



Parc Pelenna

**Written Scheme of
Investigation for an
Archaeology and
Heritage Assessment**

Prepared by:
**The Environmental Dimension
Partnership Ltd**

On behalf of:
Trivselhus UK

September 2024

Report Reference
edp6556_r003b

Document Control

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Client	Trivselhus UK
Report Title	Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeology and Heritage Assessment
Document Reference	edp6556_r003b

VERSION INFORMATION

	Author	Formatted	Peer Review	Proofed by/Date
003_ DRAFT	EBr	EDa	RSk	-
003a	EBr	-	-	CTi 050324
003b	EBr	-	RSk	CRO 240924

DISCLAIMER TEXT

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced by any means without prior written permission from The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd. If you have received this report in error, please destroy all copies in your possession or control and notify The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd.

This report (including any enclosures and attachments) has been prepared for the exclusive use and benefit of the commissioning party and solely for the purpose for which it is provided. No other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report.

We do not accept any liability if this report is used for an alternative purpose from which it is intended, nor to any third party in respect of this report.

Opinions and information provided in the report are those of The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd using due skill, care and diligence in the preparation of the same and no explicit warranty is provided to their accuracy. It should be noted, and it is expressly stated that no independent verification of any of the documents or information supplied to The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd has been made.

Contents

Section 1	Introduction	4
Section 2	Methodology.....	6
Section 3	Report Content.....	7
Section 4	References	9

APPENDICES

Appendix EDP 1 Site Location Plan

Section 1

Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Archaeology and Heritage Assessment (AHA) has been prepared by The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd (EDP) for review and consideration by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT), the archaeological advisors to the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) in its role as the Local Planning Authority (LPA).
- 1.2 The WSI is concerned with the proposed development of Parc Pelenna, located off Fairyland Road, Neath (hereafter known as 'the site'), as illustrated on **Appendix EDP 1**.
- 1.3 Its aim is to set out the scope and methodology to be employed in the preparation of an AHA report for the site, which will support a planning application for residential development.
- 1.4 In this respect, the proposed AHA will assess: (1) the likely impact of the proposal upon the conservation of archaeological features, deposits and/or remains, whether known or hitherto unrecorded; and (2) the likely impact of the proposals on the significance of any designated or non-designated historic assets in the site's wider surroundings. Insofar as it is relevant, appropriate mitigation or compensation measures will be put forward in the assessment to either avoid or minimise adverse impacts on archaeological remains and other historic assets.
- 1.5 The assessment will address the relevant policies contained within Planning Policy Wales Edition Twelve, published in February 2024 (PPW 2024) and local policies within the NPTCBC Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026 (adopted January 2016) as appropriate.
- 1.6 The report will also take into account the additional guidance for archaeological assessment in Wales which is set out in Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (Welsh Government 2017), as well as best practice guidance from Cadw set out in Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (Cadw 2017).

SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1.7 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 277434, 198192; its location and layout are shown on **Appendix EDP 1**.
- 1.8 The site is located on a north facing slope within the Neath Valley, approximately 1.6km east of the village of Tonna, approximately 850m south-west of the village of Clyne and c.3.6km east of the town of Neath, at its closest points.
- 1.9 The site measures c.45.8 hectares (ha) in area. For the most part the site contains coniferous forestry plantations and scrubland, set on slopes that drop steeply to the north with exposed rockfaces. In this respect the site possesses an upland or upland fringe character. It also includes a small parcel of grassed fields at its centre, which are associated with a dwelling at Pen Rhiw Angharad Uchaf and its outbuildings.

- 1.10 The site is bounded to the south by Pelenna Forest on the edge of the Afan Valley, as well as an unnamed access track which traverses the woodland. To the east and west the site is bounded by grassed fields, with additional woodland and fields to the north.

- 1.11 Topographically, the site is located on a north facing slope with the Afan Valley to the south. It is located c.257m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its highest point in the south, rapidly descending to an average of c.190m aOD along its north-eastern boundary, and to c.53m aOD at its most northern point (at the north-west corner of the site) where an access road is proposed to join the B4434.

- 1.12 The British Geological Survey (BGS) records the underlying bedrock geology at the site as predominantly of Hughes Member (mudstone, siltstone and sandstone) formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed between 309.5 and 308 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. The more northern parts of the site however are recorded as Brithdir Member (sandstone), a sedimentary bedrock formed between 309.5 and 308 million years ago during the Carboniferous period.

- 1.13 A single superficial deposit is recorded by the BGS within the site, comprising a small area of peat, located within the south-west corner of the site. This peat deposit is a sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 2.588 million years ago and the present, during the Quaternary period (bgs.ac.uk).

Section 2

Methodology

- 2.1 The AHA report will be produced in accordance with the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2020). These guidelines provide a national standard for the completion of desk-based assessments.
- 2.2 The report's preparation will involve the consultation of publicly available archaeological and historic information gathered from relevant documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources. The study area to be adopted will be a 1km buffer around the site boundary. The following sources are each expected to be consulted and reviewed:
- Known archaeological sites, monuments and findspots from the GGAT Historic Environment Record (HER);
 - Cadw's Historic Environment Service for information on designated historic assets;
 - The National Monuments Record of Wales (NMRW), as held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW);
 - Historic maps held by online sources;
 - Aerial photographs which are held by the Central Register of Aerial Photography for Wales (CRAPW) at Cardiff;
 - Environment Agency LiDAR datasets;
 - Documentary sources held by the West Glamorgan Archive Service; and
 - Relevant books, articles and previous assessment reports on the site.
- 2.3 The site has been subject to one site visit/walkover survey to date, but additional visits are anticipated, nevertheless.
- 2.4 The site visits/walkovers aim to consider the presence, nature and significance of any known and/or potential archaeological assets within the site, as well as to identify visible historic features and to identify and assess possible factors which may affect the survival or condition of below ground archaeological remains.
- 2.5 The resulting report will therefore conclude with an assessment of the site's likely archaeological interest or potential, made with regard to current best practice guidelines, in order to understand the likely impact of development on the archaeological resource, whether directly or indirectly.

Section 3

Report Content

3.1 The report structure will differ dependent on the findings of the research, the needs of the project and the stage within the planning process. The report will however, as a minimum, contain the following sections:

- Non-technical summary, including a translation of the summary into Welsh;
- Introduction;
- Context of project;
- Site location and description;
- Geological and topographical description;
- Aims and purpose of the assessment;
- Methodology;
- Review of current legislation and planning policy; and
- Baseline archaeological and heritage information presented as a period based archaeological and historical background, consisting of:
 - Designated heritage assets;
 - Non-designated heritage assets;
 - Historic map regression;
 - A review of LiDAR data;
 - Aerial photographic evidence; and
 - Site walkover results.
- Identification and assessment of the potential for archaeological remains within the site considering previous/known impacts, including consideration of the significance of any remains which are known or expected to be present within the boundary;
- Conclusions;
- Supporting illustrations; and
- References.

- 3.2 The report will be submitted to GGAT for approval. Following approval, it will be submitted to the GGAT HER, with a digital copy submitted to the NMRW in accordance with the RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives (RCAHMW, 2015).
- 3.3 With respect to archiving, as well as the relevant ClfA guidance, the National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales will be followed (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2017).
- 3.4 The assessment will conform with the requirements of the Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh HERs (Welsh Archaeological Trusts and Cadw, 2022). As such, should new data be generated, this will be provided to the HER in accordance with this guidance.

Section 4

References

Cadw 2011 *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable management of the Historic Environment in Wales*.

Cadw 2017, *Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2020, *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*.

National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales, 2017, *National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales*.

RCAHMW 2015, *RCAHMW Guidelines for Digital Archives*

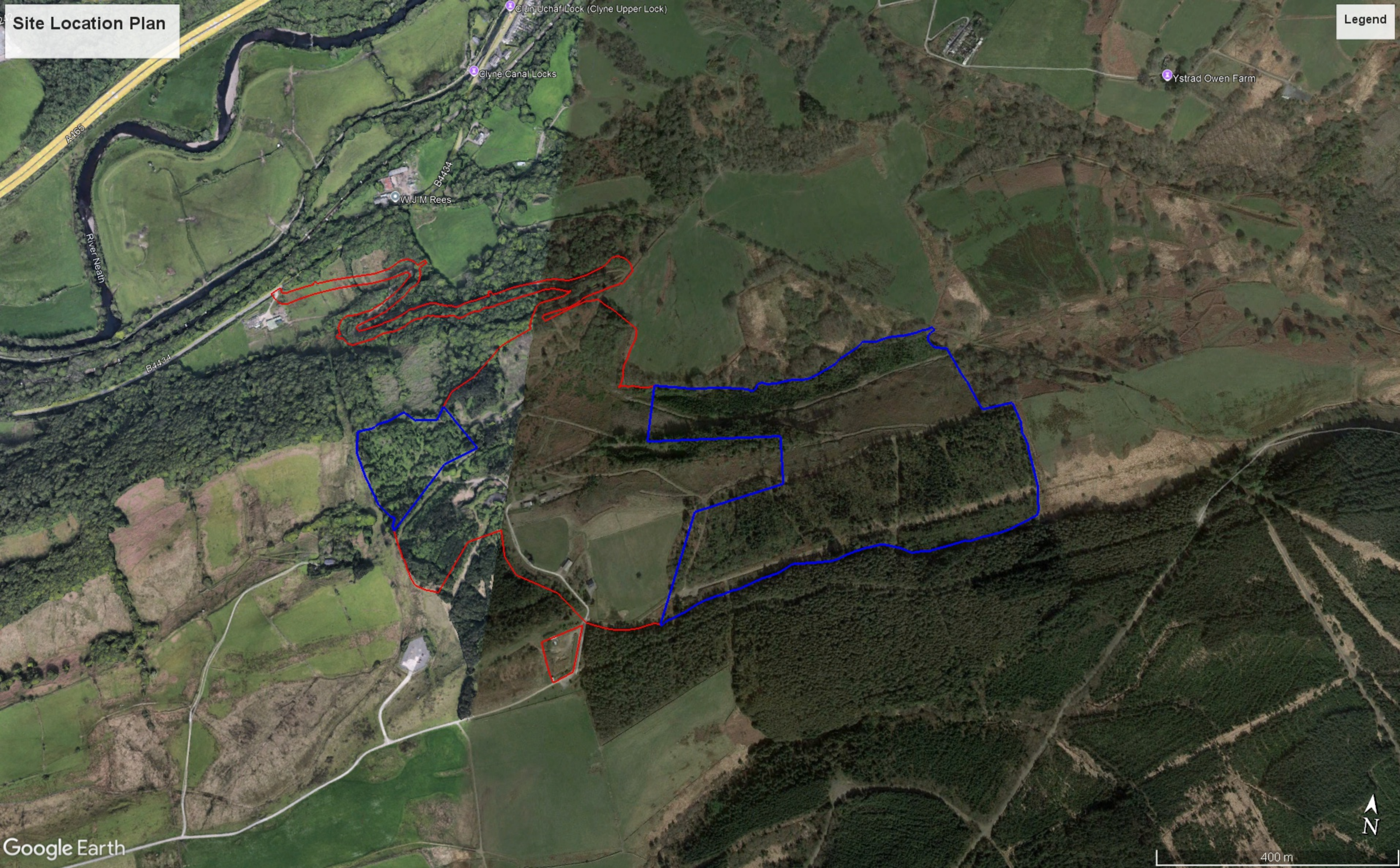
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, 2016, *Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026*.

Welsh Archaeological Trusts and Cadw, 2022, *Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs)*.

Welsh Government, 2017, *Technical Advice Note 24 (TAN 24) The Historic Environment*.

Welsh Government, 2024 *Planning Policy Wales Edition Twelve*.

Appendix EDP 1 Site Location Plan





CARDIFF
02921 671900

CHELTENHAM
01242 903110

CIRENCESTER
01285 740427

info@edp-uk.co.uk
www.edp-uk.co.uk

The Environmental Dimension Partnership Ltd. Registered as a Limited Company in England and Wales. Company No. 09102431. Registered Office: Quarry Barn, Elkstone Studios, Elkstone, Gloucestershire GL53 9PQ



**URBAN
DESIGN
GROUP** REGISTERED PRACTICE



**IEMA
CORPORATE
PARTNER**

**Landscape
Institute**
Registered practice