



**Proposed Burger King
Drive Thru at Cyfarthfa
Shopping Park, Merthyr
Tydfil**

**Archaeology and
Heritage Assessment**

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Executive Summary

- S1 This Archaeology and Heritage Assessment (AHA) for Proposed Burger King Drive Thru at Cyfarthfa Shopping Park, Merthyr Tydfil was produced by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) on behalf of British Land to inform a planning application for commercial development. This report provides the baseline position of the heritage considerations of the Site and then determines the magnitude of impacts arising from the implementation of the Proposed Development and any measures required to mitigate such impacts.
- S2 The Site forms part of the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area (CCA), however, as a modern car park within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park, it makes no contribution to the special character of the CCA. The Proposed Development will be entirely in keeping with the surrounding Retail Park and so will reflect a 'neutral' impact to this asset.
- S3 The Site also forms part of the setting of scheduled monument Remains of Blast Furnace (**GM425**), the Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle (**11396**), the Grade II listed Clock Tower at Pandy Farm (**11405**) and the registered park and garden Cyfarthfa Park. As above, the Proposed Development will be a 'like-for-like' addition within the wider Retail Park and will not prevent the existing filtered views towards the assets at Cyfarthfa Park. As such, it will represent a 'neutral' impact upon these assets.
- S4 Moreover, the development provides an opportunity for better landscape management within the 'ownership boundary' of the developer, which includes the 'heritage viewing platform', located immediately east of the Site in order to best experience the views towards Cyfarthfa Castle and Park.
- S5 In terms of non-designated historic assets, the Site is located within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, but makes no more than a negligible contribution to this asset given that it is entirely modern in character, but allows for limited views inwards and outwards from Cyfarthfa Castle and Park. As above, the Proposed Development would be entirely in keeping with the existing built form of the Cyfarthfa Retail Park when viewed from Cyfarthfa Castle and Park, and would still allow for glimpsed views towards the assets from its north-east edge. The proposals would therefore result in a 'neutral' impact.
- S6 With regard to non-designated archaeological remains, the Proposed Development is unlikely to have anything more than a very limited impact on the Site's archaeological interest through localised truncation of remains from the industrial and modern periods, given that the groundworks are unlikely to reach the archaeological horizon, due to the depth of made ground across the Site.
- S7 It is concluded that this loss should not represent a 'determinative' matter and, if considered necessary, the impact of the development could be appropriately mitigated through an appropriate programme of archaeological works (i.e archaeological monitoring), undertaken as a condition of planning permission being granted.

- S8 With this archaeological mitigation in place, the proposals would accord with national planning policy within Planning Policy Wales (PPW), as well as relevant policies in the adopted Local Plan, and so there is no reason on heritage and archaeological grounds why the planning application should not be treated favourably and granted permission by the Council in due course.

Section 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of British Land (hereafter referred to as ‘the Client’). It presents the results of an Archaeology and Heritage Assessment (AHA) of a Proposed Burger King Drive Thru at Cyfarthfa Shopping Park, Merthyr Tydfil (‘the Site’). This document has been produced to inform the preparation, submission and positive determination of a planning application for the development of a fast-food drive through (‘the Proposed Development’).
- 1.2 In accordance with *Planning Policy Wales Edition 12* (PPW 12, Welsh Government 2024), *Technical Advice Note 24* (TAN 24, Welsh Government (2017a) and *Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales* (Cadw, 2011), the aim of this report is to identify the potential impact of the development proposals on the significance of any historic assets that might be affected.
- 1.3 This includes assessing (in accordance with the guidance in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017b), how and to what extent historic assets in the wider environs of the Site derive significance from their setting. The assessment then considers whether the proposed development of the Site would change the setting of any historic assets, such that there might be an effect on their heritage significance and then determines the nature and magnitude of any impacts arising in that regard, and potential mitigation strategies to eliminate or minimise any adverse effects.
- 1.4 Supported by a site visit, the assessment also considers the available historical and archaeological resources for the site and its environs, in order to establish, as far as possible, the nature and significance of any known or potential archaeological features, deposits or remains within the Site, and that of any historic buildings, in order to define the nature and magnitude of any impacts on these assets resulting from the proposed development being implemented, and potential mitigation strategies.
- 1.5 Insofar as it is relevant, the assessment makes reference to national planning legislation and policies and local planning policy. It follows Welsh Government guidance on the historic environment including Cadw’s best-practice guidance. Relevant legislation and policy is discussed in **Section 2** with relevant guidance discussed in **Section 3**.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 1.6 The Site is located within Cyfarthfa Retail Park, on the north-west edge of the town of Merthyr Tydfil. It is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 303806 206761 and measures c.0.24 hectares (ha) in area; its location and extents are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 1.7 The Site (as existing) comprises an area of car parking which serves the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park (primarily B&Q located immediately to the west). It is primarily formed of hardstanding, although the southern extent of the parking area (within the Site boundary) is demarcated with green landscaping, comprising shrubby plants and grass. The northern edge of the parking area, outside of the Site boundary, also comprises landscaped tree

planting. A small square structure, comprising an electrical substation, is also located at the south-west corner of the parking area, immediately outside of the Site boundary.

- 1.8 To the west, the Site is bounded by an internal road dividing the carpark from the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park, comprising a large retail space (including the B&Q opposite), as well as associated car parking provision.
- 1.9 To the south, the Site is bounded by additional landscape planting which separates it from the A4102 Swansea Road and the wider Cyfarthfa Business Park, which again comprises a large area of retail units and associated car parking.
- 1.10 To the north and east, the Site is bounded by a small sliver of the wider car parking area and the Scheduled Monument **GM425** 'Remains of Blast Furnaces, Cyfarthfa Ironworks'. The Cyfarthfa Ironworks are detailed in full within **Section 4** of this report, however they primarily remain visible today as an area of dense vegetation.
- 1.11 Beyond this (to the north), lies an area of green open space, with smaller areas of woodland and shrubland within it. This area also formed part of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks but does not form part of the scheduled area. This area, along with the scheduled monument, is located within the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area. The Site falls wholly within the conservation area.
- 1.12 To the east lies wider residential and industrial development off Cyfarthfa Road, as well as the Registered Park and Garden Cyfarthfa Castle (PGW(Gm)1(MER)) located to the north-east, which are separated from the Site by the route of the River Taff. The Site also lies entirely within the more extensive Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest which covers the town and its wider surroundings.
- 1.13 The wider surroundings of the Site, in all directions, are characterised by the modern urban extents of Merthyr Tydfil.

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.14 Topographically, the Site is situated within a valley, located on a gentle slope, which descends north-eastwards towards the River Taff, albeit the Site itself comprises an area of level ground as a car park. The highest point of the Site, at its south-west corner, is located c.204m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), whilst its lowest point, at its north-east corner, is located at c.200m aOD.
- 1.15 In terms of the wider landscape, the valley containing the town of Merthyr Tydfil is surrounded on all sides by rising peaks, including Mynydd Aberdare to the west, Cefn Cil Sanwys to the north and Ffos-y-Fran to the east.
- 1.16 The British Geological Survey (BGS) records the underlying bedrock geology as being of the South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation, a Sedimentary bedrock that was formed between 319 and 318 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. Within the north-east portion of the Site, this bedrock comprises sandstone, whilst in the south-west it is a mixture of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.

- 1.17 A superficial deposit is recorded by the BGS across the entirety of the Site. This deposit comprises 'Till Devensian – Diamicton', a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between circa 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period.
- 1.18 More specifically, Ground Investigation (GI) works were also undertaken within the Site to inform a previous planning application P/12/0219 (CJA, 2013). These included two test pits, one at the east end of the Site and one immediately west of the Site boundary, as well as a borehole at the west end of the Site.
- 1.19 Test pit TP1, located immediately to the west of the Site, recorded made ground to a depth of c.3.0m, and borehole BH4, in the centre of the Site, recorded made ground to a depth of some 3.2m; whilst Test pit TP6, at the eastern edge, recorded made ground to a depth of 1.1m. These boreholes record depths of made ground across the Site and show that the pre-industrial landscape is buried by accumulations of made ground ranging in depth from just over 1.0m in the east to more than 3.0m in the centre and the west.
- 1.20 An additional phase of GI works was also subsequently undertaken in December 2025 by Ground Investigation Specialists Ltd (2026). This comprised seven boreholes.
- 1.21 Boreholes CP1 and CP2, in the centre of the Site, recorded deposits of made ground to depths of 2.9m and 5.9m respectively. Boreholes WS1 and WS2 in the north-west of the Site were not excavated to the bottom of the made ground, but recorded minimum depths of 0.7m and 2.0m respectively. Boreholes WS3 at the north-east of the Site, and WS5 at the south-east of the Site, were similarly not excavated to the bottom of made ground but recorded minimum depths of 0.76m and 1.8m respectively. Borehole WS4, at the north-east of the Site, was fully excavated, and recorded made ground with modern inclusions (ash and clinker) to a depth of 1.9m.
- 1.22 Once again, the boreholes clearly show that the pre-industrial land surface at the Site is buried beneath variably deep accumulations of made ground and that these accumulations may reach depths of up to nearly 6.0m in discrete areas.
- 1.23 The results of these intrusive (non-archaeological) investigations, in relation to the archaeological potential of the Site and any resultant impacts from the Proposed Development, are discussed in full within **Section 6** of this report.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.24 The Proposed Development (which this report assesses) comprises a full application for the following: *"Erection of drive-thru restaurant (Class A3) with associated parking, servicing, landscaping and engineering works"*.
- 1.25 Details of the proposed development (comprising plans and elevations etc) are included here in **Appendix EDP 2**.

PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 1.26 The Site has formed part of two previous planning applications. The first of these applications (ref: P/12/0219) was for the following:

“Demolition of existing B&Q building and erection of 6 retail units (No. 12-17) within Cyfarthfa Retail Park (Use Class A1) with cafe in Unit 17 and associated alterations to existing car park serving Cyfarthfa Retail Park, erection of 3 retail units (Use Class A1) on land at former Thorn Electrical site together with the creation of car parking areas, service/compound areas and associated landscaping works, highway works to the A470(T) and Swansea Road.”

- 1.27 The Site lies within the eastern edge of the former Thorn Electrical Works site referenced above. A Heritage Statement was submitted to inform the application (GL Hearn, 2012) and a programme of archaeological trial trenching was also undertaken (Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, 2012). Planning permission was ultimately granted for application P/12/0219 on 17 April 2013, subject to the imposition of a number of conditions.
- 1.28 In terms of archaeology, condition 12 required a scheme for the mitigation of impacts of construction on the integrity of the nearby scheduled ancient monument (**GM425**) to be submitted prior to work commencing and condition 13 required that no development should take place until a programme of archaeological work was undertaken, in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 1.29 In terms of historic assets and their settings, condition 11 of planning permission required that a ‘Heritage Interpretation Strategy’ should be submitted. This should include full proposals for a landscaped ‘heritage trail’ along the eastern edge of the former Thorns Electrical site, including a viewing platform towards **GM425**. Condition 14 required that a Heritage Conservation Management Plan should be produced, taking into account the entire Cyfarthfa Iron Works Historic Landscape Character Area.
- 1.30 Application ref: P/13/0156 comprised an updated planning application to address a number of amendments to planning permission P/12/0219. Planning permission was subsequently granted for P/13/0156 on 05 August 2013 subject to the same conditions.

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 it now sets out the primary legislation for the historic environment for Wales.

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 the monument’s physical remains, and (therefore) for a scheduled monument 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.

Listed Buildings

- 2.7 The *Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023* replicates the s16 statutory duty for Listed Building Consent in the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*, but not the s66(1) statutory duty, where planning permission is concerned, and instead this is replicated in an amendment to the (UK) *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*.
- 2.8 Under Part XV Miscellaneous and General Provisions, (as an Application of the Act in Special Cases) at paragraph 314A (1) the following is stated, as an application of the Act that only applies in Wales:

“Wales: duties relating to listed buildings and features of architectural or historic interest

- 1. In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the Welsh Ministers or a local planning authority in Wales must have special regard to the desirability of preserving -*

- a. *The listed building,*
- b. *The setting of the building, or*
- c. *Any features of special architectural or historic interest the building possesses.”*

- 2.9 In replicating the s66(1) statutory duty, the wording at paragraph 314A (1) has been extensively tested through case law, although this doesn't directly apply to the 2023 Act.
- 2.10 In this respect, the meaning of the ‘special regard’ duty has previously been tested in the court of appeal in terms of the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* (1990).
- 2.11 This process confirmed that ‘*considerable importance and weight*’ should be afforded by the decision maker to the desirability of preserving a listed building along with its setting. The relevant judgement is referenced as *Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd V East Northants District Council, English Heritage and National Trust* (2014) EWCA civ 137.
- 2.12 However, it must be recognised that section 66(1) of the 1990 Act did not identify that the local authority or the secretary of state *must* preserve a listed building or its setting; and neither did it indicate that a development which does not preserve them is unacceptable or should therefore be refused. The statutory duty in the *Town and Country Planning Act* clearly adopts the same approach insofar as development and the setting of listed buildings is concerned.
- 2.13 This point is made very clearly in paragraph 54 of the judgement regarding *Forest of Dean DC v Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government* (2013), which identifies that:
- “...Section 66 (1) did not oblige the inspector to reject the proposal because he found it would cause some harm to the setting of the listed buildings. The duty is directed to 'the desirability of preserving' the setting of listed buildings. One sees there the basic purpose of the 'special regard' duty. It does not rule out acceptable change. It gives the decision-maker an extra task to perform, which is to judge whether the change proposed is acceptable. But it does not prescribe the outcome. It does not dictate the refusal of planning permission if the proposed development is found likely to alter or even to harm the setting of a listed building.”*
- 2.14 In other words, it is up to the decision maker (such as a local authority) to assess whether the proposal which is before them would result in “*acceptable change*” a concept that should be applicable regardless of which form of legislation is referred to.

Conservation Areas

- 2.15 Section 160(1) of the 2023 Act states that “*In exercising a planning function in relation to a building or other land in a conservation area, a person must have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area*”.

- 2.16 In other words, the decision-maker's statutory duty under the 2023 Act is to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a conservation area.
- 2.17 As for listed buildings, the 2023 Act replicates the wording of the s72 duty of the (English) *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* (1990), upon which Section 160(1) of the 2023 Act is based.
- 2.18 Although it doesn't directly apply to the 2023 Act, the 1990 Act has previously been tested through case law. It has been established by the Courts that development that does not detract from the character or appearance of a conservation area is deemed to be in accordance with the legislation. There is no statutory requirement to actively 'enhance'.
- 2.19 The statutory duty, set out in Section 72 of the 1990 Act, does not extend to cover the 'setting' of a conservation area, which instead is a matter addressed through relevant planning policies.
- 2.20 Equally the wording of the 2023 Act does not include reference to the setting of conservation areas which is addressed by planning policies and has no statutory protection.

Historic Parks and Gardens

- 2.21 Section 192 of the 2023 Act places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to maintain and publish a register of parks and gardens in Wales that they consider to be of special historic interest.

NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

- 2.22 The Welsh Government published *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040* on 24 February 2021 and highlights in the foreword from the Minister for Housing and Local Government that it forms a "*framework for planning the change and development our country will need over the next two decades*".
- 2.23 In terms of the Welsh Government's objectives, number six of Future Wales Outcome 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

- 2.24 National planning guidance concerning the treatment of the historic environment across Wales is detailed in Section 6.1 of Chapter 6, Distinctive and Natural Places of *Planning Policy Wales Edition 12*, which was published on 19 July 2024 (PPW, 2024).

- 2.25 As it pre-dates 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.
- 2.26 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.
- 2.27 At paragraph 6.1.2, it identifies the historic environment as comprising individual historic features, such as archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks and gardens, townscapes, and landscapes, collectively known as ‘historic assets’.
- 2.28 At paragraph 6.1.7, it is stated that:
- “It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.”*
- 2.29 As such, with regard to decision-making, at paragraph 6.1.9 it is stated that:
- “Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place.”*

Listed Buildings

- 2.30 Regarding listed buildings, PPW 12 states, at paragraph 6.1.10, that: *“There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage.”* It adds that *“For any development proposal affecting a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”*

Conservation Areas

- 2.31 Paragraph 6.1.14 of PPW 12 states that: *“There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of conservation areas or their settings”.*
- 2.32 Paragraph 6.1.15 then adds that:
- “There is a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission for developments, including advertisements, which damage the character or appearance of a conservation area or its setting to an unacceptable level. In exceptional cases, the presumption may be overridden in favour of development considered desirable on public interest grounds”.*

2.33 This is picked up in paragraph 6.1.16, which advises that:

“Preservation or enhancement of a conservation area can be achieved by a development which either makes a positive contribution to an area’s character or appearance or leaves them unharmed. Mitigation measures can also be considered which could result in an overall neutral or positive impact of a proposed development in a conservation area”.

Historic Parks and Gardens

2.34 Turning to historic parks and gardens, PPW 12 paragraph 6.1.18 notes that *“Planning authorities should value, protect, conserve and enhance the special interest of parks and gardens and their settings included on the register of historic parks and gardens in Wales”.*

2.35 Paragraph 6.1.19 subsequently advises that: *“The effect of a proposed development on a registered park or garden, or its setting, is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications”.*

Archaeological Remains

2.36 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”.

2.37 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).”

2.38 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”.

2.39 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.”

- 2.40 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

- 2.41 Additional heritage guidance in Wales is set out in *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (TAN 24)* (Welsh Government, 2017).
- 2.42 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.
- 2.43 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*".
- 2.44 It clarifies the policies and distinctions made in PPW (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."*
- 2.45 Effects through changes within the setting of a designated historic asset are covered in TAN 24 at paragraphs 1.23 to 1.29. These paragraphs define the setting of an historic asset as comprising:

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

value derived from how different elements may contribute to the significance of a historic asset.”

- 2.46 TAN 24 also identifies factors to consider when assessing effects on the setting of historic assets. Paragraph 1.26 states it is:

“...for the applicant to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information to allow the assessment of their proposals in respect of scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered historic parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, or other sites of national importance and their settings.”

- 2.47 Paragraph 1.29 goes on to state that:

“The local planning authority will need to make its own assessment of the impact within the setting of a historic asset, having considered the responses received from consultees as part of this process. A judgement has to be made by the consenting authority, on a case by-case basis, over whether a proposed development may be damaging to the setting of the historic asset, or may enhance or have a neutral impact on the setting by the removal of existing inappropriate development or land use.”

- 2.48 Section 4 of TAN 24 is concerned with archaeological remains and is thus also 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.”

2.49 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.”*

2.50 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

2.51 Adopted local planning policy for the Site (and covering this Proposed Development) is currently set out in the *Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (2016 - 2031)* (RLDP), adopted in January 2020.

2.52 The RLDP sets out the vision, objectives, strategy and policies for managing development in this area and contains the following policies relevant to the production of this report:

Policy CW1: The Historic Environment

“The integrity of our historic environment assets will be conserved and enhanced. Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated they would preserve or enhance the architectural quality, character or the historic or cultural importance of our designated historic environment assets. Development affecting undesignated historic environment assets including, Locally Listed Buildings or structures, Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales, Urban Character Areas and

Archaeologically Sensitive Areas should have regard to their special character and archaeological importance.”

Policy CW2: Cyfarthfa Heritage Area

“The Cyfarthfa Heritage Area is identified on the proposals map to support the development of a heritage based visitor attraction to complement the offer of Cyfarthfa Castle and Park.”

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

Section 3

Methodology

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 This report has been produced 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 historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major repositories consulted comprised:
- Cadw's online database;
 - The Heneb Historic Environment Record (HER): The Trust for Welsh Archaeology;
 - The National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), as held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW);
 - The Glamorgan Archives; and
 - The Central Register of Air Photography for Wales (CRAPW).
- 3.3 This information gathered from the sources above was checked and augmented through the completion of a site walkover carried out by an experienced and highly knowledgeable surveyor in January 2026.
- 3.4 This report provides a synthesis of relevant information for the Site derived from a search area extending up to c.500m 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.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- 3.5 Where relevant, the assessment of significance for historic assets makes reference to the four 'heritage values' which are defined by Cadw in its Conservation Principles document referenced as Cadw (2011). These comprise:
- The asset's evidential value, which is defined as those elements of the historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric;
 - The asset's historical value, which is defined as those elements of an asset, which might illustrate a particular aspect of past life or might be associated with a notable family, person, event or movement;

- The asset's aesthetic value, which is defined as deriving from the way in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from the historic asset; and
- The asset's communal value, which is defined as deriving from the meanings that a historic asset has for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

SETTING ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.6 In addition to the potential for direct impacts on the fabric of an asset, when assessing the impact of proposals on historic assets, it is important to ascertain whether change within their 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'. This assessment of potential indirect effects (in terms of 'setting') is made according to Cadw's guidance *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*, which was published in May 2017.
- 3.7 In simple terms, the guidance states that setting: "*includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape*". It must be recognised from the outset that 'setting' is not a historic asset and cannot itself be harmed. The guidance states that the importance of setting "*lies in what it contributes to the significance of a historic asset*".
- 3.8 As such, when assessing the indirect impact of proposals on historic assets, it is not a question of whether their setting would be affected, but rather a question of whether change within the asset's 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'.
- 3.9 Set within this context, where the objective is to determine the potential for development to have an indirect effect on historic assets beyond the boundary of a development site, it is necessary to first define the significance of the asset in question - and the contribution made to that significance by its 'setting', in order to establish whether there would be a loss, and therefore harm.
- 3.10 The guidance identifies that change within a historic asset's setting need not necessarily cause 'harm' and that it can be positive, or in fact neutral.
- 3.11 Cadw's guidance (Cadw, 2017) sets out a four-stage approach to the identification and assessment of setting effects; i.e.:
- Stage 1: Identify the historic assets which might be affected;
 - Stage 2: Define and analyse the setting, to understand how it contributes to the asset's heritage significance;
 - Stage 3: Evaluate the potential impact of development; and
 - Stage 4: Consider options to mitigate or improve that potential impact.
- 3.12 This AHA considers Stages 1 and 2 of this four-stage process in detail at **Section 4**. Where relevant, Stages 3 and 4 are addressed in **Section 5** of this AHA.

- 3.13 As far as the identification of those heritage assets potentially affected by the proposed scheme is concerned, due consideration has been given to the following factors that are considered to influence the potential for the setting of historic assets to be materially affected by its approval and implementation:
1. The proximity to the existing heavily built-up environment of Merthyr Tydfil in all directions, and specifically that of the Cyfarthfa Retail Park;
 2. The influence of the local topography, whereby the Site lies with the valley of the River Taff, as well as built form and tree cover; and
 3. Consideration of the distribution and character of the surrounding historic assets.
- 3.14 On this basis, it was determined that the development of the Site is unlikely to affect any heritage assets beyond 500m distance from its boundaries and so hence this determined the spatial limits of the exercise.
- 3.15 The efficacy of this Study Area, as well as the information gathered from the repositories and sources identified above, was checked and augmented through the completion of a heritage walkover of the Site and surrounding area, undertaken in January 2026.
- 3.16 In light of the above, this report has been prepared in a robust manner, employing current best practice professional guidance.

Section 4

Baseline Information

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 This section details and contextualises known and potential historic assets within the Site and its surrounding Study Area.
- 4.2 The Site is located within one ‘designated’ historic asset, this being the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area, which extends northwards, as well as east and west from the Site.
- 4.3 The designated historic assets in the wider area around the Site have been assessed to identify those that have the potential to experience change to their setting, such that could result in harm to their significance. Their locations are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 4.4 Within the 500m Study Area, the Cadw search showed that there are two scheduled monuments, these being the ‘Remains of Blast Furnaces, Cyfarthfa Ironworks’ (**GM425**), located c.7m north-east of the Site, and the ‘Pont y Cafnau Tramroad Bridge’ (**GM424**), located c.350m north of the Site.
- 4.5 Although they are located beyond the 500m Study Area boundary, the two scheduled monuments of ‘Gurnos Quarry Tramroad & Leat’ (**GM478**) and ‘Tai Mawr Leat for Cyfarthfa Iron Works’ (**GM479**) are considered within the context of Cyfarthfa Ironworks and because of their locations within the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area.
- 4.6 There are 24 listed buildings within the Study Area, all of which are Grade II listed with the exception of the Grade II* listed Pont-y-Cafnau (**11408**).
- 4.7 Although they are positioned beyond the 500m Study Area boundary, the Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle (**11396**) and School at Cyfarthfa Castle (**11397**), located c.650m north-east of the Site, are considered due to their high grade, as well as their context in relation to the Cyfarthfa Ironworks.
- 4.8 There is also one registered park and garden partially within the 500m Study Area, this being Cyfarthfa Park (PGW(Gm)1(MER)), located c.410m north-east of the Site.
- 4.9 In addition, Merthyr Tydfil Council has compiled a list of assets of special local interest, available to view within the public domain via an interactive online map¹. Two of these locally listed buildings are located within the Study Area.
- 4.10 A number of extant buildings are also recorded by the NMRW and HER, which will be used as a guide to identify relevant non-designated historic assets within the built environment. Those are all depicted on **Plans EDP 2** and **3** respectively.
- 4.11 The HER consolidates the available archaeological and historical resource relating to the city, and the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (now Heneb) highlights a series of Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (ASA), including ASA 2: Cyfarthfa Ironworks and

¹ <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/resident/planning-and-building-control/historic-environment-conservation/heritage-map/>

Infrastructure. These ASAs are referenced within the RLDP. However, there is no final report published in the public domain and, as such, the precise extent of ASA2 is unclear. Even so, based on the extent of the Iron Works, as indicated by the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area, it is assumed that the Site falls entirely within this ASA.

- 4.12 Otherwise, there is one 'monument' noted on the HER within the Site boundary, this being related to a former Smithy within the Cyfarthfa Ironworks (**04962m**).
- 4.13 Within the wider Study Area, there are 58 'monuments', all of which (where they are dated) are assigned to the post-medieval or modern periods.
- 4.14 One previously recorded archaeological investigation is identified by the HER within the Site, relating to a programme of evaluation trenching undertaken in 2011 (**E008719**), with three additional 'events' recorded related to a desk-based assessment (**E007851**), field visit (**E007852**) and Landscape Management Plan (**E007083**). Four additional 'events' are recorded within the wider Study Area. The results of these are shown on **Plan EDP 4** and discussed where relevant in the Archaeological Remains section.
- 4.15 The Site also lies within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, as defined by Heneb and illustrated on **Plan EDP 5**.
- 4.16 Extracts of historic cartographic sources, providing information of relevance to the aims and objectives of this report, are included as **Plans EDP 6- 8**.

PERIOD SPECIFIC OVERVIEW

- 4.17 The following section provides an overview of the history of Merthyr Tydfil, and specifically the Site. As noted above, the Site lies within the former extent of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. The national significance of the Ironworks is recognised in the designations of the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area, which encompasses a number of scheduled monuments, listed buildings, and a registered park and garden.
- 4.18 These designations will be discussed in **Section 5** with regard to their significance, and the potential for these assets to be subject to direct and indirect effects through change to their setting as a result of the Proposed Development being implemented.

Palaeolithic - Iron Age (c.1,000,000 BC–AD 43)

- 4.19 There are no records dating from the prehistoric periods included on the HER or NMRW within the Site, nor are there any recorded within the 500m Study Area.
- 4.20 Within the wider landscape, evidence of prehistoric activity is recorded and is summarised by Heneb within the study of the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, as defined by Heneb. The study divides the landscape into Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA), with prehistoric activity recorded within six of these.
- 4.21 This activity primarily relates to prehistoric funerary practices, whereby Bronze Age cists and ring cairns are identified within HLCA 033 Garth Fawr Unimproved Common, located c.4km south-east of the Site, HLCA 45 Morlais Hill and Castle, located c.3km north-east of

the Site, HLCA64 Winch Fawr, located c.2.5km west of the Site, HLCA73 Mynydd Aberdare, located c.2km west of the Site, HLCA74 Blaen-Canaid and Hendre Fawr, c.2km south-west of the Site and HLCA77 Merthyr Common South, c.4.5km south-east of the Site.

- 4.22 This evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity is therefore located a minimum of 2km from the Site, and as is characteristic of such features, identified at localised high points within the landscape, such as ridges and crests of hills on surrounding uplands.
- 4.23 Late prehistoric settlement evidence, comprising the remains of round houses of Iron Age/Romano-British date, have also been identified at HLCA 033, although no further evidence for such settlement is recorded elsewhere.
- 4.24 As such, the Site was most likely located within undeveloped woodland along the valley of the River Taff throughout this period, and there is no evidence for settled activity within it or the Study Area, with evidence for Bronze Age activity within the wider landscape being focused on high points within the area, rather than steep sided, wooded river valleys.

Roman (AD43–410)

- 4.25 There are no records dating from the Roman period included on the HER or NMRW within the Site, nor are there any recorded within the 500m Study Area.
- 4.26 The closest known records for Roman activity within the Merthyr Tydfil area comprise the Roman military fort at Penydarren, located approximately 1.2km north-east of the Site. The NMRW records the fort as 301352, and describes that it was excavated in 1902, with additional excavations in 1991, and interpreted to date to the Flavian period, continuing in use to around AD 140. A bathhouse was also identified at the limits of the fort, with cremations and possible building remains found in close proximity, suggesting associated settlement in the vicinity.
- 4.27 A potential Roman road is also recorded in HLCA 52 Gurnos Farm and Bunker's Hill and HLCA 50 Gurnos and Galon Uchaf, approximately 1.5km north-east of the Site. The exact location and route of the road are not specified, but, given that it is recorded within both HLCAs, it is assumed to run largely north to south between the two.
- 4.28 Given the absence of evidence of settlement within the Site or Study Area, during the Roman period, the Site was likely characterised by woodland situated along the steep sided valley of the River Taff. This area therefore likely would have been unattractive for settlement, which would most likely have been focused on higher ground away from the steeper sided slopes on the edges of the valley.

Early Medieval and Medieval (AD 410 – 1485)

- 4.29 There are no records dating from the early medieval or medieval periods included on the HER within the Site, nor are there any recorded within the 500m Study Area.
- 4.30 The NMRW records a single record of medieval or post-medieval date within the Study Area, this being **85709**, an Ironstone Level South-East of Gellideg, c.475m west of the Site. No further detail is provided, and so it is unclear if the level was extracted during the course of the medieval period or subsequently.

- 4.31 Two further records are recorded beyond the 500m Study Area, but within 1km of the Site, these being Brecon Road Well (32333) and Tyfids Well (32364), both located c.750m east of the Site area.
- 4.32 Merthyr Tydfil is known to have been settled during the medieval period, with Morlais Castle constructed in the 13th Century, c.3km north-east of the Site, and it is understood that by the 13th century a small number of farms and a minor village grew up around the River Taff, which was a largely wooded area. This settlement was located around a church dedicated to a venerated person named Tudful, as referenced by the “*Liber Landavensis*” dated c.1130 and “*The Valuation of Norwich*” (1254)².
- 4.33 However, whilst the wider landscape is assumed to have therefore included small scale settlement and associated agriculture, it is unclear what the nature of the Site would have been. Given the absence of any recorded evidence for medieval activity in the Site and its vicinity by the HER and NMRW, it is assumed that the Site remained as undeveloped land on the edges of the River Taff during this period, possibly utilised for small scale agricultural practices such as pastoral grazing or meadow, but it was most likely woodland or possibly common/marshy wasteland at this time.

Post-medieval to Modern (AD 1540– Present)

- 4.34 Unsurprisingly, given the industrial development of Merthyr Tydfil, the entirety of the HER records within the Study Area date to the post-medieval to modern period, along with the single medieval record held by the NMRW.
- 4.35 Of the numerous records, one HER entry is located within the Site itself, with 59 HER records and 102 NMRW records within the study area, not including the listed and locally listed buildings discussed in full below. Given their vast quantity, these records are only discussed individually where relevant to the archaeological potential of the Site and are thus focused primarily on the Cyfarthfa Iron Works.

Post Medieval (1540 – 1750)

- 4.36 Prior to the industrial revolution in Wales in the later 18th Century, the area of Merthyr Tydfil was predominantly linked to agriculture, with a specific reliance on dairy farming and agriculturally related industrial practices such as lime burning, corn milling and leather tanning (GGAT, 2013).
- 4.37 The agricultural nature of Merthyr Tydfil during this period, and into the 19th Century, is evidenced within the HER by a number of sites of former farmsteads which have since been demolished (**13126m, 12968m, 13127m, 12929m**). Although the specific construction dates of these farmsteads are not recorded within the HER, they are each visible on 19th Century maps and are likely of 18th or early 19th Century construction.
- 4.38 None of these records extends into the Site, and instead, the likelihood is that the Site remained as undeveloped land on the edges of the River Taff during this period, possibly

² <https://www.merthyr-history.com>

utilised for small scale agricultural practices such as pastoral grazing, but more probably woodland or common/marshy wasteland at this time.

Industrial Era (c.1750 – 1945)

- 4.39 As the industrial revolution gained momentum, the Taff Valley “*represented an ideal setting for the establishment of an iron industry, due to the availability of iron ore, coal, timber, limestone and waterpower, all in convenient proximity*” (GGAT, 2013). Given this favourable location, the first iron works were established along the Taff Valley in 1759, and by the early 1780s there were four ironworks in operation in Merthyr Tydfil; these being Dowlais, Plymouth, Pendarren and Cyfarthfa.
- 4.40 Alongside the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, which is discussed in more detail below, the HER and NMRW provide several records related to this industrial growth of Merthyr Tydfil within the 500m study area defined around the Site. These HER records include Pen-yr-Heolgerrig Quarry (**02879m**), c.450m south-west of the Site, Merthyr Brickworks (**10747m**), c.200m south-west of the Site and Old Timber Yards (**05002m**), c.500m east of the Site, along with associated infrastructure such as tram and rail roads/bridges.
- 4.41 The HER, NMRW and listed building records also evidence the growth of the settlement itself in relation to its industrial function, with a large number of residential buildings being constructed during this period, (for workers), primarily at Williams Street, c.450m north-east of the Site and Gellideg c.350m west of the Site, as well as religious buildings including the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, c.300m south-east of the Site and Gellideg Independent Chapel (**05005m**) c.400m west of the Site.
- 4.42 None of these existing records extends into the Site boundary, which formed part of the extensive Cyfarthfa Ironworks, and thus simply illustrate the industrial and associated settlement growth of Merthyr Tydfil during this period.

Cyfarthfa Ironworks

- 4.43 The Cyfarthfa Ironworks were founded in 1765 by Anthony Bacon and his partner William Brownrigg. Following Bacon’s retirement in 1783, the Cyfarthfa Ironworks came under the control of Richard Crawshay and remained in the Crawshay family, passing to William Crawshay I in 1810, who was responsible for the construction of the nearby Cyfarthfa Castle in 1825 (GGAT, 2017).
- 4.44 The Cyfarthfa Ironworks were the fourth coke-fired ironworks to be founded in south Wales, initially operating as a single furnace and concentrated on the production of pig iron, but they later became the first in the area to change to the production of bar iron, which “*ultimately lead to Cyfarthfa becoming the largest ironworks in the world in 1806*” (GGAT, 2017). William Crawshay and the foundry manager George Watkin were instrumental in adopting the newly patented Cort’s Puddling Process soon after it was patented in 1784 and Cyfarthfa Ironworks is recognised “*for its historic associations and having played a key role in the development innovations in iron production technology*”.
- 4.45 As discussed above, the Cyfarthfa Ironworks is a nationally important Site and is protected by a number of designations, including the remains of the blast furnace bank (**GM425**), with associated features such as Tai Mawr Leat (**GM479**), the Gurnos Tramroad (**GM478**),

Pont Y Cafnau Bridge (**GM424/11408**), Cefn Railway Viaduct (**11382/11377/87949**), Pont Y Cefn Bridge (**11383/11378/27061/27062**) and extending to the associated Cyfarthfa Castle (**11396**) and Registered Park and Garden (PGW(Gm)1(MER)).

- 4.46 The HER illustrates the known extent of the Ironworks (as defined by historic mapping), with individual features recorded within this extent, in addition to those designations listed above. These features are largely focused to the immediate west of the Site, having been identified during an excavation by GGAT in 2013 (discussed in full below) (**E007437**) and include the following; Thomas and Coppee coke ovens (**04961m**), a Sheppard Feldspar washer (**10471m**), a storage bunker (**10470m**), a setting chamber (**10473m**), Screw conveyor base (**10474m**), flue systems, (**10475m**), coal hopper (**10472m**), Carr's Disintegrator elevator pit (**10469m**).
- 4.47 Additional transport features are also recorded within the wider extent of the ironworks complex, including sluices (**11203m, 11204m**), with further sluices located outside of the study area 11217m, 11220m, 11221m, , 11205m) bridges (**11032m, 11193m, 11197m, 11198m, 10744m**) a tunnel (**10362m**), and weirs (11202m, 11218m) although these are outside of the Study Area.
- 4.48 The layout of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks is first shown on a sketch map dating to 1795 (Glamorgan Archives DG/F/9/10), which shows a coke yard (annotated as 'c' on the map), mine yard ('d'), five blast furnaces/forges (g), a tramway connecting to Ynysfach Ironworks ('a'), with each of the features interconnected by a series of tramways, canals and leats, with the River Taff illustrated immediately to the south of the works. The location of Homfrays previously lost cannon boring mill ('l') is also shown.
- 4.49 As a sketch map, however, this may not be accurate as there are generally understood to be just four furnaces until 1806, and the Ynysfach Ironworks are not known to have been in function at this time (GGAT, 2017).
- 4.50 The layout of the ironworks complex is also shown on a drawing dated c.1800 by William Pamplin, an employee of the Ironworks, which shows four furnaces and associated charging houses, casting sheds and a waterwheel which powered the bellows, as well as a large building with chimneys that housed the puddling furnaces and rolling mills (GGAT, 2017).
- 4.51 With regard to the Site itself, no structures appear to be illustrated within it on the 1795 map, with the Site instead forming a parcel of land situated between the furnaces (g) and a lime kiln (e), with coal and mine yards to the west (c and d). Similarly, no discernible structure is located in this area in Pamplin's illustration of c.1800, which appears to show open land, possibly used as coal/mine yards.
- 4.52 Iron production at Cyfarthfa peaked in the 1840s-60s, mostly due to the demand for rails for the rapidly developing rail networks. The expansion of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks is illustrated on mid-19th Century mapping, including the 1850 Tithe map of the Parish of Merthyr Tydfil (**Plan EDP 5**) and the 1851 Board of Health map (not reproduced). These maps show the ironworks in detail, with the works shown straddling the River Taff, although still primarily focused on the west side of the river, connected by two tramroad bridges and Pont-y-Cafnau, with the Tai Mawr leat to the north and north-west (**GM479**). The blast

furnaces continue to be shown, along with the casting sheds and coke yard which are shown on the 1851 Board of Health map, as well as a smithy.

- 4.53 This smithy was located within the boundary of the Site itself, where it comprised a long, rectangular building which crosses north-east to south-west through the centre. The smithy is recorded by the HER as (**04962m**) and described as being evident on the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) Map of 1875 (**Plan EDP 7**), although as above the smithy is clearly noted on the 1850 tithe map, although not illustrated on the 1795 sketch, suggesting an early 19th Century date for the building.
- 4.54 A photograph from 1891 (held by the Cyfarthfa Castle Museum) shows the smithy building located east of the blast furnaces, and west of a large spoil heap. The smithy is shown with a chimney at the east gable end and five chimney stacks along its south wall, suggesting that there were five hearths inside the building itself. An archaeological evaluation in 2012 (**E008719**), discussed in full below, exposed the building's foundation and flooring consisting of compressed coal dust.
- 4.55 No additional features are illustrated within the Site on the 1850 Tithe Map, although the 1851 Board of Health map illustrates a portion of a tramroad crossing the northern edge of the Site, connecting it to the coke yards immediately to the north-west.
- 4.56 The next map to depict the Ironworks is the first edition OS map of 1875 (**Plan EDP 7**). The ironworks are shown to have expanded on the eastern side of the river, from that shown in the 1850 Tithe Map, with an expansion to the Pandy Mill located on the east of the River, and a 'New Mill' and forge immediately south of this. A 'New Forge' was also added to the existing forge, located immediately north of the Site (**GM425**), whilst the foundry/engine house/boilers/and fitting shop, located immediately north-east of the Site and the coke yard to the north-west remained largely unchanged.
- 4.57 The Site itself continued to contain the smithy, which remained unchanged from the Tithe map, although additional tramlines are illustrated at the northern corner of the Site, and a large linear shaped spoil heap is illustrated immediately south of the smithy, at the southern edge of the Site. A larger spoil heap is also illustrated to the south of the Site. This map also shows the construction of the Brecon to Merthyr Railway/London North Western Railway, constructed in 1863, running roughly north to south, to the immediate west of the cokeyard (**01279.0m**).
- 4.58 From the 1870s onwards, the economic climate changed, with market demand shifting from iron to steel, and the demand for coal shifting from domestic use to overseas exports. Ironstone production slowed or ceased from this time until the early/mid-20th Century. This conversion to steel occurred in 1884, with the former blast furnace being replaced with a number of cylindrical iron clad furnaces (GGAT, 2013), and the addition of a range of coke ovens within the cokeyard (located to the west of the Site). These changes are evidenced on the 1904 edition OS map (**Plan EDP 7**). The Site itself shows largely the same formation within this map, although additional tramlines are evident crossing the northern portion of the Site.
- 4.59 The Cyfarthfa Ironworks continued to function until 1910, with a brief reprieve during World War 1, before eventually being demolished in 1926. The 1919 – 1920 edition OS

map shows the same formation as the previous 1904 edition (**Plan EDP 7**) prior to this demolition. However, a photograph from 1920 shows that the smithy building within the Site was no longer in use, as its roof was by then absent, suggesting that it did not form part of the works during the WW1 reprieve (GGAT, 2017).

Modern Era (c.1939 – Present)

- 4.60 Although the 1938 – 1952 edition OS map (**Plan EDP 8**) shows the Ironworks still extant, aerial photographs dated to 1930 (RCAHMW WPW032573) and 1938 (WPW056426)³ show the extent of demolition, with the majority of the buildings fully cleared. However, remains of the coal washery and brick works remained evident (GGAT, 2017), as well as earthworks relating to former spoil tips and tram/rail lines.
- 4.61 Following the demolition of the Ironworks, the area was utilised for an aircraft factory during World War Two. The HER records that the ‘Rotax Factory’ (**10743m**) was opened in 1939 and subsequently closed in 1946. The factory is not shown on historic mapping, however, the HER record and NMRW record (**406972**) locate the factory immediately northwest of the Site, but not within it. An aerial photograph which was taken in 1945 (4561 RAF3GTUD_T19 5085) also shows the factory located immediately north-west of the Site, whilst the Site remained as cleared ground at the edge of the spoil tip immediately to the south-east.
- 4.62 In 1947, the Thorn Electrical Works (**10476m**) replaced the Rotax Factory. The works were constructed in 1947 but gradually declined in the late 20th Century before being demolished in 1991. The 1958-64 edition OS map (**Plan EDP 8**) shows the main body of the factory located immediately west of the Site, likely in the same location as the Rotax Factory, although two small rectangular buildings, possibly service buildings/substations, were located within the Site. The Site appears to have been levelled for the construction of the factory buildings, as the sloped edges of the former spoil tip are still evident to the immediate south-east.
- 4.63 This is largely shown on a 1947 aerial photograph (4721 RAFCPE UK_2326 5131), which shows the Thorn Electrical Works to the northwest of the Site, with a single small ancillary building noted at the north-west corner of the Site. An aerial photograph that was taken in 1953, however (5307 58_RAF_1110 F22 0174), shows the Site to have been levelled, with the former spoil tip banks to the south seen as lower relief, suggesting levelling prior to construction. No buildings were present on the Site at this time. An aerial photograph from 1963 (6310 OS 63_074 135) shows the small ancillary building shown on the mapping described above, with the southern portion of the Site appearing to have been utilised as a car park.
- 4.64 The 1963-89 edition OS map (**Plan EDP 8**) shows that the Thorn Electrical Works had expanded, with a larger rectangular wing of the main factory now being located within the Site and an associated access road surrounding it. This formation is evident on a 1967 aerial photograph (6711 MAL 71_67 085). A 1977 image (7707 ADAS 667 1781) also continues to show this formation, albeit with additional car parking surrounding the building

³ <https://rcahmw.ibase.media>

to the south, within the southern portion of the Site. A similar situation is shown again in 1984 and likewise 1989 (8402 ADAS 201 183/8903 ADAS 334 335).

- 4.65 No features related to the Thorn Electrical Works were identified during the evaluation of the Site (**E008719**, discussed in full below). However, a deep overburden of demolition material was identified, considered most likely the result of the demolition and subsequent ground levelling of the former Electrical Works site.

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

- 4.66 To date, the Site has been subject to one archaeological investigation, this being a programme of evaluation trenching undertaken in 2011 (**E008719**) as a consequence of planning application (P/12/0219).
- 4.67 A total of 12 trenches were excavated during this evaluation across the former Thorn Electrical site, with trenches 1 and 2 being located within the current application Site.
- 4.68 Trench 1 contained a number of modern deposits, comprising topsoil that overlay a subsoil and in turn overlay a layer of tarmac and hardcore. Below this was a layer of industrial waste, consisting of *“coal dust, iron slag, fragments of lime mortar, slate and broken machine-made bricks in a matrix of black silty clay”* (GGAT, 2012). The industrial waste layer was situated overlying the natural geology, and no archaeological features were identified. This industrial layer is prescribed a post-medieval date and this, although not specified within the report, is thus assumed to be a result of the demolition of the former Cyfarthfa Ironworks and subsequent ground levelling of the area.
- 4.69 The height of the natural within this trench is recorded at 188.07m aOD, with the ground surface recorded at 204.29m aOD. This would make the depth of the modern deposits and industrial waste a total of 16.32m. However, this appears far deeper than recorded within the other trenches, whereby the natural is recorded at a depth of c.198 -203m aOD and surface level at c.203-204m aOD. As such, there may be a clerical error whereby the natural should be recorded at 198.07m aOD, making the depth of the modern layers and industrial waste total c.6.32m.
- 4.70 Trench 2 contained two stone walls, thought to be associated with a smithy building, part of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks complex, which is shown on the 1850 Tithe Map (**Plan EDP 6**). The wall survived to a height of six courses and was two courses wide, along with an associated floor surface. The walls were identified within a layer of industrial waste, this layer was situated above a series of deposits described as industrial waste, deposited clay and demolition rubble, measuring c. 1.05m, 0.22m, and 1.3m in depth respectively. A series of deposits of demolition material and industrial waste, overlain by modern hardcore, tarmac and topsoil were also recorded overlying the structures.
- 4.71 The walls were recorded at a depth of c.1.88 – 2.10m below ground level (202.10m - 201.88 aOD), with the natural geology recorded at c.4.78m below ground level (199.2m aOD). The layers of industrial material underlying the walls suggests a possible earlier structure, or levelling of the Site for the construction of the smithy building. However, this is not clarified within the report, nor are any earlier structures known through an

assessment of historic mapping, the earliest of which dates to 1795, albeit this is a 'sketch', with the first detailed map dating to 1850.

- 4.72 An excavation and watching brief were the carried out at the north-west edge of the former Thorn Electrical site (but not including the Site) in November 2013 (**E007438**), in order to satisfy and discharge condition 13 of P/13/0156. During the excavations and the watching brief, archaeological remains relating to the construction and subsequent operation of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks complex were discovered.
- 4.73 The earliest recorded remains related to a section of the canal built by Anthony Bacon for the works in the late 18th Century, operating from 1777 to 1840, before being re-used to contain a brick culvert supplying water to the coke yards (GGAT, 2017). Remains related to the cokeyards were also identified and included a set of Thomas coke ovens, a set of Coppee coke ovens and associated coal washery and brick flues, stone tramway sleepers, culverts and other related structures such as coal storage bunkers. The HER summarises that a total of 366 metal objects were found during the archaeological investigation, as well as 68 examples of ceramic building material (brick and tile).
- 4.74 Minor features relating to the subsequent Thorn Electrical works were also identified, including manhole covers and service pipes.
- 4.75 The structures were overlain by a general deposit of black/grey loamy material containing industrial deposits, clays and demolition material. The depth of this overburden varied between surface level to a depth in excess of 2m below ground level. This was likely the result of the demolition of the Thorn Electrical works, and subsequent levelling of the site, although the report notes it may have been a result of the levelling of the Iron works, given that the contract for the demolition of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, dated 1925, stated that demolition material was used to backfill and level any uneven ground (GGAT, 2017).
- 4.76 Underlying this was a general deposit of coal, shale and coal dust, likely to have been the predominant surface during the operation of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. The report also notes that a diary entry dated to the 1760s by Charles Wood relates to the preparation of the site for construction, noting that undulating ground had to be extensively levelled and so therefore the structures may be situated on redeposited 'natural' material, rather than true natural geology.
- 4.77 Although levels are not provided within the report for all features, illustrations indicate that the tops of the structures were identified at c. 203.1m – 204.3m aOD. Surface level in this area is indicated within the evaluation report to be c. 203.8 – 204.4m aOD, suggesting that features were identified c.0.10m to 1.10m below (the then) ground level.

SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 4.78 There is no evidence for archaeological activity dating to the Prehistoric or Roman periods held by the HER within the Site or indeed the 500m study area, nor was any evidence dating to these periods identified during the evaluation of the Site in 2012 (**E008719**). It is instead concluded that the Site was most likely located within undeveloped woodland on the steep

valley sides of the River Taff throughout this period, and there is no evidence for settled activity within it or the Study Area.

- 4.79 Moreover, the land within the Site is known to have been heavily disturbed developed during the 18th to 20th Centuries as part of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks and subsequently the Thorn Electrical Works. As such, there is considered to be a very limited potential for archaeological features, finds or deposits from the Prehistoric or Roman periods to be located within the Site and, in the unlikely event that archaeological evidence dating from these periods is present within the Site, it would most likely relate to re-deposited or unstratified finds of no more than low or local interest.
- 4.80 The same is true for the early medieval and medieval periods, whereby the Site most likely remained as woodland on the steep valley sides of the River Taff, possibly utilised to some extent for small scale agricultural practices such as pastoral grazing or the management of meadows.
- 4.81 No remains dating to this period were identified during the evaluation trenching in 2012 and, given the extensive development of the Site from the 18th Century onwards, any potential for remains of this date is considered to be very limited, with any remains likely being limited to re-deposited or unstratified finds of no more than very low, local value.
- 4.82 The Site formed part of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, which functioned between the late 18th and early 20th Centuries. During this time, the Site contained a smithy building, limited remains of which were identified during the evaluation trenching of the Site in 2012. A review of historic mapping also suggests that the Site contained former tram routes, as well as the edge of a spoil tip during this period, although no remains relating to such features were identified during the completion of the 2012 evaluation.
- 4.83 The Cyfarthfa Ironworks was subsequently demolished and later replaced by the Thorn Electrical Works in the earlier part of the 20th century. The historic maps demonstrate that the Site contained a small building and a car park and access road from this complex. During the demolition of the earlier Ironworks and construction of the electrical works, the Site was subject to extensive levelling, with a deep layer of overburden comprising demolition material (c.2m in depth) recorded by subsequent evaluation works.
- 4.84 It is thus concluded that there is high potential for remains related to the Cyfarthfa Ironworks to be present within the Site, related to the former smithy building, as well as potentially associated features such as tramroads. The Cyfarthfa Ironworks as a whole is of national interest, with the best preserved remains being designated as scheduled monuments, but (given the demolition and levelling of the Site) it is assessed as being unlikely that any surviving features within the Site would be preserved to such a level that they would be of any more than moderate, regional value, as is concluded within the *Cyfarthfa Conservation Management Plan* (GGAT, 2013).
- 4.85 Moreover, these potential features are expected to be located at in excess of c.2.0m depth below the existing ground surface and buried beneath substantial accumulations of made ground underlying the car park. Therefore, any potential impacts on these features as a result of the Proposed Development are considered in full in **Section 6** of this report.

- 4.86 Although no such remains were identified during the 2012 evaluation, based on the historic map and aerial photograph evidence there is also a high potential for remains associated with the Thorn Electrical Works to be present within the Site. Such remains would most likely comprise buried remains relating to the eastern wing of the building, and associated infrastructure. Any such remains are unlikely to be of greater than very low, local value.

Section 5

Assessment of Significance and Setting

- 5.1 As established above, the Site is situated within the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area (CCA), as well as the non-designated Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. The Proposed Development therefore has the potential for direct impacts upon these assets, and so the following section assesses the significance of these assets, and the contribution, if any, made to these assets by the Site.
- 5.2 The following section also considers the potential for indirect effects to historic assets in the wider area, through changes to their settings. As such, it addresses Stages 1 and 2 of the five-stage approach to setting assessment described in the Cadw guidance (2017). Stage 1 is concerned with identifying the assets that might be affected by future development of the Site and Stage 2 is concerned with defining and analysing the setting of a historic asset, in order to understand whether and how it contributes to its significance.

DESIGNATED ASSETS WITHIN THE SITE

Cyfarthfa Conservation Area

Overview

- 5.3 The Site comprises a very small part of the extensive CCA, which covers a large area measuring c.1.5km from north to south and c.1.4km metres from east to west. Located at the most southern point of the Area, the CCA boundaries are located 150m west of the Site, c.1.2km to the east and c.1.5km to the north.
- 5.4 The CCA was first designated by the Council in December 2009, with a Conservation Area Character Appraisal (CACA) also prepared and adopted at the time of designation, produced by Merthyr Tydfil Council (MTC, 2009).
- 5.5 The CACA summarises that the CCA was designated to encapsulate the significance of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, the history of which has been discussed in full above. The CACA states that Cyfarthfa is *“a lasting symbol of Merthyr Tydfil’s strength during the 18th and 19th Centuries as Ironworks of Worldwide significance. This is displayed with the grand architectural scale of Cyfarthfa Castle, Cefn Viaduct and the Blast Furnace bank”*. It goes on to state that the CCA provides additional protection for the setting of the several designated assets located within its extent, and *“adds fortification to the link between the Ironworks and Cyfarthfa Park and recognises further the historic merits of Cyfarthfa Park and Castle”*.
- 5.6 The designated historic assets located within the extent of the CCA comprise the following:
- Cyfarthfa Ironworks furnace bank, engine house and melting house (**GM425**);
 - Gurnos Quarry tramroad and Taf Fechan Leat (**GM478**);

- Pont-y-Cafnau (**GM424**);
- The Tai Mawr Leat (**GM478**);
- Cyfarthfa Castle and School (Grade I listed building) (**11396/11397**);
- Pont-y-Cafnau (Grade II*) (**11408**);
- Cyfarthfa Castle Fountain (Grade II) (**11398**);
- Gate piers and railings at entrance to Cyfarthfa Park (Grade II) (**11399/11400**);
- Park walls flanking railings at Cyfarthfa Park (Grade II) (**11401/11402**);
- Pandy Farmhouse and associated clocktower, barn and stables (Grade II) (**11404, 11405, 11406, 11407**);
- Limekilns south of Cefn Bridge (Grade II) (**17932**);
- Pont-y-Cefn Bridge (Grade II) (**11383/11378/27061/27062**) ;
- Cefn Railway Viaduct (Grade II) (**11382/11377/87949**); and
- Cyfarthfa Castle Registered Park and Garden (PGW(Gm)1(MER)).

5.7 These assets will be considered further within the relevant 'Character Areas' assigned and described within the CACA.

Special Character and Appearance

5.8 The character of the CCA is summarised within the CACA as being formed by the following key elements, each of which are considered further separately and within the sub-divisions of Character Areas:

- **"Land Form** – *The Area contains a unique topography in that it slopes in the form of terraces to the east of the Conservation Area, overlooking a comparatively flat plateau to the west. Travelling further north along the Gurnos Quarry tramroad creates a narrow, partially man-made valley, unique to the area. To the North West, a far wider more natural basin is formed, linked at two sides by the Cefn Viaduct.*
- **Key Buildings** – *The Area may be noted for its good density of key Listed and Scheduled Buildings and Structures, including the Cefn Viaduct, Cyfarthfa Castle and the Pandy Farm buildings. These offer a sense of accentuated importance to the area.*
- **Historic Significance** – *The Area is steeped in historic importance being the location of the largest ironworks in the World during the 19th Century. The Area is central to the history of Merthyr Tydfil*
- **Open Spaces** – *Cyfarthfa is set within a historic landscape and contains the most prominent public park in Merthyr Tydfil. The area, as a whole, is generally accessible to the public and is open in character*

- **Industrial Relics** – *A number of Scheduled and unscheduled Monuments appear throughout the Area reflecting the industrial evolution of Merthyr Tydfil. These make a significant contribution to the area in that they are architecturally significant and create a unique setting to the area.*
- **Biodiversity** – *The Area consists of segments of natural woodland, grassland alongside manmade and natural water bodies. This in turn, creates a desirable habitat for biodiversity. Areas near the Taf Fawr, Taf Fechan and within Cyfarthfa Park are subject to a number of statutory designations.”*

5.9 This CCA is sub-divided into the following four Character Areas, with the Site itself lying within Character Area 4:

- **Character Area 1** -Cyfarthfa Park South and Castle;
- **Character Area 2** -Cyfarthfa Park North;
- **Character Area 3** -Taf Fechan Valley; and
- **Character Area 4** -Cyfarthfa Ironworks and Taf Fawr Valley.

Character Area 1

- 5.10 Considering Character Area 1, this consists of the Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle, which was built in 1825 as the ‘*home and throne*’ to the Ironworks’ owner, William Crawshay II. The castle itself was designed by Robert Lugar in a picturesque style, using a combination of medieval and gothic features, comprising limestone and bath stone dressings and castellated tower (**Image EDP A1.1**).
- 5.11 The castle was abandoned in 1899, and then purchased by the Merthyr Tydfil Corporation in 1900, when it was converted for use as a museum and school. This conversion required the demolition and rebuilding of service rooms on the east and north sides of the castle, as well as general remodelling of rooms, such that the ‘School’ building largely dates to 1910. The building has also undergone more recent changes, such as the addition of a café, garage and gymnasium stage, as well as some UPVC windows on the rear elevation of the school building.
- 5.12 The Grade I listed castle is set within gardens, parkland and woodland, which together now form elements of a “*romantic style public park consisting of terraces, lawns, and a lake*” (**Image EDP A1.1** and **3**). The boundaries are defined by stone walls and railings that are listed along with its gate piers marking the southern entrance (**Image EDP A1.4**). These boundary treatments “*offer the sense of a formally designed landscape*”.
- 5.13 The park contains a number of mature parkland trees, which date to its configuration in the early 19th Century and include a mixture of evergreen trees, such as cyprus and pine, as well as ‘exotic’ specimens such as sequoia. In terms of the character that these trees provide, the CACA clearly notes that the pine trees running alongside the formal driveway offer an ‘*established setting*’ to the castle, through their height formal layout, and are considered to define a ‘key view’ within the CACA as an impressive entrance to the historic Castle (**Image EDP A1.5**).

- 5.14 However, the tree height does mean that outwards views from the castle are now more restricted than when it was originally constructed. In general terms, the CACA notes that the mature trees soften the transition between the parkland in the south-west and woodland in the north-east of the registered park and garden, whilst the mixture of these trees within the open parkland also preserves a “*valuable 19th Century character to the parkland*”.
- 5.15 At the southern edge of the park is the lake, which the CACA describes as the “*most visually significant feature of the park*”, and where the CACA notes a ‘key view’ looking from the Castle to the lake (**Image EDP A1.3**), as well as the lake being prominent within the wider landscape. The lake is also noted as having historic significance because it previously acted as a reservoir for the ironwork’s mills, and formed part of a wider water source network which fed the ironworks. Modern features within the park also include tennis courts and a bowling green, added in 1902, as well as a model railway and play park added in the late 1980s.
- 5.16 In terms of key views from the park, the CACA notes that “*key views can be achieved southwards from the Castle towards the lake and to a lesser extent, the Ironworks site*”. It goes on to address that the Castle was built “*primarily for views to be achieved over the ironworks site for its owner (Richard Crawshay) to overlook his dynasty*”. As such, this view is considered to be of historic importance and is discussed further in the context of the Castle and associated Park, and its setting, below.
- 5.17 This Character Area also includes the complex of Pandy farm, with its listed farmhouse, clocktower, barn and stable, located opposite the southern entrance of the park. The original complex of Pandy Place (the original name of the farmhouse) was altered in c.1825 by Robert Lugar, to complement the castle, including the clock tower and barn being built in a style to match the castle, and it forms part of the landscaped entrance to the park. Today, the clocktower remains a ‘*landmark approach to Cyfarthfa Park*’, with the farmstead demonstrating group value with the park (**Image EDP A1.6**).
- 5.18 In terms of the overall character of the buildings within this area, the CACA notes that the use of limestone and rubble stone is dominant, including the castle, its boundary walls, and the buildings at Pandy Farm, providing “*a uniformed design style, reflecting its period of construction*”.

Character Area 2

- 5.19 Character Area 2 comprises the northern part of Cyfarthfa Park, which is characterised by dense woodland (**Image EDP A1.7**). The northern portion of the park lacks the formal, decorative elements of the southern portion, but contains a number of ‘*prominent and mature trees*’ as well as a network of small streams, ponds and leats, which form part of the wider water management system that originally fed the ironworks. Public footpaths through the woodland allow for a public appreciation of these features, as well as a former sites of a ‘pinehouse’, the location of the cultivation of the first pineapple in Wales, and an icehouse, although both remain only as earthwork mounds.
- 5.20 Although also formerly containing gardens and kitchen gardens for the Castle, the area closest to the castle now primarily contains ‘The Depot’ which represents a series of buildings and greenhouses used by Communities First and Cyfarthfa Enterprise

organisations (see **Image EDP A1.8**). Two brick built shed buildings have been retained within 'The Depot' which date to the 19th Century.

Character Area 3

- 5.21 This character area is defined by the route of the River Taf Fechan, which runs through the area forming a narrow and steep sided gorge, surrounded by woodland. The associated Taf Fechan Leat also runs through this area, having formerly provided water to the lake within Cyfarthfa Park.
- 5.22 The river is crossed by Old Cefn bridge, constructed in the late 18th Century and forming the main route between Cyfarthfa Castle and the residential development at Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer, before being replaced in 1908 to facilitate the expansion of the tram route from Merthyr Tydfil to Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer. Both bridges are listed buildings. The expansion of the tramway is also visible through the scheduled remains of the Gurnos Tramway, which runs down the valley from the Gurnos Quarry to the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, and is marked by a terrace alongside the river, with a number of stone sleepers remaining *in situ*. The CACA notes key views when walking along the Taff trail in this location, looking north and south along the tramroad, both towards the Brecon Beacons forming a backdrop to the north, and looking back towards Cyfarthfa Castle to the south. However, the site visit undertaken in January 2026 noted that the vegetation has grown up so that, today, this view is more focused and narrowed on the gorge itself (**Image EDP A1.9**).
- 5.23 The Grade II listed limekilns, which originally processed the limestone from Gurnos quarry to produce the lime mortar used in the Ironworks buildings, are also located within this character area. The limekilns remain as a prominent feature, exceeding 7m in height, and comprising dressed stone; however, their condition has deteriorated in recent years as a result of becoming overgrown with vegetation and affected by vandalism.

Character Area 4

- 5.24 Character Area 4 comprises the Cyfarthfa Ironworks and Taf Fawr Valley, although no map is provided within the CACA, it is assumed that the Site forms the southern edge of this character area. The area is principally defined by the water systems running through it and the remains of the Ironworks, both of which were functionally connected.
- 5.25 The Taff and Taf Fawr run through the character area, forming its sloping landscape along the river valley, with the historic Pont-y-Cafnau bridge crossing the River Taf. This bridge was constructed in 1794 to carry the Gurnos tramway over the river and it is believed to be the oldest iron railway bridge in the world. The bridge is designated as a Grade II* listed building and a scheduled monument. Other bridges within this character area include the Pont-y-Capel Bridge and Nant Cwm Ffwrdd Bridge, constructed in the mid-19th Century of limestone with single elliptical arches and “*add to the attractiveness of the secluded area at the foot of the Cefn Viaduct*”.
- 5.26 At the northern end of the character area is the Cefn Viaduct, a Grade II* listed building, constructed in 1866 to carry the former Merthyr-Brecon railway line across the river. At circa 30m in height, the viaduct is “*prominent in views from both sides of the valley*” and acts as a landmark within Merthyr Tydfil (**Image EDP A1.10**).

- 5.27 The Tai Mawr leat also runs through this character area, having been constructed in 1766 by Charles Wood during the construction of the Ironworks and representing the “*best retaining element of the ironworks before the Crawshay dynasty’s involvement*”. It is designated as a scheduled monument. The leat is well-preserved, running alongside the steep slopes of the Cyfarthfa Fingertip, although it becomes indistinguishable as it travels further south towards the former Ironworks, presumably having been filled in.
- 5.28 The Cyfarthfa Fingertip itself is a large cinder tip/slag heap, formed at the height of the Ironworks’ function in the mid to late 19th Century. The tip forms an ‘*unusual area of landscape*’, with its surface characterised by marks and ripples from poured slag (**Image EDP A1.11**). The tip is not scheduled but is locally listed.
- 5.29 The scheduled furnace bank, located c.20m north-east of the Site, forms the “*most visually evocative surviving element of the Ironworks*”, comprising seven furnaces built between the late 18th and 19th Centuries, becoming merged into one large unit in the later 19th Century. The furnace structure now consists of six arched furnaces, with a large opening removed from the sixth furnace, built in coursed rock faced stone and standing at over 10m high and with a 15m high retaining wall running up the furnace bank from the south-east (**Image EDP A1.12 - 13**). Additional structures are recorded in a more ruinous state, including coking ovens, a railway tunnel and remains of an air tank and flues.
- 5.30 The Council’s CACA notes that the prominent frontage of these features is covered by vegetation, “*reducing their prominence from the main eastern viewpoint*”, with these upper areas also fenced off from public access due to safety concerns. Indeed, only a view of the frontage of the furnace bank was achievable during the site visit, with large areas of this also obscured by vegetation. The CACA notes this as a ‘key view’, allowing the sheer size of the ironworks to be appreciated, however, as noted, much of the finer detail of the structure is now obscured by vegetation. This view is discussed further in the context of the scheduled monument and its setting below.
- 5.31 The grouping of Ironworks buildings here and indeed seen in the bridges in the other Character Areas along the river, are each similarly clad in rock faced stone, providing a uniformity to the architectural character of the CCA. There is also a level of uniformity provided by the repetition of arched patterns, with the underside often constructed in brick, such as the Cefn Viaduct, blast furnaces, and a number of the bridges.
- 5.32 The southern portion of the CCA currently comprises part of the Cyfarthfa Retail park, namely the large B&Q centre (immediately west of the Site) (**Image EDP A1.14**), and its associated carparking (including the Site) (**Image EDP A1.15**). The CACA does not include any mention of the retail park given that its construction in c.2013 post-dates its production. However, prior to its development as a retail park, this southern portion of the CCA comprised the industrial buildings and associated infrastructure related to the Thorn Electrical Works. Although it was demolished in 1993, aerial photographs from 2008 and 2010⁴ show the southern portion of the CCA, straddling the scheduled furnace bank remains, to be defined by brownfield sites of the former works.

⁴ Google Earth

- 5.33 Today, the retail park and associated infrastructure (which includes the Site) possesses a distinctly modern and utilitarian character and so it is considered to make no contribution to the special character of the CCA, beyond a now intangible historic relationship with the former Cyfarthfa Ironworks.
- 5.34 Instead, the special character of the CCA is defined by (1) the evidential and aesthetic qualities of the built form within it, such as the striking landmark features of Cyfarthfa Castle and Cefn Viaduct, and their historic association with the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, (2) the evidential and historic values of the scheduled Ironworks remains, (3) the aesthetic qualities, and historic associations of the public open space of Cyfarthfa Park, (4) the aesthetic qualities of the dramatic landscape along the River Taf, and (5) the historic associations of its management to supply the Ironworks.
- 5.35 Given that the Site forms part of the CCA, the potential for any effects would be direct, with no potential for indirect changes through changes to setting. As such, the setting of the CCA is not considered further within this report.
- 5.36 The Site visit also established that there are no visual relationships between the Site and any of the designated or locally listed historic assets within the CCA, beyond the scheduled furnace bank and those within Cyfarthfa Park, regardless of the prominence of some assets such as the Cefn Viaduct or Pont-y-Cafnau bridge (**Image EDP A1.22 and 23**). As such, the Site is not considered to form part of the setting of these assets individually, and none of these assets are considered within the setting assessment below.
- 5.37 Overall, the Site itself is considered to make a wholly neutral contribution to the special character of the CCA, both in terms of its contribution to Character Area 4, as well as its contribution to the setting of Character Area 1 containing Cyfarthfa Castle and Park.
- 5.38 Any direct impacts to the CCA, as a result of the Proposed Development, are considered in full in **Section 6** of this report.

Designated Assets Setting Assessment

Remains of Blast Furnaces, Cyfarthfa Ironworks

The Asset and its Significance

- 5.39 The scheduled monument Remains of Blast Furnaces, Cyfarthfa Ironworks (**GM425**) lies c.7m north-east of the Site, wrapping around its boundary and as a result proposals for development of the land at the Site are only able to affect the significance of this historic asset indirectly (through changes to its setting). The remains which form this designation have been fully discussed above.
- 5.40 In terms of its significance, the listing citation states that:

“The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance and illustrate our knowledge and understanding of the development of the iron industry in Wales. It retains significant archaeological potential, with the strong possibility of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits. A blast furnace may be part of a larger cluster of industrial monuments and their importance can further enhanced by their group value.”

- 5.41 As such, the significance of the asset stems predominantly from (1) the evidential value of its structural and earthwork remains, representing a good example of 18th and 19th Century industrial buildings (**Image EDP A1.12** and **13**), with archaeological potential for additional remains; (2) the aesthetic value of the remains, notably the impressive scale of the blast furnaces, as well as the cohesive style of the industrial buildings comprising rock-faced stone and arched patterns; and (3) its historic value, given the notoriety of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks as one of the largest Ironworks in the world, and given the group value of the additional well preserved associated industrial features in the Merthyr Tydfil area.
- 5.42 It is also assessed that the scheduled monument also derives a lower level of significance from its communal value, with a footpath allowing public viewing of the blast furnaces from the east (albeit large areas are inaccessible to the public) and public information boards along the 'heritage trail' and 'heritage viewing platform' constructed in response to condition 11 of planning application P/13/0156, and detailed within the *Cyfarthfa Conservation Management Plan* (GGAT, 2013).

Contribution of Setting

- 5.43 The setting of the scheduled monument is largely defined by the limits of the CCA, as discussed above, with the wider setting being entirely defined by the modern development of Merthyr Tydfil.
- 5.44 This setting includes areas of open space to the immediate east and north-west, with the route of the River Taff running to the north. These areas previously contained remains related to the wider ironworks, albeit these areas are cleared today and so their contribution stems from their openness allowing a level of appreciation of the scheduled remains, as well as a former historic connection, albeit now intangible without a review of historic documents and information boards.
- 5.45 Additional historic assets associated with the Ironworks are located within the area demarcated by the CCA, albeit there is no visual experience between these assets and the scheduled monument with allow for a greater understanding of the former historic connection
- 5.46 The exception to this is a limited view from the western part of Cyfarthfa Park, adjacent to the lake, whereby a glimpsed view of the scheduled remains can be obtained, and occasional glimpses from the eastern side of the Park, discussed in full in the context of the Park and its associated assets below.
- 5.47 A visit to the asset also established that the Site forms part of the background of the view of the scheduled monument Blast Furnace Bank (**Image EDP A1.21**). Although formerly historically associated as part of the wider Ironworks, the Site currently has no remaining discernible features indicating its historic associations with the Ironworks, simply forming a car park situated within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park. This former historic connection is therefore no longer tangible without the review of historic documentation, and instead the Site is simply experienced as a small, localised part of a larger modern development. Considering outwards views from the Site towards the scheduled monument, only the vegetation which lies atop the blast furnace remains is visible from the Site.

- 5.48 As discussed above, whilst formerly forming part of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, the Site has no visible features indicating its historic associations with the Ironworks, such that this connection is intangible today without the review of historic documentation and information boards in the area. As such, any contribution to the overall significance of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks Scheduled Monument derived from its wider relationship with the Site is considered to be negligible at the most.

Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle, and Associated Listed Buildings and Registered Park and Garden

The Asset and its Significance

- 5.49 The Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle (**11396**) lies c.650m north-east of the Site, with the extent of its associated registered park and garden lying c.450m north-east of the Site at its closest point.

- 5.50 The Castle itself is described within the listing citation as follows:

“Large country house Picturesque castle style. Terraced site. Basically rectangular in shape, with almost symmetrical entrance and garden fronts meeting at a circular corner tower. Coursed bull-nosed facings with ashlar dressings. Crenellated parapets with false machicolation to towers, weathered stringcourses to rest. Stair and outlook turret to rear of corner drum-tower, dummy arrow loops, rectangular hoodmoulds (arched to drum tower which also has 3-light mullioned windows to top floor). Cross windows (later?) to entrance front and drum, sash windows with glazing-bars to ground-floor of garden front. Central towers to both fronts with splayed angles, splayed bay with finial over porch to main entrance with round turrets and arched openings; oriel over Tudor garden doorway. Attached to left of main building are the castellated screen-wall and towered entrances to former stable courtyard and offices (now rebuilt as school accommodation). Composition of walls with dummy loops, polygonal end turret, solid left-hand gatehouse with arched entry under 3-light window and right-hand entry between round and square turrets. Tudor-style school buildings to rear.”

- 5.51 The features of its associated Park and the associated listed buildings within the Park have been discussed in the paragraphs above.
- 5.52 The significance of this closely associated group of assets stems predominantly from (1) the evidential value of its structural features, representing a good example of a 19th Century ironmaster’s house with associated buildings and landscaping (**Image EDP A1.1**); (2) the aesthetic value of the buildings, notably the impressive scale and architectural detailing of the Castle, as well as the cohesive style of the associated buildings constructed of limestone and rubblestone, as well as the aesthetic value of the Park’s landscaping, notably its mature and varied trees, as well as the focal point of its lake; (3) the historic value, given the notoriety of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks as one of the largest Ironworks in the world, and given the group value of the additional well preserved associated industrial features in the Merthyr Tydfil area; and (4) the communal value as a large publicly accessible area of open space and amenity parkland.

Contribution of Setting

- 5.53 The setting of Cyfarthfa Castle is predominantly formed by its associated Park, comprising parkland, a lake and woodland, with associated hard landscaping features, such as the listed fountain located immediately to the south. The attractive grouping of listed buildings at Pandy Farm, including the clock tower constructed to form a monumental entrance to the park, also forms this immediate setting. It is this setting that therefore makes the biggest contribution to the significance of these features, allowing them to be appreciated within their historic setting, and within their group context (**Image EDP A1.2 -5**).
- 5.54 The broader setting of the Castle and Park is largely defined by the modern development of Merthyr Tydfil, with residential settlement to the north, east and south, and the Cyfarthfa Industrial Park and Retail Park to the West. These modern elements make no contribution to the overall significance of the assets at Cyfarthfa Park.
- 5.55 However, within these wider surroundings are a number of features associated with the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, as defined by the CCA, notably the scheduled remains of the Ironworks. The remaining assets, with the exception of the large scale Cefn Viaduct, are not visible from within Cyfarthfa Park, although views towards the castle can be achieved from the more open areas of the CCA. As such, this setting makes a minor contribution to the overall significance of the assets at Cyfarthfa Park.
- 5.56 As discussed above, the Castle was constructed to allow the Ironmaster to oversee the ironworks from his seat of power, and views looking south-west across the park from the Castle are noted as significant within the citation for the registered park and garden. This historic view is also depicted in artwork from the period, notably by William Pamplin c.1800, showing the furnaces and associated buildings including the large waterwheel and Penry Williams c.1816 showing a similar formation, albeit with additional structures and the waterwheel no longer operational.
- 5.57 However, today this view is largely screened by the mature tree growth within the park itself, as is noted within the CACA stating that the views southwards towards the Cyfarthfa Retail Park are obscured, so that the remains of the Ironworks, and indeed the Site itself, are not visible from the Castle (**Image EDP A1.16**). Nor are any views achieved along the driveway or the majority of parkland at the eastern extent of the Park. Instead, glimpses of the scheduled ironworks furnace bank remains can only be achieved from the south-western portion of the Park looking across the lake (**Image EDP A1.17**), and occasional glimpses within the eastern parkland (although the Site itself is screened) (**Image EDP A1.18**).
- 5.58 Therefore, whilst these historic artistic interpretations illustrate the historic importance of this view, it is evident that the landscape is now substantially altered by modern development, such that (1) the structural remains of the ironworks are limited to the scheduled blast furnaces which are barely distinguishable in glimpsed views from the western edge of the park, and occasional glimpses from the eastern edge; (2) the view is now defined by modern built form, notably that of the Cyfarthfa Retail Park (where the Site is located); and (3) the planting within the park itself has now matured such that it screens views in this direction with the exception of from the western edge, over the lake. As such, the contribution to significance made by these views today is considered to be no more than very minor.

- 5.59 With specific regard to the Site itself, the Site forms a very small element of this wider view from Cyfarthfa Park, which is already partially screened by the vegetation within the Park, as well as further screened by the vegetation situated on top of the scheduled remains of the furnace bank. Moreover, the Site comprises a car park situated within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park and so therefore (1) it is experienced as a small, localised part of a larger modern development and (2) it neither retains nor exhibits any remaining discernible features indicating its historic associations with the Ironworks, such that the former connection between it and Cyfarthfa Castle and is intangible today without the review of historic documentation and information boards in the area.
- 5.60 The Site also forms part of the setting of Cyfarthfa Park and Castle in that the assets can be experienced in limited views outwards from the Site. Whilst the majority of the car parking area in which the Site sits is demarcated by dense vegetation forming its north-eastern boundary (atop the former furnace bank), and so does not allow for outward views towards the Castle and Park, a single small gap within this vegetation allows for filtered views towards the assets (**Image EDP A1.19**).
- 5.61 This view allows for a limited appreciation of not only the architectural and aesthetic character of the Castle, (and Clock Tower at Pandy Farm) and the aesthetic qualities of its Park, but also a limited appreciation of the historic connection between the Castle and the former ironworks, looking over the scheduled furnace bank remains and where this is only visible as recently established vegetation. At the same time, it is noted that the Castle was constructed primarily for outwards views over the Ironworks, rather than views inwards.
- 5.62 This view outwards from within the Site therefore makes no particular contribution to the significance of the registered park and garden and its associated buildings because the view is (1) not a designed view and is no more significant than views from elsewhere within the surrounding area, narrow and glimpsed between vegetation, and (2) it is viewed within a modern context with modern industrial and residential development dividing the two.
- 5.63 Moreover, it is noted that immediately east of the Site lies the 'heritage viewing platform', which was constructed in response to condition 11 of planning application P/13/0156, and detailed within the *Cyfarthfa Conservation Management Plan* (GGAT, 2013), in order to allow for a public experience of Cyfarthfa Castle and Park from the former Ironworks. However, during the Site visit it was established that the view from the viewing platform is currently screened by tall vegetation (**Image EDP A1.20**).
- 5.64 As such, whilst the Site is assessed as forming a component part of the setting of the assets within Cyfarthfa Park, the contribution it makes to the overall significance of these assets is considered to be nothing more than negligible.

Remaining Assets

- 5.65 The remaining designated historic assets located within the 500m study area comprise 15 Grade II listed buildings. These can be divided into the following two groups:
1. Buildings at Cyfarthfa Road (Grawen and Nos 22- 30) (**11403, 11417 – 11423**), located c.400m northeast of the Site; and

2. Buildings at Gellideg (Nos 15 – 17, 19 and 21) (**11516, 80768 – 80771**), located c.320m west of the Site.
- 5.66 Each of these buildings is located within the centre of the urban development of Merthyr Tydfil, where they are predominantly experienced and understood within the immediate street scenes around them, as well as from and within their historically associated ornamental farmstead square setting in the case of the buildings at Pandy Farm. These immediate, enclosed settings, and the group value derived from the adjacent listing buildings, are those which contribute to the significance of these assets.
- 5.67 As a result of the surrounding built development, comprising primarily residential and commercial retail buildings, as well as occasional industrial buildings, as well associated landscape planting, each of these buildings are entirely screened from the Site.
- 5.68 Whilst these buildings comprise ‘workers housing’, whereby the residents may have therefore worked at the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, any relationship between the two is tangential, and therefore is limited at most. However, given that there is no experience of the scheduled Ironworks remains from any of these buildings, or indeed the Site, which now forms a car park within a wider retail park, this historic association is now entirely intangible.
- 5.69 As a consequence, this assessment concludes that the Site does not represent a part of the setting of any of these buildings that makes a contribution to their significance and therefore the Site’s development would not have the potential to result in any adverse effect on any built heritage assets. As such, none of these Grade II listed buildings will be discussed further within this report.

NON DESIGNATED ASSETS WITHIN THE SITE

Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

- 5.70 The Site lies within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (MTLOHI), as defined by Cadw and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts. Heneb has further defined this landscape of historic interest into Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA), assessing the importance of each, as shown on **Plan EDP 5**.
- 5.71 Whilst the Site is located within the MTLOHI, it forms a small parcel of land which has previously been developed within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park. As such, it is assessed that any impacts occurring as a result of further development within this urbanised area are not considered to result in ‘significant’ levels of harm, as is commensurate by the fact that the Proposed Development does not meet the requirements for an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- 5.72 As such, and in line with the guidance in paragraph 6.1.21 of PPW, it was concluded from the outset that a full Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL) would not be necessary in this instance. Instead, consideration of the special character of the MTLOHI is presented below with regard to potential effects from the proposed development.

- 5.73 In that regard, the assessment in the paragraphs below considers any potential effects upon the historic interest of the MTLOH as a result of future development within the Site. These effects are considered both through direct effects upon the HLCA in which the Site is situated, as well as potential indirect effects through changes to the settings of those HLCA within the 500m search radius of Site.
- 5.74 The MTLOHI is summarised by Heneb as occupying a natural basin at the head of the Taff valley. Its topography comprises high hills and ridges which reach 450m aOD on all sides, while the built form of the area is constrained to the basin floor and valleys. The Merthyr Tydfil landscape is strongly characterised by its industrial heritage, having been “*probably the largest iron-making town in the world in the early to mid- 19th century*”. As such, the town, and its wider surrounding landscape was “*rapidly transformed from a modest village in the 1750s to the largest town in Wales by 1801*”.
- 5.75 Although there has been extensive recent land reclamation and sanitisation of waste tips, the MTLOHI still retains its industrial landscape character, and so it is still defined by “*the remains of large ironworks, remnants of the associated coal mining industry, water power leats, an early iron bridge, communication systems, including early tramroads, tips, terraced industrial housing, and the ironmasters house, Cyfarthfa Castle*”.

HLCA 012

- 5.76 The Site is located within HLCA 012 ‘Cyfarthfa Iron Works’. The extent of HLCA 012A largely reflects the western portion of the CCA (Character Area 4), The features which characterise this area have therefore been discussed in detail above and will not be duplicated here. HLCA 012B (to the south) is experienced today as comprising the main body of the Cyfarthfa Retail Park, and HLCA 012C forms the north-west portion of the CCA (essentially Character Area 3 of the CCA).
- 5.77 As described above, the Site comprises a car park within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park, and whilst it is known to contain archaeological remains related to a smithy building within the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, there are no appreciable above ground remains to evidence this former historic purpose and instead it is an entirely modernised area. As such, today the Site is not considered to contain any physical features which make any contribution to the special historic landscape character of HLCA012, and its contribution to the character areas is neutral.

HLCA 013

- 5.78 HLCA 013 comprises Cyfarthfa Castle and Park, the character of which has been discussed in full above.
- 5.79 A limited visual relationship between the Site and HLCA013 has therefore been established above. This includes a view looking towards the Castle and Park, allowing an appreciation of the appearance of the assets, albeit it is a narrow view through a gap in the vegetation, and with modern development dividing the two, as well as looking towards the ironworks from the Park and allowing a limited appreciation of the historic connection between the two, albeit the Site is barely distinguishable as a car park within the wider Retail Park, with no upstanding remains to evidence its previous industrial use.

5.80 The Site is therefore considered to make no more than a negligible contribution to the special historic landscape character of HLCA013.

Remaining Character Areas

5.81 The following section summarises the defining features of those HLCA located within a 500m search radius of the Site and considers any potential indirect effects to their historic interest as a result of development within the Site.

5.82 Whilst it is noted that HLCAs further afield, and on high points in the landscape, may allow for long distance views over the Site, it is assessed that the Site would be indistinguishable as a car park within a larger retail park and therefore these views do not have the potential to be affected by the development.

Table EDP 5.1: Remaining Character Areas

HLCA No.	HLCA Name	Distance from Site	Summary of Character	Relationship with the Site
002	Williamstown, Cae-Pant-Tywyll, Tydfil's Well and Morgan Town	c. 375m east	- Well preserved early industrial settlement expansion with close association with Cyfarthfa Iron Works; - Industrial transport corridor; - Minor late urban renewal; and - Minor commercial development.	Limited historic associations through connection of transport corridor and workers housing with Cyfarthfa Ironworks. But entirely screened from Site with no tangible experience of this connection.
014	River Taff Canal and Railway Corridor	c. 350m east	- Main north-south communication corridor (canal, tramroad, railroad); 18th and 19th century extractive features; - Industrial housing; now primarily modern housing; and - Ancient Woodland.	Limited historic associations through connection of transport corridor and workers housing with Cyfarthfa Ironworks. But entirely screened from Site with no tangible experience of this connection.

HLCA No.	HLCA Name	Distance from Site	Summary of Character	Relationship with the Site
009	George Town, Former Industrial Settlement	c.210m south-east	- Industrial settlement area, now primarily modern housing; and - Transport corridor.	Limited historic associations through connection of transport corridor and industrial housing with Cyfarthfa Ironworks. But entirely screened from Site with no tangible experience of this connection.
079	A470(T) Road	c.60m west	- North-south road transport corridor (late 19th Century rail, late 20th Century road; and - Former industrial extractive landscape associated with the steam coal trade.	Limited historic associations through connection of transport corridor with Cyfarthfa Ironworks. But entirely screened from Site with no tangible experience of this connection.
070	Cwm Glo: Tramroad. Plateway and Incline Corridor	c.400m south	- Nationally important industrial landscape associated with Cyfarthfa Ironworks; - Industrial transport corridor (tramroad, plateway and incline corridor); - Industrial extractive features; and - Industrial water management features.	Limited historic associations through connection of transport corridor, water management features and extractive features with Cyfarthfa Ironworks. But entirely screened from Site with no tangible experience of this connection.
068	Heolgerrig and Pen-yr-Heolgerrig	c.410m south-west	- Industrial squatter' settlement, 20th Century terraces and housing estates; - Industrial extractive and transport features; and - Minor agricultural features.	Limited historic associations through connection of transport corridor and workers housing with Cyfarthfa Ironworks. But entirely screened from Site with no tangible experience of this connection.

HLCA No.	HLCA Name	Distance from Site	Summary of Character	Relationship with the Site
066	Waun-y-Nant Goy Tips	c.175m south-west	- Industrial extractive features associated with Cyfarthfa Ironworks; - Industrial transport corridor; - Now largely defined by 'Trago' retail centre.	Limited historic associations through connection of transport corridor and extractive features with Cyfarthfa Ironworks. But entirely screened from Site with no tangible experience of this connection.
063	Clwyd-y-Fagwyr, Gellideg and Pen-LLwyn-Deri	c.210m west	- Industrial settlement now dominated by large regular planned estates (mid-late 20th century); - Industrial extractive features; - Industrial transport corridor; - Industrial water management features.	Limited historic associations through connection of industrial housing, transport corridor, water management features and extractive features with Cyfarthfa Ironworks. But entirely screened from Site with no tangible experience of this connection.

5.83 The completion of this assessment has (therefore) not identified or determined any additional character areas of the MTLOHI which possess or exhibit the potential to be adversely affected by the Proposed Development.

NON-DESIGNATED ASSETS SETTING ASSESSMENT

Locally Listed Buildings

5.84 Two 'locally listed buildings' are located within the 500m study area around the Site, as defined on the list of locally listed buildings compiled by Merthyr Tydfil Council⁵, and recorded on the HER. These buildings are listed below and are depicted on **Plan EDP 3**.

5.85 The two locally listed buildings comprise:

- 11 - 21 Cyfarthfa Road, Williamstown (MT/LLB/076/**09232m**), located c.400m north-east of the Site; and
- Nos. 23-28 Gellideg, (MT/LLB/075/**09231m**) located c.320m west of the Site.

⁵ www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1154/locallylistedbuildingsinmerthyrtydfil.pdf

- 5.86 These buildings are located adjacent to the listed buildings discussed above, forming a continuation of the workers housing, albeit these two terraces appear to have been subject to later alterations such that they are of lower significance than their listed counterparts, as is commensurate with their local designations.
- 5.87 As with the adjacent listed buildings, there is no visual relationship between the Site and these locally listed buildings, nor is there any tangible historic association between the former workers housing and the Site, which is no longer appreciable as part of the former Cyfarthfa Ironworks and instead now comprises a car park within a wider retail estate. Therefore, the Site does not represent a part of the setting of any of these buildings that makes a contribution to their significance and therefore the Site's development would not have the potential to result in any adverse effect on any built heritage assets. Accordingly, neither of these buildings will be discussed further.

Section 6

Impact Assessment

- 6.1 This section of the assessment identifies the nature and magnitude of any impacts arising from the Proposed Development in respect of the historic environment.
- 6.2 In this regard, it considers and assesses 'direct' and 'indirect' impacts through changes to setting upon both designated and non-designated historic assets in the landscape, based on the assessment presented in **Section 5**. It also assesses potential impacts upon the Site's buried archaeology, based on the evidence presented in **Section 4**.

DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

- 6.3 This section assesses the potential for the Proposed Development to result in impacts on designated historic assets, either through direct changes to their fabric or indirect changes to their setting, as per Stage 3 of Cadw's setting assessment guidance (Cadw, 2017).
- 6.4 In terms of minimising or avoiding harm and maximising enhancements, i.e. Stage 4, where possible this has been addressed in the design of the proposals during the masterplanning process.
- 6.5 In terms of the designated historic assets which could be affected by the implementation of the Proposed Development - such that could result in harm to their significance - it was identified in **Section 5** that these are limited to the CCA, Scheduled Monument Remains of Blast Furnaces, Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle and Registered Park and Garden, and associated Clock Tower.

Cyfarthfa Conservation Area

- 6.6 As set out above, **Section 5** establishes that the Site is situated within the southern portion of the CCA (specifically the southern portion of Character Area 4). Whilst the Site has a historic and functional relationship with the wider ironworks, having formerly formed part of the works, it now comprises a car park within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park.
- 6.7 Given the now entirely modern character of the Site, with no appreciable upstanding remains which evidence the historic relationship to the former Cyfarthfa Ironworks, the Site is not considered to make a positive contribution to the special character of the CCA, and is entirely neutral.
- 6.8 The implementation of the Proposed Development would result in the construction of a new, single storey drive-through building, with associated infrastructure, including car parking and signage. This addition, while changing the Site from a level car park to one which includes a building, would be entirely in keeping with the character of the surrounding Cyfarthfa Retail Park, which forms the southern portion of the CCA (Character Area 4) and therefore there would be no impact on its character or appearance.

- 6.9 As such, the implementation of the Proposed Development would preserve the character and appearance of the CCA and there would be no loss of its special interest.

Scheduled Monument Remains of Blast Furnaces

- 6.10 The Site is established in **Section 5** to form part of the setting of the scheduled monument in that it forms part of the backdrop of views of the monument from the east, including a very filtered view from Cyfarthfa Park (discussed fully below). However, there is no tangible evidence of the former historic connection between the Site and the blast furnace in these views, and the Site is simply experienced as a small, localised part of a larger modern development, and any views towards the monument from the Site are defined only by vegetation. As such, the contribution made by the Site to the significance of the scheduled monument in this regard is considered to be no more than negligible.
- 6.11 The Proposed Development would include the addition of a new Burger King Drive Through building with associated infrastructure and signage. The building is proposed to be a single storey in height and to be set back from the edge of the scheduled monument, with a small area of existing car parking space separating the two. However, the new built form and associated signage is likely to be at least partially visible in this vista.
- 6.12 Regardless, given that the Site is currently situated within the Cyfarthfa Retail Park and surrounded by large retail units such as the B&Q to the west and McDonalds to the south, the Proposed Development is considered to be entirely in keeping with the current experience of this view. Indeed, it can be considered a 'like-for-like' addition to the current backdrop when viewed from the scheduled monument, and there would be no impact on the scheduled monument.

Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle and Registered Park and Grade II listed Clock Tower

- 6.13 The Site is established in **Section 5** to form part of the setting of Cyfarthfa Park and associated assets in that it forms part of the backdrop of a historically important view looking south-west from Cyfarthfa Park, allowing an appreciation of the functional association between the park and the ironworks. However, this view is now largely screened by vegetation, and the Site is barely distinguishable as a car park within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park. As such, the contribution from the Site to the assets in this regard is considered to be no more than negligible.
- 6.14 The Proposed Development would include the addition of a new Burger King Drive Through building with associated infrastructure and signage. The building is proposed to be single storey in height, and surrounded by car parking space. However, the new built form and associated signage is likely to be at least marginally visible in this vista. Regardless, the Site is currently situated within the Cyfarthfa Retail Park, and surrounded by large retail units such that the Proposed Development would be entirely in keeping with the current experience of this view and can be considered a 'like-for-like' addition to the current backdrop when viewed from Cyfarthfa Park. It is therefore concluded that there would be no impact on the significance of this designated historic asset.
- 6.15 Considering the views towards Cyfarthfa Castle, Park and Clock Tower from the Site, it is established that these make no particular contribution to overall significance to these

assets, allowing little understanding or appreciation of the appearance of these assets and former relationship with the wider ironworks.

- 6.16 The implementation of the Proposed Development would not prevent this view, given that it is only achievable from the north-east boundary of the Site, where it is closest to the gap in the vegetation. This area of the Site is intended to remain as car parking facilities, with additional car parking separating the Site from the gap in the vegetation. As such, the glimpsed view from the Site itself would remain unchanged, as a filtered view across a car park and between vegetation. As such, it is concluded that there would be no impact on the significance of these historic assets as a result of the proposals' implementation.
- 6.17 In any event, the implementation of the Proposed Development potentially offers an opportunity for better landscape management within the 'ownership boundary' of the applicant, which includes the 'heritage viewing platform', located immediately east of the Site. The viewing platform is currently entirely obscured by overgrown vegetation; as such, the reduction of the height of this vegetation, and reinstatement of this publicly accessible viewing point, along the 'heritage trail' with associated information board could therefore direct the public to a superior viewing experience.

MERTHYR TYDFIL LANDSCAPE OF OUTSTANDING HISTORIC INTEREST

- 6.18 The Site is located within HLCA 012 (Cyfarthfa Ironworks). As it is entirely modern in character, with no appreciable upstanding remains which evidence the historic relationship to the former Cyfarthfa Ironworks, the Site is considered to make a neutral contribution to the special character of HLCA 012. The Proposed Development, which is in keeping with the existing Cyfarthfa Retail Park, would therefore result in a 'neutral' impact.
- 6.19 The Site (as existing) also forms the backdrop of a historically important outwards view from HLCA 013 (Cyfarthfa Castle and Park), and also enables glimpsed views towards these assets. However, as discussed above in the context of the registered park and garden, the Site makes no more than a negligible contribution in this regard, given its location within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park, and its development would result in a 'neutral' impact, given that the proposals are entirely in keeping with the existing Retail Park.
- 6.20 Moreover, the development offers an opportunity for improved landscape management within the 'ownership boundary' of the applicant, providing an improved view unobscured by vegetation from the 'heritage viewing platform' to the north-east of the Site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

- 6.21 The impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource within the Site is expected to result from any direct truncation and/or removal of remains during the completion of groundworks for the development proposals.
- 6.22 As discussed in **Section 4** above, the Site has been subject to extensive re-development from the 18th to 21st Centuries, so that any earlier archaeological features, deposits and/or remains (for which there is considered to be no more than a very low potential) are likely to

have been heavily truncated by later development or at least buried beneath significant accumulations of later overburden.

- 6.23 There are, however, known remains within the Site related to a smithy building of the Cyfarthfa Iron works, and potentially other associated industrial features, which are expected to be of no greater than moderate, regional interest.
- 6.24 The previous trial trench evaluation within the Site (GGAT, 2012) established that the overburden within the Site is of c.1.8m – 6.3m in depth, with industrial features being located at c.1.8m below ground level (BGL) at a minimum.
- 6.25 The engineering specifications for the construction groundworks (for the development) entail raft foundations for the proposed drive-through building, comprising a shallow dig of no more than c.1m in depth, and a concrete raft across its extent (GISL, 2025), with associated infrastructure of services and re-surfacing of the car park, which are not anticipated to go beyond this depth.
- 6.26 Given these limited depths of the groundworks, it is unlikely that they would reach archaeological horizons relating to the Industrial period or earlier, and instead, the likelihood is that there is only a potential for modern archaeological remains to be encountered, relating to the Thorn Electrical Factory, with some potential to encounter the top of structural remains relating to the former Cyfarthfa Iron Works Smithy building.
- 6.27 As a result, it is considered that the Proposed Development is unlikely to have anything more than a limited impact on the Site's archaeological interest, through the loss of negligible value modern remains, and potential localised/low level truncation of the more moderate value remains of the Smithy building. Moreover, there would be a significant amount of physical preservation in situ for the deeper elements of the features and deposits which are present within the development's footprint.
- 6.28 If necessary, the direct impact arising from the truncation/loss of buried archaeological remains (primarily those related to the smithy building) could be appropriately mitigated by the agreement and implementation of a proportionate programme of investigation and recording (i.e. a watching brief) during the construction works.
- 6.29 The watching brief would be commissioned and undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) secured as a condition of planning permission being granted for the proposed development.

Section 7

Conclusions

- 7.1 This Archaeology and Heritage Assessment (AHA) has been prepared to inform planning proposals for the development of a Burger King Drive Thru at Cyfarthfa Retail Park, Merthyr Tydfil. The assessment has (1) established the historic environment baseline within the Site, (2) identified any designated and/or non-designated historic assets which have the potential for development within the Site to cause change or harm to their significance, (3) determined the nature of any impacts arising from the implementation of the Proposed Development and (4) defined any measures required to mitigate such impacts.
- 7.2 The assessment concludes that, the whilst the Site is situated within the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area (CCA), because it is a modern car park within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park it makes no contribution to the designated Area's special character. As such, the Proposed Development, which will be entirely in keeping with the surrounding Retail Park, would have no impact on the asset's special interest.
- 7.3 The Site forms part of the setting of the scheduled monument 'Remains of Blast Furnaces', insofar as it forms part of the backdrop of views towards the monument. However, the addition of the Proposed Development would represent a 'like-for-like' change given the current context of the Site within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park, resulting in a 'neutral' impact upon the asset.
- 7.4 Similarly, the Site forms part of the setting of Cyfarthfa Park and associated assets, forming a backdrop of views toward the former Ironworks, as well as allowing glimpsed, filtered views of the assets. As above, the Proposed Development would be entirely in keeping with the current Retail Park development, and would not prevent the opportunity for filtered views towards the assets from the north-east edge of the Site. As such, any impacts in this regard would be 'neutral'. Moreover, the Proposed Development offers an opportunity for better landscape management within the 'ownership boundary' of the Applicant, which includes the 'heritage viewing platform' located immediately east of the Site, in order to best experience the views towards Cyfarthfa Castle and associated Registered Park and Garden.
- 7.5 Therefore, in terms of designated historic assets, the Proposed Development adheres to national policy defined within the *Planning Policy Wales Edition 12* (PPW 12, Welsh Government 2024), as well as the relevant local planning policies contained within the Council's RLDP.
- 7.6 In terms of non-designated historic assets, the Site is located within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. In its existing form, the Site makes no more than a negligible contribution to the MTLOHI, given that it is entirely modern in character, but it does form the backdrop to historically important views from Cyfarthfa Park, and allows for glimpsed filtered views towards the Park and its assets.
- 7.7 As above, the Proposed Development would be entirely in keeping with the existing built form of the Cyfarthfa Retail Park when viewed from the Park and it would still allow for glimpsed views towards the assets from its north-eastern edge. The proposals would

therefore result in a 'neutral' impact. This 'neutral' impact therefore does not meet the requirement to be taken into account in decision making as per Paragraph 1.1.21 of PPW but it has nonetheless been given full consideration (in this report) as per Policy CW1 of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council *Replacement Local Development Plan* (RLDP).

- 7.8 With regard to non-designated archaeological remains, the Proposed Development is unlikely to have anything more than a very limited impact on the Site's archaeological interest through localised truncation of remains from the industrial and modern periods, given that the groundworks are unlikely to reach the archaeological horizon, due to the depth of made ground across the Site.
- 7.9 It is concluded that this potential loss of non-designated archaeological remains should not represent a 'determinative' matter for the planning application as a result of the fact that it would be limited and localised in extent and also restricted (in the main) to below ground deposits of relatively limited significance.
- 7.10 This limited and localised impact could be appropriately mitigated by the agreement and then subsequent implementation of a focused programme of archaeological investigation and recording as a condition of planning permission being granted for these proposals.
- 7.11 It is anticipated that this focused programme of work could take the form of archaeological monitoring and recording (i.e. a 'watching brief') and would be undertaken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with the Council's archaeological curator in advance, and with the work extending to the publication of the site work's results and the deposition of a project archive in the relevant local museum.
- 7.12 This would ensure that any archaeological remains within the Site that cannot be physically conserved *in situ* would then be preserved by record *in lieu* of the Proposed Development's approval and completion.
- 7.13 With this archaeological mitigation in place, the development proposals would accord with national planning policy in the PPW and the relevant policies in the adopted Local Plan. Therefore, there is no reason on heritage and archaeological grounds why the planning application should not be treated favourably and granted permission by the Council in due course.

Section 8

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LIST OF CONSULTED MAPS

1850 Tithe map of the Parish of Merthyr Tydfil

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1875

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1900

The 1919 -20 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1938-52 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1958-64 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1963-89 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1993 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

Appendix EDP 1 Images



Image EDP A1.1: View north-east of the Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle (**11396**), illustrating its form and appearance.



Image EDP A1.2: View south-west across Cyfarthfa Park, illustrating its character defined by open parkland and tree planting.



Image EDP A1.3: View south-west from Cyfarthfa Castle, illustrating the landscaped qualities of its associated Park, defined by designed terraces and planting, as well as the landmark feature the lake.



Image EDP A1.4: View north towards Cyfarthfa Park illustrating the architectural features of its entrance, comprising the Grade II listed Gate piers, Railings and Walls (**11399 – 11402**).



Image EDP A1.5: View north-east towards Cyfarthfa Castle, illustrating the landscaped driveway with its associated Park, lined by mature Cyprus Pines and forming a spectacular entranceway to the listed building.



Image EDP A1.6: View south-west of the grouping of buildings at Pandy Farm, including the Grade II listed Clocktower (**11405**), illustrating their appearance.



Image EDP A1.7: View south-east within the woodland forming the western portion of Cyfarthfa Park, illustrating its appearance, as well as its screening effect, with no views towards the Site obtained.



Image EDP A1.8: View north to 'The Depot', within the western portion of Cyfarthfa Park, illustrating its modern qualities.



Image EDP A1.9: View north along the Gurnos Tramroad (**GM478**), illustrating the visible remains of the canal, as well as the surrounding vegetation which screens outwards views, including towards the Site.



Image EDP A1.10: View north over the Grade II* listed Cefn Viaduct, illustrating its appearance, and scale as a local landmark.



Image EDP A1.11: View south across the locally listed Cyfarthfa Finger Tip, illustrating its appearance, with its defining patterns as a result of slag run off, as well as its vegetated surroundings with no views towards the Site (although Cyfarthfa Castle is visible).



Image EDP A1.12: View south-west of the scheduled monument Remains of Furnace Bank (**GM425**), illustrating its appearance, as well as the vegetation growth surrounding it.



Image EDP A1.13: View north-west of the scheduled monument Remains of Furnace Bank (**GM425**), illustrating its appearance, as well as the vegetation growth surrounding it.



Image EDP A1.14: View west towards B&Q and the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park, illustrating its modern character.



Image EDP A1.15: View east across the Site, illustrating its modern character as a car park within the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park.



Image EDP A1.16: View south-west from Cyfarthfa Castle, looking towards the former Ironworks, as is shown in historic illustrations and is recognised as a key historic view, but is now entirely screened by the vegetation within the Park.



Image EDP A1.17: View south-west across the western portion of Cyfarthfa Park, illustrating glimpsed, filtered views towards the scheduled furnace bank, with the Site barely distinguishable as part of the wider Cyfarthfa Retail Park (shown by arrow)



Image EDP A1.18: View south-east across the eastern portion of Cyfarthfa Park, illustrating glimpsed, filtered views towards the scheduled furnace bank, with the Site screened by vegetation (shown by arrow).



Image EDP A1.19: View north-east from the Site towards Cyfarthfa Castle and Park, as well as the Clock Tower at Pandy Farm, illustrating filtered views towards the assets.



Image EDP A1.20: View north-east of the 'heritage viewing platform' immediately east of the Site, illustrating that the vegetation has become overgrown, screening outwards views.



Image EDP A1.21: View south-west towards the retaining wall of the scheduled furnace bank, illustrating that the Site is visible in these views, albeit filtered by vegetation (shown by arrow).

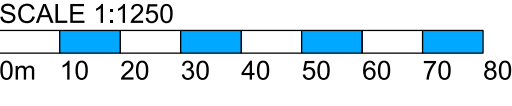
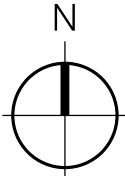
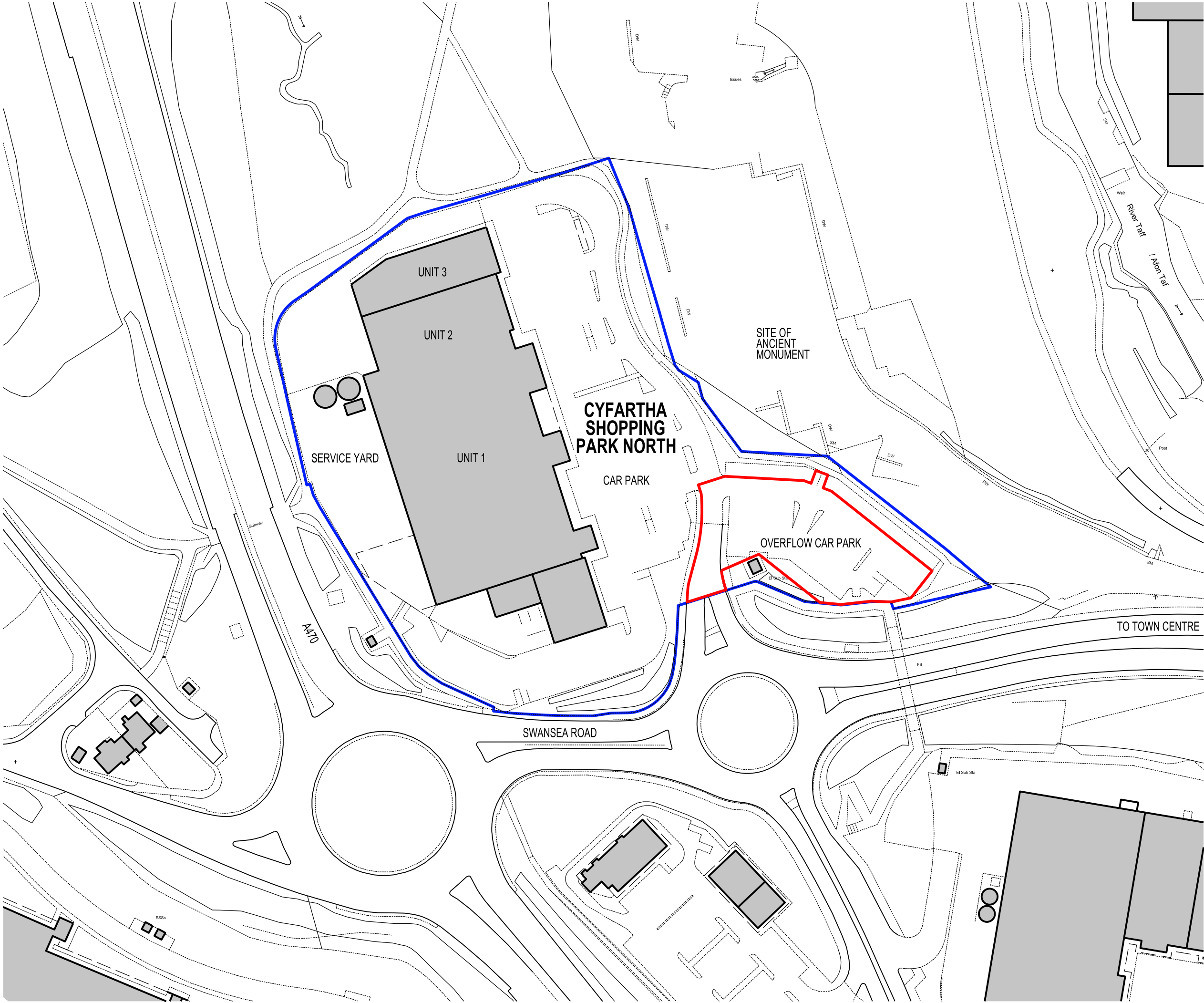


Image EDP A1.22: View south from Cefn Viaduct, illustrating that any views towards the Site are screened by vegetation, although Cyfarthfa Castle is visible in the backdrop



Image EDP A1.23: View south from Pont-y-Cafnau, illustrating that any views towards the Site are screened by vegetation.

Appendix EDP 2
Location Plan and Proposed Site Plan
(RGP Architects, March 2026)



ORDNANCE SURVEY LICENCE

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- KEY
- APPLICATION BOUNDARY
 - OWNERSHIP BOUNDARY

A	18/03/26	APPLICATION BOUNDARY UPDATED	AM
REV.	DATE	NOTES	INIT.

CLIENT / PROJECT

BRITISH LAND

BURGER KING DT

MERTHYR TYDFIL

DRAWING TITLE

LOCATION PLAN

STATUS

PLANNING

DATE	DRAWN	SCALE @ A3
MAR 2026	CMP	1:1250

PROJECT NUMBER	UNIT / BLOCK	CI / SFB CODE	TYPE & NUMBER	REVISION LETTER
DRAWING NO.				

11862	PL	LP01	A
Site Location Plans	L	GA Plans	P
Sections	S	Details	D
		Elevations	E
		Prefix: Colour	C

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18/03/2026 1825426 P:\000\11800-11899\11862\1-Sheets\Planning\11862-PL-LP01.dgn andrew.mitchell BK DRIVE THRU, MERTHYR TYDFIL

Plans

Plan EDP 1: Overview of Designated Heritage Assets

(edp9527_d001b 27 March 2026 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 2: National Monuments Record of Wales Data

(edp9527_d007b 27 March 2026 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 3: Overview of HER Monuments

(edp9527_d002b 27 March 2026 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 4: Overview of HER Events

(edp9527_d003b 27 March 2026 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 5: Overview of Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

(edp9527_d004b 27 March 2026 VMS/EBR)

Plan EDP 6: Extracts of 1850 Tithe Map of the Parish of Merthyr Tydfil

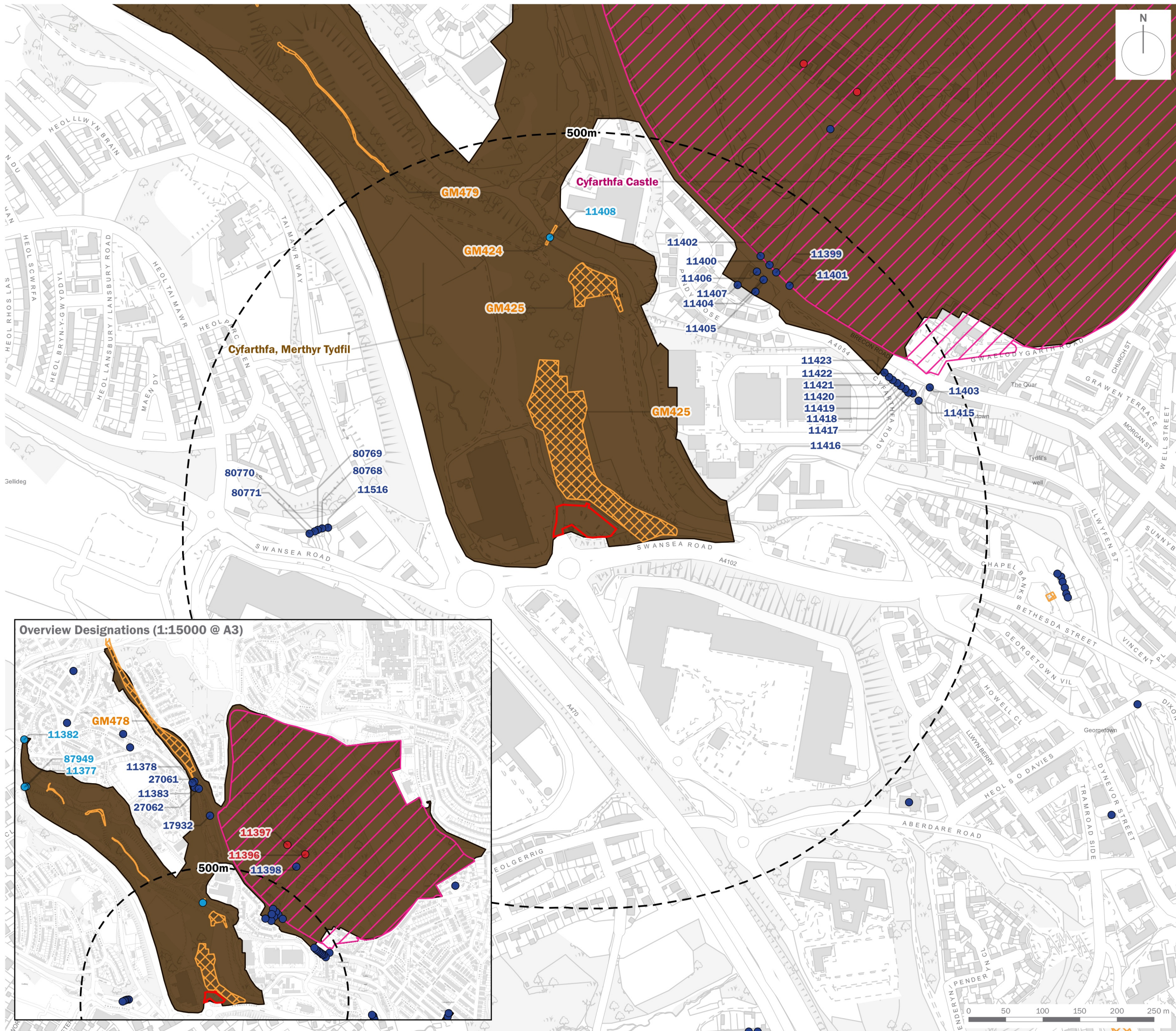
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Plan EDP 7: Extracts of Historic OS Mapping (1875-1920)

(edp9527_d006b 27 March 2026 VMS/EBR)

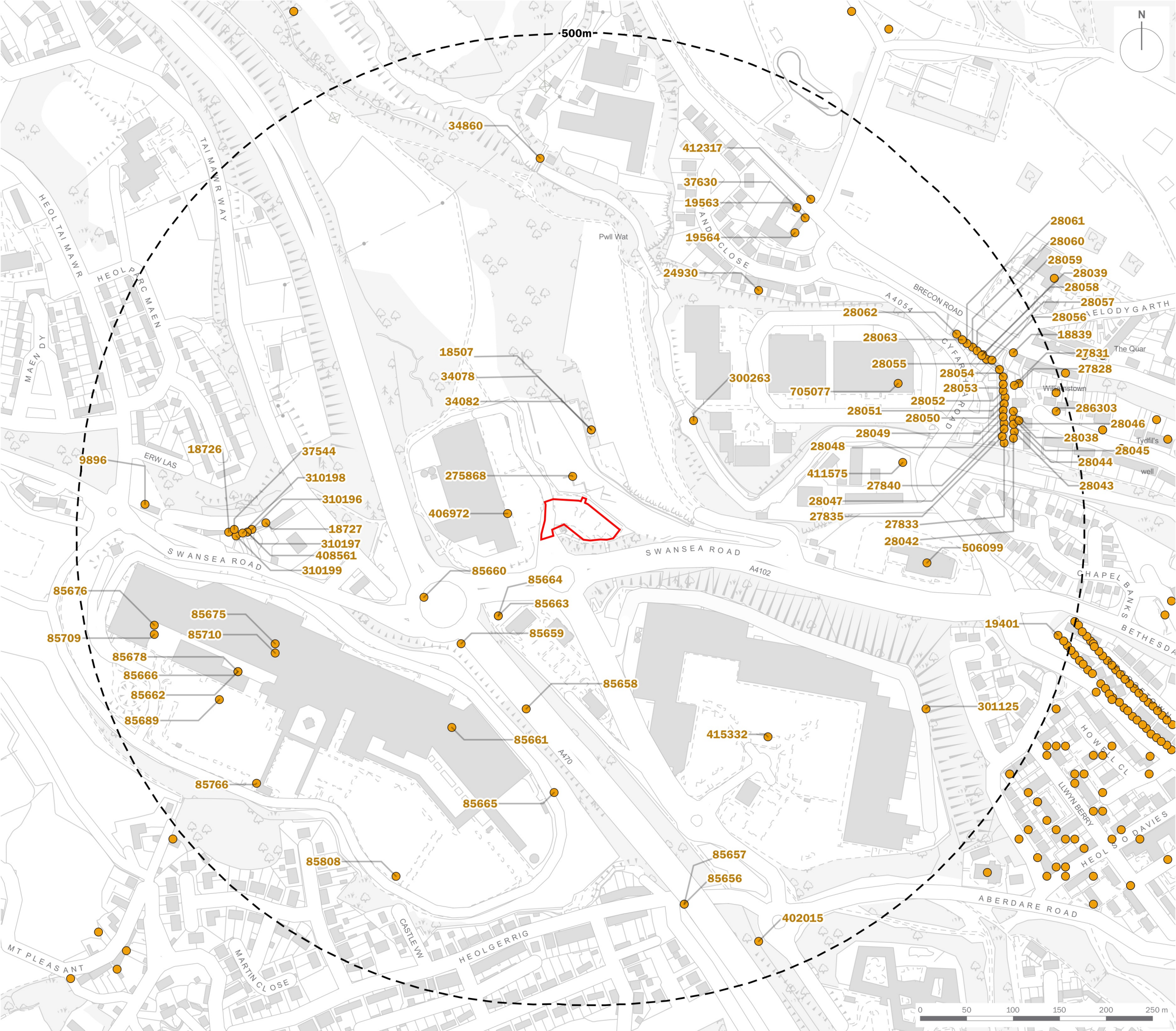
Plan EDP 8: Extracts of Historic OS Mapping (1938-1989)

(edp9527_d008b 27 March 2026 VMS/EBR)



- Site Boundary
- 500m Study Area
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Conservation Area
- Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II* Listed Building
- Grade II Listed Building

client	British Land		
project title	Proposed Burger King Drive Thru at Cyfarthfa Shopping Park, Merthyr Tydfil		
drawing title	Overview of Designated Heritage Assets		
date	27 MARCH 2026	drawn by	VMS
drawing number	edp9527_d001b	checked	EBR
scale	1:5,000 @ A3	QA	DJo



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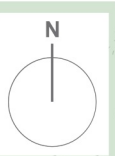
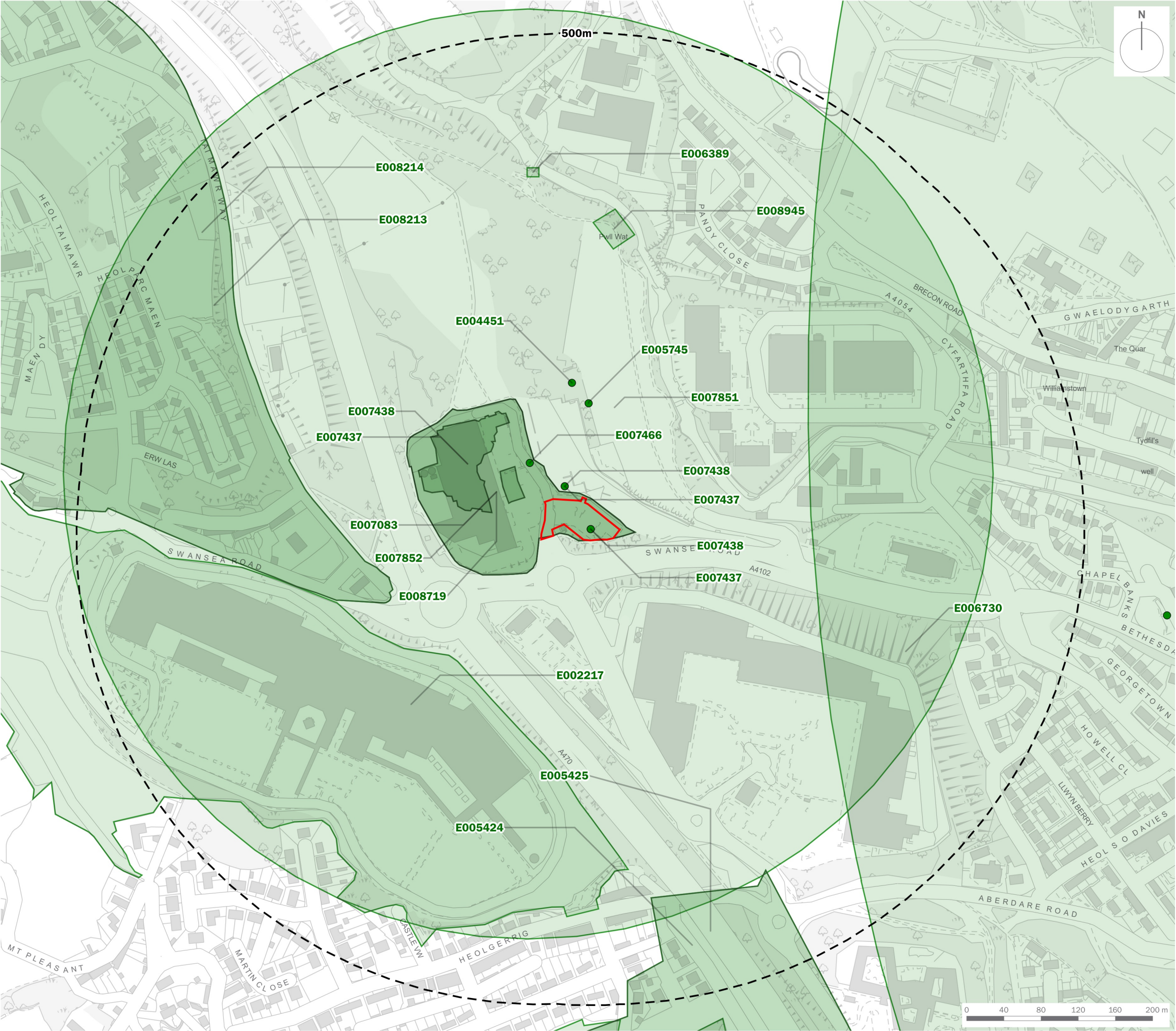
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British Land			
project title			
Proposed Burger King Drive Thru at Cyfarthfa Shopping Park, Merthyr Tydfil			
drawing title			
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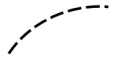
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Site Boundary



500m Study Area



HER Event

client

British Land

project title

Proposed Burger King Drive Thru at Cyfarthfa Shopping Park, Merthyr Tydfil

drawing title

Overview of HER Events

date

27 MARCH 2026

drawn by **VMS**

drawing number

edp9527_d003b

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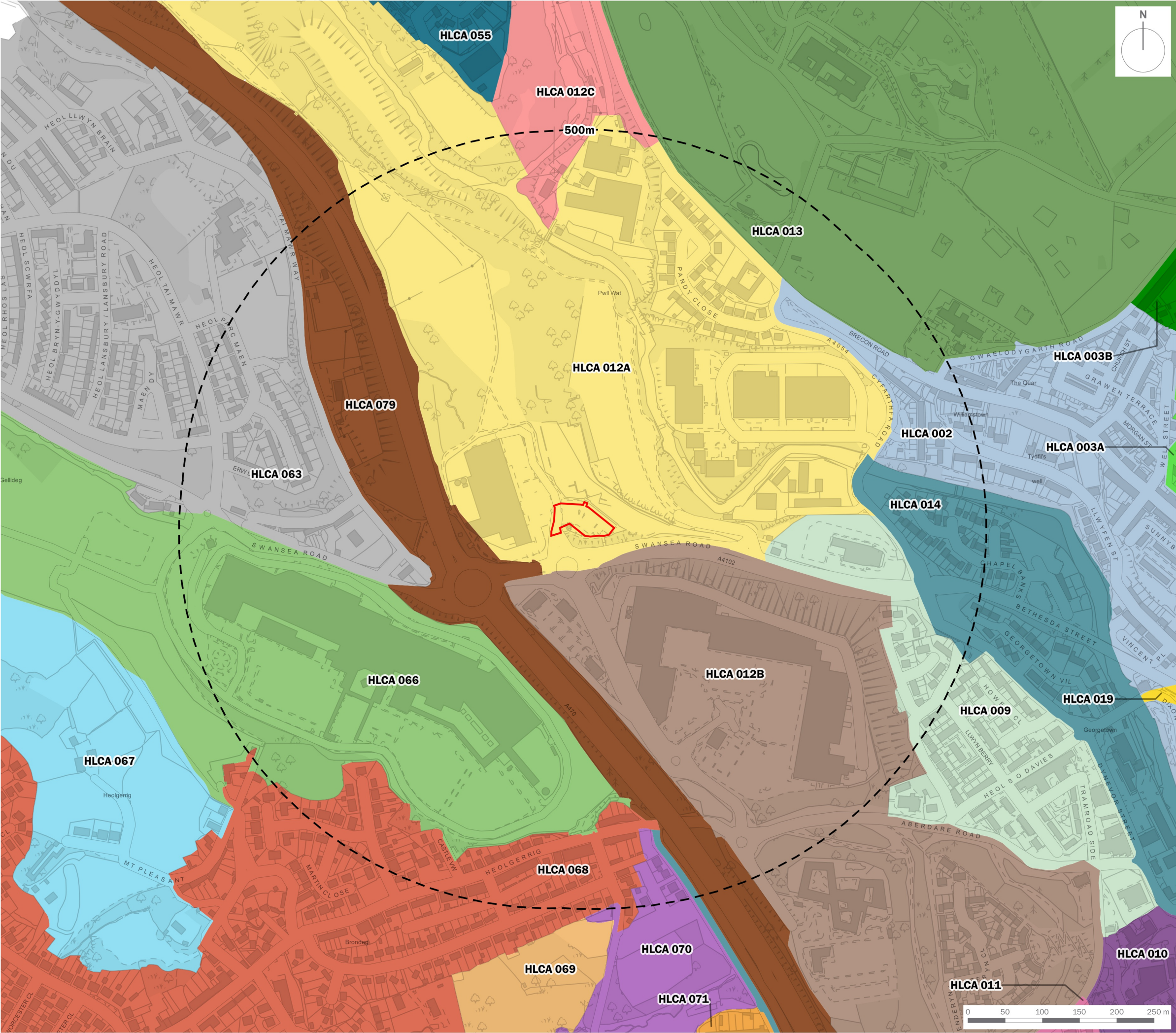
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- HLCA 012A
- HLCA 012B
- HLCA 012C
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- HLCA 070
- HLCA 071
- HLCA 079

client

British Land

project title

Proposed Burger King Drive Thru at Cyfarthfa Shopping Park, Merthyr Tydfil

drawing title

Overview of Methyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

date

27 MARCH 2026

drawn by **VMS**

drawing number

edp9527_d004b

checked **EBR**

scale

1:5,000 @ A3

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 Approximate Site Boundary

client

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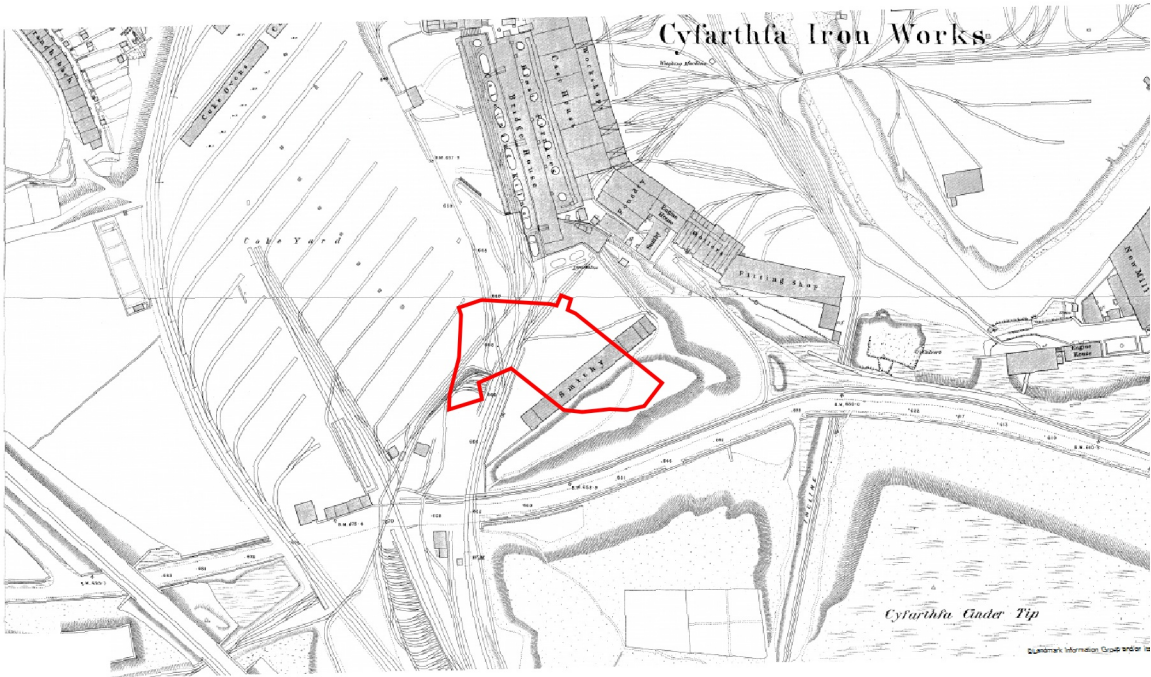
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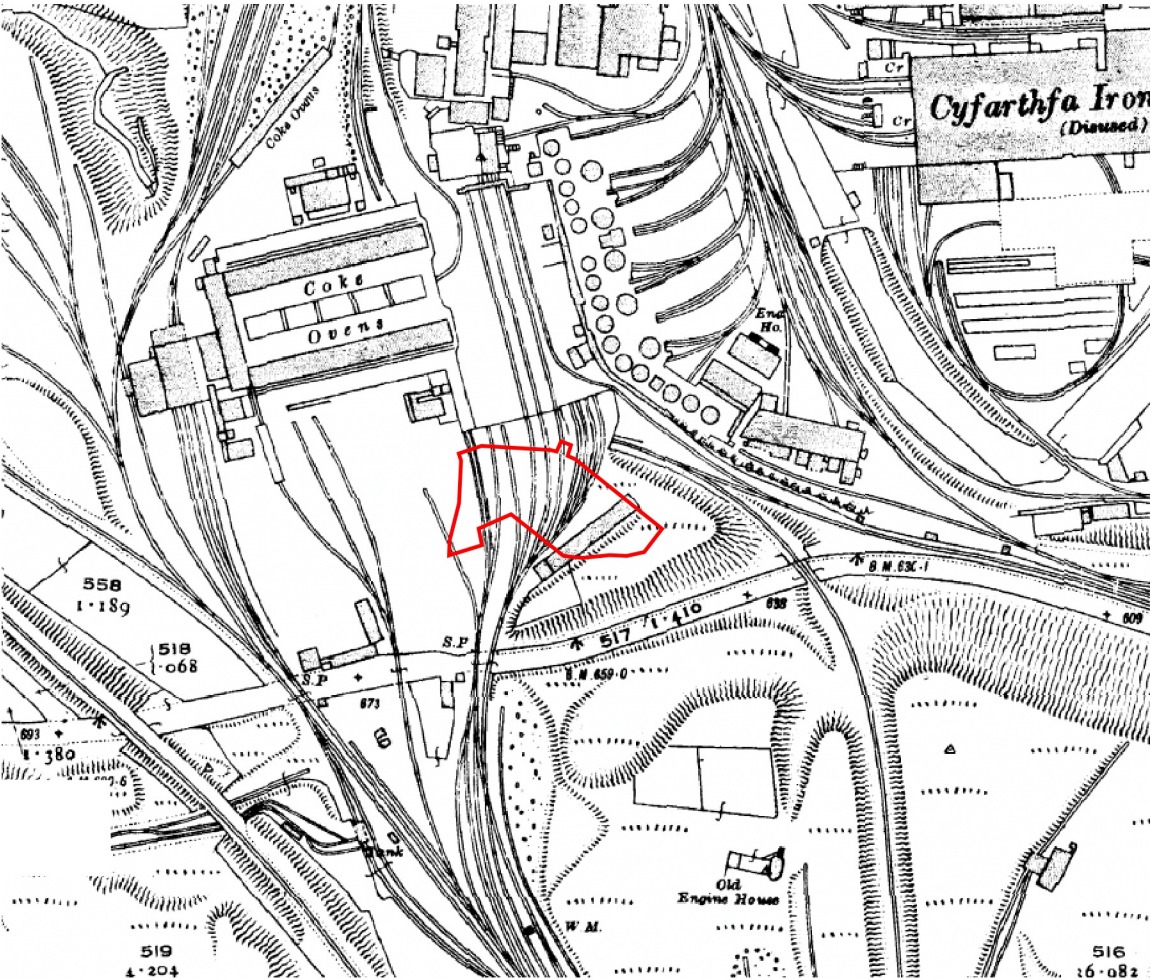
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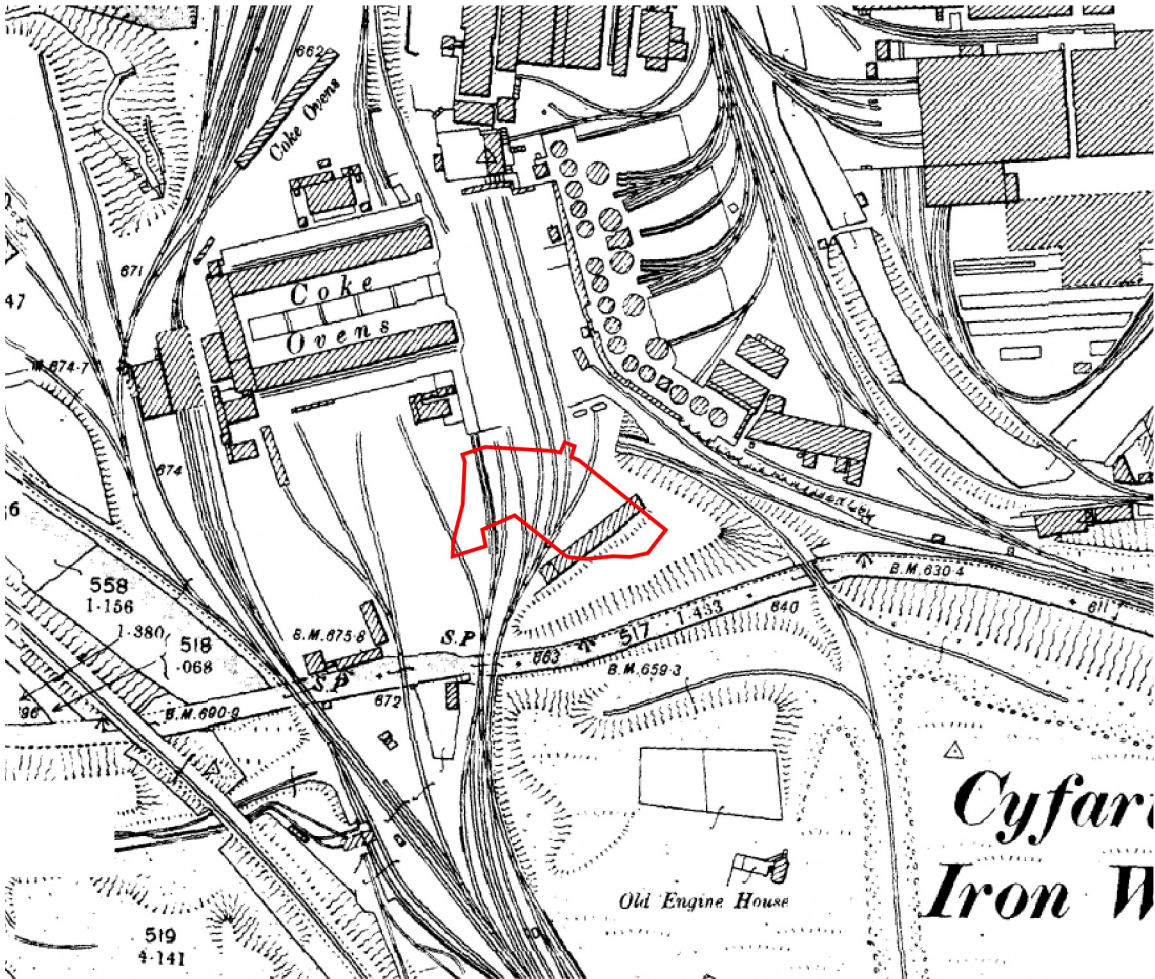
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1875-76 Ordnance Survey



1919-20 Ordnance Survey



1900-04 Ordnance Survey

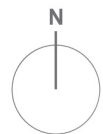
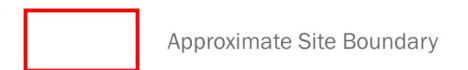
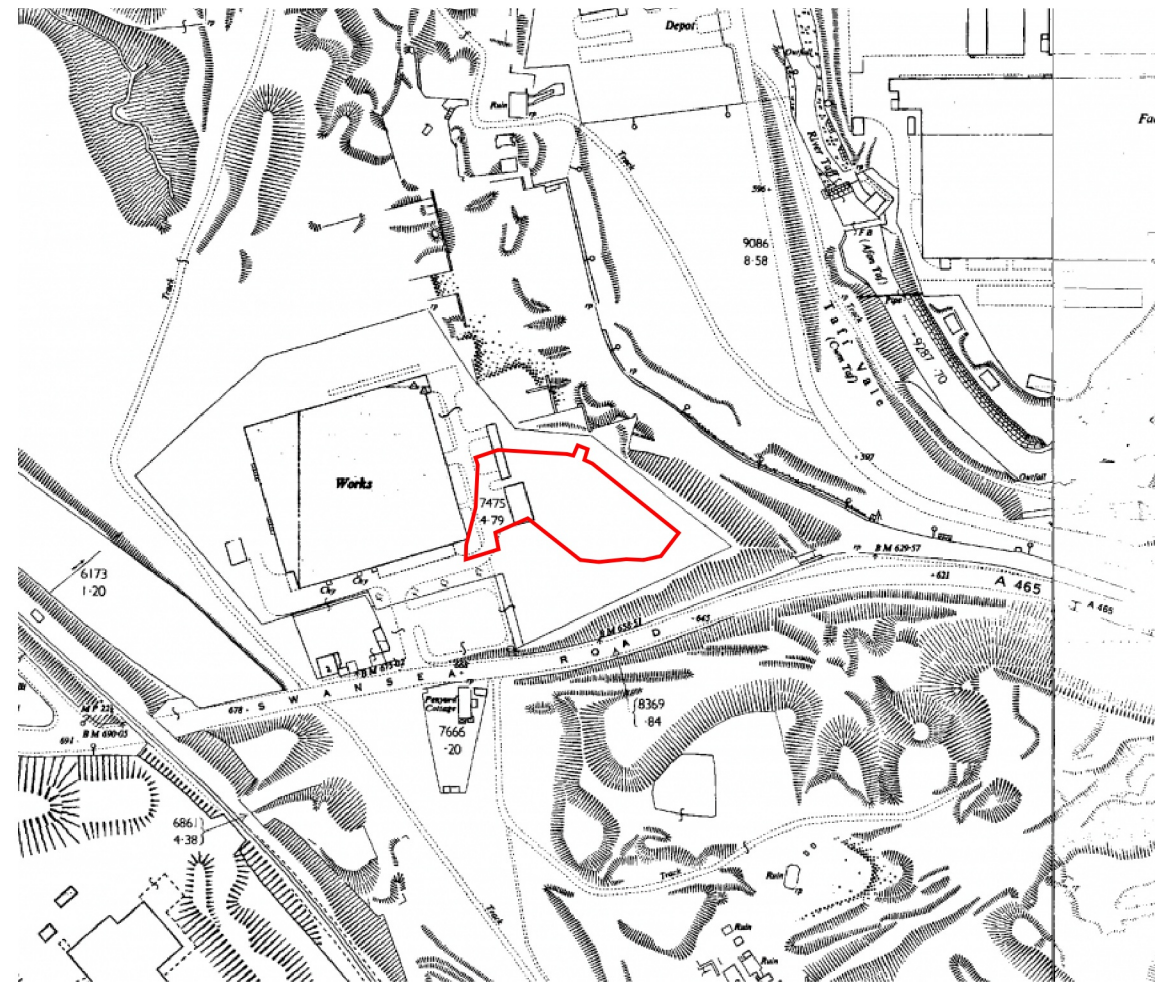
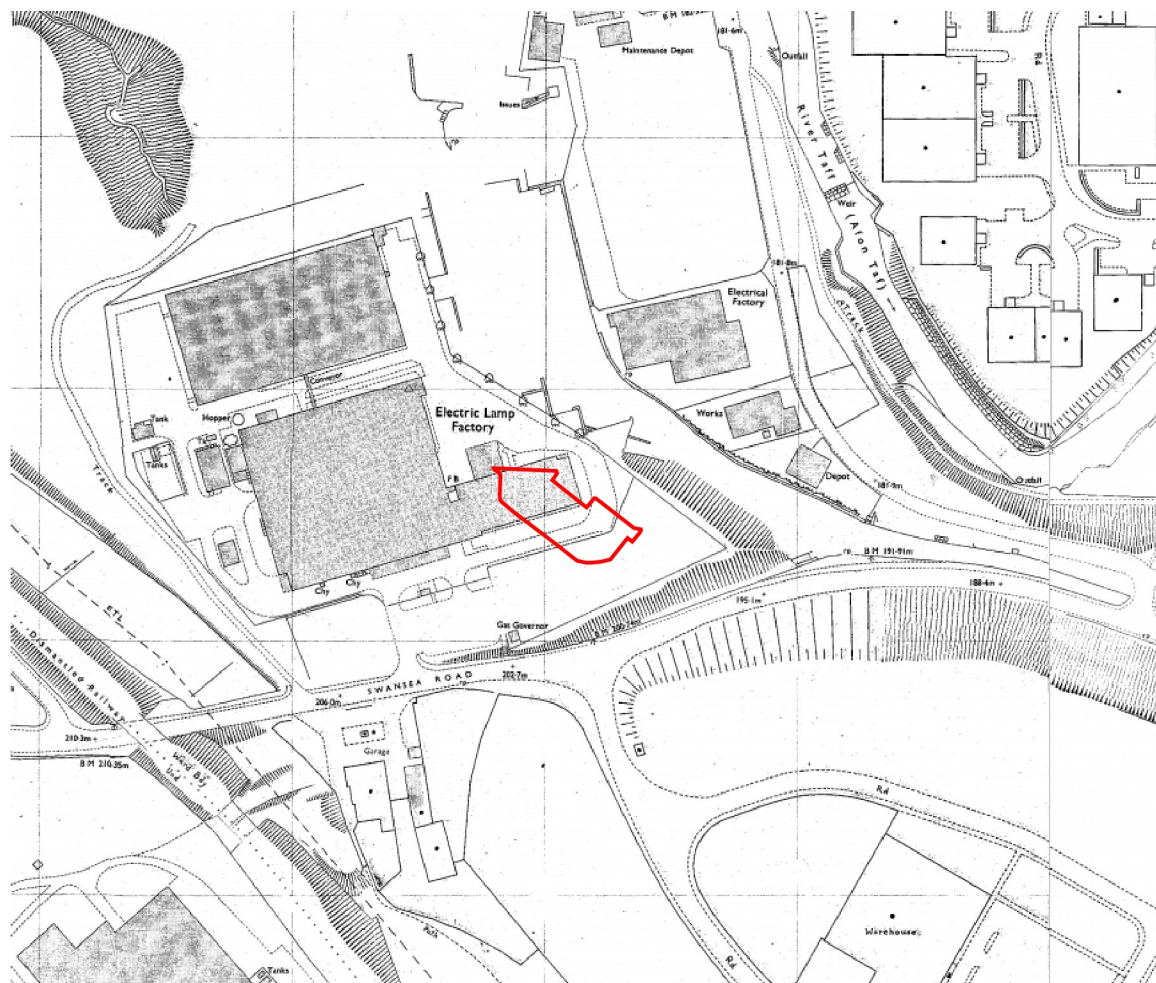
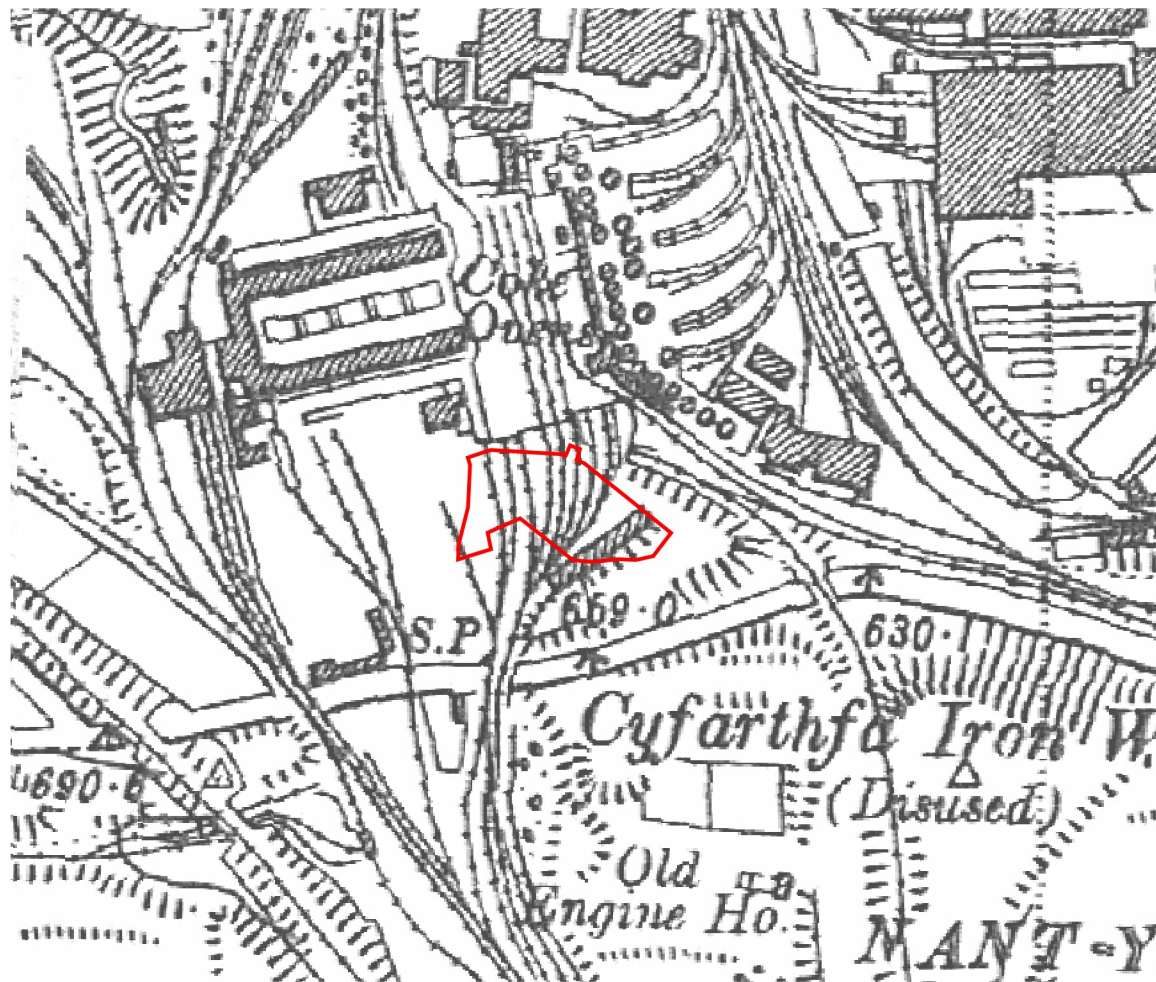
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project title			
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drawing title			
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project title

Proposed Burger King Drive Thru at Cyfarthfa Shopping Park, Merthyr Tydfil

drawing title

Extracts of Historic OS Mapping (1938-1989)

date	27 MARCH 2026	drawn by	VMS
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