

CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTUAL MATERIALITY



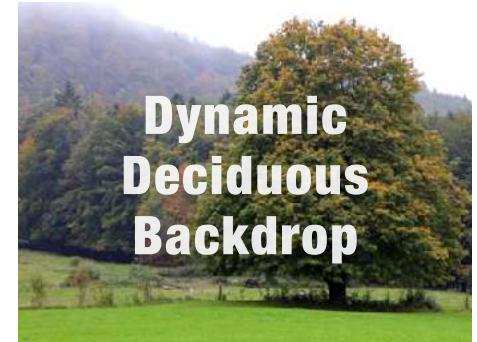
Natural Slate



Corrugated Metal Sheet



Weathered Steel



Dynamic Deciduous Backdrop



Natural Pennant Stone



Fibre Cement Sheet



Concrete Tiles



Upland Plateaux and Woodland



silica inclusions



Weathered Timber Boarding



Render

Former Industrial built context

Agricultural built context

Modern domestic built context

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Strengths of the Site

Context Analysis of the development site has identified a number of strengths. There is an opportunity to consolidate and enhance these strengths through the proposals; looking in particular to harness the potential of the site to generate sustainable benefit and improvement for the local community.

Popular Visitor Destinations

As a 'Gateway to Waterfall Country' the primary attraction is the Waterfall Trail but local assets include eating and drinking establishments in the village where visitors might be encouraged to stay, generating benefit to local businesses and the local economy.

Landscape Setting

The back drop to Pontneddfechan is beautiful natural landscape at the edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park and Forest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark.

Unique Historic Character

The Angel Inn and Pontneddfechan Bridge are designated as 'Locally Important' for their historic and social value. Historic assets define a sense of place, contributing to an understanding of the village and its role in social, cultural and industrial history. This can be celebrated by improving interpretation in the village and enhancing the setting of these assets through the proposals

River Feature

The River Neath that bisects the village is a key feature that gives unique character and tells a story about the settlement origins.



Weaknesses of the Site

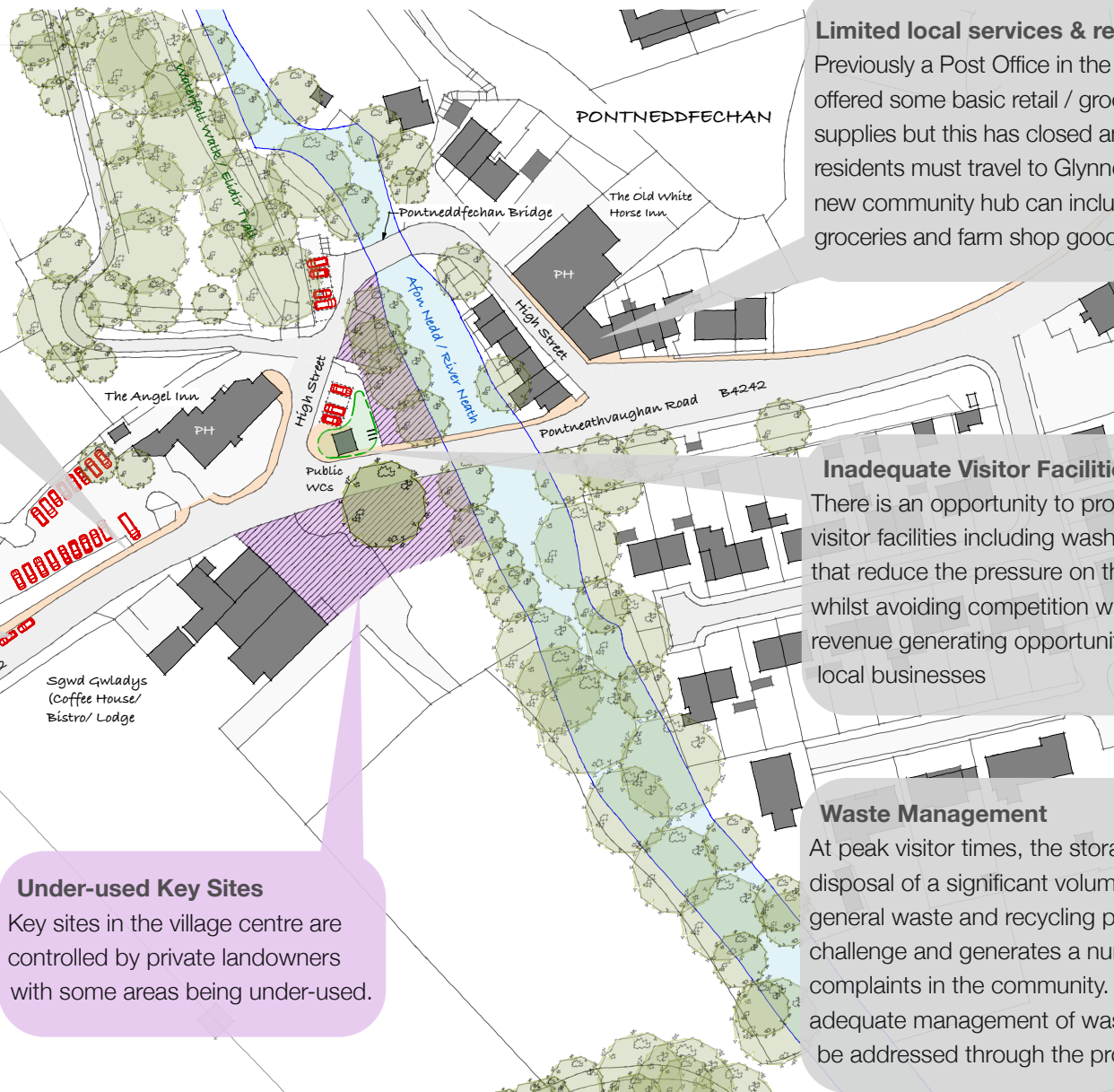
Context Analysis of the development site has identified a number of weaknesses or issues that undermine the quality of life for local residents. There is an opportunity to address many of these issues through the proposals.

Narrow / Non-existent Pavements

There is an opportunity to improve and provide new safe pedestrian routes through the proposals

Volume of Traffic & Parking

Pontneddfechan experiences a huge influx of visitors at peak times creating issues of parking throughout the village. There is an opportunity to address parking through the proposals.



Limited local services & retail

Previously a Post Office in the village offered some basic retail / grocery supplies but this has closed and local residents must travel to Glynneath. A new community hub can include key groceries and farm shop goods.

Inadequate Visitor Facilities

There is an opportunity to provide visitor facilities including washrooms, that reduce the pressure on the village whilst avoiding competition with the revenue generating opportunities of local businesses

Waste Management

At peak visitor times, the storage and disposal of a significant volume of general waste and recycling poses a challenge and generates a number of complaints in the community. The adequate management of waste can be addressed through the proposals.

Under-used Key Sites

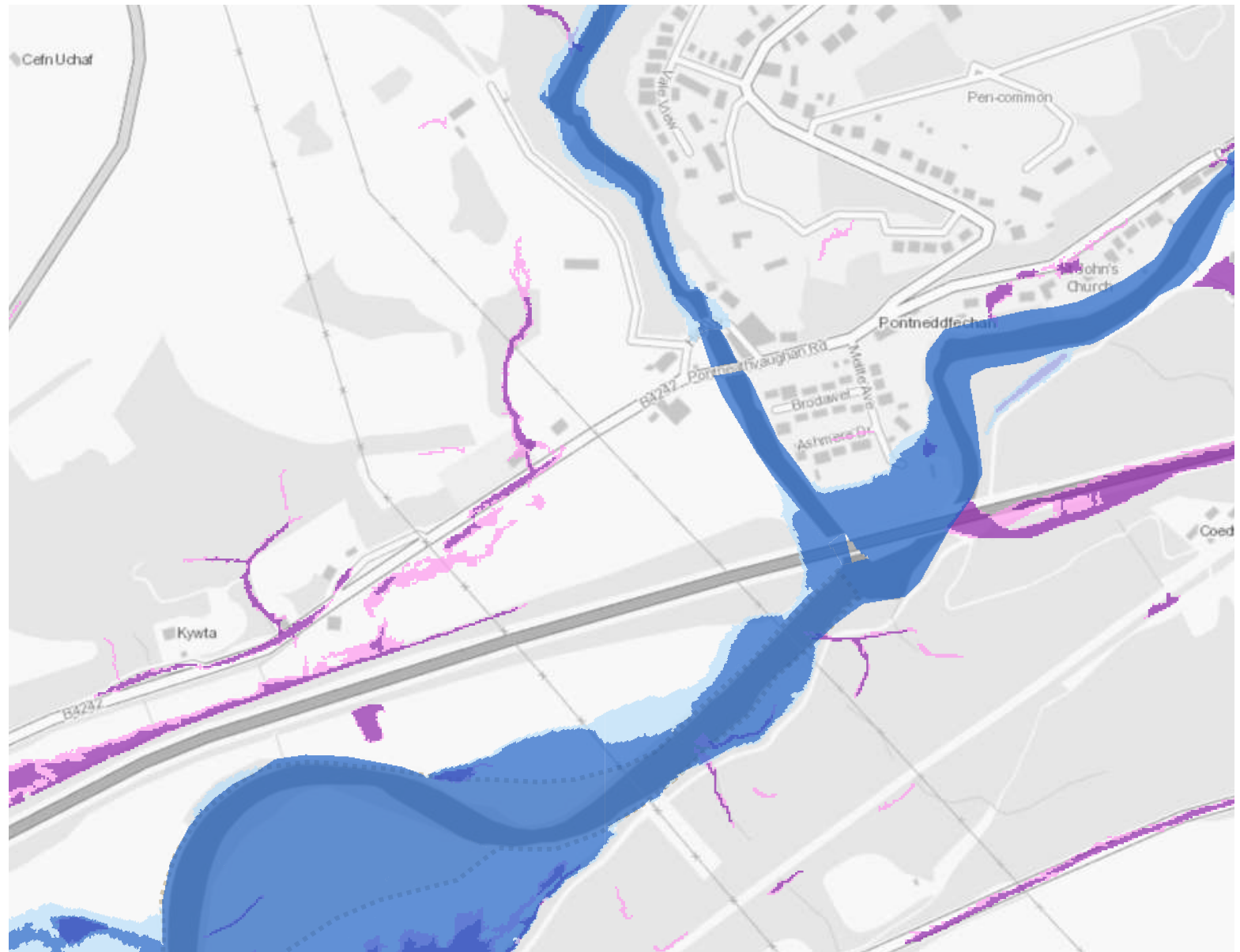
Key sites in the village centre are controlled by private landowners with some areas being under-used.



Not to scale

Surface Water Flooding

This happens when rainwater does not drain away through the normal drainage systems or soak into the ground, but lies on or flows over the ground instead. The shading on the map shows the risk of flooding from surface water.



Natural Environment Map (Do not scale) describing surface water flood risk in the area.

ECOLOGY + BIODIVERSITY

Designations

(Brecon Beacons National Park & UNESCO Geopark). The area falls within the Fforest Fawr UNESCO Global Geopark, an international designation which recognises the distinctive geology, history and wildlife of the western half of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Encompassing the north of the site, the Waterfall Country has been designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The stretch of the River Neath has also been locally designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) meeting the Wildlife Sites Guidance Wales criteria.

Ecology

An ecological assessment was produced for the site by Lewis Balham Ecologist of NPT Wildlife - Countryside & Wildlife Team at Neath Port Talbot CBC in December 2023 ref: EC2023 004 and revised in March 2024 following the reduced scope and extent of the proposed development area. The report was prepared by the Countryside and Wildlife team to assess any potential ecological impacts of the current development proposals on the site and the SINC adjacent to the existing WC. Please refer to the full report included as part of this submission.

The Extended Phase-1 Habitat Survey was undertaken by Ecologist (Consultancy & Planning) Megan Price (BSc) and Ecologist (Planning) Lewis Badham (BSc) in clear weather conditions on 03/10/2023. The survey was based on the standard Phase-1 survey technique (JNCC,2010) which involved identifying and mapping the principal habitat types. In addition, any actual or potential protected/priority species are identified.



Extract from Ecology report describing the areas of development identified as part of the initial habitat survey and corresponding key.