



**Trefechan,
Merthyr Tydfil**

**Archaeological
and Heritage
Assessment**

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

On behalf of:
WDL Homes Ltd

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Non-technical Summary

- S1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of WDL Homes Ltd, to inform planning proposals for a residential development including associated open space, infrastructure and landscaping.
- S2 It concludes that the site does not contain any world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, historic parks and gardens or listed buildings, where there would be a presumption in favour of their physical retention or preservation *in situ*. Effects on the Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, located within the surrounding the site, have been assessed within the accompanying Assessment of the Significance of Development on Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL).
- S3 The assessment has established that there will be no direct physical effects on any designated assets or any changes to the settings of any designated assets that would result in harm to their significance.
- S4 In terms of archaeological potential, a lack of archaeological features recorded by the Historic Environment Record (HER) and The National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW) from the Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval periods suggests a **low** potential for remains from these periods to exist within the site. Historic mapping has depicted the agricultural use of the site since at least the mid 19th century and the existence of three former buildings within the site. Considering this, the potential for post-Medieval and Modern low value agricultural or building remains to exist within the site is **high**. Nevertheless, as these remains are considered to be low value, they are not expected to cause a constraint to development.
- S5 Three distinct mounds were identified within the site via historic mapping and confirmed during the site walkover. Considering the lack of previous investigation and identification of these mounds, it is unlikely that they represent anything other than rubble or spoil heaps from nearby quarrying. However, further investigation may be necessary to confirm their archaeological potential.
- S6 Surviving post-medieval drystone walling is present in areas of the site boundary. The assessment of this walling and any potential effects from the loss of this walling due to the proposed development is discussed further within the accompanying ASIDOHL assessment.

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Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment has been prepared by the Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP), on behalf of WDL Homes Ltd, to inform planning proposals for a residential development in Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil.
- 1.2 The first aim of this assessment is to consider the available historical and archaeological resources for the site, and to establish, as far as possible, the nature and significance of any known or potential archaeological features, deposits or remains within the redline boundary in line with the requirements of Planning Policy Wales (PPW Edition 10), Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN 24) and local planning policy. Following best practice and guidance, desktop sources have been checked and augmented through the completion of a walkover survey, undertaken in August 2019.
- 1.3 The second aim is to assess whether, how and to what extent designated historic assets in the wider environs of the site derive 'heritage significance' from their setting, and to consider 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'.

Location and Boundaries

- 1.4 The site comprises c.3.2 hectares (ha) and is located on the north-western edge of the settlement of Trefechan. The site comprises six fields of pasture, two residential properties with associated outbuildings and an access road to the buildings. The modern edge of Trefechan is located along the southern and eastern edge of the site. The boundaries of the site consist mainly of deteriorated drystone walling, wire fencing and intermittent trees.
- 1.5 The north of the site is bounded by further pasture, the east of the site is bounded by a dispersed tree line and modern development, the south of the site is bounded by modern development, dispersed trees and Crabtree Walk road and the west of the site is bounded by further pasture land.
- 1.6 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SO 03391 09097; its location and layout are shown on **Plan EDP 1**.

Geology and Topography

- 1.7 The British Geological Survey (BGS) records the underlying bedrock geology at the site as Oxwich Head Limestone Formation. There are no superficial deposits recorded within the site.

- 1.8 The land within the site slopes downwards from the highest point in the north-west of the site to the lowest point at the southern boundary. The highest point is located in the north-west corner at c.316m above Ordnance Datum (aOD); the land then slopes towards the southern boundary of the site with the lowest point located in the mid-west of the southern boundary at c.283m aOD.

Proposed Development

- 1.9 The proposed development is being brought forward as a detailed application for residential development within the site at Trefechan, Merthyr. The development comprises approximately 42 residential dwellings and associated public open space, highways, landscape and infrastructure works.

Section 2 Methodology

Archaeological Assessment Methodology

- 2.1 This Archaeology and Heritage Assessment has been drafted in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2017), with which EDP is a Registered Organisation (RO), alongside local guidance issued by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) in its curatorial role for the Local Planning Authority.
- 2.2 The assessment principally involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major sources of information comprised the following:
- Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust's Historic Environment Record (HER), which holds information on known archaeological sites, monuments and finds, as well as previous archaeological investigations;
 - The National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW);
 - Historic maps and documents held by the Glamorgan Record Office and online sources;
 - Recent and historic air photographs obtained from the Central Register of Aerial Photography for Wales (CRAPW) at Cardiff; and
 - The Historic Wales online portal.
- 2.3 A search was undertaken for suitable LiDAR data. Available NRW data is not at sufficient resolution (no coverage at 1m, 0.5m, 0.25m DSM). No other relevant LiDAR datasets were identified.
- 2.4 This report provides a synthesis of relevant information for the site derived from a search area extending up to 1km from its boundary, hereafter known as the 'study area', to allow for additional contextual information regarding its archaeological interest or potential to be gathered and understood.
- 2.5 The assessment of significance of known/recorded archaeological remains within the site makes reference (where relevant) to the four 'heritage values' identified by Cadw within its *Conservation Principles* document (Cadw, 2011). These are:
- The asset's *evidential value*, which is defined as those elements of the historic asset that can provide evidence about past human activity, including its physical remains or historic fabric;

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

Setting of Heritage Assets

- 2.6 In addition to the potential for direct impacts on the fabric of an asset, when assessing the impact of proposals on designated historic assets, it is important to ascertain whether change within its 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'. This assessment of potential indirect effects is made according to Cadw's guidance *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (published 31 May 2017).
- 2.7 In simple terms, setting '*includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape*' (Cadw, 2011). It must be recognised from the outset that 'setting' is not a heritage asset and cannot itself be harmed. The guidance states that the importance of setting '*lies in what it contributes to the significance of a historic asset.*'
- 2.8 As such, when assessing the indirect impact of proposals on designated heritage assets, it is not a question of whether their setting would be affected, but rather a question of whether change within the asset's 'setting' would lead to a loss of 'significance'.
- 2.9 Set within this context, where the objective is to determine the potential for development to have an adverse effect on designated heritage assets (whether within or beyond the boundary of a development site), it is necessary to first define the significance of the asset in question – and the contribution made to that significance by its 'setting', in order to establish whether there would be a loss, and therefore harm. The guidance identifies that change within a heritage asset's setting need not necessarily cause harm to that asset: it can be positive, negative or neutral.
- 2.10 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.

2.11 **Stages 1 - 3** are undertaken within this assessment.

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Section 3

Legislation and Planning Guidance

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

Legislation

Historic Environment (Wales) Act

- 3.2 The Act makes amendments to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and to the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as they apply to Wales. The Act provides a better means of protecting scheduled monuments and listed buildings in Wales, aids in the management of the historic environment and imposes a greater degree of transparency and responsibility concerning decisions affecting the historic environment. It also makes provisions for the compilation of historic place names, a historic environment record for each local authority in Wales, and for the establishment of the Advisory Panel for the Welsh Historic Environment.
- 3.3 Whilst providing a number of new provisions to existing legislation, the changes do not specifically affect the planning process, or the way that archaeology and heritage is assessed.

Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas

- 3.4 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 is the primary legislative instrument addressing the treatment of listed buildings and conservation areas through the planning process in Wales.
- 3.5 Section 66(1) of the 1990 Act concerns listed buildings and states that:
- ‘...in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses’.*
- 3.6 The ‘special regard’ duty of the 1990 Act has been tested in the Court of Appeal and confirmed to require that ‘*considerable importance and weight*’ should be afforded by the decision maker to the desirability of preserving a listed building along with its setting. The relevant judgement is referenced as ‘*Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd v East Northants DC, English Heritage and National Trust*’ (2014) EWCA Civ 137.
- 3.7 However, it must be recognised that Section 66(1) of the 1990 Act does not identify that the local authority or the Secretary of State must preserve a listed building or its setting;

and neither does it indicate that a development that does not preserve them is unacceptable and should therefore be refused.

- 3.8 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'.

- 3.9 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'*.
- 3.10 Section 72(1) of the 1990 Act sets out the statutory duty for a decision-maker where a proposed development would have an impact on the character and appearance of a conservation area, and as such only applies to the area within a conservation area designation. This states that: *'...with respect to any buildings or other land in a conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area'.*
- 3.11 As far as Section 72(1) of the 1990 Act is concerned, it has previously been established by the Courts (*'South Lakeland DC v Secretary of State for the Environment'*, [1992] 2 WLR 204) that proposed development which does not detract from the character or appearance of a conservation area is deemed to be in accordance with the legislation. In other words, there is no statutory requirement to actively *'enhance'*.
- 3.12 The preservation of the setting of a conservation area is not a statutory duty, instead being a planning policy matter only.

Archaeology

- 3.12 The *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* addresses the designation and management of scheduled monuments, providing for the maintenance of a schedule of monuments (and archaeological remains) which are protected.
- 3.13 The designation of archaeological and historic sites as *'scheduled monuments'* applies only to those that are deemed to be of national importance and is generally adopted only if it represents the best means of protection.

- 3.14 The 1979 Act does not address the concept of 'setting' for scheduled monuments; just their physical remains. Therefore, for scheduled monuments, the protection of 'setting' is a matter of policy only.
- 3.15 In Wales, the written consent of the Welsh Minister is required for development that would impact upon a scheduled monument, and applications for Scheduled Monument Consent are submitted to Cadw, the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service.

National Planning Policy

- 3.16 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 Tenth Edition, published in December 2018 (PPW 2018).
- 3.17 At Paragraph 6.1.2, it identifies the historic environment as comprising individual historic features, such as archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic parks, gardens, townscapes and landscapes, collectively known as '*historic assets*'.
- 3.18 At Paragraph 6.1.6, the Welsh Government's objectives for the historic environment are outlined. Of these, the following are of relevance to the current assessment. These seek to '*conserve archaeological remains, both for their own sake and for their role in education, leisure and the economy*'; and '*safeguard the character of historic buildings and manage change so that their special architectural and historic interest is preserved*'.
- 3.19 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.

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

- 3.21 Regarding listed buildings, PPW 2018 states, at Paragraph 6.1.10, that:

'...there should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation of a listed building and its setting, which might extend beyond its curtilage' and then adds that '*For any development proposal affecting a listed building or its setting, the primary material consideration is the statutory requirement to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses*'. It then adds that: '*The aim should be to find the best way to protect and enhance the special qualities of listed buildings, retaining them in sustainable use*'.

3.22 Regarding conservation areas, it is stated at Paragraph 6.1.14 that: *'There should be a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of the character or appearance of conservation areas or their settings.'*

3.23 Paragraphs 6.1.15 and 6.1.16 state that:

'There will be a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission for development, including advertisements, which damage the character and appearance of a conservation area or its setting to an unacceptable level. In exceptional cases the presumption may be overridden in favour of development deemed desirable on the grounds of some other public interest', and that: 'Preservation or enhancement of a conservation area can be achieved by a development which either makes a positive contribution to an area's character or appearance, or leaves them unharmed'.

3.24 It is apparent the PPW does not state that any damage to the character and appearance of a conservation area would result in the refusal of planning permission. It is only damage that is of an *'unacceptable level'* which would result in a strong presumption against the granting of planning permission. The required judgement is concerned with what constitutes an *'unacceptable'* level of harm not whether there is any harm at all.

3.25 Regarding archaeological remains, PPW Paragraph 6.1.23 notes that: *'The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not'*. It then adds at Paragraph 6.1.24 that:

'...Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in a direct adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance).' At Paragraph 6.1.25 it states that: *'In cases involving less significant archaeological remains, planning authorities will need to weigh the relative importance of the archaeological remains and their settings against other factors, including the need for the proposed development'*.

3.26 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'.

3.27 In situations where planning approval would result in archaeological remains being lost or destroyed, at Paragraph 6.1.27, PPW (2018) states the following in respect of the Local Planning Authority's obligations:

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

Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN 24)

- 3.29 Additional heritage guidance in Wales is set out in Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Government, 2017).
- 3.30 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.'*
- 3.31 It clarifies the policies and distinctions made in PPW. 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.'*
- 3.32 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'.*
- 3.33 TAN 24 also identifies factors to consider when assessing effects on setting. Paragraph 1.26 requests that it is: *'...for the applicant to provide the local planning authority with sufficient information to allow the assessment of their proposals in respect of scheduled monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, registered historic parks and gardens, World Heritage Sites, or other sites of national importance and their settings.'*

3.34 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'.

3.35 Of particular relevance is Section 6, which is concerned with conservation areas. Within this section, Paragraphs 6.6 and 6.7 are most relevant. These discuss Planning within Conservation Areas.

3.36 Paragraph 6.6 reiterates the policy that *'development proposals will be judged against their effect on the character or appearance of a conservation area as identified in the appraisal and management document.'*

3.37 Paragraph 6.7 states that development control within conservation areas should have *'an emphasis on controlled and positive management of change that encourages economic vibrancy and social and cultural vitality, and accords with the area's special architectural and historic qualities'*. It also states that *'Many conservation areas include sites or buildings that make no positive contribution to, or indeed detract from the character or appearance of the area; their replacement should be a stimulus to imaginative, high-quality design and an opportunity to enhance the area.'*

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

Local Planning Policy

3.39 Local policy, addressing the conservation and management of the historic environment, is identified in the Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2006-2021 (LDP), which was adopted by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council on 25 May 2011.

3.40 Strategic Objective 11 (SO11) aims to: *'...ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the natural, cultural, built and historic environment.'*

3.41 Borough-Wide Policy BW6: Townscape and built heritage outlines detailed policy, relevant to historic assets present within the site, against which proposals for new development will be determined. It states that:

'The Council will protect and support the enhancement of the unique built heritage of the County Borough. Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated they would preserve or enhance the architectural quality, character and setting of any of the following:

- *listed buildings;*
- *scheduled ancient monuments;*
- *conservation areas;*
- *registered Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest;*
- *townscape character and the local distinctiveness of settlements; and*
- *other historic, archaeological and cultural features of acknowledged importance’.*

3.42 In addition, under Policy BW7: Sustainable Design and Place Making, in order to support good quality sustainable design, amongst other requirements, The Council will require new development to: *‘sensitively relate to existing settlement patterns and take account of natural heritage and the historic environment on site and in terms of potential impact on neighbouring areas of importance.’*

3.43 Also of relevance is Area Policy AS4, which is concerned with the Historic Landscape. This states that *‘there will be a presumption in favour of the protection, conservation and enhancement of Gelligaer Common, and the main settlement of Merthyr Tydfil in accordance with their status as Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales. The extent of these areas is shown on the LDP Proposals Map and proposals for development will only be permitted where they would maintain or enhance the character and integrity of the landscape’.*

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Section 4 Existing Information

Introduction

- 4.1 The site is within the Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest but does not contain any other designated 'historic assets', such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, or historic parks and gardens.
- 4.2 There are seven designated historic assets within the 1km study area. These comprise three scheduled monuments, two Grade II listed buildings, the Cyfarthfa Conservation Area and Cefn Coed Cemetery Historic Park and Garden. The location of each of these assets is shown on **Plan EDP 1**.
- 4.3 As far as 'non-designated' assets are concerned, there are no GGAT HER or NMRW records identified within the site boundary.
- 4.4 There are 26 HER monument records and one event record within the 1km study area. There are also 11 further NMRW records. The locations of all entries are identified on **Plan EDP 1**.

Designated Assets

Scheduled Monuments

- 4.5 There are three scheduled monuments located within the study area.
- 4.6 The closest of these comprises the Gurnos Quarry, Tramroad and Leat (**GM478**) c. 530m to the south of the site. The monument consists of the remains of a tramroad and leat to the east of Cefn Coed. The tramroad was constructed in 1792 with the purpose of carrying limestone from the Gurnos quarries to the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. The leat was constructed in 1825 in order to provide water for the ironworks and the ornamental lake at Cyfarthfa Castle. The tramroad and leat run parallel with each other towards Gurnos Quarry and are both functionally related to Cyfarthfa Ironworks and Pontycafnau (the bridge on which the tramroad crosses the Taff). A number of paired stone sleeper blocks survive on the upper section of the tramroad and the leat also includes a weir on the Taff Fechan with an entrance sluice, a culverted section and an overflow near the southern end.
- 4.7 The significance of the monument is derived from its historic value, in its potential to enhance our knowledge of development of industrial transportation in the 18th and 19th century, and also from its evidential value in the potential archaeological information relating to the construction techniques and function details of the tramroad and the leat. The setting of the monument contributes to its significance in the visual relationship between surviving remains and the context that this provides.

- 4.8 The Nant Crew Inscribed Stone (**BR145**) scheduled monument is located c.840m to the south of the site, within Cefn Coed Church. The monument comprises the remains of a standing stone that may date to the Bronze Age. The stone exhibits a latin inscription and an incised cross; three holes have also been made in the stone for its use as a gatepost.
- 4.9 The significance of the stone is derived from its historic value and a small amount of communal value. The stone originated c.300 yards north of where the Nant Crew enters the reservoir and therefore no longer resides at its original location. Although the stone would have comprised some evidential value when *in situ*, as it has now been removed from its original location, the potential for remains related to the monument therefore no longer exists. The stone has therefore also been removed from its original setting and any elements of its setting that contribute to its significance, particularly as it is now located within the church building. Considering this, the current setting of the monument does not contribute to its significance and the site does not have the potential to affect the significance of the monument.
- 4.10 The third scheduled monument within the study area of the site comprises Cefn Cil-sanws defended enclosure (**GM600**) c.900m to the north-west of the site. The monument comprises the remains of a small defended enclosure formed of subrectangular spread rubble banks. The rubble banks are c.5m in thickness and c.0.5m in height and may represent the remains of former walls. The enclosure is thought to date to the Iron Age or Romano period and is situated on a central knoll within the sheltered east-facing slopes of Cefn Cil-sanws, on the south side of the Brecon Beacons. The entrance to the enclosure has not been confidently defined as the area has been disturbed by later quarrying and stone robbing resulting in the eastern side of the enclosure disappearing. Considering this, the breaks in the northern and southern side are likely to be more recent.
- 4.11 There is evidential value associated with the monument in its potential to enhance our knowledge of Iron Age or Roman rural settlement and social organisation. Some of the monument's significance is also derived from its historical value in being an important part of the landscape for millennia. As the monument is not readily experienced by the public and its original features have dramatically deteriorated, it cannot be said to possess any communal value, while its aesthetic/visual qualities are not readily or often appreciated.
- 4.12 Being that the enclosure likely had large walls for defensive purposes, its elevated location on the slopes of Cefn Cil-sanws would have provided an advantageous viewpoint of the surrounding landscape. Considering this, this element of the enclosure's setting can be said to contribute to its significance.
- 4.13 Numerous prehistoric features within the uplands of Cefn Cil-sanws form an extensive relict prehistoric landscape. The enclosure's relationship with these structures – for example the scheduled Iron Age Coedcae'r Ychain enclosure c.1.3km to the north of Cefn Cil-sanws (GM519)– is integral to the understanding of the monument and its use. Considering this, the visual relationship between any contemporary structures is also an element of the monument's setting that contributes to its significance.

- 4.14 Development within the site will not introduce meaningful visual change to the assets mentioned above and their significance will not be affected. As such none of them will be considered further within the assessment.

Cyfarthfa Conservation Area

- 4.15 The Cyfarthfa Conservation Area (CA) covers an area including Cyfarthfa Castle and the former Cyfarthfa Ironworks. A Conservation Area Appraisal was issued by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council in 2009 and describes the special interest of the CA, its character and appearance.
- 4.16 The Conservation Area Appraisal divides the CA into four distinct character areas. These comprise Character Area 1 (Cyfarthfa Park South and Castle), Character Area 2 (Cyfarthfa Park North), Character Area 3 (Taf Fechan Valley) and Character Area 4 (Taf Fawr Valley).
- 4.17 The edge of the CA is located c.760m south of the site. The character area closest to the site, and therefore most likely to be affected by its development, is Character Area 3 which comprises the Taf Fechan valley and former tramroad. The key attributes and character of this section of the CA are discussed in the paragraphs below.
- 4.18 Character Area 3 is described as a naturally enclosed river valley which comprises the Gurnos Quarry tramway and the Taf Fechan leat. Further to the south, the area becomes more open woodland and eventually leads into Cyfarthfa Park. The northern boundary ends at the A465 bridge and includes the tramway terrace to the east of the Taf Fechan river with surviving stone sleepers. There are no buildings located within this part of the conservation area, although a limestone rubble wall between the tramway and leat contains a number of indentations believed to be associated with former buildings.
- 4.19 Character Area 3 is very green and enclosed and is entirely different in character to the surrounding area of modern residential development. However, as the area is so enclosed within the river valley and surrounding vegetation, its character is maintained and is not affected by surrounding modern development. Further to this, historic maps demonstrate that the site has been in agricultural use since at least the mid 19th century and therefore there is no known connection between the land within the site and the Taf Fechan valley area as defined within the appraisal.
- 4.20 Considering the lack of a visual relationship (**Image EDP 1**) and the lack of any identifiable historical connection between the land within the site and the conservation area, the proposed development site is not considered to comprise a part of the CA's setting that contributes to the character and appearance of its special interest. It is therefore scoped out of this assessment.

Listed Buildings

- 4.21 There are two Grade II listed buildings located within the 1km study area. These comprise the Grade II listed Church of St John the Baptist (**81185**), located c.855m to the south of

the site within Cefn-Coed-y-Cymmer and Tabor Independent Chapel (**21317**) c.900m to the south-west of the site.

- 4.22 Given the considerable distance of these assets from the site, as well as the intervening topography and vegetation, it is concluded that neither of these listed buildings include the land within the site as part of their setting, and nor does the site contribute to the significance of the assets. Indeed, the setting of these buildings is defined by their immediate surroundings which include mostly modern development.
- 4.23 The proposed residential development would not be of sufficient scale or visibility to adversely affect either of these two assets. Consequently, neither of them are considered further within this assessment.

Cefn Coed Cemetery & Jewish Burial Ground Historic Park and Garden

- 4.24 Cefn Coed Cemetery Historic Park and Garden (HPG) is located c.850m to the south-west of the site. The cemetery was established in c.1865 and extended in 1935. It served Jewish communities in Merthyr Tydfil and Dowlais where the mining and iron industries employed Russian, Romanian and Polish Jews.
- 4.25 The cemetery is located on the other side of Cefn Cil-sanws and is therefore entirely screened from the site by the intervening topography. Considering this, the proposed residential development would not adversely affect this asset and, as such, it will not be considered further within this assessment.

Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

- 4.26 A large part of the study area, including the land within the site, is located within the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. The land within the site is contained within the 058 Ty Newydd character area comprising a *'post-medieval enclosed landscape with drystone walls'*.
- 4.27 The key characteristics of this character area are described as:
- *'Post-medieval enclosed landscape;*
 - *Small, irregular enclosures with drystone walls; and*
 - *Potential religious, funerary and ritual feature'*.
- 4.28 The direct impacts from the proposed development on the Ty Newydd character area and indirect visual impacts on other surrounding character areas are discussed in detail within the ASIDOHL completed in conjunction with this assessment.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Prehistoric (c.500,000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.29 There are no heritage assets dating from the prehistoric periods recorded on the GGAT HER or NMRW within the site boundary, although one is recorded within the 1km study area.
- 4.30 The only prehistoric heritage asset recorded by the HER is located c.950m to the south-west of the site and comprises 'Celtic' hut circles (**01104m**), among which was discovered a broken quern. The hut circles were recorded in 1980.
- 4.31 As noted above, two scheduled prehistoric monuments are located within the 1km study area and prehistoric settlement evidence is also prevalent within the wider locality. Within a 5km radius of the site, there are 18 further prehistoric scheduled monuments, 14 of which are funerary monuments, three of which are defensive enclosures and one of which is domestic, all providing evidence for settlement and ritual activity in the area.
- 4.32 Having said this, given the relative paucity of evidence for prehistoric archaeology, all of which is located over 850m from the site, there is considered to be a **low** potential for the site to contain further prehistoric archaeology. Furthermore, years of ploughing within the site may well have damaged or truncated any existing features.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

- 4.33 There are no Roman period records within the GGAT HER or NMRW database identified within the site, although there is one HER record recorded within the 1km study area defined around the site.
- 4.34 An inscribed stone (**02742m**) was identified in 1918 in the Vaynor area c.650m to the north of the site. There are no further details as to the precise location of the stone, or indeed where it is located now, but it is believed that the stone was of Roman or Early Medieval origin.
- 4.35 The potential location of a Roman road is recorded on historic mapping c.2.4km to the north-east of the site, to the north-east of Vaynor. Aside from this, there is no further evidence of Roman activity in the area of the site.
- 4.36 Considering the paucity of Roman finds and features in the vicinity of the site, it is considered that the site has a **low** potential to contain archaeological features, deposits and/or remains of Roman date. Furthermore, as stated above, ploughing within the site may well have damaged or destroyed any existing archaeology.

Early Medieval and Medieval (AD 410 – 1485)

- 4.37 There are no early Medieval non-designated assets identified within the site or within the study area. Hence, the site's potential for early Medieval archaeology is deemed to be

low and with any remains likely relating to agricultural activity of limited archaeological significance.

- 4.38 There are also no Medieval records identified on the GGAT HER or NMRW within the site, although there is one record dating from the Medieval period within the 1km study area.
- 4.39 A Medieval coin hoard (**01887m**) was discovered within the garden of Morlais Villa c.860m to the south of the site in the 1980's. The coins are thought to date to c.1320-1325 although no further information is known on their location or details of their discovery.
- 4.40 The scheduled Morlais Castle and Cae Burdydd Castle are both located within 2km of the site, suggesting medieval activity within the area. However, there is no suggestion in the HER and NMRW data that the site contains any significant Medieval archaeology. As such, it is considered that there is a **low** potential for the site to contain buried archaeological remains dating from this period related to agricultural practice. Such remains would be of limited evidential value or significance.

Post-Medieval and Modern (AD 1485 – present)

- 4.41 No post-Medieval or Modern records are identified on the GGAT HER or NMRW within the site. Within the 1km study area there are 22 HER records and eight NMRW records relating to the post-Medieval period. There is also one HER record and one NMRW record relating to the Modern period.
- 4.42 There are six post-Medieval lime kilns located within the 1km study area. These are located c.210m to the south (**02738m**), c.430m north of the site (**02737m**) and c.700m (**02739m**), c.890m (**06458m**), c.900m (**06459m**) and c.920m to the west of the site (**02741m**).
- 4.43 There are also six assets relating to post-medieval quarries located within the vicinity of the site, the closest of which is located c.200m to the east (**275090**). The remaining four quarries are located c.660m to the south of the site (**03183m**), c.745m (**422000**) and c.810m (**413176**) to the north of the site and c.840m to the west of the site (**06460m**). A platform associated with a quarry (**275161**) is also located c.840m to the west of the site.
- 4.44 Within the 1km study area there are five post-Medieval assets and one modern asset that are associated with defence. These comprise the modern drill hall (**07473m**) located c.910m south of the site, two post-Medieval shooting targets located c.520m (**275098**) and c.660m (**275256**) west of the site, a rifle range located c.530m south-west of the site (**02744m**) and a shooting stand located c.660m to the west (**275097**).
- 4.45 There are six post-Medieval assets within the 1km study area that are associated with the agricultural use of the area. These include two sheep folds located c.450m (**275095**) and c.530m (**02736m**) to the north of the site. Two post-Medieval farms are located c.840m (**03155m**) and c.890m (**03179m**) to the south-east of the site with an associated farm

labourer's cottage situated c.930m to the south-east. A drystone wall field boundary and sheep pen are also located c.1km to the south-east of the site (**03197m**).

- 4.46 Four bridges are noted by the HER and NMRW within the study area of the site. Three post-Medieval bridges and a modern bridge are located c.700m (**03182m**), c.760m (**03181m**), c.780m (**03184m**) and c.750m (**408808**) to the south of the site.
- 4.47 There are three further post-Medieval entries located within the study area, comprising the main line of the Brecon and Merthyr railway c.270m to the south of the site (**01279.1m**), a blacksmith's workshop c.540m to the south (**04954m**) and a pond located c.850m to the north-west of the site (**02743m**).
- 4.48 As evidenced by historic mapping, and its current use, the land within the site has long been utilised for agricultural purposes and therefore the potential for post-Medieval and Modern archaeology to be within the site is deemed to be **high**. However, this will most probably only comprise low value post-Medieval agricultural archaeology relating to its former and current land use, such as buried infilled furrows, drainage ditches and building remains.

Undated

- 4.49 There are two records that are undated within the study area on the GGAT HER, and also two undated records on the NMRW, but none are recorded within the proposed development site.
- 4.50 One documentary placename record (**01105m**) exists c.310m to the west of the site. This suggests that, based on the Cilnws place name and 'Kil' being the Irish for church, that there was a church dedicated to Sanos at the site. It is mentioned within the record that this link is dubious and there is no physical evidence for a church having been located there.
- 4.51 A 'mound' (**275087**) is marked on a modern OS map c. 460m to the west of the site. It is theorized that this may be associated with the modern golf course or with the 19th century rifle range. No further evidence is provided. A pond (**275089**) is also documented c.860m to the north-west of the site although no dating evidence is noted.
- 4.52 Finally, a pair of potential standing stones (**08010m**) were identified during an evaluation on the widening of the A465 c.960m to the south of the site (**GGATE005150**). The limestone slabs were initially thought to be of prehistoric origin or possibly from the nearby quarry although no dating evidence or features were identified.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

- 4.53 The GGAT HER only records one archaeological investigation as having taken place within the 1km study area. This comprises an evaluation undertaken in 2004 (**GGATE005150**), c.960m to the south of the site, during the works for the extended A465.

- 4.54 As mentioned above, this evaluation identified two potential standing stones as well as a drystone wall, both lacking any dateable features. The investigation also identified evidence of the clearing of the area for the building of the A465 in the 1960's. No further features were identified.
- 4.55 Whilst a lack of archaeological investigation does not necessarily suggest a lack of archaeology, the investigation mentioned above is located well away from the site and does not indicate any significant archaeological potential within the site that has not been mentioned in the previous period-specific section.

Cartographic Sources

- 4.56 The earliest known map to depict the site is the 1841 Tithe Map of Vaynor Parish (**Plan EDP 2**). On this document, the site is depicted as six separate fields that are very similar in shape to the present-day field boundaries. Two buildings are also shown in the south of the site. The apportionment notes the land parcels as meadow, arable and a homestead. A field within the east of the site is named 'Cae Carnau' or 'the field of cairns'. There are currently three mounds located within this field although it cannot be known if they are what the mid 19th century fieldname refers to. It is likely that the enclosures were once an open area associated with the uplands to the north before they were separately enclosed, probably in the post-medieval period. Open land is shown to surround the site to the north and west while agricultural land bounds it to the east and Vaynor House and Tir Jenkin Soch house bounds it to the south.
- 4.57 Later depictions of the site are on historic Ordnance Survey maps of the late 19th century. The First Edition Map of 1885 (not reproduced) is the next available map source after the Tithe Map to show the site, although changes within it are minimal. A small area of land is now depicted as another field within the centre of the site. One of the two buildings to the south of the site also appears to have been removed. The mounds noted within the site on the tithe map apportionment are now depicted on this map as what appear to be areas of rubble. No further changes are evident within the site or the immediate surroundings.
- 4.58 No changes are evident within the site or its surroundings until the OS map of 1904 (not reproduced). The only change depicted on this map is that a field boundary in the center of the site has been removed to return the site to six field parcels. The next map to depict any change is the OS map of 1964 (**Plan EDP 3**). Here, the map depicts two new buildings within the site and two new land parcels associated with the easternmost building. Modern development is also shown to have replaced Vaynor House and the land to the south of the site. No further changes are evident within the site or its immediate surroundings.
- 4.59 Changes within the site after 1964 that are not depicted on the historic mapping viewed for this assessment include the construction of a further residential building within the east of the site and the deterioration of two of the older buildings.

- 4.60 In summary, historic maps demonstrate that the most notable change within the site since the mid-19th century was the construction of three buildings and the removal of one field boundary within the central part. Two of the buildings have now deteriorated, suggesting potential for buried building remains. There is also potential for buried remains relating to the former boundary within the site.
- 4.61 The maps demonstrate that the site comprised agricultural land from at least the mid-19th century until the present day. This suggests a long history of agricultural activity within the site – a fact supported by the aerial photographic evidence outlined below – which may potentially have destroyed or truncated any existing archaeology.

Aerial Photographs

- 4.62 A total of 12 vertical aerial photographs (covering the site and its immediate environs) were identified within the collection maintained by CRAPW in Cardiff.
- 4.63 The available images span the period from August 1945 to September 2009 and largely corroborate the land use and development sequence shown on Ordnance Survey maps from the mid-20th century. The photos demonstrate that one of the buildings within the site (that has now deteriorated) was constructed prior to 1945.
- 4.64 The photographs do not indicate the presence of any cropmarks or soilmarks which might indicate the presence of archaeological remains within the site boundary. Some images indicate arable ploughing, suggesting that the site has been subject to intensive 20th century arable agriculture and thus that any archaeological features or remains will potentially be truncated by agricultural land use.

Site Walkover

- 4.65 The site was visited on 12 August 2019 to assess the current ground conditions and topography within it, to confirm the continuing survival of any known archaeological remains, and to identify any hitherto unknown remains of significance.
- 4.66 The site was seen to consist of roughly six fields of rough pasture and scrubland. Three distinct mounds (**Image EDP 2**) were visible within a central northern field, as described above. Considering the overgrown state of the mounds and their inaccessibility, no further information could be gleaned. It is possible that they represent spoil heaps from previous quarrying activities in the area.
- 4.67 There were no obvious building remnants visible during the walkover although it is possible that some building remains or rubble could be existing beneath the undergrowth in the central northern area and central southern area of the site.
- 4.68 The boundaries of the fields comprised wire fencing with remnants of original drystone walling and interspersed trees. There were very few areas of complete upstanding

walling; for the most part, the walls comprised dilapidated spreads of rubble. The most complete accessible areas of walling were noted on the eastern boundary of the site (**Image EDP 3**).

- 4.69 No other evidence for archaeological remains, or any previously unrecorded historic assets, were identified within the site.

Section 5 Conclusions

- 5.1 This Archaeological and Heritage Assessment concludes that the site does not contain any world heritage sites, scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens or listed buildings, where there would be a presumption in favour of their physical retention or preservation *in situ*.
- 5.2 The Cyfarthfa Conservation Area, three scheduled monuments, one historic park and garden and two Grade II listed buildings are located within a 1km study area of the site. The assessment has established that there is no potential for direct physical effects on their fabric, or for any effects upon their settings that may result in harm to their significance or harm to the character and appearance of the conservation area. Effects on the character and appearance of the Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape are discussed within the ASIDOHL assessment, in conjunction with this report.
- 5.3 Considering this, the development of the site is not expected to conflict with heritage legislation, the policies in PPW 10, and the Merthyr Tydfil Adopted Local Development Plan 2006-2021 with regard to effects on designated historic assets.
- 5.4 In terms of non-designated assets, there are 29 HER records, 11 NMRW records and one event record recorded within the 1km study area.
- 5.5 A lack of identified prehistoric, Roman and Medieval archaeology in the vicinity of the site suggests a **low** potential for archaeology to exist within the site from these periods. Historic maps depict the agricultural use of the site since at least the mid 19th century as well as the existence of at least three former buildings within the site. Considering this, the potential to encounter low value, agricultural or building remains from the post-Medieval and Modern periods has been assessed as **high**. Nevertheless, as this potential archaeology is considered to be low value, it will not form a constraint to the proposed development.
- 5.6 Historic maps also identified three mounds or areas of rubble within a north-eastern parcel of the site. The location of these mounds was confirmed during the site walkover, although the mounds themselves were inaccessible at the time of the survey. As they have not been identified by any survey prior to this assessment, it is unlikely that the mounds represent anything other than low value archaeology such as spoil heaps relating to nearby quarrying activity. However, further investigative assessment may be needed to ascertain their archaeological potential.
- 5.7 The site is bounded by areas of post-medieval drystone walling, although very few complete or good-quality sections survive. This walled post-medieval landscape and the effects of its potential loss on the Ty Newydd character area are assessed in further detail within the ASIDOHL assessment accompanying this report.

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Section 6

Bibliography

Cadw, 2011 Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable management of the Historic Environment in Wales

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014 Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment (Reading)

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Adopted Local Development Plan 2006-2021

Welsh Government, 2017 *Planning Policy Wales Edition Ten* Cardiff

Welsh Government, 2017 *Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*

List of Consulted Maps

Tithe Map of Vaynor Parish, 1841

The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1885

The 1904 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

The 1964 Edition Ordnance Survey Map

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Images



Image EDP 1: Looking south-west towards the Cyfarthfa conservation area from the western boundary of the site. The river valley is hidden by topography and foliage within the centre of the image.



Image EDP 2: Looking north-west within the east of the site towards two of the mounds within the site. The mounds are just visible within the centre left and centre right of the image.



Image EDP 3: One of the more complete sections of drystone walling along the eastern boundary of the site.

Appendix EDP 1
ASIDOHL Assessment
(edp5809_r003b)

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**Trefechan,
Merthyr Tydfil**

**ASIDOHL
Assessment**

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

On behalf of:
WDL Homes Ltd

November 2019
Report Reference:
edp5809_r003b

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Images

Images EDP 1 - 7

Plan

Plan EDP 1	Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape and Character Areas Assessed within the ASIDOHL (edp5809_d004a 25 October 2019 RB/AP)
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	Report Ref: edp5809_r003			
	Author	Formatted	Peer Review	Proofed by/Date
r003_DRAFT	HS	FD	AP	-
003a	HS	-	AP	FJ 251019
003b	HS	-	-	FJ 251119

Non-Technical Summary

- S1 WDL Homes Ltd propose to utilise an area of land on the northern edge of Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil, for residential development. This document assesses the potential impact of this development upon the Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape.

Consultation

- S2 This is a non-EIA project. It is therefore a matter of discretion for the planning or other competent authority to determine whether an Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscapes (ASIDOHL2) is required.
- S3 A consultation response was received from Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) in an email dated 20 June 2019. This noted that the proposed application area is located within the Ty Newydd Character Area. In respect of this character area and the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, GGAT requested that an ASIDOHL2 assessment be undertaken to inform the planning application.

Scope of Study

- S4 The development proposal is located within the Merthyr Tydfil registered historic landscape. It has been assessed that no other registered historic landscape area will experience visual effects from the proposed development. Considering this, ASIDOHL has been undertaken for the Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape only, in which the project lies and where its visual effects will be experienced.

Assessment Standards

- S5 The assessment has been undertaken according to the ASIDOHL Version 2 methodology (CCW, Cadw and WAG 2007).

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Section 1

Stage 1: Contextual Information

Description of Development

- 1.1 The site is located to the north of the town of Merthyr Tydfil, on the north-western side of Trefechan, a small residential development on the edge of Merthyr Tydfil.
- 1.2 The Trefechan residential estate lies on the fringes of the uplands which border the Brecon Beacons National Park, within a transitional landscape that bridges the upland moorland landscapes of the National Park and the industrial valleys which cut north-south from its foothills.
- 1.3 The proposed development will comprise 42 two storey residential properties with associated landscaping and infrastructure. Access to this site will be via the existing road network to the residential estate, with direct access from Crabtree Walk.

Supporting Information

- 1.4 Other elements of the planning application contain background information which informs and contextualises this assessment:
 - Archaeology and Heritage desk-based assessment; and
 - Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVA). This assessment is supported by a series of photographs and viewpoint graphics (John Campion Associates 2019).

Policy Context

- 1.5 Key legislation and guidance relating to archaeology and cultural heritage comprises:
 - Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979;
 - Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;
 - Historic Environment Act (Wales) 2016;
 - Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment; and
 - Planning Policy Wales Edition 10, Welsh Government.
- 1.6 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Local Development Plan (adopted 2011) contains several policies which are relevant to this ASIDOHL. All fit within Strategic Objective 11,

which seeks to ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the natural, cultural, built and historic environment. The policies are as follow:

Borough-Wide Policy BW6: Townscape and built heritage

- 1.7 The Council will protect and support the enhancement of the unique built heritage of the County Borough. Development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated they would preserve or enhance the architectural quality, character and setting of any of the following: listed buildings; scheduled ancient monuments; conservation areas; registered Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest; townscape character and the local distinctiveness of settlements; and other historic, archaeological and cultural features of acknowledged importance.

Area-specific Policy AS4: Historic landscapes

- 1.8 There will be a presumption in favour of the protection, conservation and enhancement of: Gelligaer Common; and the main settlement of Merthyr Tydfil. In accordance with their status as Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales, proposals for development will only be permitted where they would maintain or enhance the character and integrity of the landscape.

Confidence Levels

- 1.9 The proposed project is fully described and illustrated by the planning application. The physical form and appearance of the proposed project is fully understood.
- 1.10 As part of the LVA methodology, a Preliminary Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) was identified as part of the analysis to inform the location of potential representative assessment viewpoints, in addition to the detailed prior local knowledge of the Merthyr Tydfil landscape. This was refined in the field by both the landscape architect and the archaeologist undertaking the ASIDOHL. The field visits enable the true situation on the ground to be appreciated, particularly in terms of the role of tree cover and other vertical landscape elements which dictate the availability of mid- and long-distance views.
- 1.11 Visibility during the field visit was excellent. All character areas within the scope of the assessment were visited, enabling a clear understanding of the extent to which the proposed development will be visible.
- 1.12 The Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape has been characterised in detail by Roberts (2003). This document identifies the component Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs) of the landscape, with a description of their period, components, condition, significance and value.
- 1.13 Confidence levels for this ASIDOHL are therefore high in all respects.

Qualification and Experience

- 1.14 This ASIDOHL has been undertaken by Harriet Sharp BSc, MA, PCIfA and Andrew Pearson MA, PhD, MCIfA, FSA. Ms Sharp has worked in archaeological consultancy for two years and during this time has undertaken a large number of assessments including desk-based assessments, written schemes of investigation, heritage statements, buildings surveys and environmental statement chapters.
- 1.15 Dr Pearson has worked as an archaeologist in Wales for 18 years and during this time has undertaken over 25 ASIDOHL studies. He has also carried out critical review of ASIDOHL and other landscape studies on behalf of Countryside Council for Wales (CCW).

Process Description

- 1.16 This assessment has been undertaken to ASIDOHL Version 2 standards. All five stages have been undertaken.

Historic Landscape Under Consideration

- 1.17 The proposed development lies within the Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape, as described in the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw, CCW and ICOMOS UK 1998).
- 1.18 The Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape is described in the Cadw, CCW & ICOMOS UK Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (1998). This document is complemented by the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape Characterisation project (Roberts 2003). This latter piece of work is the key document for the present ASIDOHL, identifying the component Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs), with a description of their period, components, condition, significance and value.
- 1.19 The area is also addressed by the *Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape Conservation Management Plan* (CCW, Cadw and WAG). This usefully characterises the historic ironworking landscape into three basic zones: core (iron production); settlement; and resource. These definitions are taken forward in Stages 3 and 4 of this assessment.

Identification of Key Historic Landscape Characteristics and Determination of Study Area

- 1.20 The key characteristics of the Merthyr Tydfil landscape of outstanding historical interest are listed in **Table EDP 1.1**. The HLCAs within the Historic Landscape each have individual key characteristics: these are outlined in **Table EDP 1.2 – 1.9**.

Table EDP 1.1: Summary of key characteristics of the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape as a whole.

Key Characteristic
Extensively altered industrial landscape of the 18th and 19th centuries
Remains of early ironworks and associated features
Industrial era settlement; from Cyfarthfa Castle to surviving workers' housing
Remains of early industrial communications: Glamorganshire Canal, tramroads, bridges
Uplands altered by extractive industry and water management features

- 1.21 Roberts (2003) identified 79 HLCAs within the Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape. These reflect surviving industrial urban settlements, former ironworks and related workings, transport and water management systems, as well as some more modern elements (i.e. embracing settlement, production and resource zones). It is clearly neither necessary nor practical to evaluate all 79 HLCAs within the historic landscape. The visual effect of the proposed project has instead been demonstrated by detailed study of eight character areas (**Plan EDP 1**). These have been chosen out of a combination of: their proximity to, or extensive views of, the proposed project; their representativeness of the historic landscape; and their particular value to the historic landscape. They are listed below in **EDP Table 1.2**.

Table EDP 1.2: HLCAs within the Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape considered by the ASIDOHL.

HLCA	Name	Distance from proposed development*
012	Cyfarthfa Ironworks**	380m
044	Morlais Castle Quarries	1.3km
045	Morlais Hill and Castle	1.5km
053	Y Graig/Gurnos	2.3km
057	Trefechan	10m
058	Ty Newydd	Contains development
060	Cefn Cil-Sanws	Abuts development to west
063	Clwyd-y-Fagwyr, Gellideg and Pen-Llwyn-Deri	1.4km

*'Distance from Development' refers to the shortest distance between the HLCA and development boundary

** Originally considered but scoped out after site visits established no visual effects are possible.

Table EDP 1.3: Key Characteristics of Historic Character Area 044 (Morlais Castle Quarries).

Key Characteristic
Large imposing limestone quarries
Penydarren and Dowlais Iron Works
Associated tramroad corridors

Table EDP 1.4: Key Characteristics of Historic Character Area 045 (Morlais Hill and Castle).

Key Characteristic
Bronze Age funerary and ritual landscape
Iron Age univallate fort
Medieval Morlais Castle
Agricultural field system of prehistoric or medieval date
Industrial transport corridor

Table EDP 1.5: Key Characteristics of Historic Character Area 053 (Y Graig, Gurnos).

Key Characteristic
Small area of scrub woodland and pasture
Formerly part of Gurnos Farm

Table EDP 1.6: Key Characteristics of Historic Character Area 057 (Trefechan).

Key Characteristic
Post-war urban landscape characterised as an architect-designed self-contained community
Example of mid 20th century social engineering

Table EDP 1.7: Key Characteristics of Historic Character Area 058 (Ty Newydd).

Key Characteristic
Post-medieval enclosed landscape
Small, irregular enclosures with drystone walls
Potential religious, funerary and ritual feature *

*Whilst mentioned as a key characteristic of the Ty Newydd character area, as discussed within the Desk Based Assessment (DBA), there is no evidence to suggest the existence of ritual or funerary features within the site. Considering this, impact upon this characteristic cannot be assessed as impacts are unknown and this characteristic will therefore not be discussed further within the ASIDOHL.

Table EDP 1.8: Key Characteristics of Historic Character Area 060 (Cefn Cil-Sanws).

Key Characteristic
Minor agricultural industrial extractive landscape
Historic religious place name associations *

*Similarly, although this is noted as a key characteristic, there is no physical evidence to suggest the location of a former religious place within this Character Area. Considering this, impacts from the proposed development are not relevant and it will not be discussed further within this ASIDOHL.

Table EDP 1.9: Key Characteristics of Historic Character Area 063 (Clwyd-y-Fagwyr, Gellideg and Pen-Llwyn-Deri).

Key Characteristic
Industrial settlement of isolated rows, now dominated by large regular planned estates
Includes two non-conformist chapels
Industrial landscape including levels, spoil tips, reservoirs/ponds and tramroad corridor

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Section 2

Stage 2: Assessment of Direct Effects

Absolute Impact (Loss of Area)

- 2.1 The total area of the Ty Newydd HLCA (058) is 7.1 hectares (ha). The entire development comprises an area of 3.3ha. Overall, the proposed development will have a footprint that is 46% of the whole HLCA. The absolute impact of the proposed development (loss of area) is therefore **Considerable** (score = 4).

Relative and Landscape Impacts (Loss of Known Elements or Characteristics)

- 2.2 The proposed development will have an effect on some of the drystone walling within HLCA 058. These walls are present within all parts of the HLCA, and can be best seen around the margins – for example the bridleway on the east side of the development area. However, their full extent and length could not be established due to bracken cover and therefore the extent of loss cannot be quantified. Proportion of loss is therefore assumed to be the same as the absolute impact on the character area; i.e. 46% = **Considerable**.
- 2.3 NB: ASIDOHL methodology only allows for the assessment of negative change – i.e. it cannot reflect compensation or enhancement measures. In this context, it should be noted that the development design includes proposals for the restoration of the drystone walls around the perimeter of the site, notably those on the bridleway on the eastern side. Given that the walls are the key surviving historic element within the site, this represents a marked improvement on the current baseline. This is not reflected in the Stage 2 score, but the point is revisited in the Conclusion to this document.

Element (% loss)	Category	Magnitude	Landscape Value	Landscape Value Effect
Stone Field Walls (Ruinous) Estimated 46% loss	D – 1	Considerable – 4	Medium – 4	Slightly reduced – 2

Impact in Landscape Terms

- 2.4 No impacts in landscape terms are identified, other than the loss of the drystone field walls noted above.

Overall Magnitude of Direct Physical Impacts

- 2.5 Direct physical impacts = absolute impact + relative impact + landscape impact:

Total Score = 4 (absolute) + 11 (relative and landscape) = 15 = **Considerable**

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Section 3

Stage 3: Assessment of Indirect Impacts

Indirect Physical Impacts

- 3.1 There are no indirect physical impacts arising from the proposed project.

Indirect Visual Impacts

- 3.2 The indirect visual impacts of the proposed development for each of the assessed HLCAs are given in **Table EDP 3.2 – 3.8**. Each table is followed by a brief comment on the character of the visual effects.

Viewpoints and Extent of Visibility

- 3.1 The Preliminary ZVI developed for the LVA (John Champion Associates 2019) establishes that the proposed project will be visible from various places within the Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape (see Figure O1). Available views of the development will mainly be from some immediately surrounding character areas, with longer-distance views from the east and south.
- 3.2 The viewpoints chosen for the ASIDOHL are listed in **Table EDP 3.1** and **Figures EDP 1 – 7** comprise photographs of the views from selected locations. These were taken with a Canon EOS 750D SLR, at a focal length of 35mm (50mm equivalent allowing for the sensor crop factor).
- 3.3 There is a necessary selectivity in the choice of viewpoints. For obvious reasons, locations have been chosen where the proposed development will be visible. The proposed development will be visible from the entirety of Ty Newydd (O58), whilst surrounding HLCAs will have only partial views. However, much of the area around the development will have no such views. The project will not, for example, be visible from HLCA 012 Cyfarthfa Ironworks: this was originally included in the assessment but was scoped out after the field visit.
- 3.4 It is primarily the historic ‘resource zone’ and nearby residential areas for which views are potentially altered. The ‘resource zone’ character areas tend to occupy more elevated, open ground, which afford longer-distance views, whilst the residential areas experience more direct, glimpsed views. These were both functional landscapes and usually lack elements for which setting was a key concern at the time of their creation and operation. Nevertheless, in the modern day the ‘resource zone’ landscape affords wide views across the former industrial landscape in the Merthyr Tydfil basin, in which the core, settlement, resource zones and development may be seen together and in context. The residential character areas afford views across the proposed development area, towards the green edge of Merthyr Tydfil and the post-medieval enclosed landscape. It is these aspects which

the proposed development may alter, and on which this ASIDOHL stage focuses.

Table EDP 3.1: Viewpoint information

Grid Reference		HLCA no. and name Viewpoint description	Viewpoint direction	Altitude (AOD)	Distance to Development
303482	208389	012 Cyfarthfa Ironworks Public footpath: Gyrnos Quarry Tramroad and Leat (scheduled monument GM478) Image EDP 1	North	207m	0.5 km
305157	209569	045 Morlais Hill and Castle View from Morlais Castle scheduled monument (GM028) Image EDP 3	West	382m	1.7 km
304686	209396	045 Morlais Hill and Castle 052 Gurnos Farm Public road between the two HLCA, within a higher part of HLCA 052. Image EDP 2	West	289m	1.2 km
303637	209041	057 Trefechan Road junction – Poplar Place, Beechwood Avenue Image EDP 4	West	277m	0.13 km
303276	209300	058 Ty Newydd Footpath on the margin of the character area Image EDP 5	South-east	344m	-
303070	208818	060 Cefn Cil-Sanws Footpath, centre of HLCA Image EDP 6	East	319m	0.25 km
303185	207139	063 Clwyd-y-Fagwyr, Gellideg and Pen-Llwyn-Deri Public road Image EDP 7	North	232m	1.7 km
-	-	Cefn Cil-sanws defended enclosure. Scheduled monument GM600	South South-East	414m	0.9km

Table EDP 3.2: Indirect visual effects: HLCA 044 (Morlais Castle Quarries)

Characteristic	Status & Score	Impacts	Magnitude & Score
Large imposing limestone quarries	B – 3	Development form and appearance	Very Slight – 1
Associations with Pen-y-darren and Dowlais Iron Works	B – 3		
Associated tramroad corridors	B – 3		
Score (average element status + impact magnitude) = 3 + 1 = 4 (out of a possible maximum score of 10)			
Overall magnitude of impact score = 4 x (28 ÷ 10) = 11.2 = Moderate			

- 3.5 **Morlais Castle Quarries:** The elevated position of this character area gives it sweeping views across the Merthyr Basin, and is a good vantage point from which to view the historic resource zone as a whole. The proposed development will be visible from the western edge of this HLCA, within the area of Morlais Castle. The site will be visible as a small continuation of development along the northern edge of Trefechan with a backdrop of trees and uplands beyond. The extent of change is slight, and will not impact significantly on the character of the HLCA, or on a visitor's appreciation of its historic function.

Table EDP 3.3: Indirect visual effects: HLCA 045 (Morlais Hill and Castle)

Characteristic	Status & Score	Impacts	Magnitude & Score
Bronze Age funerary and ritual landscape	B – 3	Development form and appearance	Very Slight – 1
Iron Age univallate fort	B – 3		
Medieval Morlais Castle (SAM)	A – 4		
Agricultural field system of prehistoric or medieval date	B – 3		
Industrial transport corridor	C – 2		
Score (average element status + impact magnitude) = 3 + 1 = 4 (out of a possible maximum score of 10)			
Overall magnitude of impact score = 4 x (28 ÷ 10) = 11.2 = Moderate			

- 3.6 **Morlais Hill and Castle:** In the lower parts of the character area (for example the golf clubhouse) the proposed development will be screened from view. At the high point within the HLCA – i.e. the castle and the road to the south of the castle – the available views are more extensive and here the proposed development will be visible, albeit as a distant, minor addition to the existing residential development. The extent of change to this significant character area will be very limited.

Table EDP 3.4: Indirect visual effects: HLCA 053 (Y Graig, Gurnos)

Characteristic	Status & Score	Impacts	Magnitude & Score
Small area of scrub woodland and pasture	D – 1	Development form and appearance	Very Slight – 1
Formerly part of Gurnos Farm	C – 2		
Score (average element status + impact magnitude) = 1.5 + 1 = 2.5 (out of a possible maximum score of 10)			
Overall magnitude of impact score = 2.5 x (28 ÷ 10) = 7 = Slight			

- 3.7 **Y Graig, Gurnos:** This character area was not accessible due to it predominantly being located on private land. However, as demonstrated by the ZTV, it is likely that views of the proposed development will be possible from within the north-east of the HLCA. Views from this area of the HLCA are likely to be glimpsed through existing vegetation lining the Taf Fechan and A465 and will comprise visibility of the edges of the development as an extension to the modern residential landscape of Trefechan. This minor change in view will not constitute a major or adverse change and the character area will be virtually unaffected.

Table EDP 3.5: Indirect visual effects: HLCA 057 (Trefechan)

Characteristic	Status & Score	Impacts	Magnitude & Score
Post-war urban landscape	C – 2	Development form and appearance	Very Slight – 1
Example of mid-20th century social engineering	C – 2		
Score (average element status + impact magnitude) = 2 + 1 = 3 (out of a possible maximum score of 10)			
Overall magnitude of impact score = 3 x (28 ÷ 10) = 8.4 = Slight			

- 3.8 **Trefechan:** Although there will be glimpsed views of the proposed development from within the west of the character area, much of the visibility of the proposed development will be blocked by the existing buildings within Trefechan. From areas to the north-west, the HLCA may be seen in combination with the proposed development, for example from the golf course. The Sweetwater Park extension has a strong bearing on the character of this HLCA, and the potential for visual changes upon it. Sweetwater Park is an entirely different built form from the original settlement of Trefechan, and an anomalous addition. Its presence significantly modifies the character of Trefechan as a designed entity. Therefore, the proposed development, whilst adding to this changed baseline, amounts to only a very slight incremental change.

Table EDP 3.6: Indirect visual effects: HLCA 058 (Ty Newydd)

Characteristic	Status & Score	Impacts	Magnitude & Score
Post-medieval enclosed landscape	C – 2	Development form and appearance	Considerable – 4
Small, irregular enclosures with drystone walls	C – 2		
Score (average element status + impact magnitude) = 2 + 4 = 6 (out of a possible maximum score of 10)			
Overall magnitude of impact score = 3 x (28 ÷ 10) = 16.8 = Considerable			

- 3.9 **Ty Newydd:** The proposed development will be visible from the entirety of this character area. The existing character, of a post-medieval enclosed landscape, and views from the HLCA will be changed by development within the area to comprise a modern residential landscape to the east. The character and views to the north of the character area will not be affected. Considering the impact of development within the south-western area of this character area, indirect visual effects are expected to be considerable and will affect the character of the HLCA.

Table EDP 3.7: Indirect visual effects: HLCA 060 (Cefn Cil-Sanws)

Characteristic	Status & Score	Impacts	Magnitude & Score
Minor agricultural industrial extractive landscape	C – 2	Development form and appearance	Very Slight – 1
Score (average element status + impact magnitude) = 2 + 1 = 3 (out of a possible maximum score of 10)			
Overall magnitude of impact score = 3 x (28 ÷ 10) = 8.4 = Slight			

- 3.10 **Cefn Cil-Sanws:** Although this character area has sweeping views across much of the historic landscape, the proposed development is located on the other side of a steep drop in the landscape, creating a topographical barrier and preventing views from most of the HLCA. The far eastern edge of the HLCA will experience views of the proposed development in conjunction with the existing modern landscape of Trefechan. However, they will be a negligible addition to existing views and will not affect the character of this HLCA.

Table EDP 3.8: Indirect visual effects: HLCA 063 (Clwyd-y-Fagwyr, Gellideg and Pen-Llwyn-Deri)

Characteristic	Status & Score	Impacts	Magnitude & Score
Industrial settlement of isolated rows, now dominated by large regular planned estates	C – 2	Development form and appearance	Very Slight – 1
Includes two non-conformist chapels	C – 2		
Industrial landscape including levels, spoil tips, reservoirs/ponds and tramroad corridor	C – 2		
Score (average element status + impact magnitude) = 2 + 1 = 3 (out of a possible maximum score of 10)			
Overall magnitude of impact score = 3 x (28 ÷ 10) = 8.4 = Slight			

- 3.11 **Clwyd-y-Fagwyr, Gellideg and Pen-Llwyn-Deri:** There will not be any views of the proposed development within the built-up areas of this character area: these are blocked by the buildings and planted screening. From an open area in the east of the character area, views of the site are possible in conjunction with the existing residential area of Trefechan. However, it will be a negligible addition to existing views and will not affect the characteristics of this HLCA.

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Section 4

Stage 4: Evaluation of Relative Importance

4.1 The following tables comprise the evaluation of relative importance of the character areas assessed within this study. This takes three parts:

- Project in relation to the whole of the HLCA in which would be located (**Table EDP 4.1**);
- HLCAs in relation to the whole of Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape (**Tables EDP 4.1 – 4.9**); and
- HLCAS in relation to the national context (**Table EDP 4.9**).

Table EDP 4.1: Evaluation of relative importance: proposed development in relation to the whole of HLCA 058 Ty Newydd.

Criterion Value/Score	V. High / V. Good 5	High / Good 4	Mod/ Med 3	Low 2	Very Low/ Poor 1	None 0
Rarity				X		
Representativeness				X		
Documentation				X		
Group Value						X
Survival				X		
Condition					X	
Coherence				X		
Integrity				X		
Potential					X	
Amenity					X	
Associations						X
Score = 15 out of possible maximum of 55: $15 \div 55 \times 100 = 27$						
Grade of overall value = 27 = Moderate						
The development occupies a substantial part of the HLCA (just under half), which is representative of the character area as a whole. Ty Newydd is a small character area, with similar characteristics to other HLCAs on the upland fringe of Merthyr Tydfil. It has little historic landscape interest and does not preserve any known features that are core to the registered landscape as a whole. The sole historic elements present – the stone field walls – are in poor condition. Its contribution to the historic landscape as a whole is low.						

Table EDP 4.2: Evaluation of relative importance: HLCA 044 (Morlais Castle Quarries) in relation to the whole historic landscape.

Criterion Value/Score	V. High / V. Good 5	High / Good 4	Mod/ Med 3	Low 2	Very Low/ Poor 1	None 0
Rarity			X			
Representativeness			X			
Documentation			X			
Group Value				X		
Survival			X			

Criterion Value/Score	V. High / V. Good 5	High / Good 4	Mod/ Med 3	Low 2	Very Low/ Poor 1	None 0
Condition		X				
Coherence		X				
Integrity		X				
Potential			X			
Amenity			X			
Associations			X			
Score = 15 out of possible maximum of 55: $35 \div 55 \times 100 = 63$ Grade of overall value = 63 = High						
An industrial extractive landscape of early 19th century date characterized by limestone quarries with associated tips, a lime kiln, and the tramroads which linked the quarries with the Penydarren and Plymouth Ironworks. It is representative of the quarrying landscape in Merthyr Tydfil's resource zone, of which there are several examples. The multi-phase quarries and associated infrastructure here are particularly well-preserved, legible and visually-striking.						

Table EDP 4.3: Evaluation of relative importance: HLCA 045 (Morlais Hill and Castle) in relation to the whole historic landscape.

Criterion Value/Score	V. High / V. Good 5	High / Good 4	Mod/ Med 3	Low 2	Very Low/ Poor 1	None 0
Rarity	X					
Representativeness			X			
Documentation	X					
Group Value			X			
Survival			X			
Condition			X			
Coherence			X			
Integrity			X			
Potential		X				
Amenity		X				
Associations		X				
Score = 40 out of possible maximum of 55: $40 \div 55 \times 100 = 73$ Grade of overall value = 73 = High						
Nationally-important relict landscape, dominated by the ruins of the medieval castle, but also containing defensive, domestic and funerary features dating to the prehistoric and medieval periods, including a relict field system, prehistoric enclosures and a Bronze Age ring cairn. There are also post-medieval agricultural features and a fieldscape associated with Castle Farm. In terms of the core elements of the Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape, industrial features are limited in extent. These diverse multiperiod remains relate to a strong documentary record, to associations with major historical events (i.e. the Plantagenet occupation of south Wales), while their legibility and accessibility provide strong amenity value.						

Table EDP 4.4: Evaluation of relative importance: HLCA 053 (Y Graig, Gurnos) in relation to the whole historic landscape.

Criterion Value/Score	V. High / V. Good 5	High / Good 4	Mod/ Med 3	Low 2	Very Low/ Poor 1	None 0
Rarity				X		
Representativeness				X		
Documentation					X	
Group Value					X	
Survival					X	
Condition				X		
Coherence				X		
Integrity				X		
Potential					X	
Amenity					X	
Associations						X
Score = 15 out of possible maximum of 55: $15 \div 55 \times 100 = 27$ Grade of overall value = 27 = Moderate						
A small relict open landscape of pasture and scrub woodland, formerly part of Gurnos Farm. This is an unremarkable HLCA, which shares characteristics with various other open farmland areas on the lower-lying fringes of Merthyr Tydfil. The overarching landscape framework (field boundaries) survives, but historic features shown on old mapping are no longer extant or indistinct.						

Table EDP 4.5: Evaluation of relative importance: HLCA 057 (Trefechan) in relation to the whole historic landscape.

Criterion Value/Score	V. High / V. Good 5	High / Good 4	Mod/ Med 3	Low 2	Very Low/ Poor 1	None 0
Rarity			X			
Representativeness				X		
Documentation				X		
Group Value				X		
Survival		X				
Condition		X				
Coherence			X			
Integrity			X			
Potential					X	
Amenity					X	
Associations						X
Score = 27 out of possible maximum of 55: $25 \div 55 \times 100 = 45$ Grade of overall value = 45 = Considerable						
A post-war urban landscape characterised as an architect-designed self-contained community – an interesting example of mid-20th century social engineering. The Sweetwater Park extension has a strong bearing on the character of this HLCA, being of an entirely different built form from the original settlement of Trefechan. It is an unsympathetic addition in historic landscape terms and its presence significantly modifies the character of Trefechan as a designed entity. Nevertheless, within the original streetscape, there has been relatively little modernization, such that the design intent and character of the community remains clear. On the other hand, with such a modern HLCA, there is little further potential for research, while amenity is also low.						

Table EDP 4.6: Evaluation of relative importance: HLCA 058 (Ty Newydd) in relation to the whole historic landscape.

Criterion Value/Score	V. High / V. Good 5	High / Good 4	Mod/ Med 3	Low 2	Very Low/ Poor 1	None 0
Rarity				X		
Representativeness				X		
Documentation				X		
Group Value						X
Survival				X		
Condition					X	
Coherence				X		
Integrity				X		
Potential					X	
Amenity					X	
Associations						X
Score = 15 out of possible maximum of 55: $15 \div 55 \times 100 = 27$ Grade of overall value = 27 = Moderate						
Ty Newydd is a small character area, with similar characteristics to other HLCAs on the upland fringe of Merthyr Tydfil. It has little historic landscape interest and does not preserve any known features that are core to the registered landscape as a whole. The sole historic elements present – the stone field walls – are in poor condition. Its contribution to the historic landscape as a whole is low.						

Table EDP 4.7: Evaluation of relative importance: HLCA 060 (Cefn Cil Sanws) in relation to the whole historic landscape.

Criterion Value/Score	V. High / V. Good 5	High / Good 4	Mod/ Med 3	Low 2	Very Low/ Poor 1	None 0
Rarity				X		
Representativeness				X		
Documentation				X		
Group Value				X		
Survival				X		
Condition			X			
Coherence			X			
Integrity			X			
Potential					X	
Amenity					X	
Associations				X		
Score = 23 out of possible maximum of 55: $23 \div 55 \times 100 = 42$ Grade of overall value = 42 = Considerable						
A largely unenclosed upland landscape characterised by minor agricultural/industrial extraction. The HLCA shares common characteristics with other upland elements of Merthyr Tydfil's resource zone. Extant features are unremarkable and in a relatively poor state of preservation. The place-name evidence suggesting a link to an early Christian monastic church or settlement is interesting but unproven by any connection to physical archaeological remains.						

Table EDP 4.8: Evaluation of relative importance: HLCA 063 (Clwyd-y-Fagwyr, Gellideg and Pen-Llwyn-Deri) in relation to the whole historic landscape.

Criterion Value/Score	V. High / V. Good 5	High / Good 4	Mod/ Med 3	Low 2	Very Low/ Poor 1	None 0
Rarity				X		
Representativeness				X		
Documentation					X	
Group Value				X		
Survival				X		
Condition				X		
Coherence				X		
Integrity				X		
Potential					X	
Amenity					X	
Associations						X
Score = 17 out of possible maximum of 55: $17 \div 55 \times 100 = 31$ Grade of overall value = 31 = Moderate						
A settlement dominated by 20th century council estates but retaining earlier small discrete clusters of cottages and isolated rows of houses. Other features include non-conformist chapels and industrial features associated with coal and iron ore extraction and transportation. The settlement is of a type widely found in suburban Merthyr Tydfil, away from the historic core. Older elements within it are subsumed by recent housing, and the overbearing sense is of a modern environment. It is a utilitarian place, from which there is little further to be learned and without amenity.						

- 4.2 Merthyr Tydfil is an industrial landscape which incorporates remains embracing the whole of the generating process for iron: raw material extraction and supply; production; and associated settlement.
- 4.3 Of the 58 registered historic landscapes in Wales, many contain relict remains of mineral or stone extraction. These include: HLW C 2 Holywell Common and Halkyn Mountain (lead mining); HLW D 1 Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai (stone quarrying for lime); HLW Gw 6 Dinorwig (slate quarrying); HLW G 9 Nantlle Valley (slate quarries, copper mines); HLW C 6 Vale of Llangollen (stone quarrying). However, there are four registered landscapes whose overarching characteristic is of post medieval industrial remains. These are: HLW G 3 Blaenau Ffestiniog (slate mining); HLW Gt 4 Clydach Gorge (ironworking, limestone quarries, lime-working); The Rhondda HLW MGI 5 (coal mining); and Blaenavon HLW Gt 1.
- 4.4 Of these, Blaenavon is perhaps the most comparable landscape. Although it occupies a much more compact area than Merthyr Tydfil, there are many shared characteristics: early Post medieval mineral workings and processing, followed by later production of coal, iron and steel. Blaenavon also includes opencasts, mines, quarries, spoil tips, transport systems, preserved collieries and ironworks and related industrial settlement. Blaenavon is included on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.
- 4.5 ASIDOHL guidance states that decreasing rarity (i.e. the existence of similar land parcels in other historic landscapes) is not a reason to downgrade the value of a character area within

the national context. It is therefore considered that the assessments given in **Tables EDP 4.2 to 4.8** above also accurately reflect the character areas' value in national terms, as summarised below in **Table EDP 4.9**.

Table EDP 4.9: Character area value in relation to the national context .

Character Area	Value
44 Morlais Castle Quarries	High
45 Morlais Hill and Castle	High
53 Y Graig/Gurnos	Moderate
57 Trefechan	Considerable
58 Ty Newydd	Moderate
60 Cefn Cil-Sanws	Considerable
63 Clwyd-y-Fagwyr, Gellideg and Pen-Llwyn-Deri	Moderate

Section 5

Stage 5: Assessment of Overall Significance of Impact

- 5.1 **Table EDP 4.9** presents a summary of the ASIDOHL findings in relation to each HLCA. The overall (averaged) impact of the proposed project is shown in **Table EDP 5.1**.

Table EDP 5.1: Summary of ASIDOHL Findings.

	HLCA						
	044	045	053	057	058	060	063
Value (Stage 4)	6	8	4	6	4	5	4
Direct and Indirect Impact (Stages 2 & 3)	2	2	1	1	9	1	1
Reduction in Value of HLCA	1	1	1	1	7	1	1
Total Score	9	11	6	8	20	7	6
Grading	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Slight	Fairly Severe	Slight	Slight

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Section 6

Summary and Conclusions

- 6.1 The effects of the proposed development on the Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape fall entirely within its north/north-western parts. Here, there is change in land-use within the Ty Newydd HLCA, and the removal of some (but not all) deteriorated post-medieval drystone walling. The assessment reflects these absolute and relative physical impacts on the Ty Newydd HLCA. Conversely, since ASIDOHL cannot accommodate positive benefits of a scheme, this assessment is unable to reflect the proposals for the restoration of some of those boundary walls – namely those around the edges of the site. Where such enhancement of the stone walls cannot be accommodated within the design, these sections of wall will be recorded to ClfA and Level 3 Historic England standards, thus ensuring preservation by record. There are no physical impacts on any other HLCA.
- 6.2 In terms of indirect (visual) effects, within the Ty Newydd Character Area the proposed development will become dominant. Elsewhere it will only appear as a minor element in the landscape and will not introduce significant change. There will be views of the proposed development from within certain HLCAs in the surrounding landscape, namely those which have not been developed for housing and which are more elevated, allowing for broader viewsheds. These comprise Morlais Castle, Trefechan, Cefn Cil-Sanws, Y Graig/Gurnos and Clwyd-y-Fagwyr HLCAs. Although the proposed development will be visible within these character areas, views will mostly be glimpsed and/or in conjunction with the current Trefechan settlement (including with Sweetwater Park, noted above as being anomalous to the original historic character). The Stage 5 scoring produced overall moderate effects for the Morlais Hill and Castle HLCA, but this result is generated by a very minor (and non-significant) change in views, combined with the HLCA's high value. Other high-value HLCAs (e.g. Dowlais; Ivor Iron Works) will not have any views of the proposed development.
- 6.3 In summary, therefore, the only meaningful effects of the proposed development will be on the Ty Newydd character area. The Stage 5 score of Fairly Severe reflects the land-take of the proposed development – expressed as a proportion of the whole HLCA – together with marked visual changes. It needs to be borne in mind, however, that this is a small development, certainly when set against the extensive 20th/21st century housing developments elsewhere within suburban Merthyr Tydfil. Meanwhile, the Ty Newydd HLCA is one of the smallest HLCAs within the Merthyr Tydfil historic landscape. Had a limited development of this type occurred within a bigger character area, the ASIDOHL score would have been markedly lower, and would arguably have better reflected a change to the historic landscape as a whole which is limited and leaves its key characteristics unaltered.

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Section 7

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Images



Image EDP 1: Looking east within character area 12. Views out of the character area and towards the development are prevented by a thick tree buffer and steep topography.



Image EDP 2: On the western edge of character area 44, looking towards Trefechan.



Image EDP 3: At an elevated point near the former Morlais Castle remains in character area 45. Looking west towards Trefechan.



Image EDP 4: On the southern edge of character area 57, looking north towards the development area.



Image EDP 5: On the western edge of character area 58 with the development area in the foreground and Trefechan behind.



Image EDP 6: Looking north east within character area 60. Whilst the development area is not visible, the modern edge of Trefechan is visible in the mid-left of the image.

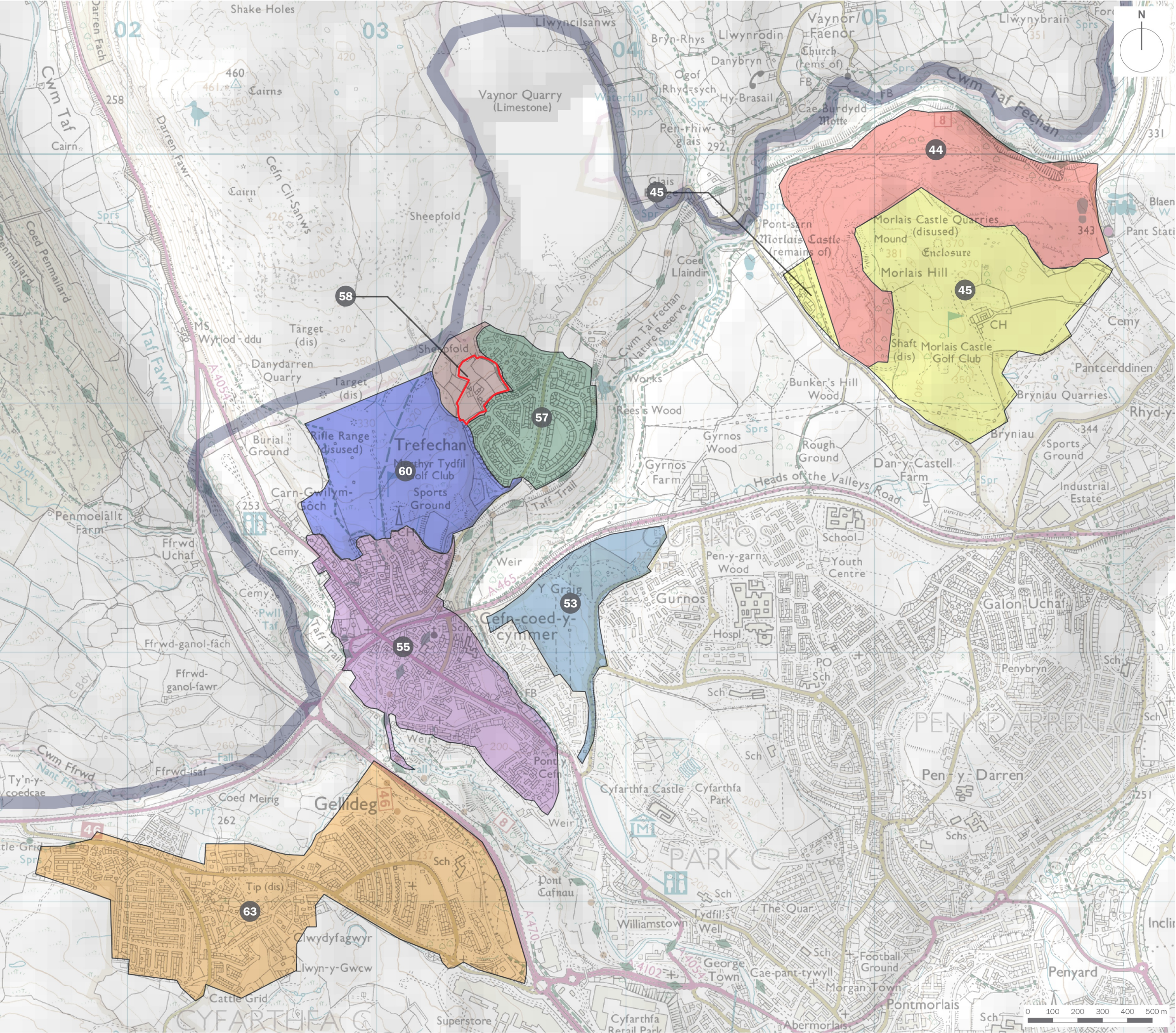


Image EDP 7: Looking north east within character area 63. The development area and Trefechan are just visible on the horizon.

Plan

Plan EDP 1 Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape and Character Areas Assessed within the ASIDOHL
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Site Boundary

Merthyr Historic Landscape Boundary

Historic Landscape Character Areas

44 - Morlais Castle Quarries

45 - Morlais Hill and Castle

53 - Y Graig

55 - Cefn Cod-y-Cymmer

57 - Trefechan

58 - Ty Newydd

60 - Cefn Cil-Sanws

63 - Clwyd-y-Fagwyr, Gellideg and Pen-Llwyn-Deri

client	WDL Homes Ltd		
project title	Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil		
drawing title	Plan EDP 1: Merthyr Tydfil Historic Landscape and Character Areas Assessed within the ASIDOHL		
date	25 OCTOBER 2019	drawn by	RB
drawing number	edp5809_d004a	checked	AP
scale	1:15,000 @ A3	QA	CR

edp

the environmental dimension partnership

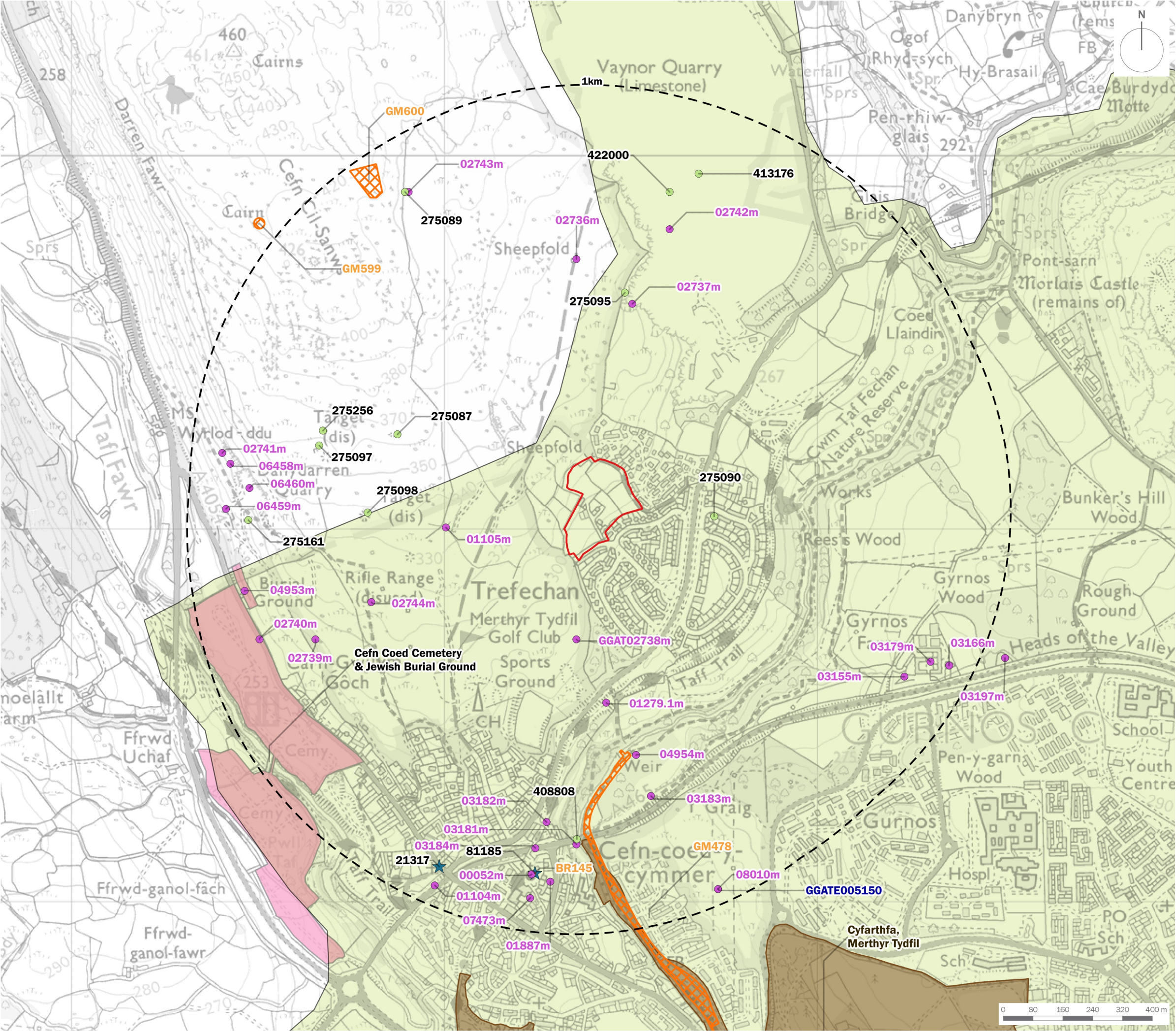
Registered office: 01285 740427 - www.edp-uk.co.uk - info@edp-uk.co.uk

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Plans

- Plan EDP 1** Heritage Assets
(edp5809_d001a 25 October 2019 AG/HS)
- Plan EDP 2** Tithe Map of Vaynor Parish 1841
(edp5809_d002a 25 October 2019 AG/HS)
- Plan EDP 3** 1964 Ordnance Survey Map
(edp5809_d003a 25 October 2019 AG/HS)

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Site Boundary

1km Study Area

HER Monument

NMRW

HER Event

II*

II

Scheduled Monuments

Historic Parks and Gardens

Conservation Areas

Merthyr Tydfil Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

client

WDL Homes Ltd

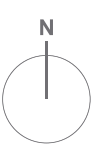
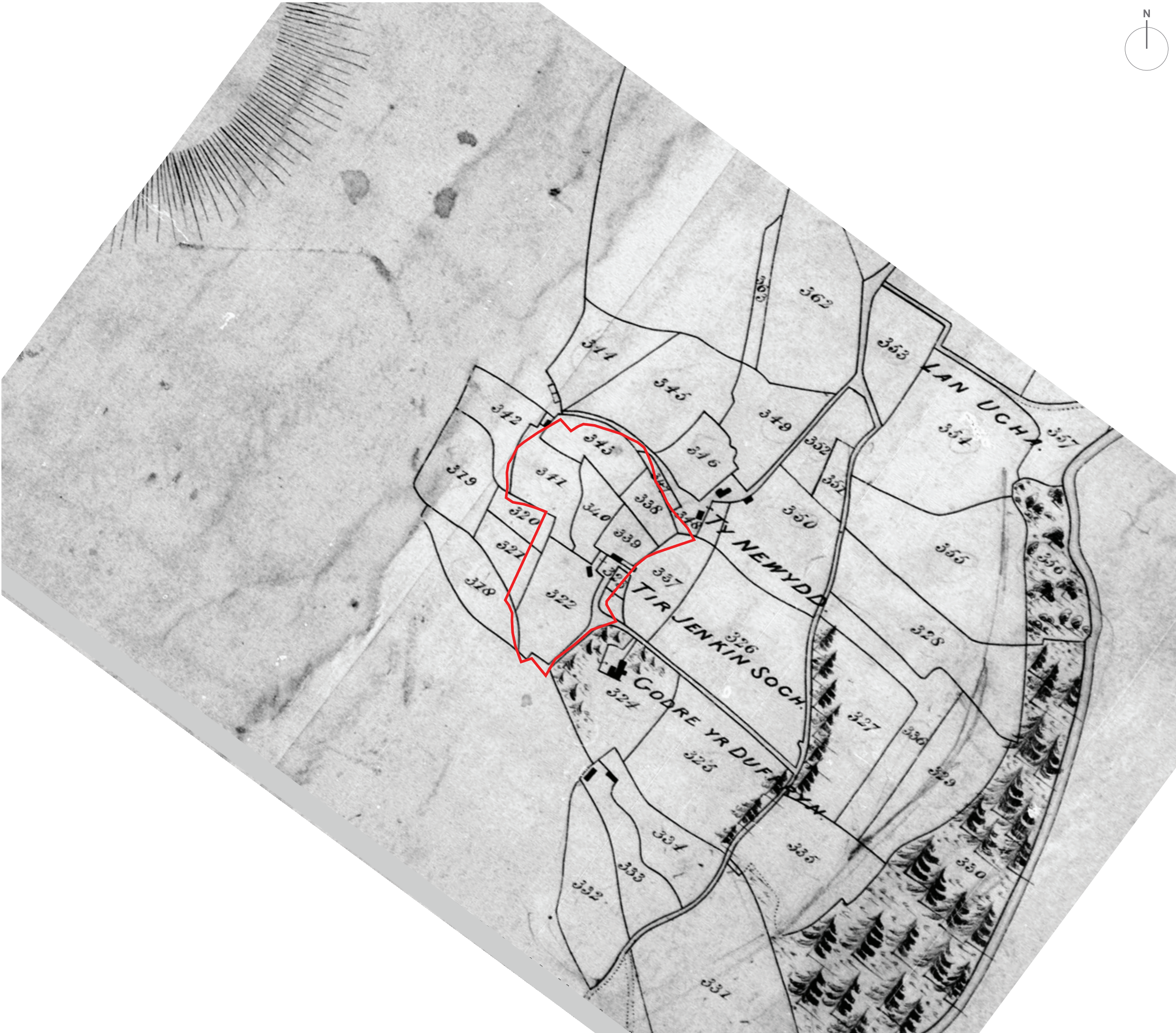
project title

Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil

drawing title

Plan EDP 1: Heritage Assets

date	25 OCTOBER 2019	drawn by	AG
drawing number	edp5809_d001a	checked	HS
scale	1:10,000 @ A3	QA	RB



Approximate Site Boundary

client
WDL Homes Ltd

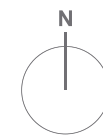
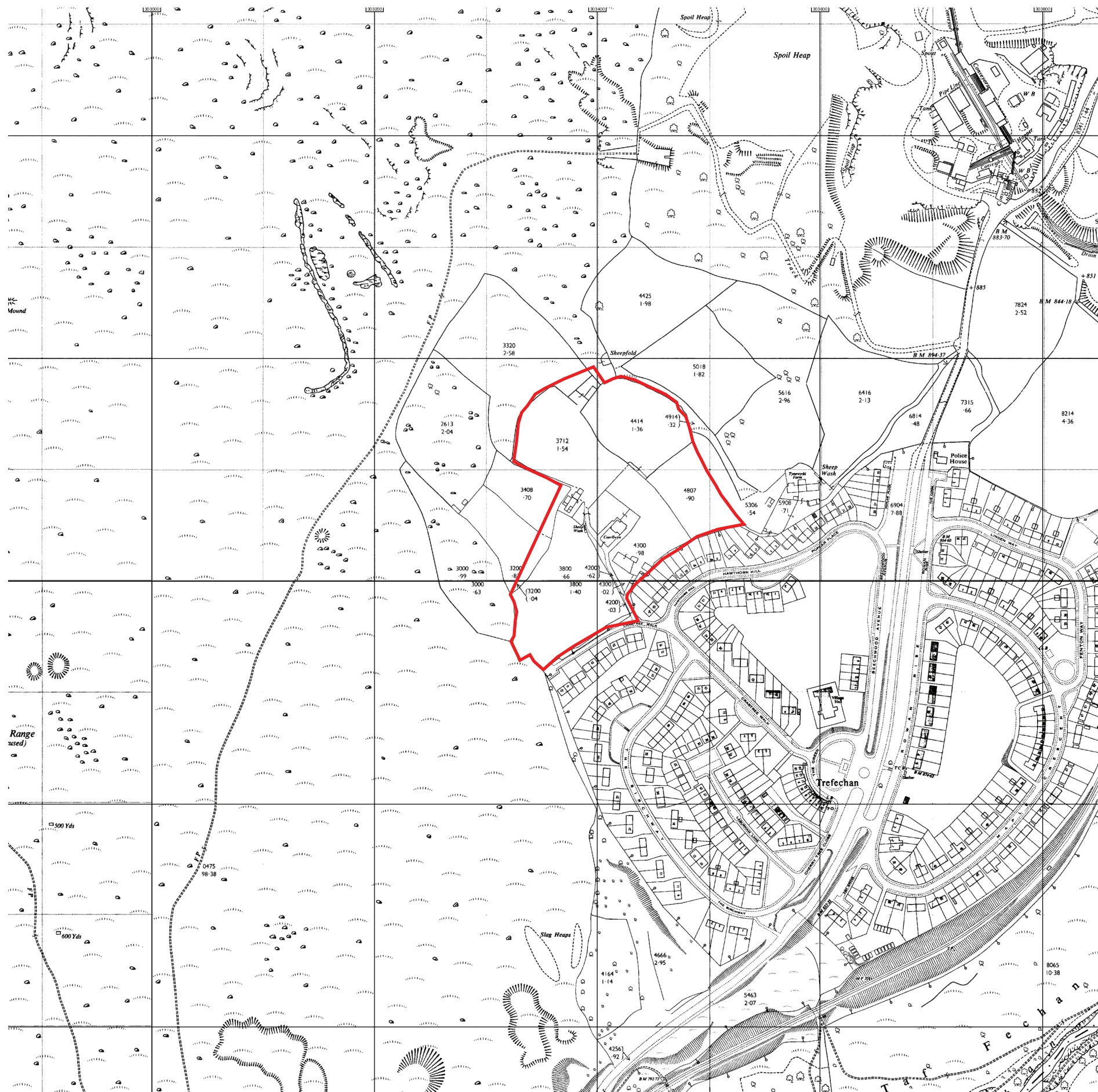
project title
Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil

drawing title
Plan EDP 2: Tithe Map of Vaynor Parish 1841

date	25 OCTOBER 2019	drawn by	AG
drawing number	edp5809_d002a	checked	HS
scale	Not to Scale	QA	RB



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Approximate Site Boundary

client
WDL Homes Ltd

project title
Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil

drawing title
Plan EDP 3: 1964 Ordnance Survey Map

date	25 OCTOBER 2019	drawn by	AG
drawing number	edp5809_d003a	checked	HS
scale	1:2,500 @ A3	QA	RB

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