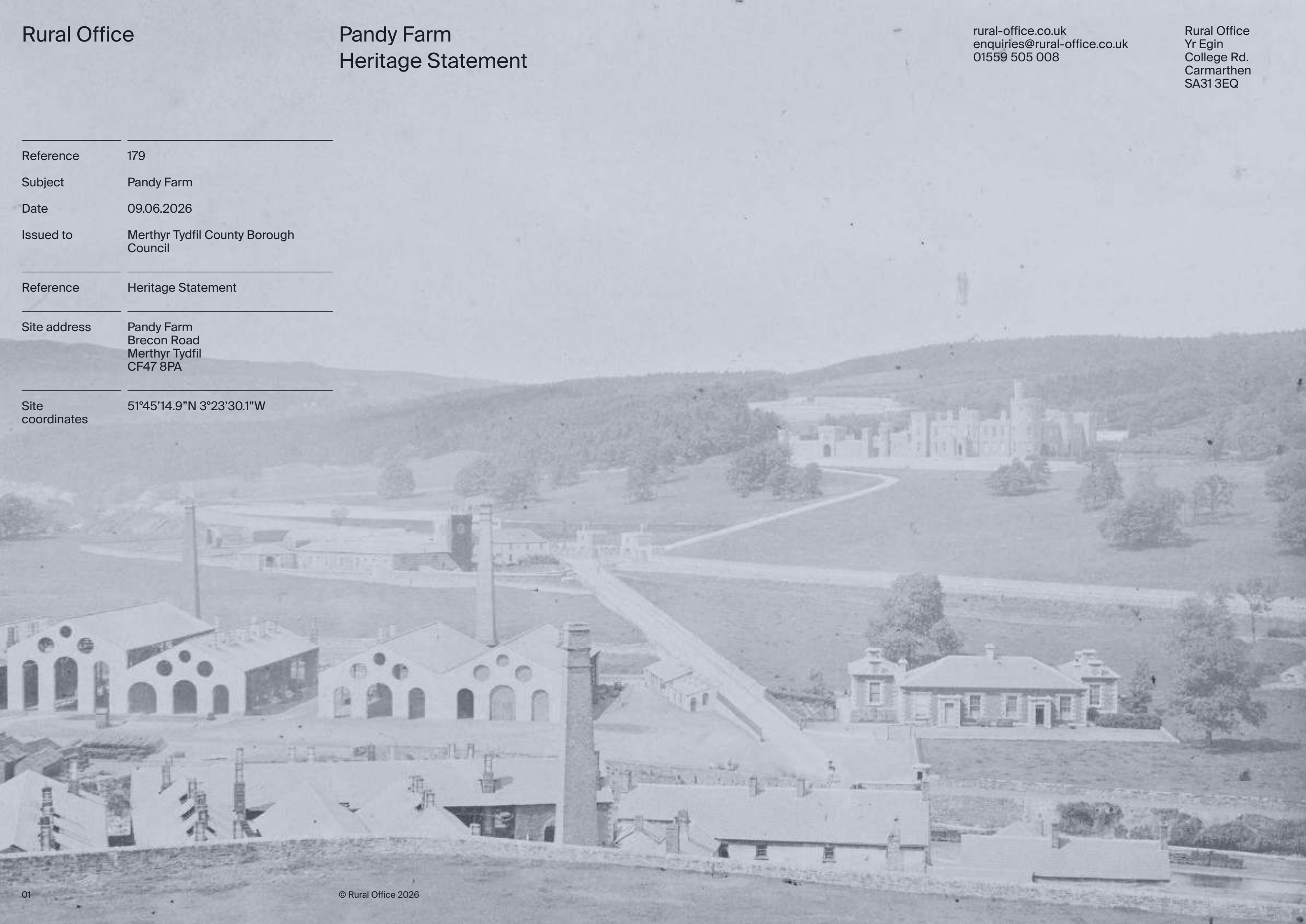


Reference	179
Subject	Pandy Farm
Date	09.06.2026
Issued to	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Reference	Heritage Statement
Site address	Pandy Farm Brecon Road Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8PA
Site coordinates	51°45'14.9"N 3°23'30.1"W



Summary

This report concerns Pandy Farm, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8PA.

The report is intended to provide a rationale for intervention within an understanding of the significance of the historic farmstead.

In order to understand the farmstead this report has been divided into the following sections:

Section 1: Background

Section 1 gives a description to further understand the significance and heritage value of the holding.

Section 2: Description and Condition

Section 2 describes the farmstead buildings, materials used, historic repairs, visual condition and any decay mechanisms occurring to the structures.

Section 3: Elements of Significance

Section 3 assesses significance of the farmstead and its buildings analysed by evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal factors.

Section 4: Proposals

Section 4 describes the outline proposals for the site.

Section 5: Analysis of setting and site impact

Section 5 analyses the outline proposals for the site. Analysis by:

- Potential impact on heritage assets and setting
- Analysis of setting
- Evaluation of the Potential Impact of Change or Development
- Mitigation of the impact of the proposed development

Section 6: Conclusions

Section 7: Summary

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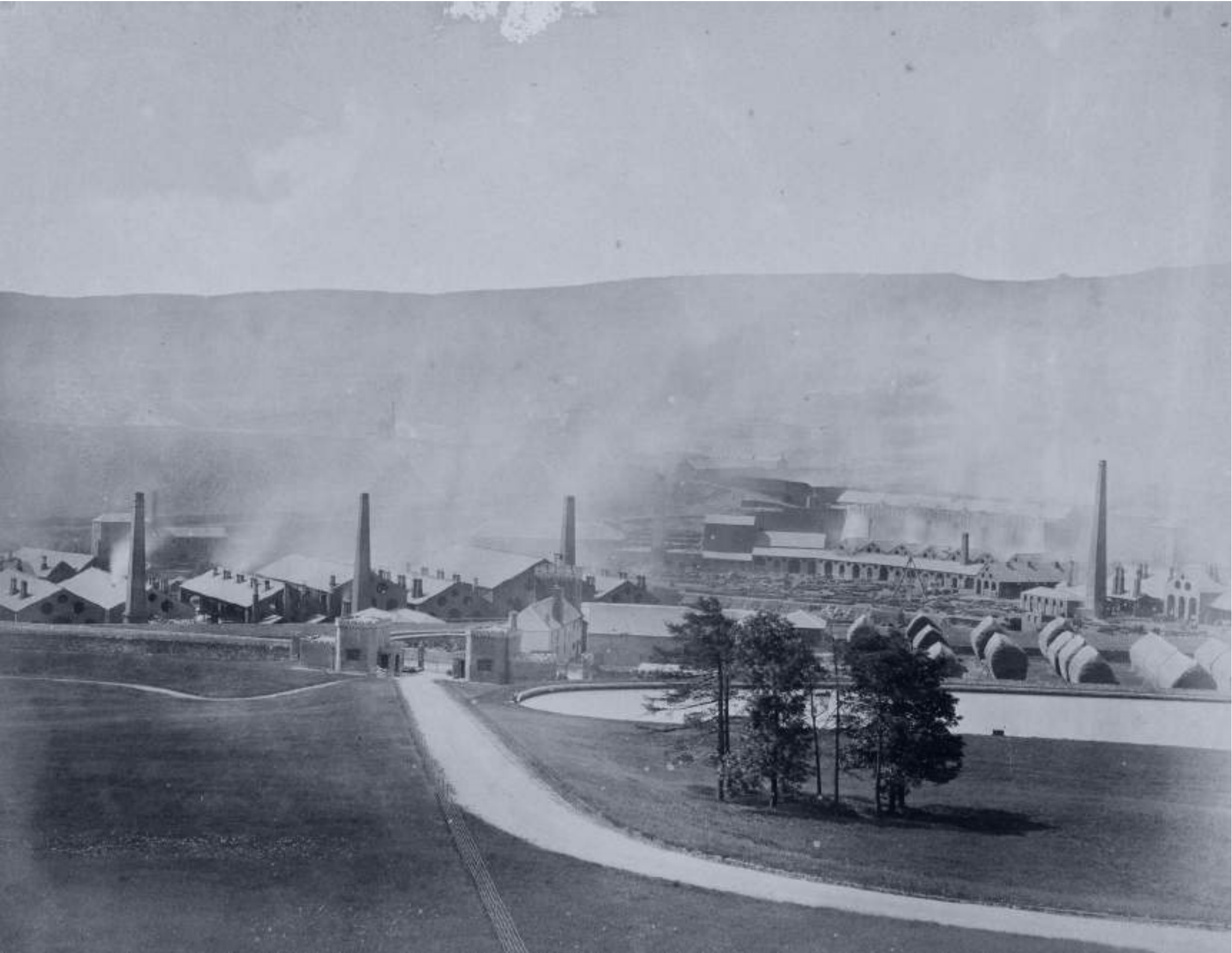
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01 - A view of Pandy taken from the parkland of Cyfarthfa Castle. © Amgueddfa Cymru 2026



Introduction

Pandy Farm, is a former estate farm associated with Cyfarthfa Castle and Ironworks. The current buildings span a range of phases of construction mainly across the 19th century. Much re-ordering of the farmstead may be contemporary with the construction of Cyfarthfa Castle in c.1825 when the farm became the ‘Home Farm’ of the estate. The landholding/ property name of Pandy is older with a Pandy aka ‘Fullers House’, a place for weaving and preparing wool, noted from the 14th century in the vicinity – this was more than likely a water powered mill and would therefore have been near the river. From the early 18th century the Pandy name is recorded in the vicinity of the ironworks – this could include part of the fabric of the current farmhouse although much of the farmhouse structure ties in with a 19th century date.

The farmstead comprises a group of buildings statutory listed Grade II in 1973; L-plan stable ranges, barn, farmhouse and clock tower. The massively proportioned stable and coach house range abutted to and below the L-plan courtyard is perhaps the most impressive and important on the site. The farm sits within the Cyfarthfa conservation area.

Pandy Farm has early origins but its significance today largely derives from its place in the history of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks and Castle.

This report intends to understand the history, evolution and significance of the Pandy Farm and its relationship to its wider landscape setting.

The report sets out to identify the character and significance of the historic farmstead, and if there is potential for sensitive development.

Planning Policy Wales | Edition 12 states:-

The historic environment can only be maintained as a resource for future generations if the individual historic assets are protected and conserved. Cadw’s published Conservation Principles highlights the need to base decisions on an understanding of the impact a proposal may have on the significance of an historic asset.

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.

The setting of a historic asset includes 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, negative or neutral contribution to the significance of an asset.

Setting is not itself a historic asset, though land within a setting may contain other historic assets. The importance of setting lies in what it contributes to the significance of a historic asset.

Aims of Report

To identify opportunities and constraints for development within the historic farmstead and to identify the heritage assets that may be affected by any proposed development, assess their significance based on Historic England criterion for assessment. Following identification of the assets consider any detrimental effects of any development and the potential impact on the significance of the asset and setting.

When assessing the impact of a proposed change or development of historic assets, essentially, there are four stages.

Stage 01: Identify the historic assets that might be affected by a proposed change or development.

Stage 02: Define and analyse the settings to understand how they contribute to the significance of the historic assets and, in particular, the ways in which the assets are understood, appreciated and experienced.

Stage 03: Evaluate the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance.

Stage 04: If necessary, consider options to mitigate or improve the potential impact of a proposed change or development on that significance

Methodology

- Desk Based Assessment: Assimilating current documentation.
- Site Inspection: Visual assessment from ground level.

Although located in Wales the report utilises the Farmstead Assessment Framework developed by Historic England to enable a site assessment of the historic character and significance of a whole site in its setting. This is then used to consider the constraints and opportunities for change and any siting and design issues, based on considering:

- The landscape setting, including its boundaries and the potential that it offers as a habitat for wildlife and to enhance landscape character.
- The whole site, including its form and scale, and where buildings are situated relative to historic and modern spaces on the site, routeways and the surrounding landscape.
- The extent of historic change to the whole site and its landscape context, including where traditional buildings and farmyards have been lost or redeveloped. This can inform opportunities to retain and reveal the significance of historic buildings and spaces, reinstate lost features and buildings or develop parts of the site.
- The architectural patterning present in building styles, materials and details which are important for maintaining or enhancing the character of the farmstead, including the siting and design of any new buildings.

Site Location; Pandy Farm, Brecon Road, Merthyr Tydfil CF47 8PA SO040070 Background Traditional farmsteads comprise the farmhouse and some or all of the working farm buildings, some farms also having isolated field barns or outfarms. Traditional buildings display an immense variation in their architectural form and use of materials. Most date from the 19th century, rarely before, and few were built after the 1880s. Industrial and pre-fabricated materials such as metal, concrete and machine-made brick were used from the mid-19th century. Like the landscapes around them, they often display evidence of successive episodes of change and different farming regions. They are made up of buildings and working areas that served several key functions, most important being to store and process crops, shelter and manage farm animals and keep their manure for returning to the fields around them. Gardens usually developed as private areas with a distinct and separate character, screened from the working areas of the farm by hedges or walls. Context to the assessment Traditional farm buildings make a critical contribution to local character and distinctiveness, as they are the most common type of rural building in England and Wales. They are, however, largely redundant for modern agricultural purposes, and have been under the greatest threat of either neglect or development that is insensitive to their historic character and landscape context than any rural building type. Their conservation and reuse can make a positive contribution to rural economies and communities.	Executive Summary This report presents an analysis of Pandy Farm which is informed by an understanding of the historic character and significance of the site in its landscape setting. The site comprises ranges of buildings divided into four separate Grade II listed designated heritage assets within and around the site. The farmhouse, clock tower, courtyard range of farm buildings, including the lower stable range, and the rubblestone roadside barn. The setting and context of the farm, originally an outlier of the then small village of Merthyr Tydfil, has changed dramatically and beyond recognition from its origins (perhaps further south near the river) as a fulling mill in a pastoral landscape to its reincarnation as an important estate farm directly opposite the entrance gates to Cyfarthfa Castle. The farm separated the splendid castellated house from the vast ironworks (once the largest in the world!) and has been witness to the collapse and ruination of the ironworks to be replaced with industrial estates and creeping suburbs with the loss of local character and landscape features. It is now almost completely divorced from its historical setting south save for its relationship to Cyfarthfa Castle to the north, which in itself has been eroded to the casual observer. Recommendations are made in-line with the National Planning Policy Framework, Cadw’s 2015 document Merthyr Tydfil: Understanding Urban Character and the objectives set out in the supplementary planning guidance on landscape, biodiversity and heritage together with those for the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area as set out in the 2009 character appraisal. These are to use understanding of the historic character and significance of the site, and how it has changed, to: 1. To retain and maintain the historic boundaries around the site. 2. To ensure minimal change to the farmstead group in the most significant views. 3. To conserve architectural and historic interest through careful treatment, including through lime mortar repair, and attention to detail of the historic fabric.	4. To understand alternative viable uses of the farm in a way that works with the landscape and distinct historic character of the site. 5. To ensure that any new interventions retain its distinct identity and formality. 6. To conserve, including through recording, features that make a positive contribution to archaeological interest. Uncovering the history of the holding will enable a full understanding of the site to inform decisions on bringing it back into habitation. Through research and on-site analysis the history aims to uncover: • How the whole site relates to the development of the area, its industry, and the surrounding landscape. • The layout of the whole site, including domestic and working spaces and buildings and how they relate to each other. • The extent of historic change, which can inform opportunities to restore, retain and enhance the distinctive character and significance of the site in its landscape setting. • The styles, materials and details of individual buildings, distinguishing between traditional working buildings which contribute to local character and design details which mark the site out as an estate farm. This understanding informs consideration of those siting and design issues that can enhance the setting and be sensitive to the defining characteristics and significance of the site.
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Context of Merthyr, Cyfarthfa and their landscape characteristics

To understand the context of the settlement in which Pandy Farm sits the terrain, landscape history and economy are important to understand.

The following information comes from Merthyr Tydfil: Understanding Urban Character (Cadw, 2015).

Merthyr Tydfil is celebrated for its history of 18th and 19th century ironworking. However the area has a long history of settlement. The area had strategic significance in the Roman period. A fort was established here, on the route between Cardiff and Brecon, the remains of which were first discovered during the building of Penydarren House in 1786.

The church of St Tydfil is a known medieval site associated, by dedication, to Tydfil, daughter or granddaughter of Brychan Brycheiniog, descended from kings of south Wales. There is a tradition that she was martyred here, though the place name element 'Merthyr' simply denotes a consecrated site. There is no secure evidence for a very early church, but Charles Wilkins suggests that Merthyr Tydfil had been established as a parish by about 1270. The church came to serve as the nucleus of a small settlement.

The area was predominantly rural, comprising a series of scattered farms, some of which had become the basis of small freehold estates by the 16th century. By then the broad organization of land use, in which scattered farmsteads were associated with enclosed fields on the lower slopes and open grazing beyond them, had been firmly established.

There were 93 farms in the parish in 1700. Old farmhouses surviving in the vicinity of the town were documented by Pedler in 1930 and several survived into the mid-20th century.

Eventually, agriculture played a subordinate role to industry, and landholdings were primarily exploited for the value of their mineral resources.

The following information comes from the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area character appraisal 2009

1765 heralded the establishment of a new ironworks at Cyfarthfa by two Cumbrian Ironmasters (Anthony Bacon and William Brownrigg), on land leased from Lord Talbot. Charles Wood was employed to manage construction and, later, to manage the works. The introduction of the 'potting and stamping' process by

wood made Cyfarthfa the first ironworks in Merthyr to produce wrought iron. Wood was also responsible for the construction of the Tai Mawr Leat, a canal 1,348 metres running from the River Taf Fawr at Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer and partly cut through solid rock. At the ironworks this was divided into at least six mill races to power numerous mill wheels for the works' industrial machinery.

In 1774 Richard Crawshay entered into partnership with Anthony Bacon, taking over Brownrigg's share of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. Crawshay maintained the ironworks' status as a centre of manufacturing innovation. Richard Crawshay devoted much time and resources perfecting Cort's puddling process, an innovation that put the South Wales industry ahead of its rivals. By 1792 Crawshay had taken full control of the works and had moved there to oversee its management. Working with the engineer Watkin George, Crawshay constructed tramways from the mines and quarries surrounding the works.

The Pont-y-Cafnau Bridge (the earliest iron railway bridge in the world) and the Gurnos Tramroad was built around 1792 to link the ironworks with the Gurnos Quarry to the north. The completion of the Glamorgan Canal in 1794 then provided the ironworks with a direct waterway to the wharfs at Cardiff, coinciding with Crawshay acquiring full legal control of the ironworks.

The Napoleonic Wars proved to be hugely profitable for Crawshay as some of the canons, guns and shots on British Warships at Trafalgar were reputed to be cast at Cyfarthfa. However, Crawshay did not live to see the final defeat of Napoleon. By his death in 1810 Richard Crawshay's personal fortune was estimated at £1.5m (approximately £4.3bn in modern terms) and the Cyfarthfa Ironworks was the largest in the world.

Richard Crawshay's son William inherited only a share of his father's business. However, he gradually removed other shareholders from the company. William managed the ironworks through his son William Crawshay II, who lived at Gwaelodygarth House, an imposing Georgian mansion which still stands just to the south east of Cyfarthfa Park. The early 19th century was a period of gradual expansion of the ironworks. By 1825, the ironworks' was at its largest with seven blast furnaces, as well as engine houses built at either end of the furnace bank. At this point the ironworks was the largest in the world and, arguably, the most technically advanced.

Cyfarthfa Castle was built in 1825 at the cost of £30,000. The footprint of castle covered an acre of land and was a self-contained community, including its own brew house, dairy, icehouses, glasshouses, kitchen gardens and farmstead (Pandy Farm). The grounds surrounding the Castle combined an unusual mixture of decoration and utilitarianism. The ornamental lake, for example, acted as a substantial reservoir for the ironworks and was fed by a newly constructed canal which carried water along the side of the Taff Fechan Valley from the Gyrnos Quarry to the north. The canal and lake cost an additional £30,000 to build. The castle, on its hill, was designed to be highly visible, particularly from the ironworks in the valley below. Its location also afforded a view of the activity in the works from the ironmaster's office, which lay on the south west side of the building.

The ownership of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks passed from Crawshay to his son, William Crawshay II in 1834. In 1839 he subsequently appointed his eldest son, Robert Thompson Crawshay to manage the works. The ironworks were still prosperous during the 1830s and 40s. The advent of the steam engine facilitated massive expansion of railways in Britain, Europe and the USA. This required large amounts of railways to be built using cast iron tracks. Such demand required further expansion of the ironworks towards the east side of the Taf. However, local mineral sources of ironstone of sufficient quality were slowly becoming exhausted by the 1850s.

When William Crawshay II died in 1867, Robert Thompson had inherited the works. However, the works had begun to decline. When the mineral lease was up for renewal in 1862, this was on far more expensive terms. The works also had to import its ore, which pushed costs up. The decline in value of iron by 1874 and Robert Thompson's lack of managerial ability forced the company's labour force to strike over poor conditions and low wages in 1874. This resulted in Robert Thompson stubbornly closing the ironworks, and this lock out continued until his death in 1879.

In 1879, the Ironworks' was inherited by Robert Thompson's sons; William, Robert and Richard who invested £150,000 in converting the works to produce steel, requiring a number of changes in the layout of the site. This put such a strain on the finances of the family that the brothers became a Limited Company, trading as Crawshay Brothers, Cyfarthfa Ltd in 1890.

The steelworks struggled to remain profitable and in 1902 it was purchased by the owners of the rival Dowlais Steelworks.



Diagram 02 -William Crawshay II (1788-1867) depicting the ironmaster with his empire of the ironworks, Pandy Farm and Cyfarthfa Castle

The Crawshay family had abandoned their home in Cyfarthfa to move to their country estate in Caversham Park, Oxfordshire in 1889. The Castle remained derelict until its purchase in 1908 by the Merthyr Tydfil Council for £18,000. Over the coming years, the castle was converted to provide a grammar school, museum and art gallery in January 1913 while the park and gardens were turned over for recreational purposes.

Meanwhile, the steelworks deteriorated further. Though there was a brief revival during the First World War for the production of shell casings and other munitions, it finally closed in 1919. Demolition followed. During the 1920s, construction in the park facilitated the development of a bowling green, pavilion, tennis courts, tea shelter, playground and bandstand. The park was also used as a rallying ground for trade unions during the General Strike of 1926.

During the Second World War, part of the ironworks site was redeveloped for a factory occupied by Rotax, who produced aircraft instruments. Subsequent factories, notably Tri-Ang, also occupied the site until the mid 1970s.

In the mid-80s, a new industrial estate subsequently covered land to the north of the Ironworks site. However, some of the businesses on the site proved to be unsuccessful.

By the latter part of the later 20th century, the Council had acquired most of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks site as part of a Compulsory Purchase Order. As a result of which, many of the industrial buildings were demolished and the site in front of the blast furnaces was cleared. The works were initiated as part of a World Heritage Site bid, which subsequently failed. In terms of the management of leisure facilities within the Conservation Area, the park had suffered the demolition of a number of features such as its entrance lodges, boathouse, tea shelter and kitchen gardens. The latter were replaced by a Parks Department Depot.

The Taf Trail was also developed through the ironworks site and up the Taf Fawr valley to the Cefn Viaduct by the Groundwork Trust in the 1990s, improving it as a recreational route.

The buildings and archaeological remains of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks Landscape form just one part of the wider landscape character of Merthyr Tydfil.

The site at Cyfarthfa provides a detailed account of the town's beginnings, and is at the centre of the town's history. The Ironworks was involved in many of the historical events of Merthyr Tydfil, such as the early industrial revolution, the Merthyr Rising of 1831, the lockout of 1874-9 and the depression of the mid to late 19th century to name but a few. Such events are important in presenting the evolution of the town.

Diagram 03 - Aerial view of Cyfarthfa Castle, Merthyr Tydfil c. 1957 © Amgueddfa Cymru 2026

We can see the open landscape surrounding Pandy Farm prior to subsequent development.



Pandy Farm

The current Pandy Farm has evolved over many decades with possible origins in the 18th century however much of the surviving fabric is 19th century in date. The complex of Pandy Place (its former name) was seemingly adapted by Robert Lugar (architect of Cyfarthfa Castle) as part his landscaping works to surround the Castle. This included the styling of the clock tower with machicolations to its tower in a design complementing Cyfarthfa Castle and its entrance lodges (the detailing on the clock tower and entrance lodges was nearly identical).

From the last quarter of the 18th century, agriculture itself became heavily influenced by the industrial and urban development affecting the Merthyr region. This is evidenced by large-scale industrial agricultural reorganisation by the dominant industrial landowners, i.e. the Crawshay family, and the Plymouth Estate.

Eventually, agriculture played a subordinate role to industry, and landholdings were primarily exploited for the value of their mineral resources. The mineral leases that supported the development of the iron industry granted rights to below-ground resources, and the ironmasters also leased or bought the farms themselves as a means of controlling and exploiting the land surface. It is noted that ‘about twenty farms were swallowed up by the Cyfarthfa works’. Some farms were retained for agriculture but were adapted into more efficient holdings better equipped to deal with the needs of a growing population. Gurnos Farm and Pandy Farm are good examples of farms remodelled for the Cyfarthfa estate in the early 19th century.

Pandy Farm is located almost opposite the main entrance of Cyfarthfa Castle. This was one of the principal farms on the estate, remodelled to create a picturesque composition when the castle was built. The farm, together with the ironworks, was an important component of the view from the castle as well as its economy.

The farmhouse and clock tower were reputedly built in 1816 by a Bristol firm, Bough Duggan & Co. Although the farmstead as a whole is attributed to c.1825, contemporary with the castle, – the straight joints and abutments suggest a phased development of the regular courtyard plan. The existing clock mechanism and clock faces were erected in 1856 and made in the Cyfarthfa Works under the direction of George Cope-Pearce, Chief Engineer.

In 1962 an electric mechanism was installed, and at some time a smaller set of black hands which showed the time in America, five hours behind, and the chimes, were both removed.

The early history of the current farmstead is difficult to ascertain and corroborate. A plaque on the roadside threshing/combination barn reads: Pandy Farm and Clock Tower c.1766. The farmhouse is thought to have been built on land previously used as a fulling mill in the 14th century² and owned by the Earl of Plymouth. Where the date 1766 is derived from is unknown.

In the Merthyr Tydfil parish registers of 1703 to 1753 Pandy (Fullers House), near Cyfarthfa Works is recorded in 1713³. In the 1786 will of iron master Anthony Bacon there is mention of the lease of two farms opposite Cyfarthfa House (the ironmaster’s house that preceded the later Cyfarthfa Castle) which Bacon held from the Earl of Plymouth⁴.

The clock tower reportedly dates from 1816, the clock from 1856 by George Cope-Pearce⁵.

The Pandy Farm was once used as a toll house until a new toll-house was established in 1842. This building, once the Old Toll House, Grawen, Brecon Road, still stands today and is called the Round House⁶.

2. In the inquisition after the death of Edward Despenser in 1375 a fulling mill worth 20s a year was noted in upper Senghennydd. In 1427-8 the fulling mill at Merthyr Tudful in upper Senghennydd was in the lord's hand for want of repair; it is probably that this is the former Despenser pandy. The mill is recorded within the wider area of today's Pandy Farm but with only a four figure grid reference S0 O4O6 given the lack of evidence for the exact siting. R. Ian Jack, Fulling Mills in Wales and the March (Archaeologia Cambrensis, Journal of the Cambrian Archaeological Association Vol 130, 1981).

3. Notes on the Parish Register of Merthyr Tydfil from 1703 to 1763 in Y Cymmrodor the magazine of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion (Vol. 35, 1925).

4. The National Archives' reference PROB 11/1138/300

5. Rhianwen Long, Merthyr Tydfil Through Time (2014)

6. <http://www.alangeorge.co.uk/>

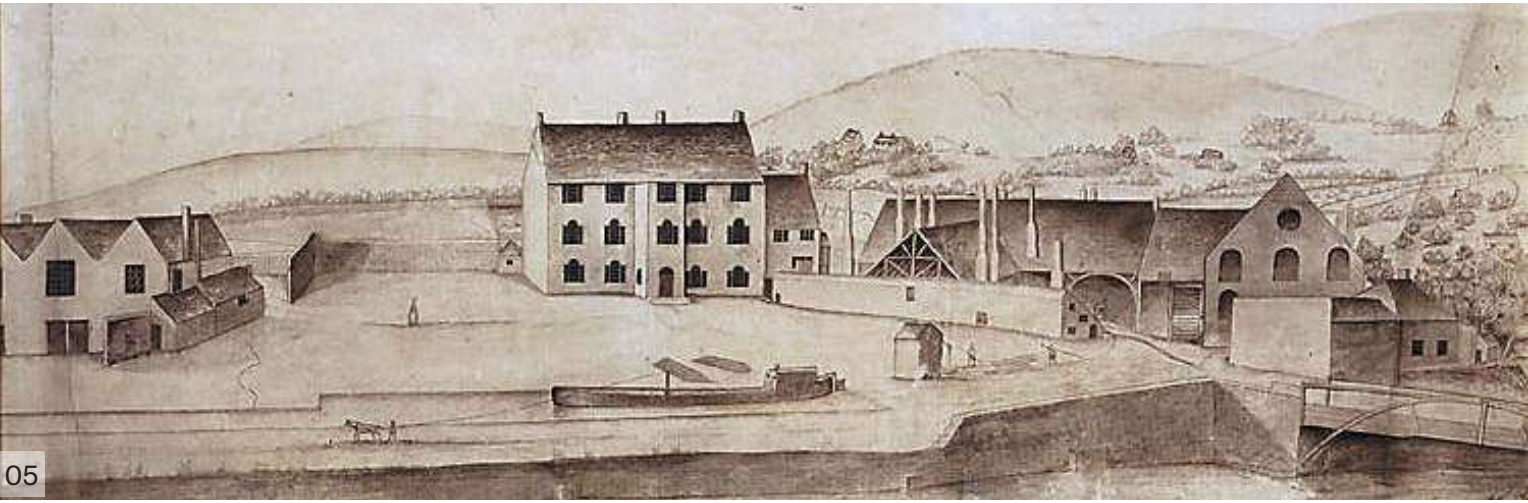


Diagram 04 - Pandy Farm as it survives today
Diagram 05 - Cyfarthfa Works and Cyfarthfa House (Anthony Bacon's residence) in the 1790s from a drawing by William Pamplin. Courtesy of Cyfarthfa Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Early History leading to 1830

Early mapping is not conclusive in the understanding of Pandy Farm in its pre-1825 incarnation, with only a small number of high level mapping available that indicates a settlement, as we see in diragram 06 and 07.

Little written record is found for the early history of Pandy Farm either in its original incarnation or in its new guise as the estate home farm of Cyfarthfa Castle. No records were found during the research for this report that record its apparent rebuilding in 1824-25 as part of the wider Cyfarthfa estate. The assumption from architectural details is that the architect of the castle, Robert Lugar, had some involvement, certainly in the clock tower, but the supposed origins of the clock tower in 1816 precedes his work at the castle. Lugar, a skilful practitioner of the picturesque, exploiting the fashion for cottage orn  and castellated Gothic mansions in the manner of John Nash certainly worked on farmsteads and published Designs for Farmhouses and Yards in 1807.

An early mention of today’s Pandy Farm was in the Merthyr Riots or Merthyr Uprising of 1831. In June 1831, after a month of increasing disorder, a majority of the working population of Merthyr, impelled by a variety of motives, in part political, broke into riot and led by the ironstone miners of William Crawshay attacked the houses of ironmasters and local bailiffs. A detachment of the 93rd Highland Regiment were sent from Brecon. A crowd of many thousands assembled and a group attacked the soldiers and seized weapons after a standoff at the Castle Inn where the town’s magistrates and ironmasters were held-up. The troops opened fire and cleared the street inflicting a hundred casualties with some fatalities.

After the crowd had dispersed the Highlanders under renewed assaults withdrew to Penydarren House temporarily abandoning the town to the rioters. Rioters commandeered arms and explosives, set up road-blocks, assembled detachments with flag bearers, torchbearers and banners. They continued to attack troops entering the town in skirmishes. On the Brecon Road they ambushed the 93rd baggage-train under escort of the Glamorgan Yeomanry and drove them to the hills. Hundreds of civilians started fleeing from the town and with panic spreading the magistrates, by promises of negotiation and clemency and the organisation of fresh troops succeeded in weakening the rioters’ resolve.

On 6th June 450 troops from Penydarren marched to the Waun above Dowlais and dispersed a mass meeting. By the evening many more soldiers poured into the town and most of the armed dissidents fled. By the end of a week order had been restored with garrisons of dragoons established at Dowlais and Cyfarthfa and the leading rebels arrested.

A number of papers of the Crawshay family in the National Library of Wales record details of the rising. William Crawshay II was heavily involved throughout the rising and it was his works at Cyfarthfa and Hirwaun which gave the movement its fighters and leaders. He provoked many of the rioters and was singled out as the villain of the peace by the Radical press. He assumed responsibility for clearing up the tangle of accounts left by soldiers and among his papers are bills, orders, receipts and balances relating to the victualling and maintenance of the military during the riots. In the riot expenses there is recording of a detachment of the 3rd Dragoon Guards stationed at the Pandy farmhouse, Cyfarthfa⁷.

The 1836 Plan of Merthyr includes the courtyard plan of Pandy Farm, as shown in diagram 08.



Diagram 06 - George Yates County of Glamorgan 1799, Pandy Farm is not noted
Diagram 07 - Thomas Budgen Map 1814 – the position of the farm is shown left of the notation Pandy Place. The mapping is not clear enough or of a suitable scale but it does appear to show a U plan courtyard on the south side of Brecon Road - circled in red.
Diagram 08 - Plan of Merthyr Tydfil from actual survey 1836 John Wood. Pandy Farm circled in red.

7. G. A. Williams, The Merthyr Riots: Settling the Account in The National Library of Wales Journal (1959)

1830 - 1870

In the 1850 tithe record Pandy Farm was kept in hand by William Crawshay. The tithe map shows the regular courtyard plan had been established by this date. The tithe map is by no means detailed but gives a general overview of the farm with garden to the east of the farmhouse, stable yard to the south and rickyard to the west all marked.

The Pandy farm lands are listed together with the lands of Cyfarthfa Castle. The tithe apportionment records 1803 as Homestead and 1804 as pastureland. Areas 1790 and 1799 are recorded as 'part of the pandy' as are 1805 and 1806 – Area 1799 being near the confluence of Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan may possibly indicate the approximate location of the former pandy (fulling) mill?

The 1851 census records the occupier of Pandy Farm as John Rasbridge the farm bailiff together with Jane his wife (housekeeper) and Mary their daughter (dressmaker).

In 1856 John Rasbridge was in the local news, one of his Berkshire pigs at Pandy Farm had produced a litter of nineteen piglets!

By 1861 the farm bailiff had changed to a William Jones who lived at the Pandy with his wife Sarah Jones, daughter Ann (dressmaker) and sons Thomas (Blacksmith), Daniel and John (scholars). The Jones family remained at the Pandy for many years and William was left £100 in the will of Robert Thompson Crawshay (d. May 1879). By 1881 William was now a widower, his sons Thomas and John working as Engine fitters.

William Jones, during his time as farm bailiff saw the period of the 1870s where there were a series of strikes at the ironworks. Illustrated newspaper articles survive from this time as well photographs taken by Crawshay himself a keen photographer.

A table from the 1850 Tithe Appointment. The table has four columns: 'No. of the Survey', 'Description', 'Area', and 'Value'. The rows list various areas and their corresponding values. The table is a detailed record of the land and its value at the time.

No. of the Survey	Description	Area	Value
1790	part of the survey	100	100
1791	part of the survey	100	100
1792	part of the survey	100	100
1793	part of the survey	100	100
1794	part of the survey	100	100
1795	part of the survey	100	100
1796	part of the survey	100	100
1797	part of the survey	100	100
1798	part of the survey	100	100
1799	part of the survey	100	100
1800	part of the survey	100	100
1801	part of the survey	100	100
1802	part of the survey	100	100
1803	part of the survey	100	100
1804	part of the survey	100	100
1805	part of the survey	100	100
1806	part of the survey	100	100

A newspaper clipping from the Merthyr Telegraph, dated Saturday, March 1st, 1856. The headline is 'LOCAL INTELLIGENCE'. The article is titled 'A PROLIFIC BREED.—About a fortnight ago, a store sow, of the Berkshire breed, the property of E. Crawshay, Esq., Cyfarthfa, had a litter of pigs, nineteen in number! Under the careful management of Mr. J. Rasbridge, Mr. Crawshay's farmer, fourteen of the number are living, and, together with the sow, may be seen at the Pandy farm. This prolific animal has had two or three litters previously, numbering from fifteen to seventeen on every occasion.'

The Merthyr Telegraph.
Saturday, March 1st, 1856.
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.
A PROLIFIC BREED.—About a fortnight ago, a store sow, of the Berkshire breed, the property of E. Crawshay, Esq., Cyfarthfa, had a litter of pigs, nineteen in number! Under the careful management of Mr. J. Rasbridge, Mr. Crawshay's farmer, fourteen of the number are living, and, together with the sow, may be seen at the Pandy farm. This prolific animal has had two or three litters previously, numbering from fifteen to seventeen on every occasion.

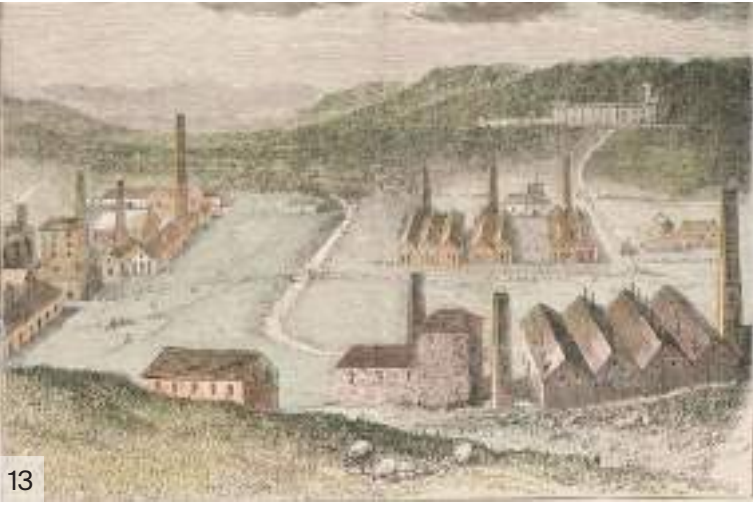


Diagram 09 - 1850 Tithe map showing Pandy Farm in relation to the wider estate - circled in red.
Diagram 10 - 1850 Tithe map zoomed in to demonstrate the configuration of the settlement - circled in red.
Diagram 11 - Extract of the 1850 Tithe Appointment outlining the areas prescribed to Pandy.

Diagram 12 - Extract from the Merthyr Telegraph. 1856.
Diagram 13 - The Graphic c.1873 'The strike in south Wales'. The Pandy clock tower with stables below is shown with artistic licence below the Castle.

Pandy Farm, like many other estate buildings, appears historically to have been viewed as subservient when we consider how it has been visually recorded. In countless sketches, paintings, and early photographs, the farm is rarely presented as a focal point in its own right. Instead, it consistently occupies the background or middle ground of imagery, quietly supporting the main subjects rather than commanding attention.

Its placement within visual compositions often reinforces the hierarchy of the landscape: the vast Cyfarthfa works dominate the view, rising as the unmistakable symbol of industrial power and economic importance, while Pandy Farm sits modestly within the surrounding fields, functioning almost as a visual footnote. Similarly, when the modern Cyfarthfa Castle built by the Crawshay family is depicted, the farm again appears secondary—framed as part of the estate’s working backdrop rather than a structure of architectural or social status.

This persistent positioning suggests that contemporaries saw Pandy Farm primarily as a utilitarian component of the estate rather than a building of aesthetic or symbolic significance. The way it is repeatedly rendered—small in scale, visually unobtrusive, and positioned to support grander subjects—reveals much about historical attitudes to estate hierarchies and the perceived value of agricultural buildings in an industrial landscape.

Here is a selection of archival imagery that offers glimpses of Pandy Farm, illustrating its architectural and functional qualities, alongside the wider historic context within which it originally sat.



Diagram 14 - The Illustrated London News 1875 – View from the castle to the ironworks. The farmhouse and clock tower can be seen as well as some elements of the farmstead. The massed grey elements reflected in the lake are thatched hay ricks. The hay ricks in the rickyard and beyond were essential for the feeding of the many horses on the estate and used in the ironworks.

Diagram 15 - ‘Cyfarthfa Castle and the balance ponds’ by Penry Williams (mid 19th century) – the thatched hay ricks in the field adjacent Pandy Farm are seen.



Diagram 16 - The castle entrance gates directly opposite Pandy Farm, by Penry Williams



It is through early photography of that we gain enhanced views of Pandy Farm. In these images, the architectural details of the buildings are more clearly defined, and their scale can be understood against the backdrop of the expansive ironworks and the wider estate. The best examples are those of Robert Thompson Crawshay, taken in the 1870's as part of his documentation of the wider estate.

Like earlier illustrations, these photographs also depict Pandy as an object within the landscape, offering only a partial or obstructed view rather than focusing solely on the farmstead itself. Nevertheless, they are an invaluable piece of tangible evidence, providing a momentary glimpse of Pandy during the 1870s, at the height of the Crawshays' wealth and industrial influence.

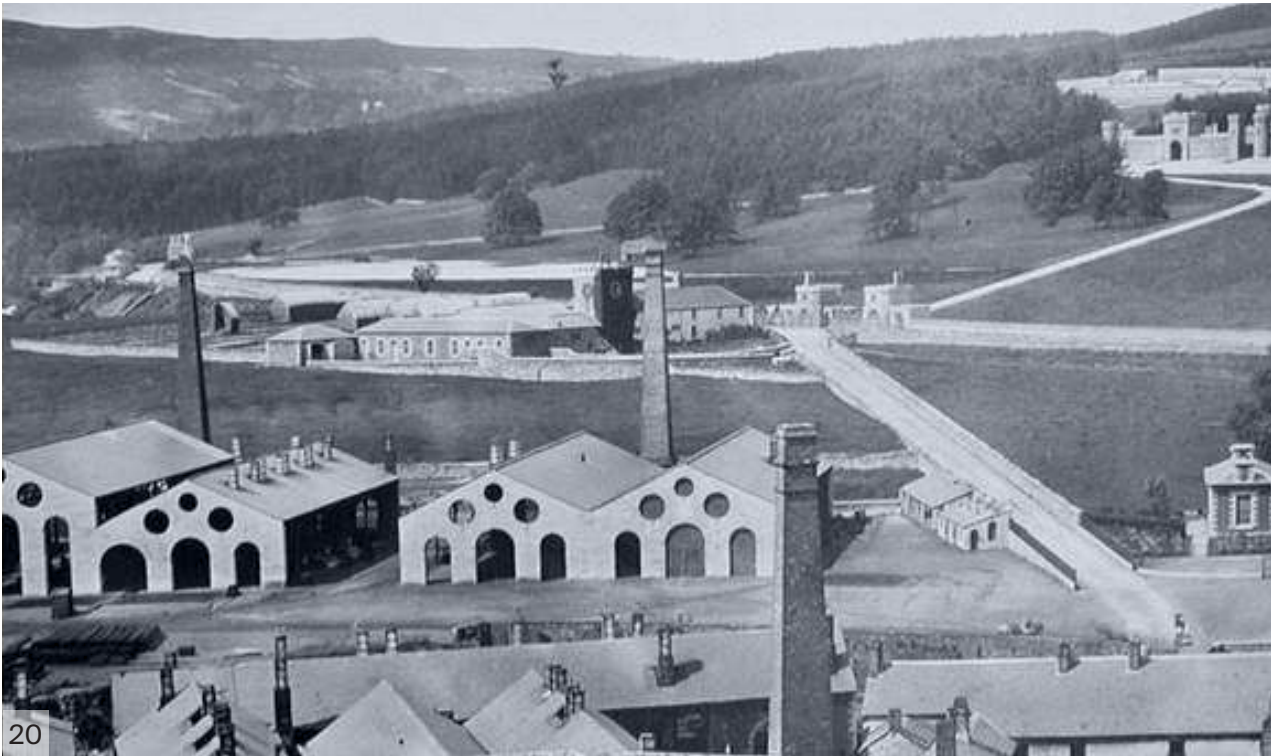
Diagram 17 - c.1870s photograph by Robert Thompson Crawshay. The Pandy Farmhouse and clock tower is clearly seen as is the roadside barn. The massive thatched hay ricks are obvious to the west. The farmhouse has a massive stack on its west roof slope.

Diagram 18 - Close up from the same photograph. The lower square plan coach house that sits below the level of the courtyard is seen to the right of the roadside barn- trees obscure the western ranges. Note there is no enclosing boundary wall between the farmhouse and roadside barn. This could have been the primary entrance to the farmyard; it is not conclusive evidence due to tree cover, but it appears as if the roadside barn may not have the pointed arched cart opening at this date.

Daigram 19 - The iron works during a day of production - the Pandy Farm behind.

Diagram 20 - A close up of the Pandy Farm taken from an c.1870s Robert Thompson Crawshay photograph. The coach house and stabling behind above the boundary retaining stone wall stable yard sits above a pasture field. A boundary wall appears to come off the east elevation of the stable range between the stables and building flanking the clock tower.

Diagram 21 - A close up of the Pandy Farm taken from an c.1870s Robert Thompson Crawshay photograph. Note the symmetrical facade of the stable range facing south.



1870 - 1900

Historic mapping alongside advertesments from the late 19th century proide further information on the layout and arragement of the farmstead.

Here within the 1875-6 OS map it shows the layout of the farmstead with trees and paths laid out in the farmhouse garden to the east. The clock tower is abutted by other buildings as it is today with the cast iron trough shown at the base of the tower within the enclosed yard. The yard itself is shown with an irregular central square denoted showing a change in paving materials.

Stone wall boundaries are shown with double lines around the farmhouse garden, south forming a yard in front of the stables and coach house and enclosing the field entirely to the west that was used as a rickyard for storage of hay for the works horses. There is a small addition to the rear of the coach house. A stub wall is shown east between the stable range and the courtyard range abutting the clock tower. It is uncertain what the small square within a circle west of the roadside barn is, possibly the position of horse drawn machinery.

A three horse power gear is listed in a farm sale in 1890. It would make sense if this was positioned on the rickyard side of the barn. The non gated entrance to the yard is still open between the farmhouse and barn which may suggest the cart entrance through the barn did not yet exist.

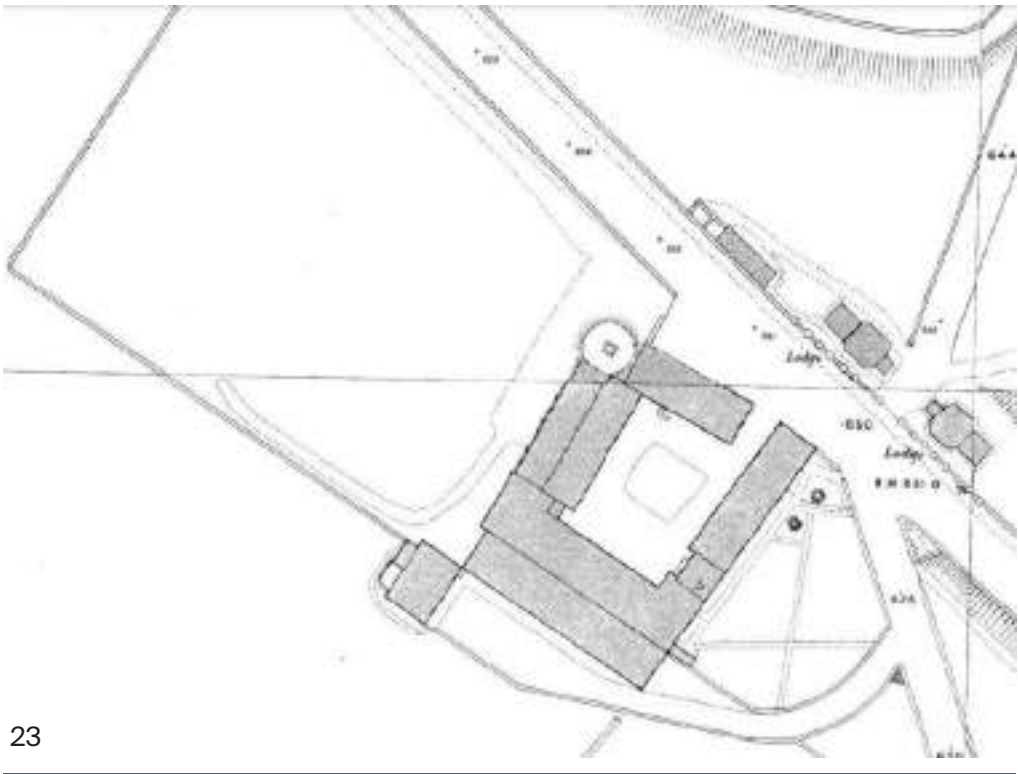
After the Crawshay family left Cyfarthfa in 1889 the future of Pandy Farm changed. In February 1890 Pandy Farm, described as a dairy farm, was advertised for let. On 25th April 1890 there was a sale, instructed by W T Crawshay, of Pandy Farm’s pedigree Ayrshire Cattle, implements etc. as advertised in the Brecon County Times. The advertisement is listed in within the exact (diagram xx).

The advertisement is telling of the use and arrangement of the farm buildings with 28 cow chains – the cattle housed in the cow houses arranged around the yard (most recently in the 21st century used as stables). Plus carts and wagons stored in the cart house and ancillary buildings as well as much machinery for processing crops from winnowing to root cutters and chaff cutters.

By the 1891 census Thomas and Emma Davies resided in what was now referred to as Pandy House with sisters Elizabeth and Agnes recorded (known as Lizzie and Aggie). In the 1901 census Thomas is listed as a horse/stable dealer, his wife Emma and sister Elizabeth now joined by domestic servant Hannah Shaw.

In September 1893 the Merthyr Times, and Dowlais Times, and Aberdare Echo recorded at the Rhymney Agricultural Show Class 32 for the best cob mare or gelding driven in harness 1st prize to Thomas Davies of Pandy Farm.

The Cyfarthfa Iron and Steel Works under the title of Crawshay Brothers, Cyfarthfa, Limited continued in operation until 1902 when the works, and presumably Pandy Farm, was bought out by Guest, Keen and Nettlefold of the Dowlais works.



PANDY FARM, CYFARTHFA,
MERTHYR TYDFIL, GLAMORGANSHIRE.
Highly Important Sale of
PEDIGREE AYRSHIRE CATTLE,
IMPLEMENTS, &c.
MR. HENRY LEWIS has been favoured with instructions from **W. T. Crawshay, Esq.,** to **SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION,** at the above Farm,
ON FRIDAY, APRIL 25th, 1890,
The whole of the following
LIVE STOCK,
Ac., comprising:—
18 Milking Cows in milk and in calf, 3 Burens in full profit, 1 Two-year-old Bull, 2 Two-year-old Heifers, 1 Yearling Heifer, 1 Calf. All of the above Cattle are of the pure Ayrshire breed.
IMPLEMENTS.—2 Carts, 1 Milk Cart and Appurtenances, 1 Milk Perambulator and Tin complete, 7 Milk Tins, Milk Measures, 1 Timber Carriage, 1 Wagon Bed, 2 Waggon Thrushes, 1 Spring Cart, 1 Tedding Machine, 1 Hand Truck, 1 Wooden Roller, 1 Winnowing Machine, 1 Turnip Cutter, 1 Weighing Machine and Weights, 1 Chaff Cutter, 1 Three-horse-power Gear suitable for chaffing or pulping, 8 Feeding Boxes, 2 Wheelbarrows, 25 Cow Chains, &c.
Cheese.—About 6 Tons of prime Meadow Hay, well harvested.
HARNESS.—1 Set of Trap Harness, and a quantity of Old Harness, &c.
Terms: Cash.
Luncheon (by Ticket) on the Table at 12 o'clock; Sale to commence at 1.30 p.m. sharp.
The Auctioneer desires to call special attention to this choice herd of a breed of Cattle renowned for their beautiful appearance, unsurpassed productiveness for dairy purposes, hardy constitution, and low cost of keep, all combining to render them peculiarly well adapted for the requirements of this part of the country. All the animals are in prime condition, and particularly worthy the attention of persons desirous of obtaining first-class stock.
Catalogues may be had a week prior to the day of Sale upon application to the Auctioneer,
Gedihir Farm, Nelson, Treherria, B.S.O.

CYFARTHFA CASTLE ESTATE.—To be Let, from such date as may be agreed, Pandy Dairy Farm, adjoining Cyfarthfa Works, including the House and Buildings, and such quantity of land as may be arranged.—Apply to Mr. R. Forrest, at Pagan's, Cardiff; or Mr. Powell, Cardiff, Gyrrnos Farm, Merthyr Tydfil. 25

Diagram 22 - 1875-6 1:528 OS Map extract
Diagram 23 - 1875 1:2500 OS map extract
Diagram 24 - South Wales Daily News - Tuesday 18 February 1890
Diagram 25 - The advertised in the Brecon County Times for the 1890 sale.

1900 - Present

The Cyfarthfa Iron and Steel Works under the title of Crawshay Brothers, Cyfarthfa, Limited continued in operation until 1902 when the works, and presumably Pandy Farm, was bought out by Guest, Keen and Nettlefold of the Dowlais works.

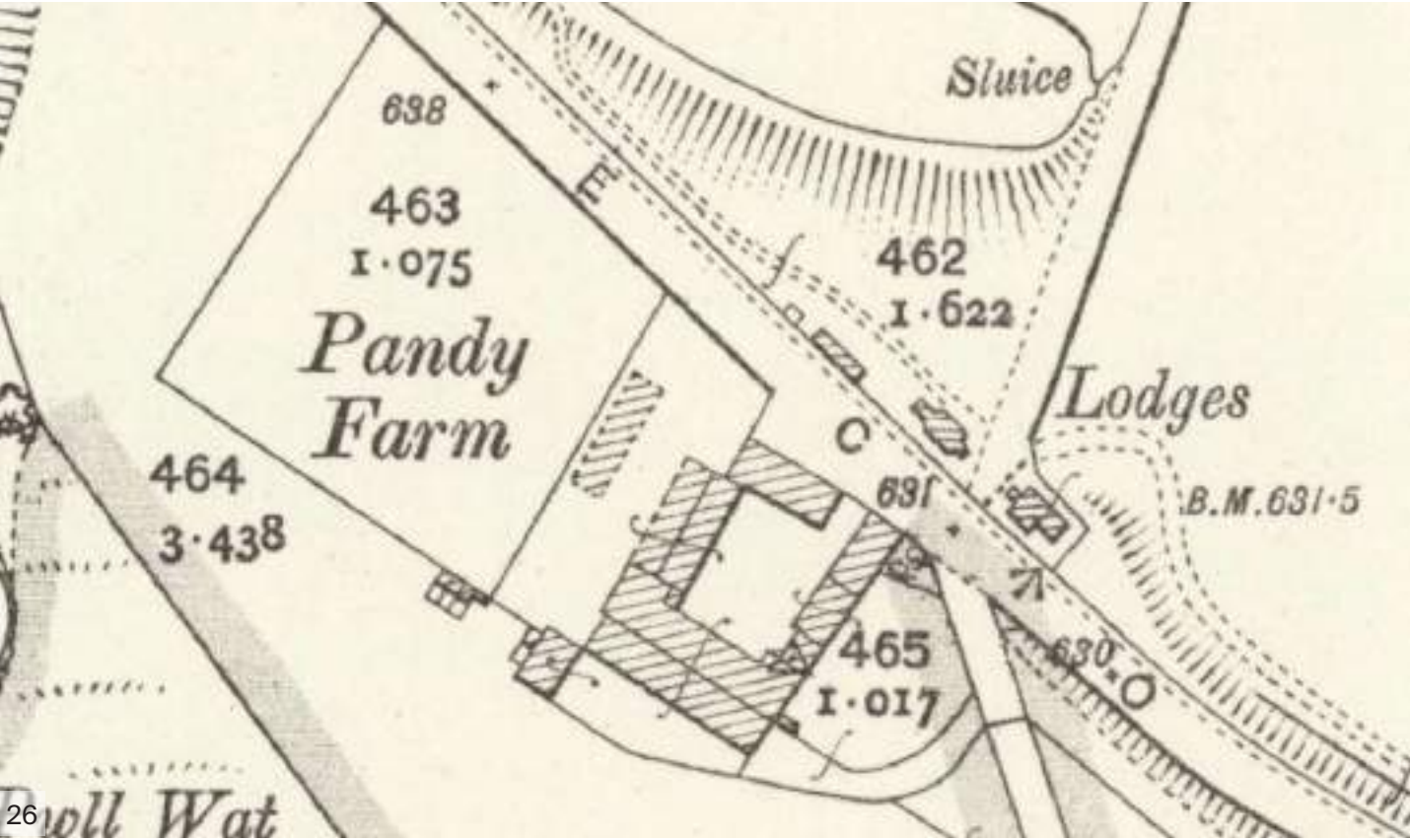
Its not untill 1904 that we gain further detail on the development of the farm. The 1904 OS Map demonstrates that a pigsty had been built into the boundary wall of the rickyard west of the courtyard. A detached building range is shown west of the farm courtyard. The rickyard itself is now subdivided with a stone wall enclosing a smaller yard adjacent to the farm buildings. This change probably corresponds with the decline in the ironworks and the reduction of horse power and therefore the change in requirement of such a large rickyard.

Thomas Davies died at Pandy Farm on December 2nd 1909. His funeral was written up in The Merthyr Express. Thomas, posting master of Pandy House, was laid to rest in Cefn Cemetery, a short service was first held at Pandy House before the funeral procession. In his will his estate value was £7,456 8s. Thomas had followed his father as a posting master and he held stables at the Bush and Castle Hotels as well as at Pandy Farm. In an interesting link both the Bush and Castle Hotels were prominently featured in the Merthyr Rising of 1831.

In the 1911 census the occupation of Pandy farm had changed to Samuel Fred Dix (housekeeper), his wife Elizabeth Ann and mother-in-law Ann Davies.

A series of early 20th century postcards of the celebrated 'Pandy Clock' show the farmhouse and clock tower from the Brecon Road.

Diagram 26 - 1904 1:2500 OS map extract.
Diagram 27 - An ivy clad clock tower and mature garden trees including smaller orchard trees. A lady stands in the rear doorway of the farmhouse.
Diagram 28 - The farmhouse and clock tower with lower farm ranges visible.
Diagram 29 - Tinted postcard - the overhead cables on the road were for trams.
Diagram 30 - The rendered farmhouse.



With the closure of the ironworks in 1919, the decay and demolition of the former power house began. The decline and fall of this industrial giant also brought changing times for Pandy. Much like Crawshay’s visual journal of the estate from the 1870s, we find a visual documentation of its decline and eventual ruin, and once again, Pandy Farm quietly witnesses the transformation from a distance, only now the settlement is brought more clearly into focus.

Historic mapping from 1919 (diagram xx) deomstrates that little had changed from the 1904 map – the detached building west of the courtyard is not shown but it was still present, or a replacement building was, on the series of 1930s photographs.

In 1924, the Merthyr Express discussed the future of Pandy Farm and its clock tower following the breakup and sale of the estate, noting that:

“The clock hand been a landmark for over a hundred years, and served the community well, and arrangements could be made to preserve such old monuments of the past.”

This concern resulted in the council assuming stewardship of the clock and the wider settlement as a means of securing its future.

The farm was evidently in dairy production for many years. In 1950 the Kendall family of the Pandy farm were producing milk supplying the town including producing specially bottled kosher milk for the town’s large Jewish quarter.

Historic mapping from 1950 (diagram xx) demonstrates that the farmstead remained remarkably intact – however the pigsties are labelled as ruins. The 1960s saw the dramatic alteration of the setting of the farm in its decoupling from its historic lands with the creation of Pandy Close thus surrounding the farm on its southern side by housing.

After the Kendall family the farm ownership changed to Mr Tony Moreton. In is most recent use most of the buildings have been left empty and to dereliction while the farmhouse has been occupied and the former cow houses used for stabling.

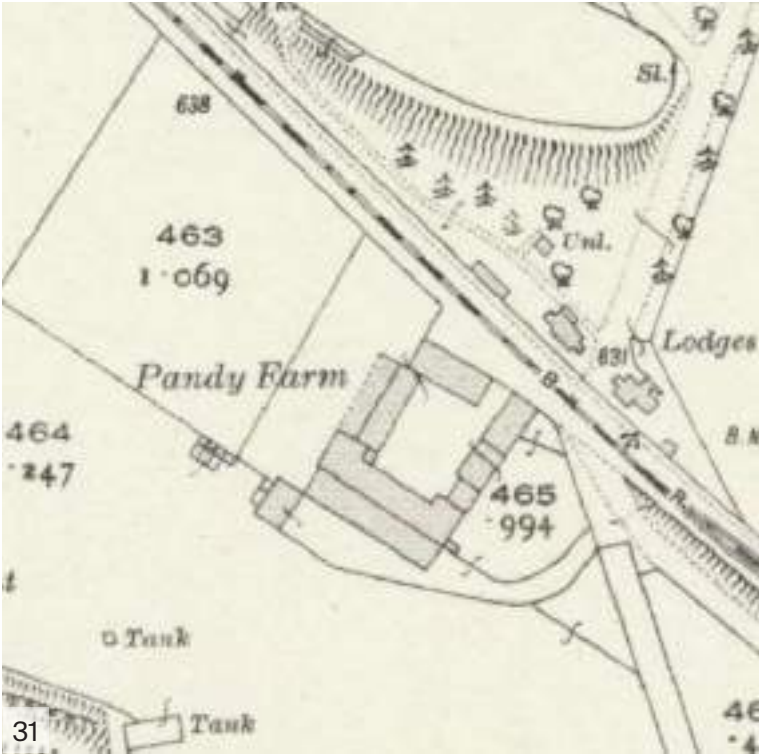


Diagram 31 - 1919 OS Map extract
Diagram 32 - 1956-1963 OS Map extract
Diagram 33 - The works post closure with Pandy Farm behind, its clock tower now completely covered with ivy.
Diagram 34 - Pandy Farm in 1929 with dairy cattle grazing in the fields.



Aerial photography from 1938, documenting the decline of the ironworks, provides a clear view of Pandy Farm, offering some of the only archival material that reveals the architectural character and formal arrangement of the settlement. Here, we continue to see Pandy as a solitary mass within a semi-rural landscape, its architectural style reminiscent of that found within the now-demolished ironworks.

Diagram 35 - A striking image from 1938 showing Pandy Farm on the left still retaining its immediate surrounding fields above the river opening out to the desolation of the ruined ironworks and spoil tips with the town in the distance.

Diagram 36 - Pandy Farm in 1938 with surrounding fields. Note the gate houses to Cyfarthfa Castle still in existence.

Diagram 37 - Close up of Pandy Farm 1938 showing the limewashed farmhouse, its lower south end in agricultural use with a large ground floor opening. An additional outbuilding west of the L plan range is shown as is a four-pen piggery built into the rickyard wall west of the coach house. The rear west racing range of the courtyard group is still in existence and appears to have a large off centre opening with some windows to the south side.

Diagram 38 - Pandy Farm from the south west side 1938. The stables facing south show a rhythm to large window and door openings that are found on many of the iron furnace buildings. The original western door and window arrangement remains intact at this date. A small flue is visible on the south roof slope of the cart shed coinciding with a fireplace that still survives within. The roadside barn has an arrangement with a ground floor door flanked either side by window openings.



Setting

Pandy Farm was redeveloped as the estate Home Farm from its earlier origins. Situated between Cyfarthfa Castle and its parkland setting and the huge infrastructure of the ironworks in the valley below it occupied a transitional zone, its clock faces within the clock tower responding to the Brecon Road and the ironworks below, its buildings serving the castle above – the cattle may have been pastured in areas of the parkland above together with surrounding fields south and west.

The farm, now partially subsumed within suburbia, still retains some connection, albeit partially eroded, to the parkland above. The loss of the entrance lodges to the main gates which mirrored architectural details of the clock tower and vice-versa has resulted in the loss of a very clear visual connection to the castle grounds. The creation of Pandy Close looping around the south and west sides of the farmstead has divorced the farm buildings from their former fields and resulted in the loss of the larger walled area to the west.

The loss of the ironworks and spoil tips has severed the connection to the heavyside industry replaced with housing and light industrial units and yards. Any interconnection with the River Taff below has been lost.

As the ironworks decayed and was eventually largely demolished and new units were constructed tree growth accompanied these changes. Sweeps of deciduous trees partially hiding infrastructure now characterise the view south.

The recent development (2018) of the massive 200,000sq ft Trago Mills store off the A470 to the south west of Pandy Farm has created a new skyline. Its GRP architectural cladding with 17 ‘Trago’ towers is a far cry from the history of Merthyr’s own manufacturing tradition and contains none of the architectural subtleties and detail of the former ironworks buildings that once graced the backdrop to Pandy Farm.

Diagram 39 - A contemporary aerial view reveals the urban sprawl that has transformed the landscape around Pandy Farm, shifting it from a rural farmstead to an urban settlement.



39



Context

Pandy Farm is located c.190m above sea level. It is situated on the south side of Cyfarthfa Park accessed via the A4054 Brecon Road. The former ironworks were located immediately below the farm to the south. The immediate farmland formerly associated with Pandy Farm has been lost to later 20th century housing.

The farmstead buildings are split into four listing designations;

- Pandy Farm House
- Clock Tower
- L-Plan Stable Ranges including the Coach House and lower stables
- Barn (roadside)

All are Grade II listed, first listed in 1973.

Building Elements

1. Farmhouse A
2. Farmhouse B
3. Clock tower
4. Archway & Connection
5. Garage
6. Stabling
7. South Stables, Tack & Mess Room
8. Coach House
9. Forge & Cart House
10. Cow Housing
11. Threshing/ Combination Barn
12. Location of contemporary greenhouse (removed before 2020)

Landscape Features

- A. Courtyard
- B. Cottage Garden
- C. South Yard
- D. Former Rickyard

Diagram 40 - Plan showing the arrangement of the farmstead.



Farm buildings

An estate farm, built on a site of earlier origins. The farm buildings reflect their 19th century estate ownership and construction with dressed quoins, rock-faced stone, formal design, regular layout and subtle design details including chamfered timbers. The farmstead comprised farmhouse, clock tower, threshing/combination barn with perhaps inserted cart entrance, cow housing, working horse stabling, cart shed, implement stores, root stores, forge and rickyard. Below the rickyard wall were a set of pigsties. Below the courtyard stepped down are the high-status stables (for riding and carriage horses) with harness/ coachman's room, and coach house within an enclosed stable yard. The Cyfarthfa Ironworks, like Dowlais, relied on much horse power and had separate stabling for working horses near the works. The walled rickyard is substantial to store enough hay and fodder for the horses on the estate and in the works.

The farmstead is not a complete set-piece of single construction. The farmhouse may have earlier origins and the clock tower appears to have been built as a detached structure, perhaps in 1816 and later modified with the false machicolation to the tower reflected in Lugar's work to the Castle and castle entrance lodges. The southern farmhouse range and regular courtyard of buildings appear to have all been erected by 1836. The roadside threshing/combination barn appears to have been constructed before the west cow house range (now stabling) as the barn forms part of its interior north gable. The cart shed to the west facing the rickyard may be a later addition given a straight joint and change from stone to brick internally within the west corner of the southern cow house/stable range. The L plan cow housing, possibly also containing some stabling for working horses, implement stores, fodder store and meal house that wraps around and abuts the clock tower appears to be built in one phase. The grand stabling and coach house below appears to have followed soon after.

Description of Buildings

Located at the south western entrance to Cyfarthfa Park, Pandy Farm stands on the south west side of Brecon Road and forms an early 19th century model farm complex. It would appear that this small complex was adapted, perhaps by Robert Lugar, as part of the landscaping works to surround Cyfarthfa Castle in 1825. The styling of the clock tower and the presence of the stone barn with cart entrance (perhaps later) was used in the transformation the farmstead into a cottage orné that complemented the gothic character of the castle and the neighbouring castellated entrance lodges (now demolished).

The farmhouse falls outside this planning application and has therefore omitted from this heritage statement. These buildings were described and analysed in the 2021 Heritage Statement.

The following site photographs were taken in 2021 & 2025 following the completion of the reroofing (P/22/0317) and redecoration (P/23/0150) schemes.



Diagram 41 - Close up of Pandy Farm 1938

Roadside threshing/combination barn

Exterior

The coursed rubblestone barn is orientated east-west and forms the northern enclosure to the courtyard farmstead. The barn exhibits decorative detailing in the form of arched openings, gable oculus and tall carriage entrance with pointed brick arch. The roof covering is replacement concrete tiles.

Diagram 42 - West elevation with gable owl hole, arched opening at first floor level as per the east gable, below which is an inserted large rectangular grilled opening and pedestrian door. The door and ground floor opening appear inserted at a later date.

Diagram 43 - South elevation. Offset tall carriageway with pointed arch in brick contrasts with the coursed rubblestone – perhaps this has been inserted? Domestic scale openings at ground floor level with brick arched heads and later 20th century windows and door.

Diagram 44 - The carriageway with well-worn stone sett floor, with historic heavyweight iron sockets for the original door still visible, and contemporary linings.

Diagram 45 - Iron grill with diamond set bars and a square opening. This is pure conjecture but could the opening be for a line shaft or belt to power machinery from an external engine or horse powered gear apparent on the 1870s OS mapping?

Diagram 46 - Iron stay still attached to the east gable for the former timber gates before the roadside wall was constructed.

Diagram 47 - Ventilation slits in brick with iron stanchion – several are now blocked up - a good example here of the iron bar used to narrow the opening to prevent wildlife from entering.

Diagram 48 - The heavyweight iron sockets for the original opening doors found on both sides of the carriageway.

Diagram 49 - Later crudely inserted windows and door into the south elevation of the barn presumably when the barn was reconfigured into animal housing in the 20th century

Diagram 50 - Rubble stone finish

Diagram 51 - View of the north elevation showing the carriageway and the wall of the wider estate beyond.



Interior

The interior of the barn's ground floor is divided into three distinct sections: the east and west areas, and a central passageway leading into the courtyard.

The east side includes internal partitions added in the late 20th century. The floors are predominantly 20th-century concrete, though some earlier stone setts remain. A number of historic feeding troughs survive, alongside later 20th-century ceramic examples. The floor joists of the loft above are chamfered in a style similar to that of the roof structure.

The west side has been subdivided into two rooms by a modern cement-block wall. The floor throughout is brick. The floor joists here are simpler in form, with wide boards forming the loft floor above. Several ventilation slips have been blocked, suggesting that the loft is a later insertion.

Diagram 52- The simple roof structure of the barn with later off-centre cross timber bolted in place on top of the tie beams. Although the roof is simple it does display some of the hall marks of an estate farmstead in the subtle details for example the principal rafters all have a simple, but elegant stopped chamfer. The interior at first floor must have been divided as noted by the lime plaster visible in sections above the carriageway. Possibly to make the carriage way appear grander than the other sections hidden from public view.

Diagram 53 - Within the loft on the west side the chamfered principal rafters can be appreciated.

Diagram 54 - A ventilation slit has been stoned up with the clashing floor joist informing the loft as a later insertion.

Diagram 55 - The brick floor within the west bay.

Diagram 56 - A water trough still in situ.

Diagram 57 - general views of the interior condition of the east bay of the barn - noting the floor, walls and ceiling conditions.



Clock Tower

The clock tower is a substantial piece of architecture that continues to dominate the surrounding landscape.

The access doorway to the clock tower is located on the west side and contains an inserted 20th-century door and frame. The awkward junction where the house wall cuts across the doorway arch is notable; this reflects the later construction of the southern extension of the house range, which infilled the space between the house and the clock tower.

Diagram 58 - The clock tower from the east side. It was reportedly constructed in 1816 and the existing clock erected in 1856 and made in the Cyfarthfa Works under the direction of George Cope-Pearce, Chief Engineer.

Diagram 59 - The clock tower with its bell and weather vane above, view from the northeast.

Diagram 60 - The west door, with clashing detail between arch and wall. (Prior to redecoration)

Diagram 61 - Interior of the corner workshop building on the south side of the clock tower showing that the clock tower was built first as a detached structure and subsequently built up to on the north and south sides.

Diagram 62 - Interior of the clock tower showing the limewashed walls and brick floor.

Diagram 63 - Curious small inserted fireplace hearth within the clock tower, ground floor. The flue has long since gone. There are no signs of a chimney stack/ flue on the clock tower from historic photographs. Its use is uncertain. Possibly an area for heating meal for livestock or keeping farm labourers warm?

Diagram 64 - Access staircase (20th century) within the clock tower.

Diagram 65 - The south facing clock facing the position of the ironworks.

Diagram 66 - Interior view to one of the clock faces, each linked to a central mechanism, now run on electric.



Cow Housing - West

The courtyard ranges facing the central yard are likely to have been cow housing for the estate milking herd. Some stalls would have been for bulls and calves and some sections possibly for working horses separate to the riding horses housed in the stables below. Other areas may have been stores.

Diagram 67 - The west range east elevation exhibiting dressed cut stone. Windows are 20th century. The openings may have originally been open or louvred.

Diagram 68 - A view of the rickyard and the composition of the west elevation.

Diagram 69 - A detail of blocked low level opening, assumed ventilation or historic feeding opening from the demolished building?

Diagram 70 - A detail of the high level boarded square ventilation openings.

Diagram 71 - The rear wall of the west cow house range is constructed variously of rubblestone and brick in regular bands but with some odd infill. The lower brick band contains regularly spaced ventilation holes, mostly now filled, and cut through with a later off-centre door. The top brick banding has small rectangular openings with timber frames within and iron stanchions. An entire building range which abutted this has been lost (demolished post 1960s according to OS mapping). The lost range may have been additional cow housing or cart house/ machinery/implement stores facing the rickyard. The removal of the west facing range that interacted with the enclosed yard here has resulted in the exposure of a wall which was at one time internal.

Diagram 72 - Interior of the west cow house range with inserted 20th century horse stalls.

Diagram 73 - View north within the west cow house range above the inserted stabling. The ventilation on the back wall can be seen – this ventilation was a key feature of ‘modern’ thinking in model farms providing a healthier environment for the cows within. The straight joint visible on the north gable is that of the roadside barn showing the cow house range was built after the barn. The roof structure has been reinforced and roof covering renewed in the 20th century – perhaps after the removal of the range on the west side.



Cow Housing - South

The courtyard ranges facing the central yard are likely to have been cow housing for the estate milking herd. Some stalls would have been for bulls and calves and some sections possibly for working horses separate to the riding horses housed in the stables below. Other areas may have been stores.

Diagram 74 - A view of the south range with the varying scale of openings, which the majority appear historical, the double doors are a clumsy insertion which has destroyed the rhythm and symmetry of the south range.

*The images shown here were taken prior to the redecoration of the fenestration and rainwater goods, and the re-roofing works.

Diagram 75 - East elevation of the linking building with ground floor door to the garden of the farmhouse. The ground drops from the courtyard to the garden, the level change accommodated within the building.

Diagram 76 - South courtyard range (west section) former cow house/stables view east. Current stabling is a later insertion. The original stone sett floor survives in places. The dividing brick wall between the east and west sides of the south range is a later insertion as evidenced by the iron hooped bracket set into the wall bridging either side of the dividing wall.

Diagram 77 - A range of images showcase the quality of the interior spaces of the south range of the cow housing/ stables. We see that many of the partitions are modern and have been installed following the change of agricultural use. The mixed use of brick and stone indicated the continuous development of the farmstead and its associated buildings.

Diagram 78 - South courtyard range (west section)- note the cut stone quoins marking the corner of the courtyard range abutted with brick suggesting the cart shed beyond is a later addition or the space between the two has been infilled.

Diagram 79 - South east building accessed via the double garage doors the south wall niches are repeated as per the cow house/stables showing that this was a continuation of the same range. The wall that divides them has straight joints and appears to be an insertion.

Diagram 80 - Linking building between clock tower and south courtyard range with steps down from the courtyard level to the garden level east.



Forge

In the corner of the two cow house ranges is an entrance to two small areas that to the rear contains a fireplace, perhaps a forge.

Cart House

Between the south and west cow houses in the south west corner is a building which projects out and faces west into the rickyard. The double doors, flagged floor and fireplace suggest this was a cart house.

Diagram 81 - The door leading into the forge from the courtyard. The door is a temporary insertion, based on similar door sets, to make the building watertight. Image taken in 2025.

Diagram 82 - Interior of the linking corner building between the west courtyard range and south courtyard range. Looking east towards the courtyard. The building has a flag stone floor. Image taken in 2021.

Diagram 83 - Piled up with roofing slate and difficult to investigate the fireplace in the north-west corner of the link could be a blacksmiths forge. No obvious chimney stack can be seen on historic photographs and it is likely that it has not been used for a long time. In the 1861 census one of the farm bailiff's sons, Thomas Jones, was a listed as a blacksmith

Diagram 84 - A view of the cart house door on the west elevation onto the former rickyard.

Diagram 85 - Fireplace with simple grate within (not unlike the one on the ground floor of the clock tower). A chimney stack may be seen on photographs into the 1930s.

Diagram 86 - Two niches flank the fireplace at higher level. The notches could have been for a shelf and they may have had cupboard doors.

Diagram 87 - View east to cow house/stables. Flagged floor and limewashed walls.



Stables and coach house

Stepped down from the courtyard is a second yard separate from the working farmstead and accessed via its own separate carriage entrance to the east. This stable yard is flanked by stone walls and iron railings behind which sit the impressive stable range and detached double doored coach house. These stables were ancillary to the stable block at Cyfarthfa Castle and distinct from the ironworks stables that were situated nearer to the works. The buildings are almost certainly architect designed and could be the work of Lugar although no formal connection has been found. The quality and completeness of the stables and central harness room is remarkable and rare.

Diagram 88 - Lower horse yard with stables and coach house. The pitched stone yard survives intact with diagonal division lines.

Diagram 89 - The east gable of the stable range – the gradient of the hillside means that the internal floor level of the stable range is much lower – by retaining the same roofline as the courtyard the stable range has very high ceilings. It is likely that the stable range is a later addition when the farm was remodelled for Crawshay by Robert Lugar. Largely tied into the courtyard range above there is some evidence for the later addition where a small buttress/pad survives above which are three large dressed quoins. This projecting wall section is the remnant of a much larger wall that is seen in historic photographs.

Diagram 90 - The high level window on the west elevation. Here we see the decay within the timber of the window from the poor detail of the window sill.

Diagram 91 - The northwest corner of the coach house with abutting yard wall

Diagram 92 - A good example of the stable doors with the fixed fanlight and panelled door. The sable has various examples of this door, making it unclear as to which reflects the original design.

Diagram 93 - The central tack room/coachman's room flanked either side by stabling is positioned in the bay with the downpipe. Evidence here of the poor sill detail where he masonry below is visibly saturated.

Diagram 94 - The double doors are a crude insertion breaking the rhythm and symmetry of the stables. As per the east end there was a door and window arrangement here, now made into double doors. This is later 20th century, post 1930s.



Stables and coach house

Interior

Diagram 95 - The lofty interior of the eastern section of the stable range complete with original lime plaster to walls and ceiling largely intact. The floor is flagged. There is a connecting door to the stables to the west. The lime plaster is a typical 19th century ash mortar of the industrial period.

Diagram 96 - The impressive and largely intact stable floor with chevrons and lines cut in for grip and a drainage gully. Lines in the floor and sockets in the walls denote where each division was.

Diagram 97 - The east section of the stables looking west. Some original plaster survives but it has been lost, together with panelling, from many walls and the ceiling has been lost. An end stall survives - this would have been repeated across the stables.

Diagram 98 - The impressive central tack room/ coachman's room all boarded and surviving complete with skirting, door architrave, plaster ceilings, early/ mid-20th century lighting fittings, shelving cupboards and fireplace. The Gothic revival fireplace hob grate mirrors the style of the farmhouse grate and others within Cyfarthfa Castle.

Diagram 99 - Western stable section view east with survival of one stall end and some panelling with plaster above. As per the other stables the ceiling and much of the other plaster and panelling has been lost.

Diagram 100 - View to west wall where the original door and some panelling survives. The floor survives as per the east section more or less complete.

Diagram 101 - West store room off the stables lit by a high window that faces into the west rickyard. Some lime plaster survives intact, some has been lost to walls and the ceiling has been lost. In the corner there is a straight joint showing that the back wall (the south cow house range of the courtyard) was built first and the gable end of the stables butted up to it.

Diagram 102 - An interior view of the coach house showing the interior condition of the door sets.



Boundary walls, railings and paved yards

The farmstead retains many boundary treatments intact. These are rare survivals.

Diagram 103 - The intact stable yard with diagonal divisions.

Diagram 104 - Original boundary railings atop the boundary retaining stone wall enclosing the stable yard.

Diagram 105 - Curving boundary retaining wall leading to the stable yard

Diagram 106 - Central drain within the yard.

Diagram 107 - Gate in the south west corner of the stable yard – all the ironwork likely to have originated from the works.

Diagram 108 - The walled rickyard to the west of the farmstead.

Diagram 109 - The boundary wall of the rickyard largely survives covered in overgrown vegetation.

Diagram 110 - Original gate piers with ironwork still survive on the entrance to the rickyard off Brecon Road.

Diagram 111 - The central courtyard retains its stone sett yard with central flagstone polygon as shown on the 1870s OS mapping - with a central weeping birch and low wall planter a later addition.



Condition		
Overview	Walls	Fenestration
The buildings are in a stable and generally fair condition, though some areas display evidence of historic and active water ingress. All ranges retain their roof coverings, with the majority having undergone repair and re-roofing under a previous listed building consent. The stable range and coach house range have experienced extensive historic water ingress resulting in the loss of large areas of original lime plaster. The fenestration is largely in good condition, having recerntly gone under a program of repair and redeoration, although signs of decay and rot are evident on the high-level openings where redecoration has yet to occur. Most of the structures have been altered over time, and later modifications and repairs have often been unsympathetic. Externally, these changes are less obvious aside from the modern double-door insertions or where contemporary openings have been installed within the north range. Internally, however, the alterations are clearly identifiable through areas of modern masonry infill and patchworks of modern plaster, most evident below window openings and where rainwater goods have failed.	The stone and brick walls similarly appear sound and largely free from significant movement where accessible. While the masonry appears mostly dry, darkened areas are present across several elevations, particularly below window sills, indicating localised moisture saturation. Given the extent of saturation below the sills, it is highly likely that the sill detailing is insufficient and has either been altered over time or was historically inadequate, resulting in the failure of the original weathering detail. The surviving stonework, where intact and aligned, is generally of excellent quality and remains in good condition. In general, the buildings have avoided inappropriate repairs such as the use of cement pointing mortars and later hard plasters, although isolated areas are present, particularly around new openings and the blocking of earlier ones. Much of the original lime and coal-ash mortar remains intact, and this fabric represents an important element of the buildings’ historic character. It should therefore be retained wherever possible during any conservation or repair works. A ‘light-touch’ approach is essential to preserve the existing patina and significance; wholesale raking out and re-pointing of entire elevations should be avoided. It is recommended that only cementitious repairs and areas of clearly failed mortar are removed and repointed. New materials should be chosen to work in harmony with the buildings’ construction type, architecture and aesthetics. Lime mortars, plasters and breathable paints should be used as well as limecrete floors (as opposed to concrete).	A comprehensive report on the condition of the fenestration has been prepared independently, and this document is available to view as part of the planning application. However, a brief summary is provided below: Windows The existing windows are in generally good condition but are not historic and do not suit the proposed residential use. They offer poor thermal performance and, being fixed units, do not meet current escape and safety requirements. Because their significance is low, upgrading or replacing them on a like-for-like basis is acceptable, provided new units meet modern performance standards. Sill detailing across the site is inadequate and must be redesigned to prevent water ingress during replacement works. Any surviving historic metalwork should be retained and repaired, and high-level windows with fixed metal grilles should be made openable where needed to allow safe maintenance. Doors Most doors are in good condition, and upgrades are only needed where improved thermal performance is required for heated spaces; if upgrading isn’t possible, like-for-like replacement is appropriate. Doors to unheated areas should be retained to avoid unnecessary loss of character. The south stable’s modern double doors are visually inappropriate and should be replaced with a more sympathetic design that better suits the historic elevation.
Roof	Floors	
Where accessible for inspection, the roof structures present as generally sound, with no evidence of significant deformation, deflection or structural distress. A substantial proportion of the ranges have undergone a programme of re-roofing works, during which defective structural elements were repaired and earlier modern cementitious roof tiles and corrugated sheet coverings were replaced with natural slate. Any recommendations for the roofs not included within the original consented scheme would fall part of the new proposal set out within the new application. The rooflights are similarly in good condition, with no visible defects to flashings, junctions, or glazing elements, reflecting their relatively recent installation.	The flooring throughout the interior spaces comprises a varied palette of finishes; however, many areas retain their original slate, flagstone, or stone sett floors. These surviving historic floor surfaces are generally in good condition, exhibiting only localised wear consistent with age and usage. In several areas, the original floor finishes have been replaced with modern materials, reflecting the adaptive nature of the buildings and the evolution of their functional uses over time.	



Significance	Summary	Evidential
Assessments of significance derive from architectural and archaeological interest and its place in national and local history. The following assessment attributes significance values according to Historic England's Conservation Principles (2008) The four values as defined by Conservation Principles are: - Evidential – the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity. - Historical – the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It can be illustrative or associative: Illustrative – the perception of a place as a link between past and present peoples; it depends on visibility in a way that evidential value does not. Associative – association with a notable family, person, event or movement, and other aspects of cultural heritage such as literature and film. - Aesthetic – the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. These values can be fortuitous or designed. - Communal – the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it. These can be commemorative or symbolic, and also spiritual.	Pandy Farm is a highly significant former Estate Home Farm whose evidential value lies in the survival of its buildings, layouts and fittings, which clearly demonstrate how it functioned as the agricultural hub of the Cyfarthfa Castle Estate. Although much of the surrounding farmland has been lost, key landscape features such as stone boundaries, yards and trackways remain legible, while the buildings themselves preserve strong physical evidence of historic farming practices. The exceptionally intact southern stable yard and ranges, including original internal fittings and finishes, are of particular importance in understanding horse management and estate operations. Historically, the farm illustrates the development of 19th- and early-20th-century estate-based mixed farming and its close relationship with industrial activity. It reflects the Crawshay family’s investment in agricultural improvement, the provision of food and horses for both estate and ironworks, and the broader role of estates in shaping farming practice, architecture and rural economics. Long-standing associations with ironmasters, estate management traditions and a possible architectural link to Robert Lugar further enhance the site’s significance. Aesthetically and communally, Pandy Farm is an ambitious and coherent architectural ensemble that expresses the status and aspirations of the Cyfarthfa Estate. Its courtyard plan, clock tower, high-quality stabling and use of stone, brick and iron detailing create a distinctive presence that visually links agriculture with industry. The farm also holds enduring communal value through generations of local employment, food production and cultural associations, including its role in supplying the town and its appearance in local music and poetry, making it an important symbol of shared local history despite changes in land use and community patterns.	The history of the farmstead as a Home Farm to Cyfarthfa Castle Estate, and its links to the ironworks, provides evidence of its place in the town, as a farmstead, which was run with its designed farm buildings acting as a hub for the management of the surrounding landscape. Farming activity centred on the Home Farm had shaped the wider landscape in its topography, field boundaries, hedges, trees and waterways. The history of those that lived and worked at the Home Farm is largely documentary; from newspaper articles, from photographs and census returns – however the way in which they lived and worked is still to be found in the house and the farm buildings, each with their own distinctive layout and used to house horses, cattle, pigs and poultry, and for storing and processing crops. This translated into the wider landscape with the creation of tracks where animals were driven and people walked, the field boundaries and hedges as well as the stone walled rickyard. Much of this landscape evidence has been lost with housing, retail and light industrial developments on former farmland however elements of the stone walled yard to the west still survive as do the stone walled boundaries and railings to the south and east. Of particular significance is the stable yard and stable range to the south of the main courtyard. This range complete with some surviving plaster to walls, elements of stable partitions/stalls, doors, floors and a complete ensemble within the harness room/ coachman’s room including panelling, hooks, cupboards and fireplace is truly remarkable and, if it could definitely be linked to a known architect such as Lugar.

Historical Value

a, Illustrative

The use of the site as a farmstead presents an ability for local people to identify past relationships with those living, working and using the site over the centuries.

The buildings illustrate the development of an Estate Home Farm, a mixed farm with milking cattle, pigs, corn, hay, and working and riding horses. The working buildings testify to the development of Estate farming between the 19th and 20th centuries. The clock tower, stable range and coach house testify to the farm serving a large estate although historic evidence of the farmed land has largely been lost. Its separate high-status stables for riding/coach horses (presumably an overflow for the main residence) forms a crossover link between the principal riding/coach horse stables at the Castle (now converted), the working horses of the farm and the separate working horse stables within the ironworks (now demolished). The key message is that horses were a very important commodity to the Crawshay estate as well as its industrial endeavours.

b, Associative

Former owners of the wider site of the Pandy Farm, have been identified from its establishment as a nearby mill in the 14th century, to its record in the 18th century and the reorganisation on the current site in the 19th century as part of Cyfarthfa estate until the present day. They comprise the iron master owners and, after the departure of the Crawshay family, notable local families. The farm managers/workers at the Pandy Farm are more difficult to identify but they do appear in the written record in census data and local newspaper archives.

There is a strong assumed link between the architect Robert Lugar who was commissioned to design Cyfarthfa Castle and grounds and the redesign of Pandy Farm with its clock tower.

Estates, and thus landlords and their agents, have been massively important in farming history, with tenants occupying some 85% of the farm area until the land transfers of the early 20th century. The character of an area thus can be strongly influenced by the estate of which it was part. Family insignia, estate-made bricks and the styling of cast-iron windows or ventilation grills can all give a unity to buildings.

By the mid-17th century, home farms were being developed as examples of best practice for tenants. Between 1650 and 1750 landlords assumed increasing responsibility for fixed capital works (particularly barns and houses) and after 1750 the influence of estates can be seen in the planning and design of buildings and entire complexes for home farms and tenant farms. Estates often erected new buildings in order to attract tenants with the working capital to invest in their land and thus, through increased productivity, maintain rents at a high level.

Home Farms in the 19th century continued to function as the suppliers of fresh produce to the Estate House. Their architectural embellishment is an indication of their importance of their role. A visit from friends and neighbours could often include a tour of the home farm, and it was here that enthusiastic owners could demonstrate improved agricultural practices. Many landlords aspired to the idea of ‘example farms’ on their home farms.

Pandy Farm displays some of this thinking in the arrangement of buildings, the lofty, well ventilated buildings and arrangement of yards and covered areas. The surviving fire grates in the farmhouse and stables are of the estate style and similar examples are to be found within the castle.

David Howell in his essay on Farming in South-East Wales c.1840-80 writes that in the 1880s the Cyfarthfa home farm of William Crawshay, some 350 acres, was run on highly improved lines, greatly improved by drainage, heavy manuring and high feeding of stock. Dairy cows supplied the town’s inhabitants with milk. In addition to the home farm groups of small mountain farms were run to provide feed for colliery pit ponies, sheep and cattle and tenants made cheese for the colliers.

Pandy Farm, more specifically the clock tower, also has local cultural associations with music in the form of the The Pandy Clock Jig and included in poetry by celebrated local poet Harri Webb.

Aesthetic

The farmstead displays the architecture of a Home Farm of some stature contrasted with the vernacular farmsteads and smallholdings of the surrounding area. Its farm buildings tell a story of its past context.

The design and layout of the Pandy Farm and its buildings in many ways shows the aspirations of Crawshay family in the 19th century. The regular courtyard plan with dressed stone quoins and cut stone to inward facing elevations, flanked to the east by the farmhouse and clock tower, together with the stone threshing/combination barn to the north – all have an architectural unity typical of a Home Farm. The large combination barn with a fashionable red brick pointed arch cart passage, and the clock tower with machicolation tower, forms a statement piece together with the very fine stabling and coach house below with its own stable yard. The clock tower acts as an ‘eye-catcher’ in the landscape, but also served a practical purpose in facing the ironworks.

The materials used in the farmhouse and agricultural buildings, stone, and timber reinforce the vernacular traditions of the area as well as introducing fashionable dressed cut stone and red brick. Perhaps uniquely, or certainly rare in occurrence, the relationship was not only between the farmstead and estate with its wider landscape setting, but also to the ironworks. The links between farmstead and ironworks are many from the stabling of riding and working horses, the walled rickyard for the storage of hay for the wider population of working horses and the various iron elements surviving as fixtures and fittings within the buildings themselves from iron railings and cast drainage grills, to the cast iron trough, iron barred windows, gate hinges and stays and cast iron fireplaces. The patina on the buildings also reflects the past industrialisation of the valley with a build-up of pollutants on the stone and mortar.

The layout of the farmyard should firstly be seen in relationship to its immediate setting: of crop storage and processing buildings to the fields; of yards, platforms for corn, haystacks and cart sheds to trackways. Secondly, an important characteristic is the degree to which the layout of the farmstead was related to function. The years 1840 to 1870 saw unprecedented activity of farm building and improvement. Changes in design reflected various farming and technological developments of the period.

Communal

The farm has been embedded in local historical context over many generations within the local community through associations of work and land management. This history is rich and varied from the early foundation of the site and landscape to the re-development and creation of the Home Farm by the Crawshay family as part of the ‘empire’ of ironworks and estate. Further owners in the 20th and 21st centuries have continued farming practices, most recently the farmstead being adapted for livery. In the 1950s, and presumably before, the dairy herd at the Pandy was providing fresh milk to the residents of Merthyr. Some of this communal value has been lost in recent generations with the separation of farming from the new incoming community of the region and the decoupling of the farmstead from the land and the estate.

Proposal

It is proposed to restore the farm yard and the farm buildings with some new sympathetic additions and alterations, to provide a suit of self contained accommodation and service buildings to support the farmstead.

It is proposed that in providing a sustainable future for the historic farmstead the conservation, adaptation and alteration of the buildings will be carried out in the spirit of the place respecting the character and traditions of the site and its landscape setting. The design decisions, use of materials and methods of construction will seek to retain the character and significance of these designated heritage assets and their appearance in the historic landscape.

The setting of the farmstead within landscape will pay particular attention to and seek to reinforce the relationship between Cyfarthfa Castle and the farm. The link between the buildings and the ironworks needs to be preserved in the retention of archaeological artefacts, fixtures and fittings related to the ironworks industry.

Materials used in the repair, conservation, reconstruction and adaptation of the site will be chosen based on their compatibility with the historic structures, architectural aesthetic, sustainability and health of both buildings and occupants. Lime mortars and plasters, both fat lime and natural hydraulic will be used in construction, pointing and finishes. Modern materials, where appropriate, will be employed, often in conjunction with ‘traditional’ materials, for example the use of fat lime plasters onto insulating roof boards.

Materials will be chosen and used based on understanding and performance (as they were when the buildings were first erected), rather than tradition or nostalgia.

Where historic fabric remains in-situ and in standing condition there will be a detailed programme of careful conservation and repair.

Proposals should seek to maximise benefits for ecology and wildlife habitat.

Proposals need to include the conservation of the historic boundaries including dividing walls and railings as well as the historic stone yards.

The farm buildings, their footprints and standing walls should remain and the buildings can be repaired in a traditional way and later roof coverings replaced in natural slate to match the existing finish. There is scope to introduce new build on the footprint of the former lost range on the west side of the courtyard.

In landscape terms roofing will be very significant – it is strongly recommended that slates are used on buildings where possible, where contrast or intervention is desired then profiled metal roofing (being conscious of material and colour choice) would be preferred over natural slate.

The interrelationship of the farmstead and Cyfarthfa Castle is equally important thus retaining the interconnection across the Brecon Road is key.

In addition boundary features such as historic walls are significant and should be appropriately maintained.

The boundary walls and stoned yards are heritage assets in their own right and a rolling programme of repair and maintenance would be desirable.

Analysis of setting

The setting of a historic asset is made up of:

- its current surroundings
- our present understanding and appreciation of the historic asset
- what (if anything) survives of its historic surroundings.

Setting does not depend on public rights of way or current ability to access the asset or viewpoints, though these can contribute to the significance of a historic asset and its setting. Likewise, the number of visitors to a site or viewpoint does not affect the importance of the setting.

The present surroundings help to contribute to our understanding and appreciation of the historic development of the landscape especially from its 19th century alteration and re-design to its post-modern renewal and expansion of the town with housing, retail and light industry.

The remains of the Cyfarthfa furnaces survive as monuments to a once great industry, but all the associated structures below and above the furnaces on both sides of the river have been swept away. An industrial estate occupies the working area on the east bank of the Taff, but the land immediately surrounding the furnaces remains vacant and derelict.

Most field boundaries around Pandy Farm have been swept away with later 20th century redevelopment. Significantly, due to the socio-economic background of the region, together with natural constraints and topography and not least the listed status of the buildings, much of the built fabric of the farmstead has, so far, resisted changes associated with the 20th century decoupling of buildings from their agricultural use. Thus the immediate historic built landscape of Pandy Farm can still be read on the ground characterised by its interconnected ranges and the spaces between them.

The current immediate setting and character outside the tightened boundary around the farmstead is largely one of suburban housing development of convenience and function over style and architectural design. The surrounding built form has eroded local distinctiveness to a large degree and the loss of much of the visual connection between the farmstead and long-gone ironworks has largely severed a significant historical connection.



Diagram 112 - View east to the clock tower from within the Pandy Close bungalow development. This was a former rickyard/paddock with stone wall boundary.



Diagram 113 - Pandy Clock glimpsed north between bungalows on Pandy Close.

Diagram 114 - At points along Pandy Close the stable range can be seen between buildings.



Analysis of setting

Diagram 115 - View east down Brecon Road towards Pandy Farm, largely obscured by tree cover. The boundary wall for the Rickyard field west of Pandy Farm still survives in some form with garden fences of Pandy Close behind.

Diagram 116 - View west along the Brecon Road to Pandy Farm.

Diagram 117 - Close up view from the farmhouse south towards the ruins of the ironworks furnaces screened by tree cover and the looming Trago Mills complex behind.

Diagram 118 - View south to where the ironworks once stood, the remains of furnaces hidden by tree cover. 20th century industrial units in the valley are largely hidden from view by tree cover. The elevated B&Q store and massive Trago Mills complex are seen transitioning to the hills above. The entrance to the stable yard is behind the timber field gate.



Analysis of setting

Diagram 119 - View south within Cyfarthfa Castle grounds towards Pandy Farm. The farm is now hidden in most views from within the grounds due to maturing tree cover, especially with the leaf on the trees.

Diagram 120 - Distant view east from the A470 taking in Cyfarthfa Castle and the clock tower of Pandy Farm in the parkland setting with tree cover largely hiding housing, retail and industrial development. The town is seen in the distance.

Diagram 121 - View north from the raised Swansea Road offering views to Pandy Farm with Cyfarthfa Castle glimpsed between the trees behind.

Diagram 122 - One of the last remaining public views north-west off the A4102 that takes in the ensemble of the remains of the ironworks furnaces, Pandy Farm and Cyfarthfa Castle.



Stage 2: Evaluation of the Potential Impact of Change or Development The impact of a proposed change or development to heritage assets or within the setting of a historic asset can be a material consideration in determining consent. It is therefore important that the proposals can be incorporated sensitively.	Visual impact Sensitive restoration, adaptation and re-use of Pandy Farm involving the careful conservation and repair of the farmhouse and traditional estate farm buildings has the potential to result in a hugely positive impact on the farmstead and the setting of the valley landscape. By finding a sustainable new use for the buildings, thus funding their repair and maintenance would ensure Pandy Farm is not lost to potential future dereliction and is retained as an inhabited, utilised site integral to the wider landscape and historical setting of the valley and former estate. Care must be taken in the design, orientation and scale of any new development, however small, to ensure any positive views and relationships are maintained and improved. Car parking and access must be carefully considered to retain the farmstead character and landscape views. Car parking should be sited sensitively to both retain views into the farmstead from the landscape and also the immediate setting of the farm buildings. Ancillary paraphernalia often associated with domestication to the agricultural ranges should be avoided. Understanding and appreciation of historic assets. It is important that any proposed additional development in no way dominates the historic assets or our appreciation of them in their relationship to each other and their landscape setting. The farmstead should still be characterised by the regular courtyard plan with its defining architectural detailing. Understanding the hierarchy of the site is important and any new development should respect the plan form of the holding. The clock tower should remain the focal point and the status of the stable yard with stables and coach house should be rediscovered. Any potential new build to the west of the courtyard should maintain the roofline of the west cow house range and retain the walled yard with open space. The presence, extent, character and scale of the existing built environment should not be adversely affected or diminished. Driveways, car parking, and other associated paraphernalia should be kept discreet and not dominate any successful scheme.	Consideration should be given to improvements in ecology. There is scope for the alteration and even loss of some later additions providing that the significance of the farmstead character and layout is retained and remains legible. Losses of some historic fabric may be negative in themselves but the benefits of removal to create a successful conversion scheme may outweigh the loss and this will need analysis. The listed buildings will require sensitive repair and adaptation, any fabric losses refer to small elements to create new openings etc. if required. Lifespan of proposed changes. The proposals for re-use of the farmhouse and buildings will have a permanent effect on the farmstead and its immediate surroundings. Tree cover and lighting Tree cover should remain, where possible, and could be increased where appropriate retaining the important yards and paved surfaces. Where lighting schemes are proposed they should be carefully considered to avoid unnecessary additional impact from artificial lighting – for example the house, clock tower, and barns should not be floodlit as statement pieces in the landscape – the use of appropriate agricultural design lighting could be considered for example with swan neck lamps and down lighting. Capability of landscape setting to absorb change. The landscape setting of the valley and its heritage assets has continually evolved throughout their history with the addition of new buildings and the change in the fortunes of the local economy and its agricultural practices. This evolution was slow at first but by the late 18th century/early 19th century the rapid expansion of the iron industry meant that landscape changes were fast and radical – entire agricultural areas lost to collieries, spoil heaps, tramways, canals and the mighty furnaces and rolling mills of the works as well as organized housing for its workers.	From the rise of the iron metropolis to its eventual decline and closure Pandy Farm was an anchor point between the working class and the landed class, between the works and the masters, between the toil of the works and the pleasure of the castle grounds. With the decline and closure of the works following a short period of industry revival in the Second World War subsequent change was piecemeal, unplanned and sprawling clutching at parcels of land and pots of money for uncoordinated development that lacked definition and direction, the result was the erosion of landscape setting around Pandy Farm – it fast became an island of agricultural heritage cut off from its fields. Thankfully the designation and protection of the Cyfarthfa Park and Castle retained (more or less) the landscape setting to the north. The landscape setting can successfully absorb change and a new use for the farmstead if the form, massing and scale of any new works are appropriate and key views and character are maintained and improved. It is important to retain historic walled boundaries as existing where possible as they form an important part of the history of the landscape. New uses for the farmstead buildings should offer the derelict buildings a future and save them from eventual ruination. There is exciting scope to reinvigorate the farmstead, restoring its former status and past relationship, if not to the former farmland, then to the castle at least. Impact on and of non-visual elements The adaptation of the farm buildings for new use, if carefully integrated, will maintain and support the vitality of the settlement supporting key elements important to its character and social and cultural connections. A restored farmstead will bring residents and visitors potentially increasing traffic, noise and air pollution. This should be proportionate to the scale of the development and the size of the settlement.
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Stage 3: Mitigation of the impact of any Proposed Development

Action should be taken to avoid or minimise any harm to the significance of the historic assets and their setting. Mitigation includes modifications to the design, layout, massing and scale of proposals and their domestic landscaping.

Repair works to historic building fabric should be conservative and considered. Existing lime and coal ash mortar pointing for example should be retained and repaired where necessary rather than raking out entire elevations to replace with new pointing mortar. Historic openings should, where possible, be retained in number and dimension. The architecture of the structures needs to be retained and ‘read’ in a wider landscape setting in relation to Cyfarthfa Castle to the north. Of particular importance in the landscape setting from the north and south is the varied roofscape punctuated by the clock tower.

There is scope to use the potential of the sensitive adaptation of the buildings for the enhancement of the historic buildings for example by restoring original openings and windows where the original design and dimensions are easily identifiable from historic records and on the ground.

The stable yard, stable range and coach house has its own character and sense of space between it and the working buildings above, this should be maintained. While many of the buildings, including the south and west cow house ranges are devoid of historic interiors and thus present opportunities for flexible new arrangements, the stable range is rare in its survival and any scheme should retain historic fabric and spaces not subdividing any of the stable range.

Pandy Farm is rare in its connections to the industrial revolution and the iron industry. Fixtures and fittings form part of the listing and should be retained this includes all historic ironwork to doors and windows, grills, stanchions, railings, drain covers, and troughs. Any scheme should celebrate and better reveal this connection to the once vast ironworks that Pandy Farm looked over and interacted with.

Conclusions

The site is sensitive to development, but very suitable for a carefully considered ‘restoration’ and conversion scheme that could enhance the site, protect the future of the historic farmstead, and positively contribute to the character and appearance of the wider area reinforcing lost links to the castle and the history of the now lost ironworks. The farm is important not only to the history of the Cyfarthfa environs but the town of Merthyr Tydfil as a whole.

There is scope to introduce new ancillary building to the site (on the west side) but this must not be to the detriment of the character and appearance of the historic farmstead and historic landscape or its heritage assets. Key to these assets is the interrelationship of buildings and historic yards. Pandy Farm should not be seen in isolation but a part of its wider setting in the valley and part of the Cyfarthfa estate.

Planning Policy Wales (edition 12) states that:

There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage. For any development proposal affecting a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the building, its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

For listed buildings, the aim should be to find the best way to protect and enhance their special qualities, retaining them in sustainable use. The continuation or reinstatement of the original use should generally be the first option, but not all original uses will now be viable or appropriate. The application of planning and listed building controls should recognise the need for flexibility where new uses have to be considered in order to secure a building’s survival or provide it with a sound economic future.

In the course of this assessment it has been concluded that there will be an impact on the designated heritage assets of the farm buildings in their ‘restoration’ and conversion. This will inevitably alter their current character to some degree however a successful architectural scheme will seek to save the buildings from ruination and gently, sympathetically, and subtly bring them back into re-use in the careful considered conservation of the historic structures that would otherwise be lost in the future.

New buildings can be successfully incorporated into the site as well as the introduction of new, high quality building materials if they work in harmony with the estate style and retain a sense of place, identity and status.

The benefit of providing a sustainable new use for the farmstead and associated land can have a positive impact on maintaining the vitality and local economy of the community.

Preserving, repairing and securing a viable future for the farm buildings will be a positive outcome for not only the buildings, but their relationship with other nearby heritage assets and the area in general. Sensitive development on what is currently an unused site has the potential to improve on the current situation and have a positive impact on the wider environment. Suggested mitigation measures could provide the necessary base measures for a successful scheme to go alongside a high-quality architectural proposal. It is clear that the site is suitable for sensitive re-use and that with suggested mitigation measures incorporated into a successful design it could indeed enhance the historic settlement.

Summary

- The site lies in the valley leading down to the River Taff. This valley had a very strong character defined by its natural features and geology before it was utterly transformed by the Cyfarthfa Ironworks and its associated workers housing, collieries, spoil heaps and iron master’s estate and pleasure grounds.
- The land on which the farmstead sits is likely to have been in economic use from the medieval period, a fulling mill (from where the Pandy gets its name) recorded somewhere in the vicinity from the 14th century.
- The farmstead is likely to have early origins but the current fabric is largely 19th century, potentially with some 18th century remnants.
- The clock tower was reportedly constructed in c.1816 and the farmstead likely reorganised in c.1824-5 coinciding with architect Robert Lugar’s creation of Cyfarthfa Castle for the Crawshays.
- Through loss of surrounding land the farmstead has become detached from its agricultural past and agricultural use. A smaller livery has been maintained in recent years but the holding is no longer suitable for such enterprises.
- The farmstead has, despite changes and losses, retained much of its immediate historic environment. Its wider landscape setting has been largely lost to the south, east and west decoupling the buildings from their fields but an important connection remains with the castle and grounds to the north.
- Key to the farmstead is how the holding interacts with the built environment and its heritage assets.
- Any proposed adaptation/change of use of the farmstead will obviously have an impact on the site with a change to elements of built structures, but with very minimal loss of historic fabric. The significance of the site needs to be preserved and the character of the farmstead enhanced.

- The success of any sensitive redevelopment will need to respect the estate design of the regular planned farmstead, the historic nature of the site, the interactions of farm with estate and ironworks and the setting of its heritage assets. Any proposed alterations will be required to be designed based on a full understanding and appreciation of the historic development of the site and its architectural character.
- Inevitably proposals for change of use may affect the current appearance of some aspects of the site. These proposed changes need to respect the materials, form, massing and scale of the buildings and pay attention to the interrelationship of the landscape setting.
- It is exciting that the new owner has committed to saving this important historic farmstead which otherwise would deteriorate without a sustainable new use.