

Local Character

The Steelworks

The Site sits within the confines of the existing steelworks. This is characterised by a heavily industrialised built environment which dominates the southern side of Port Talbot.

The steelworks lie to the south of the River Afan, which cuts through Port Talbot town centre, and extends south towards the Eglwys Nynydd Reservoir. The industrialised area runs parallel to the M4 and is highly prominent on approach to Port Talbot from the south / east.

The steelworks covers a substantial area, extending to about 1,133ha in total.



Figure 33: Parking adjacent to the BOS plant



Figure 34: HARSCO Plant



Figure 35: Coke ovens (now decommissioned)



Figure 36: Steelworks BQS plant (Getty Images)

Building Scale

The steelworks is a utilitarian environment with a range of structures with differing scales. Buildings are typically large and of steel frame construction. Steel frame chimney structures, plant and equipment are also highly visible. Heights reach up to 60m for buildings and as high as 150m for emission stacks.

The size of buildings and structures vary according to their function within the industrial process. Larger buildings include the blast furnaces, power stations, rolling mills and the BOS plant. These buildings are served by a series of large yards, storage sites and transport systems such as pipelines, conveyor belts and railway lines.

There are also several tall structures in the form of stacks, storage tanks and cooling towers.

The built environment of the steelworks includes buildings of very large footprint. The steelworks also includes an extensive network of overground pipework and infrastructure.



Figure 37: Rolling mill exterior



Figure 38: Blast furnaces



Figure 39: Railway sidings near to rolling mills

Materials

Across the steelworks external facing materials are generally functional, chosen principally for durability and safety in order to withstand industrial processes, challenging environmental conditions and to facilitate maintenance. Buildings are typically steel frame with grey steel cladding.

Towards the east of the steelworks, more recent non-industrial developments in the form of the stores building, training centre and visitors centre introduce more variation to the external materials palette. This recognises the proximity of public vantage points; but is only possible due to these buildings being non-industrial.



Figure 40: Photographic samples representing materials in the main industrial areas of the steelworks

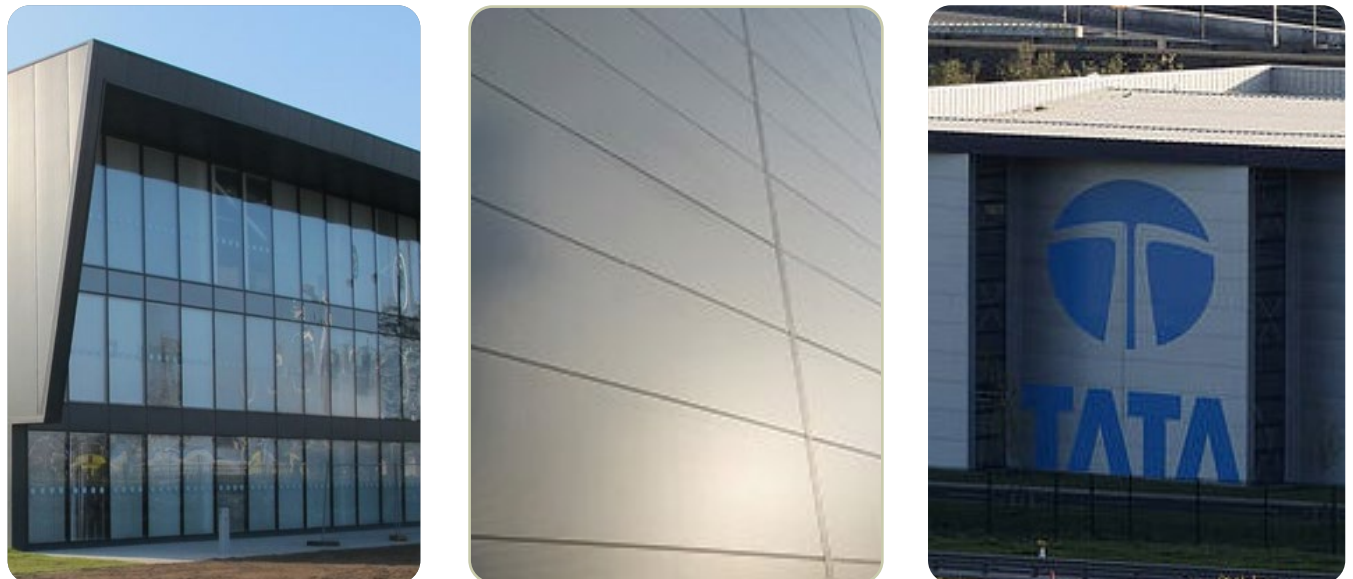


Figure 41: Photographic samples representing materials in the non-industrial areas of the steelworks

Heritage and Archaeology

Headland Archaeology have produced a desk-based assessment which identifies on-site and wider archaeological features.

Identified Heritage Assets

There are 130 designated assets located within the 5km study area. These comprise 19 scheduled monuments, 7 grade I listed buildings, 14 grade II* listed buildings, 87 grade II listed buildings, a conservation area and two registered parks and gardens.

There are a further 35 non-designated assets located within the 1km study area. Of these, two are historic landscapes of multiple periods; one dates to the Roman period; one dates to the Medieval period; 16 date to the Post-Medieval period; 13 date to the modern period; and two are of unknown date.

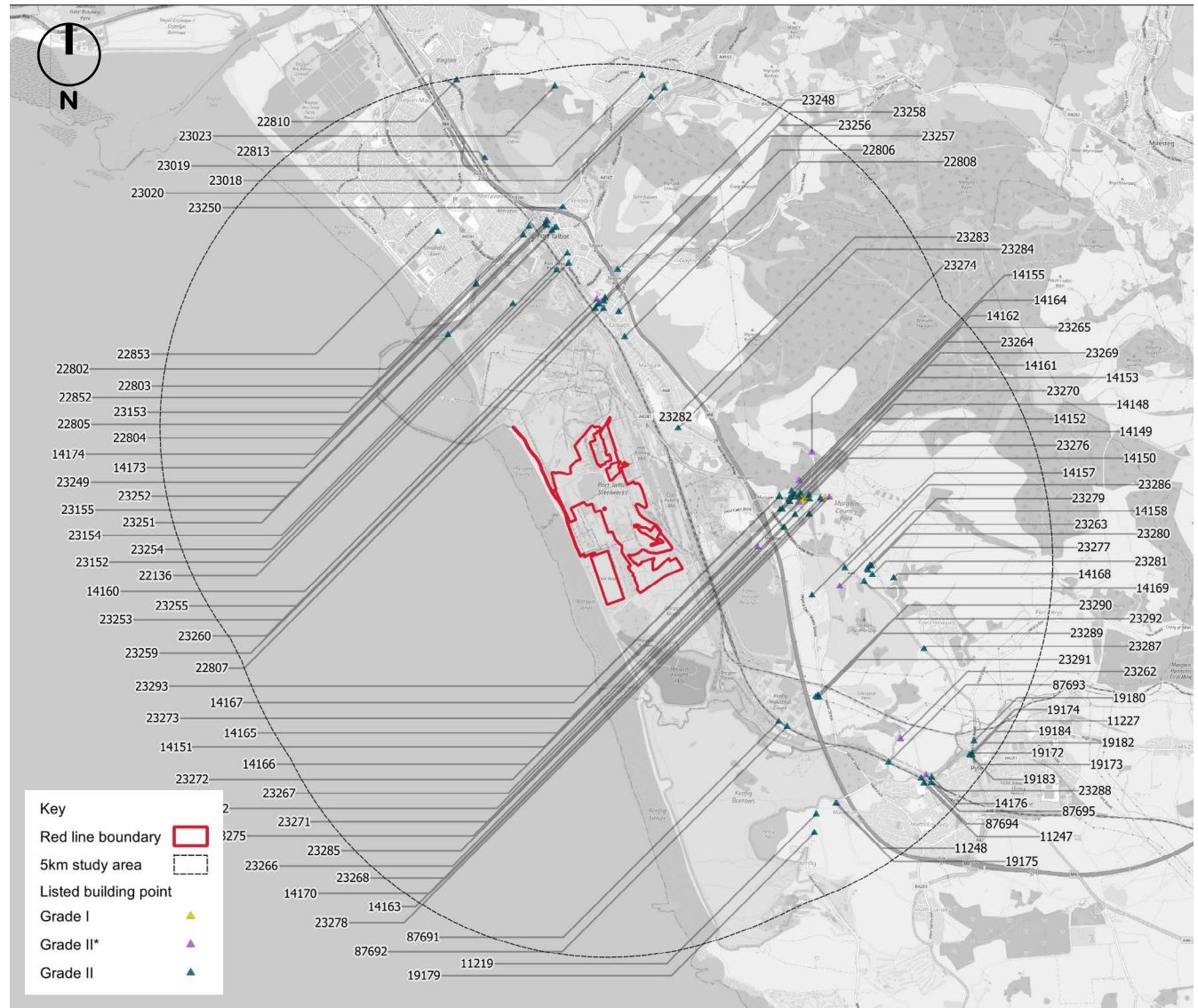


Figure 42: Listed Buildings (within 5km of the Site)

Historic Landscape Character (HLC)

Historic Landscape Characterisation data for the study area defines the south eastern part of the Site as: HLCA002 Margam Moors. This is reclaimed and enclosed salt marsh wetland pasture. There are Medieval and Post-Medieval fields and former Medieval monastic grange land with varied field patterns with typical ridge and furrow, earth bank and drainage features. The rest of the Site is not covered by HLC.

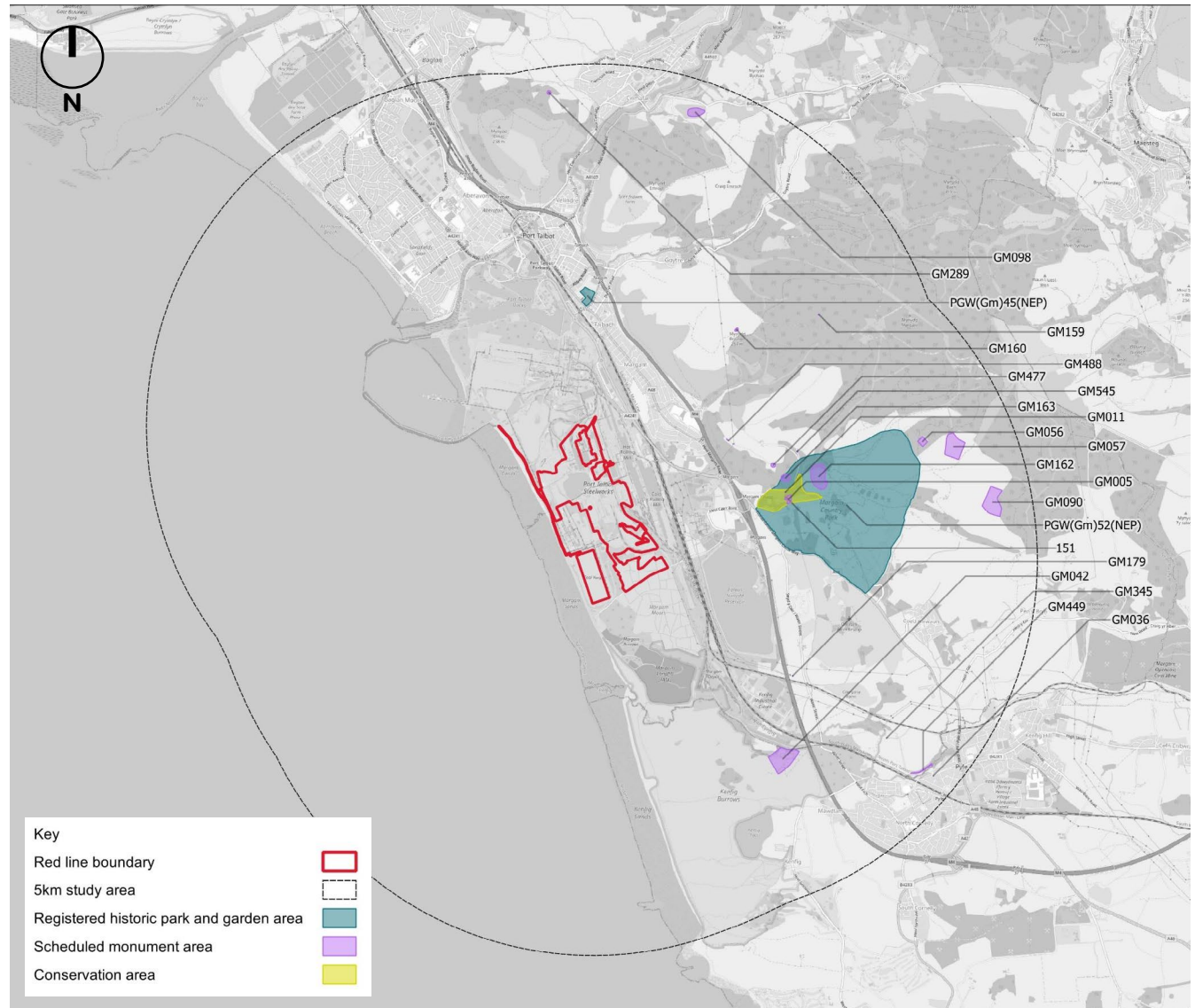
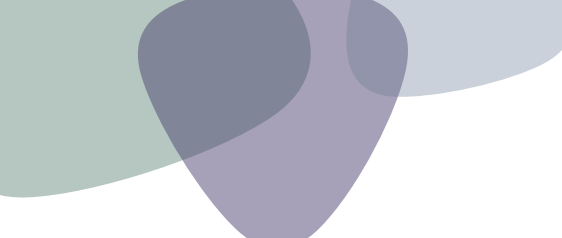


Figure 43: Designated Historic Assets (within 5km of the Site)



Previous Investigations

The locations of the investigations detailed below are shown on Figure 44.

Eight previous archaeological investigations are recorded within the study area:

- A partial excavation was undertaken of Theodrics Grange (20041) by T. Gray in 1903 (E000456). A building found three years prior was cleaned back and a piscina was found amongst the ruins indicating the location of a chapel.
- An archaeological watching brief was carried out for the Marlas-Raos sewage pipeline by GGAT in 1992 (E003718). Observations that were possible suggested that the potential for the preservation of archaeological remains, particularly from the prehistoric period, is high.
- A desk-based assessment for Ysgol Newydd, Margam was carried out by Rubicon Heritage Services in 2016 (E007984). The assessment identified 69 known cultural heritage assets in the study areas, and none in the development area itself. It was determined that there would be no direct or indirect impact on any known cultural heritage assets and nor an impact on the setting of any assets.
- A desk-based assessment was carried out on high-status settlement in Glamorgan-Gwent by GGAT in 2010 (E007242). A total of 277 medieval/post-medieval sites were initially assessed, following which 58 continued to a more detailed assessment. Of those, between 33 and 37 were considered to be/potentially be of National Significance, 19 of which are already Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Nine sites were considered to be at least of Regional Significance.
- A desk-based assessment was carried out as part of a rapid archaeological appraisal on land at Mynydd Margan, Mynydd Ty-talwyn and Mynydd Baedan near Margam by GGAT in 2013 (E006900). Six new archaeological sites were identified during the study. The report concludes that the planned work would not pose any constraints on the archaeology.
- A landscape survey was carried out as part of GGAT150: rapid coastline assessment by GGAT in 2018 (E006100), who undertook a scoping exercise in 2016-2017 to define a coastal zone area in relation to currently mapped risks associated with climate change and determined what work should be done to bring the quality and scope of data on the coast of Glamorgan and Gwent up to present standards.
- A landscape survey was carried out as part of the Arfordir Coastal Heritage project by GGAT in 2014 (E007638), which aimed to identify new sites and monitor archaeological sites and to engage interested local people. It especially aimed to record and monitor sites under threat of coastal erosion or other forms of damage and to involve interested individuals and community groups in taking an active role in caring for their coastal heritage on an independent and sustainable basis.
- An historic area assessment was carried out at Newland Farm by the University of Leicester in 2013 (E007771) The Assessment of the Significance of Impact of Development on Historic Landscapes, 2nd edition (ASIDOHL2) aimed to assess the direct, physical impacts of a wind turbine development as well as indirect physical and visual impacts upon the landscape surrounding Newland Farm. Overall, the impact from the proposed turbine was determined to be Slight, with a slightly higher impact on the landscape of Kenfig Burrows, especially those areas closest to the turbine.

- Key
- Red line boundary
 - 1km study area
 - Previous archaeological event linear
 - Desk-based assessment
 - Previous archaeological event point
 - Desk-based assessment
 - Environmental statement
 - Excavation
 - Watching brief
 - Previous archaeological event area
 - Watching brief
 - Historic area assessment
 - Landscape survey
 - Desk-based assessment

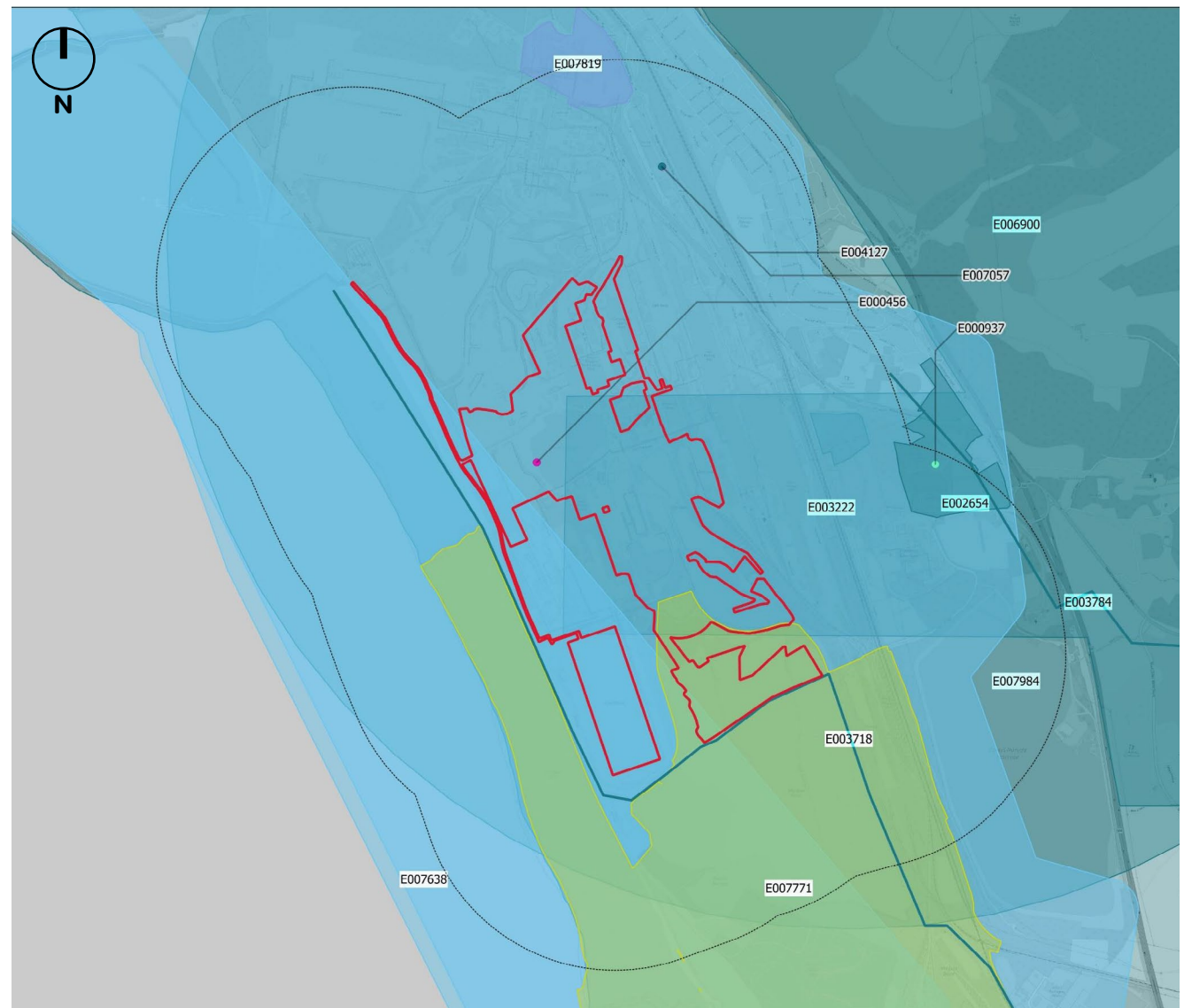
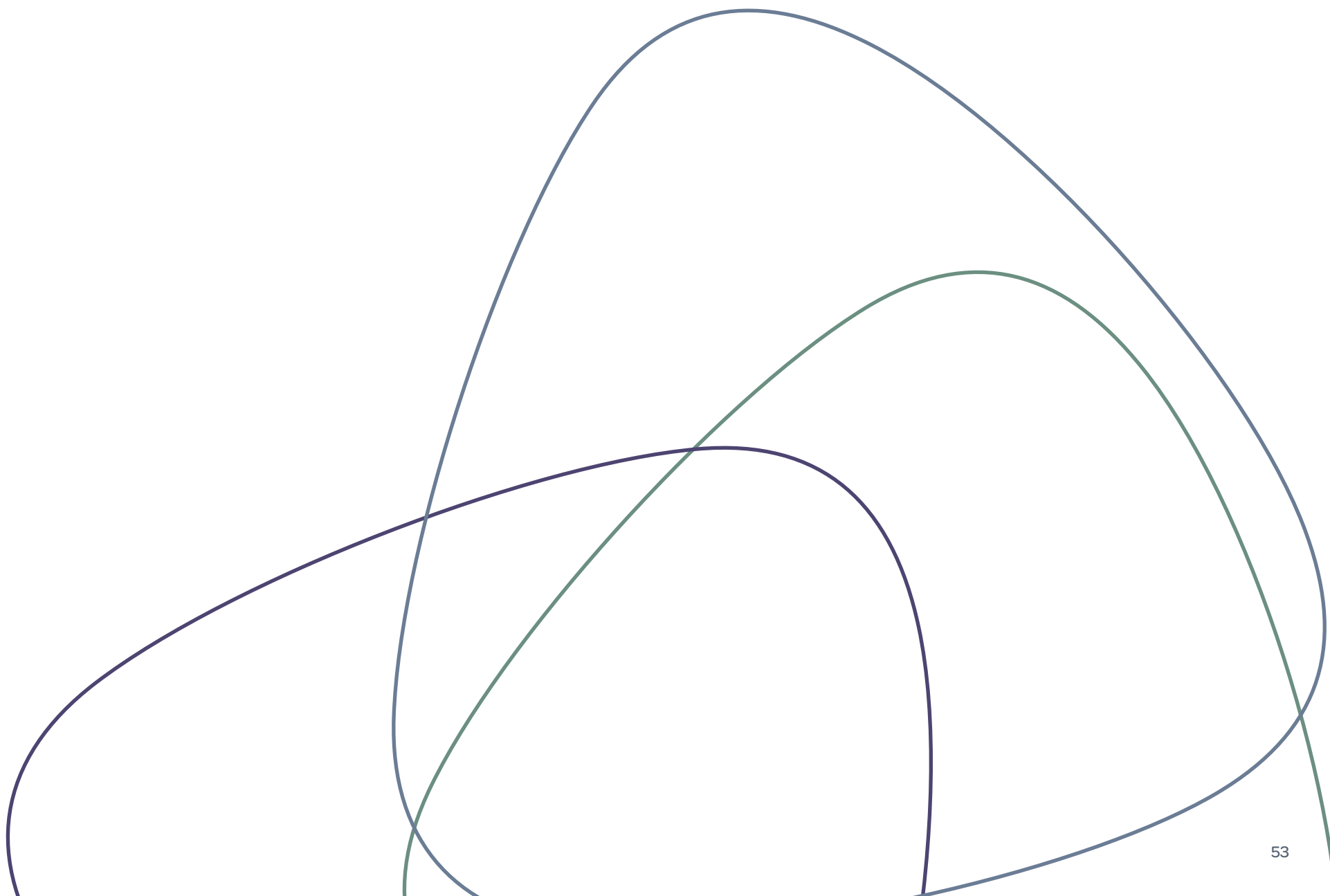
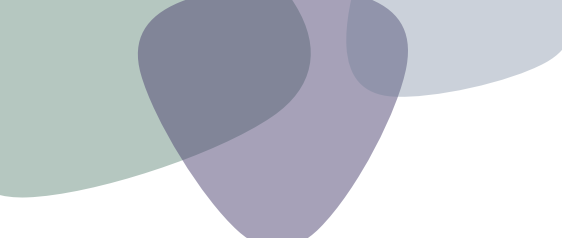


Figure 44: Previous Archaeological Investigations (within 1km of the Site)

03

Site Assessment





Site Boundaries

North

The northern boundary runs from the coast road to the access road east of the BOS Plant. Towards the north-west this boundary is characterised by various open storage sites for aggregate and rubble. Further east this boundary bisects the BOS Plant building with the parts of building included within the Site boundary intended to house the EAF. The eastern most part of this boundary edge features various storage areas for cast steel slabs.

East

The eastern boundary is characterised primarily by two large open storage sites for cast steel slabs. Between these storage sites is a large steel shed. There is also a large building adjacent to the northern storage area which abuts the Site boundary. At its most southerly point this boundary wraps around a series of railway sidings and a waterbody called Lower Mother Ditch.

South-East

The south east corner abuts an existing railway line and contains a hard-standing area. The boundary wraps around an existing aggregate storage area and coal tip, a couple of additional railway spurs enter the Site from the south.

This section of boundary features a series of field parcels which link the Site to existing overhead power lines to the east. These field parcels extend south to Heolcae'r-Bont, a gravel road and Public Right of Way and include a number of watercourses and hedgerows.

South-West

The south-west boundary contains the existing scrapyards which process scrap steel. A number of small storage yards and industrial buildings are contained within this area. This section of the boundary also includes the coke ovens which are in the process of being decommissioned.

This boundary terminates at the coast road to the west.

West

The majority of the western boundary is formed by the coast road which runs along the western side of the steelworks. To the west of this boundary is Margam Sands beach and beyond that Swansea Bay and the Bristol Channel.

Internal

Two areas are surrounded by the Site but are otherwise outside of the boundary. The larger of these areas features a complex of structures including a cooling tower water treatment plant and water towers.

The southern-most internal area contains a storage yard and hardstanding.

Key Design Considerations:

The Site boundary is complex and contains numerous different contexts and facilities. Areas within the boundary include the BOS plant, various storage sites for inputs and outputs of the steel mill, transportation infrastructure, the coke ovens as well as undeveloped fields. The context outside of the boundary is largely industrial with exceptions being the nature reserve to the south and the coast to the west.



Figure 45: Site Boundaries Plan

Existing Site Layout

Site Overview

The Site extends to c.159.6 ha and is identified in Figure 46.

The Site boundary is irregular in shape and includes the following parts of the extant steelworks:

- A continuous casting plant, slab yards, and part of a basic oxygen steelmaking (BOS) plant in the northern part of the Site
- An operational lagoon, a steel service centre, and Margam colliery memorial in the central area of the Site
- A haul road which forms the westernmost boundary
- Coal yards in the south western area of the Site.

The rail network, open storage yards, scrap processing facilities and associated steelmaking infrastructure are located to the south and south west of the Site.

The Site slopes gradually down in a south-easterly direction, albeit it is undulating in parts. The lowest levels within the planning boundary are in the south-east, at approximately 4.15mAOD. The eastern side of the Site is generally lower than the west, with levels typically remaining below 10mAOD. The west of the Site is shown to have typically higher ground levels, likely due to existing material and slag storage, and scrap processing. Levels in the south-west of the Site are approximately 14.95mAOD, with the highest levels shown to be in the north-west of the Site at around 23.06mAOD.

The Site is set within an established industrial area and includes a wide variety of industrial buildings, plant and equipment associated with the ongoing operation of the wider steelworks. The largest building on the Site is the BOS plant, which measures approximately 60m in height, over 100m in width and 150m in length. The building dominates the skyline in this part of the steelworks. A series of smaller industrial buildings of standard steel frame and grey panelled cladding are visible across the steelworks.

Beyond the large industrial buildings, the Site is predominately bare ground or developed land. There is a large area of made ground, reflecting the established use of the Site as a steelworks. Open areas of material and plant storage, large industrial buildings and the internal road network dominate.

KEY

Site Boundary 

Wider Tata Steel Ownership 

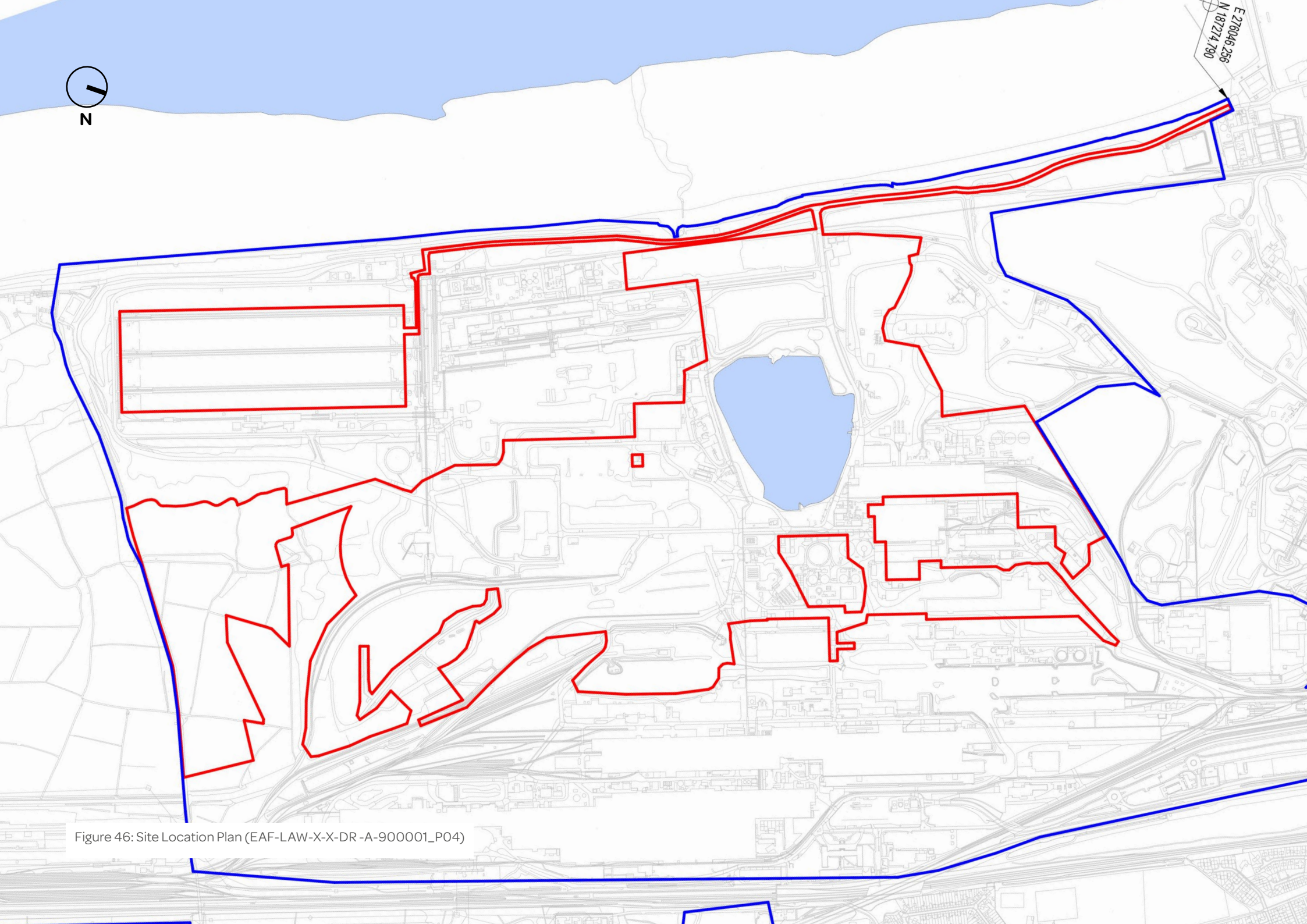


Figure 46: Site Location Plan (EAF-LAW-X-X-DR-A-900001_P04)