

WATERFALL COUNTRY PONTNEDDFECHAN – VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Andrew Scott Ltd.



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO. 2023-43
ERN E007580

November 2023
Tachwedd 2023

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By

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WATERFALL COUNTRY PONTNEDDFECHAN – VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE

SCHEME:

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

Client

Andrew Scott Ltd.

Event Record No

E007580

Report No

2023-43

Project Code

FS23-035

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Rev Number	Description	Undertaken	Approved	Date
1	Draft V1	PP & MS		13/12/23
2	Final	PP	CK & FM	19/12/23
3	Amendment	PP	FM	08/04/24

**WATERFALL COUNTRY PONTNEDDFECHAN – VISITOR INFRASTRUCTURE
SCHEME:**

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

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**WATERFALL COUNTRY PONTNEDDFECHAN – VISITOR
INFRASTRUCTURE SCHEME:
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Archaeological Services were commissioned to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for a proposed visitor centre in the village of Pontneddfechan, Neath Port Talbot (SN 32100 11770).

The assessment has identified a slight adverse impact upon several late post-medieval sites of relatively low importance, an area of generally low archaeological potential and a LANDMAP historic landscape area. Proposals to mitigate the impact upon the archaeological resource are also suggested.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archaeolegol YAD i baratoi Asesiad Desg Amgylchedd Hanesyddol ar gyfer canolfan ymwelwyr arfaethedig ym mhentref Pontneddfechan, Castell-nedd Port Talbot (SN 32100 11770).

Mae'r asesiad wedi nodi effaith andwyol fach ar nifer o safleoedd ôl-ganoloesol hwyr o bwysigrwydd cymharol isel, ardal o botensial archeolegol isel yn gyffredinol ac ardal tirwedd hanesyddol LANDMAP . Awgrymir hefyd gynigion i liniaru'r effaith ar yr adnodd archeolegol.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Proposal and Commission

- 1.1.1 Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Archaeological Services (DAT-AS) were commissioned by Andrew Scott Ltd. to prepare a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment for a proposed visitor centre at Pontneddfechan, Neath Port Talbot (SN 90071 07588).
- 1.1.2 The site area currently comprises a café and hostel called Sgwd Gwladys, a range of agricultural buildings and open yard, and a field of pasture lying alongside the river on the western side of the village of Pontneddfechan in the Neath Valley. The area is famous for its attractive waterfalls but the site also lies in an area of historic and archaeological interest, with Bronze Age, Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval industrial sites in the locality. As a result, Andrew Scott Ltd. requested a historic environment desk-based assessment on the proposed development.
- 1.1.3 The assessment will help inform the design scheme and accompany a subsequent planning application for development. The local planning authority is Neath Port Talbot Council.
- 1.1.4 This Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment is a primarily desk-based study of the site area and provides an indication of the archaeological potential of the development area, highlighting possible issues in relation to the impact of the development on the historic environment.

1.2 Scope of the Project and Methodology

- 1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been produced, detailing the methodology by which this assessment would be carried out. The WSI was submitted to the archaeological planning officers at Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) for comment and approval, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.
- 1.2.2 The scope of the assessment follows the *Standard and guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014). The standard is stated by CIfA as:

Desk-based assessment will determine, as far as is reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a specified area. Desk-based assessment will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of Conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA. In a development context desk-based assessment will establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment (or will identify the need for further evaluation to do so), and will enable reasoned proposals and decisions to be made whether to mitigate, offset or accept without further intervention that impact.

- 1.2.3 A desk-based assessment is defined by CIfA as:

.....a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely historic assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of

historic assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

- 1.2.4 The desk-based assessment of the area identifies known archaeological sites within the proposed development site and its environs, and assesses the potential for hitherto unknown remains to be present. This helps inform future decision making, design solutions and potential mitigation strategies, including the potential for further archaeological works.
- 1.2.5 The report also includes a brief assessment of the impact on the settings of any surrounding designated historic assets, including scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic landscape character areas and undesignated archaeological sites. This utilises the best practice guidance in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017).
- 1.2.6 The report presents relevant information from a number of sources including:
 - Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) and Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) data and other relevant information;
 - National Monuments Record of Wales information as held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth (RCAHMW offices in Aberystwyth);
 - Identification of any scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens, Historic Landscape Character Areas, or conservation areas within or in the vicinity of the site area;
 - Accessible bibliographic, cartographic and photographic information held at the National Library of Wales;
 - Historic and current aerial photographs, including those held at the Central Register of Aerial Photographs for Wales, Cardiff (CRAPW);
 - Relevant web-based information, including cartographic information, satellite imagery, geological information and LiDAR data;
 - Relevant information held by the landowner/developer;
 - Site visit and walkover survey;
 - Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area; and
 - Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.
- 1.2.7 An initial search range of 1km from the centre of the site boundary area was used to identify sites recorded on the HERs and other sources, and was extended to examine the potential impact on the setting of high status, designated, historic assets in the surrounding landscape.
- 1.2.8 For the purposes of planning policy in Wales, the historic environment is defined as:

All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and deliberately planted or managed (Welsh Government 2017).

A historic asset is:

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

1.3 Abbreviations

1.3.1 All sites recorded on the regional HERs are identified by a Primary Reference Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Record (NGR). For this report, **CPRN** refers to a record in the Clwyd-Powys HER and **GPRN** to a record in the Glamorgan-Gwent HER.

Sites recorded on the National Monument Record (NMR) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW) are identified by their National Primary Record Number (**NPRN**).

Additional sites identified during the course of this assessment have been given the site-specific prefix **PVC**.

References to cartographic and documentary evidence and published sources will be given in brackets throughout the text, with full details listed in the sources section at the rear of the report.

1.4 Illustrations

1.4.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

1.5 Timeline

1.5.1 The following timeline gives date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within this report.

Table 1: Archaeological and historical timeline for Wales

Period	Approximate Date	
Palaeolithic	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic	c.10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) period	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / early medieval period	c.AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval period	1086 – 1536	
Post-medieval period ¹	1536 – 1750	
Industrial period	1750 – 1899	
Modern	20th century onwards	

Note: ¹The post-medieval and Industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional HERs, as held by Clwyd-Powys and Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trusts.

2 POLICIES AND GUIDANCE

2.1 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act

2.1.1 The *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* was previously the primary legislation for protecting archaeological remains and scheduled monuments. This has been amended by *The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016* which has three main aims as defined by Cadw:

- to give more effective protection to listed buildings and scheduled monuments;
- to improve the sustainable management of the historic environment; and
- to introduce greater transparency and accountability into decisions taken on the historic environment.

2.1.2 The Act amends the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and also the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. It is supported by a number of planning guidance documents. The Act most specifically provides better safeguards for the protection of scheduled monuments, listed buildings and historic parks and gardens. It also includes further guidance on place names.

2.2 Planning Policy Wales

2.2.1 *Planning Policy Wales* (Ed.11, 2021) sets out the Welsh Government's land use planning policies. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes to the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the *Planning (Wales) Act 2015*, the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* and other key legislation.

2.2.2 Chapter 6, 'Distinctive and Natural Places', explains how planning systems must take into account the Welsh Government's objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the historic environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. It also sets out the planning policies for the sustainable management of specific categories of historic environment assets.

2.3 Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment

2.3.1 This technical advice note provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning and Listed Building Consent applications. It also provides specific guidance on how the following historic environment assets should be considered:

- Scheduled monuments
- Archaeological remains
- Listed buildings
- Conservation areas
- Historic parks and gardens
- Historic landscapes
- Historic assets of special local interest
- World Heritage Sites

- 2.3.2 The technical advice note usefully gathers together the selection criteria employed in the designation of scheduled monuments and listed buildings, and the registration of historic parks and gardens and historic landscapes.
- 2.3.3 Advice and decisions on planning applications affecting nationally significant historic environment features (or designated historic environment assets) is provided by Cadw acting on behalf of the Welsh Government.
- 2.3.4 This report will also make reference to other guidance documents published by Cadw, namely: *Conservation Principles* (March 2011); *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales* (May 2017); *Managing Historic Character in Wales* (May 2017); and *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (May 2017).

2.4 Local Development Plan

- 2.4.1 The Historic Environment is subject to the relevant policies and procedures as laid out in the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (CBC) *Local Development Plan* (LDP) for 2011–2026 (adopted 2016), and the Powys County Council (PCC) *Powys Local Development Plan* for 2011–2026 (adopted 2018).
- 2.4.2 The historic environment is referenced throughout these documents in numerous policies, emphasising its significance to the counties. The main policy references to the Neath Port Talbot Historic Environment are outlined in the strategic policy SP 21: Built Environment and Historic Heritage. The main policy references to the Powys Historic Environment are outlined in the strategic policy SP 7: Safeguarding Strategic Resources and Assets.

3 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1 The proposed development is located on the western side of the village of Pontneddfechan in the Neath Valley (NGR SN 90071 07588 – Figs 1 and 2). The larger settlement of Glynneath lies 1.5km to the southwest and the Heads of the Valleys Road (A465) passes by a short distance to the south.
- 3.2 The main site area is bounded by the Pontneddfechan/Pontneathvaughan Road (B4242) to the north and the Afon Nedd/River Neath to the east. The Sgwd Gwladys café and hostel fronts the roadside, with a series of agricultural sheds lying to the east and south and a large open yard area on the east side, partly turfed. To the south lies an area of pasture enclosed by post and wire fencing. The wooded embankment and river flyover of the A465 forms the southern boundary, with further enclosed pasture extending to the west. Two small elements of the site area lie to the north, on either side of the road (High Street) across the old bridge, although these may not form part of the final design scheme. This includes a triangular area between the two roads and the river, currently comprising hard standing and parking alongside a modern W.C. building and a small area on the north side of High Street comprising an area of compacted ground and matting used for additional parking.
- 3.3 The small village of Pontneddfechan is traditionally focused along High Street as it crosses the old bridge to the east of the river, with the Angel Inn on the west side of the river. The village has since expanded along the roadside to the east of the river and as it climbs rising ground to the north, as well as extending along Dinas Road which runs the valley base to the east. The village has formed on the lower valley slopes and base around the confluence of the Afon Nedd and Afon Mellte. The Nedd flows down through a steep sided rocky valley from the north whilst the Mellte and its tributary the Sychryd flow down through similar rocky valleys from the east. The valley base then begins to open out from Pontneddfechan as the Afon Nedd forms a larger, wider valley flowing out into Swansea Bay 23km to the southwest. The valley sides rise steeply into a undulating landscape of mixed open upland, wooded valleys, plantations and a patchwork of small to medium fields of pasture. Former industrial towns lie along the valley, with dispersed farmsteads across the higher ground.
- 3.4 The underlying geology comprises the South Wales Lower Coal Measures Formation - Sandstone. This sedimentary bedrock formed between 319 and 318 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. Overlying the bedrock are river terrace deposits of sand and gravel formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present during the Quaternary period (BGS viewer 2023).

Waterfall Country Pontneddfechan – Visitor Infrastructure Scheme:
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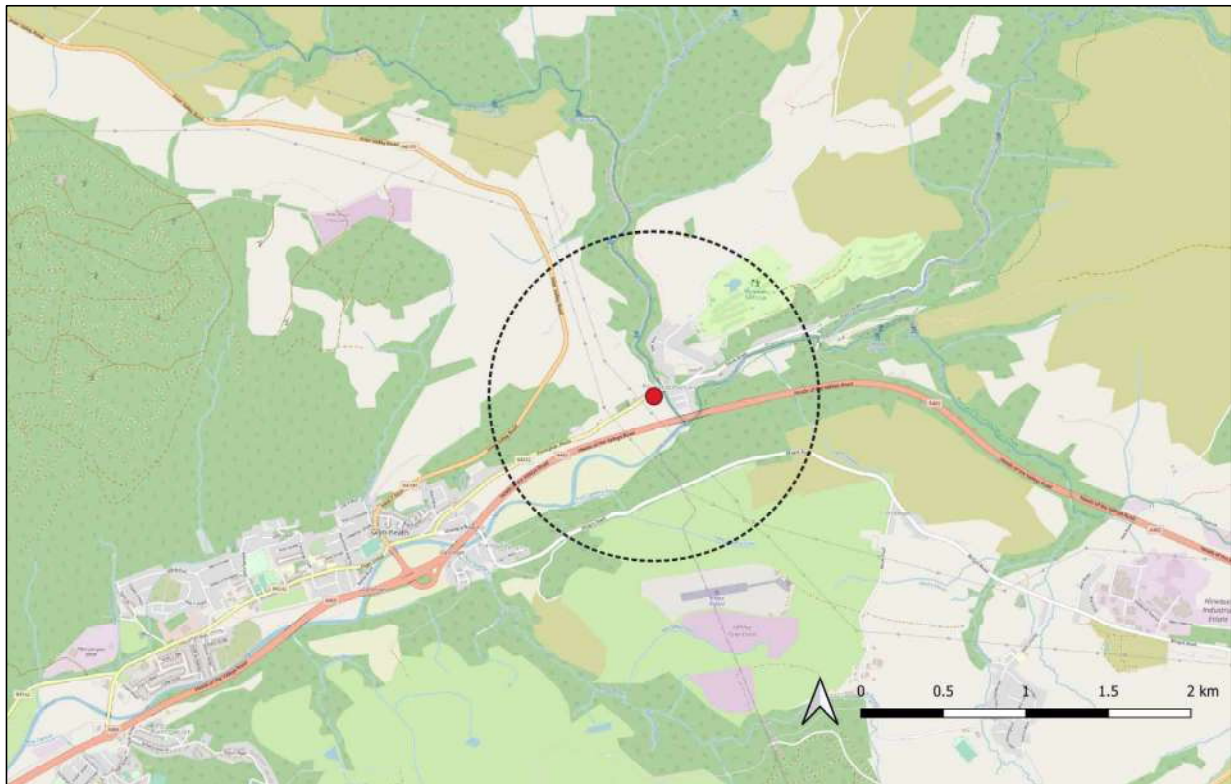


Figure 1: Location of development area showing the proposed development site (red dot) and HER search area (dotted circle).
Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

Waterfall Country Pontneddfechan – Visitor Infrastructure Scheme:
Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment



Figure 2: Detailed location map and development masterplan. Supplied by the client, not reproduced to scale.

4 DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS (Fig 3)

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 A search of several databases was made of historic assets within the 1km radius search area. Designated assets beyond this search area were also considered for potential wider-ranging impacts. These designated assets are considered first, as they largely comprise assets with some form of statutory protection.

4.2 Scheduled Monuments

- 4.2.1 Scheduled monuments are historic and archaeological sites considered to be of national importance. These sites are given legal protection, and consideration of the impact of development upon these sites and their settings are considerations of the planning process.
- 4.2.2 There are no scheduled monuments within the proposed development area, nor within the 1km radius search area. There are however three scheduled monuments located to the north-east of the search area (Table 2). These are:
- **BR178**, Craig y Ddinas Hillfort (Iron Age)
 - **BR229**, Dinas Silica Mine (post-medieval)
 - **BR230**, Glynneath Gunpowder Works (post-medieval).
- 4.2.3 Craig y Ddinas Hillfort (**BR178**) is the closest scheduled monument to the development site, being located on a limestone promontory with sheer cliffs overlooking the confluence of the Afon Mellte and Afon Sychryd, c.300m outside the 1km radius search area to the northeast. The scheduling description states that:

The monument comprises the remains of a hillfort, which probably dates to the Iron Age period (c. 800 BC - AD 74, the Roman conquest of Wales). It occupies a long narrow limestone promontory which rises above the confluence of the Afon Mellte and Afon Sychryd. The site is defended around the majority of its circumference by sheer cliffs that drop to the rivers below. At the NE end of the promontory are two linear banks built of limestone rubble which defend the E and N sides. The W (inner) rampart consists of a substantial rubble bank, up to 2.5m high and 4m wide and extends for around 150m, turning to the N at the E end. A later field wall runs along the top of the rampart. At the W end the old road from Penderyn to Neath enters the hillfort at what may have been the original entrance. The E (outer) rampart is of similar construction, up to 2.2m high and 3m wide, and extending for approximately 100m, turning sharply to the N at the E end. Both ramparts have been disturbed by later quarrying activities, and the lines of two tramways, which connected the different quarry workings, can be traced across the interior of the site.

The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of later prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement. The site forms an important element within the wider later prehistoric context and within the surrounding landscape. The site is well preserved and retains considerable archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of evidence relating to chronology, building techniques and functional detail.

- 4.2.4 Glynneath Gunpowder works (**BR230**) lies c.600m northeast of the 1km search area, with surviving elements on both banks of the Afon Mellte. This site is described as:

...the rare and well preserved remains of a nineteenth-century gunpowder works, one of only two to have existed in Wales. Glynneath Gunpowder Works was established in 1857 by the Vale of Neath Powder Co, partially on the site of a former silica brick works. It continued in making black powder for blasting in mines and quarries under the ownership of Curtis and Harvey from 1862, and was successively merged with Nobel's Explosives Co and then Imperial Chemical Industries. Operations ceased in 1931 when black powder was removed from the permitted list of explosives by the Home Office. The form of the site, consisting of many small buildings widely dispersed, is typical of gunpowder works of the period, and the surviving structures exemplify most of the principal processes of powder production together with their associated infrastructure. The scheduled monument consists of five small areas and one linear area following the axis of the upper part of the works. The southernmost area (A) is about 40m x 140m and contains the below ground remains of the mills for grinding raw materials, together with adjacent turbine houses and engine houses. Foundations are visible at ground level in the track. Area B straddles the River Mellte and is roughly 30m x 10m, taking in a turbine and pump house and the remains of a piered aqueduct carrying the main leat. Area C and area D are small areas either side of the track: a former tramroad tunnel entrance on the west and the ruins of a pellet press house on the east, in which powder was made into pellets. Area E is the old Corning House where powder was crushed and sieved. This is a large stone structure which formerly had a water wheel in front of it. The scheduled boundary excludes the track but takes in the depression into which the Corning House is built, and extends roughly 30m x 30m. The linear area is area F. This is irregular in shape, varying from 10m to 40m in width and extending for approximately 1 km. It includes a large number of buildings, earthworks and structures centred around the main tramroad and leat. A pellet house and magazine are in the largest, southerly, portion south of the River Mellte. A piered tramroad bridge and the mass concrete New Corning House are adjacent to this, together with a large stone weir. A cluster of buildings north-west of this, on the northern bank of the Mellte, include ruins of a watch house, expense magazines, glazing house, stable, dusting house, chimney, truck shop and another pellet house. Area F continues on the east side of the Mellte again, taking in another masonry weir, further magazines, a pellet press house and a mess room. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance and illustrate our knowledge and understanding of the development of the gunpowder industry.

- 4.2.5 The remains of Dinas Silica Mine (**BR229**) are also extensive, spreading along the northern and western banks of the Afon Sychryd, south of Craig y Ddinas Hillfort. They are described as:

...the remains of a mine complex, dating to the 19th century. The mine was associated with the production of silica furnace bricks, which were invented locally in the 1820s. The bricks became known generically by the word 'Dinas' throughout much of the world. The quartzite or silica workings were owned by Richard,

Thomas and Baldwins Limited, who transported the raw materials via a tramroad to Landore in Swansea for the manufacture of the refractory bricks. The remains within the scheduled area include quarries, mine entrances into pillar and stall workings, the silica processing plant, tramroads, an aerial ropeway and a powder store. The quarries in the vicinity of the tramroad were operational in the 19th century. Underground mining took place from after about 1903 until the mine closed in 1964. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of mining practices. It retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of associated archaeological features and deposits.

- 4.2.6 In all three instances, the scheduled area comprises the remains described and areas around them, within which related evidence may be expected to survive.

Table 2: Details of scheduled monuments located just outside the 1km radius search area

SM Number	Name	Type	Period	Unitary Authority	NGR
BR230	Glynneath Gunpowder Works	Industrial monument	Post Medieval/Modern	Rhondda Cynon Taff	SN9189408520
BR178	Craig y Ddinas Hillfort	Hillfort	Prehistoric	Rhondda Cynon Taff	SN9152708075
BR229	Dinas Silica Mine	Tramroad	Post Medieval/Modern	Rhondda Cynon Taff	SN9171008025

4.3 Listed Buildings

- 4.3.1 Listed buildings are buildings and structures of national importance given legal protection by being placed on a 'List' of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Buildings on the list are given one of three grades which denote their level of importance (Grade I, II* and II), Grade I being the highest. A listed building may not be demolished, extended or altered without special permission from the local planning authority.
- 4.3.2 There are no listed buildings within the proposed development area, nor within the 1km radius search area. The closest site is the Grade II listed Pontwalby Railway Viaduct (Ref. 81856) which is located c.500m outside the 1km radius search area to the south-west. This was built to carry the Vale of Neath broad gauge double track over Nant Gwrelych at Pontwalby and is listed as a particularly fine example, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. It is described as:

Railway viaduct, squared sandstone blocks with tooled angles and voussoirs. Five broad round arches with big cut stone voussoirs and red brick soffits carried on massive tapering piers, the tallest

over 18m high. Each pier is divided on axis of viaduct by a tall arched opening with stone voussoirs. Bull nosed string course under parapet with flat stone coping. Fifth arch to SW has been blocked in stone with big open roundel in stonework with brick surround (Cadw 2003).

4.4 Conservation Areas

- 4.4.1 Conservation areas are designated to preserve and enhance the special character of areas of architectural or historic interest. The purpose of designating a conservation area is to provide the Planning Authority with an additional measure of control over an area it considers to be of special historic and/or architectural value.
- 4.4.2 The proposed development area does not lie within a conservation area and there are none within the 1km search area. The closest conservation area lies around Glynneath Woollen Mill, 3km to the southwest.

4.5 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

- 4.5.1 Parks and gardens of special historic interest in Wales are included on a Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, designed to provide comprehensive information to assist decision makers help protect and preserve essential features of these parks and gardens, and enable their significance and character to be protected through the planning system.
- 4.5.2 There are no registered historic parks and gardens within the proposed development area, nor within the 1km radius search area. The nearest is Rheola (PGW(Gm)53(NEP)), an early nineteenth century small picturesque park with informal grounds and a walled kitchen garden, approximately 7km down the Neath Valley to the south-west (Cadw 2000).

4.6 Registered Historic Landscapes

- 4.6.1 Registered historic landscapes are landscapes of historic interest included on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales (Cadw 1998). The landscape boundaries and associated details have been created as non-statutory advice to assist decision makers and landscape managers to help ensure that the historic character of the landscape is sustained, and that where change is contemplated, it is well-informed.
- 4.6.2 The proposed development area does not lie within a Registered Historic Landscape and there are none in the wider vicinity. The closest such landscapes include the East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog Landscape of Special Historic Interest 5km to the northeast, and The Rhondda Landscape of Special Historic Interest 5km to the south.

4.7 LANDMAP

- 4.7.1 The LANDMAP database covers much of Wales and is designed to enable landscape quality to be taken into account in decision making. The landscape areas themselves are not protected by designation but are used to inform sustainable decision making and enable landscape to be taken into account during decision making processes. This includes historic landscapes, with landscape areas subdivided on the basis of past human activity and structurally prominent patterns and features that contribute to the historic character of the present landscape.
- 4.7.2 The proposed development area falls largely within the LANDMAP historic landscape area of Neath Valley Bottom (NPTHL043). It lies at the very northern end of this 15km long landscape area. It has been assessed as:

... being of outstanding overall value as a historically important industrial communications corridor with key components, such as the Neath Canal and the Vale of Neath Railway, surviving in generally well-preserved condition, including some individual monuments of exceptional importance (e.g. the 10-arched Aberdulais Aqueduct and Basin).

4.7.3 The landscape area is described in more detail as:

... a broad floodplain, a communications corridor characterised by roads, tramroads, railways, canals, and the meandering of the Afon Nedd through a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, which stretches northwest from Aberdulais to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pontneddfechan. The aspect area is bounded on both the north and south sides by the enclosed fieldscape of the Vale of Neath (HL39). The Neath valley bottom resembles that of the Tawe valley in terms of its geological and early history. However, the Neath valley is much broader than the Swansea valley with the slopes broken up by terracing and hanging valleys. The character of the valley bottom can be identified as an almost entirely industrial aspect area interspersed with large wetland meadows and isolated farmsteads. The modern settlements of Resolfen, Blaengwrach and Glynneath have been built on the floodplain and surrounding valley sides.

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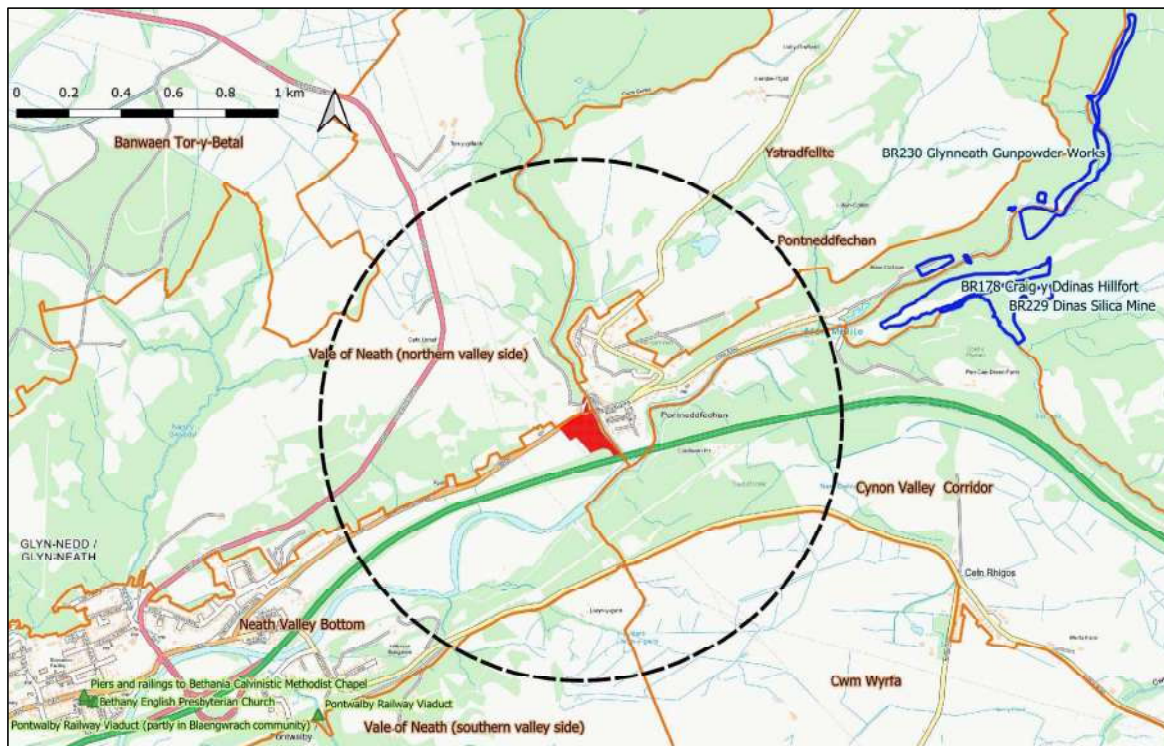


Figure 3: Map showing the scheduled monuments (in blue), listed buildings (in green) and LANDMAP historic landscapes (in orange) in the area surrounding the proposed development site (in red).

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5 NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 A search of the regional HERs and other databases was made within the development site and the wider 1km search area (Tables 3–5 and Fig 4). This search area includes records from both the Clwyd-Powys (CPAT) HER to the east of the Afon Nedd, and the Glamorgan-Gwent (GGAT) HER to the west.
- 5.1.2 The CPAT HER records thirteen historic assets within the wider search area (HER search ref. E6873) and the GGAT HER records seventeen (HER search ref. 7096).
- 5.1.3 Six additional historic assets are recorded in the NMR database, held and maintained by the RCAHMW.
- 5.1.4 The following information is laid out chronologically to provide a brief archaeological and historical background for the development area and its environs for each period, along with the relevant HER entries pertaining to that period.

5.2 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic

- 5.2.1 No sites of these dates are recorded within the development area nor the 1km radius search area. Even in the wider landscape sites of this date appear rare and therefore the archaeological potential for these periods is generally considered to be negligible.

5.3 Bronze Age

- 5.3.1 A findspot for a Bronze Age axe is recorded within the development area (GPRN 02248w), however no further information is available regarding its precise form and the exact location of the find. Around 260m to the east of the site an undated cairn is recorded (GPRN 10276g). Cairns are often associated with Bronze Age burial mounds, or barrows, but there is no further information regarding this site so its form and date are not recorded. Cairns may also be associated with clearances, where stone was removed from a field to allow cultivation and piled up. Such cairns can be much later in date, with many dating to the post-medieval period. No other records of Bronze Age activity exist within the search area, suggesting the findspot may be an unusual outlier rather than an indication of a particular site of Bronze Age activity.
- 5.3.2 In the wider landscape there is some evidence of an increase in activity during the Bronze Age. In upland areas over 4km to the north and east, several burial cairn monuments and standing stones are recorded, with the occasional closer site such as Rhigos barrow cemetery 2km to the east and the Carn y Crochan urn burial overlooking the Mellte valley 3km to the northeast, excavated in the 19th century (Reece-Philips 1925). However, without a greater understanding of the provenance around the Bronze Age findspot GPRN 02248w and 'cairn' GPRN 10276g, the potential for Bronze Age archaeological remains is low.

5.4 Iron Age

- 5.4.1 No sites of Iron Age date are recorded in the HER within the development area nor within the 1km radius search area.
- 5.4.2 However, as already noted, Craig y Ddinas hillfort lies just outside the search area to the northeast, and a smaller hillfort has been recorded in Glyneath

1.5km to the southwest. These sites are concentrated on the Neath/Mellte valley and the size of Craig y Ddinas suggests a sizeable population in the area, likely making use of the resources offered by the valley. There is at present however no positive indication of Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the proposed development area and therefore potential remains low.

5.5 Roman

- 5.5.1 No sites of Roman date are recorded within the development area nor within the 1km radius search area.
- 5.5.2 The line of the Roman road between Coelbren and Brecon crosses an upland area 4km to the north, and the possible line of a Roman road between Neath and Merthyr crosses a similar upland area 3km to the southeast but at present there is no indication of Roman activity around the proposed development area, therefore the potential for this period is considered to be negligible.

5.6 Early Medieval and Medieval

- 5.6.1 No early medieval (AD410–1086) sites are recorded in the HER within the development area, nor the 1km radius search area.
- 5.6.2 The GGAT HER contains two records of medieval (AD1087–1536) sites located within the 1km radius search area. The first is a ford on the Afon Nedd c.200m south-west of the development area (PRN G00011m). This is based on an entry in the *Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan* (RCAHMW 1982) but appears to be the reference to a *potential* river crossing point where the river becomes shallower. No medieval trackways or routes have been identified in association with this possible ford.
- 5.6.3 The second medieval record is for a former chapel at a site named Forest Legiones. The HER places this c.500m north-west of the development site at SN89680778. However, historic Ordnance Survey maps relate this site to the later Forest Farm which lies c.430m north-north-west of the development, at SN8978207916 (see Fig 4). According to the HER, the existence of a chapel is supported by historic deeds and the site is understood to have been a monastery, but the history of this site is obscure. There is a collection of documents in the National Library known as the 'Forest Legionis' manuscripts, dating between the 17th and early 20th century, collected by E.J.Jones, but the name is likely a reference to the farm of Fforest where he lived. These documents have not been examined during the course of this assessment. The 'Forest Legionis' name, and reference to a chapel site is recorded on 19th century map sources, but no other references to this chapel have come to light and no above ground remains of a chapel have been identified in this area.
- 5.6.4 The nearest settlements during the medieval period may have been associated with medieval churches, of which the closest recorded and surviving ones appear to be in Penderyn 4.5km to the east and Aberpergwm 3.5km to the southwest. There is a curious record described as the Nedd Valley settlement (CPRN 12320) and dated to the post-medieval period, although the site has not been recently identified or closely dated. The description of the site comes from Gilbert Gilpin, who had been establishing a quarry nearby at the end of the 18th century. He describes (Gilpin 1801):

a great number of mounds of earth and stones, of about 2 or 3 yards [2-3 m] long, 1 wide and 12 high: and some few of about 4 or 5 yards long, 1 or 2 wide, and 1 high. They all appear of great antiquity. They lie pretty nearly in straight lines up the ascents of

the ground... Their distances from each other are various: in some cases only 3 or 4, and in others more than 20 yards. ...These mounds are evidently artificial, an excavation on the upper side of each, from whence the matter was got to form them, is still visible.

- 5.6.5 These mounds lay along the valley slopes and overlooking the Nedd valley to the north of Pontneddfechan, extending for around 1 mile (1.6km). It is not clear what Gilpin is describing, although he states that they are not mining features and he considers them to be Roman or 'British' (i.e. early medieval) in date and "evident they have been erected for defence" (ibid). The RCAHMW record the site in their *Inventory* (RCAHMW 1985) and suggest they may be house platform scoops, interspersed with field clearance cairns. The dimensions given by Gilpin suggest they may be more rectangular in form, which is more typical of medieval and earlier post-medieval house platforms but it is unusual to see them in the number that Gilpin suggests. These features are no longer apparent, presumably lost to afforestation and ploughing, therefore their true date and function remain unknown.
- 5.6.6 The potential for medieval archaeological remains is somewhat unclear, given the uncertainty around the Fforest Legionis chapel and possible house platforms further up the valley. Generally however the other known medieval archaeological sites in the area would suggest the potential for medieval archaeology within the proposed development area is low.

5.7 Post-Medieval and Modern

- 5.7.1 A post-medieval corn mill is recorded within the development area (NPRN 24642) but the NGR is imprecise, and this site does in fact lie further up the Nedd valley outside the proposed development area. Standing remains of the mill survive approximately 500m further up the valley from the development area.
- 5.7.2 Post-medieval sites recorded within the 1km radius search area mainly represent evidence for industrial activity. To the north are extensive mining remains associated with coal and silica extraction (CPRNs 79696–9 and 94002–4) and clay workings (CPRN 79705). To the south and south-west, both the GGAT HER and the NMR record Dr Bevan's tramroad (GPRN 07058w; NPRN 405056) and the GGAT HER records elements of the railway (GPRNs 03220m & 04774m), both running along the southeast side of the valley. Other post-medieval sites are the Angel Inn (GPRN 09141w); Pontneddfechan Bridge (GPRN 09348w/NPRN 24139); two former mills (NPRNs 24937 & 24642); Ebenezer Chapel (NPRN 9526); a row of terraced housing associated with Dinas Silica Mine (NPRN 405049) and a number of historic farmsteads.
- 5.7.3 Pontneddfechan is likely to have been a historic bridging point for the road along the valley but the origins of the bridge (GPRN 09348w/NPRN 24139) have not been dated. The Pontneddfechan Road is recorded as a turnpike road (CPRN 140743) but it predates the main period of establishing turnpike roads from the mid-18th century as it is already shown on Emmanuel Bowen's map of South Wales in 1729, complete with a bridge at Pontneddfechan, and is therefore a route and bridging point of some longstanding (Hankinson et al 2015).
- 5.7.4 It is possible some of the farmsteads in the area, such as Forest (GPRN 09467w), Cefn Uchaf (GPRN05919w) and Pen-y-graig (CPRN 150735) were well established by the time they were first recorded on historic maps during the 19th century but the history of these farms has not been researched. Forest (GPRN 09467w) in particular has potential associations with a

medieval chapel site (GPRN 00560w) and may have developed from medieval origins.

- 5.7.5 Settlement at Pontneddfechan is traditionally considered to have developed with the industrialisation of this area from the late 18th century onwards. In 1797 Gilbert Gilpin, mentioned previously, and his business partner William Barrow, took lease of 'Dinas Rock' further up the Mellte Valley (Evans 1990;33). There seems to be little recorded about this quarrying enterprise but good quality silica was discovered in the area and appears to have been quarried piecemeal around this time and taken down to the Neath canal via a new tramway, installed in 1807. Large scale quarrying started in 1822 after William Weston Young leased lands near Craig-y-dinas from the Marquis of Bute. Young had perfected a recipe for creating a silica firebrick using the good quality silica found locally. In 1822, along with David Morgan, John Player and Joseph Young, he established the Dinas Firebrick Company, with works established at Pont Walby in Glynneath to the southwest, with quarrying and mining taking place to the north and northeast. The mining of silica and manufacture of firebricks was both successful and long-lived, fed by the industrialisation of the South Wales valleys as well as access to a growing international market from ports such as Neath and Swansea. The silica was initially quarried, before mines were driven into the hillside to extract the material. The initial quarrying and mining was largely focused around the Sychryd Valley to the northeast of Pontneddfechan but later workings can be seen up the Nedd valley to the north of Pontneddfechan (CPRN 79705). The works continued throughout the 19th century, the mining finally coming to a close in 1964. Many of the mine levels (CPRNs 79697, 79699, 94002, 94003 and 94004) and associated tramways (CPRN 79696) recorded on the HER actually relate to the later 19th and 20th century coal workings, of which little is actually recorded but mine levels, tramway routes and leats survive in good condition. In 1857 the Vale of Neath Powder Company built a gunpowder works in the Mellte valley, partly on the site of one of the firebrick works. The works were one of only two in Wales and continued in operation until 1931. Materials were transported to and from the various workings and along the valley via a series of tramways, the routes of many of which can be traced and have been repurposed as footpaths and roads, including the main Pontneddfechan/Pontneathvaughan Road which was formerly a tramway passing the northern edge of the proposed development area. Transport corridors also improved with the arrival of the Vale of Neath Railway (GPRN 02500.0m) along the eastern side of the valley in the mid-19th century, replacing Dr Bevan's tramroad which had been built in 1806.
- 5.7.6 It is this sudden increase in industrial activity from the early 19th century that likely drove the establishment of settlement around the bridging point at Pontneddfechan. A collection of traditional 19th century buildings survive, lining High Street on the eastern side of the bridge, along with the Angel Inn on the west side of the bridge. Further 19th and early 20th century buildings can be seen spread along the valley, surrounded by more modern housing.
- 5.7.7 The only record of modern date (i.e., after 1900) is a Second World War aircraft crash site (NPRN 507024). A Vickers Wellington crashed c.600m west of the development site on the morning of the 19th of September 1939. The crew had parachuted to safety just beforehand. The crash location and aircraft remains are designated as a Controlled Site under the *Protection of Military Remains Act 1986*.
- 5.7.8 The growth of Pontneddfechan during the 19th and 20th centuries, and the presence of a tramway along the northern edge of the proposed development

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area increases the potential for post-medieval archaeological remains to be present within the proposed development area.

Table 3: Historic assets recorded on the CPAT HER within the development site and 1km radius search area.

PRN	Site name	Period	Type	NGR
79698	Lluest, building I	Post Medieval	Building	SN8985208525
79697	Lluest, coal level (dis) I	Post Medieval	Coal Workings	SN8987908522
79699	Lluest, coal level (dis) II	Post Medieval	Coal Workings	SN8988708560
79696	Lluest, disused tramway	Post Medieval	Tramway	SN8991408384
94002	Lluest, silica level II	Post Medieval	Level	SN8988908559
94003	Lluest, silica level III	Post Medieval	Level	SN8991708570
94004	Lluest, silica level IV	Post Medieval	Level	SN8987708522
12320	Nedd Valley settlement	Post Medieval	Settlement	SN9001908001
150735	Pen-y-graig farm	Post Medieval	Farm	SN9070608059
172807	Pen-y-graig farm, farm building	Post Medieval	Farm Building	SN9069108053
20949	Pont-Nedd-Fechan Find	Modern	Findspot	SN8982508499
79705	Pontneddfechan, level (fire clay dis)	Post Medieval	Clay Workings	SN9005508231

Table 4: Historic assets recorded on the GGAT HER within the development site and 1km radius search area.

PRN	Site name	Period	Type	NGR
G00011m	River	Medieval	Ford	SN901073
G00560w	Forest Legiones	Medieval	Chapel	SN89680778
G01039.1m	Pontwalby Power Operated 2 Stage Incline	Post Medieval	Tramway	SN925075
G02248w	Findspot, Glynneath	Bronze Age	Findspot	SN901075

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PRN	Site name	Period	Type	NGR
G03220m	276 The Hirwaun Common Mineral Railway	Post Medieval	Railway	SN94950618
G04774m	Signal Box, Tir Mawr Farm, Llwyncoed	Post Medieval	Railway Signal Box	SN980053
G05822w	Wellington L4256 Crash Site	Modern	Air Crash Site	SN894074
G05919w	Cefn Uchaf Farmhouse, Glynneath	Post Medieval	Farmhouse	SN89420792
G05920w	Barns, Cefn Uchaf Farm, Glynneath	Post Medieval	Barn	SN89420792
G07058w	Dismantled Tramway- Nant Llywyn-Y-Gwin, Glynneath	Post Medieval	Tramway	SN8973506921
G09141w	Angel Inn, Pontneddfechan	Post Medieval	Public House	SN9006407632
G09348w	Pontneddfechan Bridge, Pontneddfechan	Post Medieval	Bridge	SN9009907670
G09467w	Fforest Farm	Post Medieval	Farmstead	SN 89856 07878
G09468w	Pentwyn-Y-Bont Barn	Post Medieval	Farmstead	SN 89982 07727
G09499w	Llwyn-Y-Gwin Farmstead	Post Medieval	Farmstead	SN 90076 06843
G10276g	Cairn	-	-	SN9039807594
G10300g	Platform	-	-	SN9022507693
G10303g	Duplicate of Site 03674g	-	-	SN9068707908

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Table 5: Historic assets recorded on the NMR within the development site and 1km radius search area.

PRN	Site name	Period	Type	NGR
9526	Ebenezer Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, Pontneddfechan, Nedd Uchaf; Pontneathvaughan, Neath Higher	Post Medieval	Chapel	SN89920753
40816	Pont Nedd Fechan Level	Post Medieval	Adit	SN898085
34647	Neath Tramroad	Post Medieval	Wagonway	SN89860855
24937	Graig Ton-Y-Gilfach Flour Mill	Post Medieval	Corn Mill	SN898085
24460	Coed Wernhir, Rejected Mounds	Unknown	Non Antiquity	SN9007
28114	Ynys Cambwll; Ynys-Carnbwll	Post Medieval	House	SN9062207729
24139	Pont Nedd Fechan	Post Medieval	Bridge	SN9010207672
24642	Nedd Fechan Mill	Post Medieval	Corn Mill	SN901075
507024	Vickers Wellington L4256	Modern	Aircraft	SN8940007400
423085	Pontneddfechan	Unknown	Village	SN90430773
405056	Dr Bevans Tramroad, Glyn Neath	Post Medieval	Tramway	SN90120723
405049	Dinas Terrace, Pontneddfechan	Post Medieval	Terraced House	SN90910798

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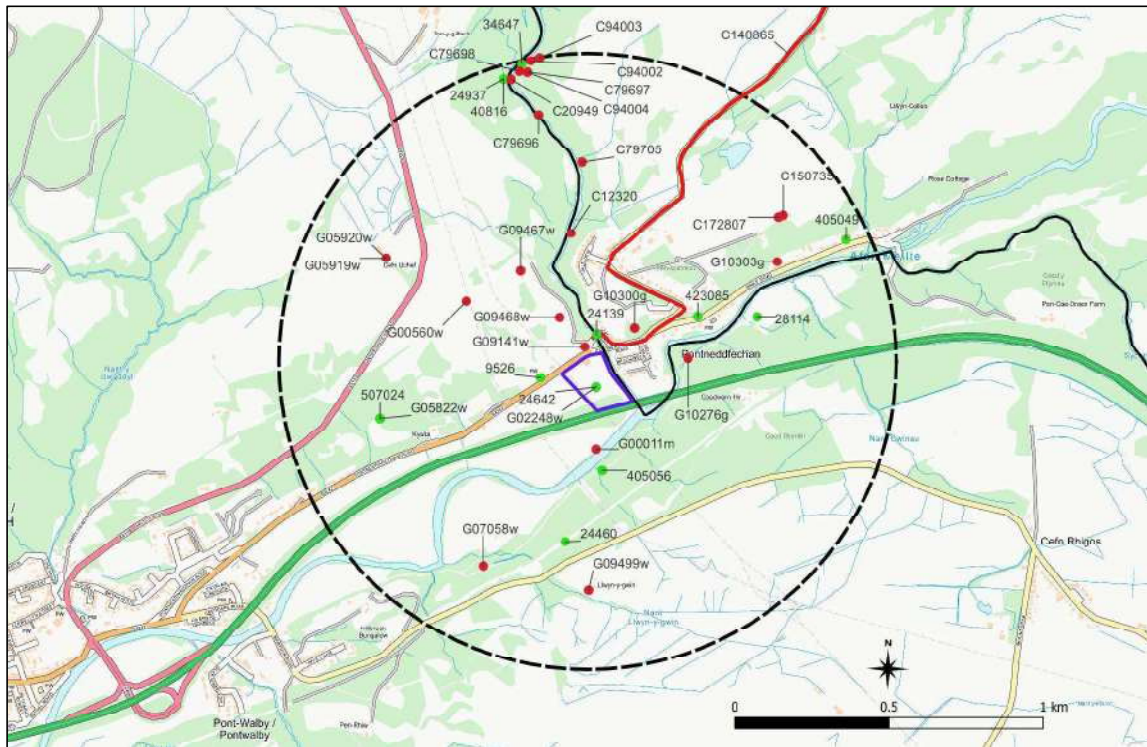


Figure 4: Location map for historic assets recorded in the regional HERs (red points/polyline) and the NMR (green points), labelled by PRN/NPRN within the development site (purple polygon) and the 1km radius study area (black dotted polygon).
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6 ASSESSMENT OF EVIDENCE

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 Sections 4 and 5 have described the known archaeological resource for the area, recorded on national and regional databases of historic assets. The following section examines some of the main sources of information that inform or could expand the current understanding of the archaeological resource and highlight previously unrecorded historic assets.

6.2 Previous Archaeological Work

- 6.2.1 No intrusive archaeological investigations (excavations, evaluations or watching briefs) have previously been undertaken within the study area.
- 6.2.2 A non-intrusive archaeological survey of industrial remains, including those in the 1km radius search area was undertaken between 2004 and 2010 (GGAT 2005–10). Specifically, this was a study of:

the industrial landscapes of the northern coalfield rim, specifically the Heads of the Valleys area, associated with the coke-fired iron industry, perhaps the most influential of industries in the history of south Wales (GGAT 2010).

The project encompassed the ironworks themselves and related features, associated transport networks, water management and extractive features. The aim of the project was to raise the level of data on, and hence the profile and understanding of, this heritage resource, and ultimately aid preservation through proactive management. The project involved the identification, quantification, mapping and description of industrial landscapes and features. The survival and condition of the resource was assessed, potential threats were identified and current levels of protection reviewed.

- 6.2.3 Between 2011 and 2012, part of the 1km radius search area was the subject of a desk-based assessment of medieval and early post-medieval industrial sites in east and north-east Wales (Hankinson et al. 2012).
- 6.2.4 Although both the above pieces of work cover areas of the present study, neither report does more than list industrial sites located within the present study area.

6.3 Historic Mapping

Emanuel Bowen's map of South Wales 1729 (Fig 5)

- 6.3.1 As mentioned in section 5.7 above this map has been used to identify the presence of a later turnpike road. Whilst the map lacks close detail, the road along the valley base and the river crossing are clearly marked and labelled 'Pont ar Vuchan'. Although this indicates a bridge crossing, no associated settlement is marked, the closest being Abernant House which lies in what is now Glynneath, 1.8km to the southwest, and Abergoddelog which may have lain somewhere near Pont Whalby on the opposite side of the valley.

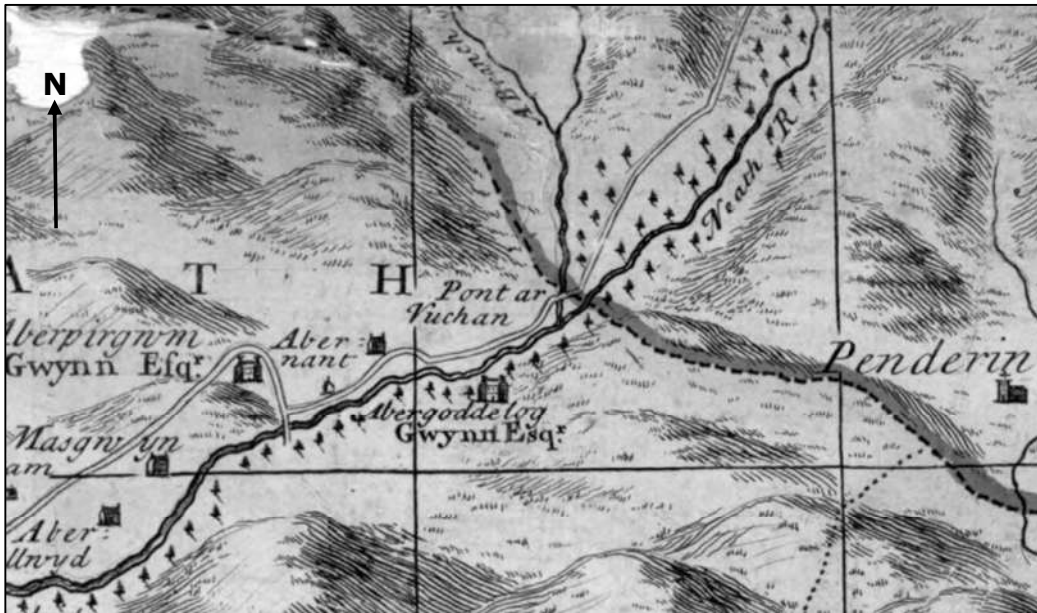


Figure 5: Extract from Emanuel Bowen's map of 1729 showing the bridging point of Pontneddfechan.

Thomas Budgen - Ordnance Survey original surveyors' drawings (Aberdare) 1814 (Fig 6)

- 6.3.2 This relatively early map lacks some fine detail but is the first to capture the area after the initial period of industrialisation in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Settlement has clearly grown around the bridge crossing at Pontneddfechan. The focus of settlement appears to be on the east banks of the Nedd, around what became the High Street, and to the north of the Pontneathvaughan/Pontneddfechan Road. Some settlement is shown on the west side of the river however, both north and south of the road. To the north this is likely to be around the Angel Inn and Pentwyn above that. To the south it appears to be focussed close to the Sgwyd Gwladys site, with a suggestion of more than one building. The valley base to the south is subdivided farmland down to the banks of the river.



Figure 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey drawings of 1814, showing settlement developing at Pontneddfechan.

Cadoxton juxta Neath Parish Tithe Map 1841 (Fig 7)

- 6.3.3 The parish tithe map of 1841 depicts the site in more detail. Pontneddfechan lies at the junction of three parishes, the proposed development site lying within the Cadoxton juxta Neath parish. The site lies within a larger square field, the boundaries of which are still broadly apparent today although the field has been subdivided. The northeast and southeast boundaries are formed by the river; the southwest by a field boundary and the northwest by the main road along the valley. The field itself was called 'Cae pen gwynne', used as a meadow, and owned and farmed by Jenkin Jones of Pontneathfychan [sic] farm.
- 6.3.4 The farmstead of Pontneathfychan was one of a number of buildings that lay along the south side of the main road. As later maps show however, the original line of the main road ran slightly further north, behind what is now the Angel Inn with the current road line being a later construction. The farmstead is depicted as at least two buildings and although the accuracy of the map is not precise, the current Sgwyd Gwladys building (PVC01) may have lain within the bounds of this farmstead complex.
- 6.3.5 The farm is one of around five buildings depicted on the south side of the road between Ebenezer Chapel (still standing on the north side of the road) to the west and the old bridge to the east, described in the tithe apportionments as cottages and gardens occupied by various tenants but under the ownership of Jenkins Price. These buildings and their associated enclosures have largely been cleared and it is not clear which, if any, relate to the current Angel Inn.
- 6.3.6 The focus of the village lay on the east side of the bridge, as depicted in the Ystradfellte parish tithe map of 1842. This shows a collection of cottages along High Street and stretching along Pontneddfechan/Pontneathvaughan Road, with more sporadic cottages and farmsteads along two streets that climb the hillside to the north. The road along the valley bottom (Dinas Road) continues to Tir Pont y Dinas, where it crosses the river into the

neighbouring parish of Ystradyfodwg and the area of quarrying around Dinas Rock.

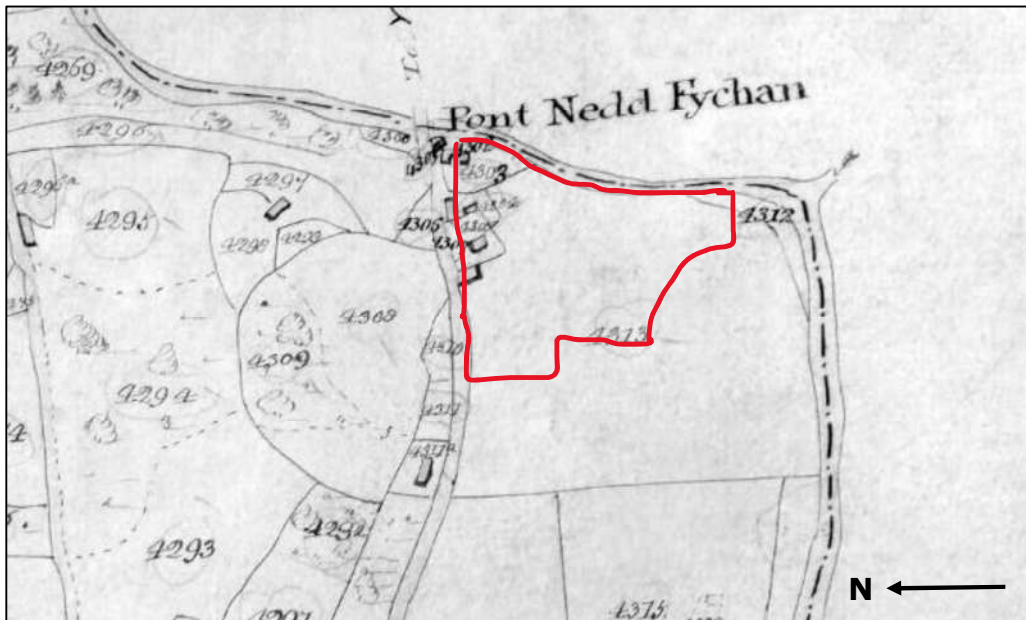


Figure 7: Extract from the 1841 Cadoxton juxta Neath parish tithe map showing a rough approximation of the development area (red outline). North is to the left of the image.

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, 1888 (Fig 8).

- 6.3.7 First edition Ordnance Survey maps depicting the development area include Brecknockshire sheet XLIX.NE/Glamorgan sheet X. These were surveyed in 1875–77. The Glamorgan sheet was published twice; first in 1884 as Glamorgan X, then again in 1888 as Brecknockshire sheet XLIX.NE/Glamorgan sheet X (Fig 8). The maps depict the development area as a large field, very similar to what was visible on the tithe map, with the additional detail that the southwest field boundary appears to have been a hedgeline containing mature trees.
- 6.3.8 The most obvious new addition to the site is a tramway (PVC02) crossing the northern end of the field on a north-east/south-west alignment, turning to run north alongside the river. This unnamed section of tramway originated at the Lluest silica works to the north (possibly a continuation of CPRN 79696), merging with Dr Bevan's tramroad when it reached Pont Walby. The route of this tramway has been replaced by the current main road through the village and therefore forms the northwest boundary of the main development area. The road line, which is also depicted on the tithe map, is clearly shown running to the north of the Angel Inn. There are two buildings depicted on the south side of the tramline and therefore potentially extending into the development area. The main building broadly aligns with the current Sgwd Gwladys building (PVC01). Although this building was potentially marked on the previous tithe map, the way it aligns with the tramway would suggest it is contemporary with the tramway and therefore constructed after the tithe map was drawn (i.e. built between

1842 and 1875). A second small building (PVC03) lies to the northeast, at the point the tramway turns to run up the valley. This may be a small cottage site, although its location at the turn could be an indication that it is also associated with the tramway. Enclosures lie on the northeast corner of the field, one of which would appear to be an orchard. To the north a building (PVC04) lies adjacent to the bridge crossing, or possibly a small row of cottages, approximately in the area of the northernmost element of the proposed development area.

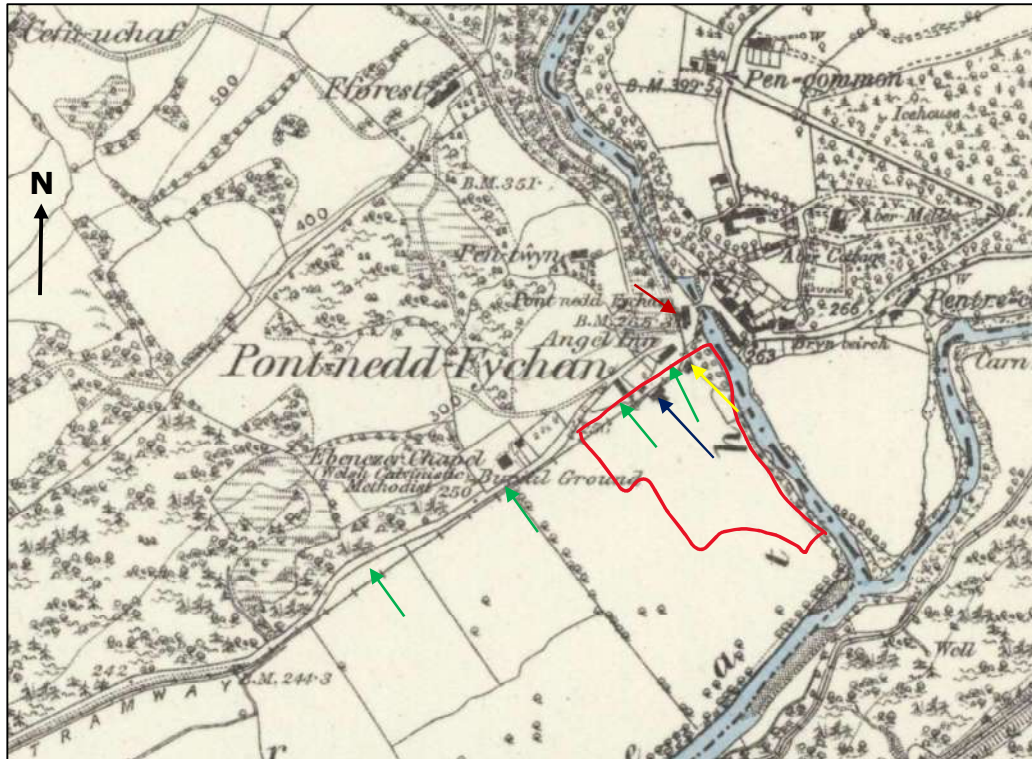


Figure 8: Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey map sheet Brecknockshire XLIX.NE/Glamorgan X. Surveyed 1875–77, published 1888. Development area outlined in red. New sites include Sgwd Gwladys PVC01 (blue arrow), tramway PVC02 (green arrows), small building PVC03 (yellow arrow) and possible cottages PVC04 (dark red arrow).

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Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, 1900 (Fig 9).

- 6.3.9 The second edition Ordnance Survey map was revised in 1897 and published as Glamorgan sheet X/Brecknockshire sheet XLIX.NE in 1900. The unnamed tramway PVC02 is still shown, as are the buildings PVC03 in the northern end of the field, already noted. However, a new building PVC05 is shown within a small parcel of land between the large field and the river, in the northeast corner of the proposed development area (Fig 9). As the building lies away from the main roads and streets of the village, it may represent an outlying barn structure.

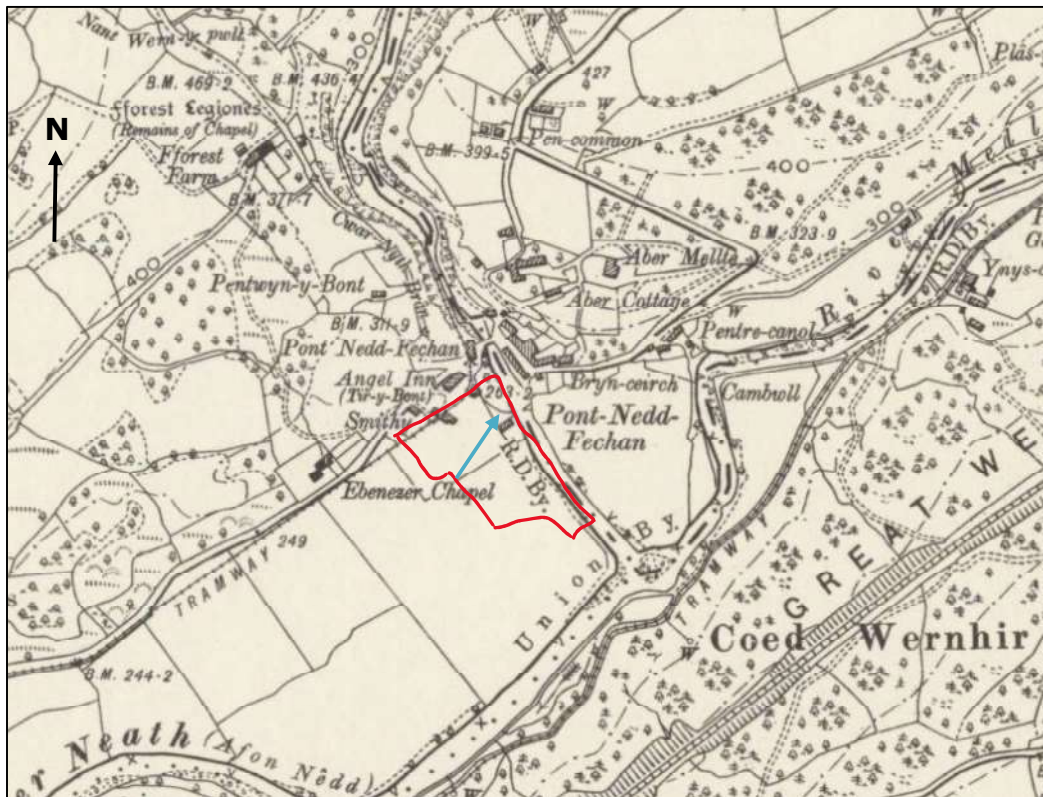


Figure 9: Extract from the second edition 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map sheet Glamorgan Sheet X/Brecknockshire XLIX.NE. Revised 1897, published 1900. Showing the new building PVC05 (blue arrow) within the proposed development area (in red).

(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland).

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, 1921 (Fig 10).

6.3.10 A further revision of the OS map took place in 1914, published in 1921 as Brecknockshire sheet XLIX.NE/Glamorgan sheet X. The current roadline had been installed by this date, although the tramway PVC02 is still depicted running along the edge of the road. The new road does appear to have led to the removal of small building PVC03 at the turning point of the tramway and adjacent orchard, as well as the installation of the current main road bridge across the river.

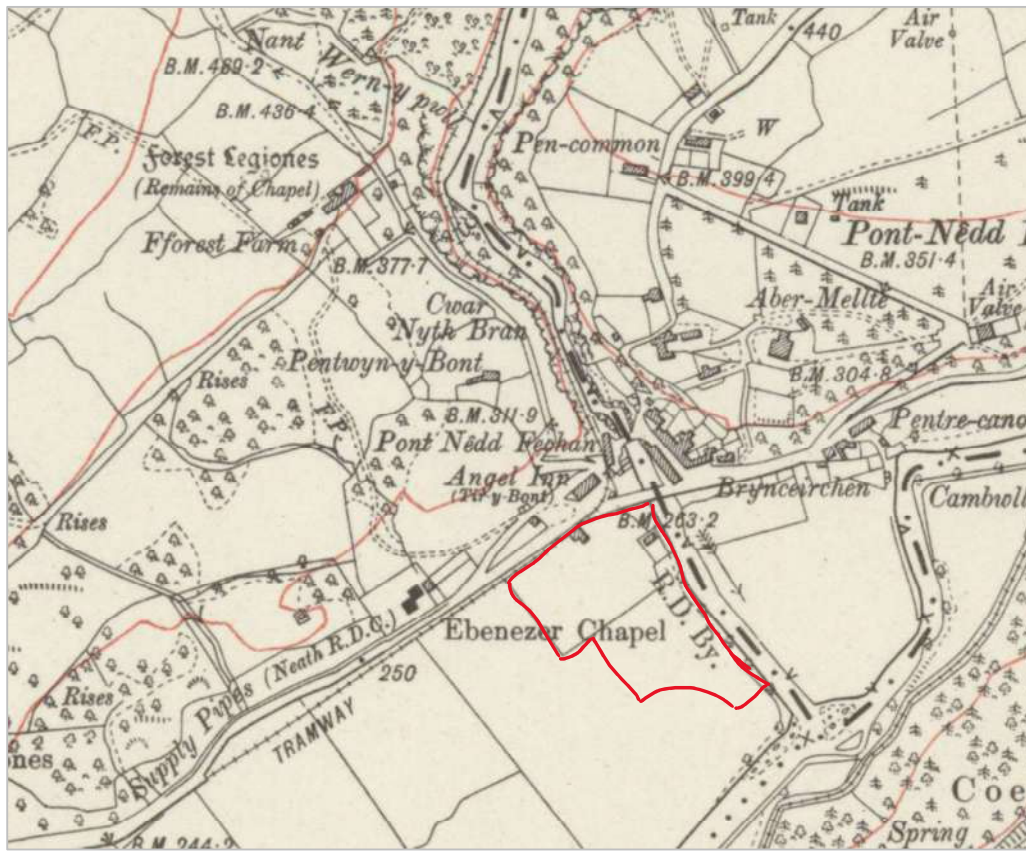


Figure 10: Extract from the third edition Ordnance Survey map sheet Brecknockshire XLIX.NE/Glamorgan X. Revised 1914, published 1921.
(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland).

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map, 1953

- 6.3.11 The fourth edition of the OS map was revised in 1948 and published in 1953. By this time, the unnamed tramway is no longer depicted and less trees are shown around the field boundary. Other than that there is no change since the third edition.

6.4 Aerial and Historic Photography

- 6.4.1 A search was made of available historic aerial photographs and modern aerial photographs. A number of aerial photographs taken between 1945 and 1949 by the RAF show the area, as does a series of later mapping in the late 1960s, and modern aerial and satellite imagery from the last 20 years. A series of early photographs of Pontneddfechan have also been collated and posted online at <http://webowenphotography.com/>. These images have not been reproduced here for potential copyright reasons.
- 6.4.2 The photographs collected by W.E.Bowen include many images of early houses in Pontneddfechan, the Angel Inn and the construction of the new bridge. The proposed development area is not shown, although cottages alongside the bridge (PVC05) are recorded, as are some outlying

agricultural buildings adjacent to the Angel Inn, likely associated with the farmstead of Pontneathfychan but since lost to road development.

- 6.4.3 Aerial images from the 1940s show the Sgwd Gwladys building PVC01 but no further features of archaeological interest are noted within the proposed development area (Photo 1). By this time, tramway PVC02 appears to have gone but settlement at Pontneddfechan seems still largely scattered beyond the rows of cottages along High Street, east of the river.
- 6.4.4 By the 1960s the modern housing estate had been established on the east side of the river. Within the proposed development Sgwd Gwladys PVC01 and possible agricultural building PVC05 are visible but no further features of interest are noted (Photo 2).
- 6.4.5 At some point between the 1969 aerial photographs and modern satellite imagery in 2001, the agricultural sheds were added adjacent to the Sgwyd Gwladys building, the possible agricultural building PVC05 had been removed and the A465 dual carriageway had been built to the south (built between 1970 and 1975). No features of archaeological interest are noted within the proposed development area on modern satellite imagery.



Photo 01: Extract from an RAF aerial photograph taken in 1945. The Sgwd Gwladys building is illustrated (red arrow).

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Photo 02: Extract of aerial photograph showing the site in 1969. The modern A465 is not yet constructed. The Sgwyd Gwladys building PVC01 is shown (red arrow), as is the possible agricultural building PVC05 (green arrow).

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6.5 LiDAR

- 6.5.1 Archive LiDAR data at 1mDTM and DSM is available for the site area (Figs 11 and 12). The LiDAR data shows the line of former field boundaries to the west and the encroachment of the embankment carrying the modern A465 to the south, but no further features of interest are noted within the proposed development area.

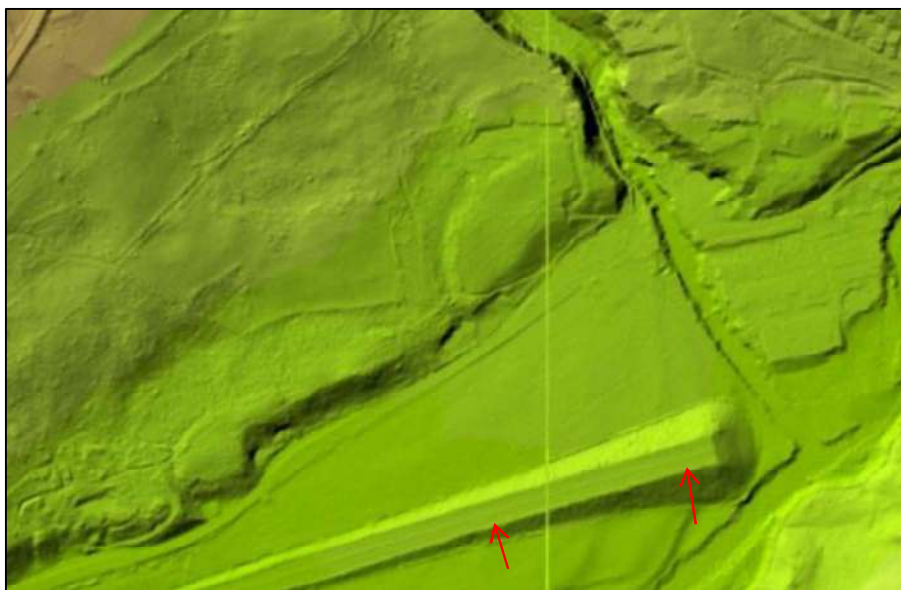


Figure 11: LiDAR data at 1mDTM showing the proposed development site. An embankment carrying the A465 is indicated by the red arrows.

Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.

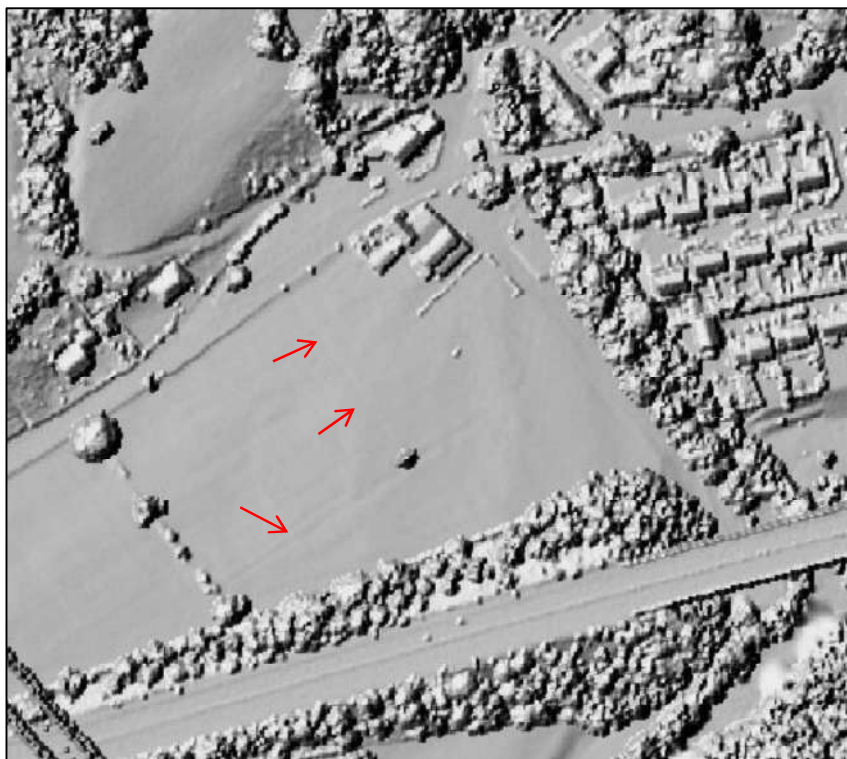


Figure 12: LiDAR data at 1mDTM showing the development site. The lines of former field boundaries can just be seen (red arrows).

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6.6 Site Visit (Photos 03-28)

- 6.6.1 A site visit was undertaken on the 17th of November 2023. The weather conditions were bright and largely dry, with good visibility. Access to the entire site was possible but building interiors were not visited.
- 6.6.2 The main proposed development area lies largely on the south side of the main road and comprises three main elements; the Sgwyd Gwladys complex, agricultural buildings to the rear, and enclosed fields to the east and south (Photos 3 – 5).
- 6.6.3 Sgwyd Gwladys is a café and hostel building on the roadside (Photos 6 and 7). The buildings are arranged in an L-shape with a traditional two-storey building of random rubble, slate gable roof and brick-framed openings, and an attached modern single-storey timber-fronted range to the west. The traditional building has a ground floor doorway and first floor window in the north gable wall facing the roadside with a high and wide low-arched central opening on the west side facing a courtyard area. The latter opening suggests this building is a converted granary, the general form and brick-detailing suggests it is 19th century, possibly later 19th century in date. A courtyard area with seating lies in front, surrounded by low stone walling.
- 6.6.4 Lying to the rear of the Sgwyd Gwladys complex, attached to the east and south sides of the traditional building, is a collection of large agricultural sheds, mid to late 20th century in appearance (Photos 8 – 10). On the east side lies a large single-storey steel-framed shed with corrugated sheeting walls and low-pitched gable roof. South of this lies a high steel-framed vehicle shed with corrugated aluminium sheeting walls and a gable roof, open to the east, with a small pitched-roof lean-to on the west side. Immediately to the south lies a single-storey timber-clad gable-roofed stable range. To the east of the agricultural building is a yard and access track area of hardstanding with a grass-covered area up to the riverbank (Photo 11). The river itself lies at the base of a steep, tree-covered bank. The southern end of the grassy area has been built up to form a level platform (Photo 12).
- 6.6.5 To the south and west of the Sgwyd Gwladys and agricultural building complex lies an area of relatively level (but with a slight southward slope) close-cropped pasture, divided into large regular field enclosures by post-and-wire fencing (Photos 13 and 14). To the south this extends to the high embankment of the A465 and to the west the enclosure pasture continues along the valley base. No clear features of archaeological interest were visible in this area.
- 6.6.6 The main road encloses the site to the north. An area of roadside parking lies along the southern side of the road on the approach to the village. There is no indication for the survival of the former tramway PVC02 that ran alongside the road. On the north side lies Ebenezer Chapel and surrounding graveyard, a modern brick-built bungalow and a large cutting into the rising ground used as a car park for the Angel Inn, which lies on the north side of the road opposite the main proposed development area. The Inn is a two-storey, four bay, gable ended 19th century building, with a lower two-storey extension (or possibly older section) on the east side (Photo 15).
- 6.6.7 The main road crosses the river adjacent to the site via a 20th century stone-built bridge bounded by masonry walling. An access road lies on the north side of the main road, running to the east of the Angel Inn to access the old bridge, a single-arch masonry structure with brick-built widening on its

south side (Photos 16 and 17). A triangular area between the access road and the river, initially considered as part of the development proposals, is paved and contains a small modern structure housing a toilet block. On the north side of the access track immediately in front of the bridge (also initially considered as part of the development proposals) is a levelled area of matting used for parking, backed by a walled area marking the start of the footpath up the river valley (Photo 18). A small road climbs the rising ground on the west side of the valley, which is otherwise wooded.

- 6.6.8 The traditional centre of the village lies on the east side of the river with terraced rows of 19th century cottages fronting High Street between the old bridge and the current main road (Photos 19 and 20). More modern housing lies to the north of this and a mid to late 20th century housing estate lies on the south side of the main road (Photo 21).
- 6.6.9 Scheduled monuments further up the valley to the northeast were also visited. BR230 Glynneath Gunpowder Works lies in the base of the valley, surrounded by areas of dense woodland. This site was not visited as it was clear there were no visible or other tangible links to the proposed development site to examine. BR178 Craig y Ddinas Hillfort occupies a prominent ridge flanked by the steep Mellte valley to the north and Sychryd valley to the south. The western end of the ridge is heavily quarried but from this point there are extensive views down the Neath valley to the southwest (Photo 22). From these vantage points the valley appears densely wooded, with the rooftops of Pontneddfechan partially visible. The proposed development site is not visible from these vantage points. BR229 Dinas Silica Mine lies on the south side of the Craig y Ddinas ridge, along the Sychryd valley. There are no visible or other tangible links to the proposed development site.



Photo 3: View east along the valley base towards the proposed development site. The agricultural buildings within the development area are visible on the left.



Photo 4: View southwest towards the proposed development area from the main road as it crosses the adjacent bridge. The agricultural buildings and roof of Sgwyd Gwladys is visible on the left.



Photo 5: View south across the proposed development area, with the agricultural sheds on the right.



Photo 6: View south showing Sgwyd Gwladys, the converted farm building fronting the roadside.



Photo 7: View east showing the Sgwyd Gwladys complex.



Photo 8: View west showing the agricultural buildings within the proposed development area.



Photo 9: View northwest showing the agricultural buildings within the proposed development area.



Photo 10: View northeast showing the agricultural buildings within the proposed development area, with the rear of the Sgwyd Gwladys buildings on the left.



Photo 11: View northwest across the yard and open area to the east of the agricultural buildings. The Angel Inn lies facing the shot.



Photo 12: View southeast showing the raised and levelled area along the riverbank.



Photo 13: View southeast across the agricultural land to the south, showing the embankment and flyover of the A465 to the rear.



Photo 14: View southwest across the fields of the proposed development area.



Photo 15: View northwest showing the front of the Angle Inn (GPRN 09141w).



Photo 16: View southeast showing the old bridge (NPRN 24139) in Pontneddfechan.



Photo 17: View southwest from the old bridge looking towards the proposed development site. The agricultural buildings and Sgwyd Gwladys are visible beyond the Angel Inn. To the left lies the area of hardstanding between the two bridges, to the right lies the levelled area of parking and start of the riverside footpath.



Photo 18: View northeast showing the walled start to the riverside footpath, the adjacent area of parking and the access road to the old bridge on the right.



Photo 19: View northwest showing the traditional buildings fronting High Street on the east side of the river.



Photo 20: View north showing the traditional buildings fronting High Street on the east side of the river.



Photo 21: View southwest showing the modern housing estate on the east side of the river.



Photo 22: View west from the west end of BR178 Crag y Ddinas. The proposed development area is not visible.

7 ASSESSMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL, IMPORTANCE AND SETTING

Table 6: Site potential definitions

Archaeological Potential	Definition
High	Known archaeological remains of the period within the site area or an abundance of remains of the period within the near vicinity
Medium	A number of archaeological remains of the period are present in the vicinity or wider area and/or the topography or location of the site would be typical for remains of that period
Low	Few sites of a specific period are known in the wider area, or where the topography of the site is unlikely to contain remains of that period, or where no archaeological records of a certain period are present but the location of the site is one that would be considered suitable or typical for remains of that period to exist
Negligible	Where there is no evidence for archaeological remains of a certain period to be present and the location/topography is most unlikely to contain remains of that period or where a site area has already been totally disturbed

Table 7: Site importance definitions

Site Importance (SI)	Definition of Site Category
High	Features of national importance - scheduled monuments, listed buildings Grades I and II*, well preserved historic landscapes, registered parks and gardens and historic battlefields
Medium	Non-scheduled sites of regional or county importance. Listed buildings Grade II, reasonably preserved historic landscapes
Medium / Low	Features of district or local importance but generally common features at a national or regional level
Low	Minor sites or sites so badly damaged that too little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade
Uncertain	Features about which insufficient is known to attribute them to a higher rank or which cannot be sufficiently accurately located to justify their consideration
Negligible	Where a site area has already been totally disturbed by previous development or natural processes

7.1 Potential

- 7.1.1 There are two previously recorded archaeological sites listed within the proposed development area; GPRN 02248w Bronze Age findspot and NPRN 24642 post-medieval corn mill. However, the precise location for the discovery of the Bronze Age findspot is not known and could have come from anywhere in the Pontneddfechan area, and the post-medieval mill is in fact located 500m further up the Nedd valley.
- 7.1.2 Four new sites have been identified during the course of the assessment that either lie within, or border, the main proposed development area, with a further site identified in one of the small areas to the north that were initially identified as areas of proposed development.
- 7.1.3 Sgwyd Gwladys (PVC01) itself is converted from a former granary, once part of Pontneathfychan Farm. The farm itself had been established by the early 19th century but the granary building appears to have been built in the mid to late 19th century and is the only surviving element of the 19th century farmstead. Modern elements of the farmstead survive to the east but these were added in the later 20th century. Traditional elements, including the farmhouse, appear to have been lost to road and other developments to the north. The surviving building is of **medium to low archaeological importance** as a surviving traditional building but is relatively common in form.
- 7.1.4 Historic maps indicate a mid-19th century tramway (PVC02) formerly ran along the northern edge of the proposed development area. The tramway served the 19th century silica and coal workings further up the Nedd valley and was possibly associated with tramway CPRN 79696, surviving as a footpath up the valley. The tramway was still marked into the mid-20th century but appears to have since been lost to road developments in the vicinity of the proposed development, and there are no indications of surviving remains along the edge of the proposed development area. Given development in this area, and better surviving remains to the north, there is a **low potential** for this site, which is of **low importance**, in the proposed development area.
- 7.1.5 Historic mapping also records a small 19th century building (PVC03) on the northern edge of the proposed development area, potentially associated with the tramway. This site appears to have been cleared with the development of the current road-line in the earlier 20th century, suggesting a **low potential**, of **low importance**, in the proposed development area.
- 7.1.6 In the northeast corner of the proposed development area a small building (PVC04) and enclosure is marked on late 19th century maps. The outlying nature of the building suggests a possible agricultural building, although it may represent a small cottage site. The building is still marked on late 20th century mapping but has now been cleared and the area landscaped. The area is built up, therefore there is a **medium potential** for surviving remains below this built-up ground but the site itself is likely to be of **low importance**.
- 7.1.7 Historic mapping suggests cottages lay on the west side of the river, established by the early 19th century, including a cottage, or row of cottages (PVC05) on the west side of the old bridge. These buildings still appear to have been standing into the mid-20th century but have since been cleared and the site redeveloped as a small car parking area and walled enclosure to mark the start of the footpath up the valley. The lack of any visible

remains in this area suggests a **low to medium potential** for surviving below-ground remains. The remains are likely to be contemporary with surviving cottages on the east side of the bridge and therefore of comparatively **low importance**.

- 7.1.8 Research suggests a generally **low potential** for archaeological remains in the area related to Bronze Age, Iron Age and medieval activity identified in the wider landscape, and little indication of more positive evidence within the proposed development area. There is a **greater potential** for later post-medieval archaeological remains given the development of Pontneddfechan from the late 18th or early 19th century onward, but this potential is largely captured by the individual sites listed above.

7.2 Setting

- 7.2.1 *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Cadw 2017a) offers guidance on defining and analysing the setting of designated heritage assets to allow the impact of development to be appropriately assessed. The setting of such assets includes “the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve” (Cadw 2017a). As such it often extends beyond the physical boundaries of the monument itself. This may include physical elements in its surroundings such as boundaries and other monuments, relationships with other historic assets and natural features, or associated agricultural, industrial or other surroundings. Less tangible elements are also included such as function, sensory perceptions, historical, artistic, literary and scenic associations.
- 7.2.2 There are no scheduled monuments, listed buildings, historic parks and gardens or conservation areas within the study area. There are three scheduled monuments further up the valley to the northeast, namely BR178 Craig y Ddinas hillfort, BR229 Dinas Silica Mine and BR230 Glynneath Gunpowder Works.
- 7.2.3 BR178 occupies a prominent ridge between deep river valleys and offers some extensive views down the Neath valley but the proposed development area is not visible. The site is likely to have been a focus of settlement and control over a relatively large area, with the river valleys offering resources and transport routes. There is however little evidence of contemporary sites recorded in the surrounding landscape.
- 7.2.4 BR229 and BR230 are similar in that they relate to 19th century industrial enterprises; extracting and processing the local good quality silica. Viewpoints from and of these sites are not significant but their connection to each other and surrounding works via tramways are, as is the role they played in opening up and encouraging transport links and settlement in the area. The main tramway utilised by these sites ran along the southeast side of the valley but much of the workforce would have been drawn from local settlements such as Pontneddfechan.
- 7.2.5 The proposed development area lies within the LANDMAP historic landscape area of Neath Valley Bottom (NPThL043). As described in section 4.7, this area is characterised by various later post-medieval industrial communications running down the Neath valley, which is otherwise a fieldscape of large regular enclosures, bounded by the valley sides. The area stretches 15km down the floor of the Neath Valley to Aberdulais on the edge of Neath and includes a number of industrial settlements.

8 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 Development Proposals (Figs 13 and 14)

- 8.1.1 The development proposals incorporate but retain the Sgwd Gwladys café and hostel. Agricultural buildings to the rear will be removed and new bunk house and visitor hub buildings established, with surrounding landscaping and a village square area established. To the south a car parking area will be established with EV charging points and bus bays, and access from the main road to the west of Sgwd Gwladys. An additional overflow parking area is also proposed.
- 8.1.2 Initial plans also included some development on the north side of the road, including landscaping, a new footway, boundary treatments and a viewing platform adjacent to the old bridge. It is understood however that these plans may no longer form part of the final proposals.
- 8.1.3 Generally, any of the following activities typically associated with a development on this scale could have a physical impact upon historic assets by potentially exposing, damaging or destroying archaeological remains:
- Landscaping and terracing works;
 - Enabling works, such as the construction of access roads, parking and storage areas, associated services;
 - Surface stripping and levelling;
 - Construction of roads and infrastructure;
 - Foundation excavations;
 - Service installation;
 - Any other ground disturbing works
- 8.1.4 Development in this area also has the potential to generate indirect impacts upon historic assets by altering elements of the setting as discussed in section 7.2.

Proposed Visitor Centre, Pontneddfechan, Neath Port Talbot:
Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment



Figure 13: Development masterplan. Supplied by the client, not reproduced to scale.

Proposed Visitor Centre, Pontneddfechan, Neath Port Talbot:
Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

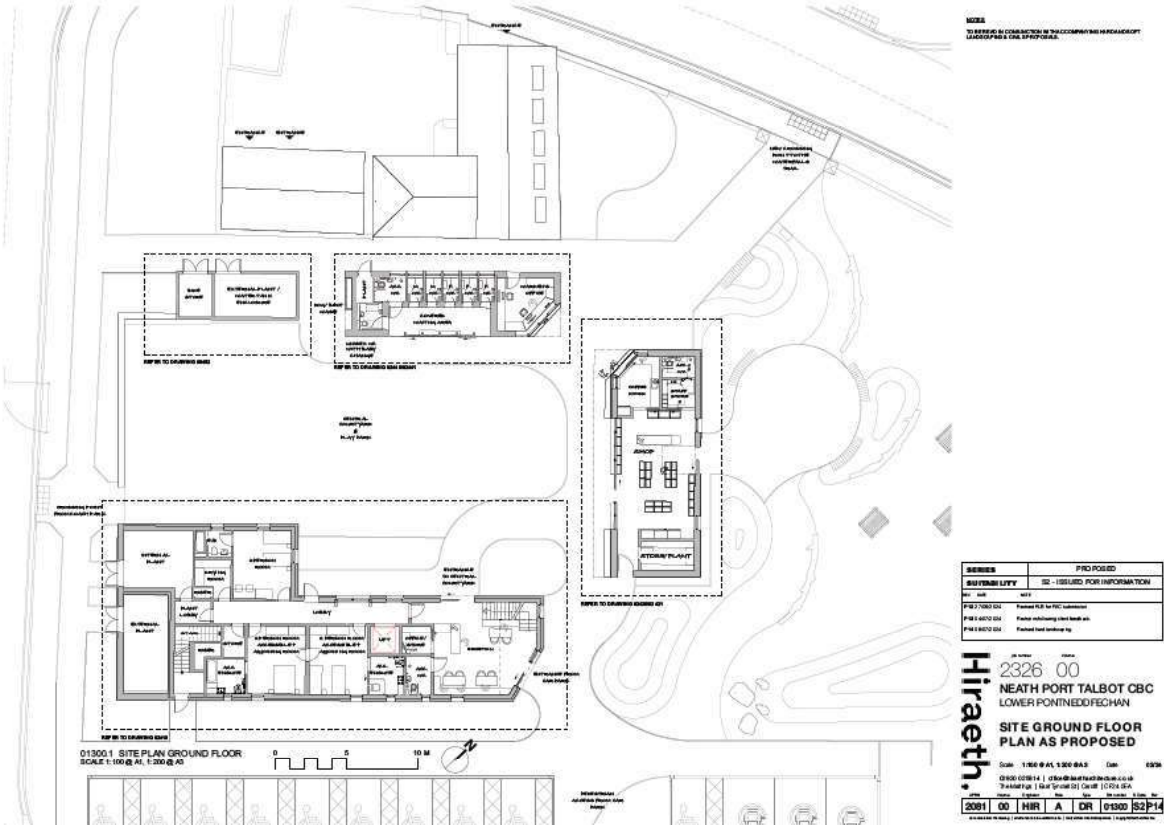


Figure 14: Details of the proposed visitor centre. Supplied by the client, not reproduced to scale.

8.2 Impact Assessment Criteria

8.2.1 The criteria for the assessment of impacts, both direct and indirect, on historic assets is based on The Department for Transport's '*Transport Analysis Guidance*' (TAG), Unit A3 '*Environmental Impact Appraisal: Section 8 Impacts on the Historic Environment*', of May 2019, with additional information based on professional judgement. In addition however, the guidance offered in the Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw 2017a) has been utilised.

8.2.2 The TAG criteria divides the impacts into seven categories:

- Large Adverse (negative)
- Moderate Adverse (negative)
- Slight Adverse (negative)
- Neutral
- Slight Beneficial (positive)
- Moderate Beneficial (positive)
- Large Beneficial (positive)

8.3 Physical Impacts upon the Historic Assets

8.3.1 Sgwyd Gwladys (PVC01) includes a traditional farm building of some archaeological importance. The building has already been converted for use as a café and hostel, and although forming a focal point of the proposed development it is anticipated that change to the building itself is likely to be minimal. Development around the site is likely to have impacted on any associated farmstead remains, of which there is no remaining above-ground evidence. There is the potential that ground-breaking works could reveal and disturb associated farmstead features and redevelopment of the site may include renovation works to the existing structure, which therefore has the potential to have a **Slight Adverse impact** upon PVC01 and associated remains.

8.3.2 A historic tramway route (PVC02) has been identified along the northern edge of the proposed development area. There are currently no visible remains and it is likely much evidence of this site has been lost to later 20th century development. There is however the potential for ground-breaking works in the area to reveal and disturb buried remains of this feature and so this is considered to be a **Slight Adverse impact**.

8.3.3 A small late 19th century building (PVC03) has been identified adjacent to the tramway, possibly associated with it. There are no above ground remains of this feature and it is likely much has been lost to more recent development. There remains the potential for some below-ground remains which may be revealed and disturbed through ground-breaking works in the area, considered to be a **Slight Adverse impact**.

8.3.4 A late 19th century building (PVC04), possibly agricultural in nature, lay within the proposed development area and was cleared in the later 20th century. There is the possibility that buried remains associated with this building may survive which could be disturbed through ground-breaking activity, considered to be a **Slight Adverse impact**.

8.3.5 Historic maps indicate a building, possibly a row of cottages, (PVC05) once stood adjacent to the old bridge to the north. The site has since been cleared

and redeveloped but the potential for below-ground remains still survives. Initial development proposals included potential resurfacing and a viewing platform in this area; associated groundworks may therefore impact on below-ground remains which would be a **Slight Adverse impact**. It is understood however that this element of the scheme may not be included in the final proposals and the impact would therefore be **Neutral**.

- 8.3.6 A low background archaeological potential has been indicated, increasing in likelihood for post-medieval archaeological remains, although the sites above probably account for most of that potential. Groundworks associated with the proposed development have the potential to reveal and disturb any buried archaeological remains in this area, but given the lack of any obvious sites of archaeological importance beyond those discussed above, the impact on the general archaeological potential is considered to be a **Slight Adverse** one.

8.4 Impacts to the Settings of Surrounding Designated Features

- 8.4.1 The definition of setting, how it contributes to the significance of a historic asset, and why it is important are outlined in *Setting of Historic Assets in Wales* (Welsh Government 2017a; available online) as follows:

The setting of a historic asset includes the surroundings in which it is understood, experienced and appreciated, embracing present and past relationships to the surrounding landscape. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive, negative or neutral contribution to the significance of an asset.

- 8.4.2 As illustrated in Section 7.2 the closest designated assets comprise three scheduled monuments between 1.1km and 2km further up the valley to the northeast, namely BR178, BR229 and BR230. BR178 is a large Iron Age hillfort which is likely to have had many links to the surrounding landscape, but no contemporary archaeological remains have been identified around the proposed development area and no other tangible links to the hillfort have been uncovered. The hillfort offers extensive views down the Neath Valley and incorporates elements of Pontneddfechan but the development site is not included within these views. The impacts of proposed development on the setting of this scheduled monument is therefore considered to be **Neutral**.
- 8.4.3 Both BR229 and BR230 are post-medieval industrial sites. Their interaction with surrounding industrial sites, particularly quarrying and mining, and their use of the industrial communication network of tramways along the valley, are important parts of their setting. The sites are also intrinsically linked to the development of the settlement of Pontneddfechan itself. These links are not however related to the proposed development site, which includes a farmstead unrelated to the industrial development further up the valley and a tramway associated with separate mining operations in the Nedd valley. No further tangible links to the scheduled sites have been identified, and the impacts to the setting of both sites is considered to be **Neutral**.
- 8.4.4 The site lies within the LANDMAP Historic Landscape of Neath Valley Bottom (NPTHL043). The main characteristics of this area include the presence of post-medieval industrial communications, the fieldscape of large regular enclosures, and the topographical location of a wide valley base. The proposed development area has already lost visible remains of the former

tramway, although a potential for buried remains exists. The change from agricultural land to an area of car parking will result in a change to the fieldscape element of this landscape character. However, given the relatively small area of development in comparison to the historic landscape as a whole, which extends for 15km down the valley, and its location in an area on the edge of settlement that sees a significant amount of roadside parking when visitor numbers are high, the impact is considered to be **Slight Adverse to Neutral**.

9 CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Archaeological Potential and Impact Assessment

- 9.1.1 A slight adverse impact has been identified to the traditional farm building PVC01 in the Sgwyd Gwladys complex, of medium to low archaeological importance, and associated buried farmstead remains. This is an extant mid to late 19th century former granary, converted into its present use as a café and hostel. The building will be retained but there will be a potential impact through development to the site and surrounding areas.
- 9.1.2 A slight adverse impact through development groundworks has been identified to potential buried remains associated with a mid-19th century tramway PVC02, of low archaeological importance given the current condition of the site and presence of further remains in the locality.
- 9.1.3 A slight adverse impact through development groundworks to two former 19th century buildings PVC03 and PVC04 has been identified. No standing remains exist but the potential for buried remains does. Both sites are considered to be of low archaeological importance.
- 9.1.4 An early 19th century building or cottage row PVC05 has been identified in an area of potential development, of low archaeological importance given the lack of standing remains and previous development of the site. Initial development proposals suggested a possible slight adverse impact to potential buried remains but it is understood development in this area is unlikely, which would therefore have a neutral impact.
- 9.1.5 A low general archaeological potential has been identified for the area as a whole. The potential increases for the post-medieval period but that would largely relate to the individual sites identified above. A slight adverse impact on this general potential has been identified through development groundworks.
- 9.1.6 A slight adverse impact has been identified to the LANDMAP historic landscape area of Neath Valley Bottom (NPTHL043), largely through the loss of agricultural land through the development.
- 9.1.7 No other significant impacts have been identified.

Table 8: Assessment of impacts

Site	Ref. No.	Potential	Value	Site Status	Physical Impact	Setting Impact
Sgwyd Gwladys	PVC01	High (extant structure)	Medium to Low	-	Slight Adverse	-
19 th century Tramway	PVC02	Low	Low	-	Slight Adverse	-
19 th century structure	PVC03	Low	Low	-	Slight Adverse	-
Late 19 th century structure	PVC04	Medium	Low	-	Slight Adverse	-

Site	Ref. No.	Potential	Value	Site Status	Physical Impact	Setting Impact
Early 19 th century building/cottages	PVC05	Low to medium	Low	-	Slight Adverse to Neutral	-
General archaeological potential (Bronze Age, Iron Age, Medieval & post-medieval)	-	Low	Uncertain	-	Slight Adverse	-
Neath Valley Bottom - LANDMAP Historic Landscape	NPTHL043	High	High	-	Slight Adverse	Slight Adverse

9.2 Mitigation

- 9.2.1 There is the potential for development proposals to adversely impact below-ground remains associated with a variety of late post-medieval sites, all considered to be of low importance, and a general low potential for further archaeological remains from the Bronze Age onwards. Given the importance of the identified sites and the likely condition of below-ground preservation due to subsequent development, they are unlikely to be of a significance requiring preservation *in situ*. Preservation through record of any such remains could still be desirable however, which would require some archaeological mitigation.
- 9.2.2 Such mitigation could take the form of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with development. This would require the presence of an archaeologist as groundworks are undertaken, with the opportunity and resources included within the development programme to allow any archaeological remains identified during this process to be sufficiently investigated and recorded. Provision should also be made in the possible but unlikely event that significant archaeological remains are uncovered requiring additional mitigation, such as additional time and resources.
- 9.2.3 These mitigation measures are suggestions only. Any recommendations for archaeological mitigation rests with the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

10 SOURCES

Database

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