

Archaeology Wales

Leiros Park, Neath

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment



By Philip Poucher

Report No: 1468

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Non – Technical Summary

In April 2016, Archaeology Wales was commissioned by Asbri Planning, acting on behalf of their clients Hale Homes, to carry out an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and site visit to determine the archaeological potential of land known as Leiros Park, Rhyddings, Neath. The assessment has been undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application for a residential development.

No Scheduled Ancient Monument, Listed Building, registered Historic Landscape, Conservation Area or listed Historic Park & Garden will be directly affected by the proposed development.

The site will have a minor indirect (visual) impact on The Gnoll, a Grade II listed parkland, due to the partial visibility of the proposed development from viewpoints within the parkland. The site will also have a negligible indirect (visual) impact on four Scheduled Ancient Monuments due to distant and restricted views of the proposed development. These sites are GM383 (a prehistoric standing stone on Mynydd Drumau), GM549 (medieval house platforms on Mynydd Drumau), GM215 (a Roman fort in Neath) and GM264 (early medieval dyke and earthwork on Cefn Morfudd). The site will also have a negligible indirect (visual) impact on six Listed Buildings, again due to distant and partial views of the proposed development. These are The Ivy Tower (LB 11768, within The Gnoll parkland), No.112 Cimla Road (LB 11780, between Neath and Cimla), The Neath River and Tennant Canal Bridge (LBs 11866, 82079 & 82090, within Neath) and The Grange (LB 82325, on the lower slopes of Mynydd Drumau). The site is also considered to have a negligible indirect (visual) impact on Neath Town Centre Conservation Area, due to views across the Conservation Area from within the proposed development area, and slight alterations to the urban setting of this area.*

The site lies within the Landmap historic landscape areas of Bryncoch Cilybebyll (NPTHL040), Neath Port Talbot Urban Corridor (NPTHL054) and Dulais Valley SW (NPTHL074). The development will have a minor direct and indirect (visual) impacts on Bryncoch Cilybebyll by altering part of the enclosed farmland and introducing an urban element to this landscape. The development will have a negligible direct and indirect (visual) impacts on the remaining Landmap historic landscape areas as it will not impact on any significant characteristic elements of these landscapes.

Research highlights eight sites of archaeological interest within the proposed development area, along with a general potential for later post-medieval industrial activity. The former Rhydding Farmstead is recorded both as post-medieval house and farmstead (PRN 2630w), and the potential site of a medieval monastic grange (PRN 5278w). Rhydding Canal (LPN01), an early 19th century canal associated with George Tennant, forms the southwestern boundary of the site, and a post-medieval gravel pit (LPN02), the site of a post-medieval barn (LPN03), a post-medieval tramway/trackway (LPN04), possible outlying features associated with a post-medieval farmstead and colliery (LPN05) and terraced platforms within the upper valley slope (LPN06), all lie within the bounds of the proposed development and may potentially be directly affected by development works.

It is recommended that a buffer zone be maintained around the site of Rhydding Canal (LPN01) to ensure preservation in situ. Recording work, such as a photographic survey, is recommended on any upstanding remains of Rhydding Farmstead (PRN 2630w) prior to development, and an archaeological watching brief is recommended for any groundworks

within and around the site of the former farmstead to record any below-ground remains associated with the farmstead and potentially with any remains associated with the medieval grange (PRN 5278w). A further archaeological watching brief on development works that affect the remaining archaeological sites is also considered to be appropriate mitigation to ensure their preservation through record. It is further recommended that the public rights of way be maintained with an appropriate buffer zone to ensure continued visibility from within the area, as recommended in the LDP Strategic Housing Site Assessment Report. The retention of screening vegetation and trees surrounding the site, in particular the wooded slopes to the east, will also serve to reduce any visual impact.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2016 Archaeology Wales (AW) was commissioned by Asbri Planning, on behalf of their clients Hale Homes, to carry out an archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of a proposed residential development on land at Leiros Park, Neath (NGR SS 75316 99048, Figures 1 & 2, AW Project Number 2425).
- 1.2 This assessment has been prepared prior to the submission of a planning application. A Specification for the Desk-Based Assessment was produced by AW in March 2016 and approved by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Curatorial Division (GGAT-CD), who act as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, in this case Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) (see Appendix III).
- 1.3 The purpose of the Desk-Based Assessment, which is detailed in the following report, is to provide NPTCBC with the information they are likely to request in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy WALES, Edition 8, January 2016, Chapter 6, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96. The work is to highlight and assess the impact upon standing and buried remains of potential archaeological interest and to ensure that they are fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of subsequent activities associated with the development.
- 1.4 Detailed development plans are not yet available, but it is understood that planning permission will be sought to develop the site for 200 housing units, along with associated infrastructure, covering a site area of 12.2 hectares (29.6 acres). Work is likely to include the construction of single and two-storey residential units, along with access routes, landscaping, boundary treatments and associated infrastructure. Public rights of way through the site will be maintained with appropriate landscape buffers in order to retain wider views of the Neath area. The Rhyddings canal, which forms the southwestern boundary to the site, is an important feature and it is considered appropriate that a buffer is retained around the canal in order to protect it from encroachment (LDP Strategic Housing Site Assessment Report 2013).

2 Site Description

- 2.1 The site is currently defined by four large fields, along with a smaller field to the northeast and a series of tree-covered smaller enclosures along the southern and eastern fringes. A number of plots also lie to the southwest of the site in which buildings currently exist. The area is mostly defined by arable fields and improved grassland and covers an irregularly shaped parcel measuring 12.2 hectares (29.6 acres) (Figure 2). The topography of the site raises up from 80-90m aOD at the southern side of the site boundary to 110m aOD at the northernmost point.
- 2.2 Modern housing of the Leiros Park estate defines the southern and western edge of the site, and the centre of Neath lies some 1.2km to the south. To the north lies further agricultural land and Gilfach Quarry. To the east lies the wooded valley slopes of the Cwm-bach and Dulais valley, beyond which lies Cadoxton and the Neath valley.

2.3 The geology of the area proposed for development forms part of the Hughes Member and is defined by lithic arenites (Pennant sandstones), mixed up with thin mudstone/siltstone and seatearth interbeds, and mainly thin coals (BGS, 2016).

3 Methodology

3.1 The methodology for this assessment follows that set out in the approved Specification (Appendix III).

3.2 The primary objective is to assess the impact of the development proposals on the historic environment. This will help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies. The aim is to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site, to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

3.3 The work includes a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and aims to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

3.4 This report provides information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* has been advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors could result in the loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record has been recommended.

3.5 This assessment considers the following:

a) The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area through assessment of various readily available primary sources:

- Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the regional HER at GGAT within a 1km radius of the development site;
- Collation and assessment of all Designated archaeological sites within a 5km radius of the development site;
- Assessment of all available excavation reports and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material affecting the site and its setting.
- Assessment of aerial photographic (AP) and satellite imagery evidence;
- Assessment of archive records held at the County Archive, the National Library of Wales (NLW) and the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW);
- Records held by the developer e.g. bore-hole logs, geological/geomorphological information, aerial photographs, maps, plans, ztv data;
- Map regression analysis using all relevant cartographic sources e.g. all editions of the Ordnance Survey County Series, Tithe and early estate maps (as available);
- Place-name evidence;
- Historic documents (e.g. charters, registers, estate papers).

- b) The significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally and in light of the findings of the desk based study.
 - c) The history of the site.
 - d) The potential visual impact of any proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological importance.
 - e) The potential for further archaeological remains to be present, which have not been identified in pre-existing archaeological records
 - f) the potential for further work, with recommendations where appropriate for a suitable investigative and/or mitigation methodology.
- 3.6 This work conforms to the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, as produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 *Previous archaeological studies*

- 4.1.1 The site of the proposed development has not been subject to any previous known archaeological investigations.
- 4.1.2 There are several recorded archaeological investigations within the 1km search area. These are largely concentrated around Neath Castle, just under 1km to the south, where a series of archaeological watching briefs and field evaluations have taken place (Locock, 1992; Wilson, 1992; Maynard, 1993; Page, 1994). Archaeological evaluations have also been undertaken on the site of the old brewery in Cadoxten, around 500m to the south (Locock, 1996). These investigations however are of limited relevance to the proposed development area. There is a record of an archaeological excavation undertaken in 1948 by Nash Williams (PRN E000494), but there is no further information associated with it to indicate its precise location or findings.

4.2 *The Historic Landscape (Figure 3, Appendix II)*

- 4.2.1 The proposed development site does not lie within any registered Historic Landscape (Cadw, CCW & ICOMOS 1998), neither do any lie within a 5km radius of the site.
- 4.2.2 The proposed development site does not lie within any Conservation Areas. Neath Town Centre Conservation Area lies 1km to the south, Tonna Canal Depot conservation area lies on the banks of the Neath River 1.25km to the east and Llandarcy Village Conservation Area lies 4.8km to the southwest.
- 4.2.3 The site does not lie within any registered Historic Parks & Gardens. The Gnoll, a Grade II* listed parkland, pleasure ground and kitchen garden, lies 1.3km to the southeast. Victoria Gardens, a Grade II listed urban Public Park, lies 1.3km to the south. Jersey Park, also a Grade II listed urban Public Park, lies 4km to the south.
- 4.2.4 The site lies within three separate Landmap Historic Landscapes. The three fields to

the north of the former Rydding farmstead lie within Bryncoch Cilybebyll (NPTHL040), described as an area of 'Outstanding' value, as it represents a remarkably rich, multi-period landscape, with particularly significant concentrations of prehistoric monuments and medieval settlement features on Mynydd Drumau.

- 4.2.5 The field to the northeast, and the area of the former Rhydding farmstead, lies within the Neath Port Talbot Urban Corridor (NPTHL054), described as an area of 'Outstanding' value representing an urban settlement and communications corridor of considerable historic importance. The main characteristics of this area are industrial and urban, although it also contains evidence of occupation dating back to the Roman period, and includes some sites of exceptional significance such as the Roman fort of Nidum and the Cistercian Abbey of Neath, as well as the well-preserved Neath Abbey Ironworks and Aberdulais Tinplate Works.
- 4.2.6 The south-eastern corner of the proposed development area lies within the Dulais Valley SW (NPTHL074), described as an area of 'Moderate' value, reflecting the relatively modest scope of the archaeological record and the fact that the coherence of this upland fieldscape has been significantly disturbed by modern forestry and a golf course. The main character elements are described as an irregular upland fieldscape, with discrete tracts of semi-natural woodland, best preserved in the central section between Crynant and Cilfrew.

4.3 *Scheduled Ancient Monuments (Figure 4, Appendix II)*

- 4.3.1 There are twenty-seven Scheduled Ancient Monuments within a 5km search area around the proposed development, none of which lie within the area of proposed development.
- 4.3.2 The closest of the SAM sites is Neath Castle (GM039), a 12th century castle, which lies just under 1km to the south of the site. The remaining SAM sites cover a wide range of features and periods, including Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary and ritual monuments, Iron Age defended enclosures, a Roman fort and marching camp, early medieval Christian monuments and other earthworks, a medieval abbey and house platforms and post-medieval to early modern industrial sites and transport networks.

4.4 *Listed Buildings (Figure 4, Appendix II)*

- 4.4.1 There are 161 Listed Buildings within the 5km search area around the proposed development, 38 of which lie within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 4.4.2 These listed buildings include ten Grade II* listed buildings (LBs 11248, 11349, 14176, 19171 & 23262); the remainder are all Grade II listed. No Listed Building lies within the proposed development site.
- 4.4.2 The closest Listed Buildings lie within 200m to the south and comprises Grade II* listed **St Cattwg's Church** (LB 11767), along with an associated monument (LB 82089), the churchyard walls and gates (LB 82085) and nearby milestone (LB 82088), all of which are grade II listed. A grade II listed limekiln (LB 82087) also lies 230m to the northeast of the site.

4.4.3 Other than a grade II listed canal bridge (LB 82078) and a grade II listed railway bridge (LB 82091), the remaining listed buildings all lie over 1km away from the area of proposed development.

4.5 *Known Archaeological Remains and Historical Development (Figure 5 & 6, Appendix 1)*

4.5.1 There are 46 sites listed on the HER within 1km of the proposed development site. Two of these sites lie within the proposed development area. Close to the southern edge of the site lies the former post-medieval house of Rhydding (PRN 02630w), which may also lie on the site of buildings associated with the medieval grange of Neath Abbey (PRN 05278w). The full catalogue provided by Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust is included in the rear of this report.

4.5.2 There are also 32 sites listed on the National Monuments Record (NMR) maintained by the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments Wales (RCAHMW) within the same search area. One site lies within the proposed development area, which is a duplicate of Rhydding House PRN 02630w. Eleven of these NMR sites are duplicated on the HER records.

4.5.3 Three records of artefacts or coins within the Portable Antiquities Scheme database (www.finds.org.uk), and a further record within the NMW database, are listed as lying within a similar search area. Exact grid references are not provided, although the given grid references indicate none of these finds were made within the bounds of the proposed development area. The finds include a bronze flanged axe from the early Bronze Age (NMW accession number 59.179), and three Roman coins (refs NMGW-E83F88, NMGW-E7F7D4 & NMGW-E78D17).

4.5.4 These sites are briefly described below, according to period, where they are incorporated into a summary of the historical development of the area.

Prehistoric: Palaeolithic (c.450,000 – 10,000 BC), Mesolithic (c.10,000 – 4400 BC), Neolithic (4400 BC – 2300 BC), Bronze Age (2300 BC – 700 BC) & Iron Age (700 BC – 43 AD)

4.5.5 There is currently no recorded evidence of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity either within the 1km search area, or indeed the wider landscape. Activity during these periods is likely to be largely based on hunter-gatherer societies who moved through the landscape, leaving little trace of their presence in this area

4.5.6 During the subsequent Neolithic period there appears to have been a gradual move away from hunter-gatherer societies with groups starting to become more settled and adopting agriculture to varying degrees. Again however there is no indication of Neolithic activity within the search area, the closest evidence coming from the discovery of a stone axe in Aberdulais, 2km to the northeast.

4.5.7 The earliest recorded archaeology within the search area around the proposed development is dated to the Bronze Age. This comprises two finds, a spear (PRN 626w) and an axe (PRN 1790w); no further information regarding these sites is

recorded. Both finds would appear to have come from river valleys, the spear found closer to the Neath River to the south, with the axe coming from close to the Clydach River to the northwest. Further afield Bronze Age funerary and ritual monuments are recorded on some of the surrounding hills, particularly on Mynydd Drumau 3km to the west, and Carn Morfudd 3km to the east, but there is little evidence of any similar activity within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site.

- 4.5.8 Typically by the Iron Age, evidence of settlement activity generally starts to increase, although no Iron Age sites are recorded within the 1km search area and even in the wider landscape sites dating to this period are relatively rare. A series of hillforts occupy high ground closer to the coast, the nearest being a small defended enclosure c.3.5km to the south.
- 4.5.9 Generally there would appear to be a very low potential for prehistoric archaeological sites within the proposed development area.

Roman (AD 43 – c. AD 410) & post-Roman/ Early Medieval (c. AD 410 – AD 1086)

- 4.5.10 There are no recorded sites of Roman date within the 1km search area, however, the site of the Roman fort of Nidum lies just beyond, c.1.3km to the southwest, clearly indicating activity in the Neath area during this period. The fort was established in the 1st century AD, and a civilian settlement appears to have been located to the north of it. Occupation of this site largely dates from the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, although sporadic settlement appears to have continued into the 4th century. A road would have connected this site to a fort at Coelbren, to the north, but the exact course of this route is unclear as it approaches Neath, possibly descending into the Neath Valley at Aberdulais or Cilfrew. A straight line would continue the route close to, and possibly through the proposed development area, however given the topography of the valley slope that runs alongside Cwmbach Road to the southeast of the site this would seem highly unlikely, with the route far more likely to pass along the lower, flatter ground of the valley base as it approached the fort.
- 4.5.11 The early centuries after the end of Roman administration in Wales are not well documented. This area possibly lay within the emerging kingdom of Glwysing, which by the 10th century had become Morgannwg (later Glamorgan). Much of the evidence from this period comes from religious sites, and there is believed to be early-medieval ecclesiastical sites at **St Illtyd's Church to the north of Neath, and** closer to the site at St **Cattwg's** church (PRN 5282w). The dedication of the church to St Cattwg/Cadoc may be an indication of pre-Norman (Early Medieval) origins, and according to the life of St Cadoc by Lifris, written in *circa* 1100, he was supposedly granted land close to the river and built a house of prayer there. The extent of any settlement associated with these sites is unknown, but there is no indication at present that any such activity would have extended into the proposed development area.
- 4.5.12 Overall, the potential for Roman or Early Medieval sites within the proposed development area is considered to be low.

Medieval (1086 – 1536)

- 4.5.13 By the 12th century a castle had been established at Neath, on the west side of the river, possibly close to the Roman fort. A small defended settlement may have grown up around this castle, but by the mid-12th a second castle (PRN 624w) was built on the east side of the river, a site still visible today. A substantial borough appears to have soon developed around this new castle, but following a series of uprisings in the 13th century it went into something of a decline and remained a relatively small settlement until major expansion during the era of the industrial revolution.
- 4.5.14 Closer to the proposed development area lies St **Cattwg's** church in Cadoxton (PRN 630w). The church is first recorded in the mid-13th century, although as stated there is the potential that this may have its ecclesiastical origins in the Early Medieval period. It is possible some form of settlement was established around the church, but evidence of this has yet to come to light. Rees (1932), on his map of South Wales in the 14th century, marks a water mill (PRN 634w) and chapel (PRN 635w) in the area, although the provenance and exact location of these sites is unknown.
- 4.5.15 The proposed development area itself was part of a medieval grange (PRN 5278w) belonging to Neath Abbey. This is likely to have been largely farmland, presumably also largely pastoral, but the grange was known as Rhydding, which may be an indication that the former farmstead of that name, which lies within the southern part of the proposed development area, was the site of the main grange buildings, and therefore may contain evidence of medieval structures. The name is an old English word for a clearing, particularly of woodland, which would suggest the land was formerly undeveloped woodland, and was cleared for farming when it became a grange during the medieval period. Neath Abbey itself was established in 1129 by Sir Richard Granville, who granted large swathes of his Glamorgan territory to Savigniac monks. The order was merged with the Cistercians in 1147.

Post-Medieval (1536 – 1899) & Modern (1900 – present day)

- 4.5.16 The area around the proposed development site presumably returned to private ownership after the Dissolution of Neath **Abbey in 1539. Much of the abbey's lands** passed to Sir Philip Hoby, but one of the earliest records of this area comes from **1598 when 'Rhedin' was assigned to Jenkin John Penry (Tucker 1991;25). The estate** then passed through various families, largely through marriage, until ending up with the Mansel family of Margam.
- 4.5.17 Throughout much of the post-medieval period the site is likely to have remained a largely agricultural one, although coal-mining has also formed an important feature of the local economy since at least the late 17th century. As early as 1661 a lease exists for **"all veins and mines of coal upon or under the messuage and tenement of lands called Rheeding [Rhydding], Cadoxton-juxta-Neath parish"**, restated in 1696 (NAS XI 2/3/1). The lease was between the then landowner, Bussy Mansel, and Richard Seys of Eaglebush.
- 4.5.18 By the mid-18th century the estate passed through marriage to George Venables Vernon (Lord Vernon). Also by this time Rhydding Colliery had been established,

although the site of the colliery entrance and associated buildings lay to the south of the proposed development area. The colliery is mentioned in a lease of 1757 between the landowner, Lord Vernon, and Chauncy Townsend (D/D T 329). A few years later, in 1768, a further lease of land from Lord Vernon mentions 'messuages and lands called **Reading and Lyros', which were leased to Jenkin Hopkins** (Rhys Phillips, 1925,50). The farm itself is mentioned in 1801 when the Lord Vernon leased it to Benjamin French (D/D/ T 209/1-2). Illustrations of the main farm house in *circa* 1910-20 exist (Figure 13). The building as illustrated would appear to be a typical late post-medieval structure, and comparisons with historic map sources would also suggest the building was rebuilt in the later 19th century.

- 4.5.19 The development of the iron, steel and tinplate industries, drawn to the Neath area by the supply of coal from the many longstanding collieries, was beginning to attract significant investment and population to the area by the beginning of the 19th century. One such person attracted to the area was George Tennant who saw an opportunity to expand on some existing canals in the Neath Valley and further exploit the coal mining industry of the area. In 1816 he bought the Rhydding estate, prior to which he commissioned surveys and plans and wrote to the landowner in 1814/15, which provides much detail about the condition of the area at that time. A written survey was undertaken in 1815 detailing the condition of the land (D/D T 994), with field numbers appearing to correspond to a plan that also exists within the archives (see 5.3). Land along the top of the valley slope on the eastern edge of the proposed development site is described as poor soil, suitable only for planting, presumably woodland. The remaining fields within the proposed development area are all described as thin, poor soil in bad condition, with the exception of the three fields immediately to the north of the farmstead, and even here the good soil appears only to be in the lower southern parts of the fields. The farmstead itself is described as two cottages and two barns in very bad repair, with a further cottage in a ruinous state. In a letter to the landowner, written in 1815 (D/D T 993/1-2) Tennant claims that no more than one third of the land is in cultivation, with a great **part in 'dismal condition', and that 'there is no trace of a pair of wheels ever having mounted these hills since the Creation – French** (Benjamin French, the tenant farmer) said **all the lime was carried up on Horses Backs'**. Tennant is however stating his case for establishing an inclined plane to bring lime up the steep slope that borders the proposed development area to the east, which he would then burn using culm extracted from beneath Rhydding Farm in order to improve the farmland. Tennants' plans however appear to have been more extensive than just improving the agricultural yield of the land. He is perhaps best known for building a canal to link the Neath and Swansea Rivers, with a branch to Glan-y-Wern colliery. To do this he extended an existing but disused Crymlyn to Neath canal in 1816-17, initially **called the Neath and Swansea Junction canal, it soon became known as Tennant's Canal**. This canal proved so successful that he extended it as far north as Aberdulais (Red Jacket Canal) by 1824. To the south there was an outlet to the sea, in what became known as Port Tennant. However, it would appear that at the same time as he was building his Neath and Swansea Junction canal, Tennant also built a canal to Rhydding Farm. Little is recorded about this canal, there may have been a partial pre-existing canal serving some local coal mines, but Tennant appears to have either expanded or built a new canal between his acquisition of the land in 1816, and its appearance on a plan of the Neath and Swansea Junction canal in 1818 (reproduced

in Tucker, 1998,38). It is likely it was built to exploit the numerous coal mines that dotted the hills to the north of Neath Abbey, however the change in levels meant the canal could not be joined directly to the canals at Neath. Instead the canal terminated at Rhydding farmstead with the barges or tubs unloaded to be carried down tracks or tramways for further shipping at Cadoxten. The precise route of this final stretch is unclear. The 1818 plan would suggest a track or tramway continued the line of the canal to the east, carried down to Cadoxten via an inclined plane roughly behind Woodland Terrace on Cwmbach Road. Later maps however show no evidence of this route, instead showing trackways running to the northeast, past Ty Coch and possibly on to Cwmbach Colliery to the north of Cadoxten, to then utilise its network of trackways, or to the southwest to Rhydding Colliery, connected to canal and later railways via a tramway. The canal however appears to have been relatively short-lived, with many maps and plans of the 1840s and 1850s marking it as **'old canal'** indicating it was no longer actively used by the mid-19th century.

- 4.5.20 Many of the local collieries went out of operation by the early 20th century, to be gradually replaced by encroaching urban development. The proposed development area has remained as farmland throughout the 20th century, although the land now appears to be farmed from Leiros Farm to the west.

5 Map Regression (Figures 7 – 12)

5.1 *Ordnance Survey Drawing (Aberdare) of 1814*

- 5.1.1 This map shows the land to the northwest of the Neath River. It does not depict property boundaries in accurate detail, but it does indicate that the landscape had been divided up into agricultural land by this time, with a settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads and dwellings and a settlement at Cadoxten to the south. The proposed development site appears to have been largely occupied by fields, with some farmsteads or dwellings both within and surrounding the site.
- 5.1.2 On the southern edge of the site lies an unnamed farmstead, marked on later maps as Rhydding, a name now given to the general area. This farmstead is reached by a track from the south, which appears to follow the edges of the fields. The track runs past the farm and on to Leiros **Farm, labelled as 'Lyros'**, to the west. This farm still exists, lying just beyond the western boundary of the proposed development area. Lyros is shown on a road that runs northwards along the foot of the hill, this road (Gilfach Road) has since been straightened and moved westward. To the east of Rhydding, a track leads to Ty Coch, which given the fact that it is labelled, may be a dwelling of some status. This house lies just outside the area of proposed development. To the north of this a further dwelling is marked, unlabelled and with no access route shown. Comparisons with subsequent maps would suggest this relates to Trawsdy, a small dwelling or farmstead that lay just beyond the northern boundary of the proposed development area.
- 5.1.3 In the wider area the agricultural landscape appears to extend over the higher ground to the north, with wooded valley slopes along the Neath and Cwm-Bach valleys to the east. Industrial activity is also marked in the Neath valley, with a forge at Aberdulais, another to its north, and tin mills to the northeast of Neath. The main

roads through the area appear to be the Penywern Road through Bryn Coch to the southwest, and the A4230 to the southeast.

5.2 *Plan of Rheeding, 1814/1859 (Figure 7)*

- 5.2.1 This map is a detailed estate map that although drawn up in 1859 by David Rees, surveyor, was apparently traced from an earlier plan dated 1814. However, although this is stated on the map, it would appear to contain elements that are thought to post-date the acquisition of this land by George Tennant in 1816 and therefore it is not clear precisely which elements of the map can be ascribed to the original 1814 plan, which may in fact relate to the plan described below (see 5.3).
- 5.2.2 **'Rheeding' farmstead is shown, lying within the southern part of the proposed development area.** It consists of two building ranges, the larger of the two, the northernmost range, orientated approximately northeast – southwest. A second smaller range is orientated southeast – northwest. Irregular enclosures lie between the two and the site is labelled as Rheeding house and gardens (No.196). A narrow set of enclosures to the southwest are also labelled as gardens (No.194). These are **bounded along their southwest edge by what is labelled as 'Old Canal'**. This canal is not marked on the OS drawing of 1814, and it is believed to have been constructed between 1816 and 1818, therefore this feature likely post-dates the original 1814 plan, although the label of 'Old Canal' would suggest it was out of active use by the time the final map was produced in 1859. The canal would appear to terminate immediately to the south of Rheeding Farm, and extended northwest, underneath what is now Gilfach Road, and on as far as a road junction by Pant Glas Farm on the northern edge of Bryn-Coch. This northern terminus lies within 600m of the upper reaches of the Clydach river and former mine working of Dyffryn Colliery, although there is no indication that the canal extended to these sites. At Rheeding Farm a trackway extends from the canal terminus, running around the edge of fields to link up with the main road to the southwest, this would appear to be the original farm trackway as depicted on the 1814 OS drawing. Another trackway runs off to the northeast, past Ty Coch, and on to a small triangular piece of land described as a fir plantation (No.113 – **'Fir plantation croften'**).
- 5.2.3 The proposed development area itself is divided into six main fields, and incorporates parts of several other fields. These field boundaries appear to have largely been retained in the current layout of the site, although a narrow field to the north of the farmstead has since been amalgamated with the field to its west. At the northern end of this narrow field a small building is shown, lying just within the proposed development area. The building is unlabelled, however the narrow field is labelled as **'Croft cae scybor & Buildings'** (No.124). The scybor element presumably referring to a barn (ysgubor). The remaining field names are given as:

114 – 116: Rough ground
117: Cae ysgubor fach
120: Cae ysgubor fawr
125: Cae pistyll
126: Cae leyshon

213: Cae penlan ycha

The ysgubor element is presumably still referring to the site of the barn, pistyll may refer to the site of a spring, leyshon would appear to be a form of Gleison, meaning blue, or green, and refer to general pasture. The final field name is less certain, although the proposed development area only encroaches into a small area of this field.

- 5.2.4 Surrounding the proposed development area, Leiros farm is marked to the west, as is Ty Coch to the east and to the northeast lies Trawsdy. No other features of interest are noted within the proposed development area.

5.3 *Rough plan of Rheeding Farm, pre 1855 (Figure 8)*

- 5.3.1 This map does not appear to be closely dated, other than being labelled within the archive records as dating to 1855 at the latest. This plan shows the proposed development in good detail, and the field numbers given would appear to correspond with a written survey of the site undertaken in 1815, and may therefore represent one of the earliest accurate depictions of the proposed development area.

- 5.3.2 **'Rheeding' farmstead** is shown with one farm building range orientated northeast – southwest, and a second complex of adjoining buildings to the southwest, likely to comprise the main farm house and attached farm buildings. Both buildings front a **sub-square yard to the southeast. The site is labelled as 'Reeding Buildings & Gardens'**, the written survey mentions two cottages and two barns in very bad repair, with a further cottage in a very ruinous state. Comparisons with the map would suggest the cottages were adjoining in one building, and the barns adjoining in the other building. The gardens would appear to be a series of enclosures laid out to the southwest, through which the line of the canal passes. This canal is shown as a watercourse, although otherwise not labelled. Other maps that depict the canal show it forming the southern boundary to the gardens to the south of the farmstead, here however it appears to be cut through these garden areas, which, along with the field boundaries to the south, were later reorganised against the line of the canal, further indicating that this is likely to be one of the earliest accurate maps of the estate.

- 5.3.3 The fields and field names within the proposed development area are laid out as they appeared on the 1814/59 plan (see 5.2), although the small building visible to the north of the main farmstead, what would appear to be a barn, is not shown on this map. The one other addition **is that field no.72 is named as 'Cae Thomas Lough'** in the written survey, but there is no indication as to why this field was given a personalised name. A trackway links Rheeding farmstead with Ty Coch (which lies just outside the proposed development area) to the east. Somewhat unusually the name of the house, Ty Coch, is capitalised, which is not repeated for any other dwelling illustrated on the map. The reasons are unclear, but it may represent a residence of some standing in the local area. The surrounding farmsteads/dwellings of Leiros and Trawsdy are also shown. Trackways connect Rheeding and Leiros separately to the main road to the southwest, but no such trackway is shown connecting Trawsdy. Rheeding farm, along with grist mill to the southwest, was

tenanted to Mr Benjamin French (who was leased the land in 1801). Unusually no evidence of industrial activity is marked on this map, no coal mines or tramways are shown.

5.4 *Cadoxten Juxta Neath Parish Tithe Map of 1844 (Figure 9)*

- 5.4.1 This map provides a detailed and accurate depiction of the layout of the landscape towards the mid-19th century. The proposed development area comprises mainly agricultural fields arranged around Rheeding farmstead (Nos. 1488 & 1490) to the south. The farmstead comprises two main buildings, one aligned roughly northwest-southeast as depicted on previous maps, the other southwest-northeast. The tithe apportionment describes **'houses'** within the farmstead, suggesting multiple dwellings, although as stated previously this may be adjoining dwellings shown as a single building on the map. The farmstead is accessed by a road that runs around field boundaries to the southeast, the route of which is now preserved as a footpath. The line of the canal is still marked, and is also labelled as **'Old Canal'** by this time, suggesting it was no longer in active use. The line of this canal appears to now form much of the south-western boundary to the site.
- 5.4.2 Leiros farm (No.1492), named in the apportionments as **'Lyros'**, lies just beyond the northwest boundary to the site. Within the boundary the field layout depicted on the previous maps is still evident, as are the field names.
- 5.4.3 To the north, outside the proposed development area, is a small building labelled Trawsty, within the apportionments as both Trawsty and Trawstir (Nos.1514/1515) and **described as 'Buildings, garden & yard'**. **The eastern end of the proposed development area comprises a largely triangular field, the current boundaries of which are also shown on the tithe map (No.1482), called 'Cae Scybor fach'. Ty Coch farm lies in the south-western corner of this field (No.1483), although now outside the area of proposed development. A series of enclosures along the top of the valley slope are shown (Nos.1481, 1480, 1479), seemingly slightly wider than the current boundaries, all described simply as 'rough ground'. All fields belong to a larger area listed in the tithe apportionments under 'Rheeding Farm and others', owned by Margaret Elizabeth Tennant (widow of George Tennant), but still occupied and presumably therefore farmed by Benjamin French.**
- 5.4.4 The surrounding area is depicted as a largely agricultural one, with an irregular mix of small to medium-sized fields suggesting the piecemeal enclosure of this landscape over a relatively long period of time. The old canal indicates former industrial activity in the area. The presence of two Inns (the Plough and Harrow and Travellers Rest) on the main road to the southwest indicate this is a well-travelled route. The village of Cadoxten is marked to the southeast, and includes the Vale of Neath Brewery, and large houses such as Cadoxten Place (rented by George Tennant when visiting his Welsh properties).

5.5 *Mining Plan 1848*

- 5.5.1 This **plan of the mines and minerals under 'Rheeding' farm was drawn up in 1848**, ostensibly to show the locations of pits and mouths of levels. It lacks the layout of fields, but it **does show 'Rheeding' farm itself**. The farm at this point appears to consist of three ranges of buildings, the two as shown on the tithe map, with the south-westernmost T-shape in plan, with an additional small building on the opposite side to the track to the southwest of this T-shape building. To the west lies the line of a canal, still labelled as a canal and shown as a watercourse, although the tithe **map labels it as 'old canal', suggesting it was out of use by this time**. It runs off to the northwest, with the southern terminus at Rheeding Farm (just to the southwest of the proposed development boundary). The canal terminates at a relatively large yard area to the southeast of the farmstead, which is accessed by two trackways. One runs from a possible mine feature near Cenfaes farm approximately 1km to the northeast, the other runs from Ty Coch farm, which lies just outside the proposed development area within 200m to the east. These trackways then converge in the yard, and run off as a single track to the southwest to join the Penywen Road (A474).
- 5.5.2 Surrounding buildings include **one at Ty Coch to the east, one at 'Trawsdy' to the northeast and Leiros to the northwest**. All of which lie just outside the bounds of the proposed development area, none of which are labelled as mines. The closest **labelled mine feature is 'Whim Pit', which lies approximately 150m to the west**. One unlabelled feature is marked within the proposed development area, this would appear to be the gravel pit shown on later maps, which partially extends into the proposed development area.

5.6 *Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map of 1877 (Figure 10)*

- 5.6.1 The line of the old canal is now shown as a line of marshland, alongside a footpath, indicating the canal is now likely to be partially silted up. The trackway, extending from the canal terminus, to the northeast, depicted on the mining plan of 1848, is now shown with more accurate locational detail. The linearity of this route would suggest it may have been a tramway, particularly as it runs between Rhydding Colliery to the southwest, and a series of coal levels and quarries to the northeast. The building marked on the tithe map as Trawsty/Trawstir is now shown as a former colliery site, with a complex of buildings and trackways, and old coal levels, pits, drifts and air shafts running off to the northeast. A mound of waste material spreads out from this site to the southeast, and borders the northeast corner of the proposed development site.
- 5.6.2 Rhydding farmstead is shown in some detail. The buildings marked on previous maps are still apparent. The northeast-southwest orientated building is shown with four separate compartments, whilst the southeast-northwest orientated building is shown with a greater number of compartments and numerous attached buildings all around it. Both buildings adjoin a central yard, with a series of gardens running along the former canal-side.

- 5.6.3 The main field boundaries within the proposed development area remain unchanged. The westernmost field has been partially subdivided at its northeast end, and an unbounded trackway crosses the field to give access to Leiros farm (by this time Gilfach Road was laid to the west of Leiros, which no longer lay on the main road). A spring also lies on the southwest boundary, adjacent to the canal. No spring is labelled in the adjoining field, despite the field name recorded in previous maps. A gravel extraction pit is however shown in the northwest corner of the field, albeit one **that was no longer in use, as it is labelled 'Old Gravel Pit'**. Remnants of this pit are still marked on current maps. The barn in the next field is still shown and as mentioned, a possible tramway route is marked crossing the next field to the east, with a drain running along the southern edge of the field. The layout of the remaining fields are unchanged from the tithe map, although no trees are shown within the small triangular field described as a fir plantation on previous maps. Within the enclosures of rough ground along the top of the valley slope at the eastern edge of the site, two sub-rectangular, and one semi-circular feature are depicted, but not labelled. It is unclear what these features may represent.
- 5.6.4 The proliferation of collieries, coal pits and air shafts within the surrounding landscape is an indication of the high potential for further unrecorded coal mining activity throughout this area. Relatively numerous farmstead and cottages dot the surrounding countryside, and there is clearly an increase in settlement in nearby Cadoxton as the general population levels in the area rise, attracted by the numerous industrial concerns.

5.7 *Rhyding Great Fault plan*

- 5.7.1 This is a plan of the coal workings and faults in the area around the Rhyddings. The map is undated and lacks a scale or many above-ground reference points. However, Evans and Bevan Minerals is mentioned on the plan, who operated from the mid-19th century through to Nationalisation in 1947. The map also shows 'Rhyding Pit' and 'Ty Coch Pit'. Rhyding Colliery is shown on mid to late-19th century maps, but had gone out of use by the end of the 19th century, with the site of the colliery redeveloped by the 1930s, and Ty Coch Pit is depicted on the 1859 plan. This would suggest this map dates to the mid to late 19th century.
- 5.7.2 Rhyding canal is shown, and when overlaid on other above-ground landmarks, such as the Penywern Road and the Cwmbach Road, it would suggest an engine house is located within the north-eastern part of the proposed development area. This engine house is assumed to be a surface feature, however, given the inaccuracies of the scale of this map it would appear probable that the engine house may in fact be located at Trawsdy, outside the proposed development area, where mining remains area visible above ground. What this map does indicate however is that coal workings extend underneath the area of proposed development.

5.8 *Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map of 1899*

- 5.8.1 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map shows no discernible change within the proposed development area from the layout depicted on the 1877 OS map. Rhyding

colliery and other mine workings to the southwest are no longer in operation however.

5.9 *Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map of 1918*

- 5.9.1 Again there is no discernible change within the proposed development area. To the southwest the beginnings of Alexander Road have been laid out, and terraced dwellings **built at its' junction with the Penywern Road**. No mining activity is marked within the locality.

5.10 *Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map of 1935*

- 5.10.1 The only change within the proposed development area is the abandonment of the trackway or former tramway that crossed the site towards Trawsdy (this track is no longer marked). The barn at the northern end of the narrow field to the north of Rhydding farmstead had also been removed by this time. To the southwest, **settlement in 'Rhydding'** along the Penywern Road continues to expand.

5.11 *Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Map of 1965 (Figure 11)*

- 5.11.1 By the mid-1960s some of the smaller buildings within Rhydding farmstead had been removed, although the core of some of the traditional buildings appear to have been retained. The farmstead is now labelled as Rhydding Cottages, possibly consisting of two main dwellings, and it would no longer appear to be operating as a farmstead. By contrast Leiros Farm to the northwest has expanded with the addition of a number of farm buildings to the west of the main farmhouse. The narrow field to the north of Rhydding Cottages has also become amalgamated with the field to its west.
- 5.11.2 Trawsdy to the northwest had been abandoned by this time. To the southwest residential development of Rhydding had extended up to the line of the former canal, and the southwestern boundary of the proposed development area.

6 Aerial Photographs and Lidar (Photos 1 – 4, Figure 12)

- 6.1 Aerial photographic evidence of the area held by the Aerial Photographic Unit in Cardiff has been examined, including photographs from 1946 to the present day.
- 6.2 The earliest aerial photographs are relatively high level vertical shots taken by the Royal Air Force, in 1946 (Photo 1). This shows the field layout as depicted on the historic maps prior to 1965, with the fields bounded in what appears to be a mix of walling and hedgerows. Rhydding farmstead is still shown in occupation, comprising three ranges of buildings. The northeast – southwest orientated building, as depicted on most historic maps, is evident. The second main range of farm buildings depicted on the historic maps is also visible, although it comprised a building on the same alignment, with a central extension to the rear (northwest side). Opposing this range to the southeast is a third smaller building range, not marked on any map sources. A

series of enclosed gardens lie to the southwest. A trackway enters the farmland from Leiros farm to the northwest, and the line of the former tramway/trackway to coal workings around Trawsdy is also visible as a cropmark or earthwork. Remains of the former gravel pit in the northwest corner of the site are also visible extending into the proposed development area, although clearly overgrown and disused. These remains appear partially infilled and ploughed out on a subsequent aerial photograph of 1947.

- 6.3 An aerial photograph of 1949 (Photo 2) shows the site in more detail. Rhydding farmstead comprises the three main building ranges as described above. A chimney stack visible in the northwest range indicates this is the site of the former farmhouse, but there is no indication that this building contains multiple dwellings. All buildings are still roofed and appear to be in use. Several smaller outbuildings surround the site, mostly along the edge or within the enclosed gardens to the southwest. Elsewhere the former tramway/trackway to Trawsdy is clearly visible as an earthwork, Trawsdy itself is still roofed and intact. Another linear earthwork or cropmark suggests a former field boundary may once have enclosed the northern end of the field to the north of Rhydding farmstead, extending the curvilinear line of a field boundary that now ends at the site of the former gravel pit. The fields appear to be largely pastoral, although plough marks are visible. Subsequent photos of 1950, 1951 and 1952 (Photo 3) show little change.
- 6.4 Aerial photographs from the 1960s (1963 and 1969) show little detail on the site, other than that the narrow field to the north of Rhydding farmstead had been amalgamated with its western neighbour by 1963. There is then a gap in the aerial photographs until 1984 (Photo 4), by which point residential development had spread up to the southern border of the proposed development area. Rhydding farmstead also appears to have been abandoned, and only the outline of the northernmost building range is visible amongst the trees and scrub that have covered the site. This building is clearly roofless and abandoned at this point. One garden area still appears to be under cultivation, but the remainder appears largely overgrown. The former gravel pit is also scrub covered, and outside the boundary Trawsdy has also clearly been abandoned although the former tramway/trackway is still visible as an earthwork crossing the proposed development area. Subsequent photos through the 1980s and early 1990s show little change within the proposed development area, although they do demonstrate the continued expansion of residential development to the south, reaching its current limits by 1989.
- 6.5 Lidar data at 1m DTM is available for the site area (Figure 12) which shows the layout of the proposed development area as picked out in the historic mapping and aerial photographs. A complex of earthworks and buildings mark the site of the former Rhydding farmstead to the south but in no great detail, and the field boundaries are also visible, including the removed field boundary to the north of the farmstead, and possible further field enclosures at the northern end of the field adjacent to the former gravel pit. The extent of this gravel pit is also clearly visible. Ploughing scars also indicate that the fields to the north of the former farmstead have been ploughed at some point. The former tramway/trackway to Trawsdy can be seen, continuing through Trawsdy to the northeast, down the valley slope and on to former coal mine workings near Cenfaes Farm. Within the overgrown boundaries along the eastern edge of the proposed development area, at the top of the steep

valley slopes, possible earthworks or platforms are visible, the most visible of which forms a semi-circular platform just above Penfield on the Cwmbach Road.

- 6.6 The aerial photographic and Lidar evidence provides further definition to the layout and occupation of Rhydding farmstead, as well as the layout and use of fields within the proposed development area. Other features identified on historic mapping, such as the former gravel pit and a tramway/trackway to Trawsdy, are also defined on these sources. New features identified from these sources include possible platforms cut into the upper valley slope along the eastern edge of the proposed development area. They also indicate other features, such as the former barn on the northern edge of the site, which had gone by the mid-20th century, and there is no evidence of an Engine House or above-ground coal workings extending into the proposed development area.

7 Site Visit (Photos 5 – 31)

- 7.1 A site visit was undertaken on the 3rd May 2016. Conditions were bright, largely dry with good visibility. The site comprised four fields of largely pasture, with the south-eastern field under plough. The land rises to the north, with the highest point immediately north of the former farmstead of Rhydding. The different types of field boundaries are in varying degrees of repair. A dry-stone wall, largely intact, runs along the northern edge of the proposed development area, with internal field boundaries comprising largely tumbled stone walls, or stone-revetted earth banks, topped by mature trees and hedgerows with post and wire fencing in places. Mature trees line the southern boundary of the site and stands of trees occupy the valley slope to the east.
- 7.2 The sloping ground gives relatively good and extensive views southwards as the landscape falls away down the Neath valley and out towards the coast, and across much of the centre and southeast of Neath itself. To the southwest and west the rooftops of residential development in Neath Abbey is visible, beyond which lies the wooded slopes and ridgeline of Mynydd Drumau. To the east the woodland on top of the valley slope, as well as the sharp drop in levels of the valley, hides the nearby settlement of Cadoxten, and further afield Tonna, from view. Further east the more rounded slopes and summit of Cefn Morfudd is visible. The ground continues to rise to the north, restricting views in that direction.
- 7.3 Detailed examination of the whole former Rydding farmstead site was not possible at the time of the site visit, but the main northern range, as depicted on historic mapping, is still standing and in use as a stone-built barn in upstanding but rough condition terraced in to the rising ground. The walls are topped by a gable roof of corrugated aluminium sheeting, there is a mono-pitched extension on the northern gable. Upstanding remains of the main western range as depicted on historic mapping were not visible. The yard fronted by these structures is bounded by a drystone wall, with tracks running along the southern and eastern sides. There is no indication of an eastern range. A series of timber-framed shelters line the track to the south of the farmstead yard, all fronting the track, and a number of caravans also lie on the site. To the south, the area of former gardens are largely overgrown,

but with some having been cleared of scrub but used largely as temporary storage or waste areas.

- 7.4 The line of the former Rhydding Canal is still visible to the south of these garden areas. A steep, scrub-covered embankment defines the southern edge of the former farmstead/gardens with a ditch *circa* 2m wide and 1m deep running along it. As it passes the boundaries of the farmstead site the ditch is defined on its northern edge by a drystone-built vertical stone wall. The southern edge of this ditch is defined by steep-sided banks, which would appear to represent partial infilling of the canal to create a footpath, presumably widening the pre-existing towpath along the southern edge of the canal. The boundary with the residential development to the south is largely defined through modern wooden fencing, although one section of mortared stone walling, *circa* 1.6m high may be associated with the former canal. To the northeast, beyond the boundary with the former farmstead, the ditch defining the canal opens out into a wider (up to 3m) and deeper (*circa* 1.5m) ditch, although it loses its stone wall boundary along the northern edge. To the southwest of Leiros the canal route becomes overgrown and begins to lose its definition, it would appear the best preserved section of the canal forms the southwestern boundary of the proposed development area.
- 7.5 The line of the former tramway/trackway to Trawsdy and beyond and still visible as a linear slightly-raised earthwork, 1m to 1.5m across with a flat top. It is turf covered and most prominent to the northeast, becoming indistinct as it approached the farmstead to the southwest.
- 7.6 Trawsdy itself is visible as a complex of two ruinous stone-built structures and a former mine level all lying outside the boundary of the proposed development area. The main house sits to the north at a higher level, with drystone built walls standing almost to gable height at the western end. This western end has also been partially mortar-bonded and possibly rendered. At a lower level the outline of a smaller sub-rectangular building is visible, with walls standing up to 1.2m high. The walls themselves are partly tumbled, comprising mortar-bonded stones walls with the occasional handmade brick inclusion. The walls are built of roughly-faced local stone, laid in rough courses. The mine level sits in a cutting approximately 4m wide, orientated northeast – southwest. The mine entrance is at the northeast end, consisting of a rounded rock-cut entrance approximately 1.5m high and wide, infilled. A low dry-stone wall of large blocks crosses the cutting in front of the entrance. The level drains out along a stream-line just to the east of the proposed development boundary. A spread of former colliery waste also spreads to the south of the mine, raising the ground immediately to the northeast of the proposed development area, and possibly also encroaching into the area.
- 7.7 Below the farmed land, and on the upper slopes of the valley within or along the eastern boundary of the proposed development area, a series of possible platforms are visible, terraced into the valley slope. The northernmost is a large semi-circular terrace 12m wide, and cut 7m back into the slope with a level floor. No structural remains are visible, although a low mound lies centrally at the eastern edge of the terrace, surmounted by a mature tree. The terrace itself is clearly an artificial feature. Some 50m further along the footpath lies a sub-rectangular platform measuring approximately 15m by 7m, close to the tumbled remains of a stone-wall

field boundary that runs down the slope. This platform however is less clear as an artificial feature due to scrub cover, and the occurrence of large tumbled rocks further to the southwest that appear to create natural terraces in the valley slope. Some evidence of quarrying also appears evident on the lower valley slopes, the general scrub and tree cover in this area makes it difficult to pick out definite features.

- 7.8 Site visits were also made to the surrounding designated archaeological sites, to examine potential visual effects of the proposed development. These are discussed in Section 8 below.

8 Impact Assessment

8.1 Assessment of Archaeological Potential and Importance

- 8.1.1 Two sites of archaeological interest have been recorded within the bounds of the proposed development area, and a further six sites identified during research, alongside a further general area of archaeological potential.
- 8.1.2 The site of Rhydding farmstead is recorded on the regional HER as a post-medieval house (PRN 2630w), although the site is more extensive than the house alone and corresponds to the entire farmstead, including farm buildings, yard enclosures and associated features. The farmstead is first referred to in 1801, although the name has a greater antiquity and it is possible that the farmstead has pre-19th century origins. The site is now in poor condition, with only one traditional farm building still standing. As a post-medieval farmstead the site is of Local importance, although this may increase if the site is proven to have a greater antiquity than desk-based research alone can currently prove. In addition, this farmstead is potentially the site of a medieval monastic grange of the same name (PRN 5278w). No visible evidence of the medieval grange has come to light, but the site has not been investigated archaeologically. The current visible above-ground remains do not appear to contain medieval elements, but the potential for below-ground archaeological remains associated with the medieval grange exists, the extent of which is not known. Such remains, should they exist, may be of Regional interest.
- 8.1.3 Running alongside the former farmstead and the southwestern boundary to the proposed development area is the line of Rhydding Canal (LPN01), not currently recorded on the regional HER. This canal is likely to have been constructed by George Tennant in the early 19th century, probably for the transportation of coal to an off-loading point adjacent to Rhydding farmstead. As a previously unrecorded and potentially well-preserved canal (of which the best preserved remains lie adjacent to the proposed development area), associated with an important local figure in the industrial development of the area, such a site is considered to be of Regional interest.
- 8.1.4 Along the northern edge of the proposed development area lies the remains of a former gravel pit (LPN02), visible on historic mapping and still apparent as scrub-covered earthworks. Such a site is considered to be only of Local interest, with the majority of the site lying beyond the limits of the proposed development area.

- 8.1.5 Also along the northern edge of the proposed development area lies the site of a building identified on historic map sources (LPN03). This would appear to be the site of a post-medieval barn, of Local archaeological interest.
- 8.1.6 Crossing the proposed development area is the line of a former tramway or trackway (LPN04), established in the 19th century to give access to and from coal mines to the northeast. This features survives as a visible linear earthwork, and is considered to be of Local archaeological interest.
- 8.1.7 To the northeast lies the site of Trawsdy, a post-medieval dwelling and site of coal mining activity (LPN05). The complex as a whole is considered to be of Regional interest as coal mining features survive, once an important feature of the landscape around Neath but with few sites now surviving; this lies beyond the boundary of the proposed development area. There is the potential for associated features of lesser importance to extend into the proposed development area.

Table 1: Sites of archaeological potential within the proposed development area

Reference No.	Name	Site Type	Period	NGR	Importance
PRN 2630w	Rhydding	Farmstead	Post-medieval	SS 7520 9897	Local/ Regional
PRN 5278w	Rhydding Grange	Grange	Medieval	SS 751 988	Regional
LPN01	Rhydding Canal	Canal	19 th century	SS 7513 9901	Regional
LPN02	-	Gravel Pit	Post-medieval	SS 7520 9916	Local
LPN03	-	Barn	Post-medieval	SS 7531 9915	Local
LPN04	-	Tramway / Trackway	19 th century	SS 7544 9911	Local
LPN05	Trawsdy	Farmstead / Colliery	Post-medieval	SS 7550 9921	Regional/ Local
LPN06	-	Platforms	? Post-medieval	SS 7561 9898	Local
LPN07	-	General industrial activity	Post-medieval	SS 754 990	Local

- 8.1.8 Within the wooded upper valley slopes along the eastern edge of the proposed development lies a series of terraced platforms (LPN06). The provenance of these platforms is unclear but they may be associated with quarrying or mining activity, and possibly with documented references from George Tennant to the transportation and processing of lime in the early 19th century. These sites are of Local interest.

8.1.9 The prevalence of industrial remains surrounding the proposed development area increases the potential for evidence of activity associated with late post-mediaeval industry to exist within the proposed development area (LPN07). This is particularly relevant to the transportation of items to and from the canal shipping point adjacent to Rhydding farmstead. The possible presence of a former engine house associated with coal mining activity within the proposed development area is highlighted on a minerals plan (see 5.7), although given problems with scale on this drawing and the absence of this feature on other maps of that era, it would appear unlikely that the structure was formerly located within the development site. Coal mines do appear to run at some depth underground in the general scheme area; however, the precise layout and depth of this mining activity is not known from current research. The general potential for features relating to post-medieval industrial activity in this area is considered to be largely of Local interest.

8.2 Previous Impacts

8.2.1 The area comprises farmland that is likely to have been ploughed and improved since the 19th century. Historic records indicate a relatively thin soil, therefore ploughing activity is likely to have affected below-ground remains. However, as largely undeveloped agricultural land there is the potential for features to survive below the plough-soil.

8.2.2 The site of Rhydding farmstead is likely to have undergone various rebuilds and redevelopment during its working life, associated with both the farmstead and industrial activity connected to the nearby canal. The latter is likely to have had an impact on any pre-existing features either from earlier farmstead features, or potential medieval grange remains. No medieval features are visible above-ground, and only a former agricultural building still stands. The house as illustrated in the early 20th century (Figure 13) does not appear to contain noted features of early date and when compared to historic map sources it appears that this structure replaced an earlier 19th century building, and this building itself has since been largely removed.

8.2.3 Industrial activity is known in the area. Although this in itself is of potential archaeological interest, the development of route corridors through the area may have affected any pre-existing archaeological remains. Coal mining activity at Trawsdy to the northeast has also produced waste material that is likely to have spread into the northeast corner of the proposed development area.

8.3 Potential Impacts of the Proposed Development

8.3.1 The proposed development includes the construction of 200 housing units comprising single and two-storey units, along with access routes, landscaping, boundary treatments and associated infrastructure across the development area. Any of the following activities associated with the proposed development could therefore expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains:

- Enabling works, such as the installation of the **contractor's compound**, construction of access roads, parking areas, storage areas, borrow pits and associated services;
- Landscaping and terracing works, including the removal of field boundaries;
- Surface stripping;
- Construction of roads and infrastructure;
- Foundation excavations;
- Service installation

8.3.2 The proposed development also has the potential to generate indirect (visual) effects on archaeological sites, such as altering the visual setting or tranquillity of the sites and landscapes.

Historic Landscapes

8.3.3 No registered Historic Landscape, Conservation Area or Historic Park & Garden will be directly affected by the proposed development.

8.3.4 No registered Historic Landscape lies within the 5km search area around the proposed development.

8.3.5 The site lies within three Landmap historic landscape areas. The three fields to the north of the former farmstead lie within Bryncoch Cilybebyll (NPTHL040), described **as an area of 'Outstanding' value**, representing a remarkably rich, multi-period landscape, with particularly significant concentrations of prehistoric monuments and medieval settlement features on Mynydd Drumau. Other character elements include irregular shaped field enclosures, ancient woodland, clawdd-type enclosure boundaries and isolated, dispersed settlements. Residential development will clearly alter this historic landscape, although these three fields represent only a small proportion of the entire area and contain few of the elements that characterise this area. The development is considered therefore to have a minor impact on this area.

8.3.6 The field to the northeast, and the area of the former Rhydding farmstead, lies within the Neath Port Talbot Urban Corridor (NPTHL054), described as an area of **'Outstanding' value representing an urban settlement and communications corridor** of considerable historic importance. The main characteristics of this area are industrial and urban, but also include some sites of exceptional significance such as the Roman fort of Nidum, the Cistercian Abbey of Neath, the Neath Abbey Ironworks and Aberdulais Tinplate Works. Residential development within this area can be viewed as a continuation of the urban character. The field contains none of the elements that define this area, and although Rhydding farmstead can be seen in the context of the historical occupation of this area, the current visible remains do not at present represent a significant visual element of the historic development. The proposed development is therefore considered to have a negligible impact on this area.

8.3.7 The south-eastern corner of the proposed development area lies within the Dulais Valley SW historic landscape (NPTHL074), **described as an area of 'Moderate' value**, reflecting the relatively modest scope of the archaeological record. The main characteristics are an irregular upland fieldscape, and tracts of semi-natural

woodland, although these have been significantly disturbed, and are best-preserved to the northeast of the site. The proposed development area is not considered to contain any particular significant elements of this landscape, and with the likely retention of woodland on the upper valley slopes the impact on this area is considered to be negligible.

- 8.3.8 Three Conservation Areas (CA) lie within the 5km search area around the proposed development. 1km to the south lies the Neath Town Centre CA. The site itself has extensive views southward over Neath, with public footpaths through the area allowing accessibility to these views, although individual elements of the CA area are difficult to distinguish. The dense urban nature of the CA restricts views from within towards the proposed development. The CA is surrounded by modern residential development that rises into the lower hillslopes surrounding the town. The proposed development can be seen to fit into this pattern of development. Public rights of way are likely to be retained within the development with appropriate landscape buffers, in order to maintain these accessible viewpoints within the proposed development area. Therefore, the proposed development area is considered to only have a negligible impact on the setting of the CA.
- 8.3.9 The Tonna Canal Depot CA is a small area that lies adjacent to the Neath River, with no visual relationship to the area of proposed development, therefore there will be no impact on this CA.
- 8.3.10 At 4.8km distance there is very little visual relationship between Llandarcy Village CA and the proposed development area. The proposed development is not considered to alter or affect the setting of the CA, therefore there is deemed to be no impact on this CA.
- 8.3.11 There are three registered Historic Parks and Gardens within the 5km search area. The closest, and largest, of which is The Gnoll, a Grade II* listed walled garden, pleasure grounds and parkland extending over a large area of the western slopes of Cefn Morfudd to the east of the proposed development area. There will be no direct impact on this area, however elements of the parkland are visible from the site. The rural setting and picturesque beauty of the parkland are important elements of **its'** character and, as such, views from the parkland of the surrounding landscape are of relevance. The visual impact of the proposed development however will be partially screened by tree cover along the eastern edge of the site, and it is not anticipated that the development will form a significant visual intrusion into noted viewpoints within the parkland, with the possible exception of views from the car parking area close to Fishpond Wood, and the Ivy Tower, although even from these points the visual impact is considered to be minor.
- 8.3.12 Victoria Gardens (Grade II listed public park) lies within Neath and forms an important element of the Neath CA. The CA itself forms the bulk of the setting for this park, and with views towards the proposed development blocked by urban development, there is considered to be no impact on this park.
- 8.3.13 Jersey Park in Briton Ferry (Grade II listed parkland) lies at some distance from the site and as an urban public park it has an urban setting that will not be affected by the proposed development. The wooded slopes of Craig-y-darren, which also form

part of the setting for the park, are visible from the proposed development, but this is not considered to have an impact on the registered park itself.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

- 8.3.14 No Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) will be directly affected by the proposed development.
- 8.3.15 Of the twenty-seven SAM sites within the 5km search area around the proposed development, very few will potentially be indirectly (visually) affected by the proposed development. To the west lies the prominent ridge of Mynydd Drumau which is clearly visible from the site. A series of SAM sites occupy high ground along this ridge with extensive views. Some, such as GM383 and GM387 are mainly concentrated on views away from the site, and therefore are not impacted. However, GM382 (a prehistoric standing stone) and GM 549 (medieval house platforms) have extensive eastward views that encompass partial views of the site. The site will expand the urban limits currently visible, encroaching into surrounding agricultural land, but this will not affect important views from these monuments, or indeed views of these monuments, therefore there is considered to be only a negligible impact on these sites.
- 8.3.16 A series of SAM sites lie within the urban sprawl within and around Neath and Neath Abbey to the south and southwest of the development site. Surrounding buildings and vegetation cover prevent any views from GM006 (medieval Neath Abbey), GM039 (medieval Neath Castle), GM207 (early medieval cross and grave slab), GM394 (Tennant Canal) and GM395 (Neath Abbey ironworks dam) towards the site, and there is no impact on the setting of these sites. There are however partial views from both GM215 (Roman site) and GM389 (Neath Abbey Ironworks). The site of GM215 is now largely occupied by school buildings and grounds, which clearly restricts the accessibility of views from this area, but these do encompass urban spread on the surrounding hillsides. The proposed development will extend this spread, but will have a negligible impact on the setting of this Roman site. GM389 occupies the east-facing slopes of the Clydach Valley and the site may be visible from locations within the Scheduled Area. These viewpoint locations however are not accessible to the public, and therefore despite the views the proposed development is considered to have no impact on this SAM.
- 8.3.17 Several SAM sites also occupy the high ground of Cefn Morfudd to the east of the site. Of these however only some elements of GM264 (Early Medieval dyke and earthwork) have views across the proposed development area. These views are distant, and the line of woodland along the eastern edge of the site will serve to limit any visual impact of the development, which also does not affect any views of the SAM. Therefore this impact is considered to be negligible. Of the remaining sites on this area of high ground, GM258, GM277 and GM447 have very limited views towards the proposed development area, which is unlikely to be visible and therefore is considered to have no impact. Similarly GM276 has limited views, greatly obscured by woodland both around the SAM and closer to the proposed development, and is therefore considered to have no impact on this site.

8.3.18 The remaining SAM sites are obscured largely by topographical factors. Rising ground to the north blocks any view of GM326, GM327, GM342 and GM514. By contrast the lower-lying valley bottom of the Dulais and Neath valleys to the east prevent any views of GM485, GM505 and GM506. The remaining sites (GM055, GM170, GM291 & GM489) all lie at some distance to the south, and it is impossible to establish any visual link with these sites. There is considered to be no impact on any of these sites.

Listed Buildings

8.3.19 No listed buildings will be directly affected by the proposed development.

8.3.20 There are a large number of Listed Buildings included within the 5km search area around the proposed development area, however the impact of the development on these individual sites is very limited. Sixty-three of these buildings lie within Neath and its immediate suburbs (38 of which within Neath Conservation Area), with another 29 within Neath Abbey and Skewen. These buildings are largely clustered around streams and rivers and/or dense urban areas, all of which have limited expansive views, with little or no visual connection to the proposed development area. As previously stated, there are publically accessible viewpoints across much of these urban areas from within the proposed development area. However, these viewpoints will be largely preserved in the development, and individual listed buildings cannot be distinguished from the site. The development extends the urban limits of Neath and its surrounds, but not in a sense that would affect the visibility or tranquillity of these Listed Buildings or their settings.

8.3.21 Closer to the site lie a cluster of Listed Buildings within Cadoxten, centred on and around the church of St Cattwg (LB 11767). These buildings are separated from the site by the steep wooded valley sides that form the western limit to Cadoxten. There is therefore no visual or physical relationship between the two. Similarly, the limekiln near Neath Golf Course (LB 82087), which is one of the closest Listed Buildings to the site, is separated visually and physical by the same steep wooded valley slopes.

8.3.22 The only building with clear views towards the proposed development area is the Ivy Tower (LB 11768), to the south of Tonna within part of the Gnoll parkland. As with other viewpoints within the parkland however the proposed development area is likely to be largely sheltered behind a band of trees that lines the steep valley slopes, therefore views are likely to be partial at best, with a negligible impact on this building.

8.3.23 Other sites with similar views of negligible impact include No.112 Cimla Road (LB 11780) to the southeast, the Neath River and Tennant Canal bridge (LBs 11866, 82079 & 82090) to the south, and The Grange (LB 82325) to the west. Views from these sites are partial, and the extension of urban development is unlikely to form a significant part of these views.

8.3.24 The remaining listed buildings will not be impacted upon by the proposed development, either due to distance from the site or intervening topographical, vegetation and built features preventing any inter-visibility between the sites.

Non-designated Archaeological Sites

- 8.3.25 Eight specific non-designated archaeological sites, and one area of general archaeological potential, have been identified within the bounds of the proposed development area as laid out in section 8.1, that may therefore be both directly and indirectly impacted upon by the proposed development.
- 8.3.26 The site of Rhydding farmstead is both a recorded post-medieval house and farmstead (PRN 2630w) and also the potential site of a medieval grange farm (PRN 5278w). Development works within and around the farmstead area that involve ground disturbance or clearance of upstanding structures has the potential to reveal, damage and destroy remains associated with these sites. Removing the remaining structures, and developing the remaining fields around the former farmstead site will also greatly alter its setting. Therefore the proposed development is considered to have a major impact on PRN 2630w. The location, extent and survival of any remains associated with medieval grange PRN 5278w is not currently known, therefore the impact is unknown, although there is the potential for the proposed development to have a major impact if remains exist.
- 8.3.27 Forming much of the southwestern boundary to the proposed development is the former Rydding Canal (LPN01). This area lies just outside the limits of the proposed development, however, potential route corridors to the development, the movement of machinery and establishment of site boundaries all have the potential to reveal, damage and destroy remains of this feature. The removal of the former Rhydding farmstead and surrounding the site in urban development is also considered to affect the setting of this feature. It is anticipated however that a buffer will be maintained around this site, therefore the proposed development is considered to have a minor impact.
- 8.3.28 To the northwest lies the remains of a former post-medieval gravel pit (LPN02). This only partially lies within the proposed development area, although groundworks are likely to affect whatever remains extend into the site. It would appear likely that most of the site will not be developed, and no associated features have been identified, therefore the impact on this site is considered to be minor.
- 8.3.29 Along the northern edge of the site, but within the bounds of the proposed development, lies the site of a former post-medieval barn (LPN03). No standing remains are evident, but the extent of any below-ground remains is not currently known. It is possible that site clearance and/or ground-breaking activity in this area may reveal, disturb or destroy elements of this site, and may potentially have a major impact.
- 8.3.30 Crossing the site is the line of a former tramway or trackway (LPN04) associated with nearby coal mining activity. It is likely that levelling and other ground-breaking activity will result in the removal of remains of this feature within the bounds of the proposed development area. This would appear to represent perhaps a quarter of the full length of this route, which is considered to be a moderate impact.
- 8.3.31 To the northeast of the site lie Trawsdy, the site of a post-medieval dwelling and former coal mine (LPN05). The main complex lies outside the area of proposed

development; the only visible associated elements that may extend within and be directly affected by the development would be coal mining waste and potential access routes. Residential development is likely to alter the current rural setting of this site, although farmland and scrub will be retained to the north and east of the site. The proposed development is therefore considered to have a minor impact on this site.

- 8.3.32 Along the upper edges of the valley slopes that form the eastern boundary to the proposed development area several platforms have been identified, although only one is clearly artificial (LPN06). Due to their location within the valley slopes it would appear unlikely that these areas will be affected by development activity, therefore it is considered to have a negligible impact. This would increase if woodland clearance takes place.
- 8.3.33 The site is highlighted as an area of general archaeological potential relating to post-medieval industrial activity (LPN07), largely coal mining and the transportation of material. The greatest potential would appear to be from associated routeways, most of which are likely to be preserved in the current layout of tracks and footpaths in this area. These routes are likely to be preserved as present public rights of way, which will be retained within the development. The occurrence and extent of any further associated features is not currently known, therefore the impact cannot be fully assessed. The change from a rural setting to a residential setting is considered to be a minor indirect impact, given that the rural setting is an alteration from the industrial setting within which these features would have operated.

9 Conclusions

9.1 Physical Impacts

- 9.1.1 No Scheduled Ancient Monument or Listed Building will be directly affected by the proposed development.
- 9.1.2 No Registered Historic Landscapes, Conservation Areas or Listed Historic Parks & Gardens will be directly affected by the proposed development. The site lies within the Landmap Historic Landscape areas of Bryncoch Cilybebyll (NPTHL040), Neath Port Talbot Urban Corridor (NPTHL054) and Dulais Valley SW (NPTHL074). The development will have a minor direct and indirect (visual) impacts on Bryncoch Cilybebyll; one characteristic of this area is irregular field enclosures, and urban development does not form a character element, therefore the proposed development will have an impact, although this area is not particularly representative and is only a very small proportion of the entire landscape area. The development will have a negligible direct and indirect (visual) impact on Neath Port Talbot Urban Corridor, as this area lacks characteristic elements of this landscape, and the proposed development can be seen as a continuation of the urban nature of this landscape. The development will also have a negligible direct and indirect (visual) impact on Dulais Valley SW as the area affected does not contain significant characteristic elements of this landscape, and the proposed development will also only affect a relatively small part of this landscape.

- 9.1.3 The research highlights eight sites of archaeological interest within the proposed development area, along with a general potential for archaeological remains associated with later post-medieval industrial activity, all of which may potentially be adversely directly impacted upon by the proposed development.
- 9.1.4 The site of the former Rhydding farmstead, which lie within the southern part of the proposed development area, is recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record as a post-medieval house and farmstead (PRN 2630w) and possible medieval monastic grange (PRN 5278w). The above ground remains of the farmstead are in poor condition and appear to relate to later post-medieval activity, although the extent and antiquity of potential below-ground remains is not known.
- 9.1.5 Running alongside the former farmstead is the line of Rhydding Canal (LPN01), a feature of some importance given its potential state of preservation, local associations and lack of in depth knowledge on the site. This forms the southwestern boundary to the proposed development area, although it is likely that a buffer will be maintained to prevent adverse impacts on this site.
- 9.1.6 Several features of local importance were identified within the site, including part of a former post-medieval gravel pit (LPN02), the site of a later post-medieval barn (LPN03), the route of a 19th century tramway or trackway (LPN04) and a terraced platform with the valley slope to the east (LPN06). Alongside this a former post-medieval farmstead and colliery site (LPN05) lies adjacent to the site, elements of which may extend into the proposed development area. General activity associated with the prevalence of later post-medieval coal mining activity (LPN 07) may also occur within the proposed development area.

9.2 *Visual Impacts*

- 9.2.1 There is considered to be a negligible indirect (visual) impact on Neath Town Centre Conservation Area. The proposed development contains extensive views across this area, and can be seen as an extension of the urban setting around the Conservation Area. However, publically accessible viewpoints across Neath will be maintained, and the site will not be visible from the Conservation Area itself.
- 9.2.2 There is considered to be a minor indirect (visual) impact on The Gnoll, Grade II* listed parkland, due to the partial visibility of the site from viewpoints within the parkland. These views will be restricted however, and will not form a significant visual intrusion.
- 9.2.3 Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments, GM383 (a prehistoric standing stone) and GM549 (medieval house platforms) have distant views of the site from the west, but this impact is considered to be negligible. To the south the proposed development will have a visual impact on the current setting of the hillslopes around the site of a Roman Fort (GM215), but in the context of surrounding modern development and visual appreciation of this SAM site this is considered to be a negligible impact. One SAM, GM264 (early medieval dyke and earthwork), has distant views of the site from the east. These views are restricted and partial, and the impact is considered to be negligible.

9.2.4 Although a large number of Listed Buildings lie in the landscape around the proposed development, only six Listed Buildings may be indirectly (visually) affected by the proposed development. The Ivy Tower (LB 11768) is located on high ground within the Gnoll parkland, with views towards the site, although these are restricted by tree cover along the eastern edge of the site. No.112 Cimla Road (LB 11780) has distant, and partial, views from the southeast. The Neath River and Tennant Canal Bridge (LBs 11866, 82079 & 82090) has limited views of the site from the south. The Grange (LB 82325) has partial views of the site from the west. These views are all partial, obscured by surrounding tree-cover and not considered to be of particular significance, therefore the impact of all these views is considered to be negligible.

9.3 Mitigation

9.3.1 Where possible preservation *in situ* is advocated. Some sites lie in locations that may be avoided through appropriate design and layout. It has already been advised that a buffer should be maintained around the remains of Rydding Canal (LPN01) due to its importance in terms of biodiversity and as a drainage feature (LDP Strategic Housing Site Assessment Report 2013). Such a buffer should also ensure this feature is preserved as an important archaeological site. Similarly a terraced platform (LPN06) lies in the upper wooded slopes at the eastern end of the proposed development site. Such an area is unlikely to be developed due to its location, but care should be taken to avoid disturbing the feature through any vegetation clearance that may be carried out in this area.

9.3.2 PRN 2630w and 5278w lie in an area that is likely to see clearance and ground-breaking works associated with any development. Prior to the removal of any standing remains of the former farmstead (PRN 2630w) further recording should be undertaken of these remains, for which a photographic survey may be sufficient. The presence and extent of below-ground remains associated with both the farmstead and possible medieval grange is not known, but there is a clear potential for remains to exist. Therefore an archaeological watching brief should be maintained on any ground-breaking activity in this area.

9.3.3 Due to the potential for development work to disturb any below-ground remains associated with LPN02, LPN03, LPN04 and LPN05, as well as the general potential for post-medieval industrial activity (LPN07), then an archaeological watching brief is considered appropriate mitigation to ensure any such features are preserved through record.

9.3.4 In order to reduce the indirect (visual) impact of the proposed development on archaeological sites in the surrounding landscape then it is suggested that the recommendations made in the LDP Strategic Housing Site Assessment Report be adhered to in terms of maintaining public rights of way with an appropriate buffer zone to ensure continued outward visibility, and in addition maintaining the surrounding high vegetation, in particular the trees that border the site to the east.

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 D/D T 2265/1-2 – Rough plan of the Rheeding Farm, pre-1855
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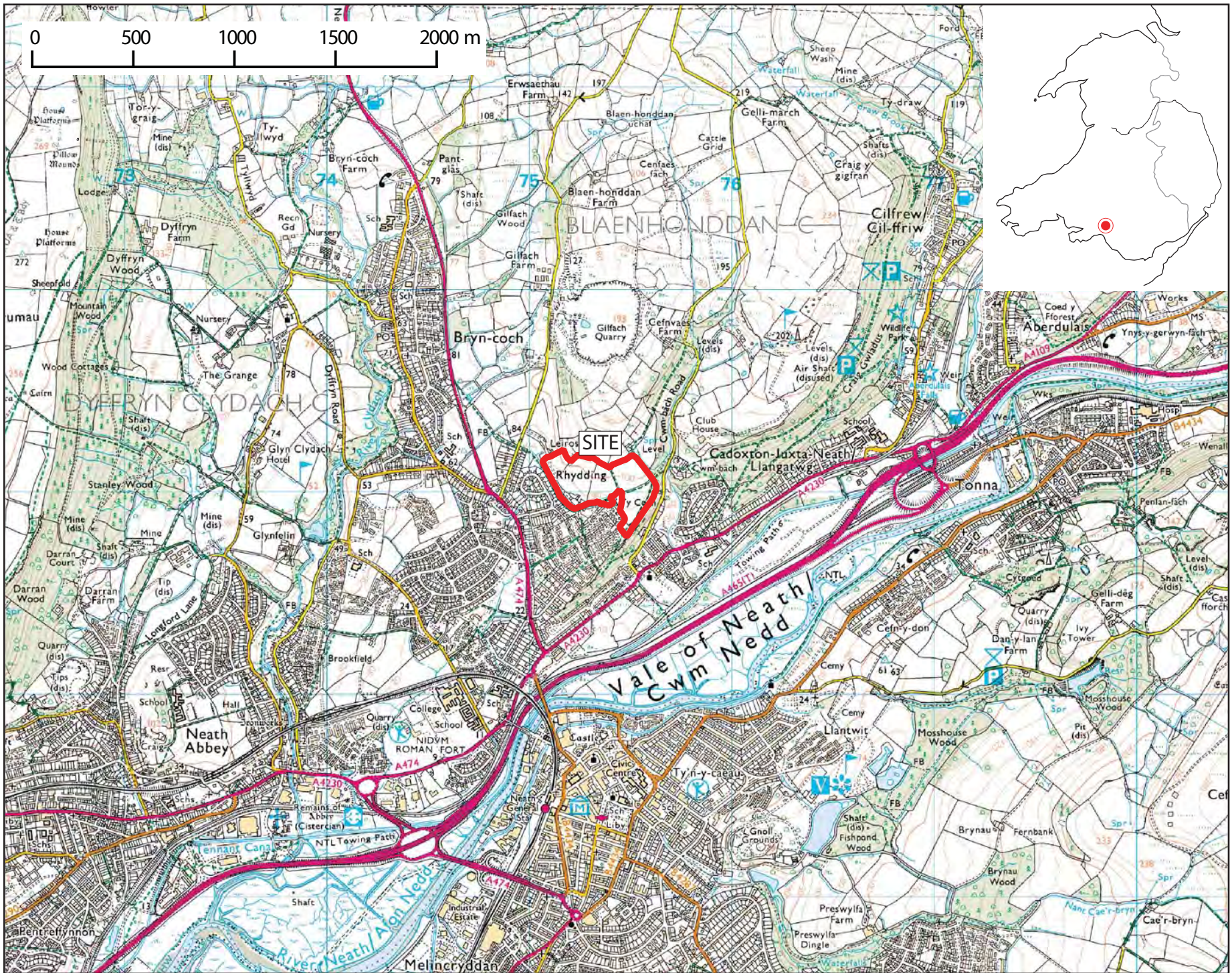


Figure 1: Location map, 1:25,000 @ A4

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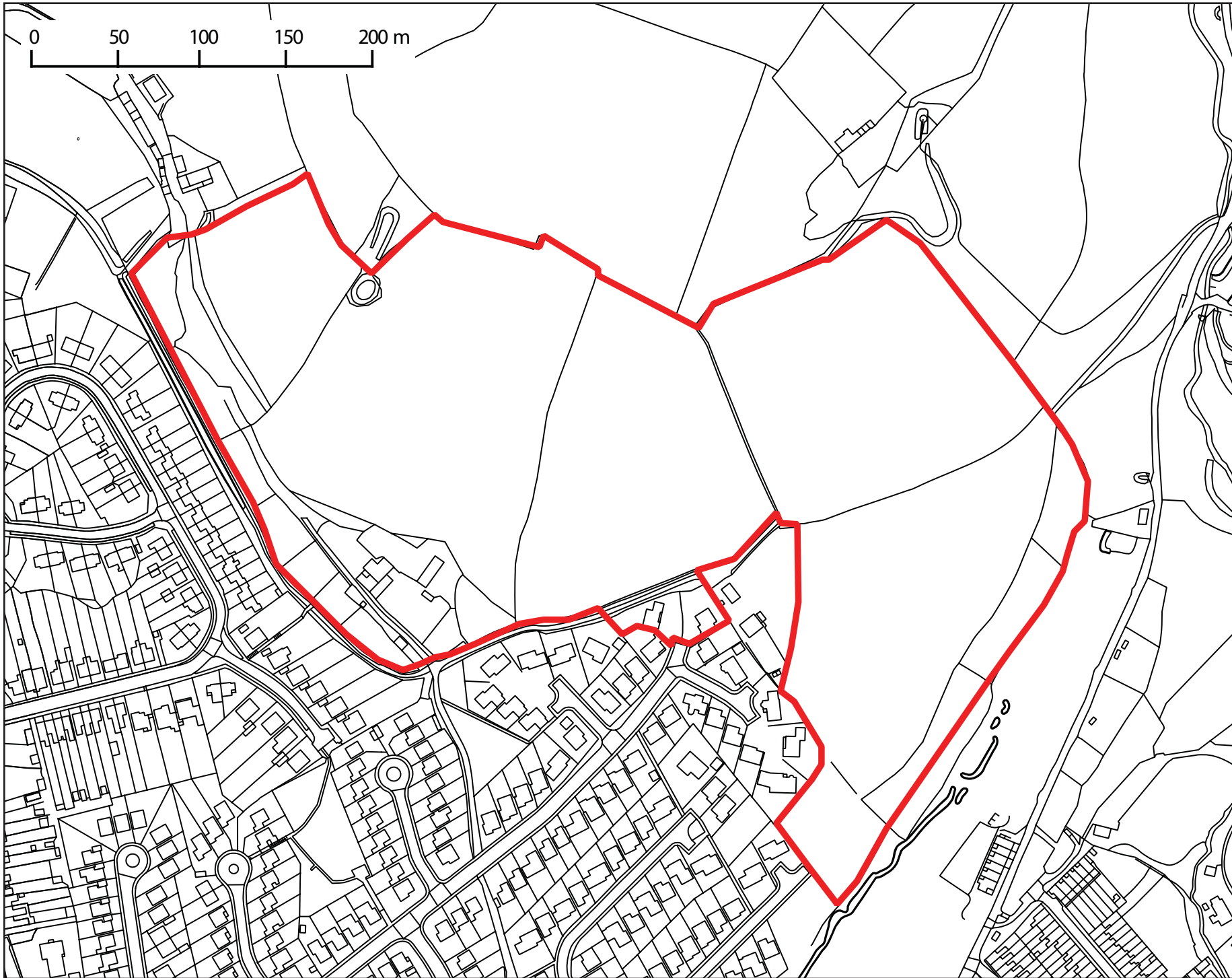
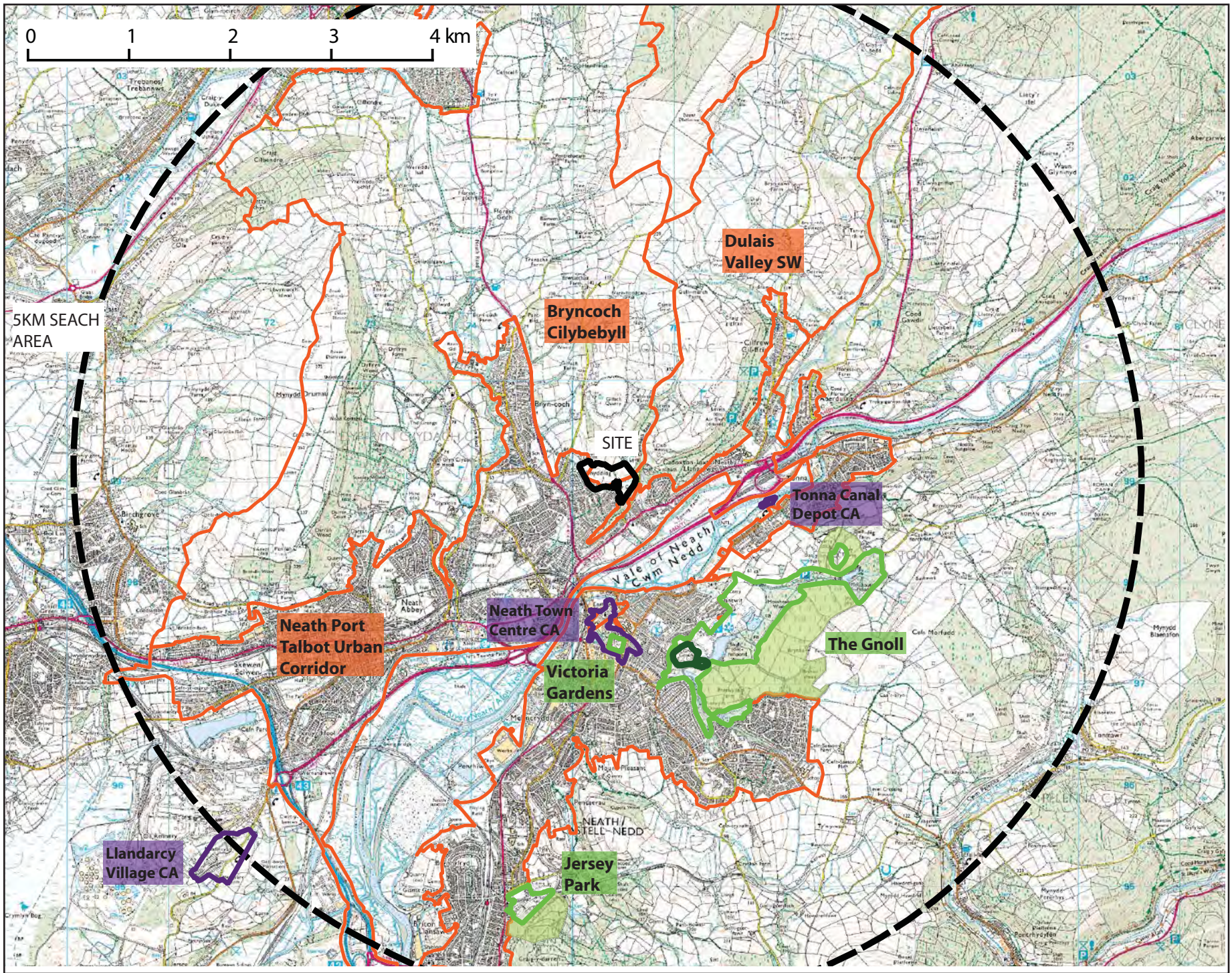


Figure 2: Site boundary plan,
1:3000 @ A4

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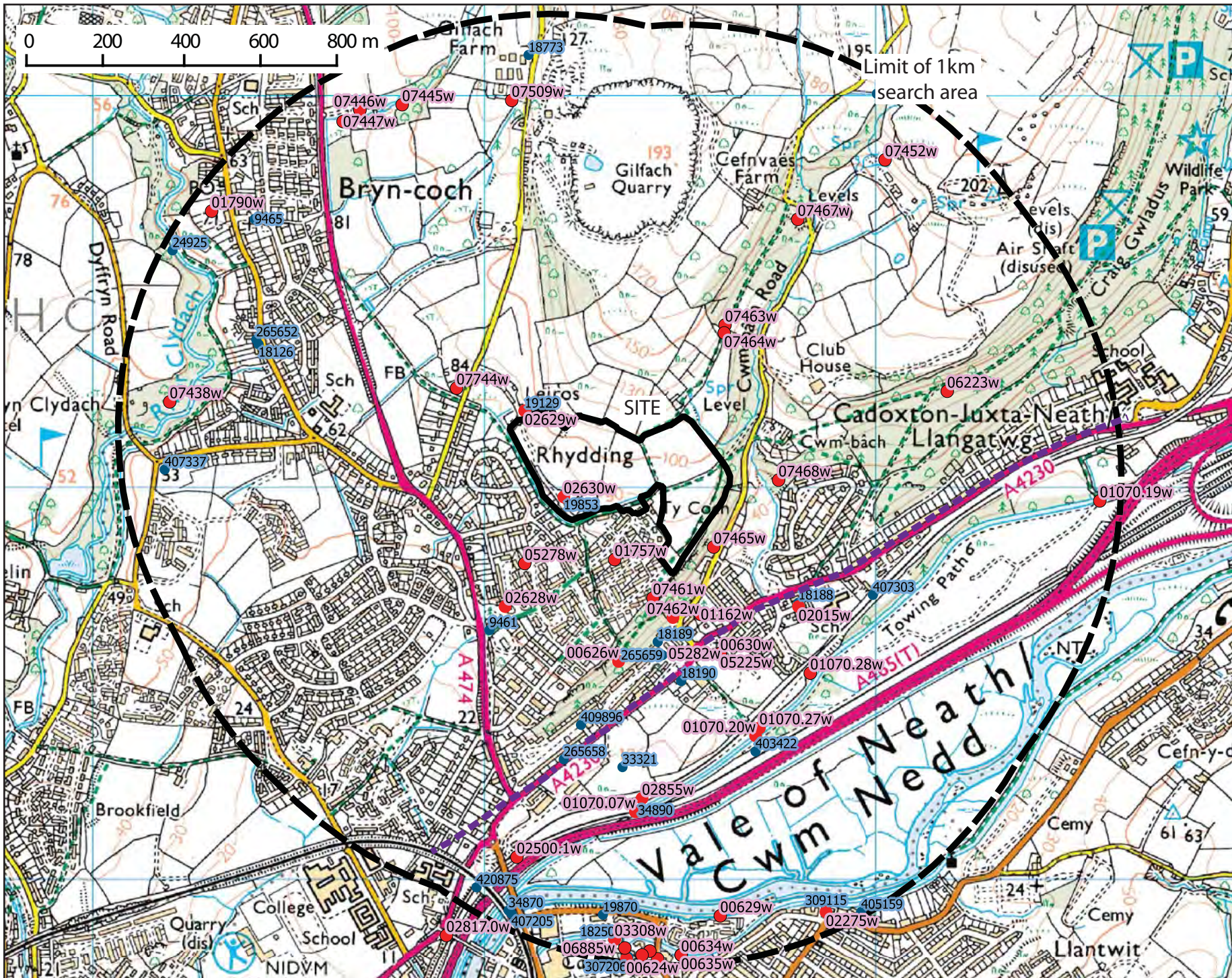
- Landmap Historic Landscape Areas
- Conservation Areas
- Registered Historic Park & Garden with essential setting

Figure 3: Designated archaeological areas and Landmap Historic Landscapes within a 5km search area around the proposed development site.

1:50,000 @ A4

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- Site recorded on the HER
- Additional site recorded on the NMR
- Projected route of Roman Road

Figure 5: Designated and non-designated archaeological sites within a 1km search area, labelled by reference numbers given in the main text.
1:12,500 @ A4

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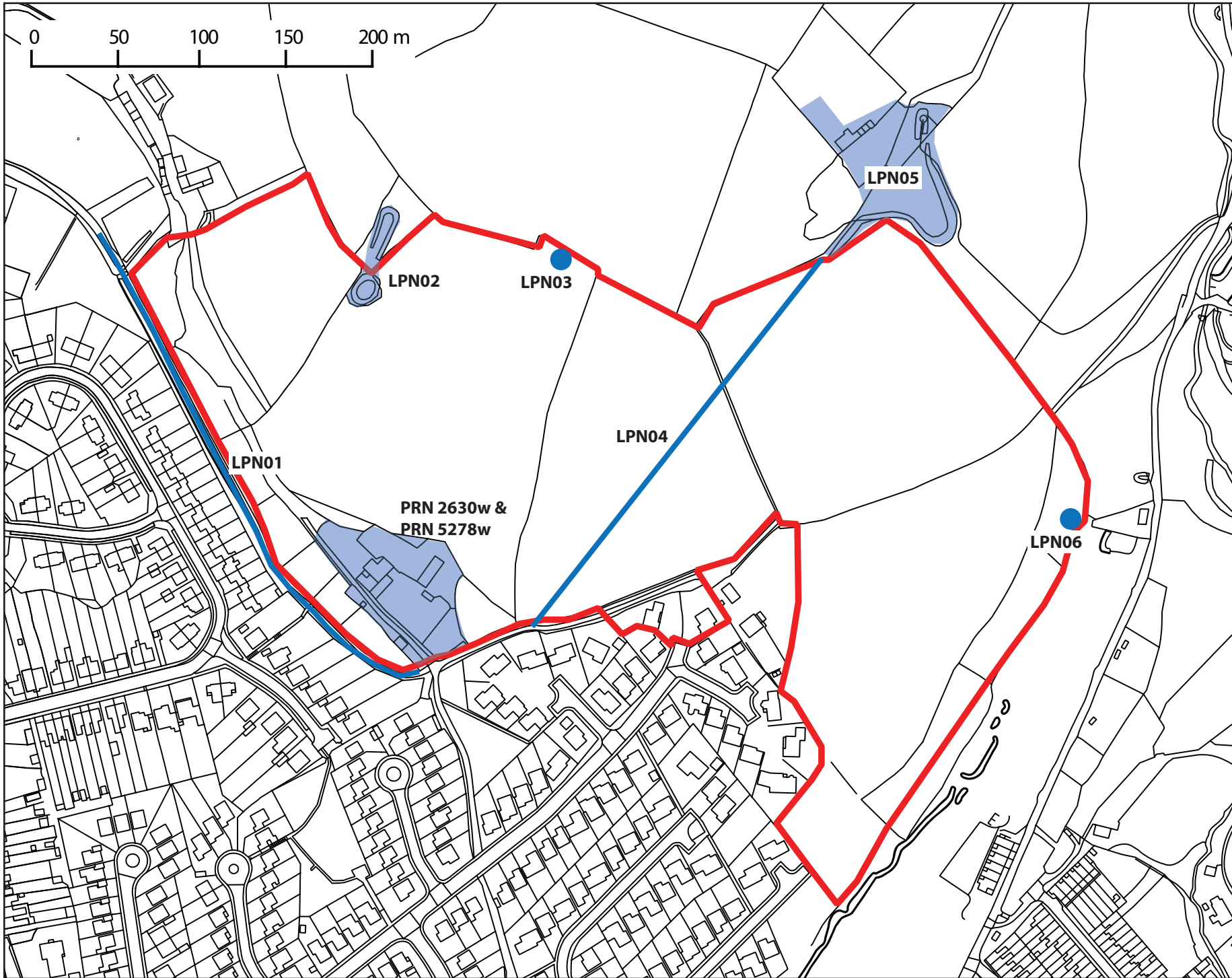


Figure 6: Sites of identified archaeological potential (in blue) within the proposed development area (in red). Sites labelled by references given in the main text.

1:3000 @ A4

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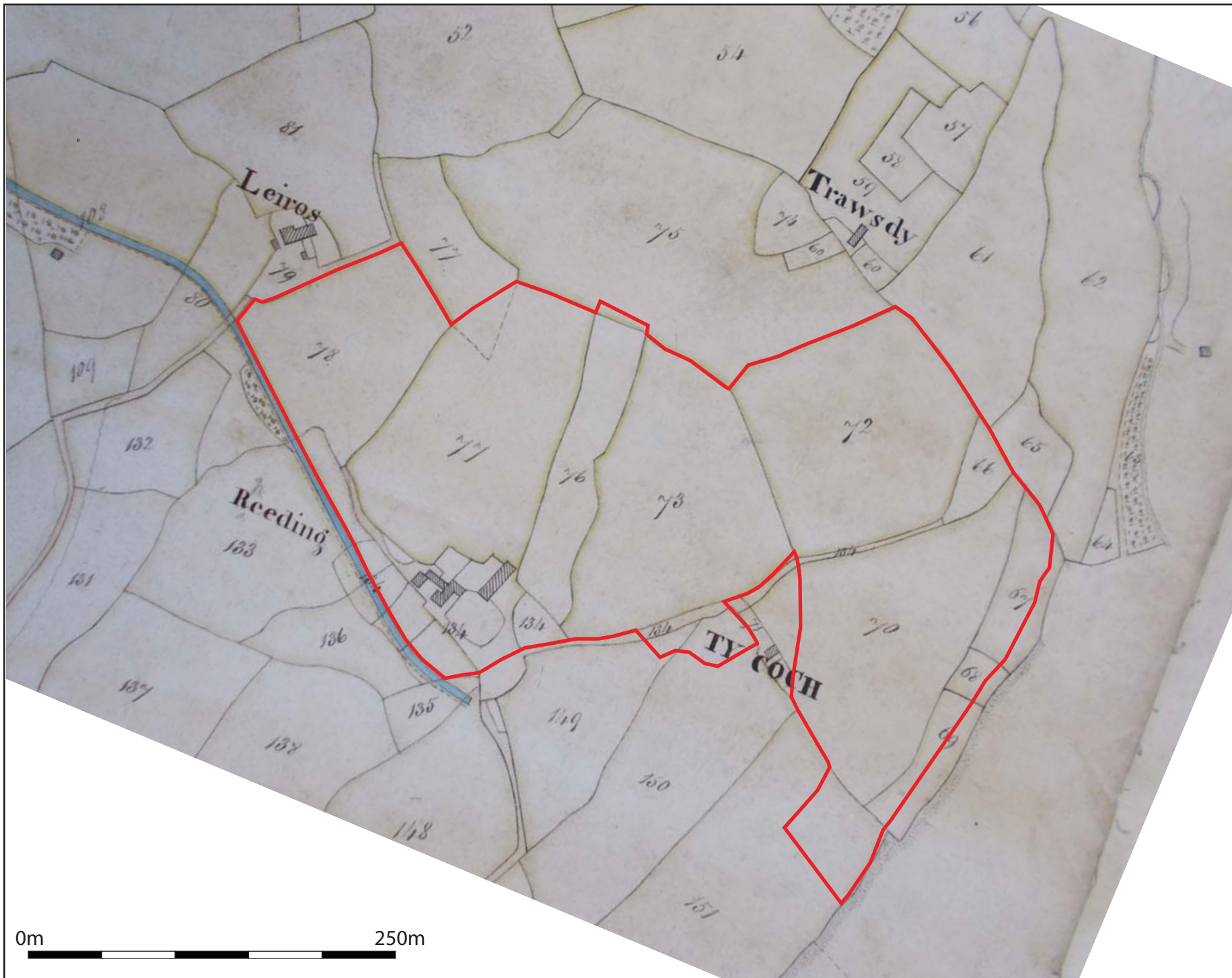


Figure 8: Extract from "Rough plan of the Rheeding" Farm, drawn up prior to 1855, possibly in circa 1814. Approximate outline of proposed development area highlighted in red.

Courtesy of Glamorgan Archives D/DT 2265/1-2

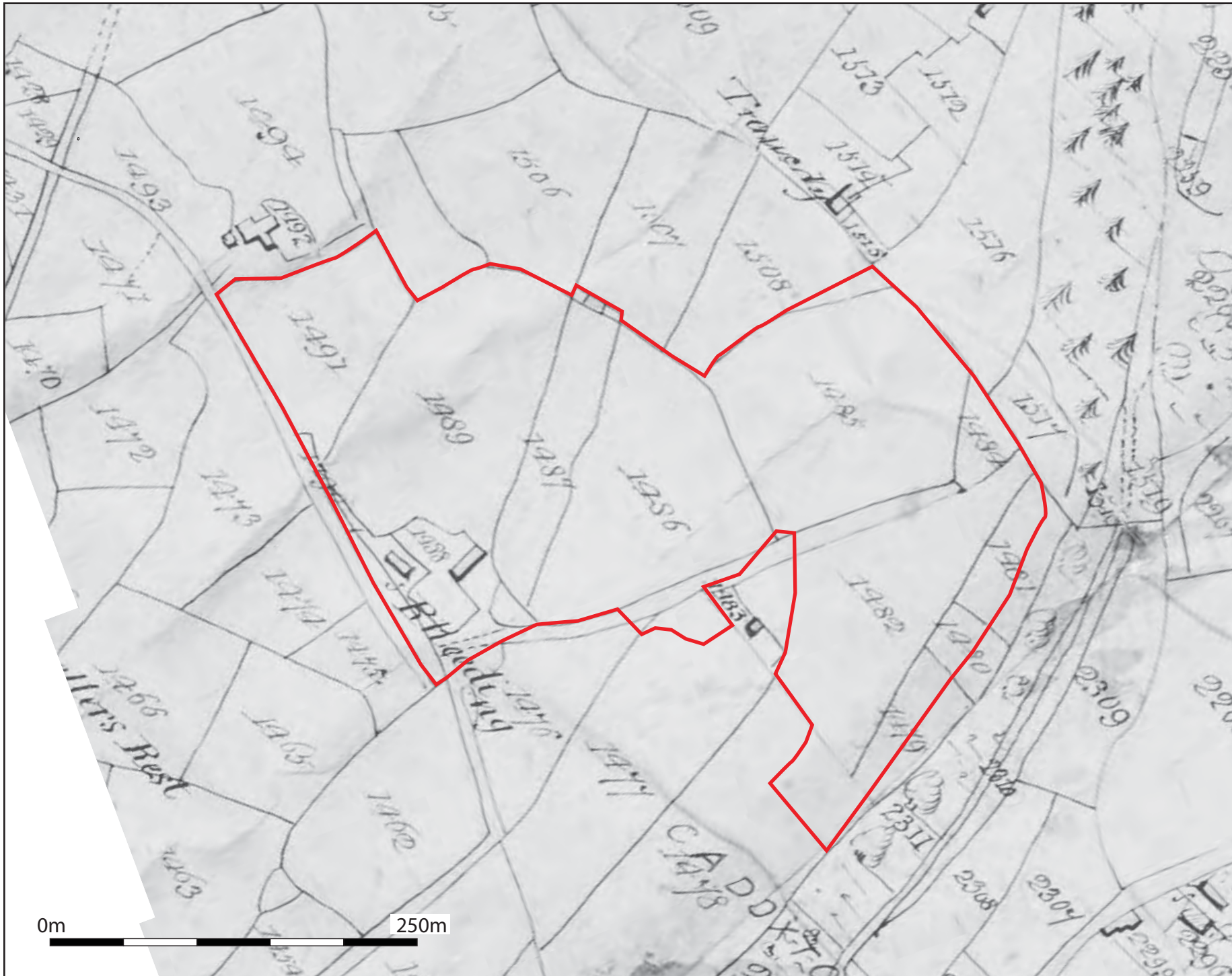


Figure 9: Extract from the Cadoxten juxta Neath parish tithe map of 1844. Approximate outline of proposed development area highlighted in red.

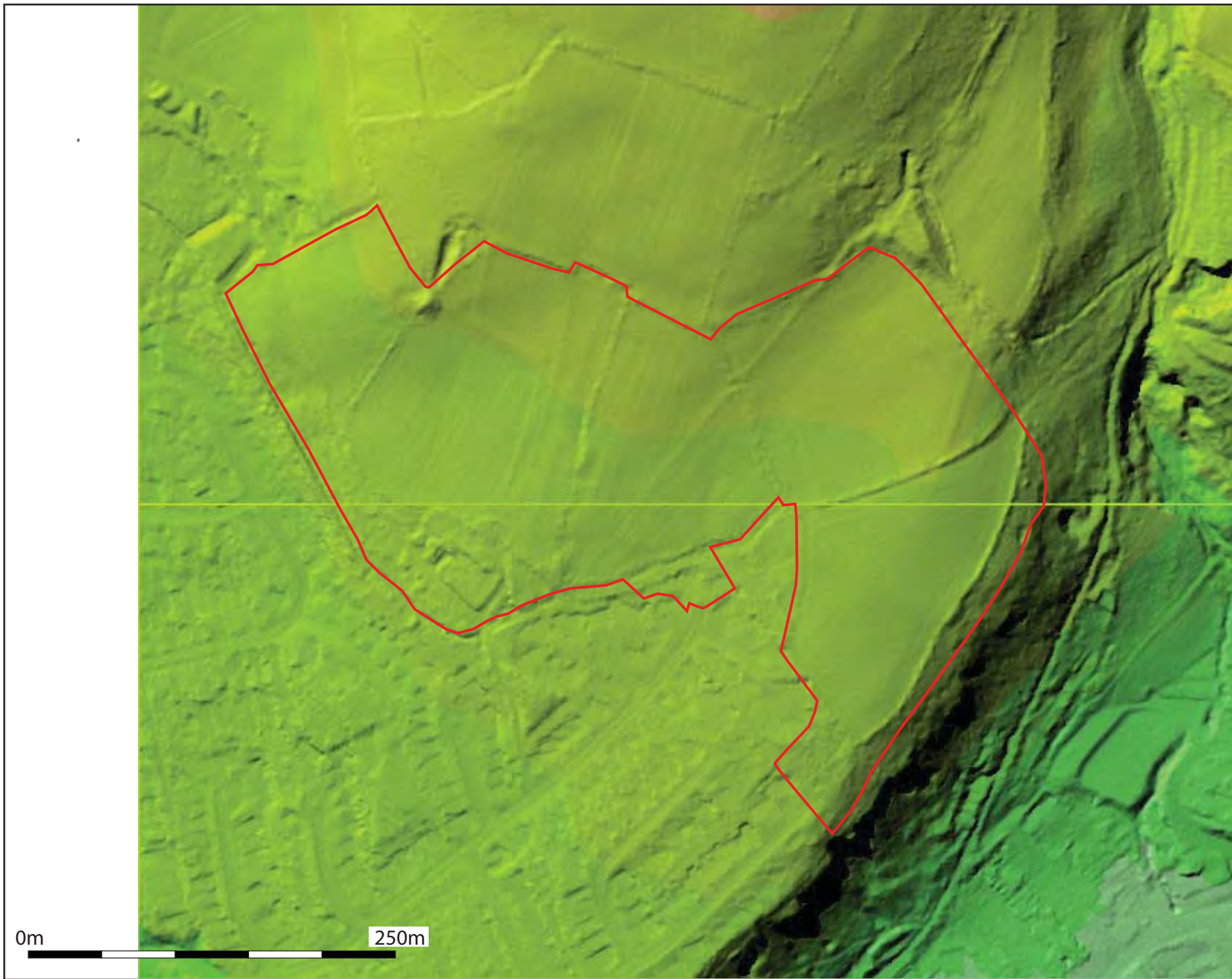


Figure 12: Lidar 1m DTM. Approximate outline of proposed development highlighted in red.

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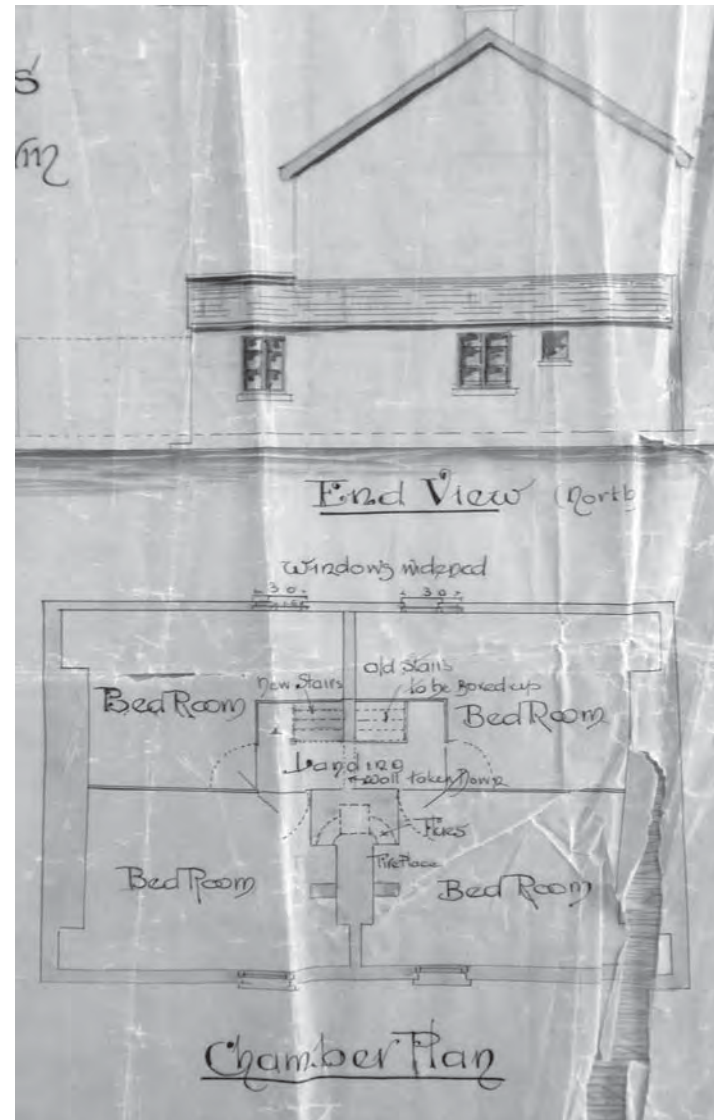
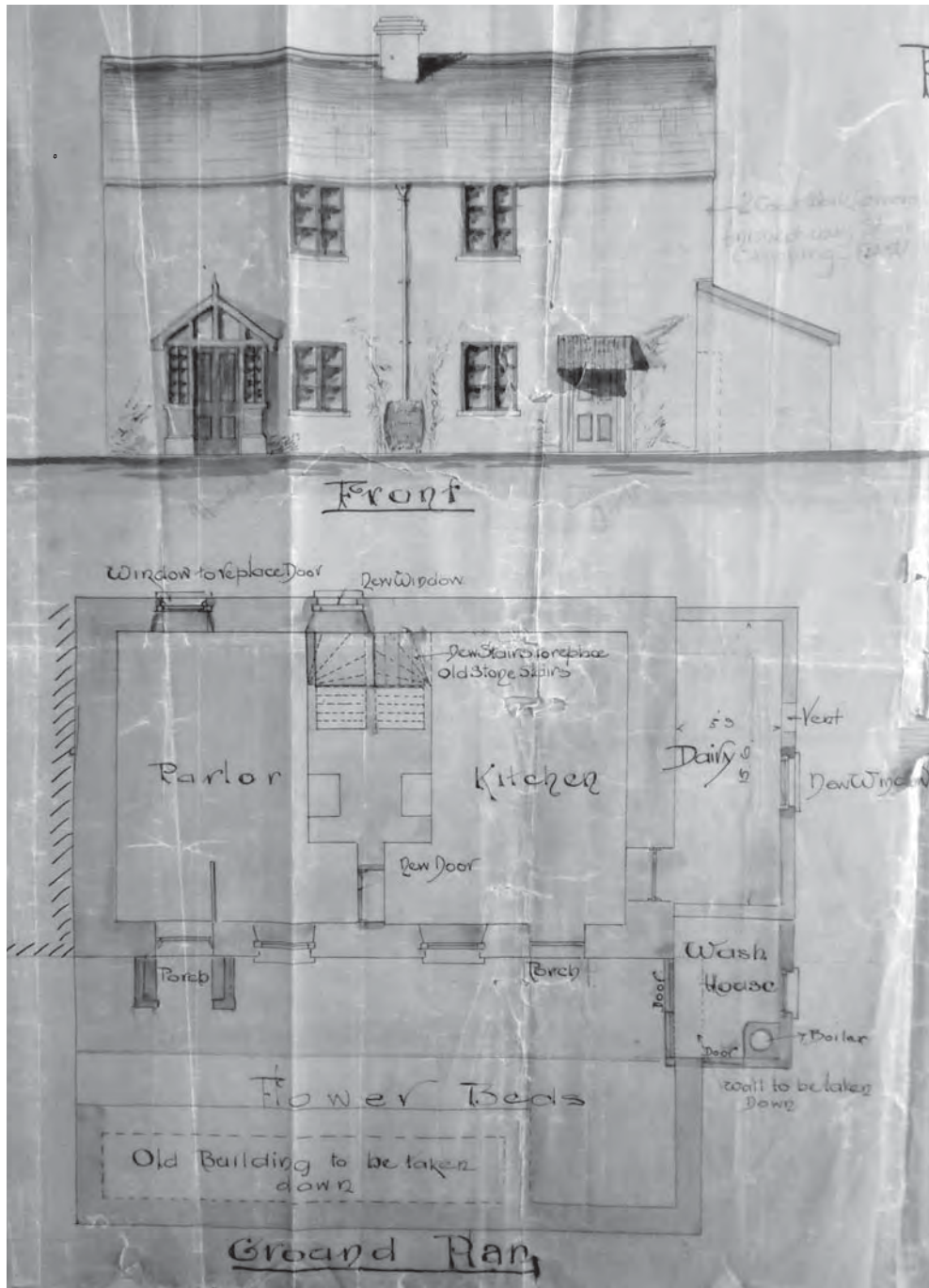


Figure 13: Extracts from "Proposed alterations at the Rhydding Farm", showing the main farmhouse, dated 1910-1920.

Courtesy of Glamorgan Archives D/D T 2278



Photo 1: Vertical aerial photograph, taken by the RAF in 1946. Approximation of site marked in red.



Photo 2: Vertical aerial photograph, taken by the RAF in 1949. Approximation of site marked in red.



Photo 3: Vertical aerial photograph, taken by the RAF in 1952. Approximation of site marked in red.



Photo 4: Vertical aerial photograph, taken by MAFF 1984. Site marked in red.



Photo 5: Photo taken from high point within proposed development area at SS 75369 99109. View North, also showing stone-built field boundary along northern boundary.



Photo 6: As above, view Northeast.



Photo 7: As above, view East. Towards The Gnoll, with Cefn Morfudd behind.



Photo 8: As above, view Southeast, incorporating Neath and Cimla in the distance.



Photo 9: As above, view South. Across Neath and down the Neath valley.



Photo 10: As above, view Southwest. Down the Neath Valley and towards Mynydd Drumau.



Photo 11: As above, view West.



Photo 12: View Southwest from within the proposed development area towards The Gnoll (Grade II* Listed Parkland), occupying the green area between the housing in the middle-distance.



Photo 13: As above, an alternative view from with the proposed development area towards The Gnoll parkland, which occupies some of the lower-level green land behind and to the left of the residential development on the right. The upland of Cefn Morfudd lies behind.



Photo 14: View southwards from proposed development area over Neath town centre and Conservation Area.



Photo 15: View West towards Mynydd Drumau, surmounted by SAM sites GM382 & GM549



Photo 16: General view of the former Rhydding Farmstead (PRN 2630w), with barn visible behind the trees.



Photo 17: Rhydding Farmstead (PRN 2630w), showing timber-framed structures fronting the former garden area (to the left).



Photo 18: View Northwest along the former Rhydding Canal (LPN01), now functioning as a drain on the right, with modern development to the left. 1m scale.



Photo 19: Stone associated with the eastern edge of the Rhydding Canal (LPN01) visible amongst the undergrowth.



Photo 20: Section of stone walling defining modern development to the right, but possibly associated with the Rhydding Canal (LPN01). 1m scale.



Photo 21: View northwest along the line of Rhydding Canal (LPN01). 1m scale.



Photo 22: View northeast along the former tramway/trackway LPN04 crossing the proposed development site. Visible as a slight earthwork, 1m scale lays across it.



Photo 23: As above, line of the route marked between arrows.



Photo 24: Remains of Trawsdy (LPN05), outside the area of proposed development. 1m scale.



Photo 25: Remains of the lower structure associated with Trawsdy (LPN05), lying outside the area of proposed development. 1m scale.



Photo 26: View of the former coal mine level, associated with Trawsdy (LPN05). Lying outside the area of proposed development.



Photo 27: View Northeast of the semi-circular platform (LPN06) cut into the upper valley slope. 1m scale.



Photo 28: Internal field boundary within the area of proposed development. 1m scale.



Photo 29: Internal field boundary within the area of proposed development. 1m scale.



Photo 30: St Cattwg's Church (LB 11767), as viewed from the base of the valley slope to the east of the proposed development area.



Photo 31: Neath Abbey (GM006), looking towards the area of proposed development (not visible).

Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX I:
HER Gazetteer

GLAMORGAN GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD ENQUIRY REPORT - CORE RECORDS

Enquiry reference number: 5232

Prepared by: C.Rouse, Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust

Produced for: Philip Poucher, Archaeology Wales

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Search criteria

Leiros Park, Neath

PRN 00624w **NAME** NEATH CASTLE **NGR** SS75369779 **COMMUNITY** Neath

TYPE Medieval, Castle, **RANK:** 1

SUMMARY *One of two castles at Neath, this one built later, circa mid-12th century on the opposite side of the river. It's defensive role continued until the mid-17th century, thereafter used for recreational activities, while slowly decaying.*

DESCRIPTION *Neath Castle occupies a strategic elevation on the east side of the Nedd river, at its lowest practicable crossing-point, about 6km NNE of its mouth. This river was tidal and navigable; the Roman road, the medieval Portway, which ran E-W across the lowlands, crossed the Nedd at this point. An earlier castle was first raised by Richard de Glanville in the 1120s, situated across the river, 600m west, within or close to a Roman fort, which had been dismantled by 1207. This second castle is not documented until mentioned in records dated 1183. It was destroyed during the 'Dispenser War' in 1321, repaired in 1377, and continued to be used until the mid-17th century. By the 18th century the castle had become a recreational area, while the 19th century saw the castle largely hemmed in by industrial cottages set against its walls, except on the north flank where a Quaker's graveyard impeded such encroachments. Excavations by Neath Antiquarian Society of a building lying inside the N curtain wall and abutting the N tower of the C14th gate. Total length of bldg 45ft, found C14th floor. Cock-pit uncovered. See also GGAT field evaluation assessment 1993 and watching brief 1994*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Damaged **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:** 1992

STATUS *scheduled ancient monument GM039 , listed building 11775 II**

CROSS REFERENCES *Same as 94528 GGATE003723, GGATE003722*

SOURCES

GGAT Assessment of Neath Castle

GGAT watching brief Neath Castle

01/PM Desc Text/RCAHM/Invent III 1b/LM11

02/PM Note/Brooksby H/1972/Arch in Wales/no45 p31

05/PM Note/1973/Manning WH/Arch in Wales pp41 no56

04/PM Note/1971/Arch in Wales/no59 p28

03/PM Note/1970/Arch in Wales/no40

08/Desc Text/Cadw/ Full Management Report/2005/Copy in further information file

PRN 00626w NAME *Bronze Spearhead* NGR SS75349855 COMMUNITY *Blaenhonddan*
TYPE *Bronze Age, Spear*, RANK: 1
SUMMARY *bronze spearhead*

DESCRIPTION *bronze spearhead*

CONDITION

CONDITION: *Near intact* DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

PRN 00629w NAME *Medieval weir* NGR SS756979 COMMUNITY *Neath*
TYPE *Medieval, Weir*, RANK: 1
SUMMARY *The site of a medieval weir.*

DESCRIPTION *The site of a medieval weir.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: *Damaged* DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - - GGATE001313, GGATE001377

SOURCES

Dunning, R and Howell, J 2005 Waterfronts in southeast Wales: Phase 2, Volume 2, gazetteer 2062

PRN 00630w NAME *ST CATWG'S CHURCH AT CADOXTON-JUXTA-NEATH* NGR SS75609857 COMMUNITY *Blaenhonddan*
TYPE *Medieval, Church*, RANK: 1

SUMMARY *The church of Cadoxton-juxta-Neath is first recorded in 1254. The tower, which has an Early English door and Decorated windows, is the only part of the church to retain datable medieval masonry; the rest of the church has been rebuilt in the Victorian period (or refaced and refenestrated since the nave roof is earlier).*

DESCRIPTION *The church of Cadoxton-juxta-Neath is first recorded in 1254 (Lunt (ed) 1926, 323), though the dedication to St Cadoc, which is confirmed by Merrick (ed James 1908), may be an indication of a pre-Norman foundation, as may the largely curvilinear shape of the churchyard revealed on the tithe map of 1841 (WGAS P/71/3). The church consists of nave, separate chancel, N aisle, W tower-porch and vestry against the N side of the chancel, with a boiler room against its E side. There originally seems to have been a rood loft, as evidenced by the fact that the wallplates in the nave stop short of the E end. The building is constructed from the local Pennant sandstone, with Sutton stone dressings to the remaining medieval openings, and Bath stone dressings to the Victorian parts of the church. Only the tower obviously retains masonry from the Middle Ages, the nave and chancel showing all the signs of having been rebuilt in the Victorian period, but since the nave roof predates the 19th century, it seems reasonable to suppose that the walls of the nave at least has been refaced rather than rebuilt. The earliest feature in the tower is the Early English W door; the Decorated window above has clearly is inserted, and probably goes with the windows of the upper stage, though it is doubtful whether this should be taken as indicating that the upper stage is an addition. An interesting feature of this tower is the form of the lower stage of the W facade, which has a recessed panel with the door and window between what are in effect two battered buttresses. This is also found in the neighbouring parishes of Cilybebyll and Llantwit-juxta-Neath. A document of 1593 mentions 'the steeple' (Taylor 1933, 6), but this does not necessarily imply that there was ever a spire. Major campaigns of rebuilding took place in 1843-44 and 1871. When Glynne (1801, 247) visited the church in 1869, he noted that it was 'almost completely modernised, save the tower', with 'a spacious nave and chancel, but no aisles. However, there is evidence to indicate that the N aisle was added in 1843-4, and it may be that he was referring to its medieval form as being aisleless. The church was in need of repair by 1842, in which year a faculty (NLW LL/F/98) was sought to demolish the church completely, on the grounds that it was impracticable to repair it, and to rebuild in early 19th century simplified gothic style with two aisles, galleries, a short chancel and W tower-porch. There was considerable opposition however from some of the congregation who maintained not only that the church was in a much better structural condition than was alleged by the promoters of total rebuilding scheme and was not a drain on the resources of the parish (rebuilding estimated at a minimum of £2,000 and repair at £350-500), but also that it was 'worthy of preservation as a Monument of Ecclesiastical Architecture' and should not be demolished 'unless under some stringent and overriding necessity the existence of which [was] entirely denied in the present instance'. It would appear that this faculty was not granted, since in the following year another faculty (NLW LL/F/99) was issued to allow the medieval building 'to be put into complete repair and enlarged by the erection of an additional aisle'. This is borne out by the structural evidence. Examination of its*

outer walls of the church shows that there are two phases in the fenestration, with the single Y-traceried window in the N wall of the aisle (the same as those in the S wall of the nave) as the earlier type, and that there seems originally to have been a door in the W wall of the aisle, and possibly also a N door in the second bay from the W in its N wall; one or both of these doors may have been for the gallery which was removed in 1872. Newman (1995, 165) dates the E window stylistically to around 1860, and most of the windows, the chancel arch and probably the arcade of the N aisle to 1871. The organ chamber was enlarged in 1883 (Tucker, nd, 171) There is a medieval cross slab mounted on the N wall of the chancel. There is also a large collection of wall tablets of dates ranging from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Of these the most interesting are the three in the vestry, one an 18th century brass with a long genealogical inscription (Anon, 1866), and the other two painted on boards, one dating to the 17th century and the other to the 18th; the chancel has a couple of heraldic plaques on its S wall. Otherwise the internal fittings are Victorian or later. Raven (1878, 266) and Taylor (1937, 4) noted three bells of 1770 by Thomas Bayley of Bridgwater; a further three were added in 1898 (Tucker, nd, 171). BIBLIOGRAPHY Published and printed Anon, 1866, Williams of Dyffrin-Clydach, Neath, Archaeol Cambrensis 5 ser 3, 315- Crossley, F H, and Ridgway, M H, 1959, Screens, lofts and stalls situated in Wales and Monmouthshire. Part nine, Section XII: Glamorganshire, Archaeol Cambrensis 107, 72-108 (77) Glynne, S R, 1901, Notes on the older churches in the four Welsh dioceses: Diocese of Llandaff. Glamorgan Archaeol Cambrensis 6 ser 1, 224-78 (247) Green, C A H, 1906-7, Notes on churches in the diocese of Llandaff, 94 Lunt, W E (ed), 1926, The valuation of Norwich. Oxford Merrick, R, (ed B L James), 1983, Morganiae archaio-graphia. South Wales Record Society 1 Newman, J, 1995, The buildings of Wales: Glamorgan, 42, 165 Taylor, G A, 1933, A Cadoxton-Aberpergwm dispute of 16th century, Trans Neath Antiq Soc, 2 ser 3, 5-7 Tucker, K, nd, Chronicle of Cadoxton. Neath: Historical projects Raven, J J, 1873, The prospects of Welsh campanology, Archaeol Cambrensis, 4 ser 4, 264-73 (270) Documentary and manuscript GIRO P/71/CW/1-2 1841 Case for the opinion of Dr Howard Elphinstone that vestry meeting held 18th Oct 1841, for purpose of levying rate for rebuilding and enlarging of parish church, was invalid P/71/CW/3 1841 Vestry meeting, at which it was agreed that parish church could be enlarged and repaired for £500 P/71/CW/4 1841 Appeal for enlargement and repair of parish church, with list of subscribers P/71/CW/5 1841 Notices in press on application for faculty to take down and rebuild P/71/CW/6 1842 Statement of objections to faculty. NLW LL/F/98 1842 Faculty: Demolition of church and erection of new church LL/F/99 1843 Faculty: Repair of church and addition of aisle LL/F/101 1872 Faculty: Reflooring and reseating and other alterations LL/F/101X 1872 Faculty: Reflooring and reseating and other alterations LL/F/102 1882 Faculty: Alteration of organ chamber LL/F/102X 1882 Faculty: Alteration of organ chamber LL/F/103 1928 Faculty: Choir stalls and panelling LL/F/104 1929 Faculty: Children's corner WGAS D/DZ 114/1 1991 History of St Catwg's Church, Cadoxton-juxta-Neath, the oldest church in the Vale of Neath (K Tucker) P/71/3 1841 Tithe map NMR Kay (various) 1 ser II, 212, 259; 2 ser II, 359; IV 743-5 Evans 1998 GGAT 51 Historic Churches Project

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 2004

STATUS listed building 11767 II*

CROSS REFERENCES - - GGATE001386

SOURCES

Evans, E M 2003 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical sites in Southeast Wales: Desk based assessment 1317 Report Evans, E M 1998 Glamorgan Historic Churches Survey: Churches in north-western Glamorgan Evans EM, 2003-04, GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project EM Evans (1998) GGAT 51/81 Welsh Historic Churches Survey: Glamorgan and Gwent

PRN 00634w NAME Medieval water mill NGR SS755978 COMMUNITY Neath

TYPE Medieval, Water mill, RANK: 1

SUMMARY Manorial Watermill can be found on W. Rees map (1932). Small building shown on 1st edition map at this location may possibly be a mill (1877). By the time of second publication (1899) building no longer survives.

DESCRIPTION Manorial Watermill can be found on W. Rees, South Wales and the border in the 14th Century (1932). Small building shown on 1st edition map at this location may possibly be a mill (1877). By the time of second publication (1899) building no longer survives.

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES - - GGATE001377

SOURCES

South Wales and the border in the 14th century (1932) SE sheet (W. Rees)
OS 1st edition map, (1877)
OS 2nd edition map, (1899)

PRN 00635w NAME Chapel/Religious house? NGR SS755978 COMMUNITY Neath

TYPE Medieval, Chapel, RANK: 1

SUMMARY *Marked on Rees's map as a chapel appropriated to a religious house (OS card SS 79 NE 28).*

DESCRIPTION *Marked on Rees's map of South Wales and the Borders in the 14th century as a chapel appropriated to a religious house (OS card SS 79 NE 28). But the map actually shows this as being on the other side of the River Neath. Evans 2003: GGAT 73 Early-Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project database*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 2004

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Evans EM, 2003-04, GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project

PRN 01027.0w **NAME** *Neath Canal (Linear Feature)* **NGR** SS7341494060,

SN8825306360 **COMMUNITY** *Briton Ferry*

TYPE *Post-Medieval, Canal, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *The Neath and Tennant (01070.0w) Canals provided twenty one miles of waterway from Aberdulais to Swansea and from Glynneath to Briton Ferry. The two canals were built separately, the Neath under Acts of Parliament of 1791 and 1793.*

DESCRIPTION *The Neath and Tennant (01070.0w) Canals provided twenty one miles of waterway from Aberdulais to Swansea and from Glynneath to Briton Ferry. The two canals were built separately, the Neath under Acts of Parliament of 1791 and 1793. These waterways were vital to the industrial development of the Vale of Neath in the days before the railways. With their locks, bridges and associated buildings, the canals, which are currently being restored by the Neath and Tennant Canals Preservation Society, form both an important tourist attraction and major educational resource. (01)*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1997

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *Associated with 01027 decimals, Associated with 2860w, Associated with 556w, Associated with 559w, Associated with 3292w, Associated with 5296w, Associated with 1982w, Associated with 1027.13w, Associated with 02500.0m, Associated with 1070.0w GGATE001314, GGATE001377, GGATE001074, GGATE002286*

SOURCES

Report Wilkinson, P.F. and Owen John, H.S.. 1989 The A465 Aberdulais-Glynneath Improvement 8 78-89/01

Digital photographs N Maylan 2007 Digital photographs (87) HERP2138.1-87

01/Pm Desc Text/A465 Aberdulais - Glynneath Improvement: Archaeological Assessment/GGAT 1989/GGAT SMR

Report Archive

02/map/OS/1880

PRN 01039.1m **NAME** *Pontwalby Power Operated 2 Stage Incline* **NGR** SN925075,

SN891065 **COMMUNITY** *Hirwaun*

TYPE *Post-Medieval, Tramway, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *Tramway incline that runs 800m west from Deri Hir and built as part of the Cefn Rhigos Tramroad in 1803-5, with the objective to connect the ironworks at Aberdare with the Neath Canal and used by a high-pressure steam-engine.*

DESCRIPTION *Tramway incline on the Cefn Rhigos Tramroad (also known as Tappender's Tramroad (Van Laun 2001)). It is a 800m long tramway incline running west from Deri Hir and built as part of the Cefn Rhigos Tramroad in 1803-5, with the objective to connect the ironworks at Aberdare with the Neath Canal. It was used by a Trevithick high-pressure steam-engine. The site of the engine-house is at the end of the incline, now as a sunken earthwork (HUGHES S. 1990). This section was more or less abandoned after the opening of the Aberdare canal and extension of the eastern section and comprises and now survives as a minor track. The NW section run towards an old railway (OS map 1877), and survives as a rough cobbled stone surface through a wooded area. However, in some parts it is overgrown or littered by trees. Then, the tramroad doesn't survive until SN89310650, where it is a section that may survive but with unknown condition as it lies within private land (ROBERTS R. and JONES C. 2006).*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Damaged DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1998

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *Associated with 03225.1m GGATE001996*

SOURCES

Roberts, R. Jones, C. 2006 *Southeast Wales Industrial Ironworks Landscape Year 2: transport networks*
MM MENTION//NMW//1983/HIRWAUN & DISTRICT PLAN/SITES OF INDUST ARCH INTEREST*
ROBERTS R. and JONES C., 2006, GGAT report 2006/013, Project GGAT 80, Southeast Wales
Industrial Ironworks Landscapes, p.147 ; 160-1
HUGHES S., 1990, *The Archaeology of an early Railway System, The Brecon Forest Tramroads*, RCAHMW, p.316

PRN 01070.07w **NAME** BRIDGE OVER TENNANT CANAL,
NEATH **NGR** SS7538398166 **COMMUNITY** Blaenhonddan
TYPE Post-Medieval, Canal bridge, **RANK:** 1
SUMMARY Canal bridge, with iron balustrades. Associated structure with Tennant Canal.

DESCRIPTION Canal bridge, with iron balustrades. Associated structure with Tennant Canal.

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:** 1995

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES Associated with 2850w, Associated with 2860w GGATE001377

SOURCES

Digital photographs N Maylan 2007 Digital photographs (87) HERP2138.1-87
01/map/OS/1877

PRN 01070.19w **NAME** Site name not known **NGR** SS76579896 **COMMUNITY** Blaenhonddan
TYPE Post-Medieval, Canal bridge, **RANK:** -
SUMMARY Over bridge taking a track across the Tennant Canal.

DESCRIPTION Over bridge taking a track across the Tennant Canal.

CONDITION

CONDITION: DESCRIPTION: - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Digital photographs N Maylan 2007 Digital photographs (87) HERP2138.1-87

PRN 01070.20w **NAME** Bridge over Tennant Canal SE of church of St
Cattwg **NGR** SS75699836 **COMMUNITY** Blaenhonddan
TYPE Post-Medieval, Canal bridge, **RANK:** -
SUMMARY Over bridge taking a track across the Tennant Canal.

DESCRIPTION Over bridge taking a track across the Tennant Canal.

CONDITION

CONDITION: DESCRIPTION: - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS Listed building 82078 II

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Digital photographs N Maylan 2007 Digital photographs (87) HERP2138.1-87

PRN 01070.27w **NAME** Staithe adjacent to the Tennant Canal at
Cadoxton **NGR** SS75709838 **COMMUNITY** Blaenhonddan
TYPE Post-Medieval, Staithe, **RANK:** -
SUMMARY Staithe adjacent to the bridge over the Tennant Canal SE of the church of St Cattwg, Cadoxton.

DESCRIPTION Staithe adjacent to the bridge over the Tennant Canal SE of the church of St Cattwg, Cadoxton.

CONDITION

CONDITION: Intact **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:** 2014

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Digital photographs N Maylan 2007 Digital photographs (87) HERP2138.1-87

PRN 01070.28w **NAME** *Site name not known* **NGR** SS75839852 **COMMUNITY** *Blaenhonddan*
TYPE *Post-Medieval, , RANK: -*
SUMMARY *Dressed stone construction adjacent to the Tennant Canal.*

DESCRIPTION *Dressed stone construction adjacent to the Tennant Canal.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Digital photographs N Maylan 2007 Digital photographs (87) HERP2138.1-87

PRN 01162w **NAME** *CADOXTON VICARAGE* **NGR** SS75559867 **COMMUNITY** *Blaenhonddan*
TYPE *Post-Medieval, Vicarage, RANK: 1*
SUMMARY *The site comprises a Post-medieval vicarage entitled Cadoxton Vicarage situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

DESCRIPTION *The site comprises a Post-medieval vicarage entitled Cadoxton Vicarage situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Intact DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

PRN 01757w **NAME** *FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE* **NGR** SS75339881 **COMMUNITY** *Blaenhonddan*
TYPE *Post-Medieval, Chapel, RANK: 1*
SUMMARY *The site comprises a Post-medieval chapel entitled Friends Meeting House situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

DESCRIPTION *The site comprises a Post-medieval chapel entitled Friends Meeting House situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *Same as 9451*

SOURCES

PRN 01759w **NAME** *MALTHOUSE* **NGR** SS75449779 **COMMUNITY** *Neath*
TYPE *Post-Medieval, Malt house, RANK: 1*
SUMMARY *The site comprises a Post-medieval malt house situated within the community of Neath. No further information is currently available.*

DESCRIPTION *The site comprises a Post-medieval malt house situated within the community of Neath. No further information is currently available.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

PRN 01760w **NAME** *Mill, Neath* **NGR** *SS75429781* **COMMUNITY** *Neath*

TYPE *Post-Medieval, Mill, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *The site comprises a Post-medieval mill situated within the community of Neath. No further information is currently available.*

DESCRIPTION *The site comprises a Post-medieval mill situated within the community of Neath. No further information is currently available.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: *Not known* **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

PRN 01790w **NAME** *HIGHBURY BRYNCOCH* **NGR** *SS743997* **COMMUNITY** *Blaenhonddan*

TYPE *Bronze Age, Axe, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *Bronze flat axe*

DESCRIPTION *bronze flat axe*

CONDITION

CONDITION: *Moved* **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

PRN 02015w **NAME** *CADOXTON LODGE* **NGR** *SS75809869* **COMMUNITY** *Blaenhonddan*

TYPE *Post-Medieval, House, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *The site comprises a Post-medieval house entitled Cadoxton Lodge situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

DESCRIPTION *The site comprises a Post-medieval house entitled Cadoxton Lodge situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: *Destroyed* **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:** 1983

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

01/pm desc text/RCAHM//1981/Invent IV 1/no33 p277-81

PRN 02250w **NAME** *THE LATT, NEATH (QUAKER MEETING HOUSE)* **NGR** *SS7535697818* **COMMUNITY** *Neath*

TYPE *Post-Medieval, Ecclesiastical building, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *The Friends' Meeting House in Neath, known as 'The Latt', was constructed in 1799, and is a plain building in the local sandstone rubble with a hipped roof. Associated with Josiah Tregelles Price, one of the founder members of the Peace Society.*

DESCRIPTION *The Friends' Meeting House in Neath, known as 'The Latt', was constructed in 1799 within the precinct of Neath Castle (PRN 00624w). It is associated with Josiah Tregelles Price, owner and manager of Neath Abbey ironworks and active in the 19th century pacifist movement as one of the founder members of the Peace*

Society. It is an unpretentious building constructed of coursed rubble in the local sandstone with brick dressings to the openings, and a hipped roof oriented north-south in slate. The burial ground is to the east, enclosed by a wall with an arched opening within a simple pediment, attached to the northeast corner of the meeting house. The north wall of the meeting house, facing the street, has no openings. The entrance is in the east wall (through the burial ground), via a flat-roofed lobby at its south end. To the north of the lobby are two large sash windows with slightly-segmental arched heads. There is another, rather smaller window of similar design to the lobby; a fourth, truncated, window, is situated above the lobby and just below the eaves of the main part of the building. There is a second, small entrance at the north end of the east wall.

CONDITION

CONDITION: Restored DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1987

STATUS *listed building 11788 II*

CROSS REFERENCES *Same as 9451, Associated with 00624w*

SOURCES

Digital photographs N Maylan 2007 Digital photographs (87) HERP2138.1-87

Book Newman, J 1995 The Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan

01/mm desc text/Cadw//1987/Listed Building List/

PRN *02268w* **NAME** *Pill Box, Neath* **NGR** *SS754978* **COMMUNITY** *Neath*

TYPE *Modern, Pill box, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *The site comprises a Modern pill box situated within the community of Neath. No further information is currently available.*

DESCRIPTION *The site comprises a Modern pill box situated within the community of Neath. No further information is currently available.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Intact DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1987

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *- -*

SOURCES

01/pm list/Wills H/1985/Pillboxes a study of uk defences 1940/p74-5

PRN *02275w* **NAME** *THE OLD WORKHOUSE* **NGR** *SS75879791* **COMMUNITY** *Neath*

TYPE *Post-Medieval, Workhouse, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *A fine example of its type?*

DESCRIPTION *A fine example of its type?*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Near intact DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1988

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *- -*

SOURCES

Digital photographs N Maylan 2007 Digital photographs (87) HERP2138.1-87

01/mm note/GGAT/Hill-Kann J/1987//

PRN *02500.0m* **NAME** *Vale of Neath Railway (Linear Feature)* **NGR** *SN89130648,*

SO08320861 **COMMUNITY** *Glynneath*

TYPE *Post-Medieval, Railway, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *The construction of the Vale of Neath Railway was authorised by Act of Parliament in 1846. The first trains ran between Neath and Pontypool in 1863 and in the same year the Vale of Neath Railway amalgamated with the Great Western Railway.*

DESCRIPTION *The construction of the Vale of Neath Railway was authorised by Act of Parliament in 1846. The first trains ran between Neath and Pontypool in 1863 and in the same year the Vale of Neath Railway amalgamated with the Great Western Railway. The line played an important part in the later development of industry and mining in the Vale of Neath carrying coal, iron and chemicals as well as passengers. In 1967 the section of line from Glynneath to Aberdare was closed. The rest of the line was closed in 1985. The line between Neath and Glynneath is now being restored by the Vale of Neath Railway Society as a potentially very important tourist attraction. (04)*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS BBNP

CROSS REFERENCES *Associated with 02817m, Associated with 556w, Associated with 559w, Associated with 3292w, Associated with 5296w, Associated with 1982w, Associated with 1027.13w, Associated with 1027.0w, Associated with 1070.0w GGATE001074, GGATE003827, GGATE000959*

SOURCES

*Report Wilkinson, P.F. and Owen John, H.S.. 1989 The A465 Aberdulais-Glynneath Improvement 8 78-89/01
Report Maynard, D. 1993 Archaeological Desk-Top Study, Rhyd-Y-Car Land Reclamation Scheme Merthyr tydfil, Mid Galmorgan 250 93/026
02/MM Mention/NMW/1983/Hirwaun & District local plan/Sites of Ind Arch Importance
03/PM Desc Text/Barrie DSM/1980/Regional Hist of Railways of Gr Brit, vilXII: S Wales
01/PM Desc Text/Bowen RE/1966/Journal of SE Wales Ind Arch Soc vol1 no2 p34
04/Pm Desc Text/A465 Aberdulais - Glynneath Improvement: Archaeological Assessment/GGAT 1989/GGAT SMR Report Archive*

PRN 02500.1w NAME VALE OF NEATH RAILWAY NGR SS75089805 COMMUNITY Blaenhonddan
TYPE *Post-Medieval, Railway, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *Broad gauge, engineered by IK Brunel, incorporated 1846. Connected with South Wales Railway at Neath, up through Glynneath Valley 15 miles to Gelli Tarw, 1 1/4 miles past Hirwaun.*

DESCRIPTION *Broad gauge, engineered by IK Brunel, incorporated 1846. Connected with South Wales Railway at Neath, up through Glynneath Valley 15 miles to Gelli Tarw, 1 1/4 miles past Hirwaun.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1996

STATUS BBNP

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

PRN 02628w NAME GORCHEST Y GWARN NGR SS75059869 COMMUNITY Blaenhonddan
TYPE *Post-Medieval, House, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *The site comprises a Post-medieval house entitled Gorchest Y Gwarn situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

DESCRIPTION *The site comprises a Post-medieval house entitled Gorchest Y Gwarn situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1990

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

01/mm desc text/RCAHM//1988/Invent IV 2/p581 no 404

PRN 02629w NAME LERIOS NGR SS75109919 COMMUNITY Blaenhonddan
TYPE *Post-Medieval, House, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *The site comprises a Post-medieval house entitled Lerios situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

DESCRIPTION *The site comprises a Post-medieval house entitled Lerios situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1990

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *Same as 19129*

SOURCES

01/mm desc text/RCAHM//1988/Invent IV 2/p588 no 550

PRN 02630w NAME RHYDDING NGR SS75209897 COMMUNITY Blaenhonddan

TYPE Post-Medieval, House, RANK: 1

SUMMARY The site comprises a Post-medieval house entitled Rhydding situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.

DESCRIPTION The site comprises a Post-medieval house entitled Rhydding situated within the community of Blaenhonddan. No further information is currently available.

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1990

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES Same as 19853

SOURCES

01/mm desc text/RCAHM//1988/Invent IV 2/p603 no 872

PRN 02817.0w NAME DULAIS VALLEY MINERAL RAILWAY NGR SS74909785,

SN85401500 COMMUNITY Blaenhonddan

TYPE Post-Medieval, Railway, RANK: 1

SUMMARY Mineral railway from Neath travelling up the Dulais Valley (also known as the Neath-Breacon Railway).

DESCRIPTION Mineral railway from Neath travelling up the Dulais Valley (also known as the Neath-Breacon Railway)

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1998

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

/PM DESC TEXT//BARNES/1978/MERTHYR HISTORIAN VOL 2/THE RAILWAY AGE IN WALES p2-15*

/PM DESC TEXT//REYNOLDS/PR/1980-1/TRANS NEATH ANTIQUARIAN SOC/p81-90

/PM DESC TEXT//BOWEN/RE/1966/JOURNAL OF THE SE WALES INDUS ARCH SOC VOL 1 No2 p36*
map/OS/1882

PRN 02822.0w NAME SWANSEA DISTRICT LINK WITH VoN RAILWAY NGR SS72339493, SS7039397123,

SS72059624 COMMUNITY Coedffranc

TYPE Post-Medieval, Railway, RANK: 1

SUMMARY Swansea District Line link with the Swansea and Neath/Vale of Neath Railway. Opened between Lonlas Junction and Jersey Marine South Junction on 18 February 1912.

DESCRIPTION Swansea District Line link with the Swansea and Neath/Vale of Neath Railway. Opened between Lonlas Junction and Jersey Marine South Junction on 18 February 1912.

CONDITION

CONDITION: Near intact DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1998

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES Associated with 02821.0w, Associated with 02822.1w to 02822.2w

SOURCES

Barrie, D S M 1980 A Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain. Vol 12: South Wales

/PM DESC TEXT////1966-7/SEWIAS JOURNAL VOL 1 No2/p40*

PRN 02855w NAME CANAL BRIDGE, NEATH NGR SS754982 COMMUNITY Blaenhonddan

TYPE Post-Medieval, Bridge, RANK: 1

SUMMARY A post-medieval canal bridge, with iron balustrades. The structure is associated with the Tennant Canal.

DESCRIPTION A post-medieval canal bridge, with iron balustrades. The structure is associated with the Tennant Canal.

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1995

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *Associated with 2850W, Associated with 2860W GGATE001377*

SOURCES

*02/PM Desc Text/GGAT/Wilkinson PF & Owen-John HS/09.89/A465 Aberdulais-Glynneath Improvement(2860W)
01/MM Oral/Milne,I/1980*

PRN 03220m **NAME** 276 The Hirwaun Common Mineral

Railway **NGR** SN94950618 **COMMUNITY** Hirwaun

TYPE *Post-Medieval, Railway, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *The Hirwaun Common Mineral Railway was marked as a tramroad on the tithe map of c.1840 and a conventional locomotive-operated railway on the O.S. map of c.1880. The line can be followed to the west of Hirwaun at SO 9495 0618 where it converges with the V*

DESCRIPTION *The Hirwaun Common Mineral Railway was marked as a tramroad on the tithe map of c.1840 and a conventional locomotive-operated railway on the O.S. map of c.1880. The line can be followed to the west of Hirwaun at SO 9495 0618 where it converges with the V*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Damaged DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 1998

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - - *GGATE003867, GGATE000959*

SOURCES

Babtie assessment Hirwaun to Clydach A465

PRN 03308w **NAME** THE LATT **NGR** SS75339784 **COMMUNITY** Neath

TYPE *Post-Medieval, Building, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *19th century row of cottages called "The Latt" discovered during GGAT's assessment of Castle Quay.*

DESCRIPTION *19th century row of cottages called "The Latt" discovered during GGAT's assessment of Castle Quay. The majority of the cottages appear to be made to a high standard, with large stones and set in a yellow mortar. One cottage appears to be made to a lower standard than the others, with rough mortar. Associated with these cottages are the internal flagstone floors and external yard surfaces were identified. After the demolition of these cottages, more make-up material had been deposited and a tarmac surface laid for car parking. Since the car park was taken out of service the site has become a tip for stone and soil, which has been dumped directly onto the tarmaced surface.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Destroyed DESCRIPTION: Before the construction of these cottages there was a considerable amount of make-up material (1.0m or more) that had been dumped. This is dated to the 19th century by the abundant pottery which it contains. RELATED EVENT: E003694 RECORDED: 2012

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *Same as 18250 GGATE003694*

SOURCES

Report Wilson, N.J. 1992 Archaeological Field Evaluation Castle Quay, Neath 90 92/01

PRN 04774m **NAME** Tir Mawr Farm, Llwydcoed 7 **NGR** SN980053 **COMMUNITY** Llwydcoed

TYPE *Post-Medieval, Railway signal box, RANK: 1*

SUMMARY *A signal box on the OS 1st Edition map.*

DESCRIPTION *A signal box on the OS 1st Edition map. CCW Tir Gofal HE2 (1999-2000)*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not applicable DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 2003

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - - *GGATE002618, GGATE001729*

SOURCES

Report Graves-Brown, P. 1999 Tir Mawr Farm, Llwydcoed, Aberdare: Tir Gofal HE2 Farm Visit Report 2110
01/Pm desc text/GGAT 67 Tir Gofal/1999-2000/CCW Tir Gofal HE2 data/S15000470

PRN 05225w NAME CADOXTION-JUXTA-NEATH
CHURCHYARD NGR SS75609857 COMMUNITY Blaenhonddan
TYPE Medieval, Churchyard, RANK: 1

SUMMARY *The very large churchyard is still partly curvilinear, but it appeared as largely curvilinear on the tithe map of 1841 (WGAS P/71/3), a wide almond shape at a cross-roads, half surrounded by roads.*

DESCRIPTION *The very large churchyard is still partly curvilinear, but it appeared as largely curvilinear on the tithe map of 1841 (WGAS P/71/3), a wide almond shape at a cross-roads, half surrounded by roads. The upper section around church is flat, and then slopes away down to the south in the extension. The present boundary is a sill wall with iron railing. The main entrance, at the W, consists of double gates; path to W tower-porch, and another round N side of church to secondary gate which takes the form of double gates on the E side opposite the main entrance. Evans 1998 GGAT 51 Historic Churches Project*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 2004

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *Associated with 0630w*

SOURCES

*Report Evans, E M 1998 Glamorgan Historic Churches Survey: Churches in north-western Glamorgan
Evans EM, 2003-04, GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project*

PRN 05278w NAME RHYDDING GRANGE/ASSART
GRANGE NGR SS751988 COMMUNITY Blaenhonddan
TYPE Medieval, Grange, RANK: 1

SUMMARY *Grange of Neath Abbey (Williams 2001, 307 no.112a). Presumably the post-medieval house the Rhyddings (PRN 02630w at SS75209897) may be on site of some of grange buildings*

DESCRIPTION *Grange of Neath Abbey (Williams 2001, 307 no.112a). Presumably the post-medieval house the Rhyddings (PRN 02630w at SS75209897) may be on site of some of grange buildings (Evans 2003: GGAT 73 Early-Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project database)*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 2004

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *- - GGATE001386*

SOURCES

*Evans, E M 2003 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical sites in Southeast Wales: Desk based assessment 1317
Book Williams, D H 2001 The Welsh Cistercians
Evans EM, 2003-04, GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project*

PRN 05282w NAME CADOXTON-JUXTA-NEATH NGR SS75609857 COMMUNITY Blaenhonddan
TYPE Early Medieval, Ecclesiastical building, RANK: 1

SUMMARY *Lifris's Vita Sancti Cadoci of c 1100 states that St Cadoc was granted land by King Arthfael in one of the many places by the River.*

DESCRIPTION *Lifris's Vita Sancti Cadoci of c 1100 states that St Cadoc was granted land by King Arthfael in one of the many places by the River Neath which were suitable for hermitages, and built a house of prayer there (Wade-Evans 1944, xi, 64-7). The NGR given is that of Cadoxton-juxta-Neath church (dedicated to St Cadoc), where the shape of the churchyard as revealed on the tithe map of 1841 is largely curvilinear (WGAS P/71/3). The legend goes on to relate how St Cadoc brought back to life a murdered man who decided that it was better to return to death; this incident is associated with a place called Llanllwyni which is presented as being near the Neath site. Ref (Evans 2003: GGAT 73 Early-Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project database)*

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED: 2004

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES *Associated with 630w*

SOURCES

Evans EM, 2003-04, GGAT 73 Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Sites Project

PRN 06223w NAME Gelliau Colliery Smithy **NGR SS76189924 COMMUNITY** Blaenhonddan
TYPE Post-Medieval, smithy, **RANK:** -
SUMMARY Structure identified as a Smithy located to the southwest of and associated with Gelliau Colliery. Visible on the 1st edition OS map (1881).

DESCRIPTION Structure identified as a Smithy located to the southwest of and associated with Gelliau Colliery. Visible on the 1st edition OS map (1881).

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:** 2009

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES Associated with NPRN 407,303, Associated with PRN 06222w

SOURCES

Huckfield, P W 2009 Craig Gwladus Country Park BWW Management Plan WHE1 BWW143

PRN 06885w NAME Castle Quay, Neath **NGR SS75339784 COMMUNITY** Neath
TYPE Medieval, quay, **RANK:** -
SUMMARY A massive dry-stone wall, 1.25m wide, was found constructed of very large flat stones running in a E-W direction, with a roughly-faced northern side.

DESCRIPTION Suggested that the river ran closer to the castle and that a water frontage may have been expected in the Castle Quay area. A massive dry-stone wall, 1.25m wide, was found constructed of very large flat stones running in a E-W direction, with a roughly-faced northern side: possible revetment or landing stage/jetty relating to the castle.

CONDITION

CONDITION: Not known **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:** 2012

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES - - GGATE003694

SOURCES

Report Wilson, N.J. 1992 Archaeological Field Evaluation Castle Quay, Neath 90 92/01

PRN 07438w NAME Fire engine pit **NGR SS7419399213 COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -
SUMMARY Fire engine pit shown on First Edition OS mapping.

DESCRIPTION Fire engine pit shown on First Edition OS mapping.

CONDITION

CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07445w NAME Old coal level, Gilfach-fach **NGR SS7478799972 COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -
SUMMARY Old coal level shown on First Edition OS mapping.

DESCRIPTION Old coal level shown on First Edition OS mapping.

CONDITION

CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS None recorded

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07446w **NAME** *Extraction pit, Gilfach-fach* **NGR** *SS7467999958* **COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -
SUMMARY *Extraction pit shown on First Edition OS mapping*

DESCRIPTION *Extraction pit shown on First Edition OS mapping*

CONDITION
CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES
Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07447w **NAME** *Old coal level, Gilfach-fach* **NGR** *SS7463699929* **COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -
SUMMARY *Features associated with old coal level*

DESCRIPTION *Features associated with old coal level shown on First to Third edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION
CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES
Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"
Map Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition OS map 6"
Map Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07452w **NAME** *Old coal levels* **NGR** *SS7602199831* **COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -
SUMMARY *Features associated with old coal levels shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Features associated with old coal levels shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION
CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES
Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07457w **NAME** *Old coal level* **NGR** - **COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -
SUMMARY *Old coal level shown on Second Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Old coal level shown on Second Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION
CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

PRN 07461w **NAME** *Old air shaft* **NGR** *SS7542898712* **COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -
SUMMARY *Old air shaft shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Old air shaft shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07462w NAME Buildings NGR SS7547998662 COMMUNITY -

TYPE , , **RANK:** -

SUMMARY *Buildings shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Buildings shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07463w NAME Old coal drift NGR SS7561299409 COMMUNITY -

TYPE , , **RANK:** -

SUMMARY *Old coal drift shown on Second Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Old coal drift shown on Second Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07464w NAME Tank NGR SS7561099389 COMMUNITY -

TYPE , , **RANK:** -

SUMMARY *Tank shown on Third Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Tank shown on Third Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*

CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07465w NAME Structures NGR SS7558398842 COMMUNITY -

TYPE , , **RANK:** -

SUMMARY *Structures shown on Second Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Structures shown on Second Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: DESCRIPTION: - RELATED EVENT: - RECORDED:

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07467w **NAME** *Old coal level, Cenfaes* **NGR** SS7579899679 **COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -

SUMMARY *Old coal level shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Old coal level shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07468w **NAME** *Old coal level* **NGR** SS7574999013 **COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -

SUMMARY *Old coal level shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Old coal level shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07509w **NAME** *Structure* **NGR** SS7506799983 **COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -

SUMMARY *Structure shown on Third Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Structure shown on Third Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition OS map 6"

PRN 07744w **NAME** *Buildings* **NGR** SS7492699248 **COMMUNITY** -
TYPE , , **RANK:** -

SUMMARY *Buildings shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

DESCRIPTION *Buildings shown on First Edition OS mapping.*

CONDITION

CONDITION: **DESCRIPTION:** - **RELATED EVENT:** - **RECORDED:**

STATUS *None recorded*
CROSS REFERENCES - -

SOURCES

Map Ordnance Survey 1st Edition OS map 6"

AM - 04.19.16 (10:04) - HTML file produced from GGAT HER, GGAT file number 1231.
Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust, Heathfield House, Heathfield, Swansea, SA1 6EL.
tel (01792) 655208 , fax (01792) 474696, email her@ggat.org.uk , website www.ggat.org.uk

Archaeological data, from the Regional Historic Environment Record, supplied by The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust in partnership with Local Authorities, Cadw and the partners of ENDEX GGAT, 2010.

Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX II:
Designated Archaeological Sites

Scheduled Ancient Monuments within 5km

SAM No.	Name	Eastings	Northings	Site Type	Period
GM006	Neath Abbey & Gatehouse	273800	197400	Abbey	Medieval
GM039	Neath Castle	275366	197799	Castle	Medieval
GM055	Mynydd y Gaer (Lower) Camp	276555	194209	Hillfort	Prehistoric
GM170	Carreg Hir Standing Stone, Pen-Rhiw-Tyn	274453	195340	Standing stone	Prehistoric
GM207	Court Herbert Cross & Grave Slab	274089	197635	Cross	Early Medieval
GM215	Neath Roman Site	274702	197775	Fort	Roman
GM258	Blaen-Cwmbach Camp	279825	198807	Marching camp	Roman
GM264	Cefn Morfydd Dyke & Earthwork	278846	198041	Linear earthwork	Early Medieval
GM276	Pen-Rhiw-Angharad Round Cairns	280009	199126	Cairnfield	Prehistoric
GM277	Blaen-Cwmbach Earthwork	279347	198805	Enclosure	Prehistoric
GM291	Llandarcy Round Cairn	271843	195396	Round cairn	Prehistoric
GM326	Two Platform Houses 1600m SE of Blaen-Nant Farm	276269	202662	Platform house	Medieval
GM327	Cairn on Mynydd-March-Hywel	276805	203771	Round cairn	Prehistoric
GM342	Standing Stones 300m W of Cefncelfi	274177	203087	Standing stone	Prehistoric
GM382	Carreg Bica Standing Stone	272486	199461	Standing stone	Prehistoric
GM383	Three Round Cairns on Mynydd Drumau	272509	199487	Round cairn	Prehistoric
GM387	Round Cairn with Cist on Mynydd Drumau	272451	200373	Round cairn	Prehistoric
GM389	Neath Abbey Ironworks	273753	197755	Industrial monument	Post-Medieval/Modern
GM394	Tennant Canal: Skewen Cutting and tramroad bridge	273196	197099	Canal	Post-Medieval/Modern
GM395	Neath Abbey Ironworks Dam	273912	198766	Dam	Post-Medieval/Modern
GM447	Glyncorwg Mineral Railway (Parsons Folly) Section on Cefn Morfudd	278979	198154	Railway	Post-Medieval/Modern
GM485	Tinplate works at Aberdulais Falls	277178	199489	Tinplate Works	Post-Medieval/Modern
GM489	Ynysmaerdy Railway Incline	275119	195022	Railway	Post-Medieval/Modern
GM505	Canal Boat at Aberdulais Basin	277362	199343	Canal Boat	Post-Medieval/Modern
GM506	Aberdulais Aqueduct	277288	199293	Aqueduct	Post-Medieval/Modern
GM514	Burial Chamber at Pen-yr-Alltwen	273153	203311	Chambered tomb	Prehistoric
GM549	House Platforms West of Dyffryn Wood	272785	200300	House platform	Medieval

Listed Buildings within 5km

LB No.	Name	Eastings	Northings	GRADE
11193	Cefn Celfi	274517	203006	II
11698	Railway bridge near Crythan Farm (partly in Neath Community)	276684	195110	II
11767	Church of Saint Cattwg	275592	198572	II*
11768	Ivy Tower	277640	198291	II
11770	Pensianel Pigsty	272777	198471	II
11772	GREAT WESTERN CHAMBERS,BRIDGE STREET	275173	197721	II
11773	MILEPOST,BRITON FERRY ROAD	274615	196382	II
11774	MOOSE HALL	275356	197765	II
11775	NEATH CASTLE,CASTLE STREET	275366	197795	II*
11776	OLD TOWN CHURCH OF ST.THOMAS,CHURCH PLACE	275325	197673	II*
11777	GATES,GATEPIERS & CHURCHYARD WALL OF ST. THOMAS' CHURCH,CHURCH PLACE	275332	197653	II
11778	OLD TOWN HALL,CHURCH PLACE	275268	197680	II
11779	NO.4 CHURCH PLACE (MECHANICS INSTITUTE)	275304	197703	II
11780	NO.112 CIMLA ROAD (HUGH VAUGHAN & CO. LTD.)	276002	196553	II
11781	E.GRIFFITHS, FAMILY GROCER, COMMERCIAL STREET	275066	197546	II
11782	FORMER GATE & LODGES TO GNOLL HOUSE,GNOLL AVENUE	275641	197318	II
11783	PILLAR BOX,GNOLL AVENUE	275529	197402	II
11784	WAR MEMORIAL GATES,GNOLL AVENUE	275898	197092	II
11785	GENERAL MARKET,GREEN STREET	275226	197575	II
11786	NO.23 GREEN STREET	275234	197538	II
11787	NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK,GREEN STREET	275189	197504	II
11788	FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE,THE LATT	275356	197818	II
11789	NO.1 LLEWELLYN ALMSHOUSES,INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALLS	275876	197869	II
11790	NO.2 LLEWELLYN ALMSHOUSES,INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALLS	275880	197866	II
11791	NO.3 LLEWELLYN ALMSHOUSES,INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALLS	275884	197864	II
11792	NO.4 LLEWELLYN ALMSHOUSES,INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALLS	275888	197861	II
11793	NO.5 LLEWELLYN ALMSHOUSES,INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALLS	275899	197854	II
11794	NO.6 LLEWELLYN ALMSHOUSES,INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALLS	275902	197852	II
11795	NO.7 LLEWELLYN ALMSHOUSES,INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALLS	275907	197850	II
11796	NO.8 LLEWELLYN ALMSHOUSES,INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALLS	275911	197848	II
11797	PARISH CHURCH OF ST.ILLTYD,LLANTWIT ROAD	276195	198038	II*
11798	GATEPIERS TO ST.ILLTYD'S CHURCH,LLANTWIT ROAD	276213	197995	II
11799	BETHANIA BAPTIST CHAPEL	275296	197302	II
11800	PILLAR BOX,LONDON ROAD	275325	197240	II
11801	SOAR MAES-YR-HAF CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL AND FORECOURT RAILINGS	275126	197522	II
11802	SUBWAY UNDER RAILWAY	275108	197547	II
11803	NO.6 NEW STREET	275278	197656	II
11804	NO.7 NEW STREET	275275	197660	II
11805	NO.1 OLD MARKET STREET	275397	197674	II
11806	NO.2 OLD MARKET STREET	275394	197678	II

11807	NO.3 OLD MARKET STREET	275393	197682	II
11808	NO.6 OLD MARKET STREET	275371	197717	II
11809	NO.7 OLD MARKET STREET	275367	197722	II
11810	NO.7A OLD MARKET STREET	275366	197725	II
11811	THE ST.IVES P.H. OLD MARKET STREET	275358	197703	II
11812	NO.24 CHURCH STREET	275350	197698	II
11813	NO.14 OLD MARKET STREET (ADRIAN HICKS & SON)	275367	197685	II
11814	NO.15 OLD MARKET STREET	275372	197679	II
11815	NO.16 OLD MARKET STREET	275375	197674	II
11816	ST.CATHERINE'S CHURCH,OLD ROAD	274848	196355	II
11817	CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB,ORCHARD STREET	275370	197535	II
11818	PARISH CHURCH OF ST.DAVID,ORCHARD STREET	275409	197504	II*
11819	BARCLAY'S BANK,THE PARADE	275204	197614	II
11820	NO.9 QUEEN STREET (D.S.MORGAN)	275285	197495	II
11821	MASONIC TEMPLE,QUEEN STREET	275324	197443	II
11822	BANDSTAND,VICTORIA GARDENS PARK	275429	197394	II
11823	PEDESTAL & BRONZE STATUE OF HOWELL GWYN, VICTORIA GARDENS PARK	275401	197455	II
11824	NO.8 WIND STREET	275365	197629	II
11825	MIDLAND BANK,WINDSOR ROAD	275179	197468	II
11826	LLOYD'S BANK,WINDSOR ROAD	275175	197458	II
11827	OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING,WINDSOR ROAD	275120	197423	II
11828	NO.52 WINDSOR ROAD	275145	197254	II
11829	GWYN HALL,ORCHARD STREET	275316	197539	II
11830	FORMER SWING BRIDGE ACROSS RIVER NEATH, IMMEDIATELY E.OF DYNEVOR JUNCTION	273045	196366	II
11833	Bridge over S end of Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal	273135	196915	II
11834	Bridge over Tennant Canal to S of entrance to Neath Abbey	273733	197287	II
11836	Aberdulais Lock on Tennant Canal	277256	199275	II
11837	Lock keeper's and toll collector's office at SW end of Aberdulais Aqueduct	277257	199265	II
11838	Aberdulais Aqueduct (partly in Tonna community)	277269	199281	II*
11839	Aberdulais Basin at the head of the Tennant Canal	277380	199370	II
11840	Pont Gam	277388	199429	II
11841	Wood seasoning shed & saw pit at Neath Canal Depot	276932	198809	II
11845	Former engine manufacturing building at former Neath Abbey Ironworks	273803	197678	II
11858	Cefn Coed Colliery, No. 1 Shaft Headframe	278515	203221	II*
11866	BRIDGE OVER RIVER NEATH (PARTLY IN BLAENHONDDAN COMMUNITY)	275009	197806	II
15844	Tyn yr Heol	276915	198601	II
22089	Capel Saron	270523	198490	II
22858	Church of St Anne	277475	198953	II
22859	Penlan-fach bridge	278016	198850	II
22860	Grotto in Gnoll Estate	278044	198090	II
22861	Aberdulais Aqueduct (partly in Blaenhonddan community)	277314	199303	II*
22862	Aberdulais Viaduct	277273	199239	II
22863	Railway bridge on NE side of Railway Tavern	277366	199294	II
22864	Nazareth Chapel	277146	198800	II
22865	Stable at Neath Canal Depot	276948	198783	II
22866	Workshop, store and smithy at Neath Canal Depot	276907	198795	II
22867	Lock House	276970	198786	II
22868	Dulais Isaf House	277589	199287	II

22869	Dulais Fach	277604	199286	II
22870	Mosshouse Wood Cascade	277860	198085	II
22871		277632	199281	II
22872	Lock and overbridge at Neath Canal Depot	276930	198785	II
22873	Bridge over Neath Canal SW of Ynys Nedd Farm	279506	199879	II
23062	Hermon Chapel	272165	197236	II
23063	Bethania Chapel	272232	197276	II
23064	New Road Methodist Church	272345	197405	II
23065	Drymau Road Viaduct	273063	197520	II
23066	Horeb Chapel	272761	197396	II
23067	Tramroad bridge over Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal	273336	197264	II
23068	Neath River swing bridge (partly in Neath and Briton Ferry Communities)	273003	196370	II
23069	Bridge over Tennant Canal W of former Crown Copperworks	272980	196640	II
23070	Tabernacle Chapel	272756	197326	II
23071	Milestone on N side of A4230	272028	197384	II
23072	Boiler stack of former Cardonnel Tinsplate Works	272601	195726	II
23073	Bridge over Tennant Canal E of Cwrt y Bettws Farm	272560	195523	II
23075	Gorphwysfa Chapel	273038	197411	II
23076	Tabernacle Chapel Hall	272732	197318	II
23079	Seion Fforest Calvinistic Methodist Chapel	277381	199658	II
23089	Railings at Seion Fforest Calvinistic Methodist Chapel	277369	199648	II
23296	War Memorial, including revetments and steps	274306	194454	II
23301	Church of St Mary	273578	194240	II
23303	Ynysmaerdy Incline bridge over Pant Howel Ddu	275243	195051	II
23304	Roving Bridge over Neath Canal at Giant's Grave	273531	194854	II
23305	Salem Baptist Chapel	274268	194582	II
23306	Church of St Clement	274258	194475	II
23307	Briton Ferry Library including attached Library House	274292	194240	II
23308	Bridge over Ynysmaerdy Incline	274743	194925	II
23310	Neath River Swing Bridge (partly in Coedffranc and Neath Communities)	273072	196365	II
82076	Aberdulais Viaduct (partly in Tonna community)	277314	199263	II
82077	Forge tramroad bridge at Neath Abbey Ironworks (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)	273809	197957	II
82078	Bridge over Tennant Canal SE of the Church of Saint Cattwg	275691	198362	II
82079	Bridge over Tennant Canal, including towpath retaining walls and overflow channels	274991	197817	II
82080	Chimney at Aberdulais Falls Tinsplate Works	277153	199490	II
82081	Cwm Clydach Dam (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)	273899	198767	II
82082	Former Stables at Aberdulais Falls Tinsplate Works	277191	199450	II
82083	Former forge and rolling mill at Neath Abbey Ironworks	273765	198059	II
82084	Old Works Library at Aberdulais Falls Tinsplate Works	277201	199418	II
82085	Gates, gate piers, walls and railings at Church of Saint Cattwg	275556	198596	II
82086	Goose rearing shelters and mounting block at Tan-y-rhiw	277703	201527	II
82087	Limekiln near Neath Golf Course	275711	199324	II
82088	Milestone on A4230	275619	198644	II
82089	Monument in churchyard of St Cattwg	275559	198564	II
82090	Neath River Bridge (partly in Neath community)	274972	197827	II
82091	Railway bridge over Cadoxton Road	274956	198020	II

82092	Neath Abbey Railway Viaduct (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)	273850	197838	II
82093	Remains of tramroad bridge at Aberdulais Falls Tinplate Works	277176	199429	II
82289	Twrch Brook culvert and overflow sluice on the Neath Canal	279864	200369	II
82292	Memorial drinking fountain and railings	272590	203358	II
82293	Outbuilding at The Mill	274709	203554	II
82319	Church of Saint Matthew	273824	199857	II
82320	Howel Gwyn memorial in churchyard of Church of St Matthew	273845	199865	II
82321	Lychgate to churchyard of Church of St Matthew	273858	199846	II
82324	Swiss Gables	273802	199918	II
82325	The Grange, former stables and coach house to Dyffryn House	273449	199662	II
82326	Former icehouse to Dyffryn House	273260	199510	II
82332	No. 1 Blast Furnace at former Neath Abbey Ironworks	273793	197785	II*
82333	No. 2 Blast Furnace at former Neath Abbey Ironworks	273793	197753	II*
82334	Neath Abbey Railway Viaduct (partly in Blaenhonddan community)	273835	197832	II
82335	Forge tramroad bridge at Neath Abbey Ironworks (partly in Blaenhonddan community)	273803	197952	II
82336	The Smiths Arms	273856	197597	II
82338	Cwm Clydach Dam (partly in Blaenhonddan community)	273904	198766	II
82339	Clydach Aqueduct on Tennant Canal	273876	197293	II
82340	Bridge over River Clydach to S of Neath Abbey	273826	197200	II
82341	Bridge over Tennant Canal N of former Mines Royal Copper Works	273307	197252	II
82342	Tramroad bridge over Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Coedffranc community)	273248	197186	II
82343	Bridge over S end of Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Coedffranc community)	273139	196914	II
82344	Church of Saint John the Baptist	273425	197505	II
82345	Quaker's Viaduct (partly in Coedffranc community)	273087	197518	II
84394	Former Steam Power House at Briton Ferry Docks	273959	194148	II
87652	Neath Library	275386	197315	II
87690	New Road Overbridge	272052	197367	II

Historic Parks & Gardens within 5km

Ref.No.	Name	NGR	Grade	SITETYPE
GM50	Neath: The Gnoll	SS7763098249	II*	Formal and informal park; Victorian pleasure grounds; walled kitchen garden
GM62	Briton Ferry: Jersey Park	SS7458194815	II	Urban public park
GM64	Neath: Victoria Gardens	SS7543397388	II	Urban public park

Archaeology *Wales*

APPENDIX III: Specification

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Specification

For Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Site Visit:

Leiros Park, Neath Port Talbot

Prepared for:
Hale Homes

Project No: 2425

23rd March 2016

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Specification details the proposal for an archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Site Visit associated with the proposed construction of 200 units at Leiros Park, Neath Port Talbot. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd for Hale Homes as part of an application for planning permission.

1. Introduction

The proposed development comprises plans for the construction of 200 housing units at a site allocated for development in the adopted Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan. Leiros Park (henceforth – the site), Neath, is centred on NGR SS 75316 99048 (Figure 1 and 2). The local planning authority is the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (henceforth – NPTCBC).

This Specification has been prepared by Dr Irene Garcia-Rovira, Archaeology Wales Ltd (Henceforth - AW) at the request of Asbri Planning Ltd, on behalf of their clients, Hale Homes. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during a Desk Based Assessment and Site Visit.

The purpose of the proposed Desk Based Assessment and Site Visit is to provide the NPTCBC with the information they are likely to request in respect of the proposed development, the requirements for which are set out in Planning Policy Wales 8 (Ed.8 January 2016), Section 6.5, and Welsh Office Circular 60/96. The work is to highlight and assess the impact upon standing and buried remains of potential archaeological interest to ensure that they are adequately preserved or fully investigated and recorded if they are disturbed or revealed as a result of subsequent activities associated with the development.

This specification is to be approved by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (henceforth – GGAT) who act as archaeological advisers to NPTCBC.

All work will conform to the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CIfA December 2014) and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2 Development Details & Site description

Detailed development plans are not yet available, but it is understood that planning permission will be sought to develop the site for 200 housing units, along with associated infrastructure.

The site is currently defined by four large fields, along with a smaller field to the northeast and a series of tree-covered smaller enclosures along the southern and eastern fringes. A number of plots also lie to the southwest of the site in which buildings currently exist. The area is mostly defined by arable fields and improved grassland and covers an irregularly shaped parcel measuring 12.2 hectares (29.6 acres) (Figure 1). The topography of the site raises up from 80-90m aOD at the southern side of the site boundary to 110m aOD at the northernmost point.

Modern housing of the Leiros Park estate defines the southern and western edge of the site, and the centre of Neath lies some 1.2km to the south. To the north lies further agricultural land and Gilfach Quarry. To the east lies the wooded valley slopes of the Cwm-bach, beyond which lies Cadoxton and the Neath valley.

The geology of the area proposed for development forms part of the Hughes Member and is defined by lithic arenites (Pennant sandstones), mixed up with thin mudstone/siltstone and seatearth interbeds, and mainly thin coals (BGS 2016).

3 Site specific objectives

The primary objective will be to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the historic environment by means of a detailed desk top study and site visit. This will help inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies. The aim will be to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site, to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

The work will include a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The work will result in a report that will provide information of sufficient detail to allow informed planning decisions to be made which can safeguard the archaeological resource. Preservation *in situ* will be advocated where at all possible, but where engineering or other factors result in loss of archaeological deposits, preservation by record will be recommended.

4 The proposed archaeological work

The proposed archaeological work relates to the whole of the site, i.e. all of the application area.

The aim of the work will be to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on the site. The work will include the following elements:

- A detailed desk top study (Stage 1)
- A site visit (Stage 2)
- The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 3)

5 Method statement for a detailed desk top study (Stage 1)

The assessment will consider the following:

- a) The nature, extent and degree of survival of archaeological sites, structures, deposits and landscapes within the study area. It will involve the following areas of research:

1. Collation and assessment of all relevant information held in the regional HER at Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust in Swansea, within 1km from the edge of the proposed development area.
2. Collation and basic assessment of the impact on all Designated archaeological sites (Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks & Gardens, landscapes, Conservation Areas) within a 3km from the edge of the aforementioned area.
3. Assessment of all available excavation report and archives including unpublished and unprocessed material affecting the site and its setting.
4. Assessment of all extant aerial photographic (AP) evidence. This will include visits to Central Register of Air Photography for Wales, in Cardiff.
5. Assessment of archive records held at the County Archives, and as appropriate, site files held by RCAHMW
6. Records held by the developer e.g. bore logs, geological/geomorphological information, aerial photographs, maps, plans.
7. Map regression analysis using all relevant cartographic sources e.g. All editions of the Ordnance Survey County Series, Tithe and early estate maps (as available).
8. Place name evidence.
9. Internet sourced satellite imagery and Lidar imagery as available.
10. Assessment of the records held at the Portable Antiquities Scheme.
11. Historic documents (e.g. Charters, registers, estate papers).

b) The significance of any remains in their context both regionally and nationally and in light of the findings of the desk based study.

c) The history of the site, based on the areas of research outlined above.

d) The potential visual impact of any proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological importance.

e) The potential for further archaeological remains to be present, which have not been identified in pre-existing archaeological records

f) The potential for further work, with recommendations if requested and where appropriate for a suitable investigative and/or mitigation methodology.

6 Method statement for a Site Visit (Stage 2)

The site visit will be a visual walked search of the entire development area. The ground surface will be visually inspected for all earthworks, structures and finds. The location of any environmental archaeological deposits, or areas which may have a potential for such **deposits, will also be taken into account along with the more traditional 'visible' archaeology.**

All located sites or finds will be accurately fixed by means of GPS. Each individual find or site location will have an accurate NGR reference attached. Where a close cluster of related features is identified a single NGR for the centre of the cluster will be used, and each constituent feature separately described in the text.

The character, function, condition, vulnerability, potential dating and relationship to other features of each identified site or find will be described fully. The importance of the site or find will be assessed in terms of local, regional or national significance.

A sketch survey of each identified site layout will be made with accompanying metric measurements

Written, drawn and photographic records of an appropriate level of detail will be maintained throughout the course of the project. Digital photographs, including metric scales, will be taken using cameras with resolutions of 14 mega pixels or above. Photographs will be taken in RAW format.

Illustrations will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required, and these will be related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

The site visit will also assess the visual impact of the proposed development on the setting of known sites of archaeological importance. Photographs will be taken from the proposed development to help illustrate and assess this visual impact and Designated sites within the study area will also be visited with photographs taken towards the proposed development to help illustrate and assess this visual impact on these sites.

7 Method statement for the production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 3)

A report will be produced which synthesises the results of stages 1 and 2 and thereby assesses the total archaeological resource within the development area.

The results will be presented in a report and will be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. The HER Officer will be contacted to ensure that any sites or monuments not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Record Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER. The historical development of the site will be presented in phased maps and plans comprising clearly, the outline of the site.

Within the report an attempt will be made to indicate areas of greater or lesser archaeological significance and the sites will be ranked in level of overall archaeological importance (locally, regionally and nationally).

All relevant aerial photographs, re-plots and historic maps will be included and be fully referenced. Any site photographs included in the report will be appropriately captioned and clearly located on a suitably scaled site plan.

The report will specifically include the following:

1. a copy of the design brief
2. a location plan
3. all identified sites plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the proposal site
4. a gazetteer of all located sites with full dimensional and descriptive detail including grid reference and period

Copies of the report will be sent to Asbri Planning Ltd, Hale Homes and to GGAT and for inclusion in the HER. Digital copies will be provided in pdf format if required.

Any further stages of archaeological work, after the submission of the report for stages one and two outlined above, will be the subject of an additional GGAT curatorial brief against which a further AW specification will be drawn up.

The site archive

A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure and be deposited with the National Monuments Records, held and maintained by the RCAHMW, Aberystwyth, on completion of site analysis and report production. It will also conform to the guidelines set out in 'Management of Archaeological Projects Two, Appendix 3' (Historic England 2015). The digital archive will be deposited with the NMR.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, the report and the archive will be deposited not later than six months after completion of the work.

Other significant digital data generated by the survey (ie AP plots, EDM surveys, CAD drawings, GIS maps, etc) will be presented as part of the report on a CD/DVD. The format of this presented data will be agreed with the curator in advance of its preparation.

8 Resources and timetable

Standards

The desk based assessment will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice.

All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of the project will be undertaken by Philip Poucher.

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client and is likely to commence imminently.

Insurance

AW holds Public Liability Insurance through Aviva Insurance Ltd, with a £5,000,000 Limit of Indemnity (expires 05/12/16), Employers Liability Insurance through Aviva Insurance Ltd, with a £10,000,000 Limit of Indemnity (expires 05/12/16) and Professional Indemnity Insurance through Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd, with a £1,000,000 Limit of Indemnity (expires 05/12/16).

Arbitration

In the event of any dispute arising out of this Agreement (including those considered as such by only one of the parties) either party may forthwith give to the other notice

in writing of such a dispute or difference and the same shall be and is hereby referred **for decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators'** Arbitration scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists applying at the date of this Agreement.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act*, 1974, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

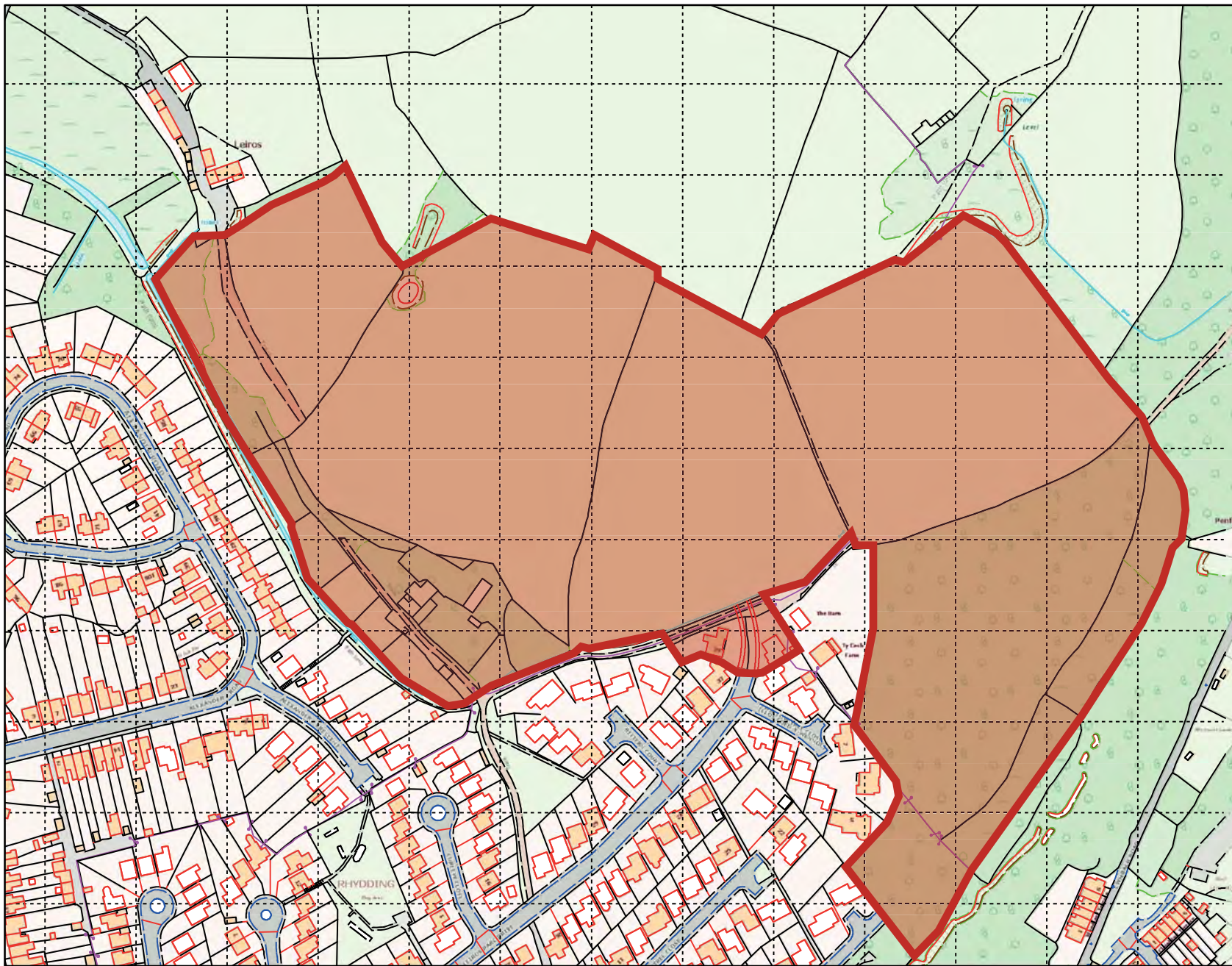
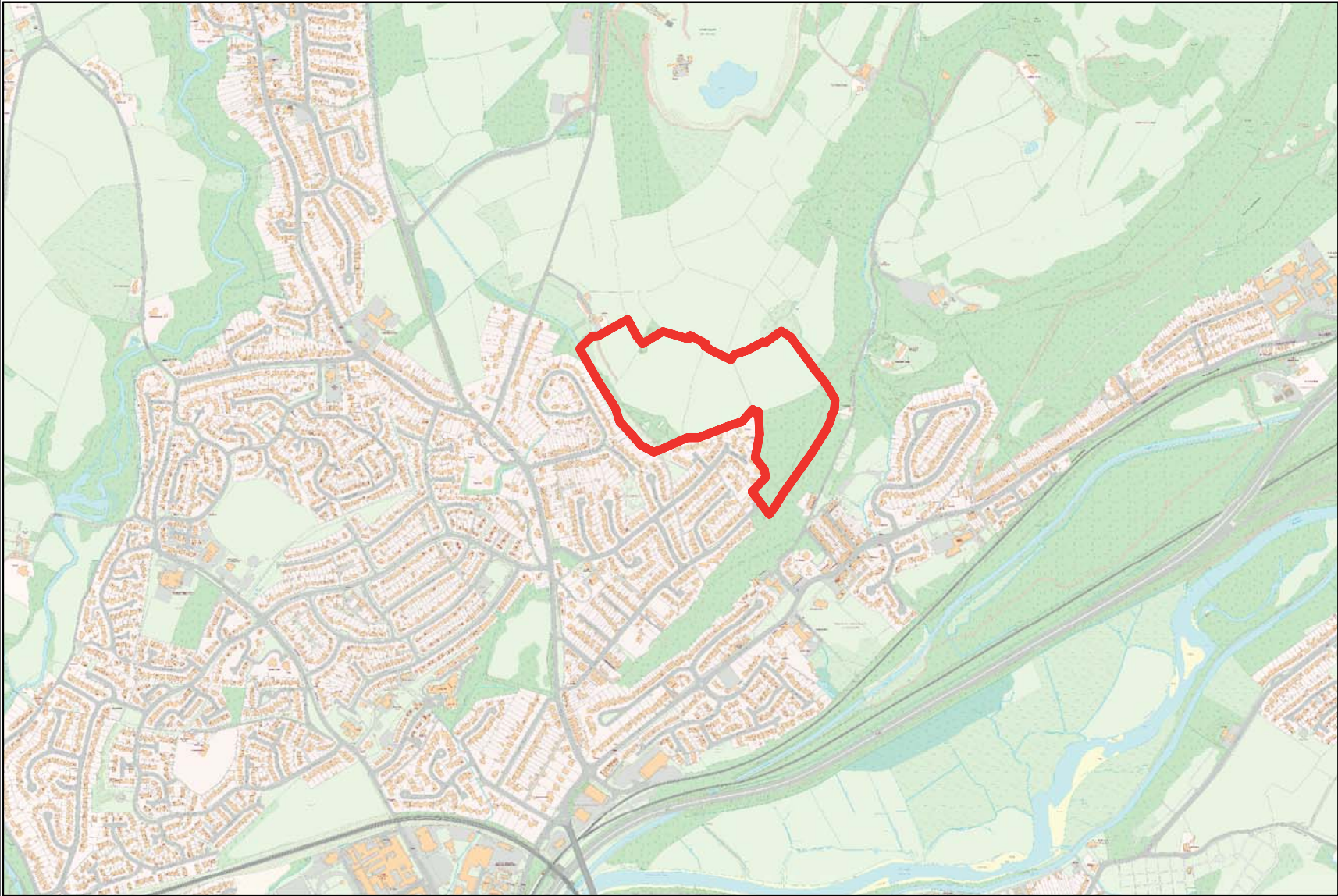


Fig. 1: Location of proposed development site marked in red.



0 500 1,000 2,000 Meters

Fig. 2: Proposed development site (marked in red) within wider area.

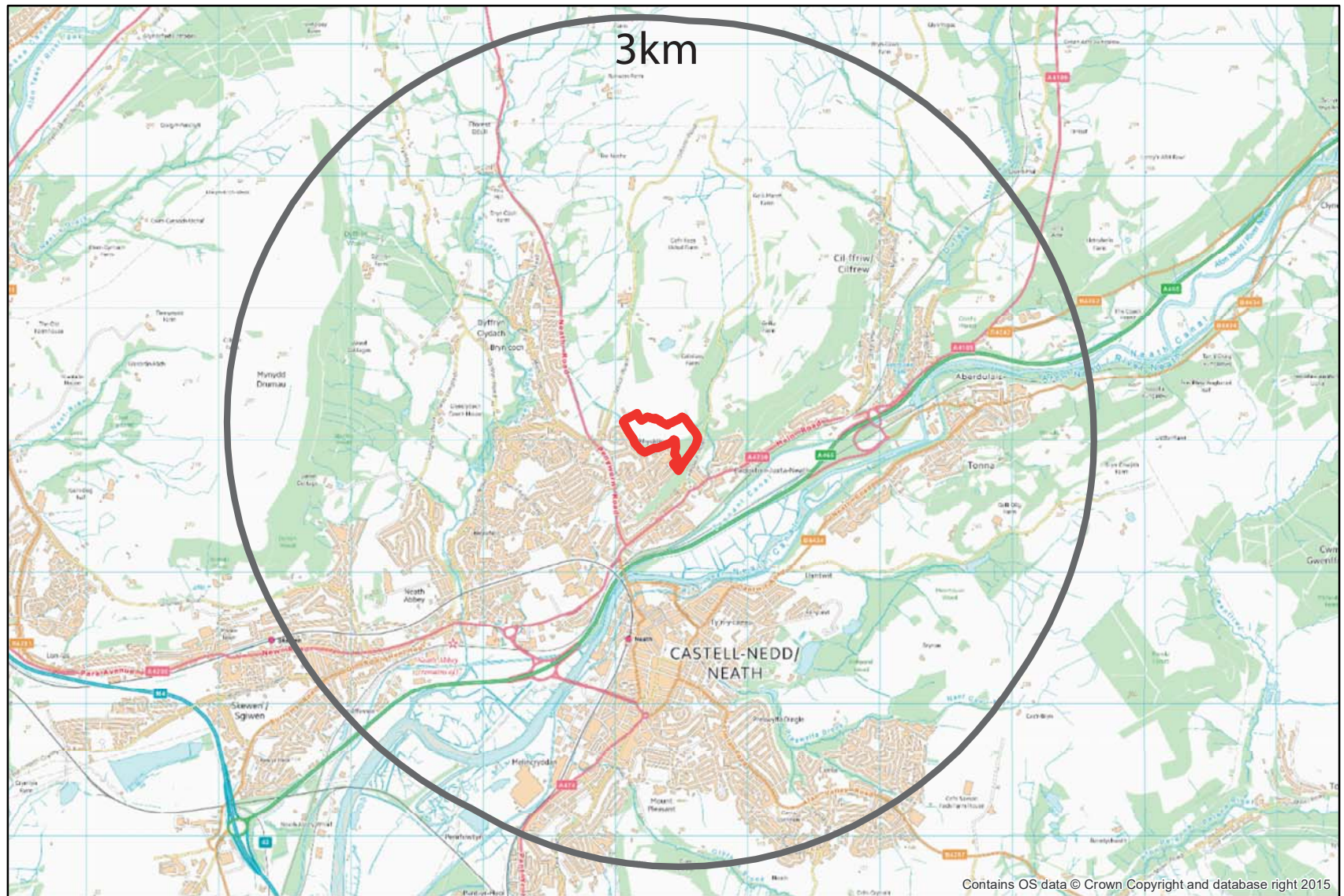


Fig. 3: Proposed development site (marked in red) within 3km study area.

Archaeology
Wales

APPENDIX IV:
Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Leiros Park, Rhydding, Neath

Site Name:	Leiros Park, Neath
Site Code:	LPN/16/DBA
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SS 75316 99048
Site Type:	Agricultural land
Project Type:	Desk-based assessment
Project Manager:	Philip Poucher
Project Dates:	May 2016
Categories Present:	Prehistoric to Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	RCAHMW, Aberystwyth
Number of Finds Boxes:	0
Location of Finds:	N/A
Museum Reference:	
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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