



The village is dominated by parking at peak visitor periods.

There is additional lay-by parking along Pontneathvaughan Road but this has no dedicated pavement and pedestrians must cross the road between cars.



Overflow parking is available at peak times on privately owned land, with this having a clear impact on the village setting.

Inappropriate parking causes a nuisance to local residents



6 'accessible' parking spaces are located next to the entrance to the Waterfall Trail, but these spaces are not compliant with regulations



4 free parking spaces are located in the centre of the Pontneddfechan



26 parking spaces are available at Pontneddfechan Village Hall approx. 0.6 km away



44 parking spaces are available at the Dinas Rock Carpark approx. 1km away

Public Transport

Pontneddfechan is on the route of a number of bus services, with the most regular being the 55 Natgroup service to Neath.

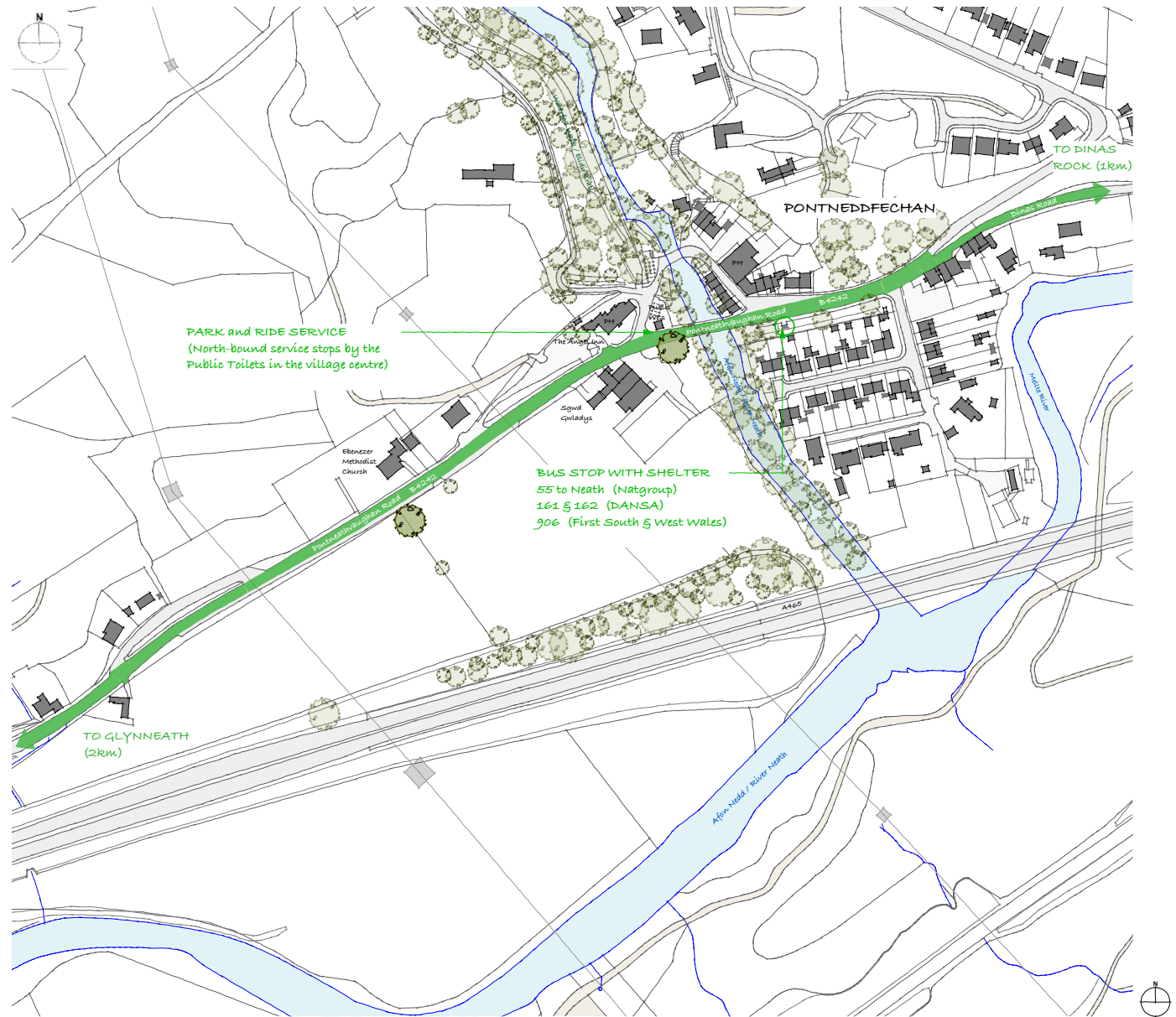
In the southbound direction, the bus stops east of the river within Powys and is provided with a bus shelter.

In the northbound direction there is no formal provision.

A Park and Ride service has previously been trialled with a stop in the northbound direction outside the public toilet block in the village centre.



Existing Bus stop east of the river



Cycling and Footpaths

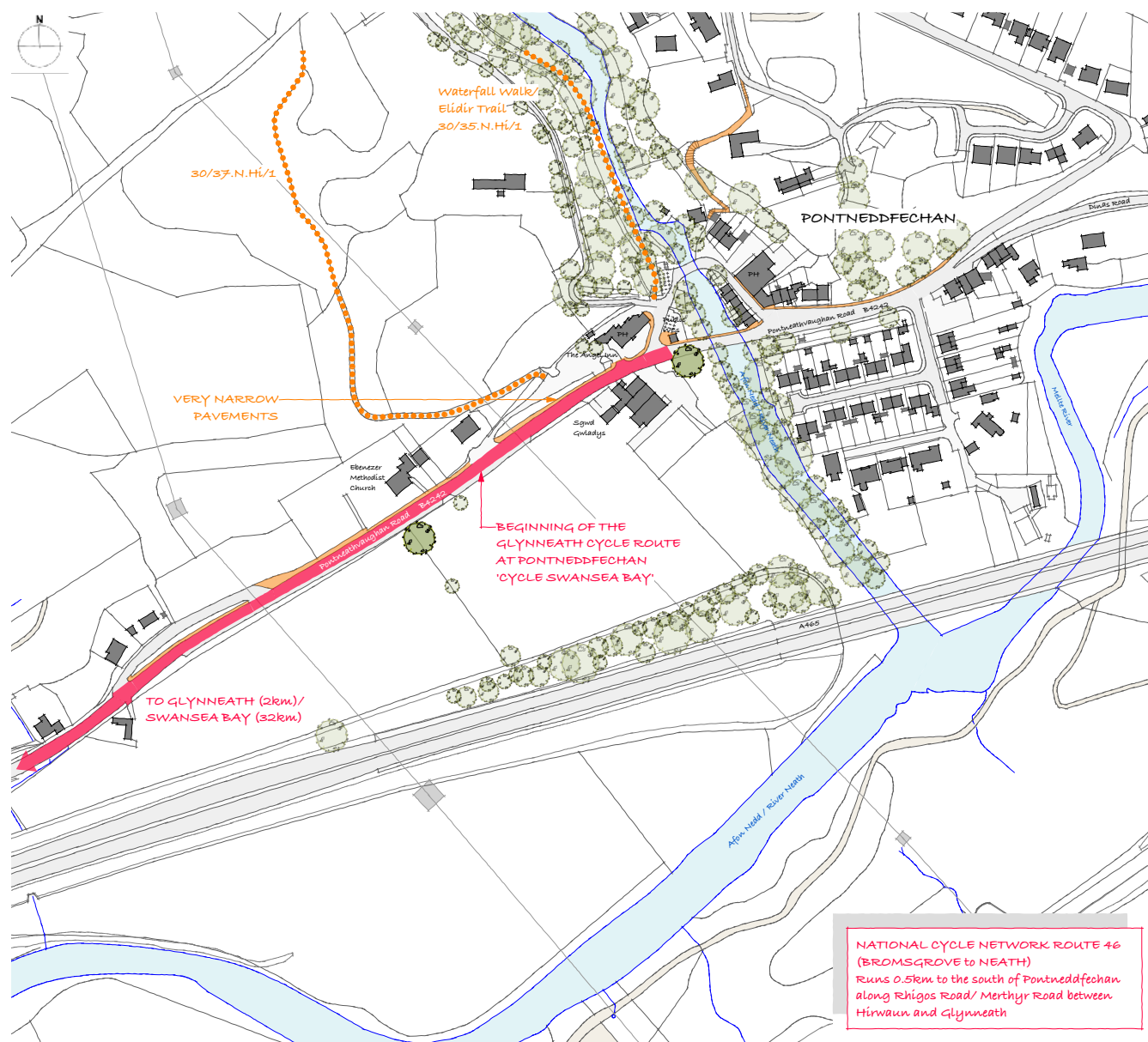
Pontneddfechan marks the beginning of the Glynneath cycle route on the 'Cycle Swansea Bay' network. This route connects to Aberdulais and beyond, via Glynneath.

This route is mainly on the carriageway. Due to the distances and quality of route, cycling is not considered a significant or sustainable transport option for the majority of visitors.

The National Cycle Network Route 46 passes 0.5km to the south of the village.

Pavements along Pontneathvaughan Road are very narrow and often limited to one side only. They do not align with DfT accessibility guidance and are not suitable for wheelchair or pushchairs when considering the volume of pedestrian.

The lack of safe walking and cycling routes is further exacerbated by pavement parking.



NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK ROUTE 46
(BROMSGROVE to NEATH)
Runs 0.5km to the south of Pontneddfechan
along Rhigos Road/ Merthyr Road between
Hirwaun and Glynneath

Local Businesses, Services & Amenity



CHARACTER CONTEXT

Pontneddfechan derives much of its distinctive character from its identity as a gateway to Waterfall Country, reflecting both the significance of this landscape historically and industrially, and as a visitor attraction.

The name Pontneddfechan or 'Pontneathvaughan', meaning 'Bridge over the little Neath', underlines the importance of the river as a defining characteristic and the village being established as a point of crossing.

At present, the river is largely obscured from view by dense vegetation and an experience of it's character is only fully appreciated at the commencement of the Waterfall Trail where the sight and sounds of cascading water contribute to a sense of place.

The wider landscape character context is broadly defined as 'Waterfall Country and Southern Valleys' with the Landscape type being 'Upland Valleys'. The Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Assessment describes,

'the predominantly limestone geology of this LCA creates its characteristic rough texture and grey colour, appearing in the crags, walls and buildings of this enclosed and relatively settled pastoral landscape. Ancient woodlands surround the streams and spectacular waterfalls which are found in the south of the LCA, flowing in deep, fern-filled gorges. Between the valleys are ridges of higher land with a more open quality and long views.'

The village is located in the valley basin, a floodplain grazed landscape of large regular fields and open vistas, flanked by wooded slopes that are dominated by mature deciduous trees, constantly changing their tone and hue across the seasons.

On the approach from Glynneath there are scattered properties along the road, with the settlement increasing in density, forming a historic core of predominantly two-story rendered terraces at the point the bridges cross the river. Within the village, tarmac surfaces dominate, and modern residential linear development sprawls to the north east on higher ground.

Important contextual buildings include the Angel Inn which, along with Pontneddfechan Bridge, is designated as 'locally important' reflecting its historic and social value. It provides a landmark building on arrival in the village, and its scale and painted render facade give it visual prominence.

Sgwd Gwladys is a former industrial building associated with the historic tramway that has been converted to a bistro and was previously the tourist information centre.



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