



**Hoover Factory,
Merthyr Tydfil**

**Archaeological
Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
Walters Land Limited

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Executive Summary

- S1 This Archaeological Assessment for Walters Land Limited has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership to provide baseline information to accompany an Outline Planning Application for a residential led, mixed use redevelopment of the former Hoover Factory, Merthyr Tydfil (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- S2 The Site does not contain any designated historic assets. Therefore, none will be physically affected by the Proposed Development.
- S3 The Site's archaeological potential has been deduced from repositories of information outlined in **Section 3**.
- S4 The assessment concludes that the Site contains two non-designated historic assets associated with the earliest built elements of the Hoover Factory. These comprise the 1948 built frontage to the Hoover Factory (**MT121**) and a semi-circular security hut at the factory's front entrance (**MT122**). Both historic assets are of low or local heritage significance.
- S5 Historic environment objective '*safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved*' of PPW12 applies to both non-designated historic assets located in the Site. As such, paragraph 6.1.9 and 6.1.25 of PPW12 would require consideration alongside local policies 'Policy CW1: Historic Environment' and 'Policy SW6: Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area' of the Local Development Plan for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC), during the determination process of any planning proposals that would result in the physical alteration and/or demolition of the two structures.
- S6 There is no evidence that the Site contains buried archaeological remains from the prehistoric, Roman, early medieval or medieval periods (i.e. pre-industrial period) and it has been subject to considerable modern disturbance through its development. Although the Site features recorded natural alluvium deposits directly below industrial waste tips at various depths, no evidence has been found for such deposits to contain archaeological remains of heritage significance. Therefore, the Site has a very low potential for archaeological remains to date from the prehistoric to medieval periods.
- S7 The Site's land parcel to the west of Merthyr Road, features the potential for buried former field boundaries cut into the top of buried alluvium deposits, dated to the early post-medieval period. The former field boundaries, identified from cartographic sources, illustrate a part of broader early post-medieval land management and agricultural practices in the area at the time. Buried field boundaries in the Site, if present, would be of negligible or local heritage significance.
- S8 The Site has a high potential for industrial and post-industrial (i.e. modern) remains, which comprise widespread 18th to early 20th century industrial waste (i.e. rubbish tip) deposits, as well as foundation layers associated with former tramroads and/or railway lines. Such deposits and layers are of no heritage significance.

- S9 Given the Site's previous industrial use and development and lack of potential for pre-industrial remains (i.e. prehistoric to medieval), it is anticipated that development would not result in any impact to any significant archaeological remains.

Crynodeb Gweithredol

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- S1 Paratowyd yr Asesiad Archeolegol hwn ar gyfer Walters Land Limited gan The Environmental Dimension Partnership i ddarparu gwybodaeth sylfaenol i gyd-fynd â chais cynllunio amlinellol ar gyfer prosiect ailddatblygu defnydd cymysg, preswyl yn bennaf, ar safle hen Ffatri Hoover ym Mhentrebach, Merthyr Tudful ('y Safle').
- S2 Nid yw'r Safle'n cynnwys unrhyw asedau hanesyddol dynodedig. Felly, ni fydd unrhyw asedau o'r fath yn cael eu heffeithio'n ffisegol gan y Datblygiad Arfaethedig.
- S3 Mae potensial archaeolegol y Safle wedi cael ei asesu ar sali y storfeydd o wybodaeth a restrir yn Adran 3.
- S4 Daw'r asesiad i'r casgliad fod y Safle yn cynnwys dau ased hanesyddol heb eu dynodi sy'n gysylltiedig â'r elfennau cynharaf a adeiladwyd ar safle Ffatri Hoover. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys y ffryntiad Ffatri Hoover (MT121) a adeiladwyd yn 1948 a chwt diogelwch hanner cylch ger y fynedfa ym mlaen y ffatri (MT122). Mae arwyddocâd y ddau ased hanesyddol i dreftadaeth yn fach neu'n lleol.
- S5 Mae'r amcan amgylchedd hanesyddol o 'diogelu cymeriad adeiladau hanesyddol a rheoli newid er mwyn sicrhau y caiff eu diddordeb pensaernïol a hanesyddol arbennig ei gadw' ym Mholisi Cynllunio Cymru 12 (PPW12) yn berthnasol i asedau hanesyddol heb eu dynodi sydd ar y Safle. Yn hynny o beth, byddai angen ystyried paragraffau 6.1.9 a 6.1.25 o PPW12 ochr yn ochr â pholisïau lleol 'Polisi CW1: Amgylchedd Hanesyddol' a 'Pholisi SW6: Ardal Adfywio Strategol Hoover' Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful, yn ystod y broses o benderfynu ar unrhyw gynigion cynllunio a fyddai'n arwain at newid ffisegol a/neu ddymchwel y ddau strwythur.
- S6 Nid oes tystiolaeth bod y Safle yn cynnwys olion archaeolegol wedi'u calddu o'r cyfnodau cynhanesyddol, Rhufeinig, canoloesol cynnar neu ganoloesol (h.y. y cyfnod cyn-ddiwydiannol) ac mae wedi bod yn destun cryn aflonyddwch modern yn sgil ei ddatblygiad. Er y cofnodwyd dyddodion llifwaddod naturiol ar y Safle yn union o dan domenni gwastraff diwydiannol ar wahanol ddyfnderoedd, ni chanfuwyd unrhyw dystiolaeth bod dyddodion o'r fath yn cynnwys olion archaeolegol ag iddynt arwyddocâd i dreftadaeth. Felly, hyd yma, mae'r posibilrwydd bod olion archaeolegol ar y safle o'r cyfnod cynhanesyddol i'r cyfnod canoloesol yn fach iawn.
- S7 Mae posibilrwydd bod parcel tir y Safle i'r gorllewin o Heol Merthyr, yn cynnwys hen ffiniau caeau wedi'u claddu sydd wedi'u torri i mewn i haen uchaf llifwaddodion claddedig, yn dyddio o'r cyfnod ôl-ganoloesol cynnar. Mae ffiniau'r hen gaeau, a nodwyd o ffynonellau cartograffig, yn dangos rhan o arferion rheoli tir ac amaethyddol ôl-ganoloesol cynnar ehangach yn yr ardal ar y pryd. Byddai i'r ffiniau caeau claddedig ar y Safle, os ydynt yn bresennol, arwyddocâd lleol neu ddibwys i dreftadaeth.

- S8 Mae potensial mawr bod y Safle'n cynnwys olion diwydiannol ac ôl-ddiwydiannol (h.y. modern), sy'n cynnwys llawer o ddyddodion gwastraff diwydiannol o'r 18^{fed} ganrif i ddechrau'r 20^{fed} ganrif (h.y. tomen sbwriel), yn ogystal â haenau o sylfeini sy'n gysylltiedig â hen dramffyrdd a/neu reilffyrdd. Nid oes unrhyw arwyddocâd treftadaeth i ddyddodion a haenau o'r fath.
- S9 O gofio'r defnydd a'r datblygiad diwydiannol blaenorol o'r Safle ac nad oes posibilrwydd bod yno olion cyn-ddiwydiannol (h.y. o'r cyfnodau cynhanesyddol i ganoloesol), rhagwelir na fyddai'r datblygiad yn arwain at effaith ar unrhyw olion archaeolegol arwyddocaol.'

Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 This Archaeological Assessment has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of Walters Land Limited (hereafter referred to as 'the client'), to provide baseline information to inform and support the preparation, submission and positive determination of an outline planning application for a residential led, mixed use redevelopment of the former Hoover Factory, Merthyr Tydfil (hereafter referred to as 'the Site').
- 1.2 The aim of this assessment is to consider the available historical and archaeological resources for the Site, and to establish, as far as possible, the nature and significance of any known or potential archaeological features, deposits or remains within it, or any other historic assets. This is undertaken in accordance with Welsh Government guidance set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW 12) (Welsh Government, 2024), Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN 24) (Welsh Government, 2017) and relevant Local Planning Policy for the conservation and management of the historic environment.
- 1.3 The report does not cover or assess any matters in respect of potential indirect setting effects for designated or non-designated historic assets located beyond the Site boundary.
- 1.4 In accordance with best practice guidance, desktop sources have been augmented through a site walkover undertaken in December 2024. Images obtained from the site walkover that assist with the establishment of the historic environment baseline of the Site are presented in **Appendix EDP 1**.
- 1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (edp9020_r001) which set out the scope and methodology to be employed in the preparation of this Archaeological Assessment was submitted to Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology – Heneb, the archaeological advisors to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) on 21 November 2024. The WSI was approved on 28 November 2024 by Heneb (**Appendix EDP 2**).

SITE DESCRIPTION

Site Location and Boundaries

- 1.6 The Site comprises the Hoover Factory site, located at the north end of the village of Pentrebach, but within industrial estates situated at the southern end of Merthyr Tydfil. The Site boundary contains three separate previously developed land parcels, which comprise the main factory site to the west of Merthyr Road and two smaller parcels to the east of Merthyr Road on commercial land located in Triangle Business Park. The two parcels to the east of Merthyr Road comprise the former staff car park and a sprinkler and pump house associated with the Hoover Factory. Within the main factory site, the southern third of the land parcel currently comprises the Hoover Sports Cricket Club and sports grounds, as well as access to Pentre-Bach Station located at the Site's southern end.

- 1.7 The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 305740, 204176 and is approximately c.15.93 hectares (ha) in extent. The Site's location and current layout are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 1.8 The Site is bound to the west by a railway line, with the River Taff immediately beyond to the west; to the north by a modern roundabout where Pentrabach Road meets Merthyr Road; to the east by Merthyr Road and Triangle Business Park Road; and to the south by Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach Roundabout, A4054 and Pentre-Bach station.

Geology

- 1.9 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS), the Site's bedrock geology comprises South Wales Middle Coal Measures Formation (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone) (BGS, 2025). Superficial geological deposits of alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) are also recorded throughout the Site. Of note and relevance to the assessment, alluvium deposits contained within the Site formed during the Quaternary Period, over the last c.2.5 million years ago (Mya) (*ibid*). The Site's recorded geology reflects its valley bottom floor topographical position, situated along the east bank of the River Taff (*ibid*).

Previous Geotechnical Site Investigation (SIs)

BGS Historic 1959 Borehole Logs (BGS, 2025)

- 1.10 The BGS holds fourteen historic borehole logs across the centre of the Site's western land parcel. The borehole logs are dated to 1959 and are associated with the mid-1950s to early 1960s construction phase of the Hoover Factory, discussed further below. The borehole logs show that the Site's general stratigraphy across its centre, west of Merthyr Road, comprises made ground deposits of shale and clinker waste deposits, which contain red ash, slag and brick inclusions (*ibid*). Such deposits vary in depth between c.2.1-7.6m below ground level (bgl) and directly overlying deposits of alluvium (*ibid*).

Redstart 2022 Ground Investigation (Redstart, 2024)

- 1.11 A recent preliminary Ground Investigation (GI) across the Site was undertaken between June-July 2022 by Redstart on behalf of MTCBC (Redstart, 2024).
- 1.12 The GI established a general stratigraphic sequence for the Site, derived from twenty rotary boreholes, six cable percussion boreholes, thirty-six windowless sample boreholes and fourteen trial pits. The locations of the GI works were distributed across the Hoover Factory's grounds, which included the open areas around the extant factory buildings, sports grounds and car park in the Site boundary (see 'Exploratory Hole Location Plan' in Redstart, 2024). This has allowed a confident general stratigraphy of the Site to be established. The general stratigraphic sequence of the Site produced from the 2022 GI is shown in **Table EDP 1.1**.

Table EDP 1.1: Extract of 'Table 4.1 - Summary of Ground Sequence and Proven Thickness' from Redstart, 2024 for the Site's known general stratigraphic sequence

Strata	Stratum Thickness (m), Average in Brackets (m)
Hard surfacing or internal floor slabs	0.05 – 0.30

Strata	Stratum Thickness (m), Average in Brackets (m)
Topsoil	0.10 – 0.30
Made Ground	1.35 – 9.90 (3.65)
Superficial Deposits – fine grained (silt or clay)	0.05 – 1.50 (0.85)
Superficial Deposits - granular	2.60 – 24.00 (17.60)
Sandstone, Mudstone, Siltstone with coals	3.00 – 31.30

- 1.13 Overall, the findings of the GI concluded that the thickness of made ground deposits varies considerably across the Site with notable recorded depths between 3.3-5.3m across the main factory site and recorded depths between 6.4-9.9m across the factory's car park (*ibid*). Made ground deposits were identified to comprise spoil tips, associated with former collieries/iron workings in the area. This is consistent with the findings of the historic BGS 1959 borehole logs and the Site's historic land uses identified from consulted sources, discussed in **Section 4**.
- 1.14 Natural deposits of alluvium are recorded directly below spoil tip deposits across the Site, associated with the floodplain of the River Taff, in which, the Site is situated within. The thin band of 'fine grained' alluvium within the Site was recorded across the main factory site, west of Merthyr Road, and is suggested here to represent the former land surface prior to the dumping of industrial waste across the Site. As such, the truncation and/or disturbance of buried alluvium deposits in the Site is most likely limited to the footprint of factory buildings, associated with the insertion of their foundations (e.g. piled foundations).
- 1.15 The findings of the 2022 GI support those identified from the limited 1959 historic borehole logs across the centre of the Site's western land parcel within the main factory site. The recorded stratigraphy of the Site in relation to the Site's historic land uses and archaeological potential are discussed in **Section 4**.

Topography

- 1.16 The Site's topography comprises a gradual north-west to south-east downwards slope from approximately 163m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 151m aOD.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.17 The Proposed Development comprises an outline planning application for a residential led, mixed use redevelopment of the former Hoover Factory site at Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil.

Section 2

Legislation and Planning Guidance

- 2.1 This section sets out relevant legislation and planning policy, governing the conservation and management of the historic environment.

LEGISLATION

- 2.2 The *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023* came into force on 04 November 2024, in addition to a suite of regulations which are necessary to support it and now sets out the primary legislation for the historic environment for Wales (Legislation.gov.uk, 2023).

Scheduled Monuments

- 2.3 The *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023* (Part 2) addresses the designation and management of ‘monuments of special historic interest’, stating that the Welsh Ministers must maintain a schedule of monuments (and archaeological remains) which are of national importance (Scheduled Monuments).
- 2.4 The designation of archaeological and historic sites as Scheduled Monuments applies only to those that are deemed to be of national importance and is generally adopted only if it represents the best means of protection.
- 2.5 The 2023 Act does not address the concept of ‘setting’, just their physical remains, and, therefore, for Scheduled Monuments the protection of ‘setting’ is a matter of policy in the same way it is for a conservation area.
- 2.6 In Wales, the written consent of the Welsh Minister is required for development that would impact upon a Scheduled Monument, and applications for Scheduled Monument Consent are submitted to Cadw, the Welsh Government’s Historic Environment Service.

PLANNING POLICY

National Planning Policy

- 2.7 The Welsh Government published “*Future Wales: The National Plan 2040*” on 24 February 2021 (Welsh Government, 2021), which highlights in the foreword from the Minister for Housing and Local Government that it forms a “*framework for planning the change and development our country will need over the next two decades*”.
- 2.8 In terms of the Welsh Government’s objectives, the sixth ‘Future Wales Outcomes’ on page 55 states that:

“Development plans will have a forward thinking, positive attitude towards enabling economic development, investment and innovation. Increased prosperity and productivity will be pursued across all parts of Wales, building on current activity and promoting a culture of innovation, social partnership, entrepreneurialism and skills-development in

sustainable industries and sectors. The culture, heritage and environment of Wales will play a positive, modern role in the economy by attracting the interest and expenditure of tourists and providing a distinctive and trusted brand for Welsh businesses.”

Planning Policy Wales

- 2.9 National planning guidance, concerning the treatment of the historic environment across Wales, is detailed in Section 6.1 of Chapter 6 Distinctive and Natural Places of *Planning Policy Wales Edition Twelve*, which was published on 19 July 2024 (Welsh Government, 2024).
- 2.10 As it predates it, it is noteworthy that PPW 12 does not currently reference the “*Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023*” instead referencing legislation that has been repealed. It is anticipated that a new edition of PPW will be issued that references the Act in due course.
- 2.11 However, Schedule 14 of the 2023 Act makes provision for the transition between the legislation that has been repealed and the new Act and its associated regulations. As such, the transitional provisions anticipate such situations, so that repealed provisions can be interpreted and implemented correctly under the new legislation.
- 2.12 At paragraph 6.1.2, it identifies the historic environment as comprising individual historic features, such as archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks, gardens, townscapes and landscapes, collectively known as “*historic assets*”.
- 2.13 At paragraph 6.1.6, the Welsh Government’s specific objectives for the historic environment are outlined. Of these, the following is of relevance to the current assessment:
- Conserve archaeological remains, both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy; and
 - Safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved.
- 2.14 At paragraph 6.1.7, it is observed that:
- “It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.”*
- 2.15 As such, with regard to decision making, it is stated (at paragraph 6.1.9) that:
- “Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place”.*

Archaeological Remains

- 2.16 Moving on to the treatment of archaeological remains through the planning process, PPW 12 states at paragraph 6.1.23 that:

“The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining planning applications, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not.”

2.17 It then adds at paragraph 6.1.24 that:

“Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in a direct adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance).”

2.18 At paragraph 6.1.25 it states that:

“In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development.”

2.19 Paragraph 6.1.26 recommends that:

“Where archaeological remains are known to exist or there is a potential for them to survive, an application should be accompanied by sufficient information, through desk-based assessment and/or field evaluation, to allow a full understanding of the impact of the proposal on the significance of the remains. The needs of archaeology and development may be reconciled, and potential conflict very much reduced, through early discussion and assessment.”

2.20 In situations where planning approval would result in archaeological remains being destroyed by development, paragraph 6.1.27 of PPW 12 states the following regarding the relevant planning authority’s obligations:

“If the planning authority is minded to approve an application and where archaeological remains are affected by proposals that alter or destroy them, the planning authority must be satisfied that the developer has secured appropriate and satisfactory provision for their recording and investigation, followed by the analysis and publication of the results and the deposition of the resulting archive in an approved repository. On occasions, unforeseen archaeological remains may still be discovered during the course of a development. A written scheme of investigation should consider how to react to such circumstances or it can be covered through an appropriate condition for a watching brief.

Where remains discovered are deemed to be of national importance, the Welsh Ministers have the power to schedule the site and in such circumstances scheduled monument consent must be required before works can continue.”

Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN24)

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

2.22 Like PPW 12, TAN 24 predates the *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023* instead referencing legislation that has been repealed. It is anticipated that a new edition of TAN 24 will be issued that references the Act in due course. As such, the transitional provisions in Section 14 of the Act allow for the repealed provisions to be interpreted and implemented correctly under the new legislation.

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

2.24 It clarifies the policies and distinctions made in PPW (Welsh Government, 2024). A definition for a ‘historic asset’ is given as:

“An identifiable component of the historic environment. It may consist or be a combination of an archaeological site, a historic building or area, historic park and garden or a parcel of historic landscape. Nationally important historic assets will normally be designated.”

2.25 Section 4 of TAN 24 is concerned with archaeological remains and is thus relevant to the current assessment. Key points of advice, derived from the guidance, regarding archaeological remains and the development process, which are relevant to the current application, are as follows:

- *“The importance of pre-application discussion is stressed in order to reconcile the needs of archaeology and development between the applicant, the local planning authority, their archaeological advisors and, in cases where scheduled monuments may be affected, Cadw;*
- *Applicants are encouraged to make an enquiry with the body with responsibility for the relevant historic environment record and seek advice from the local planning authority’s archaeological advisor at an early stage in considering their development proposal;*
- *Where archaeological remains are known to exist, or considered likely to exist, and a study has not already been undertaken by the applicant, the local planning authority should ask an applicant to undertake a desk-based archaeological assessment and, where appropriate, an archaeological evaluation. These should be done by a qualified and competent expert to the appropriate standard. The reports of these investigations will form part of the planning application. Applicants should show they have modified their development proposals to minimise any negative impact on the identified archaeological remains, and how they intend to mitigate any remaining negative impacts; and*
- *The case for the preservation of archaeological remains that are not considered to meet the criteria for national importance (see Annex A.2), must be assessed on the individual merits of each case. The local planning authority must take into account relevant policies and material considerations, and will need to weigh the significance of the remains against the benefits of and need for the proposed development.”*

2.26 Regarding the preservation, recording and understanding of archaeological evidence, the guidance contains the following points of advice:

- *“Measures can be taken to minimise the impact of a development proposal on identified archaeological remains and allow their preservation in situ;*
- *Having considered all policies and other material considerations and the need for the development, the local planning authority may decide that the significance of the archaeological remains is not sufficient to justify their physical preservation. In these cases, the local planning authority must satisfy itself that the necessary and proportionate arrangements for the excavation and recording of these archaeological remains are secured, and the results of this archaeological work are properly analysed and published; and*
- *Any programme of archaeological excavation and recording should precede the start of work on the development, unless there are exceptional circumstances which prevent this from occurring.”*

2.27 Regarding unexpected archaeological discoveries, the guidance states the following:

“Where unexpected archaeological discoveries are considered to be of national importance, the Welsh Ministers have the power to schedule the site (see Annex A). In the event of scheduling, the developer must seek separate scheduled monument consent before work can continue. It is also open to the local planning authority and the Welsh Ministers to revoke or modify a planning permission under these circumstances, in which case there is provision for the compensation of the developer for loss of value and expenditure incurred.”

Local Planning Policy

2.28 The Site is located within the administrative boundary of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC). The current Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in January 2020 and covers the period from 2016-2031 (MTCBC, 2020).

2.29 The current LDP Written Statement (2016-2031) includes 18 objectives *“to realise the vision, support local well-being objectives and address key issues”*. The objectives were determined *“having regard to local issues raised through consultation, the evidence base and national policy”*. Of these, ‘Objective 9: Heritage and Cultural Assets’ states the following: *“To protect, enhance and promote all heritage, historic and cultural assets”*.

2.30 Objective 9 of the current LDP is achieved via the inclusion of ‘Policy CW1: Historic Environment’ in the LDP’s Written Statement (MTCBC, 2020). Policy CW1 states the following:

“The integrity of our historic environment assets will be conserved and enhanced.

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

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

- 2.31 The LDP Written Statement (2016-2031) also includes a regeneration site allocation policy for the Hoover Factory, under ‘Policy SW6: Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area’. The allocation policy states the following:

“The Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area is identified to facilitate a major mixed-use development comprising:

- 440 new homes,*
- Local retail provision of 400 sqm,*
- New employment development on 1.5 hectares of land,*
- Pentrebach Station Park and Ride,*
- Provision of a new footbridge/cycle bridge to Abercanaid,*
- Safeguarded land for a new Metro station, and*
- A minimum of 1.79 ha of open space.*

Development proposals will be required to incorporate the following sustainable placemaking design principles:

Movement

- Integrate a park and ride at an upgraded Pentrebach Metro station that acts as an attractive gateway to the HSRA and Merthyr Tydfil.*
- Integrate the existing railway via a green landscape corridor, and safeguard land for a future Metro station in the north of the HSRA.*
- Create a legible environment through a clear hierarchy of streets that is reinforced by landscaping and the built form.*
- Create a network of pedestrian and cycle routes within the development that improves connections and wayfinding to existing strategic recreational routes (Taff and Trevithick Trail), and provide links within the site and to surrounding areas, including connecting the site across the river through a new bridge for pedestrians and cyclists.*

Development

- Provide for a range of dwelling types to satisfy local needs, while also delivering the plan strategy to develop a new sustainable mixed-use community.*

- *Deliver a sufficiently high density development, as appropriate, adjacent to a Metro station.*
- *Provide a reconfigured public realm to better integrate Pentrebach railway station to the HSRA.*
- *Incorporate retail uses to provide for local need and increase natural surveillance over Metro facilities, with the potential for a focal civic square.*
- *Deliver distinctive character areas which create a sense of place.*
- *Provide employment zones that can accommodate a range of employment types and are adaptable to future need.*
- *Reflect the cultural heritage of the site in the design of new development, including reflecting the Hoover Factory frontage in the built form, and drawing upon historic built forms such as terraced dwellings.*
- *Create a distinctive and unique environment that can act as a flagship development incorporating high levels of sustainability including, where viable, building integrated renewables, district heating systems, the appropriate re-use of existing employment buildings/land and use of sustainable materials and construction.*

Green Infrastructure and Open Space

- *Establish a green perimeter and create a strong central green core for the HSRA.*
- *Provide a range of open spaces of sufficient quantity and quality, for play and recreation (including areas of natural play), and where viable, incorporate the retention and management of existing green infrastructure.*
- *Reflect the site heritage in the open spaces.*
- *Promote new planting throughout the development using distinctive formal and informal planting to support character areas.*
- *Establish a green buffer around the existing railway line that has ecological benefit and creates a positive interface between the railway corridor and residential uses.*
- *Incorporate the River Taff as a distinctive feature and use the river corridor as a green spine that filters into the development, opening up the riverside and creating an accessible and pedestrian-friendly movement corridor along it.*
- *Bring the River setting 'into' the site through incorporating water features/SuDS/watercourses in the public realm.*
- *Develop green infrastructure that has the potential to add value and sense of place to the future development.*
- *Develop a landscape-led approach that contributes to the sense of place."*

Section 3 Methodology

ARCHAEOLOGY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.
- 3.2 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major repositories of relevant information comprised:
- Cadw's national database (Cof Cymru) for designated historic assets;
 - Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology (Heneb) Historic Environment Record (HER) November 2024 commercial dataset. The dataset contains 'National Monuments of Wales' (NMW) records for consultation;
 - National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) as held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW), accessed via the publicly accessible Coflein mapping webpage;
 - Historic maps and satellite imagery held by National Library of Scotland, EnviroCheck and Google Earth;
 - Maps and documents held by Glamorgan Archives; and
 - Aerial photographs which are held by the Central Register of Aerial Photography for Wales (CRAPW) at Cardiff.
- 3.3 The information gathered from the repositories and sources identified above was checked and augmented through the completion of a site walkover undertaken in December 2024. This walkover considered the nature and significance of known and/or potential archaeological assets within the Site, identified visible historic features and assessed possible factors that may affect the survival or condition of known or potential archaeological assets.
- 3.4 This report provides a synthesis of relevant information for the Site derived from a search area extending up to 1km from its boundary, hereafter known as the 'study area', to allow for additional contextual information on its archaeological interest or potential to be gathered and then understood.
- 3.5 The sources and study area utilised in this assessment were outlined in the approved WSI (**Appendix EDP 2**) which was approved by Heneb on 28 November 2024.

- 3.6 Throughout the report, where referenced and relevant, designated historic assets are referenced by their Cadw reference number, non-designated historic assets and previous archaeological events are referenced by their Preferred Reference Number. The location of designated historic assets is shown on **Plan EDP 1**. The location of HER Records are shown on **Plan EDP 2**. The location of previous archaeological events are shown on **Plan EDP 3**.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 3.7 The assessment of significance of known/recorded archaeological remains within the Site makes reference (where relevant) to the four 'heritage values' identified by Cadw within its *Conservation Principles* document (Cadw, 2011). These are:
- The asset's *evidential value*, which is defined as those elements of the historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric;
 - The asset's *historical value*, which is defined as those elements of an asset which might illustrate a particular aspect of past life or might be associated with a notable family, person, event or movement;
 - The asset's *aesthetic value*, which is defined as deriving from the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from the historic asset; and
 - The asset's *communal value*, which is defined as deriving from the meanings that a historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

Section 4 Baseline Information

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 This section of the assessment identifies the 'designated' and 'non-designated' historic assets that may be affected by the Proposed Development.
- 4.2 The Site is located within Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA 'HLCA015: Taff Vale Industrial and Business Parks' of the Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (RLOHI) (**HLW (MGL) 2**).
- 4.3 The Site does not contain any designated historic assets such as world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, or registered historic parks and gardens. The location of surrounding designated historic assets within a 1km radius of the Site are shown on **Plan EDP 1** for reference.
- 4.4 With regard to non-designated historic assets, there are 99 HER records comprising archaeological and historical sites, artefact findspots and buildings of local interest as recorded on the Heneb HER within a 1km radius of the Site (**Plan EDP 2**). The NMW also records two records for two individual Mesolithic flint findspots located towards the far south-western edge of the study area. Records held by the NMRW reflect those held by the HER. Relevant records held by the NMRW in relation to the Site's archaeological potential are discussed below.
- 4.5 With regard to previous archaeological events, twenty-four events in the form of desk-based assessments, archaeological fieldwork investigations and observations are recorded within a 1km radius of the Site (**Plan EDP 3**).
- 4.6 Those records and events considered relevant to this assessment are discussed below, therefore not all the returned records are included with the text or on the accompanying plans.

DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

- 4.7 The Site does not contain any designated historic assets such as world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, or registered historic parks and gardens. Therefore, none would be directly affected by development within the Site.
- 4.8 Within the study area, four scheduled monuments and 42 Grade II listed buildings are present. These designated assets comprise the following:
- Scheduled monument Merthyr Tramroad Tunnel (Trevithick's Tunnel) (**GM573**) built in c.1793 and located c.170m north of the Site;

- Scheduled monument Abercanaid Haystack Boiler (**GM572**) built early 18th century and placed in its current location during 1930s. The scheduled monument is located c.220m south-west of the Site;
- Scheduled monument Cwm Pit and Head of Railway (**GM607**) built between late 18th and early 19th century and located c.960m west of the Site;
- Scheduled monument Cyfarthfa balance pond and leat (**GM608**) built during early 19th century and located c.960m west of the Site;
- Two Grade II listed buildings associated with the 1850 built Pentrebach House (**11503**) and its associated north-west and north facing garden walls (**11504**), located c.100m east of the Site;
- Grade II listed Sion Independent Chapel (**21318**) built in 1860 and located c.190m south-west of the Site;
- Grade II listed mid-19th century Gethin Tramway Bridge (**81751**), located c.470m south-west of the Site;
- A cluster of thirty Grade II listed buildings comprising workers terraced houses built between 1852 and 1861 along River Row and Nightingale Street (**81748, 81747, 81746, 81745, 81744, 11501, 81743, 81742, 11500, 81741, 81739, 81740, 81738, 81737, 81736, 81735, 11499, 81734, 81733, 81732, 81731, 81730, 81729, 11498, 11502, 81724, 81725, 81726, 81727, 81728**), located c.140m west of the Site;
- Grade II listed early-mid 19th century Llwyn-Yr-Eos House (**11497**), located c.160m west of the Site;
- A row of four Grade II listed early 19th century industrial workers cottages comprising 1-5 Quay Row (**11496, 81753, 81754, 81755**), located c.360m west of the Site;
- Two Grade II listed buildings associated with the mid-19th century Upper Abercanaid House (**11494**) and its associated north facing garden walls and gatepiers (**11495**), located c.390m west of the Site; and
- Grade II listed mid-19th century Rhydycar Skew Bridge (**15676**), located c.660m north-west of the Site.

NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

Locally Listed Buildings

Hoover Factory Buildings within the Site

- 4.9 MTCBC maintains an adopted Local List for locally listed buildings (MTCBC, 2025). On the list, two 'proposed' locally listed buildings are recorded within the Site. These comprise the

Hoover Factory frontage (**MT121**) and semi-circular security hut to the front of the Hoover Factory (**MT122**).

- 4.10 The Local List does not include a description of the two ‘proposed’ locally listed buildings. The only information provided is that both buildings are recorded as a ‘prominent’ building type on the online Heritage Map webpage for MTCBC (MTCBC, 2025).
- 4.11 Consultation with MTCBC through email correspondence dated 20 January 2025, confirmed that the two buildings are not on the Local List. The Local List itself was drawn up during the mid-late 2000s and has neither been recently updated nor formalised (**Appendix EDP 3**). As such, both buildings are considered as non-designated historic assets for the purpose of this assessment.
- 4.12 The HER holds a record for the Hoover factory frontage (GGAT09268m), which states the following:
- “Post-war in style the main entrance was to the East corner. The building is square in shape but with rounded corners but has been extended to the north-west over time (Old Merthyr Tydfil). Recorded as a proposed Locally Listed Building by Merthyr Tydfil Council (Merthyr Tydfil Council).”*
- 4.13 The HER also holds a record for the semi-circular security hut to the front of the Hoover Factory (GGAT09269m), which states the following:
- “Post-war in style, the security hut for the Hoover Factory is semi-circular in shape (Old Merthyr Tydfil). Recorded as a proposed Locally Listed Building by Merthyr Tydfil Council (Merthyr Tydfil Council).”*
- 4.14 The NMRW also holds a record for the Hoover Factory at Pentrebach. According to the NMRW, the earliest factory buildings located at the complex’s southern end, were built in the immediate post-war period. The NMRW states that the factory’s architects were ‘Wallis, Gilbert and Partners’, who designed the earlier 1932-1935 Grade II* Art Deco Perivale Hoover Building (National Heritage List for England Ref: 1079353) located in north-west London (Malaws, 2007). However, according to a news article by ‘The London Gazette’, dated 18 January 1946, the architects’ partnership was dissolved in December 1945 (The London Gazette, 1946). Individual partners, such as Douglas Thomas Wallis are noted to have taken on the partnership’s portfolio of clients and projects. As such, it is likely an individual of the former practice was the architect to the Hoover Factory at Pentrebach, as opposed to the former partnership itself.
- 4.15 Overall, consulted sources indicate that the Hoover Factory at Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil was constructed between June 1946 and October 1948 replacing spoil heaps associated with the former Pentrebach Ironworks of the Plymouth Ironworks (George, 2024a). The factory remained in use by Hoover until its closure in 2009 as stated by the HER.
- 4.16 With regards to the factory’s layout, consulted historic maps and aerial photographs indicate that the earliest buildings of the factory, built in 1948, are located at the southern end of the complex. These buildings comprise part of the first warehouse which includes the factory’s frontage (**Image EDP A1.1**), canteen building (**Image EDP A1.2**) and semi-circular

security hut at the factory's main entrance (**Image EDP A1.3**). The factory underwent several phases of expansion between 1948-1970s with the addition of warehouse units and ancillary buildings northwards across the Site along the west side of Merthyr Road (**Image EDP A1.4-16**). A modern building-built c.2005 is also located in the south-west end of the factory's grounds (**Image EDP A1.17**), adjacent to the Hoover Sports Cricket Club (**Image EDP A1.18**). An associated car park built during the late 20th century is located east of Merthyr Road in the Site (**Image EDP A1.19**), as well as an associated sprinkler and pump house east of Merthyr Road in the Site (inaccessible during the December 2024 site walkover).

- 4.17 A phased building plan of the Hoover Factory is shown on **Plan EDP 4**. The plan does not include building phase dates for lean-to ancillary structures and/or shelters adhering to main warehouse buildings and workshops.
- 4.18 None of the other extant built elements of the Hoover Factory site are suggested to be of equivalent heritage significance to that of the two non-designated historic assets in the Site. This is due to such elements of the factory site being modern structures mid-20th century or onwards in date, built purely in a plain and functional design.
- 4.19 An up-close inspection of the Hoover Factory frontage (**MT121**) during the December 2024 site walkover identified that the early post-war structure comprises a two-storey glazed orange brick façade, symmetrical in design and incorporating brick planters with white concrete coping (**Image EDP A1.1**). The façade contains a raised, central, recessed entrance with a timber double door and approached by concrete steps. A recessed, central, large white, steel-framed fixed window is situated above the central door, with a smaller steel-framed fixed window situated either side. All three fixed windows and the double door feature concrete lintels. Above the central fixed window, a 'Hoover' sign for the factory is present. The ends of the façade to the factory are marked by brick buttresses either side of the main entrance.
- 4.20 An up-close inspection of semi-circular security hut (**MT122**) during the December 2024 site walkover identified that the hut comprises a single-storey 'D-shaped' brick-built structure, and a flat roof (**Image EDP A1.3**). The hut features a single door on its front (northern) side and two double door entrances on its rear (southern) side. A row of tall, white, rectangular, single paned, modern uPVC casement windows are situated across its northern half, capped by a pronounced concrete canopy porch. The hut features cream painted brickwork and a black painted concrete plinth at its base across its northern half.
- 4.21 The heritage significance of the two non-designated buildings is comprised of the limited aesthetic and architectural value possessed by their distinct mid-century Modern external appearance (i.e. architectural style) at the southern end of the Hoover Factory site. The two buildings are associated with the initial 1948 construction phase of the Hoover Factory at Pentrebach. The factory's frontage is notable in the local area for its prominent appearance, varied brickwork, large central fixed window and symmetrical design. Meanwhile, the security hut although it features more recent alterations (e.g. uPVC windows), the structure is still aesthetically notable and distinct from the remainder of the factory site for its semi-circular design and pronounced concrete canopy porch. Overall, the two non-designated built historic assets are of low or local heritage significance.

Other Locally Listed Buildings within the study area

- 4.22 Within the study area, one 'proposed' locally listed building and six additional locally listed buildings are recorded on the MTCBC Local List. These include the following:
- Glamorganshire Canal (**MT3**), located c.740m north-west of the Site;
 - Engine House, Abercanaid (**MT131**), a 'proposed' locally listed building located c.380m west of the Site;
 - Llwyn-Yr-Eos Inn (**MT43**), located c.200m west of the Site;
 - The Colliers Arms (**MT31**), located c.200m west of the Site;
 - Church of St. Peter & St. Paul (**MT71**), located c.120m west of the Site;
 - Richards Arms (**MT54**), located c.230m south-west of the Site; and
 - 5-16 Taibach (**MT77**), located c.520m south-east of the Site.
- 4.23 None of the locally listed buildings contained in the study area are directly associated with the Site or its historic land uses. As such, none inform on the Site's archaeological potential, and therefore, are not discussed any further in this report.

Archaeological Remains

HER Chronological Overview

- 4.24 A chronological overview of HER records within the Site and Study Area is provided below. The locations of HER records are shown on **Plan EDP 2** for reference. Recorded previous archaeological investigation and/or mitigation events on the HER, which are of relevance to the Site's archaeological potential are also discussed below, where relevant. The locations of previous events are shown on **Plan EDP 3**.

Pre-industrial (500,000BP – AD 1750)

- 4.25 There are no HER records attributed to the prehistoric period (i.e. Palaeolithic – Iron Age) located in the Site. However, there is one HER record for an archaeological findspot comprising a Mesolithic flint scatter (**GGAT00880m**), located c.640m west of the Site on the upper western slopes of the Taff Valley.
- 4.26 With regards to records held by the NMW, two individual archaeological findspots for Mesolithic flint tools are recorded, located towards the far south-western edge of the study area along the same upper western slopes of the Taff Valley. The exact location of either findspot is not provided by their respective NMW record.
- 4.27 The Site throughout the pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial periods has been situated on the valley floor of the Taff Valley, within the floodplain of the River Taff itself. As such, the Site has been subject to frequent and/or periodic flooding overtime, as well as falling within the shifting alignment of the river itself throughout the Palaeolithic to Iron Age. This is indicated by the Site's topographical location, as well as available geotechnical SI

information, which record the presence of Quaternary alluvium deposits associated with the River Taff across the Site.

- 4.28 With regards to the Palaeolithic, given its inland location, which would have been subject to periodic glaciation (e.g. the last ice age during the Devensian period) (Clark *et al* 2007), the Site and surrounding Taff Valley are unlikely to have been subject to any intensive human activity especially in respect of the Site with its riverine, flood prone location.
- 4.29 During the Mesolithic period, the presence of recorded lithic findspots limited to the upper western slopes of the Taff Valley suggests ephemeral and intermittent settlement and/or resource exploitation along the valley sides. Again, little sedentary activity is likely to have occurred within the Site, given its valley bottom location.
- 4.30 The absence of any Neolithic activity in the Site and/or study area suggests that settlement, if present during this period, was limited to the Taff Valley's upper sides. The Site's floodplain environment, being situated on the river's alluvium deposits, suggests that the Site would have been subject to regular inundation and would probably have been unsuitable for any settlement and/or early farming practices.
- 4.31 Within the wider landscape, consultation of Cof Cymru's national database records the presence of Bronze Age (2500BC - 800BC) funerary monuments in the form of cairns. The cairns are recorded as scheduled monuments, located on the raised upland areas to the west and east of the Taff Valley. The cairns themselves, comprise of six round cairns along Merthyr Common (GM222), located c.1.9km east of the Site, as well as cairns, such as Cam Castel Y Meibion ring cairn (GM586), Graig-y-Gilfach round cairn and earthwork (GM288) and (Garn Las Earthwork), located between c.2.3-2.7km west of the Site.
- 4.32 Sparse settlement and farming practices, if present, were most likely situated on the upper slopes of the Taff Valley beyond the Site boundary, although the valley bottom could have offered a source of seasonal pasture. Recorded funerary monuments in the landscape beyond the Taff Valley suggest that mortuary practices were likely focused on the raised areas above the valley and not situated along the river's floodplain (i.e. in the Site).
- 4.33 Finally, the nearest Iron Age remains comprise a scheduled group of hut circles and enclosures on the raised area of Buarth Maen (GM401), located c.4.1km north-west of the Site. As for earlier periods, the Site's situation probably dictated that it was not a good location for settlement although may have been utilised as seasonal pasture.
- 4.34 There are no HER records attributed to the Roman period in the Site or study area. The nearest recorded Roman remains comprise the scheduled Gelligaer Common Roman Road (GM556), located c.4.1km east of the Site situated above the Taff Valley along Gelligaer Common. It is unlikely any settlement was established along the part of the Taff Valley adjacent to the Site during the Roman period, with, at most the land at the Site coming under pastoral uses.
- 4.35 There are no HER records attributed to the early medieval or medieval period in the Site or study area. The Site most likely comprised flood prone land possibly used as pasture during the early medieval and medieval periods, situated beyond the limits of any nearby settlements (e.g. Merthyr Tydfil). The roadside village of Pentrebach to the south-east of the

Site was not established until the 18th century, suggesting that settlement and/or agricultural practices were limited in the study area, most likely to the upper slopes of the Taff Valley above the river's floodplain (Pentrebach Historic Landscape Characterisation description '020 – Pentrebach').

- 4.36 Overall, the available evidence suggests that it is likely that there was no settlement and/or any other significant human activity along the River Taff within the Site, prior to the industrial period. The Site most likely comprised the former course of the River Taff and/or seasonally inundated marsh or wetland within its floodplain during these periods, which would have had limited utility aside as pasture. Such land use is unlikely to have resulted in any archaeological remains being created.
- 4.37 Consultation of historic maps indicates that the Site was drained and divided into field enclosures as part of a managed agricultural field system, prior to the earliest consulted 1850 Merthyr Tydfil Parish Tithe Map, discussed below. Such practices mostly likely comprised of more closely managed pastoral uses, given the Site's bottom valley position and by their 'meadow' land use description in the associated award text for the tithe map. The enclosed agricultural land use of the Site is also indicated by the 1876-1881 OS map with the depicted presence of field boundaries across the southern half of the Site's western land parcel, discussed below.
- 4.38 Although the Site features recorded alluvium deposits, given that these occur within the floodplain of the River Taff, for the reasons explained above, it seems highly unlikely that they would contain any significant archaeological deposits that were buried during the long period in which they were laid down. As such the potential for buried archaeological features of the prehistoric or Roman periods within the Site alluvium is very low.
- 4.39 Likewise, the potential for remains related to the medieval period which is also likely to have been restricted to open seasonal pasture, is low. Meanwhile, the potential for remains related to the early post-medieval period, prior to the Site's industrial land uses, is moderate. The Site was subject to a period of enclosure to establish a managed field system for pastoral uses. As such, the Site has the potential to feature buried, infilled former field boundaries as depicted on consulted historic maps, cut into the top of buried alluvium deposits in the western land parcel of the Site. Such feature would possess on a very low degree of significance on account of their very limited evidential value.

Industrial and Post-Industrial (AD 1750 – Present)

- 4.40 There are no HER records attributed to the industrial period in the Site. However, there are two locally listed building records for the two 1948 built structures associated with the Hoover Factory (**MT121**, **MT122**), discussed above.
- 4.41 Within the study area, most HER records present are attributed to the industrial history of the 18th-19th century in the area, reflecting local ironworks, mining industries, transportation networks, associated infrastructure, residential areas and agricultural practices carried out towards the southern end of Merthyr Tydfil, within and around the settlements of Pentrebach and Abercanaid.

- 4.42 Merthyr Tydfil experienced its industrial revolution from the mid-18th century onwards, expanding from a small farming village to the largest town in Wales by c.1850 (Carradice, 2011; Johnson, 2024). This was driven by the rapid expansion of its iron industry which included ironworks established across the town by the late 18th century. These included ironworks, such as the following (George, 2024b):
- Cyfarthfa Ironworks (1765-1919);
 - Ynys Fach Ironworks (1769-1874);
 - Plymouth Ironworks (1763-1882);
 - Dowlais Ironworks (1759-1930s); and
 - Penydarren Ironworks (1784-1859).
- 4.43 HER records included in the study area includes records of infrastructure associated with the ironworks, industry, which included the establishment of collieries and pits for the extraction of local coal and ironstone deposits along the slopes of the Taff valley, as well as transportation routes and networks to and from collieries/pits and ironworks, and from various ironworks to coastal ports at Cardiff docks. This initially comprised the construction of roads, then canals by c.1800 (e.g. Glamorganshire Canal) and subsequently tramroads and railway lines by c.1840 (e.g. Taff Vale Railway (TVR)).
- 4.44 HER records included in the study area and consulted historic maps also indicate how the rapid expansion of the ironworks industry across Merthyr Tydfil into the 19th century resulted in the construction of housing to accommodate the growing working population of the area. Such suburban expansion resulted in the removal of farmland along the River Taff for the construction of terraced housing. However, farmland on the upper slopes and tops of the River Taff valley's sides persisted throughout the industrial period.
- 4.45 The HER records a total of ninety-eight records attributed to the industrial and/or post-industrial period in the study area. These can be divided into six distinct groups, characterising various elements of the surrounding valley's history at Pentrebach, Abercanaid and the southern end of Merthyr Tydfil from the mid-18th century onwards, as outlined above.
- 4.46 The first group comprises 18th-19th century transportation routes and networks orientated roughly north-east to south-west through the River Taff and study area. These include the following:
- Features associated with the modification and straightening of the River Taff and its alignment. Such features recorded on the HER include: revetment walls (**GGAT11025m, GGAT11019m, GGAT11014m, GGAT11174m, GGAT11173m**), docks at Ynys Fach (**GGAT11483m**), a mooring post (**GGAT11023m**) and structure (**GGAT11022m**) at The Willows; former industrial river crossings associated with ironworks and/or collieries/pits, such as Wireworks Bridge (**GGAT11176m**), a ford (**GGAT11018m**), Brandy Bridge Junction (**GGAT11175m**), Plymouth Cinder Bridge (**GGAT11017m**), Abercanaid Bridge (**GGAT01625m**) and Pentre-Bach stepping stones

(**GGAT11013m**); a weir (**GGAT11015m**); a sluice gate (**GGAT11016m**); a flood lock (**GGAT11171m**) and a footbridge (**GGAT11555m**). Such features are situated between c.10-940m from the north-west to south-west of the Site, with the former Abercanaid Bridge in use between late 19th to early 20th century, located adjacent to the central western edge of the Site's western land parcel;

- Cyfarthfa Canal (**GGAT02866.0m**, **GGAT02412.0m**), constructed during the 1770s to serve Cyfarthfa Ironworks. According to the HER, the canal fell out of use between 1835-1840. Recorded associated features on the HER located in the study area include a feeder channel (**GGAT02865.0m**). The canal is located c.880m west of the Site;
- Glamorganshire Canal (**GGAT08266m**, **GGAT01682.0s**), constructed between 1790-1798 to link Merthyr Tydfil to Cardiff docks. Recorded associated features on the HER located in the study area include a canal bridge (**GGAT08263m**), Glyndrys Ponds (**GGAT02518m**, **GGAT06361m**), Glyndrys Lock House (**GGAT01037m**) Abercanaid Canal Overflow (**GGAT01682.24s**), and a weir (**GGAT06434m**). The canal is located c.210m west of the Site;
- Cwm Pit Railway (**02858.0m**), constructed during the mid-late 19th century, the railway line connected Cwm Pit to Cyfarthfa Ironworks. Recorded associated features on the HER located in the study area include tramroads (**GGAT04443m**, **GGAT08261m**) and a footbridge (**GGAT02818m**). The railway is located c.850m west of the Site;
- Ynys Fach Railway / Merthyr and Quakers Yard Railway (**026911.0m**), in operation between 1886-1951 and jointly owned by Great Western Railway and Rhymney. The railway line terminated at Ynys Fach ironworks and connected such works to the ports along the coast. Recorded associated features on the HER located in the study area include a signal box to both Ynys Fach and Gethin Railways (**GGAT02812m**), Cyfarthfa Railway Crossing (**GGAT02817m**) and Graig Road Railway Bridge (**GGAT02521m**);
- Brecon and Merthyr Railway (**01279.0m**), built in 1873 and jointly owned by Merthyr Railway and London and North Western Railway (LNWR). The railway features an associated embankment (**GGAT08267m**), recorded on the HER in the study area;
- Taff Vale Railway (**06422.0m**), built in 1841 to link Merthyr Tydfil to Cardiff dock for the transport of iron, steel and coal. The railway remains in use and has been modernised to serve commercial and public transport needs. Recorded associated features on the HER located in the study area include a Mardy Railway Bridge (**GGAT11024m**), The Willows signal post (**GGAT11021m**), former Wireworks Bridge (**GGAT11176m**) and Pentrebach Railway Station (**06422.32m**). The railway is situated adjacent to the Site's western boundary along the entirety of its western land parcel. Meanwhile Pentrebach Station, built in 1886, is situated adjacent to the Site at its far south-west end; and
- Trevithick's Tunnel (**GGAT05202m**) in use between 1793-1880 to serve the Merthyr Tramroad. The tramroad was built to connect ironworks along the east side of Merthyr Tydfil to the canal at Abercynon. The tunnel is located c.150m north of the Site.

- 4.47 The second group comprises HER records associated with the former Plymouth Ironworks company, which according to the HER, operated between 1763-1882 and featured three sites along the east side of the River Taff to the south of Merthyr Tydfil. These three sites comprised: Plymouth Works (north of the Site), Pentre-Bach Works/Forge (east of the Site) and Dyffryn Furnaces/Works (south-east of the Site). The HER includes three records in the study area associated with two of the three sites. These include Plymouth Works (**GGAT05237m**) located c.350m north of the Site, as well as Pentre-Bach Works (**GGAT05238m**) located c.170m east of the Site and an associated furnace (**GGAT00530m**) located c.40m east of the Site. The layout of the former Pentre-Bach Works and its associated infrastructure in relation to the Site boundary are discussed further below under cartographic sources.
- 4.48 The third group comprises 18th-19th century pits and colliers along the upper and lower slopes of the west and east sides of the Taff Valley in the study area. Such colliers mined local sources of coal and/or ironstone to supply local ironworks and/or the export of coal from Cardiff docks. Such pits/collieries recorded on the HER include the following:
- Glyndrys Pit (**GGAT02816m**) which operated between c.1850s-1900 for the extraction of ironstone. Recorded associated features on the HER located in the study area include a smithy (**GGAT02815m**), Cyfarthfa reservoir (**GGAT06456m**), cottage (**GGAT02814m**), an ironstone level (**GGAT02813m**) and waste tips (**GGAT04441m**). Glyndrys Pit is located c.980m west of the Site;
 - Gethin Pit No.1 and No.2 (**GGAT02191m**), sunk in 1849 for the extraction of coal during the 19th century. Recorded associated features for Pit No.1 on the HER located in the study area include a weir (**GGAT11552m**), slipway (**GGAT11553m**), reservoir (**GGAT11554m**). Recorded associated features for Pit No.2 on the HER located in the study area include a structure (**GGAT06432m**), Webbers Pond (**GGAT02522m**), two haulage engine houses (**GGAT02523m**, **GGAT02524m**), a compressor house (**GGAT02527m**), winding engine house (**GGAT02525m**) and two levels (**GGAT06410m**, **GGAT06431m**). Gethin Pit No.1 and No.2 are located c.500m south and c.540m south-west of the Site, respectively;
 - Four coal and air shafts (**GGAT05249m**, **GGAT05250m**, **GGAT05254m**, **GGAT05244m**) are recorded in the study area, associated with the former Clyn-mil pits. These pits were utilised for the extraction of coal and ironstone. The coal and air shafts are located from north-east to south-east of the Site, between c.420-850m from the Site;
 - Taibach Pit (**GGAT05243m**), in operation during the late 19th century for the extraction of coal to supply the nearby Dyffryn Ironworks (one of the former three Plymouth Ironworks sites). Recorded associated features on the HER located in the study area include two coal levels (**GGAT06411m**, **GGAT06412m**). Taibach Pit is located c.710m south-east of the Site;
 - North Dyffryn Pits (**GGAT08287m**), in operation between late 19th and early 20th century for the extraction of coal to supply nearby ironworks. North Dyffryn Pits are located c.920m south-east of the Site; and

- Upper Abercanaid Pits, comprising three shafts sunk c.1858 which operated during the 19th century for the extraction of coal. The HER records associated features with the three pits in the study area, which include spoil tips (**GGAT03757m, GGAT03756m, GGAT03755m, GGAT03758m, GGAT03754m**), air and coal shafts (**GGAT03760m, GGAT03947m**) and a coal level (**GGAT11628m**). The Upper Abercanaid Pits were located from c.360m west of the Site.

4.49 The fourth group comprises HER records associated with various extant and/or demolished 19th century terraced residential areas recorded in the study area. The residential areas were built to accommodate workers of the former pits/collieries and ironworks outlined above. According to the HER, such residential areas were identified from consulted historic maps and include the following HER records:

- 65-73 Plymouth Street (**GGAT01225m**), located c.830m north of the Site;
- Penyard Houses (**GGAT02459m**), located c.300m north-east of the Site;
- Long Row (**GGAT00884m**), located c.60m north-east of the Site;
- The Triangle (**GGAT00885m**), located c.30m east of the Site;
- Tai-Winches (Winches Row) (**GGAT02458m**), located c.500m east of the Site;
- Park Houses (**GGAT00883m**), located c.540m south of the Site;
- 1a, 1-10 Catherine Square (**GGAT04370m**), located c.160m west of the Site;
- 15-24 Catherine Square (**GGAT04371m**), located c.200m west of the Site;
- 3-13 David Square (**GGAT01215m**), located c.160m y of the Site;
- 1 Henry Square (**GGAT04368m**), located c.160m west of the Site; and
- 2-13 Henry Square (**GGAT04369m**), located c.160m west of the Site.

4.50 The fifth group comprises HER records associated with recorded agricultural features, which include former farms and sheepfolds in the study area largely dated to the 18th-19th century and identified from consulted historic maps. Such HER records were contemporary with the industrial period of the area and include the following:

- Graweth farm (**GGAT01495m**), located c.920m east of the Site;
- Old Rhyd-Y-Car Farm (**GGAT02609m**), located c.960m north-west of the Site;
- Farm remains (**GGAT03753m**), located c.900m west of the Site; and
- And two sheepfolds (**GGAT03745m, GGAT03744m**) located c.920m south-west of the Site and c.754m south of the Site, respectively.

- 4.51 The sixth and final group comprises a single HER record for the former 'Willows Gaswork' site, built between 1908-1910 and in use until 1951 (**GGAT06328m**). The gas works were located on the west bank of the River Taff, located c.350m north-west of the Site.

PREVIOUS EVENTS

- 4.52 No previous intrusive archaeological investigation and/or mitigation events are recorded in the Site. However, one previous desk-based assessment is recorded in the former Hoover Factory car park land parcel within the Site boundary, to the east of Merthyr Road. The event comprises a study of the alignment of the Merthyr Tramroad by Archaeological Investigations Ltd in 2004 (**GGATE005388**). The previous event provides little to no insight into the Site's archaeological potential and the sources and baseline utilised in this report supersede that of the 2004 desk-based assessment for the determination of the Site's archaeological potential.
- 4.53 With regards to the study area, a total of 23 previous archaeological events are recorded on the HER. These previous events comprise seven desk-based assessments (**GGATE008467**, **GGATE008478**, **GGATE005388**, **GGATE005369**, **GGATE008192**, **GGATE003675**, **GGATE004948**), eleven field survey and/or visits (**GGATE000267**, **GGATE000272**, **GGATE000274**, **GGATE000275**, **GGATE000280**, **GGATE000281**, **GGATE000282**, **GGATE000283**, **GGATE000284**, **GGATE002297**, **GGATE008193**), two evaluations (**GGATE003491**, **GGATE003492**), one excavation (**GGATE000277**) and two watching briefs (**GGATE005793**, **GGATE000287**).
- 4.54 None of these events provide direct evidence or are of relevance to the determination of the Site's archaeological potential. This is due to such events being located at a distance from the Site, across land not associated with the Site's historic land uses. Hence, such previous events are not discussed in this report.

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Historic Maps

- 4.55 Historic maps have been used to aid the establishment of the Site's history from c.1850 onwards and identify land use change over time. The consulted historic maps are outlined below and presented on **Plan EDP 5**. For reference, the publication date of each historic map is referred to below

1850 Merthyr Tydfil Parish Tithe Map

- 4.56 The earliest consulted map comprises the 1850 tithe map of Merthyr Tydfil parish. This shows that the Site boundary fell across five plots within three separate land parcels. The ownership of the five plots fell under several individuals, while the occupation of all five plots fell under one individual, Anthony Hill. According to the HER records for the Plymouth Ironworks (**GGAT05237m**, **GGAT05238m**), Anthony Hill was the owner of the ironworks at this time until his death in 1862. This included the Pentre-bach works located to the east of the Site, labelled as 'Plymouth Iron Works' on the tithe map extract in **Plan EDP 5**.

- 4.57 The western land parcel comprising the main Hoover Factory complex, west of Merthyr Road, comprised three plots (i.e. 1334, 952 and 1256 located north-south of the Site's land parcel). The Tithe map records plot 1334 at the Site's northern end to comprise of 'rubbish tips' most likely associated with industrial waste from the nearby ironworks. Meanwhile, plot 952 across the central area of the Site's western land parcel and plot 1256 across the southern end of the Site's western land parcel, are recorded as comprising 'meadow'. However, the tithe map shows that Plot 1256 also contained tramroads and a road orientated east-west, connecting Pentre-bach Ironworks to the Glamorganshire Canal via Abercanaid Bridge. As such, it is likely the southern plot (1256) was under industrial use by Anthony Hill and Pentre-bach Ironworks at this time to provide a transportation network for the movement of coal, iron and/or steel.
- 4.58 The eastern land parcel comprising the disused Hoover Factory car park, east of Merthyr Road is located within Plot 952a. Plot 952a in the associated tithe award is recorded to comprise 'rubbish tips' at this time, most likely associated with industrial waste of the nearby ironworks.
- 4.59 The eastern land parcel comprising the sprinkler and pump house to the Hoover Factory, east of Merthyr Road is located within Plot 1336. Plot 1336 in the associated tithe award is recorded to comprise 'meadow'.
- 4.60 Overall, the entirety of the Site is recorded under the occupation of the owner of Plymouth Ironworks at this time, Anthony Hill. The land contained within the Site was utilised for industrial waste disposal rubbish tip areas, transport links and/or meadow land in 1850.

1867-1881 OS Map

- 4.61 The 1867-1881 OS map shows a mixed land use pattern across the Site.
- 4.62 The western land parcel, west of Merthyr Road, is shown to comprise various tramways and tramroads through the centre of the Site. Such tramroads and tramways continued to link the Pentre-bach Ironworks to the Glamorganshire Canal as well as the Taff Vale Railway to the west of the Site. Additional tramroads north and south of the main transport link through the Site are shown to extend across large rubbish tips, associated with the nearby ironworks. Beyond the limits of rubbish tips in the western land parcel of the Site, meadows and/or agricultural fields are shown. Such areas are limited to the northern and southern limits of the Site's western land parcel.
- 4.63 The two eastern land parcels, east of Merthyr Road, are shown to comprise of rubbish tips across the former Hoover Factory car park area of the Site, as well as meadow land across the sprinkler and pump area of the Site.
- 4.64 Overall, the Site's land use at this time, continued to predominantly comprise communication routes and waste disposal areas associated with Pentre-bach Ironworks and meadow land.

1900 OS Map

- 4.65 The consulted 1900 OS map shows minimal change to the Site's land use. The exception to this is the removal of tramroads and tramways across the Site's western land parcel,

albeit, the retention of several routes. The Pentre-bach Ironworks closed in 1882 following the end of the Plymouth Ironwork company. This is illustrated on the map via the removal/demolition of the former ironworks to the east of the Site and its replacement with a brickworks site. Remaining tramroads in the Site are associated with the brickworks site.

- 4.66 The remainder of the Site boundary is shown to continue to feature disused industrial waste rubbish tips associated with the now former ironworks, as well as meadow land beyond the limits of such rubbish tips.

1951 OS Map

- 4.67 No further change to land use is shown within the Site until the 1951 OS map. By this time the first phase of the Hoover Factory site had been built between June 1946 – October 1948, as discussed above. The OS map shows the central portion of the Site's western land parcel had been levelled by this time and the first warehouse and associated ancillary buildings to the Hoover Factory constructed. Tramroads/railway lines are still shown to run through the southern half of the Site, within its western land parcel south of the factory. The remainder of the Site shows no change to land use, retaining the presence of disused industrial rubbish tips and/or meadow.

Subsequent maps until 1999

- 4.68 Subsequent historic maps until 1999 show the gradual phased expansion of the Hoover Factory and associated infrastructure across the Site. By the 1980s, the Hoover Factory had reached its full extent, with the Hoover Sports Cricket Club established during the 1950s. This included the removal of remaining tramroads/railway lines in the Site to accommodate the sports grounds.

Summary

- 4.69 Historic maps since 1850 show that the Site functioned as agricultural land prior to its use as industrial rubbish tips and communication routes, associated with the former Pentre-bach Ironworks, which operated until 1882. The land continued to be used for industrial purposes with brickworks to the east of the Site present until the early 20th century. The Site then remained static as disused industrial waste land until 1948, when the first phase of the Hoover Factory was constructed across its centre, west of Merthyr Road. Subsequently, the western land parcel of the Site underwent further development across its entirety with the gradual expansion of the Hoover Factory across its northern half and the establishment of the Hoover Sports Cricket Club across its southern half, west of Merthyr Road. Meanwhile, the eastern land parcels of the Site saw the construction of service buildings and the creation of a hardstanding car park, east of Merthyr Road.

Aerial Photographs

- 4.70 Available aerial photographs dated between 1947-2014 (held by CRAPW) and Google Earth satellite imagery between 2001-2023 were consulted to further inform the Site's history over the late 20th century and early 21st century, to elaborate, where possible, on the Site's development sequence outlined above using historic maps.
- 4.71 Consulted aerial photographs and satellite imagery both illustrate the Site's change in land use from disused industrial wasteland (rubbish tips and remaining tramroads) to its present-

day use associated with the Hoover Factory complex, ancillary structures, car park and sports grounds. This occurred over the course of the mid-late 20th century. Such imagery has been used to create the Hoover Factory Building Phase Plan provided in **Plan EDP 5**.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISATION

4.72 The Site is located within HLCA 'HLCA015: Taff Vale Industrial and Business Parks' of the Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (RLOHI) (**HLW (MGL) 2**).

4.73 The summary description for 'HLCA015: Taff Vale Industrial and Business Parks' is as follows:

"A 20th century industrial and retail area built over part of the site of the former Iron Works and Cinder Tips associated with the Plymouth Iron Company. Although the area contains an interesting example of the post-war industrial development, in the Hoover Factory, the main reclamation of the ironworks sites took place in 1974."

4.74 As such, the Site features a part of 20th century industrial and commercial (retail) redevelopment of land formerly associated with the Plymouth Ironworks company, as outlined above. In the context of the HLCA, the Site holds limited historic interest, being associated with the earliest built elements of the Hoover Factory (i.e. its frontage and security hut) located in the Site.

SITE WALKOVER

4.75 A site walkover of the Site and surrounding area was undertaken in December 2024 by an experienced surveyor in suitable weather conditions. Buildings across the Site were not inspected internally during the site walkover.

4.76 The site walkover was undertaken to define the presence, location(s) and extents of visible archaeological feature or deposits within the Site boundary and to assess their significance.

4.77 Of note, the land parcel containing the sprinkler and pump house, east of Merthyr Road, was not inspected up close due to being inaccessible at the time of the site walkover.

4.78 The findings of the walkover have been discussed in relation to specific historic assets above, where relevant. The visit identified no earthworks or features of archaeological interest or significance within the Site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL SUMMARY

4.79 The Site lies on the flood plain of the River Taff and, post-glaciation, prior to the industrial period, would have contained the river's shifting alignment, as well as its adjacent seasonally inundated land which would probably have been marginal wetland or marsh. The Site is underlain by natural alluvium deposits dated to the Quaternary period, which are evidentially related to this long natural history.

- 4.80 As such, the Site was most likely unsuitable for settlement during the Prehistoric – medieval period with activity probably restricted to pastoral usage. This is supported by a lack of recorded remains in the Site and study area along the river's flood plain dated to these periods. Limited recorded Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains situated in the surrounding landscape are located on the upper slopes of the Taff Valley and/or above the valley itself. Therefore, it is anticipated that alluvial deposits located in the Site, representing pre-medieval land surfaces and/or riverine alluvial flooding deposits, hold only a very low potential to contain any archaeological remains that possess any degree of significance.
- 4.81 Consulted cartographic sources have identified a brief period of the Site's land use as part of an enclosed field system for pastoral uses during the early post-medieval period, prior to its use for industrial waste tipping from the 18th century onwards. As such, the Site has the potential to contain buried early post-medieval field boundaries cut into the top of recorded alluvium deposits in the Site that would be of very low significance.
- 4.82 From c.1783-1882, the Site was subject to industrial development, with the erection of tramroads and utilisation of land as rubbish tips associated with the Plymouth Ironworks company. The land continued to be used for industrial waste disposal purposes with a subsequent brickworks site east of the Site, over the former Pentre-bach ironworks complex until the early 20th century. Such 18th to early 20th century industrial land use practices have resulted in the Site's ground stratigraphy consisting of made ground deposits of shale and clinker waste with red ash, slag and brick inclusions varying in depth across the Site, directly over recorded natural alluvium deposits (BGS, 2024).
- 4.83 The Site remained static in land use as disused industrial waste land from the early 20th century until 1948, when the first phase of the Hoover Factory was constructed in the centre of the Site, west of Merthyr Road. The Site was then subject to gradual development from the expansion of the Hoover Factory over the course of the mid-late 20th century, via the construction of warehouses and ancillary buildings in its northern half and the establishment of the open grassland area of the Hoover Sports Cricket Club across its southern half, west of Merthyr Road. Meanwhile, the eastern land parcels of the Site saw the construction of service buildings and the creation of a hardstanding car park, east of Merthyr Road. The Site reached its present-day layout by the 1980s and has since remained static in terms of its land use.
- 4.84 Overall, the Site features four known distinct land uses:
- The first predominantly comprised land within the River Taff's floodplain prior to the industrial period. The Site would have been unsuitable for settlement and anything other than pastoral use during this time. This period is represented by previously recorded alluvium deposits in the Site, which have a very low potential for archaeological remains of any heritage significance;
 - The second comprises a brief period of the Site's land use as part of an enclosed field system for pastoral practices during the early post-medieval period;
 - The third comprises the Site's use as tramroads and rubbish tips associated with the Plymouth Ironworks company from c.1783-1882 during the industrial period. The Site

during this time featured an accumulation of shale and clinker waste with red ash, slag and brick inclusions varying in depth across the Site. Such waste deposits directly overlie natural alluvium deposits and have no heritage significance; and

- The fourth, being the Site's most recent land use during the post-industrial period, comprises the Site's industrial rubbish tip levelling, tramway removal and the construction of the Hoover Factory from the mid-late 1940s onwards. This included the creation of the open grassland area of the Hoover Sports Cricket Grounds across the southern half of the Site (**Image EDP A1.18**).

- 4.85 Consulted sources indicate that no designated historic assets are recorded in the Site, nor are any previous intrusive archaeological investigation and/or mitigation events. The only previously recorded historic assets in the Site comprise two buildings associated with the earliest built elements of the Hoover Factory. These comprise the 1948 built frontage to the Hoover Factory (**MT121**) and its semi-circular security hut to the factory's front entrance (**MT122**). These two built non-designated historic assets are of limited aesthetic value and are of low or local heritage significance.
- 4.86 The Site contains no previously recorded buried archaeological remains from the prehistoric, Roman, early medieval or medieval periods (i.e. pre-industrial period). In addition, there is minimal relevant information from recorded previous archaeological events in the study area to inform the archaeological potential of the Site.
- 4.87 In conclusion, based on current evidence, the Site has very low potential for pre-industrial remains (i.e. prehistoric to medieval periods). This is based on the absence of any pre-industrial recorded remains, the lack of potential for any archaeological remains of significance within buried natural alluvium deposits and recent disturbance and/or truncation from industrial and post-industrial land uses in the Site.
- 4.88 There is potential for buried former field boundaries cut into the top of buried alluvium deposits across land to the west of Merthyr Road in the Site, dated to the early post-medieval period. The former field boundaries, identified from cartographic sources, illustrate a part of broader early post-medieval land management and agricultural practices in the area at the time. As such, these features are a common feature type for their date and if present, hold limited evidential and historical value. Therefore, buried field boundaries in the Site, if present, would be of negligible or very low heritage significance.
- 4.89 With regards to industrial and post-industrial remains, the Site has a high potential for such remains. Industrial and post-industrial remains would comprise widespread 18th to early 20th century industrial waste (i.e. rubbish tip) deposits across the Site, as well as possible foundation layers associated with former tramroads and/or railway lines through the centre of the Site's western land parcel within the limit of the open sports cricket grounds. Such deposits and layers are of no heritage significance, given that they reflect ubiquitous industrial refuse deposits across the landscape, and hold no evidential and/or historical value providing little information on the iron workings industry in which they are associated with.

Section 5 Conclusions

- 5.1 This Archaeological Assessment for Walters Land Limited was produced by EDP to provide baseline information to accompany an outline planning application for a residential led, mixed use redevelopment of the former Hoover Factory at Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil ('the Site').

Designated Historic Assets

- 5.2 The assessment concludes the Site does not contain any designated historic assets, such as world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, or registered historic parks and gardens. Therefore, no designated historic assets have the potential to be directly affected by development in the Site. As such, there would be no conflict with legislation or national and local policy for the conservation and management of archaeological remains through the planning process.

Non-designated Historic Assets

- 5.3 Based on current evidence, the Site features four known distinct land uses. These comprise:
- A floodplain environment adjacent to the River Taff during the pre-industrial period (i.e. prehistoric to medieval periods), which would have been unsuitable for settlement and anything other than pastoral farming practices during this time. Such deposits have been previously recorded directly below industrial rubbish tips across the Site;
 - A brief period of the Site's land use as part of an enclosed field system for pastoral practices during the early post-medieval period;
 - The Site's industrial land uses for tramroads and rubbish tips associated with the Plymouth Ironworks company from c.1783-1882; and
 - The Site's post-industrial and most recent land use with the levelling and/or removal of derelict industrial rubbish tips, tramways and the construction of the Hoover Factory from the mid-late 1940s onwards.
- 5.4 The Site contains only two previously recorded historic assets, which comprise two buildings associated with the earliest built elements of the Hoover Factory. These comprise the 1948 built frontage to the Hoover Factory (**MT121**) and its semi-circular security hut to the factory's front entrance (**MT122**). These two built non-designated historic assets are of limited aesthetic value and are of low or local heritage significance.
- 5.5 As per paragraph 6.1.6 of PPW12, historic environment objective '*safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved*' is of relevance to the two non-designated buildings within the Site. If either building were to be subject to physical alteration and/or demolition as part of any planning proposals, the loss of these structures and their heritage significance should be fully considered during the determination process of any respective planning application as

per paragraph 6.1.9 and 6.1.25 of PPW12. Proposals affecting either asset should also consider 'Policy CW1: Historic Environment' and 'Policy SW6: Hoover Strategic Regeneration Area' within the current LDP for MTCBC during the determination process of any planning proposals.

- 5.6 With regards to the potential for buried archaeological remains, based on current evidence, the Site has very low potential for pre-industrial remains (i.e. prehistoric to medieval periods). This is based on the absence of any pre-industrial recorded remains, the lack of potential for any archaeological remains of significance within buried natural alluvium deposits and recent disturbance and/or truncation from industrial and post-industrial land uses in the Site.
- 5.7 The exception to this is the potential for buried former field boundaries cut into the top of buried alluvium deposits to the west of Merthyr Road in the Site, dated to the early post-medieval period. The former field boundaries, identified from cartographic sources, illustrate a part of broader early post-medieval land management and agricultural practices in the area at the time. Buried field boundaries in the Site, if present, would be of negligible or very low heritage significance.
- 5.8 With regards to industrial and post-industrial buried archaeological remains, the Site has a high potential for such remains. Industrial and post-industrial remains would comprise widespread 18th to early 20th century industrial waste (i.e. rubbish tip) deposits across the Site, as well as possible foundation layers associated with former tramroads and/or railway lines through the centre of the Site's western land parcel within the limit of the open sports cricket grounds. Such deposits and layers are of no heritage significance.
- 5.9 Given the Site's established historic industrial land uses and previous development, identification of no known buried remains of any heritage significance in the Site, as well as the Site's recorded stratigraphic sequence of rubbish tip deposits (i.e. shale and clinker waste deposits, which contain red ash, slag and brick inclusions) directly over the natural lands surface and alluvium deposits, it is anticipated that development in the Site would not result in any impact to any significant archaeological remains.

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Appendix EDP 1 Images



Image EDP A1.1: North-west facing view of the 1948 frontage and adjoining earliest warehouse to the Hoover Factory. The frontage is recorded as a non-designated built historic asset (**MT121**).



Image EDP A1.2: West facing view of the south side to the 1948 built canteen building of the Hoover Factory.



Image EDP A1.3: North facing view of the 1948 built semi-circular security hut at the front entrance to the Hoover Factory. The security hut is recorded as a non-designated built historic asset (**MT122**).



Image EDP A1.4: North-west facing view of the east facing frontage towards Merthyr Road of the c.1951 and c.1953 extensions to the first warehouse of the Hoover Factory.



Image EDP A1.5: North facing view of the southern end of the barrel roof building built c.1953 towards the west end of the first warehouse of the Hoover Factory.



Image EDP A1.6: South facing view of the northern end of the barrel roof building built c.1953 and adjoining warehouse (left) and workshops (right) of the Hoover Factory, built c.mid-1960s to 1975.



Image EDP A1.7: South facing view of rear ancillary buildings to barrel roof buildings of the Hoover Factory, situated at the west end of the Site and built c.1953.



Image EDP A1.8: North-west facing view of the frontage of one of the mid-1950s to early 1960s built warehouse buildings off the Hoover Factory facing towards Merthyr Road.



Image EDP A1.9: North-west facing view of the frontage of one of the mid-1950s to early 1960s built warehouse buildings off the Hoover Factory facing towards Merthyr Road.



Image EDP A1.10: South-west facing view of the frontage of one of the mid-1950s to early 1960s built warehouse buildings off the Hoover Factory facing towards Merthyr Road.



Image EDP A1.11: South facing view of the rear workshop buildings (right) to the mid-1950s to early 1960s built warehouse buildings (left). The workshops are contemporary with the construction of the warehouse buildings and are located at the west end of the Site.



Image EDP A1.12: North facing view of the rear workshop buildings (left and right) to the mid-1950s to early 1960s built warehouse buildings (right). The workshops are contemporary with the construction of the warehouse buildings and are located at the west end of the Site.



Image EDP A1.13: West facing view of the bridge connecting the mid-1950s to early 1960s constructed warehouses (left) to the mid-1960s to 1975 constructed warehouses (right) of the Hoover Factory. The bridge connection is in the northern half of the Site.



Image EDP A1.14: North-west facing view of the east facing frontage of the mid-1960s to 1975 built northernmost warehouse of the Hoover Factory, which faces towards Merthyr Road.



Image EDP A1.15: South facing view of the north end of the mid-1960s to 1975 built northernmost warehouse of the Hoover factory.



Image EDP A1.16: South facing view of the rear of the Hoover Factory and the mid-1960s to 1975 built electrical substation to the factory (right). The substation is located along the western edge of the Site, west of the mid-1960s to 1975 built northernmost warehouse.



Image EDP A1.17: South facing view of the north facing elevation to the c.2005 built warehouse building of the Hoover Factory at its south-west end.



Image EDP A1.18: South-east facing view of the Hoover Sports Cricket Grounds, which encompasses the southern half of the Site's western land parcel, south of the Hoover Factory complex.



Image EDP A1.19: North-west facing view of the disused Hoover Factory car park in the Site.

Appendix EDP 2
Written Scheme of Investigation
(edp9020_r001)



**Hoover Site,
Pentrebach, Merthyr
Tydfil**

**Written Scheme of
Investigation for an
Archaeological
Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
Walters Group

November 2024

Report Reference
edp9020_r001a

Document Control

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Client	Walters Group
Report Title	Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Assessment
Document Reference	edp9020_r001a

VERSION INFORMATION

	Author	Formatted	Peer Review	Proofed by/Date
001	MBa	CTi	RSk	GLe 211124
001a	MBa	-	-	GLe 271124

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APPENDICES

Appendix EDP 1 Site Location Plan

Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) for review and consideration by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology - Heneb.
- 1.2 The WSI is concerned with the proposed residential redevelopment of the Hoover site at Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil (hereafter known as 'the Site'). This WSI sets out the scope and methodology to be employed in the preparation of an Archaeological Assessment for the Site, which will accompany an outline planning application submitted to Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC).
- 1.3 In this respect, the proposed Archaeological Assessment will assess whether the Site includes or contains any archaeological sites, features, deposits and/or remains of such significance that its development would contravene the guidance from the Welsh Government in *Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12* (PPW, 2024).
- 1.4 The assessment will address the relevant policies contained within PPW Edition 12 (PPW, 2024) and local policies within the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council *Replacement Local Development Plan 2016 – 2031*, (MTCBC, 2024).
- 1.5 The assessment will also take into account relevant additional guidance for archaeological assessments in Wales, which is set out in *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment* (Welsh Government, 2017), as well as best practice guidance from Cadw set out in *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (Cadw, 2017).

SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.6 The Site comprises the Hoover factory site, located at the north end of the village of Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydfil. The Site boundary comprises three separate land parcels, the main factory site comprising two principle interconnecting warehouses and multiple ancillary buildings to the west of Merthyr Road and two smaller parcels to the east of Merthyr Road on commercial land located in Triangle Business Park. The Site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 305740, 204176 and is approximately c.15.93 hectares (ha) in extent. The Site location and layout are shown in **Appendix EDP 1**.
- 1.7 The Site is bound to the west by a railway line with the River Taff immediately beyond to the west; to the north by a modern roundabout for Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road; to the east by Merthyr Road and Triangle Business Park Road; and to the south by Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach Roundabout, A4054 and Pentre-Bach station.
- 1.8 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS), the Site's bedrock geology comprises South Wales Middle Coal Measures Formation (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone) (BGS, 2024). Meanwhile, superficial geological deposits of alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel) are recorded throughout the Site. This reflects the Site's valley bottom floor topographical position, situated on the east bank of the River Taff (*ibid*).

- 1.9 The Site's topography comprises a gradual north-west to south-east downwards slope from approximately 163m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 151m aOD.

Section 2

Methodology

- 2.1 The Archaeological Assessment will be produced in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020a). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.
- 2.2 The assessment will involve the consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources. The major repositories of information will comprise:
- Known archaeological sites, monuments and findspots from Heneb, the Trust for Welsh Archaeology's Historic Environment Record (HER);
 - The National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) as held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW);
 - Cadw's Historic Environment Service, for information on designated historic assets;
 - Historic maps held by the Glamorgan Archives or derived from online sources;
 - Aerial photographs held by the Central Register of Aerial Photography for Wales (CRAPW) at Cardiff;
 - Consultation of LiDAR and satellite imagery;
 - Relevant books, articles and previous assessment reports on the application site; and
 - A site walkover survey.
- 2.3 The site walkover will consider the nature and significance of known and/or potential archaeological assets within the Site, identify visible historic features and assess possible factors which may affect the survival or condition of known or potential assets.
- 2.4 The assessment will analyse the known archaeological resource within the Site and a 1km radius study area from the site boundary, to determine the potential for direct archaeological impacts within the site boundary from the Proposed Development.
- 2.5 A report will be produced, which will provide a synthesis of relevant information for the Site's application boundary and thereafter will conclude with: (1) an assessment of its likely archaeological potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines; and (2) an assessment of the likely effect of the proposed development upon designated and non-designated built historic assets within the Site.

Section 3

Contents of Report

3.1 The Archaeological Assessment report structure will differ depending on the findings of the research, the needs of the project and the stage within the planning process. The report will, as a minimum, contain the following sections:

- Non-technical summary, including a translation of the summary into Welsh;
- Introduction;
- Context of project;
- Site location and description;
- Geological and topographical description;
- Aims and purpose of the assessment;
- Methodology;
- Baseline archaeological and heritage information presented as a period-based archaeological and historical background, consisting of:
 - Designated historic assets;
 - Non-designated historic assets;
 - Aerial photographic evidence; and
 - Site walkover.
- Assessment of the potential for archaeological remains within the Site considering previous/known impacts;
- Assessment of the potential physical impact of the Proposed Development on the significance of archaeological remains within the Site;
- Conclusions;
- Supporting illustrations;
- Supporting data in appendices, where applicable; and
- References.

3.2 The Archaeological Assessment report will be submitted to Glamorgan Gwent Archaeology – Heneb for approval. Following approval, it will be submitted to MTCBC.

ARCHIVING

- 3.3 The digital version of the Archaeological Assessment report and any digital archive of new historic environment data that is generated by the assessment will be submitted to the NMRW, (nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk), in line with the 2015 *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives* (Edwards, 2015). Archive deposition will also conform to *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (Welsh Museums Federation, 2023), as well as *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)* (Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2022).

Data Management Plan and Selection Strategy

- 3.4 In accordance with the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (ClfA, 2020b), should the project generate new historic environment data (such as identifying previously unrecorded historic assets within and outwith the Site), the following would apply:
- Where possible, assets will be photographed using a high-resolution digital camera; and
 - Information on newly identified historic assets comprising photographs, GIS data or plans showing their location will be reproduced within the report and also stored within EDP's servers within an appropriately labelled project file. Following the submission of the report, this data will be sent to the HER and NMRW as per the details above with the archiving procedure in accordance with the *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records* (Welsh Archaeological Trusts, 2018).

Section 4 References

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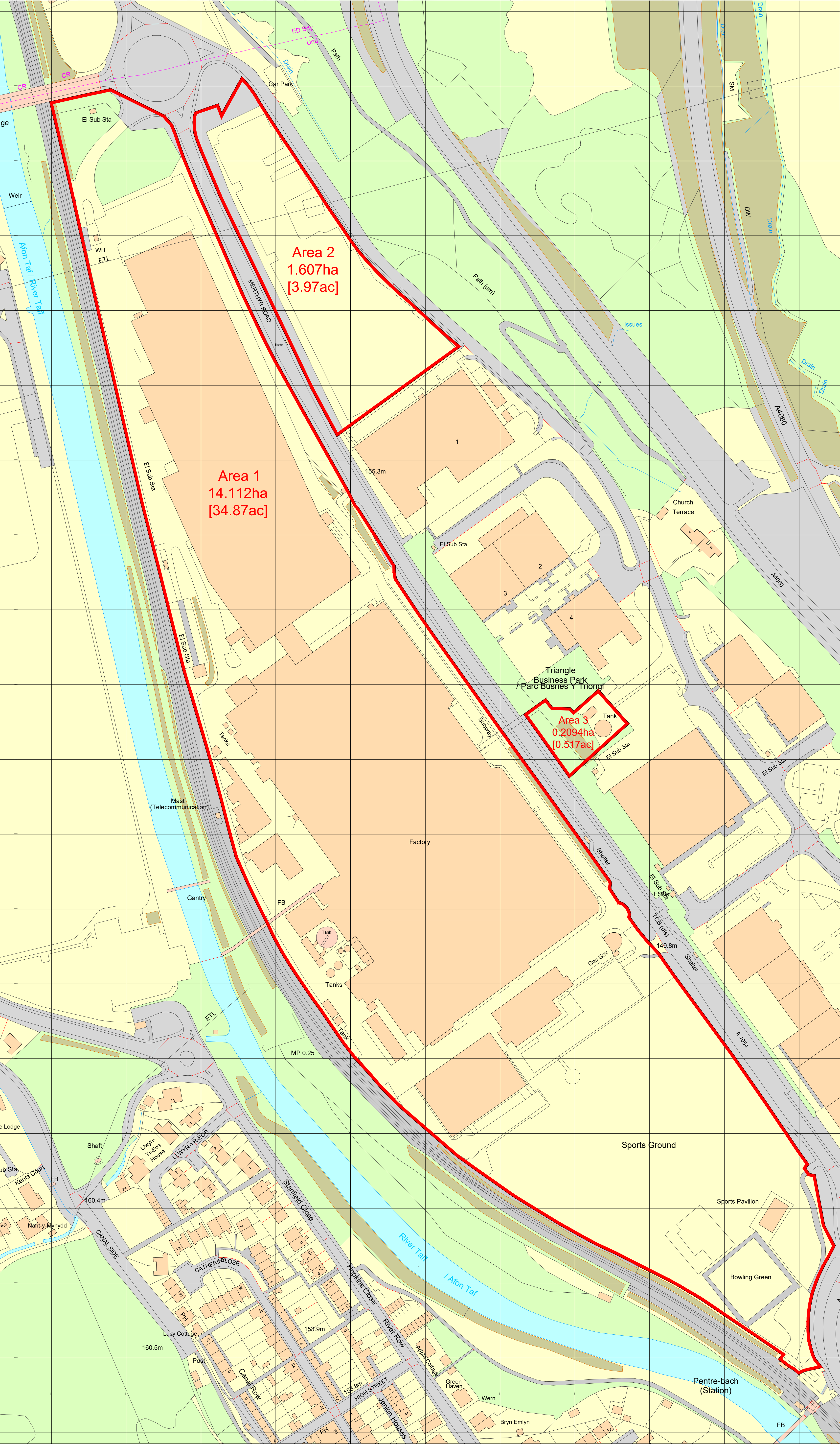
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Appendix EDP 1 Site Location Plan

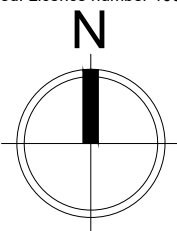


Site Key



Site Boundary 15.93ha [39.36ac]

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Scale 1:100



REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
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CLIENT

WALTERS

JOB TITLE

Hoover Factory, Merthyr Tydfil

DRAWING TITLE

Title Plan

SCALE @ A1	DATE	DRAWN BY
------------	------	----------

1:1250 November '24 RW

JOB NO.	DRAWING NO.	REVISION
---------	-------------	----------

2479 TP-01 -



10 Gold Tops
Newport
NP20 4PH
t. 01633 844970
e. info@hammond-ltd.co.uk

www.hammond-ltd.co.uk

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01242 903110

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GROUP** REGISTERED PRACTICE



**Landscape
Institute**
Registered practice

Appendix EDP 3
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Consultation – Local List

Matthew Bamborough

From: James, David (Planning) <David.James@merthyr.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2025 10:56
To: Matthew Bamborough
Subject: Local List [NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Classification: NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Dear Matthew,

I write further to your query below.

The properties you refer to are not on the Local List. This list was drawn up some time ago, and has not been formalised or updated.

We do not hold any description or record for them, that is separate from the HER.

Please contact me if you would like any further info.

Kind Regards,

David James

David James

Swyddog Cynllunio / Planning Officer
Ffôn / Tel: 01685 727053 Mob: 07753414078
E-bost / E-mail: david.james@merthyr.gov.uk

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful | Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Uned 5 | Unit 5
Parc Busnes Triongl | Triangle Business Park
Pentrebach
Merthyr Tudful | Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 4TQ

From: noreply@merthyr.gov.uk <noreply@merthyr.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 January 2025 16:21
To: Customer Care <Customer.Care@merthyr.gov.uk>
Subject: Contact Us

Name: Matthew Bamborough
Email: matthew.bamborough@edp-uk.co.uk
Telephone: +4407547105559

Message: Dear Sir/Madam, I am seeking clarification over two 'proposed' locally listed buildings included on the Heritage Map for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. These two buildings comprise the 'Hoover Factory Frontage, Merthyr Tydfil (HER ref: GGAT09268m, Local List Ref: MT121) and ' ' (HER ref: GGAT09269m, Local List Ref: MT122). This query may best be directed to your 'Design, Heritage and Conservation Officer', which may be Owain Philips to the best of my knowledge. There is a document dated to January 2009 on the council website for a 'Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council - Locally Listed Buildings' pdf. Neither building is included on the list in 2009. Could the council please clarify: 1) The status of these two buildings i.e. are they 'adopted' or not on the Local List or not? 2) Is there a description/record for these two buildings held by the council? (i.e. separate to that available on the HER - i.e. a record showing why the two buildings were proposed in the first place, reason for local significance etc.) Thank you for taking the time to respond, Matthew Bamborough

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd hyn ddim yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau a drosglwyddir gydag ef yn gyfrinachol ac wedi'u bwriadu ar gyfer pwy bynnag y cyfeirir ef ato neu atynt. Mae cynnwys yr e-bost hwn cynrychioli barn y sawl a enwir uchod, felly nid ydyw'n dilyn ei fod yn cynrychioli barn Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful.

Darllenwch ein [hysbysiadau preifatrwydd](#) i ddarganfod mwy am sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth bersonol.

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful

Canolfan Dinesig
Stryd Y Castell
Merthyr Tudful
CF47 8AN

Teleffon: 01685 725000

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CF47 8AN

Telephone: 01685 725000



<http://www.merthyr.gov.uk>

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd hyn ddim yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau a drosglwyddir gydag ef yn gyfrinachol ac wedi'u bwriadu ar gyfer pwy bynnag y cyfeirir ef ato neu atynt. Mae cynnwys yr e-bost hwn cynrychioli barn y sawl a enwir uchod, felly nid ydyw'n dilyn ei fod yn cynrychioli barn Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful.

Darllenwch ein [hysbysiadau preifatrwydd](#) i ddarganfod mwy am sut rydym yn defnyddio eich gwybodaeth bersonol.

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Merthyr Tudful

Canolfan Dinesig
Stryd Y Castell
Merthyr Tudful
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Plans

Plan EDP 1: Designated Historic Assets

(edp9020_d001a 31 January 2025 VMS/MBa)

Plan EDP 2: HER Records

(edp9020_d002a 31 January 2025 VMS/MBa)

Plan EDP 3: Previous Events

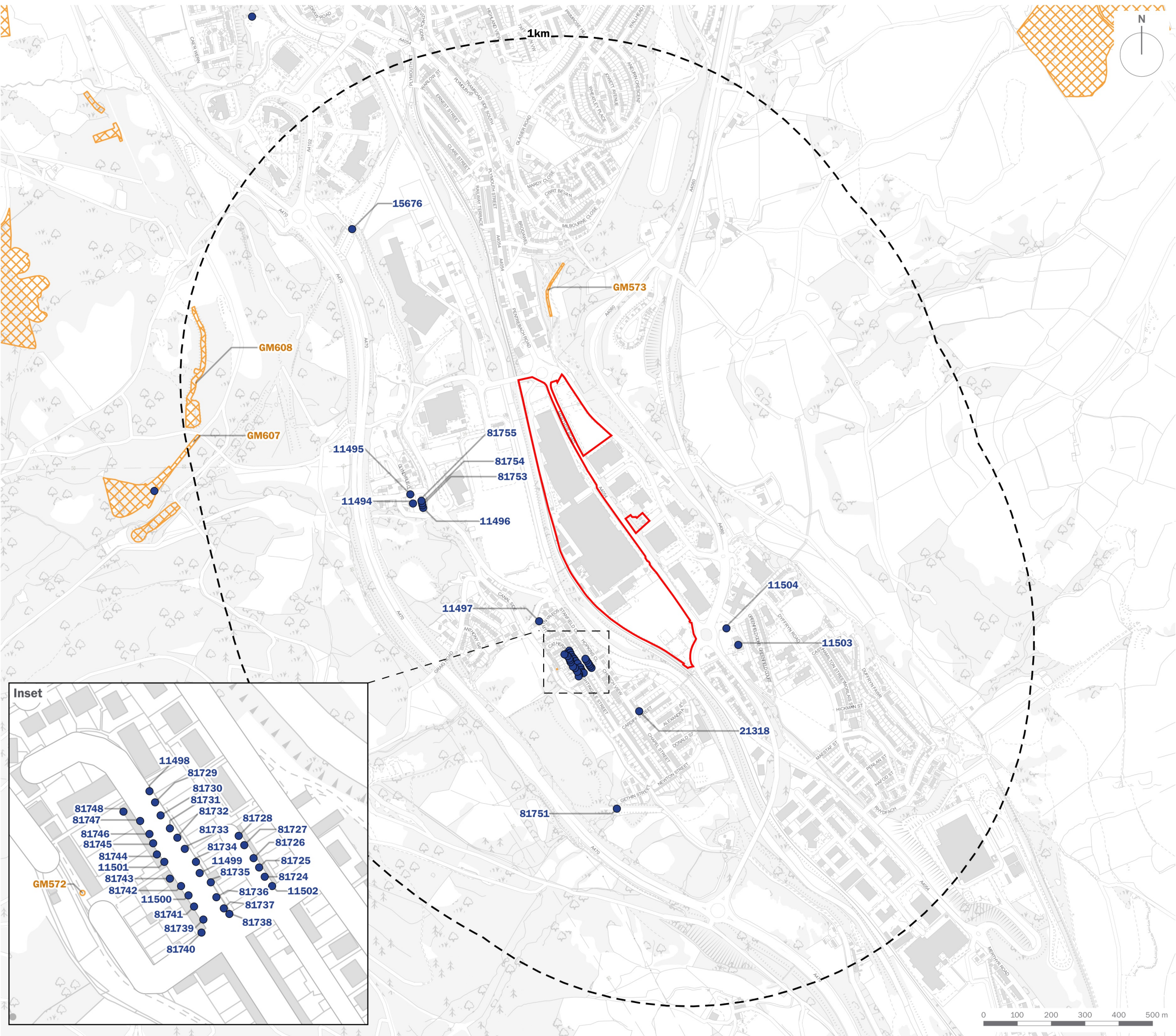
(edp9020_d003a 31 January 2025 VMS/MBa)

Plan EDP 4: Hoover Factory Building Phase Plan

(edp9020_d004a 31 January 2025 VMS/MBa)

Plan EDP 5: Historic Maps

(edp9020_d005a 31 January 2025 VMS/MBa)



Site Boundary

1km Study Area

Scheduled Monument

Grade II Listed Building

client

Walters Land Limited

project title

Hoover Factory, Merthyr Tydfil

drawing title

Designated Historic Assets

date

31 JANUARY 2025

drawn by

VMS

drawing number

edp9020_d001a

checked

MBa

scale

1:11,000 @ A3

QA

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Site Boundary

1km Study Area

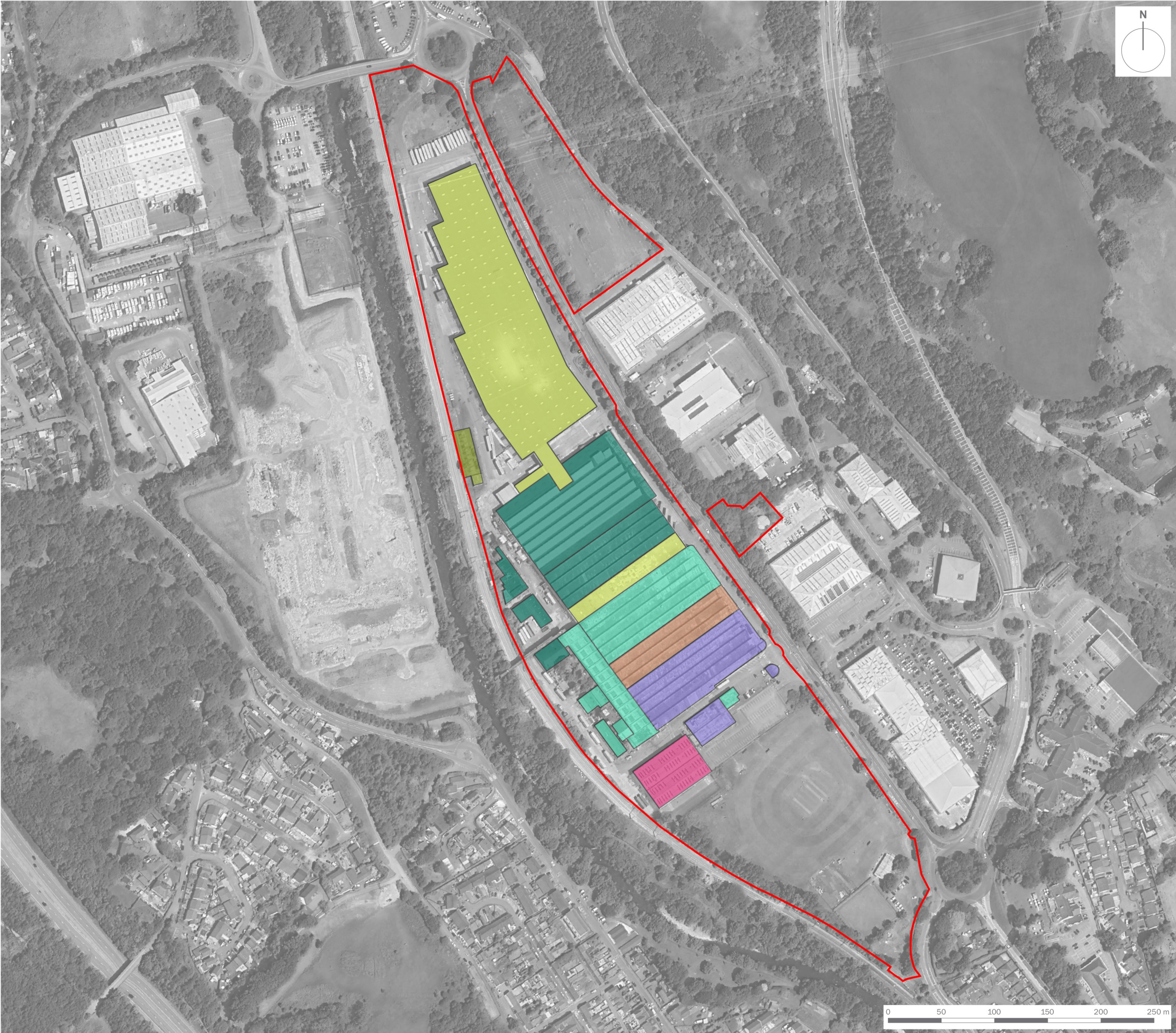
HER Event

client	Walters Land Limited		
project title	Hoover Factory, Merthyr Tydfil		
drawing title	Previous Events		
date	31 JANUARY 2025	drawn by	VMS
drawing number	edp9020_d003a	checked	MBa
scale	1:11,000 @ A3	QA	JFr

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Site Boundary

Approximate Building Phase Dates

1948

1951

1953

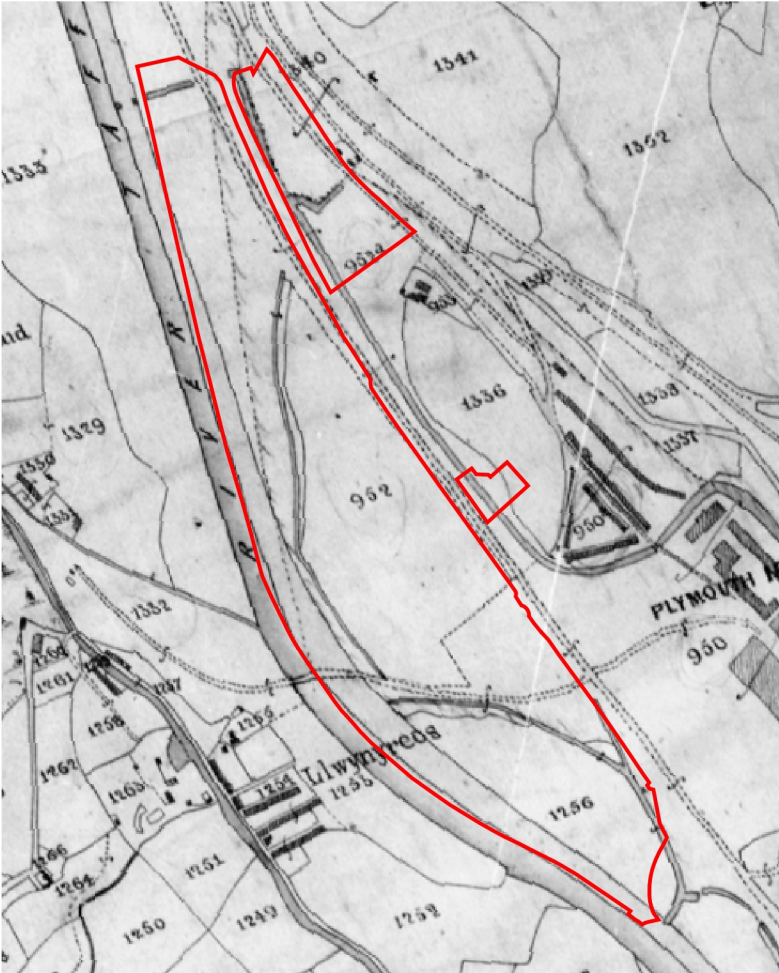
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Mid 1960s

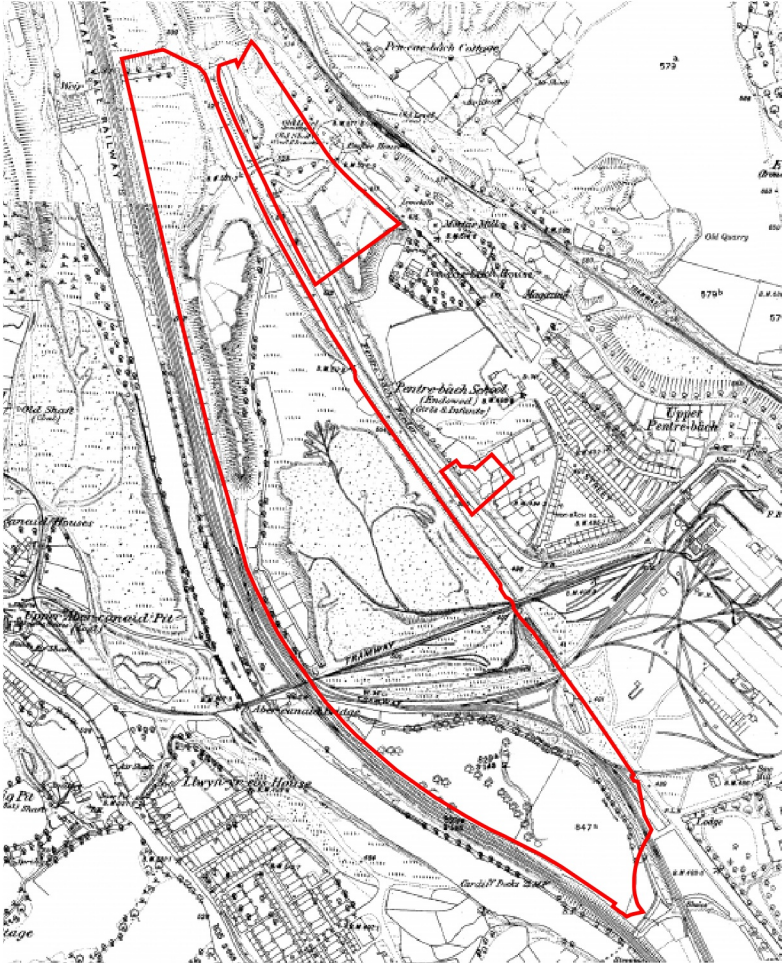
Mid 1960s - 1975

Circa 2005

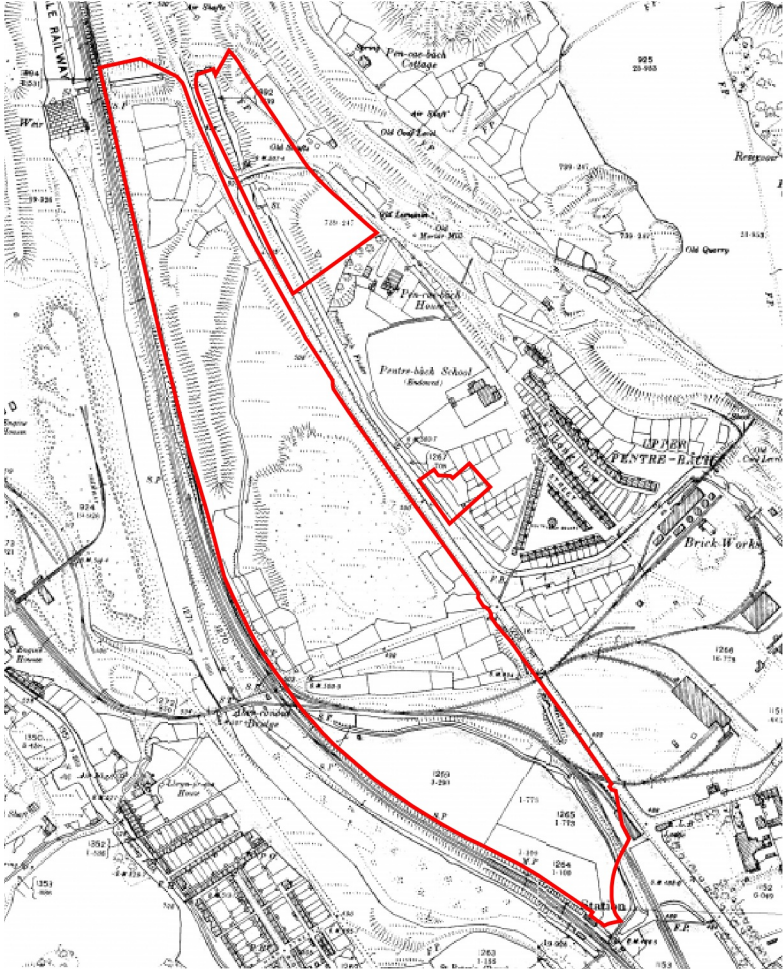
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Walters Land Limited			
project title			
Hoover Factory, Merthyr Tydfil			
drawing title			
Hoover Factory Building Phase Plan			
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drawing number	edp9020_d004a	checked	MBa
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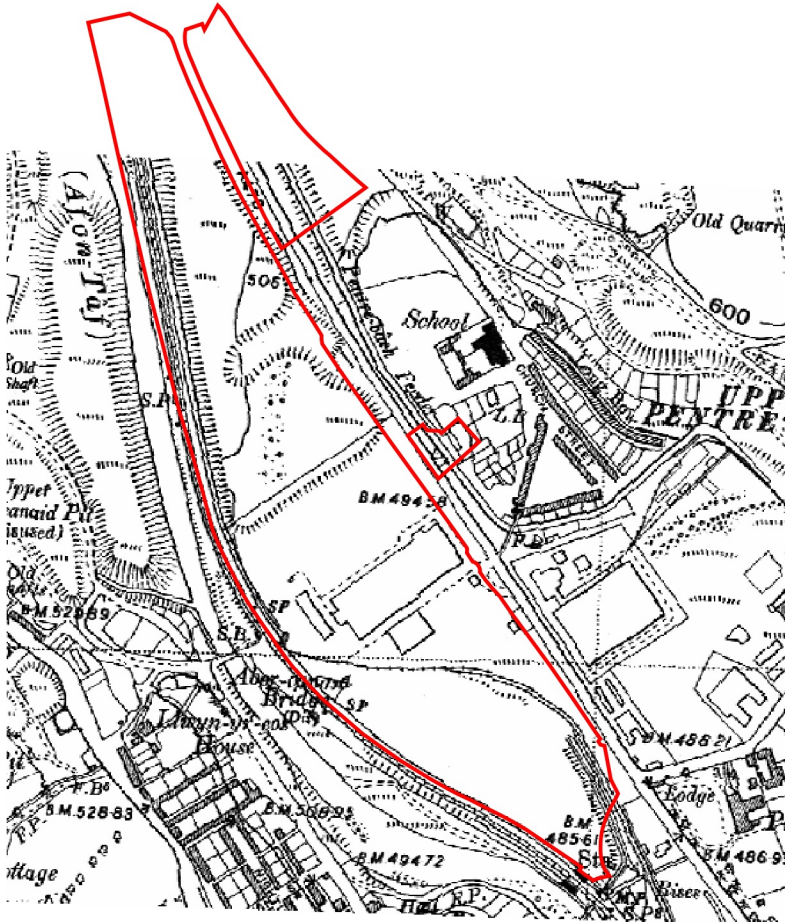
1850 Merthyr Tydfil Parish Tithe Map



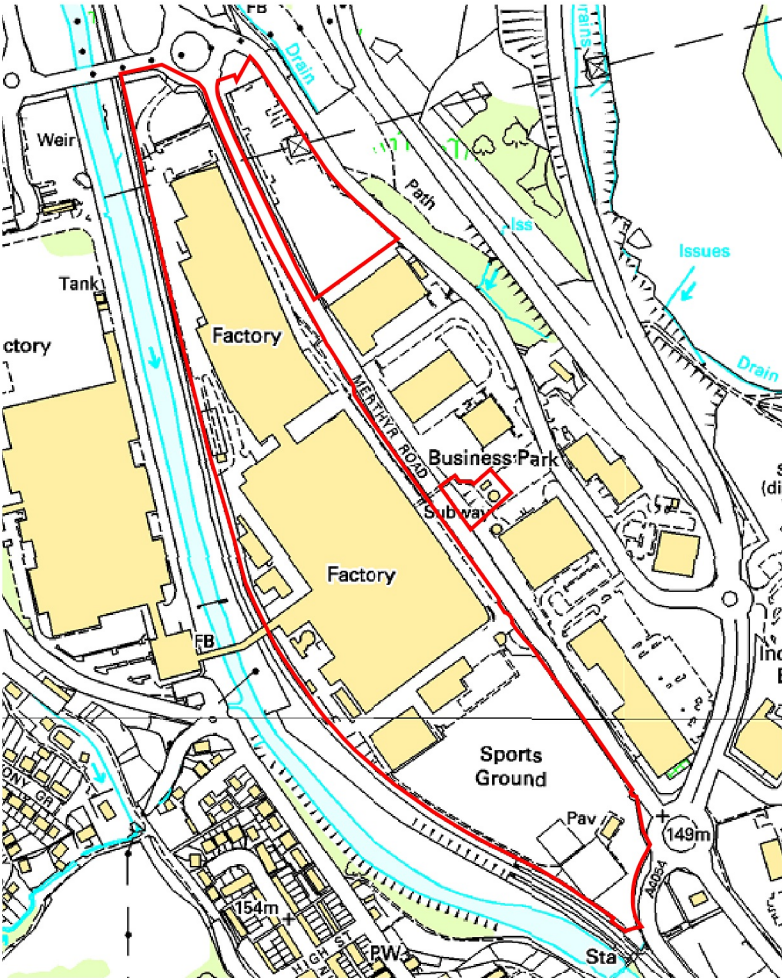
1876-1881 Ordnance Survey Map



1900 Ordnance Survey Map



1951 Ordnance Survey Map



1999 Ordnance Survey Map

Approximate Site Boundary



client	Walters Land Limited		
project title	Hoover Factory, Merthyr Tydfil		
drawing title	Historic Maps		
date	31 JANUARY 2025	drawn by	VMS
drawing number	edp9020_d005a	checked	MBa
scale	1:7,500 @ A3	QA	JFr



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