



Landscape Character and Visual Impact Assessment of Cefn Isaf, Cefn Coed Y Cymmer

Text, Plans, Photographs & Appendices

Prepared for Merthr Valleys Homes

April 2024

TDA/2947/LC&VIA/RhC/04.24



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Section 1

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tirlun Design Associates (TDA) have been instructed to undertake a landscape character and visual impact assessment of a proposed development site on land off Wern Road, Cefn Coed y Cymmer ('The Site'), and assess the general visual and landscape character impacts a proposed new residential development would have upon its surrounding landscape.
- 1.2 Desktop research and site surveys were carried out in March and April 2024 and their findings are contained herein.
- 1.3 The primary question asked within this document is:

Can the proposed site at Cefn Coed y Cymmer accommodate a replacement residential development without adverse impacts upon the character and visual amenity of the site's surroundings.

- 1.4 The document has been set out as follows:
 - **Section 2 - Qualifications & Experience** introduces the member of staff dealing with this assessment on behalf of TDA and highlights their qualifications and experience relevant to this study.
 - **Section 3 – Cefn Isaf: Planning Context & Landscape Character** introduces the site, its planning context and landscape character.
 - **Section 4 – Landscape Mitigation & Enhancement** outlines the landscape strategy for the residential development
 - **Section 5 - Visual Appraisal & Landscape Assessment** is a visual appraisal and landscape assessment of the site.
 - **Section 6 - Summary & Conclusion** provides a summary of the study and presents a conclusion to the question raised within paragraph 1.3.

Section 2

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

- 2.1 This assessment has been carried out on behalf of TDA by Rhodri Crandon and Andrew Perrigo.
- 2.2 Rhodri's qualifications include an honours degree in Landscape Architecture gained from Cheltenham & Gloucester College of Higher Education (CGHE) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture also from CGHE.
- 2.3 Mr. Crandon is the director of TDA, a landscape consultancy practice based in South Wales, and has 21 years professional practice experience within the field of landscape architecture. Over this period, he has undertaken many projects relevant to this development which have dealt with issues relating to landscape design, landscape planning and landscape & visual assessment.
- 2.4 Mr. Crandon has worked as an expert witness in relation to landscape character and visual issues on many relevant projects both in the private and public sector, including Monmouthshire County Council during their Unitary Development Plan Inquiry in 2004.
- 2.5 Andrew's qualifications include an honours degree in Psychology gained from Cardiff Metropolitan University, a City & Guilds Level 2 in Computer Aided Design and a Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture from the University of Gloucestershire.
- 2.6 Mr. Perrigo is the Senior Landscape Architect at TDA, and has 18 years professional practice experience within the field of landscape architecture. Over this period, he has undertaken many projects relevant to this development which have dealt with issues relating to landscape design, landscape planning and landscape & visual assessment.

Section 3

Cefn Isaf: SITE, LANDSCAPE, PLANNING CONTEXT AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

Site Context

- 3.1 The proposed development site is the Cefn Isaf blocks of flats, located between Wern Road and Pontycapel Road.
- 3.2 The boundaries of the site are defined by the surrounding roads and adjacent residential properties. Beyond Wern Road to the south, there is a small woodland group that gives way to the riparian vegetation of the River Taff which is located approximately 130 metres to the south.
- 3.3 TDA drawing no. TDA/2947/01 – Location of Photo Viewpoints (refer to Plans section of this document) clearly illustrates the site and its context.

Landscape & Planning Context

- 3.4 The site made up of the existing Cefn Isaf Flats, comprising two blocks, connected by walkways.
- 3.5 The site is not located within a conservation area. The Cyfarthfa Conservation Area is located 20 metres to the south on the southern side of Wern road.
- 3.6 The Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan Special Landscape Area is also located on the southern side of Wern Road, approximately 40 metres from the site.
- 3.7 The site is located within the Cefn Coed y Cymmer settlement boundary.
- 3.8 The site is surrounded by a number of public footpaths, byways & other routes public access. Refer to TDA drawing no. TDA/2947/01 – Location of Photo Viewpoints.
- 3.9 Based upon the study of up-to-date mapping provided by Sustrans there are no local or national cycle routes adjacent to, nor within close proximity of the site.
- 3.10 The site does not contain any tree preservation orders, listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments.

Development Proposals

- 3.11 The existing blocks will be demolished and replaced with two new blocks. A gap will be introduced between the blocks, opening up the site and improving views, light and connections north/south.
- 3.12 The massing footprint will be stepped back from the edges of the site and adjacent to neighbouring properties to improve proximity distances and add articulation to reduce the perceived visual mass.
- 3.13 The top storey will step back to the eastern and western edges of the site to respond to the scale of surrounding homes and the slope of the site. (Refer to Plans section for further details)

Adopted Local Plan Policies

Policy SW11 – Sustainable Design & Place Making (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Replacement Local Development Plan (2016 - 2031))

3.14 Policy SW11 states that:

Development must contribute to the creation of attractive and sustainable places through high quality, sustainable and inclusive design.

Where appropriate new development will be required to:

- 1. be appropriate to its local context in terms of scale, height, massing, elevational treatment, materials and detailing, layout, form, mix and density;***
- 2. integrate effectively with adjacent spaces, the public realm and historic environment to enhance the general street scene and create good quality townscape;***
- 3. not result in an unacceptable impact on local amenity, loss of light or privacy, or visual impact, and incorporate a good standard of landscape design;***
- 4. contribute to the provision of green infrastructure, including open space in accordance with the Council's standards, sustainable drainage systems where appropriate, and ensure that the County Borough's network of green infrastructure is accessible and connected;***
- 5. allow access for the widest range of people possible, and demonstrate that any traffic movements will not have an unacceptable impact on local amenity or highway safety and satisfy the Council's parking standards;***
- 6. incorporate a range of inclusive/adaptable design specifications, a mix of house types, tenures and sizes to meet identified local needs;***
- 7. incorporate resource efficient/adaptable buildings and layouts using sustainable design and construction techniques;***
- 8. minimise the demand for energy and utilise renewable energy resources;***
- 9. provide and protect relevant utility services and infrastructure without causing any unacceptable environmental impacts;***
- 10. incorporate measures to improve ground and surface water quality wherever possible;***
- 11. provide adequate facilities and space for waste collections and recycling;***
- 12. promote the creation of healthy and active environments and reduce the opportunity for crime and anti-social behaviour***

3.15 Consequently, from a landscape perspective, providing the development:

- Does not have an unacceptable impact on local amenity, loss of light or privacy, or visual impact
- Incorporates a good standard of landscape design
- Contributes to the provision of green infrastructure
- Maintains and, where possible, enhances biodiversity

Then it is consistent with planning policy SW11 of the replacement local plan.

Landscape Character

LANDMAP – The Countryside Council for Wales

3.16 The Countryside Council for Wales, now Natural Resources Wales, has undertaken an extensive landscape character assessment of Wales using the LANDMAP information system (Refer to Appendix1).

3.17 LANDMAP is a GIS (Geographical Information System) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set.

3.18 Specialists collect LANDMAP Information in a structured and rigorous way that is defined by five methodological chapters, the Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual & Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape. Each of these elements and how they assess the site and its surroundings (including principal management recommendations and long-term guidelines) are further explored below:

Geological Landscape

3.19 LANDMAP has located the site within the ‘Bryniau’ aspect area.

3.20 It states that the aspect area, which is classified as being of high overall value, comprises an extensive South facing dip slope in Millstone Grit Basal Grit Formation sandstones and conglomerates, cut by north west – south east faults.

3.21 The principal management recommendations and long-term guidelines for the aspect area are to conserve as existing.

Landscape Habitats

3.22 LANDMAP has located the site within the ‘Merthyr Tydfil’ aspect area.

3.23 It states that the aspect area, which is classified as being of moderate overall value, comprises a highly urbanised area. Numerous hedgerows and woodland add some value.

3.24 The principal management recommendations or guidelines are to Conserve and enhance any remaining semi-natural habitats.

Visual & Sensory

3.25 LANDMAP has located the site within the 'Merthyr Tydfil' aspect area.

3.26 It states that the aspect area, which is classified as being of low overall value, comprises an urban area including Merthyr Tydfil and a series of linked village communities and housing estates, which surround the town centre and sit within a broad basin. Open spaces between built up areas are in varying condition. Some have revegetated naturally. Other areas have been reclaimed to form "green tips" with engineered sides and flat terraces for industry or recreation. Substantial time and investment in recent years has meant that others still have been reclaimed with sensitive landform, water bodies, substantial planting and access routes. Planting and vegetation is, over time, integrating and softening these formerly visually harsh but distinctive landscapes. All, however, currently still bear the hallmark of reclaimed or disturbed landscapes.

3.27 The principal management recommendation and guidelines are to maintain wedges of open space and capitalise on distinctive character of 'village' communities, improve and maintain series of existing open spaces and integrate new and existing development.

Historic Landscape

3.28 LANDMAP has located the site within the 'Merthyr Tydfil Core' aspect area.

3.29 It states that the aspect area, which is classified as being of outstanding overall value, comprises a nationally important industrial centre during the 18th and 19th centuries. Merthyr Tydfil rapidly expanded from a modest village in the 1750s to become the largest town in Wales by 1801, its rapid growth fuelled by its association with the great expansion of the ironworking industry in this area from the mid-18th century onwards. Despite impacts from extensive recent land reclamation and the expansion of 20th century social housing, the town and its environs, together with the extant remains of the ironworks at Cyfarthfa, Dowlais and Ynysfach, constitute what has been characterised as 'a potent example of an internationally renowned industrial landscape of the 18th and 19th centuries.

3.30 The principal management recommendations and guidelines are to retain distinctiveness of the constituent communities.

Cultural Landscape

3.31 LANDMAP has located the site within the 'Merthyr Tydfil' aspect area.

3.32 The assessment does not provide any further information.

3.33 Following our own, more detailed, site-specific visual appraisal and landscape assessment carried out in March and April 2024 (refer to Section 4), we can confirm that the summaries made by the LANDMAP assessment are a broadly accurate description of the landscape which defines and surrounds the site.

3.34 Indeed, the site sits in an urban landscape on a valley slope that bottoms out at the River Taff. The site sits among a random and at times haphazard layout of existing houses.

3.35 The wooded area immediately to the south and the wider riparian zone along the River Taff softens the urban edge.

Section 4

LANDSCAPE MITIGATION & ENHANCEMENT

- 4.1 Landscape mitigation and enhancement proposals will be developed to sensitively integrate the development into the landscape. Proposals will include:

Street Trees - Several new small and medium sized trees across the site to add landscape structure and provide a strong arboricultural character.

Native Trees - New native broadleaf trees will improve biodiversity and arboricultural character.

Scrub Planting - Scrub planting to the site's peripheries will compensate proposed losses and provide valuable habitat for reptiles and amphibians. Proposed scrub will link with the existing retained scrub in the north eastern corner where possible.

Wildflower Habitat - Wildflower meadow will be created in several locations across the site, improving biodiversity and providing valuable habitat for pollinators

Green Roofs - New sedum roofs with areas of spoil and some bare ground at the edges will provide valuable habitat for basking invertebrates.

The primary function of the landscape proposals will be to enhance biodiversity, soften the development and provide landscape amenity for residents.

Section 5

VISUAL APPRAISAL & LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

Assessment Methodology

- 5.1 The following section has been produced in accordance with the 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition)' produced by The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2013).

Desktop Assessment

- 5.2 In addition to the research undertaken to establish the site's landscape/planning context and landscape character described in Section 3, a desktop assessment of the site was undertaken to identify local visual receptors.
- 5.3 Drawing no. TDA/2947/01 – Location of Photo Viewpoints, located in the Plans section of this document, clearly identifies local visual receptors (including areas accessible to the general public.)

Visual Appraisal

- 5.4 As a consequence of the assessment described above, photo viewpoints were carefully selected to represent the development's possible impacts upon visual receptors located within surrounding area.
- 5.5 For document clarity and ease of interpretation views are categorised according to their distance from the site as follows:
- Short-range – 0-0.5 kilometres from the nearest site periphery.
Mid-range – 0.5-1.0 kilometres from the nearest site periphery.
Long-range – 1.0+ kilometres from the nearest site periphery.
- 5.6 The significance of the development's impact upon existing views from areas accessible to the general public has been assessed using the significance criteria for visual impact included in Appendix 2. The visual impact of the proposed development upon each photo viewpoint is described in *italics* below.
- 5.7 As can be seen from the photographs below, the site's visual envelope is generally restricted. the site is predominantly screened by intervening topography, trees and existing built form.

Photo Viewpoints

- 5.8 Photo viewpoints 1-9 below can be found in the Photographs section of this document. Their locations and view angles are illustrated by TDA drawing no. TDA/2947/01 – Location of Photo Viewpoints, located in the Plans section of this document.
- 5.9 **Photo Viewpoint 1** is short-range view looking north east from a public Footpath off Wern Road. The existing site is clearly visible. Whilst the new residential blocks will still be visible, the stepping back of the massing provides opportunities for soft landscape proposals on the south western boundary, slightly improving views from this location.
Development's visual impact: slight beneficial
- 5.10 **Photo Viewpoint 2** is a short-range view looking north east from a public footpath adjacent to the River Taff. The site is predominantly screened by intervening topography and trees. Whilst glimpses of the new residential blocks will still be possible, the introduction of a gap between the blocks and a reduction in the perceived visual mass will slightly improve views from this location.
Development's visual impact: slight beneficial
- 5.11 **Photo Viewpoint 3** is a short-range view looking north west from a public footpath adjacent to the River Taff. The site is predominantly screened by intervening topography and trees. Whilst glimpses of the new residential blocks will still be possible, the introduction of a gap between the blocks and a reduction in the perceived visual mass will slightly improve views from this location.
Development's visual impact: slight beneficial
- 5.12 **Photo Viewpoint 4** is a short-range view looking north east from the Taff Trail south of the Cefn Coed Viaduct. The existing site is clearly visible. Whilst views of the new residential blocks will still be possible, the introduction of a gap between the blocks and a reduction in the perceived visual mass will slightly improve views from this location.
Development's visual impact: slight beneficial
- 5.13 **Photo Viewpoint 5** is a short-range view looking north from the Taff trail. The site is screened by intervening topography.
Development's visual impact: no change
- 5.14 **Photo Viewpoint 6** is a mid-range view looking south east from Grawen Lane adjacent to the Taff Trail. The site is screened by intervening topography and built form.
Development's visual impact: no change.
- 5.15 **Photo Viewpoint 7** is a mid-range view looking south from the Taff Trail. The site is screened by intervening topography and built form.
Development's visual impact: no change.
- 5.16 **Photo Viewpoint 8** is a short-range view looking north west from the Cyfarthfa Leat and Tramroad footpath. The site is screened by intervening topography and built form.
Development's visual impact: no change.
- 5.17 **Photo Viewpoint 9** is a mid-range view looking north east from Heol Tai Mawr. The site is screened by intervening topography and built form.
Development's visual impact: no change.

Landscape Assessment

- 5.18 The visual appraisal has established that the site is visible from viewpoints 1, 2, 3 and 4. The remaining 5 viewpoints are screened by a combination of intervening topography, existing built form and trees.
- 5.19 With regards to viewpoints 1-4, it should be noted that these viewpoints are short-range, located within close proximity to the site boundary. As such, any visual impact, positive or negative, is highly localised.
- 5.20 The introduction of a gap between the two proposed blocks, the stepping back of the massing and a stepping back of the top story will result in a slight beneficial impact upon these viewpoints.

Landscape Character Assessment

- 5.21 The proposed blocks of flats will be replaced and the existing use of the site will remain. As a consequence, there will be no significant change to the landscape character of the site and its immediate surroundings.
- 5.22 Consequently, based on the established landscape character of Cefn Coed Y Cymmer, the screening provided by a combination of the natural topography of the area, existing built form and trees, it is considered that the site can accommodate a new replacement residential development without unacceptable landscape character or visual amenity impacts upon its immediate setting or the wider landscape.

Section 6

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

Summary

6.1 In assessing whether the site at Cefn Coed Y Cymmer can accommodate a new replacement residential development without impacting upon the surrounding landscape this study has:

- Undertaken a desktop assessment of the site's landscape/planning context and landscape character during March and April 2024;
- Undertaken an on-site visual appraisal and landscape assessment during April 2024.

6.2 Section 1 of this document identified a key question in relation to the site, this being:

Can the proposed site at Cefn Coed y Cymmer accommodate a replacement residential development without adverse impacts upon the character and visual amenity of the site's surroundings.

6.3 This section of the document will summarise the assessments findings in helping to answer the question.

6.4 Firstly Section 3 established that, providing the proposed development does not have an unacceptable impact on local amenity, loss of light or privacy, or visual impact, incorporates a good standard of landscape design, contributes to the provision of green infrastructure, maintains and, where possible, enhances biodiversity. Then it is consistent with planning policy SW11 of the replacement local plan.

6.5 Secondly, Section 4 – Landscape Mitigation & Enhancement described how biodiversity and screening of the site will be enhanced through a carefully designed landscape strategy.

6.6 Thirdly, Section 5 - Visual Appraisal & Landscape Assessment established that, viewpoints 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are screened by a combination of the natural topography of the area, existing built form and trees.

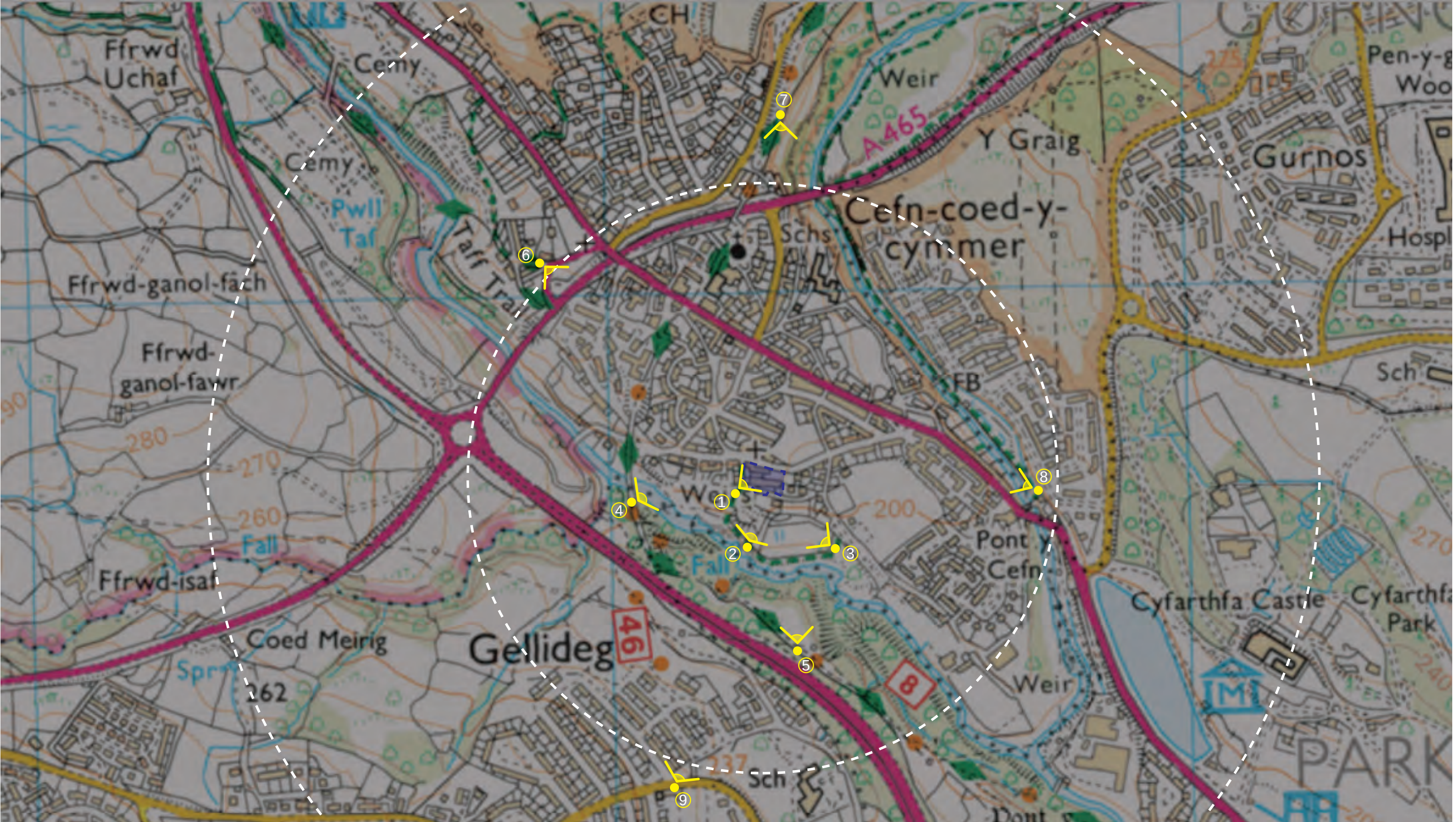
6.7 It was noted that, due to the proposed improvements to building design and layout, the visual impact upon viewpoints 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be slightly beneficial.

Conclusion

6.8 Overall it is therefore considered that the site can accommodate a new replacement residential development without unacceptable landscape character or visual amenity impacts upon its immediate setting or the wider landscape in which it is located.

PLANS

TDA/2947/01 Location of Photo Viewpoints
Illustrative View Looking North (Coffey Architects)
Ground Floor Plan Coffey Architects



Key



Location of Site



Photo Viewpoints &
Approximate View Angles

Note:

Public rights of way, other routes of public access and roads /
paths represented by standard Ordnance Survey symbols

Client

Merthyr Valleys Homes

Project

**Cefn Isaf, Cefn Coed y Cymmer,
Merthyr Tydfil**

Drawing Title

Location of Photo Viewpoints

Drawing No.

TDA/2947/01

Scale

Not to Scale

Date

April 2024

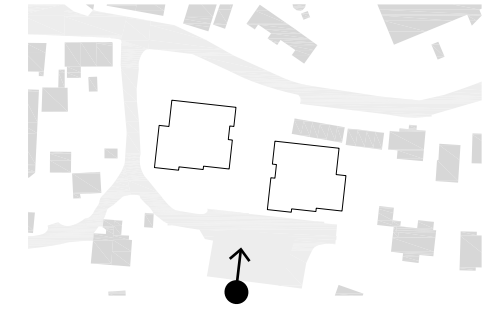
Checked

RHC



8.0 ILLUSTRATIVE VIEWS

STEPPED BLOCKS



Aerial sketch view from the valley to the south. Two separate buildings offer a smaller scale than a single building. The buildings are stepped and set and different heights to work closely with the landscape.



PONTYCAFEL ROAD

WERN ROAD

Location Plan 1:1250

Disclaimer

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Revision	REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
P01	21/11/2023	INFORMATION	
P02	13/02/2024	INFORMATION	
P03	25/03/2024	PAC	
P04	31/05/2024	PLANNING	

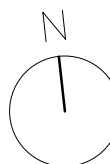
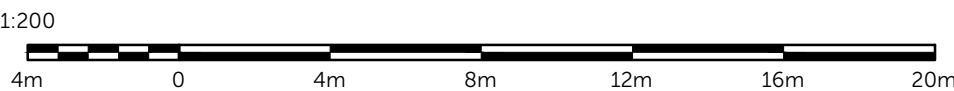
LEGEND

Existing Level
Proposed Level
1B2P
2B3P
A Airing Cupboard 0.8x0.6m
St. Storage
1.5sqm 1B2P
2.0sqm 2B3P

COFFEY / ARCHITECTS

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Project Name		Project No	
CEFN ISAF		1187	
Drawing Name			
GROUND FLOOR PLAN			
Status			
PLANNING			
Drawn	Checked	Scale	Sheet
TL	LM	1:200	A1
Code	Origin	Vol.	Lvt.
CEf-CoA-	00-00-DP-A-(20)101	Typ.	Identifer
			Revision
			P04



PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo Viewpoint 1	Short-range view looking north east from a public Footpath off Wern Road
Photo Viewpoint 2	Short-range view looking north east from a public footpath adjacent to the River Taff
Photo Viewpoint 3	Short-range view looking north west from a public footpath adjacent to the River Taff
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Photo Viewpoint 8	Short-range view looking north west from the Cyfarthfa Leat and Tramroad footpath
Photo Viewpoint 9	Mid-range view looking north east from Heol Tai Mawr

Distance to Site Boundary
15 metres

Wern Road

The site



Photo Viewpoint 1: Short-range view looking north east from a public Footpath off Wern Road

Distance to Site Boundary
65 metres

The site (predominantly screened)



Photo Viewpoint 2: Short-range veiw looking north east from a public footpath adjacent to the River Taff

Distance to Site Boundary
70 metres

The site (predominantly screened)



Photo Viewpoint 3: Short-range view looking north west from a public footpath adjacent to the River Taff

Distance to Site Boundary
195 metres

Cefn Coed Viaduct

St. John the Baptist Church

Cefn Coed Club

The site



Photo Viewpoint 4: Short-range view looking north east from the Taff Trail south of the Cefn Coed Viaduct

Distance to Site Boundary
240 metres

Taff Trail



Photo Viewpoint 5: Short-range view looking north from the taff trail

Distance to Site Boundary
510 metres

Approximate location
of site (screened)

Block of flats off
Maes y Garreg



Photo Viewpoint 6: Mid-range view looking south east from Grawen Lane adjacent to the Taff Trail

Distance to Site Boundary
600 metres

A465

Approximate location
of site (screened)

Taff Trail



Photo Viewpoint 7: Mid-range view looking south from the Taff Trail

Distance to Site Boundary
480 metres

Approximate location
of site (screened)

Block of flats off
Maes y Garreg



Photo Viewpoint 8: Short-range view looking north west from the Cyfarthfa Leat and Tramroad footpath

Distance to Site Boundary

550 metres



The site
(screened)

Godre'r Coed Field



Photo Viewpoint 9: Mid-range view looking north east from Heol Tai Mawr

APPENDIX 1

LANDMAP Data

SURVEY DETAILS FOR MRTHRGL010 - 2024-04-22

Area Unique ID: MRTHRGL010

Aspect:Geological Landscape

Area:Bryniau

Region:Merthyr Tydfil

Survey Date:2003-08-25

- Level 1: Mountain and upland valley
- Level 2: Undulating upland terrain and dissected plateau
- Level 3: Upland valley slope

Monitoring

Q1 - Date of monitoring?

- 2013-03-01

Q1a - Monitoring undertaken by

- K.N. Page (Geodiversity and Landscape Specialist) in conjunction with L.Cherns (University of Cardiff) at the change detection stage of the monitoring process and with input from the local planning authority

Q1b - Has this record been updated following monitoring work?

- This record remains unchanged following monitoring work

Q1c - Change indicated by

- No Answer

Q1d - What has changed?

- No Answer

Q1e - Has the information ever been verified in the field?

- No

Q2 - Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?

- No

Description

Q3 - If Classification is "Other", specify here

- Empty value

Q4 - What is the geographical and topographical character of this area?

- Extensive S-facing dip slope in Millstone Grit Basal Grit Formation sandstones and conglomerates, cut by NW-SE faults. Karstic shake holes near base of Basal Grit, and slope covered by loose blocks (clitter). Patchy boulder clay cover on slope. Disused quarries.

Q4a - Where bedrock dominated, what is the dominant bedrock type?

- No Answer

Q4b - Where bedrock dominated, what is the age that characterises the aspect area?

- No Answer

Q4c - Where bedrock dominated, what is the major rock lithogy (-ies)?

- No Answer

Q4d - Where drift dominated, what is the dominant drift deposit?

- No Answer

Q4e - Where drift dominated, what is the major sediment that characterises the area?

- No Answer

Q5 - What is the characteristic Level 3 component of the area?

- Upland valley slope

Q6 - Which of the following is a significant contributor to the geological character of the area?

- Stratigraphic formation(s)
 - Millstone Grit Basal Grit Fm
- Superficial deposits
 - Boulder clay
- Structural features
 - NW-SE Dowlais, Gurnos and Merthyr-Church faults
- Active processes
 - Fluvial
- Past processes
 - Glacial, karstic

Q7 - What additional subsidiary Level 3 components are notable?

- upland karst
- Other
 - Upland dip slope

Q8 - What Level 4 components are notable in this area?

- Doline

Q9 - What active geological and geomorphological processes are significant in this area?

- Fluvial
- Empty value

Q10 - Are there components of significant hydrological importance?

- Yes
 - Afon Taf Fawr

Q11 - Are there any pedological processes that are significant in the area or have had a landscape forming effect?

- Yes
 - High permeability soils

Q12 - Is there current mineral extraction?

- No

Q13 - Has there been mineral extraction in the past?

- Yes
 - sandstone/grit quarries

Q14 - Are there SSSI/GCR sites here?

- No

Q15 - Are there geological SINC, 2nd tier, or RIGS sites in the area?

- No

Evaluation

Q16 - Value

- High
 - Karstic dip slope in Millstone Grit Basal Grit Fm

Q17 - Condition

- Good
 - Upland slopes

Q18 - Trend

- Constant

Recommendations

Q19 - Existing management

- Generally Appropriate

Q20 - Existing management remarks:

- Neutral

Q21 - Principal management recommendations

- Conserve as existing

Q22 - Guideline

- Long Term
 - Preserve karstic geomorphology of upland slopes

Tolerance To Change

Q23 - Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the Earth Heritage features of the area?

- Not known

Aspect Area Boundary

Q24 - To what level was this information site-surveyed?

- Level 3

Q25 - At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?

- None

Q26 - What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?

- Other
 - 1:50 000 BGS Geological map sheet; 1:25 000 OS Explorer map sheet; Digital Terrain Model compiled from OS panorama digital terrain data (50m resolution)

Q27 - If OS Data was used, what was the scale?

- 1:25,000

Q28 - What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?

- Outcrop area of Basal Grit Fm E of Afon Taf Fawr

Evaluation Matrix

Q29 - Evaluation Criteria: Research Value

- High
 - Karstic dip slope in Millstone Grit Basal Grit Fm

Q29a - Evaluation Criteria: Educational Value

- Unassessed

Q30 - Evaluation Criteria: Historical Value

- High
 - Karstic dip slope in Millstone Grit Basal Grit Fm

Q31 - Evaluation Criteria: Rarity / Uniqueness

- High
 - Karstic dip slope in Millstone Grit Basal Grit Fm

Q32 - Evaluation Criteria: Classic Example

- High
 - Karstic dip slope in Millstone Grit Basal Grit Fm

Q33 - Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation

- High

Q34 - Justification of overall evaluation

- Karstic dip slope in Millstone Grit Basal Grit Fm

Bibliography

Q35 - List the key sources used for this assessment

- 1:50 000 BGS Geological Map sheet 231 Merthyr, S&D, 1979; Digital Terrain Model compiled from OS panorama digital terrain data (50m resolution); 1:100 000 Groundwater Vulnerability Map, Environment Agency. Sheet 36, Gwent, South and Mid Glamorgan, 1996; 1:625 000 Geological Map of the UK: Quaternary Geology, S sheet, 1977; Barclay, W.J., Taylor, K. and Thomas, L.P. 1988. Geology of the South Wales coalfield. Part 5, The country around Merthyr Tydfil : Memoir of the British Geological Survey, Sheet 231 (England and Wales). 3rd ed., H.M.S.O., London, x+52p.

Assessment

Q36 - Additional Assessments

- Empty value

Q37 - Additional Comments

- Extensive dip slope in S-dipping Millstone Grit, cut by NW-stricking faults. PAtchy boulder caly cover. Swallow holes, clutter. Disused quarries

SURVEY DETAILS FOR MRTHRLH009 - 2024-04-22

Area Unique ID: MRTHRLH009

Aspect:Landscape Habitats

Area:N/A

Region:Merthyr Tydfil

Survey Date:2003-08-28

- Level 1: Dry (Relatively) Terrestrial Habitats
- Level 2: Built Up Areas
- Level 3: Residential/Green Space

Monitoring

Q1 - Date of monitoring?

- 2012-07-01

Q1a - Monitoring undertaken by

- Environment Systems Limited

Q1b - Has this record been updated following monitoring work?

- No Answer

Q1c - Change indicated by

- Phase 1 Habitat Survey & Seasonal Change Maps

Q1d - What has changed?

- Description
- Evaluation
- Boundaries

Q1e - Has the information ever been verified in the field?

- No Answer

Q2 - Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?

- No Answer

Q3 - What is the total land area within the boundary (in hectares)?

- 1020

Description

Q4 - What are the dominant soil types? (specify up to 3 types)

- No Answer

Q5 - What Phase 1 habitat types are present? Only select the five most dominant types and, for each of these, specify below what percentage of the Aspect Area is made up of these.

- Dense Scrub
 - 2
- Semi-improved Neutral Grassland
 - 5
- Improved Grassland
 - 4
- Amenity Grassland
 - 6
- Buildings
 - 61

Q6 - Does the area contain habitats of international importance?

- No

Q7 - If yes, which habitats of international importance?

- No Answer

Q8 - Does the area contain BAP habitats?

- Not known

Q9 - If yes, which BAP habitats?

- No Answer

Q10 - Does the area contain protected sites?

- Yes
 - LNR(2.01ha) SSSI(2.12ha) Local Wildlife Site(46.32ha)

Q11 - If yes, which ones?

- LNR
- SSSI
- Local wildlife site

Q12 - Approximately what proportion of the Aspect Area is within the protected site?

- 1-10%
 - 3.81%

Q13 - Does the area support important species?

- Yes

Q14 - If yes, which species? (for each of the species, also note the source of information)

- (Pipistrellus sp.) Pipistrelle sp., (Lutra lutra) Otter, (Picus viridis) Green Woodpecker, (Anas platyrhynchos) Mallard, (Lathraea squamaria) Toothwort, (Wahlenbergia hederacea) Ivy-Leaved Bellflower, (Parus caeruleus) Blue Tit, (Passer domesticus) House Sparrow, (Turdus philomelos) Song Thrush, (Gallinula chloropus) Common Moorhen, (Geum rivale) Water Aven, (Scutellaria minor) Lesser Skullcap, (Turdus philomelos) Song Thrush, (Parus major) Great Tit, (Dryopteris carthusiana) Narrow Buckler-fern, (Pipistrellus pipistrellus) Common Pipistrelle, (Turdus merula) Blackbird, (Phylloscopus trochilus) Willow Warbler, (Branta canadensis) Canada Goose, (Tadorna tadorna) Common Shelduck, (Aythya fuligula) Tufted Duck, (Passer domesticus) House Sparrow, (Cystopteris fragilis) Brittle Bladder-fern, (Sturnus vulgaris) Common Starling

Q15 - Are there any significant threat species present in abundance? (Field visit required)

- No Answer

Q16 - What other features significantly influence the biodiversity in this area?

- Ponds
- Walls
- Hedgerows

Q17 - Are any of these features in a very good condition? (Field visit required)

- No Answer

Q18 - Are any of these features in a poor condition? (Field visit required)

- No Answer

Q19 - What are the main land management activities taking place in the area? (Field visit required)

- Other
 - Urban uses

Q20 - Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable positive impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)

- No Answer

Q21 - Do any of the above appear to have an appreciable negative impact on biodiversity? (Field visit required)

- No Answer

Q22 - Is the biodiversity in the area in any way threatened?

- Not known

Q23 - Are there clear opportunities to improve the biodiversity aspect of this area?

- No Answer

Q24 - Summarise the key features that define this area's biodiversity character

- Area based on main urban area of Merthyr Tydfil town

Evaluation

Q25 - Value

- Moderate
 - Although an highly urbanised area, contains numerous hedgerows and woodland which add value

Q26 - Condition

- Fair

Q27 - Trend

- Constant

Recommendations

Q28 - Existing management

- No Answer

Q29 - Existing management remarks:

- Empty value

Q30 - Principal management recommendations

- Conserve and enhance any remaining semi-natural habitats

Q31 - Guideline

- Medium Term
 - Designate best habitat areas as SINC's

Aspect Area Boundary

Q32 - To what level was this information site-surveyed?

- Level 3

Q33 - At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?

- Most

Q34 - What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?

- No Answer

Q35 - If OS Data was used, what was the scale?

- No Answer

Q36 - What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?

- Boundary adjusted to include new developments

Evaluation Matrix

Q37 - Evaluation Criteria: Priority Habitats

- Low
 - Area dominated by built up areas and areas of improved grassland, an area of Acid grassland provide value

Q38 - Evaluation Criteria: Significance

- Moderate
 - An area with lots of significant species add value.

Q39 - Evaluation Criteria: Opportunity

- Moderate
 - Conserve any remaining natural habitat

Q40 - Evaluation Criteria: Expansion rates

- Low
 - Area has not declined

Q41 - Evaluation Criteria: Sensitivity

- Moderate
 - Threat from development

Q42 - Evaluation Criteria: Connectivity/Cohesion

- Low
 - The habitat provides limited landscape connectivity.

Q43 - Evaluation Criteria: Habitat Evaluation

- Moderate
 - The aspect contains a small priority habitat but the addition of several key species means warrant moderate evaluation

Q44 - Evaluation Criteria: Importance for key species

- Outstanding
 - High level of key species found

Q45 - Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species

- Moderate
 - Although an highly urbanised area, contains numerous hedgerows and woodland which add value

Q45a - Justification of overall evaluation

- Empty value

Bibliography

Q46 - List the key sources used for this assessment

- Wildlife Site/SINC data used within this project were collated by Local Environmental Records Centres Wales on behalf of the various Local Authorities and Wildlife Trusts involved in the site designation process.

Assessment

Q47 - Additional Assessments

- Urban land uses

Q48 - Additional Comments

- Mostly artificial habitats; some small areas of semi-natural habitat including woodland, scrub, semi-improved neutral grassland and ruderal vegetation, as well as improved grassland, gardens, lawns etc.; otter occurs along urban section of Afon Taf; BAP birds likely to be present as garden species, as well as common BAP mammals (e.g. hedgehog); bats doubtless present in buildings; Cyfartha Castle grounds are of local significance.

SURVEY DETAILS FOR MRTHRHL005 - 2024-04-22

Area Unique ID: MRTHRHL005

Aspect:Historic Landscape

Area:HL005 Merthyr Tydfil Core

Region:Merthyr Tydfil

Survey Date:2003-08-26

- Level 1: Built environment
- Level 2: Settlement
- Level 3: Nucleated Settlement

Monitoring

Q1 - Date of monitoring?

- 2017-03-15

Q1a - Monitoring undertaken by

- Historic Landscape change detection work completed by the relevant Welsh Archaeological Trust for this area, the planning authority have been included. Quality Assurance of change detection work was completed by Trysor.

Q1b - Has this record been updated following monitoring work?

- This record remains unchanged following monitoring work

Q1c - Change indicated by

- Policies, plans & information resources
- Fieldwork

Q1d - What has changed?

- Description
- Boundaries

Q1e - Has the information ever been verified in the field?

- Yes
 - Level 3; 1:25,000 Brief confirmatory field visit also undertaken by Border Archaeology personnel (October 2008)

Q2 - Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?

- Yes
 - Industrial and later social settlement conurbation with associated with iron processing areas. Strong link to extractive zones HL006, HL008, HL019, HL020, and HL021. The area provides a; central urban core with satellite communities, with wider links through integrated industrial and public transport corridor, ie HL012, and within HL001 and HL003.

Description

Q3 - If Classification is "Other", specify here

- Empty value

Q4 - Summary Description / Key Patterns and Elements

- Polyfocal settlement linked to intensive industrial activity associated with the iron industry from the mid 18th century, with late 19th century and 20th century infill. A dominant element today are the area's extensive estates, largely 20th century social housing. The area's commercial core developed over the earlier medieval/post medieval settlement in the area immediately north of St Tydfil's Church. Ribbon development characterised much of the early industrial settlement, though grid-street pattern and planned elements were also a factor: see Historic Landscape Characterisation Report for further details (Roberts 2003). Edward Lluyd, writing in the late 17th century, described Merthyr Tydfil as "a village with about 40 houses ♦ a rectory of considerable value. A remarkable parish" (cited in Hilling 1971, 171). Merthyr Tydfil village in 1800 comprised "half a dozen shops ♦ drapery, hosiery and ironmongers, and a public market" (Wilkins 1867, 238). Its growth into a major urban conurbation was therefore a rapid phenomenon of the early 19th century: house building in Merthyr reached a peak in 1857, when 293 houses were started (Hilling 1971, 184). The development was focused on the main ironworks of the area, with their related watercourses, tips and tramroads, initially leading to the growth of distinct settlements around the Cyfarthfa ironworks (Georgetown), Dowlais, Penydarren and Pentrebach (just within HL012), linked by the Penydarren tramroad and Glamorganshire canal, with housing built by the ironmasters. Penydarren and Dowlais operated a "truck shop" system of payment in tokens redeemable at the company shop; the discontent this caused led to riots in the early 1800s. The settlement has continued to expand into the gaps, so that by the 1970s "Although Merthyr Tydfil, Dowlais and Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer were once separate and distinct settlements, they are now so inextricably interconnected and integrated that it would be wrong to treat them as anything but a single urban agglomeration" (Hilling 1971, 168). There is considerable variation in the extent to which the historic layout and building stock has survived; in some areas, such as Merthyr High Street, there has been major remodelling following housing clearance. The characteristic urban form of Merthyr as an early iron town, the first in the world, was determined by the clustering around the ironworks, tipping and mining areas, and the sinuous routes of tramroads which became the focus of the road layout. Industrial processing remains are a major characteristic of the area; primarily iron works and nearby interrelated features: including industrial transport and water management features and the site of a former ironmaster's residence located along the Afon Taff, but also along the Morlais Brook by remains associated with internationally important early ironworks and includes the remains of blast furnaces, an engine house, industrial housing, nationally and internationally important historic, and technological associations and by industrial transport and power generation features. The area is also rich in historic, technological and artistic associations (Roberts 2003). Cyfarthfa Iron Works is characterised by nationally and internationally important industrial remains protected by legislation. These include the recently restored furnace bank, water management features and associated transport network. The Cyfarthfa ironworks retains the remains of the furnace bank, brick kilns, and engine house, together with those of the melting house and boiler (all within SAM Gm425). Closely related features include the Tai-mawr leat to the northwest (SAM Gm479), Pont-y-Cafnau Iron Bridge (SAM424), the Cyfarthfa Feeder Canal and the Gurnos Tramroad (SAM Gm478). The site of the first Cyfarthfa House, built by Anthony Bacon and home to the Crawshays until 1810 is also within the area as is the extant farm group of Pandy Farm (grade II Listed), comprising farmhouse, clock tower, barn and stables, c. 1820. The area includes the canal head of the Glamorganshire Canal to the east of George Town, with the re-erected iron canal bridge from Rhydyrcar (Gm486), now sited at Chapel Row (grade II listed), the surviving industrial housing of George Town and birth Place of Dr. Joseph Parry, the prolific 19th century Welsh composer. (Roberts 2003). Connected to Cyfarthfa by the Slag and Cinder tips to the south is the Ynys Fach Iron Works. This site retains four blast furnaces, including two dating from 1801, which bear the initials of George Watkin, foundry manager at Cyfarthfa from 1792 and the recently restored engine house built c. 1836 to replace an earlier engine house, portrayed by Penry Williams in c. 1815. Both structures are scheduled (SAM Gm331) and listed grade II* (Roberts 2003). The Morlais Brook area of on the east side of Merthyr Tydfil is based around the three main ironworks: Dowlais, Penydarren and the Ivor iron works (Plymouth Ironworks to the south of Merthyr is placed within HL012, due to its geographical location). The area includes the site of Dowlais House re-built 1818 for JJ Guest (1785-1852), ironmaster, demolished c. 1960. The main surviving industrial structure at Dowlais is the red brick Blast Engine House of 1909, furnace bases and other potential features are thought to survive under massive banks of reclaimed soil. There is some indication that remains on the site of blast furnaces survived the wholesale redevelopment of the Penydarren Iron Works site during the late 19th century, though late 19th century/early 20th century terraced housing now dominates the area, which is associated with Trevithick and the Penydarren Tramroad (see HL012). The Ivor Iron Works, which opened in 1839 as an extension of the Dowlais Iron Works, is also included in the area (Roberts 2003).

Q5 - If working at level 3, the classification describes the dominant historic pattern, but which other patterns are important to the historical pattern of this area? (Tick all that apply)

- Reclaimed land
- Nucleated Settlement
- Extractive
- Processing/Manufacturing
- Communications
- Designed Landscape
- Recreational

Q6 - If working at level 4 ,which other 'details' are also significant to the historic character of this area? (Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ No Answer

Q7 - If working at level 4 only, which building types prevail in the area? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ No Answer

Q8 - If working at level 4 only, which periods prevail in the area? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ No Answer

Q9 - If working at level 4 only, which architectural types prevail in the area? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ No Answer

Q10 - If working at level 4 only, which traditional walling materials prevail in the area? (tick all that apply)

- ☐ No Answer

Q11 - If working at level 4 only, which traditional roofing materials prevail in the area? (select up to three)

- ☐ No Answer

Q12 - Which traditional boundary types prevail in the area? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ Mortared Wall
- ☐ Iron Railings

Q13 - What is the nature of any significant archaeological interest in the area? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ Buildings & Structures
- ☐ Industrial Archaeology
- ☐ Documentary

Q14 - Which chronological period is dominant in the area?

- ☐ Industrial
- ☐ Recent
- ☐ Medieval (to 1536)
- ☐ Post Medieval (1536+)

Q15 - Has a Historic Landscape Characterisation been undertaken here?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ GGAT characterisation of Merthyr Tydfil HL on behalf of Cadw (Roberts, 2003; GGAT report 2003/009): year 2003

Q16 - Are there SMR sites here?

- ☐ Yes

Q17 - Are there SAMs here?

- ☐ Yes

Q18 - Are there Listed Buildings here?

- ☐ Yes

Q19 - Are there Registered Historic Parks and Gardens here?

- ☐ No

Q20 - Are there Conservation Areas here?

- Yes

Q21 - Are there World Heritage Sites here?

- No

Q22 - Is the area within a Registered Landscape of Historic Interest?

- Yes

Evaluation

Q23 - Value:

- Outstanding
 - Merthyr Tydfil urban core has been assigned an overall value of outstanding, reflecting its key importance as a nationally important industrial centre during the 18th and 19th centuries. Merthyr Tydfil rapidly expanded from a modest village in the 1750s to become the largest town in Wales by 1801, its rapid growth fuelled by its association with the great expansion of the ironworking industry in this area from the mid 18th century onwards. Despite impacts from extensive recent land reclamation and the expansion of 20th century social housing, the town and its environs, together with the extant remains of the ironworks at Cyfarthfa, Dowlais and Ynysfach, constitute what has been characterised as 'a potent example of an internationally renowned industrial landscape of the 18th and 19th centuries (Roberts, 2003).

Q24 - Condition:

- Fair

Q25 - Trend:

- Constant

Recommendations

Q26 - Existing management

- No Answer

Q27 - Existing management remarks:

- Empty value

Q28 - Principal management recommendations

- Empty value

Q29 - Guideline

- Long Term
 - Retain distinctiveness of constituent communities
- Immediate
 - Enhance accessibility and display of transport links
- Medium Term
 - Retain historic character of core areas

Aspect Area Boundary

Q30 - To what level was this information site-surveyed?

- Level 3

Q31 - At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?

- All

Q32 - What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?

- OS Landline

Q33 - If OS Data was used, what was the scale?

- 1:10,000 and 1:25,000

Q34 - What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?

- Current extent of main urban settlement area, including medieval and later commercial core, and primary industrial settlements associated with iron production as detailed from cartographic material, excluding main communication arteries (see HL012). Within the area are the now relict iron processing areas of Cyfarthfa, Ynys Fach, Dowlais, Ifor, and Penydarren ironworks as defined by HLC work undertaken on behalf of Cadw (Roberts 2003). The area also includes adjacent 'nucleated' areas, perhaps more associated with related ancillary industries (ie stone and mineral extraction) and later 20th century infilling, such as the Gurnos and Trefil estates, predominantly social housing associated with slum replacement.

Evaluation Matrix

Q35 - Evaluation Criteria: Integrity

- High
 - The dominant landscape pattern at Merthyr Tydfil, characterised by poly-focal settlement (comprising the core settlement at Merthyr Tydfil with additional foci at Dowlais, Penydarren, Georgetown and Cefn Coed-y-Cymmer) strongly associated with 18th-19th century industrial activities (specifically iron processing) is clearly visible. Considerable remains survive of industrial processing activities, including the Cyfarthfa and Dowlais ironworks and nearby interrelated features, industrial transport and water-management features and the site of a former ironmaster's residence located along the Afon Taff. The rapid expansion of 20th century social housing has further reinforced the links between these various settlement foci, although it has also partially obscured evidence of the rich industrial heritage.

Q36 - Evaluation Criteria: Survival

- No Answer

Q37 - Evaluation Criteria: Condition

- High

Q38 - Evaluation Criteria: Rarity

- High
 - The town of Merthyr Tydfil occupies a unique historical role in the history of the Industrial Revolution, specifically in the expansion of the ironworking industry attested by the surviving remains of nationally important ironworks, such as Cyfarthfa, Dowlais and Ynys Bach.

Q39 - Evaluation Criteria: Potential

- Outstanding
 - Although this area has been the subject of a detailed historic landscape characterisation (Roberts, 2003) and the Cyfarthfa and Dowlais Ironworks have been extensively investigated, there is significant potential for further work on their development during the 18th-19th century. Earlier landscape elements (for instance, the Roman fort at Penydarren and the origins and layout of the medieval settlement of Merthyr) merit further study. The substantial surviving remains of the ironworks at Cyfarthfa, Dowlais and Ynysfach have significant value as a public amenity; the remains of the Dowlais Ironworks have been partially converted to a public park while the engine house at Ynysfach is now a museum of the ironworking industry.

Q40 - Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation

- Outstanding

Q41 - Justification of overall evaluation

- Merthyr Tydfil urban core has been assigned an overall value of outstanding, reflecting its key importance as a nationally important industrial centre during the 18th and 19th centuries. Merthyr Tydfil rapidly expanded from a modest village in the 1750s to become the largest town in Wales by 1801, its rapid growth fuelled by its association with the great expansion of the ironworking industry in this area from the mid 18th century onwards. Despite impacts from extensive recent land reclamation and the expansion of 20th century social housing, the town and its environs, together with the extant remains of the ironworks at Cyfarthfa, Dowlais and Ynysfach, constitute what has been characterised as 'a potent example of an internationally renowned industrial landscape of the 18th and 19th centuries (Roberts, 2003).

Bibliography

Q42 - List the key sources used for this assessment

- Bowen, E 1992 Vaynor: a study of the Welsh countryside Foxgate, Merthyr Tydfil Bowen, E 2000 Traditional industries of rural Wales: self-sufficiency to dependency in the county of Brecon. Cardiff Academic Press, Cardiff Carter, H 1965 The Towns of Wales: a study in urban geography University of Wales Press, Cardiff Carter, H 1972 "Chapter 14. The relationship between function and form in urban geography" 340-348, Study in urban geography, Cardiff Croll, A 2000 Civilising the urban: popular culture and public space in Merthyr, c 1870-1914 CCW/Cadw/ICOMOS UK 1998 Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales Cadw, Cardiff Clarke, T E 1894 A guide to Merthyr Tydfil and the Traveller's Companion. Davies, AN 2009, Morganstown Conservation Area Davies, WKD 1967 "Centrality and the central place heirachy" Urban Studies, 46 1-79 Davies, WKD 1968 "The morpholgy of central places: a case study", Ann Assoc Am Geogr 58, 91-110 Davies, WL 1992 Bridges of Merthyr Tydfil Duke, N 1987 Merthyr Tydfil before the industrial Revolution Lewis, Merthyr Tydfil (2nd ed) (reprinted 1996, Cardiff Academic Press, Cardiff) Green, D 1978 "Housing in Merthyr Tydfil (Living Conditions)' Merthyr Historian Vol 25 7-66 Gross, J 1980 A brief history of Merthyr Tydfil Starling Press, Newport, Gwent Gross, J 1989 "History of Housing in Merthyr Tydfil' Merthyr Historian 4 Gross, J 1992 'Merthyr Tydfil: the development of an urban community' in Merthyr Historian 5 59-75 Hayman, R 1987 Industrial workers" housing in Merthyr Tydfil Hayman, R 1989 Working iron in Merthyr Tydfil Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trust, Merthyr Tydfil Hilling, J B 1971 The buildings of Merthyr Tydfil: an historical survey, Glamorgan Historian 8 Jones, PN 1969 Colliery settlement in the South Wales Coalfield, 1850 to 1926 Hull Larkham, PJ & Jones, AN 1992 'A Glossary of Urban Form' Historical Geography Research Series, Number 26 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council 2000 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Unitary Development Plan 2000 - 2015: Pre-deposit Consultation and Issues Report MTCG 1981 Merthyr Teachers Centre Group: Merthyr Tydfil: a valley community MTCG, Merthyr Tydfil Parry, R J and Whitney, T 1976 Old Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil in photographs David Brown Roberts, R 2003 Historic landscape characterisation: Merthyr Tydfil/Merthyr Tudful. Part 1 and 2: landscape characterisation and Management. GGAT report no. 2003/009 Sullivan, K 1994 "The biggest room in Merthyr: working-class housing in Dowlais, 1850-1914" Welsh History Review 17, 155-185 Wilkins, G 1867 History of Merthyr Tydfil 1st edn OS 6-inch (1875-1890) 2nd edn OS 6-inch (1900-1905) 3rd edn OS 6-inch (1918-1922) Tithe map and apportionment for the Parish of Vaynor (c.1850) Tithe map and apportionment for the Parish of Merthyr Tydfil (1847) Plan of Merthyr Tydfil from actual survey, 1836 1811-13 Ordnance Surveyors Drawing No. 192 W; unpublished series, photocopy in GRO, originals in the British Library Map Department 1826 (1825-27) Ordnance Surveyors Drawings, Glamorgan, revised edition. plan 33, sheet 36; unpublished series, photocopy of original held in the British Library Map Department SMR (GGAT, Swansea) NMR (RCAHMW, Abrystwyth)

Assessment

Q43 - Additional Assessments

- Empty value

Q44 - Additional Comments

- Area excludes Cyfarthfa Park (MTHL018) Registered Park and Garden Area extensively covered at level 4/5 by Historic Landscape Characterisation (Roberts, 2003)

SURVEY DETAILS FOR MRTHRCLS006 - 2024-04-22

Area Unique ID: MRTHRCLS006

Aspect:Cultural Landscape Services

Area:Merthyr Tydfil

Region:Merthyr Tydfil

Survey Date:2019-03-05

- Level 1: Development
- Level 2: Built Land
- Level 3: Urban

Details

Q1 - Night time light pollution

- Substantial

Q2 - Attractive views

-out

Q3 - What are attractive views of/to?

- No Answer

Q4 - Perceptual and sensory qualities

- No Answer

Q5 - Additional cultural, perceptual and sensory qualities and comment

- No Answer

Q6 - Wales Tranquil Area assessment (Zone B significant disturbance; Zone C some disturbance; Undisturbed; Urban)

- Mosaic of: Urban, Zone B

Q7 - International Dark Sky Reserve or Dark Sky Reserve

- No

Q8 - Sense of place/ local distinctiveness

- Strong

Q9 - What contributes to sense of place/distinctiveness?

- No Answer

Q10 - Visual and sensory landscape evaluation

- Low

Q11 - Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value

- The town has a very complex form with no discernible pattern and coherence. Some areas are in poor condition and there are numerous detractors. New development and reclamation have obscured the important heritage of the area in parts. Though there

Q12 - Scenic quality

- Low

Q13 - Character

- Low

Q14 - Geological Landscape evaluation

- Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low

Q15 - Landscape Habitats evaluation

- Over 75% Moderate

Q16 - Historic Landscape evaluation

- Over 75% High or outstanding

Q17 - Are there any art/artistic expressions associated with the landscape/area?

- No Answer

Q19 - Are there any folklore/ legends associated with the landscape/area?

- No Answer

Q21 - Are there any events/traditions associated with the landscape/area?

- No Answer

Q23 - World Heritage Sites present

- No

Q24 - Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority

- Approximately 57% of people in the area identify as Welsh. <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/National-Identity/nationalidentity-by-year-identity>

Q25 - Welsh language in the authority

- Approximately 21% of people in the area speak Welsh. <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/National-Identity/nationalidentity-by-year-identity>

Q26 - HER entries

- 248

Q27 - Cultural Heritage comment

- No Answer

Q28 - % HER classes represented >1 %

- The historic landscape within this area is comprised of CL2 1.613%, CL9 2.419%, CL16 18.145%, CL20 37.097%, CL30 3.226%, CL31 17.339%, CL35 15.323%, . The definitions for the list of HER classes is included in report appendix available from <https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/689522/eng-evidence-report-347-landmap-cultural-landscape-services-cultural-heritage.pdf>

Q29 - Archaeological Watching Briefs

- 10

Q30 - Archaeological Excavations

- 10

SURVEY DETAILS FOR MRTHRVS122 - 2024-04-22

Area Unique ID: MRTHRVS122

Aspect:Visual and Sensory

Area:Merthyr Tydfil

Region:Merthyr Tydfil

Survey Date:2003-11-24

- Level 1: Development
- Level 2: Built Land
- Level 3: Urban

Monitoring

Q1 - Date of monitoring?

- 2013-01-01

Q1a - Monitoring undertaken by

- Bronwen Thomas Landscape Architect, plus White Consultants at initial change detection stage, in consultation with LPA. Based on 2011/12 change detection.

Q1b - Has this record been updated following monitoring work?

- This record has been updated following monitoring work, there was a real change in the aspect area

Q1c - Change indicated by

- OS Data, Aerial Photographs
- Policies, plans & information resources
- Fieldwork

Q1d - What has changed?

- Description
- Recommendations
- Boundaries

Q1e - Has the information ever been verified in the field?

- Yes
 - 1:10000/1:25000

Q2 - Does this area have a special or functional link with an adjacent area?

- Yes
 - Settlement in basin where Taff valley broadens out (10, 11 and 14)

Q2a - During which season(s) was fieldwork carried out?

- winter

Description

Q3 - Summary Description

- This urban area includes Merthyr Tydfil itself and a series of linked village communities and housing estates, which surround the town centre. All sit within a broad basin around the confluence of the Taf Fawr and the Taf Fechan and also the Nant Morlais (now largely culverted although the valley is still evident). The basin narrows as the Taf flows southwards. The main road pattern defines the funnel shape of this basin - the A465 across the northern edge, the A470 and A4102 along the western edge and the A4060 along the eastern edge. The settlements of Abercanaid, Troedyrhiw and Pentrebach are included, as recent industrial development has linked them physically with Merthyr. This is an extremely complex area. The pattern of development has historically been controlled by the exploitation of local minerals and related industrial development. With this in mind the area can be divided into older settlement cores and the matrix of areas in between which comprise newer housing developments, industrial and commercial sites, open spaces and apparently unused and reclaimed land. Recent peripheral housing developments have expanded the boundaries. The town centre has been substantially redeveloped and lacks coherence although individual parts of it have been recently improved e.g. the High Street and adjacent buildings. The relocated railway station and undeveloped site (car park) adjacent to it reduce the quality of the centre. The town centre is a busy retail area which contrast with the very small scale retail areas serving the outlying settlements. There are strong visual contrasts between the areas surrounding the town centre - the serried ranks of stone built terraced housing in Dowlais, Pen-y-darren and The Quar contrast with more random development of similar houses in Cefn Coed. The outlying housing estates such as Gurnos and Gellideg are often in elevated positions on the edge of the town with few facilities and little to integrate them visually with the surrounding landscape. They can appear soulless and remote. However there is a strong sense of community throughout these different areas of housing. The open spaces between built up areas are in varying condition. Some have revegetated naturally. Other areas have been reclaimed to form "green tips" with engineered sides and flat terraces for industry or recreation. Substantial time and investment in recent years has meant that others still have been reclaimed with sensitive landform, water bodies, substantial planting and access routes. Planting and vegetation is, over time, integrating and softening these formerly visually harsh but distinctive landscapes. All, however, currently still bear the hallmark of reclaimed or disturbed landscapes. As such they often suffer from abuse such as dumping and litter because of their perceived low value - problems prevalent in urban fringe areas. The A470 along the west side of the town runs parallel but set back from the river corridor. Much of the town turns its back on this corridor which has been canalised through the town centre. North and south of this stretch it is still an attractive but underused element of the townscape. The surrounding landscape is always a presence in Merthyr - its location in a basin together with the wedges of open space through the settlement mean that there is never a sense of wall to wall urbanisation. However the quality of this landscape is very variable and many areas appear to be undervalued at present.

Q4 - Physical Form And Elements: Topographic Form?

- Hills/Valleys

Q5 - Physical Form And Elements: Landcover Pattern?

- Development

Q6 - Physical form and elements: Settlement pattern

- Urban

Q7 - Physical form and elements: Boundary type

- Mixture

Q8 - Aesthetic Qualities: Scale?

- Medium

Q9 - Aesthetic Qualities: Sense of Enclosure?

- Enclosed

Q10 - Aesthetic Qualities: Diversity?

- Complex

Q11 - Aesthetic Qualities: Texture?

- Coarse

Q12 - Aesthetic Qualities: Lines?

- Straight

Q13 - Aesthetic Qualities: Colour?

- Strong Contrasts

Q14 - Aesthetic Qualities: Balance?

- Chaotic

Q15 - Aesthetic Qualities: Unity?

- Disunity

Q16 - Aesthetic Qualities: Pattern?

- Organised

Q17 - Aesthetic Qualities: Seasonal Interest?

- None

Q18 - Other Factors: Level of Human Access?

- Constant

Q19 - Other Factors: Night Time Light Pollution?

- Question 19 night time light pollution data has been moved to question 56. Additional dark skies data is available from questions 57 and 58.

Q20 - Other Factors: Use of Construction Materials?

- Inappropriate

Q21 - What materials? Give Details:

- poor quality brick and cladding

Q22 - There are attractive views...

-out
 - to brecon beacons and western flank of valley

Q23 - There are detractive views...

- ...both in and out
 - into town, particularly eastern commercial area near Dowlais and out to parts of eastern flank of valley. Very conspicuous Ffos-y-fran colliery on eastern skyline

Q24 - Perceptual and Other Sensory Qualities

- Unattractive
- Noisy
- Settled

Q25 - What is the sense of place/local distinctiveness

- Strong
 - pattern of development in basin is distinctive- several settlements joined to form Merthyr Tydfil

Evaluation

Q26 - Value:

- Low

Q27 - Condition:

- Poor

Q28 - Trend:

- Improving

Recommendations

Q29 - Existing management

- Generally Appropriate

Q30 - Existing management remarks:

- Mix of neglected areas, recent improvements to townscape and landscape infrastructure and new development which is poor quality in places.

Q31 - Principal management recommendation:

- maintain wedges of open space and capitalise on distinctive character of 'village' communities

Q32 - Guideline

- Immediate
 - improve and maintain series of existing open spaces
- Immediate
 - integrate new and existing development
- Immediate
 - identify and capitalise on distinctive qualities of village communities
- Medium Term
 - Identify heritage landscapes, assess and ensure key features are conserved and enhanced, with development respecting them/avoiding them where appropriate.
- Medium Term
 - Manage roadside landscapes to provide links across and to and from countryside, plus provide gateways and focal points/views where appropriate
- Medium Term
 - Conserve and enhance river corridors improving access and use.
- Immediate
 - Progress Coed Merthyr
- Immediate
 - Mitigate intrusion of Ffos-y-fran

Q33 - Define the key qualities that should be conserved:

- distinctiveness of old settlement cores

Q34 - Define the key qualities that should be enhanced:

- Empty value

Q35 - Define the key qualities that should be changed:

- neglect in places

Q36 - Define the key elements that should be conserved:

- historic features and sites, distinctive settlement cores including terraces

Q37 - Define the key elements that should be enhanced:

- Empty value

Q38 - Define the key elements that should be changed:

- visually intrusive new development

Tolerance To Change

Q39 - Are there any significant threats to the current integrity and condition of the visual & sensory features of the area?

- No Answer

Aspect Area Boundary

Q40 - To what level was this information site-surveyed?

- Level 3

Q41 - At 1:10,000, how much of the Aspect Area boundary is precise?

- Most

Q42 - What baseline information source was used for Aspect Area boundary mapping?

- OS Raster

Q43 - If OS Data was used, what was the scale?

- 1:10,000 and 1:25,000

Q44 - What is the justification for the Aspect Area boundaries?

- edge of built development. Expanded at change detection, at Trefechan, Heolgerrig, Incline Top. Reduced at Dowlais Top A465 junction.

Evaluation Matrix

Q46 - Evaluation Criteria: Scenic quality

- Low

Q47 - Evaluation Criteria: Integrity

- Low

Q48 - Evaluation Criteria: Character

- Low

Q49 - Evaluation Criteria: Rarity

- Moderate

Q50 - Evaluation Criteria: Overall Evaluation

- Low

Q51 - Justification of overall evaluation

- The town has a very complex form with no discernible pattern and coherence. Some areas are in poor condition and there are numerous detractors. New development and reclamation have obscured the important heritage of the area in parts. Though there is a significant story to tell about Merthyr this is not apparent.

Bibliography

Q45 - List the key sources used for this assessment

- Empty value

Assessment

Q52 - Additional Assessments

- Empty value

Q53 - Additional Comments

- Empty value

LMP 14 & 09

Q54 - LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP14)

- Built land - communities

Q55 - LANDMAP derived landscape types (LMP09)

- Built Land

Dark Skies

Light Pollution Percentage

< 0.5	0.5 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 8	8 - 16	16 - 32	> 32
0.0	0.0	1.5	13.0	50.7	34.9	0.0	0.0

Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies. Questions 57a - 57h collectively provide colour band data by %.

Further information: [11365 Wales Dark Skies \(arcgis.com\)](#). Green C, Manson D, Chamberlain K 2021. Tranquillity and Place - Dark Skies. NRW Report No: 514, 70pp. Data download from [Lle/DataMapWales](#).

Data source: December 2019 composite image of monthly average night light produced by the Earth Observation Group at Colorado School of Mines. Derived from Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) Day/Night Band (DNB) sensor from Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (Suomi NPP) satellite, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Light Pollution km²

< 0.5	0.5 - 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	4 - 8	8 - 16	16 - 32	> 32
0.0	0.0	0.2	1.9	7.6	5.2	0.0	0.0

Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies. Questions 58a to 58h collectively provide colour band data by km2.

Further information: [11365 Wales Dark Skies \(arccgis.com\)](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?surve...). Green C, Manson D, Chamberlain K 2021. Tranquillity and Place – Dark Skies. NRW Report No: 514, 70pp. Data download from [Lle/DataMapWales](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?surve...).

Data source: December 2019 composite image of monthly average night light produced by the Earth Observation Group at Colorado School of Mines. Derived from Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) Day/Night Band (DNB) sensor from Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership (Suomi NPP) satellite, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Q56 - Night Time Light Pollution

- Substantial
 - town Consultant led night time light pollution assessment conducted at time of survey record or survey update

Q57a - % in brightness colour band <0.5

- 0.0
 - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57b - % in brightness colour band 0.5-1

- 0.0
 - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57c - % in brightness colour band 1-2

- 1.5
 - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57d - % in brightness colour band 2-4

- 13.0
 - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57e - % in brightness colour band 4-8

- 50.7
 - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57f - % in brightness colour band 8-16

- 34.9
 - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57g - % in brightness colour band 16-32

- 0.0
 - Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q57h - % in brightness colour band >32

- 0.0
- Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58a - km2 in brightness colour band <0.5

- 0.0
- Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58b - km2 in brightness colour band 0.5-1

- 0.0
- Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58c - km2 in brightness colour band 1-2

- 0.2
- Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58d - km2 in brightness colour band 2-4

- 1.9
- Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58e - km2 in brightness colour band 4-8

- 7.6
- Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58f - km2 in brightness colour band 8-16

- 5.2
- Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58g - km2 in brightness colour band 16-32

- 0.0
- Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Q58h - km2 in brightness colour band >32

- 0.0
- Data has been classified into eight colour bands of brightness values (nw/cm2/sr). <0.5 (darkest); 0.5 - 1; 1 - 2; 2 - 4; 4 - 8; 8 - 16; 16 - 32 and > 32 (brightest). Lower values equate to lower light pollution and darker skies.

Tranquillity & Place

Q59a - % in visually tranquil category 1

- 0.00
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59b - % in visually tranquil category 2

- 0.00
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59c - % in visually tranquil category 3

- 0.00
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59d - % in visually tranquil category 4

- 1.44
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59e - % in visually tranquil category 5

- 21.60
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59f - % in visually tranquil category 6

- 52.17
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59g - % in visually tranquil category 7

- 24.68
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59h - % in visually tranquil category 8

- 0.12
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59i - % in visually tranquil category 9

- 0.00
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59j - % in visually tranquil category 10

- 0.00
- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, t

Q59k - Data Source

- Sourced from the nationally consistent Tranquillity & Place Visually Tranquil Areas 2022 (rural themes 1, 2 and 3 combined). The visually tranquil categories range from 1 (least visually tranquil) to 10 (most visually tranquil). For further information, the report and webapp, visit the Storymap available from <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/865c1876d9f64280a3dfc6e2769a46a5>

SLAs

Q60 - List the Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in this local authority or region

- Yes
 - Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed, Merthyr West Flank, Pontygwaith, Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan, Winchfawr

Q61 - SLA policy and resources

- Replacement LDP Policy EnW5 replacement-ldp-written-statement-final-composite-version-290120-type-set-from-donna-nrl.pdf (merthyr.gov.uk) . The Special Landscape Areas GIS dataset is available from DataMapWales https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/geonode:nrw_special_landscape_area

Visible Settings

Q62 - Visible settings of LANDMAP V&S areas

- [View a map image showing the visible setting of the area](#)

This is a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), calculated using a 30 metre Digital Terrain Model (DTM), using multiple observer points scattered across the area, 1.5m above ground level, and taking into account the Earth's curvature. The data does not extend beyond 35km from an observer point, meaning that more distant views may also be possible.

- [Read user guidance](#) that explains the map image
- [Bulk download](#) the map images for Wales.
- [Read a detailed technical report](#) which explains the data calculations

Q63 - Visible Settings of Designated Landscapes

- [View map images showing the visible setting of each National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.](#)
 - These are Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), as per Q62, but applied to Designated Landscape areas. Also, for areas not visible, colour-steps show the Height of an object before it would become visible (HOBV), up to 350m high. See Q62 to access the user guidance and a technical report.

Q64 - Key views into or out from Designated Landscapes

- [View map images showing the ZTV and HOBV of a selection of key views for each National Park and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in or affecting Wales](#)
 - These are Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), as per Q62, but applied to selected key views into or out from Designated Landscapes. Also, colour-steps show the Height of an object before it would become visible (HOBV), up to 350m high. It is not an exhaustive key view list. See Q62 to access the user guidance and a technical report.

APPENDIX 2

Significance Criteria for Visual Impact.

Extract of 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact
Assessment produced by The Landscape Institute and Institute
of Environmental Management & Assessment.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA FOR VISUAL IMPACT

Extract of 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (2nd Edition) produced by The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (2002).

Substantial adverse impact.

Where the scheme would cause a significant deterioration in the existing view.

Moderate adverse impact

Where the scheme would cause a noticeable deterioration in the existing view.

Slight adverse impact

Where the scheme would cause a barely perceptible deterioration in the existing view.

Slight beneficial impact

Where the scheme would cause a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.

Moderate beneficial impact

Where the scheme would cause a noticeable improvement in the existing view.

Substantial beneficial impact

Where the scheme would cause a significant improvement in the existing view.

No change

No discernable deterioration or improvement in the existing view.