site is made up of a single field, which is currently not used for agricultural purposes. Instead, the area has been allowed to become naturally overgrown, with shrub vegetation and trees and with a public footpath running from the southern to eastern boundary across the site. Two small, concreted areas are used for residential car parking at the southern and northern extents of the site.
- 1.8 The western extent of the site is directly bounded by Mitchell Crescent Road and the residential housing along it, with no physical division bar the road pavement. Similarly, at its south-western boundary, the site is directly adjacent to Hillcrest Road and its residential development. To the south-east, the site is bounded by the rear gardens of those houses within the Hillcrest development, to the east by the rear gardens of the ribbon of development along Haydn Terrace, and to the north by those within Marshall Crescent.
- 1.9 These developments form Penybryn to the south of the site, and Galon Uchaf to the east of the site. The centre of the settlement of Dowlaid is also located approximately 900m to the east of the site, and the centre of Merthyr Tydfil itself located circa.1.9km to the south-west.

The wider landscape to the north and east comprises large rolling hills and is both industrial and agricultural in use.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.10 The British Geological Survey (BGS) records the site as comprising South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation, a sedimentary Sandstone bedrock interspersed with seams of coal formed approximately 318 to 319 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period.
- 1.11 Superficial deposits of Devensian Till also occur within the site, formed up to two million years ago as a result of Glaciofluvial movement.
- 1.12 Topographically, the site undulates dramatically, given that the land has been previously quarried. As such, the highest point of the site is the western extent, located c.321m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). This then drops to form a shelf across the centre of the site at approximately c.311m aOD, dropping again to the lowest point at the south-eastern corner, which reaches just c.299m aOD.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 1.13 The site has been allocated for residential development within the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) (2016-2031) (MTCBC, 2020) under policy SW3.16.
- 1.14 Policy SW3: Sustainably Distributing New Homes has identified the area of Haydn Terrace as Location SW3.16, as shown in **Appendix EDP 2**.
- 1.15 This area was considered within the MTCBC RLDP to have the potential to provide up to 40 new homes for the area, along with the necessary infrastructure required to accommodate this.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.16 At current, the masterplan for this development is not finalised, and so further details including the scale, design and layout of the proposals will be provided at a later date. This assessment is based on the assumption of residential development across the entirety of the site.

Section 2

Legislation and Planning Guidance

- 2.1 This section sets out existing legislation and planning policy, governing the conservation and management of the historic environment, of relevance to this application.

LEGISLATION

- 2.2 In March 2016, the *Historic Environment (Wales) Act* came into force. Whilst providing a number of new provisions to existing legislation, the changes do not specifically affect the planning process, or the way archaeology and heritage is assessed.

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

- 2.3 The *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990* is the primary legislative instrument addressing the treatment of listed buildings and conservation areas through the planning process in Wales.

- 2.4 Section 66(1) of the 1990 Act concerns listed buildings and states that:

“...in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”

- 2.5 The ‘special regard’ duty of the 1990 Act has been tested in the Court of Appeal and confirmed to require that “*considerable importance and weight*” should be afforded by the decision maker to the desirability of preserving a listed building along with its setting. The relevant judgement is referenced as *Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd v East Northants DC, English Heritage and National Trust* (2014) EWCA Civ 137.

- 2.6 However, it must be recognised that Section 66(1) of the 1990 Act does not identify that the local authority or the Secretary of State must preserve a listed building or its setting; and neither does it indicate that a development that does not preserve them is unacceptable and should therefore be refused.

- 2.7 This point is made very clearly in Paragraph 54 of the judgement regarding *Forest of Dean DC v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* (2013), which identifies that:

“...Section 66 (1) did not oblige the inspector to reject the proposal because he found it would cause some harm to the setting of the listed buildings. The duty is directed to ‘the desirability of preserving’ the setting of listed buildings. One sees there the basic purpose of the ‘special regard’ duty. It does not rule out acceptable change. It gives the decision-maker an extra task to perform, which is to judge whether the change proposed is acceptable. But it does not prescribe the outcome. It does not dictate the refusal of

planning permission if the proposed development is found likely to alter or even to harm the setting of a listed building.”

- 2.8 In other words, it is up to the decision maker (such as a local authority) to assess whether the proposal which is before them would result in “*acceptable change*”.
- 2.9 Section 72(1) of the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990* sets out the statutory duty for a decision-maker where a proposed development would have an impact on the character and appearance of a conservation area. This states that: “*...with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.*”
- 2.10 As far as Section 72(1) of the Act is concerned, it has previously been established by the Courts (‘*South Lakeland DC v Secretary of State for the Environment*’, [1992] 2 WLR 204) that proposed development which does not detract from the character or appearance of a conservation area is deemed to be in accordance with the legislation. In other words, there is no statutory requirement to actively ‘enhance’.
- 2.11 The preservation of the setting of a conservation area is not a statutory duty, being a planning policy matter only.

Archaeology

- 2.12 The *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* addresses the designation and management of scheduled monuments, providing for the maintenance of a schedule of monuments (and archaeological remains) which are protected.
- 2.13 The designation of archaeological and historic sites as ‘scheduled monuments’ applies only to those that are deemed to be of national importance and is generally adopted only if it represents the best means of protection.
- 2.14 The 1979 Act does not address the concept of ‘setting’ for scheduled monuments: just their physical remains. Therefore, for scheduled monuments, the protection of ‘setting’ is a matter of policy only.
- 2.15 In Wales, the written consent of the Welsh Minister is required for development that would impact upon a scheduled monument, and applications for Scheduled Monument Consent are submitted to Cadw, the Welsh Government’s Historic Environment Service.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

- 2.16 The Welsh Government published *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040* on 24 February 2021 (WG 2021) and highlights in the foreword from the Minister for Housing and Local Government that it forms a “*framework for planning the change and development our country will need over the next two decades*”.

- 2.16 In terms of the Welsh Government's objectives, Number 6 of 'Future Wales Outcomes' on Page 55 states that:

"Development plans will have a forward thinking, positive attitude towards enabling economic development, investment and innovation. Increased prosperity and productivity will be pursued across all parts of Wales, building on current activity and promoting a culture of innovation, social partnership, entrepreneurialism and skills-development in sustainable industries and sectors. The culture, heritage and environment of Wales will play a positive, modern role in the economy by attracting the interest and expenditure of tourists and providing a distinctive and trusted brand for Welsh businesses."

- 2.17 National planning guidance concerning the treatment of the historic environment across Wales, is detailed in Section 6.1 of Chapter 6 Distinctive and Natural Places of Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, which was published in February 2024 (PPW 2024).

- 2.18 At paragraph 6.1.2, it identifies the historic environment as comprising individual historic features, such as archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks, gardens, townscapes and landscapes, collectively known as 'historic assets'.

- 2.19 At paragraph 6.1.6, the Welsh Government's objectives for the historic environment are outlined. Of these, the following are of relevance to the current assessment. These seek to "conserve archaeological remains, both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy"; and 'safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved'.

- 2.20 At paragraph 6.1.7, it is stated that:

"It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way."

- 2.21 As such, with regard to decision making, it is stated that: "Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place".

- 2.22 Regarding listed buildings, PPW (2024) states, at Paragraph 6.1.10, that:

"...there should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage" and then adds that 'For any development proposal affecting a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses."

- 2.23 It then adds that: "The aim should be to find the best way to protect and enhance the special qualities of listed buildings, retaining them in sustainable use".

- 2.24 Regarding conservation areas, it is stated at paragraph 6.1.14 that: *“There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of conservation areas or their settings”.*
- 2.25 Paragraphs 6.1.15 and 6.1.16 state that:
- “There will be a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission for development, including advertisements, which damage the character and appearance of a conservation area or its setting to an unacceptable level. In exceptional cases the presumption may be overridden in favour of development deemed desirable on the grounds of some other public interest”, and that: ‘Preservation or enhancement of a conservation area can be achieved by a development which either makes a positive contribution to an area’s character or appearance, or leaves them unharmed.”*
- 2.26 It is apparent the PPW does not state that any damage to the character and appearance of a conservation area would result in the refusal of planning permission. It is only damage that is of an *“unacceptable level”* which would result in a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission. The required judgement is concerned with what constitutes an ‘unacceptable’ level of harm not whether there is any harm at all.
- 2.27 Regarding archaeological remains, PPW paragraph 6.1.23 notes that: *“The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not”.* It then adds at paragraph 6.1.24 that:
- “...Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in a direct adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance).’ At Paragraph 6.1.25 it states that: ‘In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development.”*
- 2.28 Paragraph 6.1.26 recommends that:
- “...Where archaeological remains are known to exist or there is a potential for them to survive, an application should be accompanied by sufficient information, through desk-based assessment and/or field evaluation, to allow a full understanding of the impact of the proposal on the significance of the remains. The needs of archaeology and development may be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, through early discussion and assessment.”*
- 2.29 In situations where planning approval would result in archaeological remains being lost or destroyed, at paragraph 6.1.27, PPW (2024) states the following in respect of the Local Planning Authority’s obligations:
- “If the planning authority is minded to approve an application and where archaeological remains are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them, the planning authority must*

be satisfied that the developer has secured appropriate and satisfactory provision for their recording and investigation, followed by the analysis and publication of the results and the deposition of the resulting archive in an approved repository. On occasions, unforeseen archaeological remains may still be discovered during the course of a development. A written scheme of investigation should consider how to react to such circumstances or it can be covered through an appropriate condition for a watching brief. Where remains discovered are deemed to be of national importance, the Welsh Ministers have the power to schedule the site and in such circumstances scheduled monument consent must be required before works can continue.”

TECHNICAL ADVICE NOTE 24 (TAN 24)

2.30 Additional heritage guidance in Wales is set out in *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (Welsh Government, 2017).

2.31 TAN 24 sets out that it provides “*guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning applications*”.

2.32 It clarifies the policies and distinctions made in PPW (2024). A definition for an “*historic asset*” is given as: “*An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, a historic building or area, historic park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated*”.

2.33 Effects through changes within the setting of a designated historic asset are covered in TAN 24 at paragraphs 1.23 to 1.29. These paragraphs define the setting of an historic asset as comprising:

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

2.34 TAN 24 also identifies factors to consider when assessing effects on setting. Paragraph 1.26 requests that it is: “*...for the applicant to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information to allow the assessment of their proposals in respect of scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered historic parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, or other sites of national importance and their settings*”.

2.35 Paragraph 1.29 goes on to state that:

“The local planning authority will need to make its own assessment of the impact within the setting of a historic asset, having considered the responses received from consultees as part of this process. A judgement has to be made by the consenting authority, on a case-

by-case basis, over whether a proposed development may be damaging to the setting of the historic asset, or may enhance or have a neutral impact on the setting by the removal of existing inappropriate development or land use.”

- 2.36 Also of relevance to the application is **Section 4**, which is concerned with archaeological remains. This section outlines advice regarding consultation, archaeological assessment and the preservation, recording and understanding of archaeological evidence.

LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (2016 – 2031)

- 2.37 The MTCBC RDLP (2016 – 2031) was adopted by MTCBC on 29 January 2020.

- 2.38 The RLDP outlines the following objective with regard to the historic environment:

“LDP Objective 9 Heritage and Cultural Assets:

To protect, enhance and promote all heritage, historic and cultural assets.”

- 2.39 In terms of policy, the Local Development Plan Policy CW1 is of relevance to the current application:

“Policy CW1: The Historic Environment

The integrity of our historic environment assets will be conserved and enhanced. Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated they would preserve or enhance the architectural quality, character or the historic or cultural importance of our designated historic environment assets.

Development affecting undesignated historic environment assets including, Locally Listed Buildings or structures, Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, Urban Character Areas and Archaeologically Sensitive Areas should have regard to their special character and archaeological importance.”

- 2.40 In addition to policy relating to the historic environment, the RLDP has allocated the land which forms the site within Policy SW3.16: *Sustainably Distributing New Homes*, where it is considered to have capacity for up to 40 homes.

- 2.41 These adopted planning policies, at the national and local levels, have been taken into account in the preparation of this assessment.

Section 3

Methodology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 This Archaeology and Heritage Assessment has been drafted in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020), with which EDP is a Registered Organisation. These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessment.
- 3.2 This report is written in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by EDP in February 2022 (EDP 2022) and approved by Rob Dunning, the archaeological advisor to the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust.
- 3.3 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major sources of information comprised the following:
- Known archaeological sites, monuments and findspots from the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record (GGAT HER);
 - The National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW);
 - Cadw's Historic Environment Service for information on designated historic assets;
 - Historic maps held by the Glamorgan Archives and from online sources;
 - Aerial photographs which are held by the Central Register of Aerial Photography for Wales (CRAPW) at Cardiff;
 - Environment Agency LiDAR datasets; and
 - Relevant books, articles and previous assessment reports on the site.
- 3.4 This report provides a synthesis of relevant information for the site derived from a search area extending up to 1km from its center, hereafter known as the 'study area', for its consideration of potential physical effects on heritage assets and to allow for additional contextual information regarding its archaeological interest and/or potential to be gathered.
- 3.5 Given the nature of the local landscape, with the site located within the varying topography of the Taff Valley, a study area of 2km from the centre of site was adopted for the evaluation of potential effects upon the settings of designated heritage assets. This is in order to allow for any potential visibility between the site and assets given the high and low points within the valley. Considering the local topography and the presence of considerable intervening development, it was determined that the proposals would be unlikely to result in change to the settings of any assets beyond 2km from the site.

3.6 The assessment of significance of known/recorded archaeological remains within the site makes reference (where relevant) to the four 'heritage values' identified by Cadw within its *Conservation Principles* document (Cadw, 2011). These are:

- The asset's *evidential value*, which is defined as those elements of the historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric;
- The asset's *historical value*, which is defined as those elements of an asset which might illustrate a particular aspect of past life or might be associated with a notable family, person, event or movement;
- The asset's *aesthetic value*, which is defined as deriving from the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from the historic asset; and
- The asset's *communal value*, which is defined as deriving from the meanings that a historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

Setting of Heritage Assets

3.7 In addition to the potential for direct impacts on the fabric of an asset, when assessing the impact of proposals on designated historic assets, it is important to ascertain whether change within its 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'. This assessment of potential indirect effects is made according to Cadw's guidance *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (published on 31 May 2017).

3.8 In simple terms, setting "*includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape*" (Cadw, 2017). It must be recognised from the outset that 'setting' is not a heritage asset and cannot itself be harmed. The guidance states that the importance of setting "*lies in what it contributes to the significance of a historic asset*".

3.9 As such, when assessing the indirect impact of proposals on designated heritage assets, it is not a question of whether their setting would be affected, but rather a question of whether change within the asset's 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'.

3.10 Set within this context, where the objective is to determine the potential for development to have an adverse effect on designated heritage assets beyond the boundary of a development site, it is necessary to first define the significance of the asset in question - and the contribution made to that significance by its 'setting', in order to establish whether there would be a loss, and therefore harm. The guidance identifies that change within a heritage asset's setting need not necessarily cause harm to that asset - it can be positive, negative or neutral.

3.11 Cadw's guidance (Cadw, 2017) sets out a four-stage approach to the identification and assessment of setting effects; i.e.:

- Stage 1: Identify the historic assets which might be affected;

- Stage 2: Define and analyse the setting, to understand how it contributes to the asset's heritage significance;
- Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of development; and
- Stage 4: Consider options to mitigate or improve that potential impact.

3.12 Therefore, the key issue to be determined is whether, and to what extent, the proposed development would affect the contribution that setting makes to the heritage significance of the asset under consideration, as per Stage 2 of the Cadw guidance.

Section 4

Existing Information

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 The site does not contain any designated 'historic assets', such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, or historic parks and gardens.
- 4.2 There are 10 designated historic assets within the 1km study area. These comprise eight Grade II listed buildings, and two conservation areas. When considering the 2km search area, there are 100 additional designated heritage assets. These comprise three scheduled monuments, two Grade I listed buildings, two Grade II* listed buildings, 88 Grade II listed buildings, one Registered Park and Garden and four conservation areas. All of these assets are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 4.3 The Glamorgan-Gwent Historic Environment Record (GGAT HER) does not include any known archaeological records within the site. However, one archaeological event is noted spanning the entire search area. This relates to the Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Project, undertaken by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust between 2005-2010, assessing the current state of survival/preservation of the ironworks landscape of Southeast Wales.
- 4.4 Within the wider 1km search area, the GGHER identifies 44 HER entries, not including those listed buildings previously mentioned. The recorded HER entries span a limited time period, from the medieval period until the modern period. A total of five archaeological events are also recorded by the HER, although these are entirely limited to surveys and assessment, as opposed to physical excavations. These surveys will be discussed where relevant to the archaeological potential of the site. The locations of all HER entries are identified on **Plan EDP 2**.
- 4.5 The site is located within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (LOHI, as defined by Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. The GGAT has further defined this landscape of historic interest into Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs), assessing the importance of each. The HLCA in which the site is located, as well as the wider HLCAs which form the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape are shown on **Plan EDP 3**. Consultation with the archaeological advisor at GGAT in January 2022 established that, whilst the site was located within the LOHIW, the proposals would largely conform to the primarily urban landscape of the HLCA. As such, it was determined that a full Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL) would not be necessary in this instance.

DESIGNATED ASSETS

Scheduled Monuments

- 4.6 Within the 2km search area there are three scheduled monuments, these comprise Morlais Castle (**GM028**), Morlais Ring Cairn (**GM563**) and Merthyr Tramroad: Morlais Castle section (**GM594**).

- 4.7 Morlais Castle (**GM028**) is located c.1.5km north-west of site and comprises the remains of a stone castle, with protective earthwork outer defences. Construction of the Castle was begun in 1288, however, it appears to have been abandoned shortly afterward in 1294, when it was captured during a Welsh rebellion by Madog ap Llywelyn. It is located on a high limestone ridge, providing a defensive location with wide ranging views (**Image EDP 1**). The Castle is scheduled by Cadw on account of “*its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive and domestic practices*”, as well as its strong historical associations. No historical or contextual associations between the castle and the land within the site have been identified. Furthermore, whilst the Castle allows wide ranging views, which may originally have included very glimpsed, very distant views of the site, a visit to the monument confirmed that intervening modern built form and vegetation no longer allows for a clear visual relationship with the site, which is indistinguishable within the wider heavily developed landscape. It is therefore concluded that the Castle is in no way sensitive to the effects of development within the site and is not discussed further.
- 4.8 Morlais Ring Cairn (**GM563**), located c.1.6km north of the site, is dated to the Bronze Age period and is scheduled by Cadw on account of its archaeological “*potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual.*” The site is located on a ridge, likely so that wide ranging views could have been achieved from or to the structure. The monument could not be visited during the site visit due to its location on the Morlais Golf Club, however, it is assessed that intervening modern built form and vegetation is likely to entirely screen any views towards the site, which is located a considerable distance away. Moreover, no historical or contextual associations with prehistoric activity have been identified within the site. As such, the Cairn is not considered sensitive to the development of the site and is not discussed further.
- 4.9 The scheduled monument of Merthyr Tramroad: Morlais Castle section (**GM594**) is located c.1.4km north-west of the site. The monument comprises the well-preserved remains of a section of the Merthyr Tramroad, which runs from the quarries below and west of Morlais Castle and is considered of national significance with regard to an “*understanding of the development of the transport network associated with the iron industry*”. The tramroad was in use between c.1793 to c.1880. No historical associations with the land at the site are identified. Furthermore, due to the densely vegetated setting of the tramroad, as well as the modern built form which divides the monument from the site, which is a considerable distance from it, there is no visual relationship between the asset and the site. It is therefore concluded that the monument is in no way sensitive to the effects of development within the site and is not discussed further.

Listed Buildings

- 4.10 Within the 2km search area, there are 100 listed buildings, comprising two Grade I listed buildings, two Grade II* listed buildings 96 and three Grade II listed buildings. Only four buildings, the Grade II* listed Dowlais Works Blast Engine House (**11491**), Grade II listed St Illytyd’s Roman Catholic Chapel (**11517**), Grade II listed Church of St John (**17931**) and Grade II listed Bethania Independent Chapel (**21314**), are assessed as having the potential for affects upon their setting by the proposals. As such, these four buildings are discussed below, with reference to their significance and the significance derived from their setting, as per Step 2 of the guidance outlined in Cadw’s *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (2017).

- 4.11 The remaining listed buildings are located within the settlements of Dowlais, Pant and Merthyr Tydfil. Given their lack of intervisibility with the site due to intervening form, as well as large distances from the site, these assets are not considered to be sensitive to future development within the site. As such, these buildings are discussed as a group within these contexts below rather than individually,

Dowlais Works Blast Engine House

The Asset and its Significance

- 4.12 The Grade II* listed Dowlais Works Blast Engine House (**11491**), is located c.1.1km east of the site, within the town of Dowlais (**Image EDP 2**). The Engine House is noted in the Cadw citation to have been constructed in 1905-7 as the blowing engine house built for Guest, Keen and Nettlefold to power a new furnace plant at the Dowlais Works. The Iron and steel working at Dowlais halted in 1930, before being fully closed in 1936. The building was then used for offices and storage by the OP Chocolate Factory from the late 20th century and remains so today.

- 4.13 The architectural composition is noted within the Cadw citation as follows:

“Very large industrial building in red brick with yellow dressings and hipped roof behind parapet. Apparently of 2-storeys, a high lower floor and attic but actually a single space within. Nine-bay side walls, 3-bay end walls, the bays divided by piers with yellow brick quoins. Rubble stone plinth, double yellow-brick string course under upper windows and similar triple course under parapet. Lower openings are long, arch-headed with yellow brick rusticated surrounds and arches with stone impost and key blocks. Third-length windows in bays 1, 2 and 9, quarter-length window in bay 5, with lintel below at mid height over recessed walling with yellow-brick arch and fanlight over narrower C20 door (early photographs show a tall arch under the window here). Bay 9 has yellow-brick arched doorway, infilled with C20 small door. Upper level has similar but short windows. Original metal glazing survives at this level with small panes and radiating bars.

Rear NW side has the same upper windows but blank long yellow-brick arched panels to each lower bay with 2 yellow-brick blank roundels over each panel, all with stone key and impost blocks. Centre bay has roundels over cast-iron portico with 2 columns each side, corniced flat top similar double-column responds. Two further shorter columns stand on flat roof. Cambered-headed yellow-brick doorway within. The bays each side of centre have only one roundel over the panel and that asymmetrically set, but in mirror image. End elevations are similar to main front at NW, and plain at SE with just blank yellow-brick framed panels to upper level and 2 oddly random roundel windows below.”

- 4.14 The Engine House is listed on account of it being “one of the now rare blast engine houses in Wales”, as well as on account of it being an industrial building of very large scale, with archetypal architectural features. Considering this, the significance of the Engine House is considered to stem predominantly from the evidential and aesthetic value of its built fabrics and modest artistic features, representing the vernacular styles and techniques of such industrial buildings, as well as from its historic value related to its function as part of the Dowlais Iron works, providing insight into the South Wales Iron Industry during this period.

Contribution of setting

- 4.15 The setting of the Dowlais Blast Engine House is largely defined by the OP Chocolate factory complex which surrounds it, primarily to the south of the building, but with a large staff car park to the east. This modern industrial setting does not contribute to the significance of this listed building, as it no longer reflects the original purpose of the building as an iron working industrial site.
- 4.16 Furthermore, this industrial complex is well enclosed to the south and east by surrounding woodland, as well as by the tree-lined route of the A4060. As such, no tangible historic and contextual links between the Engine House and any remaining evidence of the wider Dowlais Iron Works, to the south-east, can be experienced.
- 4.17 To the north and west, the Engine House is enclosed by the wider residential settlement of Dowlais, this setting therefore retains a level of historic integrity with the building, reflecting the growth and development of the town since the early 20th century.
- 4.18 Although the site was quarried during the 20th century, there are no specific links with the Dowlais Iron Works. The tithe apportionment of the Merthyr Tydfil Parish in 1850 records the land as being owned and used by the Penydarren Iron Company, rather than the Dowlais Iron Company, which is recorded as the owner of the Engine House. Therefore, the land which forms site is not considered to have any historic or contextual connections with the Blast Engine House. Furthermore, given the large amount of intervening built form to the north of the Engine House, the site cannot be experienced from the asset (**Image EDP 3**).
- 4.19 Situated on higher ground than the settlement of Dowlais, especially in the western part of the site, means that a very limited, glimpsed view of the Engine House can be achieved from the site (**Image EDP 4**). However, this glimpsed view is limited to the roof and eastern corner of the Engine house, with the asset largely screened by the built form of Dowlais town. This very minor visual relationship does not, therefore, allow for a clear appreciation of the architectural forms and fabric which contribute to the asset's significance.
- 4.20 From this information, it is considered that there is a very minor visual relationship between the site and the Grade II* listed Dowlais Blast Engine Furnace, in so much that it can be experienced from the site as a small part of the built form of Dowlais. Although this experience indicates that the site does fall into the periphery of the setting of the asset, it is not considered to be part of the setting which contributes to the significance of the listed building. Instead, these incidental views are simply the result of the largely varied topography of the area, allowing vistas across the wider landscape.
- 4.21 It is therefore considered that development within the site does not have the potential to cause an adverse effect to the significance of the Grade II* listed Dowlais Blast Engine Furnace.

St Illtyd's Roman Catholic Church

The Asset and its Significance

- 4.22 The Grade II listed St Illtyd's Roman Catholic Church (**11517**) is located c.350m east of the site, at the outskirts of the town of Dowlais (**Image EDP 5**). The Cadw citation notes that this was the first Catholic Church built in the Welsh Valleys. It was constructed in two main phases, the first being the rubble stone nave and north aisle with its south porch, constructed in 1844-6 by J. J. Scoles, with a large addition in hard red brick, with transeptal gables and octagonal-roofed apse, constructed in 1894 by Edmund Kirby of Liverpool.

- 4.23 The Cadw citation describes the architectural composition of the church as follows:

“Church, the older part in rubble stone with Bath stone dressings, the later additions in red brick with terracotta dressings. Slate roofs. Plain original church of nave and n aisle, with white-painted rendered W end, the nave gable with stepped triple lancet (the right light with higher sill) and the aisle gable smaller with traceried 2-light with segmental pointed head. The rubble stone S side has similar 2-light to left of gabled large porch and single lancet to right. Porch has coped gable and cross finial, segmental-pointed arch with hoodmould over inset pointed doorway, the recess with splayed sides, all in ashlar. Double boarded doors. Small lancet vent in gable. N aisle has 4 2-light windows in chamfered segmental pointed surrounds with 2-step buttresses between.

The addition of 1894 is to a much larger scale. S transept projects a short way and is very broad with basement, 2 bays above and big rose window in corbelled-out gable. A mid pier divides the bays, the basement with cambered-headed window to left and door to right, the floor above with 2 big cambered-headed windows with triple lancet tracery. Moulded brick cornice over basement, corbelling under gable storey, and hoods and surrounds to windows. Inset projection or stair turret in angle to nave with W lancet and hipped roof at right angles to transept roof. Ground floor W door in angle to nave. Another more distinct stair turret on transept E side on brick corbels with three-sided shaft in angle to chancel rising to octagonal turret with pyramid cap. This is in angle to a smaller parallel transeptal chapel with S basement door and first floor lancet. The SE corner is chamfered with corbelling at upper corner and there is stepped brickwork in gable. Chapel E side has 4 blank panels above and 2-light basement window below. Chancel is octagonal on German model with octagonal slate roof and 5 large lancets recessed in stepped brick surrounds with hoodmoulds in bays divided by angle piers, with corbelling under eaves and deep stepped brickwork below sills down to cornice over 2-light basement windows. N transept has similar parallel E chapel but transept gable is simpler, broad with 4 large lancets and mid pier. Transept is flush with N aisle.”

- 4.24 St Illtyd's Roman Catholic Church is listed by Cadw on account of it being “a historically early Catholic church with 1894 addition of unusual architectural quality with fine surviving fittings, including the very ornate high altar.” The interior features were not visited during the site visit, as the development proposals would not be considered to have any effect upon them, although it is clear from the desk-based information that these interior features contribute to the significance of the chapel. This information also highlights the historic value of the church, as the earliest example of the Roman Catholic denomination of faith in the region. A visit to the asset also confirmed unusual exterior features, concluding that a

large amount of the Church's significance is derived from the evidential and aesthetic value of its built fabric and form.

Contribution of Setting

- 4.25 The setting of the St Illtyd's Roman Catholic Church is currently defined by two small blocks of woodland to the north-west and east. Through an assessment of historic mapping, it appears that these areas used to comprise open land, potentially owned by the church as a church yard, however, the current enclosed woodland no longer reflects any evidence of this possible historic use.
- 4.26 The current setting of the church is also dominated by the St Illtyd's Roman Catholic Primary School, along with its car park and playing grounds, to the south-west, and the Dowlais Catholic club to the south-east (**Image EDP 6**). These mid-20th century additions do not reflect the historic setting of the church, however, they do indicate the growth of infrastructure related to the Roman Catholic faith around the church, and so are considered to contribute to the communal value of the asset.
- 4.27 To the north, the church's setting comprises the green space of the school playing fields, as well as Ifor park, although there are no views towards the park due to the intervening vegetation. The wider setting of the church is defined by the built form of Dowlais to the east and south and Penybryn, between Gellifaelog Old Road and Haydn Terrace to the west.
- 4.28 The site is located immediately east of Haydn Terrace and has no historical or functional association with the church. Glimpsed views towards the site were achieved from the frontage of the church. However, these views were largely obscured by the woodland to the north-west of the church, and the residential housing of Penybryn (**Image EDP 7**). As such, views outwards from the church to the site are no more than very occasional, incidental glimpses, which already contain urban buildings. These limited glimpsed views are not considered of any relevance to the significance of the asset, with the land at the site simply comprising part of the wider backdrop in views from the church.
- 4.29 From the site itself, St Illtyd's Church can be partially viewed, however, this view is obstructed by the woodland which encloses the church, and the buildings which divide it from the site (**Image EDP 8**). Whilst this view allows for a limited appreciation of the architectural form and fabric of the building, it is seen from a distance and largely screened, and so the significance of the Church cannot be fully experienced.
- 4.30 The site does fall into the periphery of the setting of the Grade II listed St Illtyd's Roman Catholic Church, due to a limited visual relationship between the site and the asset. However, this visual relationship is largely obscured and does not allow the full appreciation of the asset. Furthermore, there is no historical reason to indicate that the church was designed to be viewed from this location. Instead, it is concluded that the varied topography of the landscape simply allows an incidental view towards the Church, as part of wider vistas across the landscape.
- 4.31 The asset is therefore considered to have a low sensitivity to development within the site in so much as development would cause a minor change to the views towards and from the listed church, but to views which are not considered to contribute to its significance. It is

therefore considered that the site's development for housing will not result in negative effects upon the listed building as it would comprise only a minor change to the wider landscape which is already dominated by modern urban development.

Church of St John

The Asset and its Significance

- 4.32 The Grade II listed Church of St John (**17931**) is located c.800m east of the site, within the town of Dowlais (**Image EDP 9**). The Cadw citation notes that the church was originally constructed in 1827 for Sir Josiah John Guest, of the Dowlais Iron Company, but was sequentially rebuilt in the late 19th and early 20th century, such that it is now entirely Victorian Gothic.

- 4.33 The architectural composition of the church is detailed within the Cadw citation as follows:

“Anglican parish church, rubble stone with slate roofs and ashlar dressings. Three distinct parts. Large nave and aisle of 1893-4 in rock-faced coursed stone (Llancaiach blue Pennant stone) with Bath stone ashlar dressings to windows and porches, sandstone ashlar to buttresses and turret. E and W porches and octagonal SW turret to front left, lancet Gothic. Big stepped buttresses to S front pierced by pointed arches at feet. Large triple lancet S window, the centre 2-light. Side walls have gabled porches in first bay then E side has 3 pairs of lancets and one stepped triplet, each bay separated by buttresses, taller to last bay. W side has 3 tiny paired clerestorey lights over lean-to aisle with 3 pairs of lancets and porch to right. Turret is octagonal with sandstone ashlar top stage with narrow louvred openings and sandstone cap with finial. Rendered E wall. Chancel of 1873 is much lower with rougher rubble stone and 2 lancets W, 3-light ashlar N window and one small lancet set higher on W with lean-to vestry to right, with lancet N, door and lancet W. Chancel and vestry have grey limestone quoins. Moulded sill course to chancel, eroded on E. W transept of 1881 in similar rubble stone with grey stone quoins and similar 3-light W window. Blank N wall sill course and plinth course. Inset plaques above plinth.”

- 4.34 The Memorial Library is listed on account of it being the historic parish church of Dowlais, as well as for its “*strong historic connections with the Dowlais Iron Works and the Guest Family*” and its group value with the Grade II listed Dowlais Works Stables, (**11478**) located immediately to the north. It is therefore indicated by the desk-based information that a proportion of the significance of the Grade II listed building is derived from its communal and historic value as the parish church for the community, as well as its links to the Dowlais Iron Works, and thus the wider iron working industry of South Wales. A visit to the asset also established that a large amount of its significance stems from the evidential and aesthetic value of its fabric, forms and detailing, representing a good example of a Victorian Gothic Church.

Contribution of Setting

- 4.35 The setting of the Church of St John is defined by its own grounds, with a church yard extending to the east, and car park to the west. This land remains consistent with the plot of land assigned to the church within the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

- 4.36 The church is located off Upper Union Street, and immediately south of the Grade II listed Dowlais Works Stables, (**11478**). These elements of the church's setting are considered to contribute most to its setting, allowing it to be experienced as a public building within its community, as historically intended, as well as allowing the historical link with the wider Dowlais Iron Works to be appreciated.
- 4.37 Considering the wider setting of the Memorial Library, the asset is surrounded by the buildings of Dowlais, predominantly residential housing. As such, there are no views towards the site from the Church, due to intervening buildings (**Image EDP 10**). Nor are any historic or contextual connections between the site and the Church of St John identified.
- 4.38 However, as previously noted, the topography of site, rising at the west, means that a limited, glimpsed view of the Church can be achieved from the site (**Image EDP 4**). However, this glimpsed view is partially screened by the buildings of Dowlais town which separates the two and the church is c.800m from the site. This very minor visual relationship does not, therefore, allow for a clear appreciation of the architectural forms and fabric which contribute to the asset's significance. The Church is therefore only experienced from the site as a very small part of the wider built form of Dowlais.
- 4.39 Due to this very minor level of visual relationship between the site and the Grade II listed Church of St John, it can be considered that the site does fall into the periphery of the setting of the asset, in so much that the varied topography allows an incidental view towards it, as part of wider vistas across Dowlais. However, the ability to achieve a distant and obscured view of the asset, with no appreciation of its special interest, does not mean that the site can be considered part of the setting which contributes to the significance of the listed building.
- 4.40 It is therefore considered that the development proposals do not have potential to cause any adverse effect to the Grade II listed Church of St John and it is not considered any further in this report.

Bethania Independent Chapel

The Asset and its Significance

- 4.41 The Grade II listed Bethania Independent Chapel (**21314**) is located c.775m east of the site, within the town of Dowlais (**Image EDP 11**). The Cadw citation notes that the first Bethania chapel was built in 1826, then rebuilt in 1838-9, before being extensively re-modelled and enlarged in 1910 by local architect E A Johnson. The current structure predominantly consists of the 1910 construction.
- 4.42 The Cadw citation also describes the architectural composition of the church as follows:
- “Independent Chapel of 1910, unpainted stucco in Italianate/Classical style. Slate roof with bracketed eaves and terracotta ridge tiles. Deeply bracketed timber pediments to gable facade and centre of long wall to South Street. South Street elevation is 2-storey, 4-window, with pediment over 2 bays. Channelled plinth to right, accommodating slope of site, then channelled rusticated raised surrounds to windows, set in full-height vertical panels. Moulded sill courses to both floors. Channelled angle piers at ground floor, changed to paired pilasters at second storey level. Rear wall appears identical, but with lower*

fenestration blocked. Gabled entrance front has similar channelled angle piers and pilasters and first storey band but is otherwise plainer. Ground floor altered with evidence of 3 blocked roundels above double wooden doors. Square headed windows to lower storey, arched headed to upper, without rustication but with keystones. Windows are smaller than those on street front. Keyed roundel to pediment. Attached schoolroom to left of South Street facade with stone gabled face, dated 1867. Simple arched door, flanked by pair of arched-headed windows, all with stone voussoirs."

- 4.43 The Cadw citation lists the Bethania Independent Chapel on account of it being a “*chapel of exceptional scale with a strongly modelled classical exterior and a recorded fine interior.*” The interior features were not visited during the site visit, as the development proposals are not considered to have either a direct or indirect effect upon them. However, it is stated in the Cadw citation that the church consists of entirely 1910 interiors with galleries on all sides, restrained Mackintosh style stain glass windows, and the impressive capability to seat a congregation of 1,200. These interior features are therefore considered to contribute considerably to the significance of the chapel. A visit to the asset also confirmed the modelled classical exterior, and so established that a large amount of its significance stems from the evidential and aesthetic value of its built fabric and form.

Contribution of Setting

- 4.44 The setting of the Bethania Independent Chapel includes a small church yard extending to its rear. This land remains consistent with the plot of land assigned to the church within historic OS mapping, and thus provides an element of historic context to the church.
- 4.45 However, the principal factor of the chapel’s setting which contributes to its significance is its location within the settlement of Dowlais. The church is located on South Street which was historically adjoined to the High Street. This setting allows the chapel to be experienced as a public building serving the community of Dowlais, as historically intended.
- 4.46 The wider setting of the Chapel is therefore defined by the surrounding built form of Dowlais, primarily made up of residential housing. This intervening form therefore does not allow any visual connection towards the site from the Chapel. Nor are any historic or contextual connections between the site and the Chapel identified.
- 4.47 However, as discussed with the other notable buildings within Dowlais, the topography does allow a glimpsed view of the church from within the site (**Image EDP 4**). This glimpsed view is limited to just the roof and upper floor of the Chapel, as it is partially screened by the intervening houses which separate it from the site. This very minor visual relationship does not, therefore, allow for a clear appreciation of the architectural forms and fabric which contribute to the asset’s significance. The Chapel is therefore only experienced from the site as a very small part of the wider built form of Dowlais settlement.
- 4.48 It can therefore be considered that the site does fall into the periphery of the setting of the Grade II listed Bethania Independent Chapel, given this very minor level of visual relationship between the site, in so much that the varied topography allows an incidental view towards it, as part of wider vistas across Dowlais. However, the ability to achieve a distant and obscured view of the asset, with no appreciation of its special interest, does not

mean that the site can be considered part of the setting which contributes to the significance of the listed building.

- 4.49 It is therefore considered that the development proposals do not have the potential to cause any level of adverse effect to the Grade II listed Bethania Independent Chapel. As such, the asset is not considered any further within this report.

Listed Buildings Within Dowlais

- 4.50 There are nine additional listed buildings that fall within the 2km search area and are located within Dowlais which have not been discussed individually above.
- 4.51 Five of these buildings are located within the Dowlais Conservation Area, at the historic heart of the town, c.850m from the site; these comprise the Grade II* listed Former Guest Memorial Library (**11490**) and the Grade II listed Dowlais Public Library (**27083**), Dowlais Work Stables (**11478**), Stables House (**11477**) and Ivor English Congregational Church (**11489**).
- 4.52 These buildings are entirely screened from the site by intervening modern form of Dowlais, which surrounds the conservation area. Moreover, the setting of these assets, in so much as it contributes to their significance, is predominantly formed by their relationship with the immediate street scene, the special architectural interest of which defines the conservation area, rather than to a distant parcel of land within a wider built landscape. This setting is also defined by the historic group value of these assets, in relation to their connection with the Dowlais Iron works.
- 4.53 Neither are any visual or historical relationships identified for the remaining four grade II listed buildings on the outskirts of Dowlais, the closest of which is c.920m from the site. These buildings comprise the Industrial building at former Ivor Works (**27086**), Lower Row (**27085**), Mile Post (**27084**) and Aqueduct on Dowlais Free Drainage System (**80964**).
- 4.54 Subsequently, it is considered that the site does not represent a part of the setting of any of these assets that would contribute to their significance. These assets are therefore not considered to be sensitive to the effects of development within the site as it does not have the potential to affect the significance of these assets through change to their setting.
- 4.55 As such, these assets are not discussed individually and are not considered any further within this report.

Listed Buildings Within Pant

- 4.56 There are five listed buildings that fall within the 2km search area and are located within the settlement of Pant.
- 4.57 These buildings comprise The War Memorial (**80958**), White Gate Road Bridge and Aqueduct (**80963**), SE Ventilation Shaft to Morlais Tunnel (**80962**), Centre ventilation shaft to Morlais Tunnel (**80961**) and Blaenygarth (**80959**). These buildings are all grade II listed, and the closest is located c.1.2km from the site boundary.

- 4.58 These buildings are entirely screened from the site by the surrounding built form. Furthermore, no historical or contextual associations between any of these assets and the site are identified, given that their historical value is primarily focused on the ironworking at Morlais.
- 4.59 It is therefore concluded that the site does not represent a part of the setting of any of these assets that would contribute to their significance. Development within the site is thus not considered to have the potential to harm to the significance of these assets, through change to their setting.
- 4.60 As such, these assets are not discussed individually and are not considered any further within this report.

Listed Buildings within Merthyr Tydfil

- 4.61 There are 82 listed buildings that fall within the 2km search area and are located within the settlement of Merthyr Tydfil, to the south-west of the site.
- 4.62 These buildings can be further subdivided by their location within the four conservation areas within Merthyr Tydfil. Four Grade II listed buildings are located within the Morgantown Conservation Area, with the closest located c.1.6km from the site boundary. 19 Grade II listed buildings are located within the Town Centre of Merthyr Tydfil Conservation Area, a minimum of 1.35km from the site, and 25 Grade II listed buildings are located within the Thomastown Conservation Area, the closest being c.1.65 from the site boundary.
- 4.63 These buildings are entirely screened from the site by the surrounding built form. Instead, the setting of these assets, in so much as it contributes to their significance, is predominantly formed by their relationship with the immediate street scene, with their group value forming the special architectural interest of their respective conservation areas. As such, they have no visual, historical or contextual connections to the site, which forms no more than a distant parcel of land within a wider built landscape.
- 4.64 Within the Cyfarthfa Conservation area, located at the northern portion of Merthyr Tydfil, there are a total of two Grade I listed buildings, these being Cyfarthfa Castle and the School at Cyfarthfa Castle, located c.1.7km from the site, and 25 Grade II listed buildings. Three additional Grade II listed buildings are located immediately southeast of the conservation area.
- 4.65 These buildings are predominantly screened from the site by the surrounding built form, with no view towards the Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle and its parkland. Although there may be glimpsed views towards the remaining listed buildings within the extents of this conservation area, this is from such a distance, and within a substantial amount of later built form, that they could not be distinguished, and so their significance could not be appreciated.
- 4.66 The settings of these assets are predominantly formed by their group value within the immediate street scene, which forms the conservation area, as well as their historic value

with the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. No historical or contextual connections between these assets and the site were ascertained.

- 4.67 It is therefore concluded that the site does not represent a part of the setting of any of these assets that would contribute to their significance. These assets are therefore not thought to be sensitive to development within the site.
- 4.68 As such, these assets are not discussed individually and are not considered any further within this report.

Council and Urban Street, Penydarren Conservation Area

- 4.69 The designation of the Council and Urban Street, Penydarren, Conservation Area (CUSPCA) was recommended in the Merthyr Tydfil Built Heritage Strategy and Action Plan, adopted in August 2008 (MTCBC, 2008).
- 4.70 The Character Appraisal and Management Plan for this conservation area (MTCBC, 2014a), details the positive characteristics of the CUSPCA; these positive features are predominantly the architectural interest of the rows of terraced houses it encapsulates, as well as the historic interest of its origins. The appraisal (MTCBC, 2014a) details the history of the area, noting how the names of Urban Street, District Street and Council Street record the brief existence of the Merthyr Tydfil Urban District Council between 1895 and 1903. The houses on these streets therefore represent the earliest examples of council housing in Merthyr Tydfil, as so the streets within this conservation area *“form an important element in the material evidence of Merthyr Tydfil’s social history.”*
- 4.71 The CUSPCA is also described as an *“area with a particular aesthetic value”*, created by the distinctive architectural characteristics of the terrace’s simple Victorian design. This is evidenced by the rough stone finish, slightly brown in colour, with red brick quoins around the openings, retained chimneys and stepped roofs as the terraces climb the hill on which they occupy (**Image EDP 12**).
- 4.72 With regard to the setting of the CUSPCA, it is entirely surrounded by the later built form which encapsulates the Penydarren area. The terraced streets are set on an incline which rises towards the north-west, and so somewhat wider views are achieved to the south-east, towards Dowlais. However, primarily the views obtained from the conservation area are those looking up and down Urban and Council Street, defined as a key view within the appraisal (MTCBC, 2014a).
- 4.73 Therefore, although the site is located just 250m to the north-west of the CUSPCA, it is entirely screened from the edge of the conservation area by the intervening rows of later housing. As such, no views can be ascertained either out from or towards the conservation area and so the site is not identified as a part of the conservation area’s setting, which is defined by the surrounding terraces.
- 4.74 It is therefore concluded that development within the site does not have the potential to result in an adverse effect on the character and appearance of the conservation area, as this is derived from the architectural character of its streetscapes as well as its historic associations with social welfare in this area.

Dowlais Conservation Area

- 4.75 The Dowlais Conservation Area (DCA) was first designated in 1998. The conservation area covers the area of historic buildings associated with the Dowlais and Ivor Iron Works within the centre of Dowlais, c.800m to the east of the site. The Conservation Area is divided into two parts as described by the Character Appraisal and Management Plan (MTCBC, 2014b); *“one centred around Union Street, Market Street and Commercial Street and a more linear section straddling High Street”*. The two areas are divided by a development of 1970s suburban residential housing.
- 4.76 The Character Appraisal and Management Plan for this conservation area (MTCBC, 2014b), details the special interest of the DCA. The following statement within the appraisal summarises the interest of the DCA; *“The Dowlais Conservation Area embraces the two areas with the richest surviving examples of Dowlais’ industrial, social and religious heritage, which derive from the peak of the town’s worldwide influence in the 19th century.”*
- 4.77 The historic built form within the DCA highlights the historical connection with Dowlais Ironworks, which rose to become the largest Ironworks in the world during the 20th century. This is noted predominantly through the Grade II* Blast Engine House as well as the residential Stable House and Dowlais Stables Grade II listed buildings. The public facilities funded by the Ironworks are also evidenced by the Grade II* Former Guest Memorial Library, as well as the Grade II Public Library, St Johns Church and the Ivor English Congregational Church.
- 4.78 The DCA is therefore described as *“a network of attractive and imposing Georgian and Victorian buildings set in a continuously evolving townscape”*. The architectural features of the listed buildings are noted, with the Memorial Library considered to be an *“extremely distinctive classical-style building with a grand appearance”*, utilising brown sandstone and bath stone, which is rare for the locality (**Image EDP 13**). The other listed buildings use local pennant stone, ashlar, painted stucco and red brick, materials which are common among prominent buildings in the area. A loose grid street pattern of residential housing, mostly stone and render with a mix of slate and concrete tiles for roofs, forms the remainder of the DCA. This distinctive built form is noted as a key positive aspect of the conservation area.
- 4.79 Well maintained hedgerow boundaries as well as occasional pockets of open space, most notably on the site of the old market hall, overlooked by the prominent buildings, is remarked as contributing to the character of the DCA.
- 4.80 Regarding setting, the DCA is set on an incline, sloping to the north-east and south-east. This incline allows *“good views towards the east and south enveloping a number of bare hills, which are resultant from former and existing industrial activity”*, as well as to the west, *“down the valley towards the centre of Merthyr Tydfil and western hillside of the town”*. These elements of setting therefore allow the historic context of Dowlais, as a major part of the Iron working industry of South Wales, to be best understood.
- 4.81 These views do not, however, include the built form of Penybryn, and therefore the site, to the north-west. Moreover, no views towards the site could be ascertained from any part of the conservation area towards the site. The site is therefore not considered to form a part of the setting of the DCA which contributes to its significance.

- 4.82 Although there are limited glimpsed views towards the listed buildings within the Dowlais conservation area, as previously discussed, these largely screened views do not afford an appreciation of the evidential and aesthetic value of these buildings nor an understanding of the historic relationships between them. As such, these views are considered incidental, and the loss of such views would not negatively affect the special importance of the DCA.
- 4.83 It is therefore concluded that development within the site does not have the potential to result in any adverse effect on the character and appearance of the conservation area.

Conservation Areas within Merthyr Tydfil

- 4.84 The town of Merthyr Tydfil contains four conservation areas; these comprise the Town Centre, located c.1.1km to the south of the site, Thomastown, c.1.3km south of the site and Morgantown, c.1.5km to the south of site, as well as Cyfarthfa, located c.1.1km to the west of site.
- 4.85 The Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre Conservation Area was designated in 2009, the character appraisal for the area identifies the key positive characteristics of the area as being a town centre developed from the late 18th century, consisting of 23 listed buildings, including landmark buildings of particular architectural quality. The special character of the area is therefore defined by its architectural forms, which vary from late Classical, Gothic Revival and Edwardian Baroque, with attractive views along street lines to these buildings, as well as out to mountain scenery (MTCBC, 2009c).
- 4.86 The Thomastown Conservation Area was designated in 1978. The character appraisal for this area summarises the special interest of the area as being defined by the historic and architectural interest of its built form, and its historic connections to the iron working industry:
- “The Thomastown Conservation Area includes some of the earliest examples of planned residential growth of Merthyr Tydfil for the working class, middle class and upper class who benefitted from the industrial growth of the town in the 1800s. The area also includes key sites with national importance such as the Penydarren Tramroad, the Former Synagogue and the Former Miners’ Welfare Hall.” (MTCBC, 2014c)*
- 4.87 The Morganstown Conservation area was designated in 2009. This conservation area is noted within the character appraisal as containing “*an important cross-section of heritage features of the industrial era*” (MTCBC, 2009b). The architectural and historic interests of the built form relating to the iron-working industry of the 19th century thus define the special interest of the area.
- 4.88 The site is entirely screened from these three conservation areas by the substantial intervening-built form. As such, no views can be ascertained either out from or towards the conservation area and so the site is not identified as a part of the conservation area’s setting.

- 4.89 The Cyfarthfa Conservation Area was designated in 2009. The character appraisal for this conservation area summarises its special architectural and historic interest as follows:

“The conservation of Cyfartha is important as it is a lasting symbol of Merthyr Tydfil’s strength during the 18th and 19th Centuries as Ironworks of Worldwide significance. This is displayed with the grand architectural scale of Cyfarthfa Castle, Cefn Viaduct and the Blast Furnace bank. In addition, the designated area consists of 16 structures which are of national importance” (MTCBC, 2009a).

- 4.90 Due to the varied local topography, as well as the substantial intervening built form, the site is entirely screened from the conservation area. However, there may be glimpsed views towards the western extents of this conservation area. These views are, however, from such a distance, and within a substantial amount of later built form, that they could not be distinguished, and so their significance could not be appreciated. The site is therefore not considered to form a part of the setting of the Cyfartha Conservation Area which contributes to its significance.
- 4.91 It is therefore concluded that the Conservation Areas within Merthyr Tydfil are not sensitive to the effects of development within the site and are not discussed further.

NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

- 4.92 The site as a whole contains no non-designated ‘heritage assets,’ including no monuments as recorded by the Glamorgan Gwent Historic Environment Record (GGHER). The site contains one archaeological intervention recorded by GGHER, this relates to the assessment of the current state of survival/preservation of ironworks in the landscape by the South East Wales Industrial Ironworks Project, which ran from 2005 to 2010.
- 4.93 Within 1km of the site boundary, there are 36 monuments recorded by the GGHER, not including listed buildings mentioned above, and a further five interventions, shown on **Plan EDP 2**. These are discussed where relevant to the archaeological background of the site below.
- 4.94 The site also lies within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (LOHI), as defined by Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. The GGAT has further defined this landscape of historic interest into HLCAs, assessing the importance of each, these areas are shown on **Plan EDP 3**, and are discussed in full below.

Prehistoric

- 4.95 There are no non-designated heritage assets dating from the Prehistoric periods recorded on the GGAT HER within the site boundary, nor within the 1km search area from the site.
- 4.96 The closest known evidence of prehistoric activity within the landscape is the scheduled monument Morlais Ring Cairn, located c.1.5km to the north, as discussed previously.
- 4.97 Therefore, despite the sparsity of records dating to the prehistoric period, the Cairn does indicate a degree of activity within the local landscape during the Bronze Age period. As such, whilst the potential for features, deposits and/or remains of this date cannot be

entirely ruled out, it is concluded that there is a **very low** potential for the site to contain Prehistoric archaeology. It is also reasonable to conclude that, due to the lack of any desk-based evidence for buried archaeology, the site does not contain any higher value features such as evidence of funerary activity. Furthermore, given the heavy quarrying of the site, focused to the south, during the late 19th and early 20th century, it is likely that any evidence from this period would have been destroyed in the south, and so only the northern areas of site hold this very low potential.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.98 There are no Roman period records within the HER data identified within the site, nor are there any located within the 1km search area of the site.
- 4.99 Within the wider landscape, evidence of Roman activity is not clearly indicated, although c.6km south-east of the site, the scheduled monument Gelligaer Common Roman Road indicates a level of Romano-British activity within the landscape. While the presence of the road reflects a communication route probably related to military activity, there is no evidence for settlement in the local landscape.
- 4.100 Given the lack of records dating to the Roman period within the 1km study area, as well as the modern disturbance of the southern part of the site, there is not considered to be any potential for archaeology dating to the Romano-British period to be encountered during development.

Early Medieval - Medieval (AD 410 – 1540)

- 4.101 There are no early medieval or medieval records identified on the GGAT HER within the site.
- 4.102 There are no records dating to the early medieval period within the 1km radius study area. However, there are two records within this study area relating to Medieval activity.
- 4.103 Record **GGAT01562m** is noted by the GGHER as a medieval findspot, located c.900m south of the site. However, this record appears to have been incorrectly combined with information relating to the Grade II listed St Illtyd's Chapel, and so no further information is provided. The second record, (**03135m**), is located c.1.2km north-west of the site boundary, however, the GGHER indicates that the extent of this record extends into the search area, reaching up to c.550m from the site. This record relates to a large area of medieval coppice and dry walling, the area also incorporates three lime kilns, although it is not recorded whether these are of medieval or post-medieval date.
- 4.104 Whilst there is evidence of medieval activity within the wider landscape, including the scheduled monument of Morlais Castle, there is no clear evidence in the HER data that the site or its proximity contains any significant early medieval or medieval archaeology. In addition, the historic map evidence (discussed below) suggests that the site was largely woodland in the early 19th Century, and potentially earlier. As such it is considered that there is a **very low** potential for the site to contain buried archaeological remains dating from this period. As previously mentioned, due to the quarrying of the southern portion of site, it is likely that any evidence from this period in that area would have been destroyed, and so only the northern areas of site hold this very low potential.

Post-Medieval (AD 1540 – 1901)

- 4.105 No post-medieval records are identified on the GGAT HER within the site.
- 4.106 Within the 1km study area there are 32 HER records relating to the post-medieval period, not including those listed buildings discussed previously.
- 4.107 These records are largely grouped to the east of site, within the settlement of Dowlais, as well as a grouping to the south within the settlement of Merthyr Tydfil, and finally a scattering of records to the northwest.
- 4.108 Within the grouping to the east, the closest record is (**GGAT05269m**), located c.300m from site boundary. The record relates to documentary evidence of the Dowlais Brewery, noted as a group of structures visible on the 1st edition OS map and up until the 1920 edition OS, and labelled as Dowlais Brewery on the 1st edition. A weir potentially associated with the Brewery is recorded as (**GGAT05270**), located c.470m east of site and indicated on the 1st edition OS map. A public house, Morlais Inn (**GGAT08784m**) located c.600m from the site, is also recorded as extant from the 1st edition OS map, and remains standing today, recorded as a Locally Listed Building by Merthyr Tydfil Council. Due to a lack of historical and visual connections with the site, this building of local interest is not discussed further regarding effects from the development upon its setting. A second public house, Bruce Hotel, is recorded c.660m east of the site (**GGAT08769m**). The building is first visible on the first edition OS map and labelled as a public house by the third edition, it remains standing as a locally listed building. As above, no effects upon the setting of this building are identified and so are not discussed further.
- 4.109 Slightly north of these and c.390m from the site is record (**GGAT05271m**), a small post-medieval village named Cwm-Rhyd-Y-Bedd, visible on first (1876), second (1900) and third (1920) edition OS maps but subsequently demolished. Record (**GGAT05214m**) is located in close proximity, c.500m east of site, and comprises documentary evidence of a Unitarian Chapel, built in 1881 but now demolished. The Cwm-Rhyd-Y-Bedd Mission Church is also recorded as documentary evidence on the 1920 edition OS map, located c. 550m northeast of the site (**GGAT05272m**). An unknown structure, located c.510m northeast of site, is recorded as visible on second and third edition OS maps, adjacent to a series of trackways leading from the Ivor Ironworks, and so likely relates to this industry (**GGAT05255m**).
- 4.110 The Ivor Ironworks themselves are recorded as record (**GGAT02482m**), located c.900m east of the site. The Ivor Ironworks were built in 1939 as a subsidiary to the main Dowlais Ironworks, it consisted of four furnaces, forges, fitting shops and a foundry which remained in use until 1987.
- 4.111 Also to the east, c.700m from site, record (**06076.0m**), relates to the remains of the London and North Western Railway Dowlais Extension, which was constructed in 1879 running westward through Dowlais Top to Ivor Junction.
- 4.112 A number of post-medieval buildings are also noted within this area, this includes record (**GGAT00894m**), Nos. 12-14 Wind Street, Dowlais, comprising a row of three post-medieval double-fronted houses built in 1825-26, located c.750m east of site. Approximately 900m east of site is (**GGAT00896m**) Capel Caersalem, a chapel built 1821 which still retains the

old long wall facade. Approximately 960m east of site is (**GGAT00897m**), Nos. 53-6 Well Street, a three-phase terrace of workers' housing built in the mid-19th Century but now demolished.

- 4.113 Slightly south of these, more buildings are recorded, including (**GGAT08295m**), located c.910m south-east of site on Goat Mill Road. This comprises documentary evidence of a group of post medieval ancillary industrial buildings shown on OS map of 1874 and the 1st edition OS map of 1882. Documentary evidence of Goat Mill itself is noted as (**GGAT08289m**), c.855m south-east of site. The mill was constructed in 1857 and is shown on early historic mapping, however, has since been demolished and built over. Adjacent to this is a series of railway sidings shown on 1st edition OS map of 1882, although no longer extant (**GGAT08294m**). Documentary evidence of additional post medieval housing is noted by (**GGAT08293m**); A group of eight houses shown on 1st edition OS map of 1882 and named as Coedcae Houses, c.990m south-east of site. A pond is also recorded adjacent to this on the 1st edition OS map (**GGAT08290m**).
- 4.114 Further post medieval buildings are noted to south of the site, within the settlement of Merthyr Tydfil. This grouping includes St John's Church, built in 1858 but now demolished (**GGAT01817m**), located c.500m south of site (record (**GGAT09225m**) appears to be a duplicate of this). It also includes the Norton Inn, located c. 515m south of site first depicted on the first edition ordnance survey map of 1875 and now remains as a locally listed building (**GGAT09207m**). As above, this building is not considered sensitive to effects to its setting as a result of development within the site and is not discussed further. Documentary evidence of workers housing High Street Pen-Y-Daren visible on early historic mapping is also recorded as (**GGAT05246m**), located c. 630m south of site, and a boundary stone is recorded as 05265m, c.600m south of the site boundary.
- 4.115 The GGHER also denotes the extent of the Dowlais Ironworks, (**GGAT01615m**), spanning the entire south-east of the 1km search area, a minimum of 480m from the site boundary. The Iron works Founded in 1759, and by 1845 was the largest iron works in the world, before ceasing production in 1930.
- 4.116 Further south, c.820m from the site, is a cluster of four records relating to the industry at the Dowlais Iron works: (**GGAT05263m**), an airshaft visible on 1st edition mappings, (**GGAT05274m**), an old Ironstone Level visible on first and second edition OS maps, (**GGAT05275m**) a tramway visible on first edition OS map and (**GGAT05273m**), a row of terraced housing at Bradley Row visible on early mapping. A second tramroad is also noted to the west of these records, c.900m south of the site (**03173.2m**). The tramroad was constructed in 1803 and currently remains as a designated heritage trail.
- 4.117 A cluster of three records are located to the north-west, while the records are noted beyond the 1km search area, the GGHER indicates that the extent of these records extend into the search area, reaching up to c.550m from the site. These records comprise (**03133m**), a dry-stone walled landscape, (**03197m**) a semi-circular dry stone wall enclosure and (**03173.0m**), a tramroad built in 1803 which brought lime and limestone from Castle Morlais quarries down to the Dowlais Ironworks.
- 4.118 A single record is also located c.880m north of the site boundary. This comprises (**GGAT08173m**), an Independent Chapel.

4.119 Taken altogether, the number of post-medieval records within the landscape indicate clear evidence of 18th and 19th century industrial activity, as is typical to the Merthyr Tydfil area and the wider coal fields of the South-Wales landscape, with a particular focus having been the Dowlais Iron works. There is no evidence in the HER data that the site or its proximity contains any significant post-medieval archaeology, however, historic map evidence (discussed below) and the remaining earthworks on site attest that the site was heavily quarried during the later post-medieval period. As such, there is a **High** potential for archaeological features or deposits to be located within the site from this period, although such features would most likely comprise features or deposits relating to industrial quarrying, such as infilled pits and drainage ditches, and would be of very low heritage value.

Modern (AD 1901 - Present)

4.120 No modern records are identified on the GGAT HER within the site.

4.121 Within the 1km study area there are 3 HER records relating to the modern period, all concentrated to the east.

4.122 Documentary evidence of the Drill Hall, Cottage Hospital, Dowlais (**GGAT06251m**) is recorded c.960m east of site. The Hospital is depicted on the First Edition O.S. and was used as the Headquarters for A and B Companies, 3rd Battalion The Welsh Regiment, before falling out of use by 1914. Record (**GGAT07468m**) relates to a drill hall, c.850m east of site, the hall is not seen on early cartographic sources but is thought to have been out of use by 1914

4.123 Record (**GGAT08773m**) relates to the Dowlais Constitutional Club, located c.810m east of the site. The club is first seen on the third edition ordnance survey map of 1920, however the front elevation bears the date of 1904 and remains as a two-storey building with a pitched roof and an 'L' shaped extension to the rear. The building is recorded as a Locally Listed Building by Merthyr Tydfil Council. The significance of the building is considered to stem from its communal value, providing a social hub for the locality of Dowlais, as well as too some extent from its modest architectural and aesthetic features. The setting of the Club is therefore considered to be its position within the centre of the settlement of Dowlais, providing a community focus to the town.

4.124 As such, no historical or contextual associations between this non-designated asset and the site are established. However, there are limited glimpsed views of the roof of the club achieved from within the site itself, and thus it can be considered that the site does form a very small element of the assets setting. Although this building can be viewed from within the site, these glimpsed views do not allow an appreciation of the special local value of the asset, and furthermore, are achieved in the context of the wider built landscape of Dowlais. Such views are thus not considered to contribute to the significance of this non-designated asset, and so it is not considered that development within the site has the potential to cause any adverse effect to the significance of this locally listed building.

4.125 The HER data does not indicate that the site or its proximity contains any significant modern archaeology, however, historic map evidence (discussed below) and the remaining earthworks on site attest that quarrying on site did continue into the modern period. As such, there is a **High** potential for archaeological features or deposits to be revealed from

this period, although such features would most likely comprise features or deposits relating to industrial quarrying, such as infilled pits and drainage ditches, and would be of very low heritage value.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

- 4.126 The site lies within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (MTLOHI), as defined by Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts.
- 4.127 The Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological trust has further defined this landscape of historic interest into Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA), assessing the importance of each, as shown on **Plan EDP 3**.
- 4.128 Consultation with the archaeological advisor at GGAT in January 2022 established that, whilst the site was located within the LOHI, the proposals would largely conform to the primarily urban landscape of the HLCA in which it is located. As such, it was determined that a full Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL) would not be necessary in this instance. Instead, it was agreed that consideration of the special character of the LOHI would be considered within this archaeological and heritage assessment with regard to potential effects from development.
- 4.129 This assessment thus considers any potential effects upon the historic interest of those HLCA within the 2km search radius of site, as a result of future development within the site.
- 4.130 The MTLOHI is summarized by GGAT as occupying a natural basin at the head of the Taff valley. Its topography comprises high hills and ridges which reach 450m aOD on all sides, while the built form of the area is constrained to the basin floor and valleys. The Merthyr Tydfil landscape is strongly characterised by its industrial heritage, having been “*probably the largest iron-making town in the world in the early to mid- 19th century*”, as such, the town, and its wider landscape was “*rapidly transformed from a modest village in the 1750s to the largest town in Wales by 1801*”. Although there has been extensive recent land reclamation and sanitisation of waste tips in the more recent years, the MTLOHI still retains its industrial landscape character, and so is defined by “*the remains of large ironworks, remnants of the associated coal mining industry, water power leats, an early iron bridge, communication systems, including early tramroads, tips, terraced industrial housing, and the ironmasters house, Cyfarthfa Castle*”.

Direct effects upon the MTLOHI

- 4.131 The site itself is located within HLCA 050: Gurnos and Galon Uchaf; this character area is summarized by GGAT as a “A mid-20th century urban landscape characterised by council housing estates with associated commercial, educational and health facilities, built on former agricultural land with some industrial features.” The area is largely defined by housing estates of local authority housing created during the early 1960s, these are laid out in varying patterns, centred on the Prince Charles Hospital in the west part of the area (**Image EDP 14**).

- 4.132 A number of schools are also noted as distinctive features of the built area where the open nature of their playing fields preserves the openness of the past landscape, which was formerly characterised by a “mixed regular and irregular field pattern of generally large, improved enclosures”. This is particularly evident to the south in the area of the former holding of Gwaunferran Farm (labelled as the Dairy on the 1850 tithe map) (**Plan EDP 4**), which is now defined by school playing grounds to the southeast and Galon Uchaf park to the north (**Image EDP 15** and **16**). GGAT note that most of the area was owned by The Penyardarren Iron Company, and used for agricultural purposes, as well containing leats and reservoirs including those which formerly connected Goitre Pond to Penyardarren. Whilst the pond is now infilled, its location is currently defined by school playing grounds, preserving an element of its historic openness (**Image EDP 17**).
- 4.133 The industrial nature of the area is also indicated by the present road system, which reflects the 19th century transport corridor which provided a tramway route to the Penyardarren Iron Works from Morlais Castle Quarries.
- 4.134 The land which forms the site is not specifically referenced within the historic landscape characterisation as an area which contributes to the special character of the area, however, the summary for HLCA 050 does mention it contains “some industrial features”. The site contains the historic remains of quarrying, which can be considered to form one of the 'industrial features' that define the character of the HLCA, and so contribute to a very minor degree to its historic character. In this regard, the industrial nature of the site is also relevant when considering that the MTLOHI as a whole is defined by the area's important industrial heritage.
- 4.135 As discussed above, the summary for HLCA 050 also notes that the open nature of school playing fields, and the former agricultural land which now forms Galon Uchaf Park, preserves the openness of the past landscape. While the site is not mentioned as a notable green space, its current composition as an open field, devoid of built form, can be considered to contribute to the historic openness of the HLCA. This openness of the site is therefore assessed to contribute to a very minor degree to the historic character of HLCA 050, by retaining a small element of the landscape's historic appearance.
- 4.136 Development within the site will therefore result in a loss of these two factors which contribute in a very minor way to the character of HLCA 050. However, when considering the scale of the proposed development, and subsequent loss of historic landscape fabric, this results in a very minimal change to the wider character area, with the site forming only 1% of the entirety of HLCA 050.
- 4.137 Furthermore, the site is entirely surrounded, and so largely defined, by modern urban development. As such, additional development within this area would not result in any significant change to the wider character of an area defined by 20th century development. Also, due to this surrounding built form, and the varying topography of the area, the site is not visible from beyond its immediate location within the HLC.
- 4.138 Development within the site is therefore considered to have potential to adversely effect the character of HLCA 050 through the loss of the historic quarrying remains within the site, and the prevailing openness of the land which forms it. However, these features are considered to contribute in a very minimal way to the much larger character area. As such,

the resultant affect would be limited to a very minor, localised change, to an already urban landscape.

Indirect effects upon the MTLOHI

4.139 The following section summarises the defining features of those Historic Landscape Character Areas located within a 2km search radius of the site and considers any potential indirect effects to their historic interest as a result of development within the site.

HLCA No.	HLCA Name	Distance From Site	General Character
005	Penydarren	0m east	- Industrial settlement originated in the early 19th century, associated with the Penydarren Iron Company; - Originally a small cluster of cottages extended by ribbon development between the high street and Tramroad Lane. Larger grid system of development constructed in the late 19th Century, now densely urban; and - Built form characterised by linear terraces and public buildings, including a church, chapels, public houses and schools.
007	Dowlais	c.250m east	- Industrial settlement originated in the mid-18th century, associated with the Dowlais and Ivor Works; - Originally a dispersed scatter of cottages, before evolving into several phases of ribbon development to a grid system; and - Built form, includes areas of surviving industrial housing, but dominated by imposing public buildings, such as the Dowlais Ironworks Stables and the Memorial Library.

HLCA No.	HLCA Name	Distance From Site	General Character
029	Ivor Iron Works Area	c.700m east	- Industrial site of Ivor Iron Works, opened in 1839 as an extension of Dowlais Iron Works; - Single surviving redbrick industrial building, post-1915 in date; and - Well enclosed, surrounded by dense vegetation on all sides.
008	Dowlais Iron Works	c.520m south-east	Entirely characterised by modern industrial estates.
049	Bon-y-maen	c.340m north	Entirely characterised by modern industrial estates.
030	Pantcadifor, Rhyd-y-bedd and Caeracca	c.750m north-east	- Residential settlement originated in the late 18th Century; - Expanded in later centuries and now includes 20th Century social housing; and - Area is also dominated by large mid-19th Century Cemetery.
046	Bryniau Quarries	c.400m north	- Industrial extractive landscape, associated with Dowlais and Ivor Iron Works; and - Contains quarries and associated tramroad.
052	Gurnos Farm and Bunker's Hill	c.550m north-west	- Agricultural landscape of late 18th/early 19th century; and - Includes improved medium-large regular (some irregular) agricultural and wooded enclosure.
045	Morlais Castle Hill	c.775m north	- Nationally important relict landscape of pre-industrial date; - Dominated by the 13th Century remains of Morlais Castle, a medieval stronghold; - Also includes prehistoric enclosures and a Bronze Age Ring Cairn; and - All historic features located on high ground.

HLCA No.	HLCA Name	Distance From Site	General Character
078	Dowlais Great Tip	c.825m south-east	- Reclaimed industrial landscape characterised by open-cast and landfill operations; and - Contains nothing of historic interest above ground.
039	Ffos-Y-Fran	c.1.3km south-east	- Industrial site located on high ground, associated with the Dowlais Iron Works; and - Characterised by extractive features, the Dowlais Free Drainage System, and transport links.
003	Penydarren Park and Gwaelod-y-Garth	c.980m south-west	Entirely screened from site and not discussed further
004	Penydarren Iron Works Area	c.980m south-west	Entirely screened from site and not discussed further.
013	Cyfarthfa Castle and Park	c.1.2km south-west	Entirely screened from site and not discussed further.
036	Thomastown (East) and Penyard	c.1.1km south-east	Entirely screened from site and not discussed further.
044	Morlais Castle Quarries	c.1.3km north-west	Entirely screened from site and not discussed further.
027	Taff Fechan	c.1.2km north	Entirely screened from site and not discussed further.
043	Garth and Blaeny-Garth	c.1.5km north-east	Entirely screened from site and not discussed further.
035	Pengarnddu	c.1.1km east	Entirely screened from site and not discussed further.

4.140 During the site visit, it was concluded that the site does not feature as a key or significant view from any of the HLCAs within the search area. In most cases, any views were entirely screened by the intervening built and vegetated form, as well as the varied local topography. For example, the adjacent Penydarren area HLCA 005, is bounded by the residential development of the southeastern edge of HLCA 050, and so any development within the site would not be visible from the HLCA, nor would it result in any change to this urban character area and its setting.

4.141 Considering Dowlais, HLCA 007 located immediately east, views to the site are almost entirely screened by the intervening built form and vegetation. The exception being filtered, seasonal glimpsed views from the Grade II listed St Illtyd's Chapel. However, as assessed above, any views towards the site from within this HLCA would be limited glimpses which are within the context of a much larger urban area.

- 4.142 There were potential glimpsed, distant views from those character areas located on high ground, such as Morlais Castle Hill HLCA 045 and Ffos-Y-Fran HLCA 039. A visit to HLCA 045 confirmed that the intervening modern built form and vegetation no longer allows for a clear visual relationship of the site, which is indistinguishable beyond the vast amounts of built form within the wider landscape (**Image EDP 1**). As such, whilst development within the site may result in a very minor changes to the peripheral extent of these views, such changes would not be discernible within the already heavily developed landscape, and so would not result in any adverse effects upon the HLCA. Similarly, it was determined that there was potential for glimpsed distant views to the site from HLCA 039, although none could be achieved from the publicly accessible areas (**Image EDP 18**). However, it was concluded that any limited views towards the site would be at a large distance and defined by the existing built form surrounding the site, and so would not impact upon the understanding of the industrial history of this landscape.
- 4.143 Overall, it is concluded that development within the site would result in a very minor direct effect on HLCA 050, due to the loss of the historic quarrying remains in the site which contribute a minor degree to the industrial nature of the HLCA, as well as the loss of the prevailing openness of the site, which preserves an element of the historically open landscape. However, these features are considered to contribute in a very minimal way to the much larger character area. As such, the resultant affect would be limited to a to a very minor localized changed to a HLCA already characterized by considerable urban development. As such, this change would equate to an extremely minor effect on the overall MTLOHI.
- 4.144 The assessment also does not identify any indirect effects bar minor changes to very occasional distant glimpses of the site, which are already in the context of built form. As such, these very minor effects should be acceptable with regard to Section 6 of PPW 11.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.145 The earliest consulted map to depict the site is the 1850 Tithe Map of Merthyr Tydfil Parish (**Plan EDP 4**).
- 4.146 On the 1850 map, the site is depicted as predominantly comprising a block of woodland, with the site also including small parts of the immediately adjacent fields. The Tithe apportionment records this woodland as being owned by the Penydarren Iron Company, and its use as plantation. The surrounding fields are also owned by the Penydarren Iron Company and are recorded as pasture.
- 4.147 Later depictions of the site are on historic Ordnance Survey Maps of the late 19th century, and across modern OS maps. All relevant OS maps are illustrated on (**Plan EDP 5**).
- 4.148 The 1875 edition 1:2500 map (not reproduced) and the First Edition Map of 1884 are the next available map sources, after the Tithe Map, to show the. The 1884 map shows that the site as shown on the Tithe map, with woodland comprising the majority of the site, and parts of agricultural fields at its edges. The 1st edition OS map shows that the site as having been quarried within its southern part. A trackway is also noted running across the northern extent of the site and through the quarry, presumably allowing access to the quarry. Both

the quarry and its associated access track are clearly labelled on the 1905 edition OS map. No other changes to the site and its surroundings are evident within this map, nor on the 1922 edition OS (Not reproduced).

- 4.149 On a map of 1938-1951 OS map the southern part of the site appear to still have been in use as a quarry, with much of the southern portion of site evidently having been excavated. However, the woodland within the site is no longer evident. Furthermore, the agricultural fields surrounding the woodland block are shown as developed by housing within the expanding settlement of Penydarren. The site is shown as bounded to the north, east and southeast by domestic housing and a school. To the west, a small open space adjacent to the site is shown, however, further east the expanse of development is continued.
- 4.150 On the 1965 edition OS map the open space to the west is shown as developed for housing, however the quarry, after encroaching slightly north within the site, now appears to have fallen out of use, leaving an open space to the southwest of the site.
- 4.151 A small element of this open space currently remains, although limited additional housing has been constructed at the southern boundary of the site. The site itself has remained as open space since the closure of the quarry, and now comprises a small green space.
- 4.152 Historic maps demonstrate that the site was almost entirely wooded as plantation during the mid-19th Century, which was then cleared after quarrying works at the southern portion of site were active between the late 19th and mid 20th Century. The immediate surroundings of the site have been heavily developed since the early historic mapping, progressing from agricultural fields to entirely residential development. This history of the site therefore suggests that there is a high potential for archaeological deposits relating to industrial processes involved with the quarrying of the land during the late 19th to mid 20th Century, such as pits, drainage features, and findspots. Such features would be of very low evidential value.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

- 4.153 A total of 22 vertical and oblique aerial photographs, covering the site and its immediate environs, were identified within the collection maintained by the Welsh Government Aerial Photo Archive. None of the photographs are reproduced here due to copyright restrictions.
- 4.154 The available images span the period from 1944 to 1999 and confirm the land use and development sequence shown on the historic maps.
- 4.155 Whilst the photographs show obvious evidence of quarrying at the southern extent of the site, with related activity in the immediate surroundings, up until the 1960s, there are no cropmarks or earthworks visible on the aerial photographs that may potentially indicate the presence of unrecorded buried archaeological remains within the northern portion of the site.

SITE WALKOVER

- 4.156 The site was visited on 28th January 2022 to assess the current ground conditions and topography within it, to confirm the continuing survival of any known archaeological remains, and to identify any hitherto unknown remains of significance.
- 4.157 The site was seen to consist of a single field, currently used by the local community as a place for recreational walking. The field is grassed, however large areas at the north-west, northeast and southeast are heavily overgrown with shrub vegetation, and there was a band of trees running largely east to west across the northern portion of the site (**Image EDP 21 - 23**).
- 4.158 The site is bounded on all sides by modern development and their associated roads, it contained a public footpath running largely southwest to northeast, as well as two concreted parking areas to the north and south.
- 4.159 The site contains substantial undulations across its extent, due to its heavy quarrying during the late 19th to mid 20th Century. The western boundary of the site is the highest point, dropping steeply to a central step, which in turn drops in level again (**Image EDP 24**). These undulations descend again to a large “bowl” at the south-eastern corner of site, indicating the focus of the quarrying activity (**Image EDP 25**). Around this “bowl”, evidence of large stones was noted, attesting to the history of the site.
- 4.160 Whilst the evidence of quarrying at the south was clearly evident, no distinct undulations, earthworks or cropmarks to indicate previously unrecorded historic assets, were identified within the northern portion of the site.

Section 5

Conclusions

- 5.1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment concludes that the site does not contain any scheduled monuments, is not a registered historic park and gardens nor does it contain any listed buildings, where there would be a presumption in favour of their physical retention or preservation in situ.
- 5.2 This assessment has established that the only designated asset which could be sensitive to an effect on its significance from the proposed development is the Grade II listed St Illtyd's Chapel. This is due to a very limited visual relationship between the site and the chapel. However, the assessment concluded that this view has no relevance to the significance of the asset, and thus there will be no negative effects upon the listed building as a result of the change to this view from the proposed development.
- 5.3 The site is located within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (MTLOHI) specifically with Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA) 050. The assessment concludes that development within the site would result in a very minor direct effect on HLCA 050, due to the loss of historic quarrying remains in the site which contribute to a very minor degree to the industrial character of the HLCA, as well as the loss of the prevailing openness of the site, which preserves an element of the historically open landscape. However, these features of the site are considered to contribute in a very minimal way to the historic character of the much larger HLCA. As such, the resultant effect would be limited to a very minor localised change to a HLCA already characterised by considerable, modern urban development. As such, this change would equate to an extremely minor effect on the overall MTLOHI.
- 5.4 In terms of the site's archaeological potential, consideration of the HER data suggests a very low potential for archaeology other than post-medieval or modern remains to exist within the site. Furthermore, wide scale quarrying from the late 19th to mid-20th century across the southern portion of the site would have destroyed any earlier remains in its footprint. The greatest likelihood is that the site contains buried archaeological remains dating from the post-medieval and modern periods related to localised industrial activity. Any such remains would likely be of very low value, relating to industrial quarrying practices.
- 5.5 Based on the paucity of known or recorded features or deposits of value within the landscape, it is considered that no further archaeological investigation warranted to support this planning application.
- 5.6 It is thus concluded that, while the very minor impact upon the MTLOHI should be considered within the planning process, no designated or non-designated assets are assessed to receive any adverse effects from the development which would constrain the site's development. As such, the proposals are considered to meet the requirements specified within the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the relevant paragraphs of the Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 and Policy CW1 of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (2016–2031).

Section 6

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List of Consulted Maps

Tithe Map of Merthyr Tydfil, 1850

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1884

The 1889 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1901 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1905 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1922 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1938-51 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1965 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Appendix EDP 1 Images



Image EDP A1.1: View of scheduled monument Morlais Castle, illustrating its wide-ranging views, albeit no distinguishable views of the site.



Image EDP A1.2: View of Grade II* listed building Dowlais Engine House, illustrating its appearance.



Image EDP A1.3: View west from Grade II* listed building Dowlais Engine House, illustrating the vegetation in its wider setting, and lack of views towards site.



Image EDP A1.4: View east from the site towards the listed buildings within Dowlais, illustrating glimpsed, partly obscured views towards the Grade II* listed Dowlais Engine House, Grade II St Johns Church and Grade II Bethania Independent Chapel, although within the context of the wider built settlement, and at such a distance to not allow for appreciation of the buildings.



Image EDP A1.5: View of Grade II listed building St Illtyd's Church, illustrating its appearance.



Image EDP A1.6: View south-west from the Grade II listed building St Illtyd's Church, illustrating its setting defined by the St Illtyd's Primary School.



Image EDP A1.7: View north-west from the Grade II listed building St Illtyd's Church, illustrating glimpsed seasonally constrained views of the site, although within the context of the modern built form.



Image EDP A1.8: View east from site towards the Grade II St Illtyd's Church, illustrating glimpsed, partial views, although within the context of the wider built settlement.



Image EDP A1.9: View of Grade II listed building St John's Church, illustrating its appearance.



Image EDP A1.10: View west from Grade II listed building St Johns Church, illustrating its setting within the built settlement of Dowlais, with no views towards site.



Image EDP A1.11: View of Grade II listed building Bethania Independent Chapel, illustrating its appearance.



Image EDP A1.12: View south-east of Urban Street, illustrating the frontages of the houses, which is an aspect of the special architectural character of the Council and Urban Street Conservation Area.



Image EDP A1.13: View of the Grade II* listed Guest Memorial Library, illustrating its striking architecture which makes a contribution to the special architectural character of the Dowlais Conservation Area.



Image EDP A1.14: View south-west to terraced housing set in various patterns within the Gurnos and Galon Uchaf Historic Landscape Area, illustrating the urban character of HLCA 050.



Image EDP A1.15: View east across the School Playing fields, preserving the historically open land defined by the Guanaferan Farm within the Gurnos and Galon Uchaf Historic Landscape Area, illustrating the character of HLCA 050, with no views towards the site ascertained.



Image EDP A1.16: View north across Galon Uchaf Park, preserving the historically open land defined by the Guanaferan Farm within the Gurnos and Galon Uchaf Historic Landscape Area, illustrating the character of HLCA 050, with no views towards the site ascertained.



Image EDP A1.17: View north across the School Playing fields, preserving the historically open land defined by the Goitre Pond and its surroundings within the Gurnos and Galon Uchaf Historic Landscape Area, illustrating the character of HLCA 050, with no views towards the site ascertained.



Image EDP A1.18: View south-west across Ivor Iron Works Historic Landscape Area, illustrating the industrial character of HLCA 029 with its single remaining industrial buildings, as well as its enclosed, vegetated setting, with no views towards the site ascertained.



Image EDP A1.19: View west from Dowlais Great Tip Historic Landscape Area, illustrating the industrial character of HLCA 078 with its evidence of extraction, and no views towards the site ascertained.



Image EDP A1.20: View north-west from Ffos-Y-Ffran Historic Landscape Area, illustrating the industrial archaeology of HLCA 039 with its evidence of extraction, and no views towards the site ascertained.



Image EDP A1.21: View north-east across the site, illustrating its composition of open, grassed space, although with areas of overgrown scrub vegetation.



Image EDP A1.22: View north-east across the site, illustrating its very overgrown nature at its northern extent.



Image EDP A1.23: View south-east across the site, illustrating the band of trees running largely east west across the centre of the site.



Image EDP A1.24: View north-east across the site, illustrating its rapid descent in ground level from the high point at the western edge, to the centre of the site.



Image EDP A1.25: View east across the site, illustrating its topographic descent at the south-eastern corner, forming a large “bowl” as the result of quarrying activity.

Plans

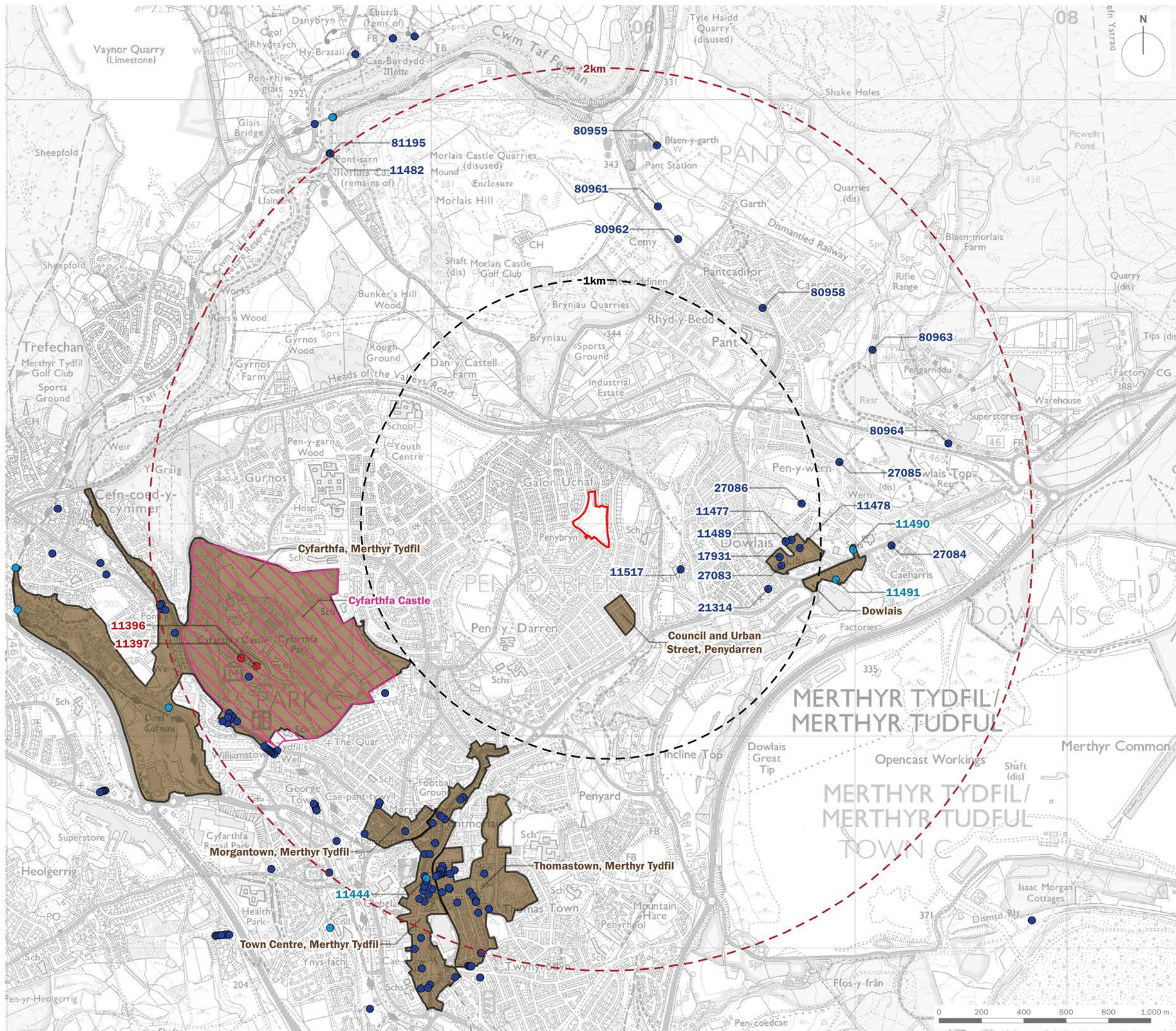
Plan EDP 1: An Overview of Designated Heritage Assets
(edp7529_d001a 02 July 2024 DJo/EBR)

Plan EDP 2: An Overview of HER data
(edp7529_d002a 02 July 2024 DJo/EBR)

Plan EDP 3: An Overview of Historic Landscape Characterisation Data
(edp7529_d003a 02 July 2024 DJo/EBR)

Plan EDP 4: Extracts of 1850 Merthyr Tydfil Tithe Map
(edp7529_d004a 02 July 2024 DJo/EBR)

Plan EDP 5: Extracts of Historic Ordnance Survey Mapping
(edp7529_d005a 02 July 2024 DJo/EBR)



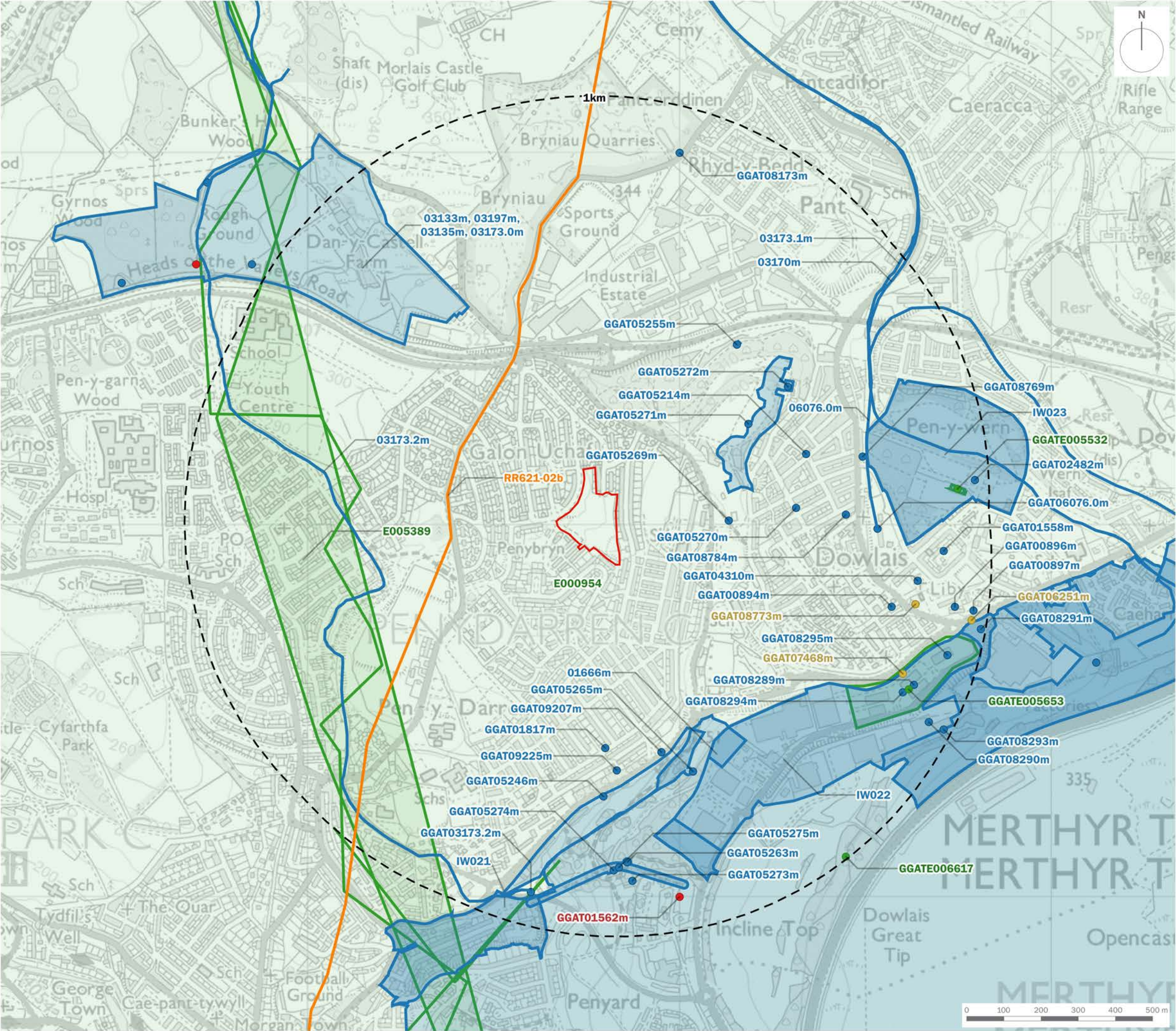
- Site Boundary
- Range Rings (at 1km intervals)
- 2km Detailed Study Area
- Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II* Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building
- Conservation Areas
- Registered Parks and Gardens

client
Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association Ltd

project title
Haydn Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil

drawing title
An Overview of Designated Heritage Assets

date	02 JULY 2024	drawn by	DJo
drawing number	edp7529_d001a	checked	EBR
scale	1:17,500 @ A3	QA	GYo



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Range Rings (at 1km intervals)

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HER Monument

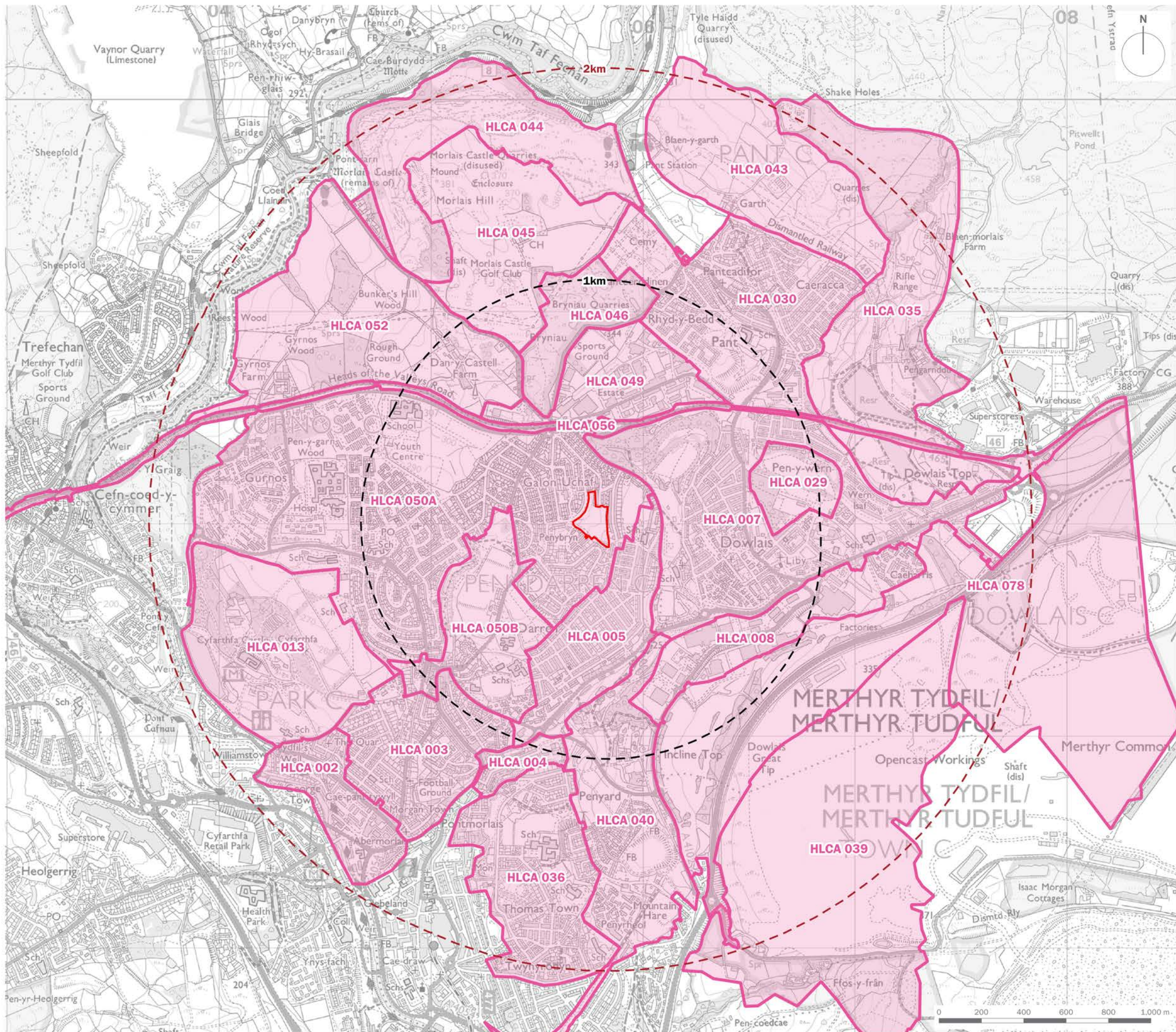
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Medieval

Post Medieval

Modern

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client	Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association Ltd		
project title	Haydn Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil		
drawing title	An Overview of Historic Landscape Characterisation Data		
date	02 JULY 2024	drawn by	DJo
drawing number	edp7529_d003a	checked	EBR
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Approximate Site Boundary

client

Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association Ltd

project title

Haydn Terrace, Merthyr Tydfil

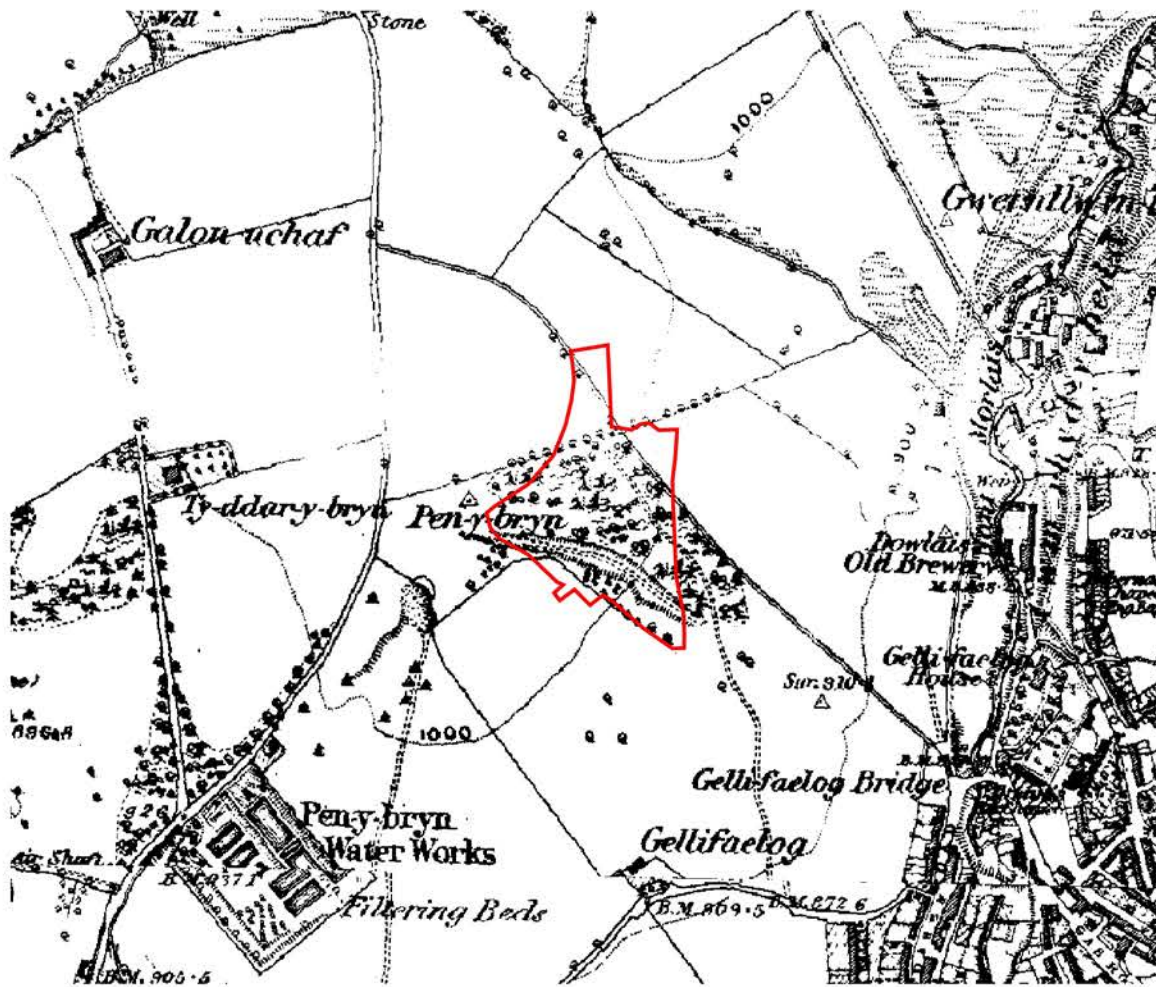
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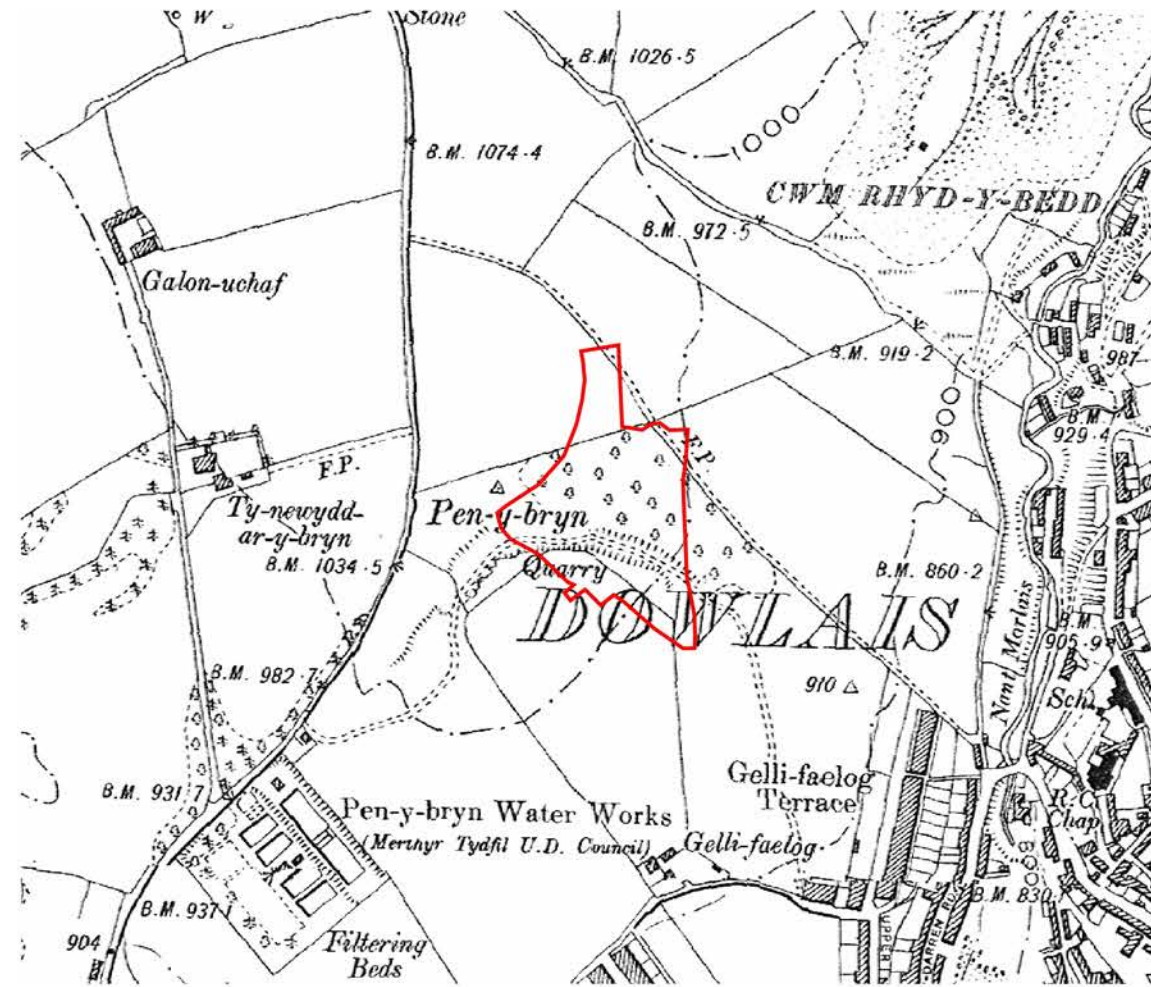
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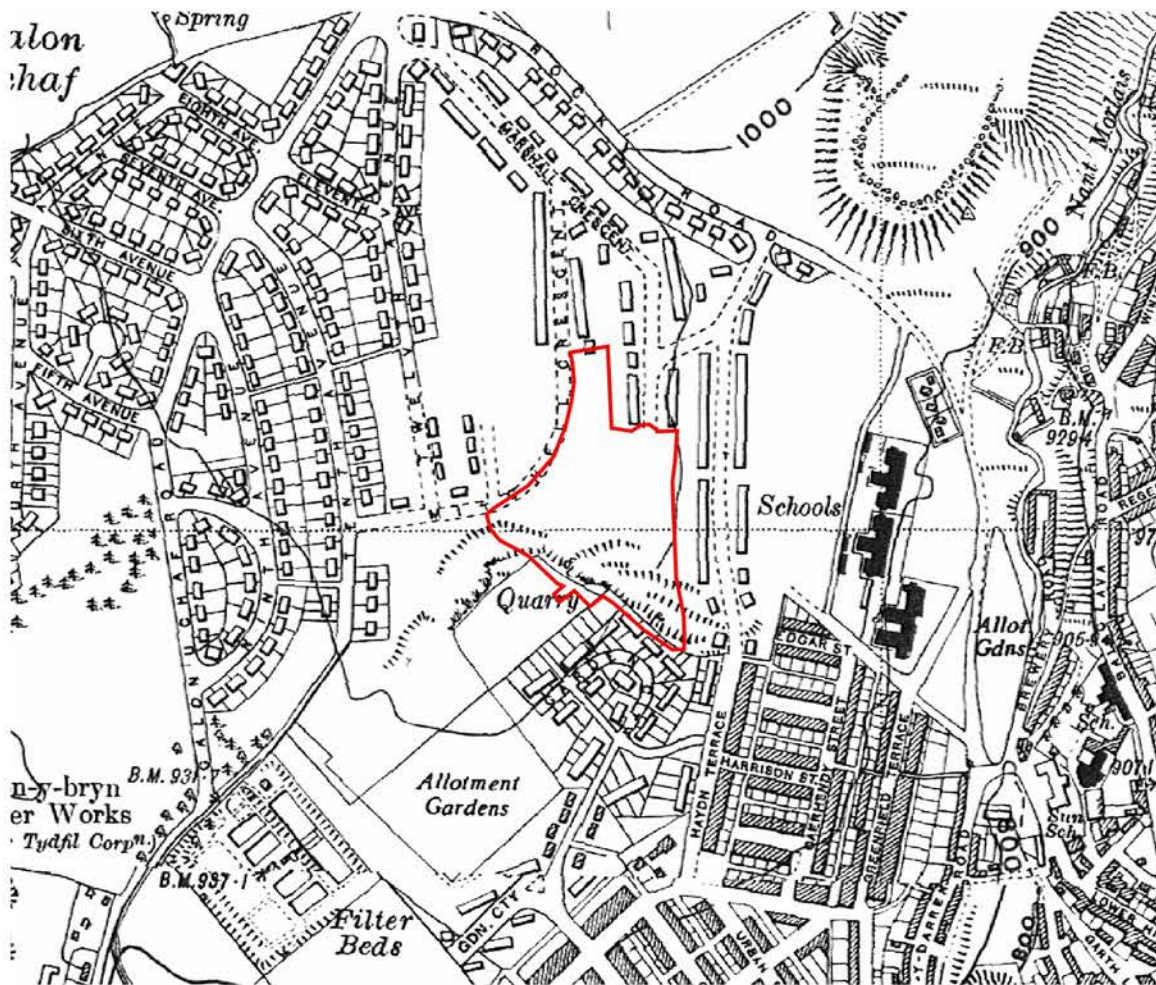
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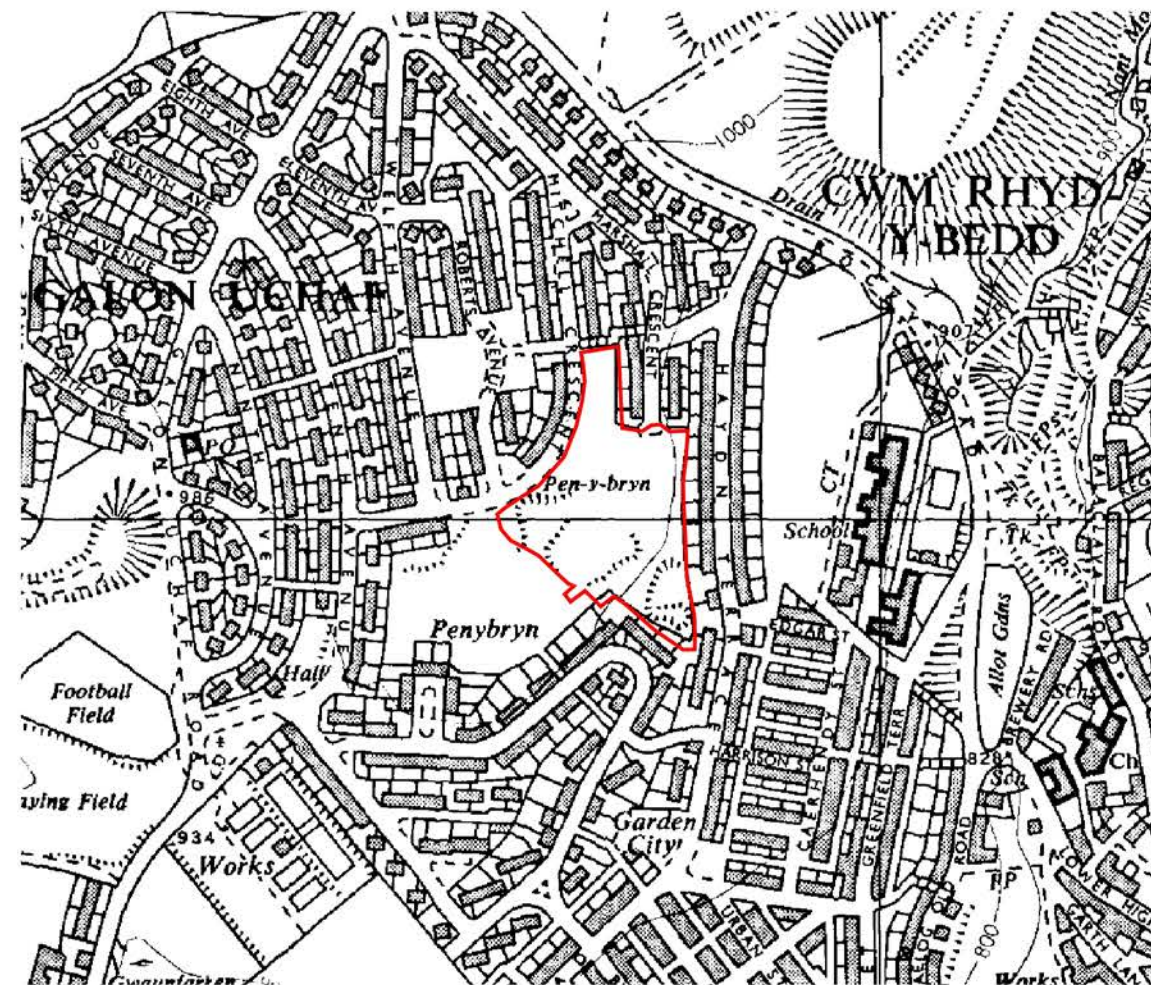
Ordnance Survey – 1884-1885



Ordnance Survey – 1905



Ordnance Survey – 1938-1951



Ordnance Survey – 1965

Approximate Site Boundary

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project title			
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drawing title			
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date	02 JULY 2024	drawn by	DJo
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