



APPENDIX A: BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE



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SUBJECT:	Built Heritage and Archaeology Technical Note		
PROJECT:	Cryddan Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	AUTHOR:	Alex Batey
CHECKED:	Chris Colville	APPROVED:	Helen Maclean

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

WSP UK Ltd (WSP) has been commissioned by Neath and Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) to provide cultural heritage baseline information for flood mitigation ('Proposed Development') around Cryddan Brook. NPTCBC intend to develop a Detailed Design and Full Business Case (FBC) for flood mitigation around Cryddan Brook, between the outfall on the river Neath to Foundry Road and Eaglesbush Valley in the town of Neath (Grid reference SS 74897 96583).¹ This Technical Note provides a high-level review of the historic environment baseline including an outline of the key built heritage constraints and an assessment of the archaeological potential of the Site. A desktop review has been carried out to provide high level input into the preliminary report. Note that a site visit has not occurred at this stage and Google Streetview has been used to inform this initial phase of work. This document does not constitute a full Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) or a Heritage Statement, often required by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to accompany a planning application.

METHODOLOGY AND SOURCES

The assessment has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of *Planning Policy Wales* (PPW) (Welsh Government 2024) and to standards specified by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020a; CIfA 2020b), Cadw's *Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales* (2011), and Cadw's *Managing Setting in the Historic Environment* (2017) guidance.

To determine the full historic environment potential of the Proposed Development, a range of standard documentary and cartographic sources were examined. These include data from Cadw including information on scheduled monuments and listed buildings, data received from the Heneb Historic Environment Record (HER), internet sources, historic Ordnance Survey maps, online LiDAR data, and British Geological Survey (BGS) data. All historic assets identified in this report have been assigned unique ID numbers (e.g., A1, A2). Two study areas have been identified as buffers from the perimeter of Site boundary: a 2km buffer for all designated historic assets, and a 500m buffer for non-designated historic assets. These study areas were examined to determine the nature, extent, preservation, and significance of any known or possible historic assets that may be present within or adjacent to the Proposed Development.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT BASELINE

Site Location

The Site is located in the town of Castell-Nedd/Neath, which is within the Neath Port Talbot County Borough, Wales. It is directly to the east of the River Neath and is between the existing railway line to Foundry Road and Eaglesbush Valley and follows the course of Cryddan Brook. The western half of the Site is currently occupied by Milland Industrial Estate, and the eastern half of the Site is occupied by a commercial retail park and a modern housing estate, before terminating on Foundry Road (See **Figure 1**).

Topography

The Site is located on an area of gently sloping land directly to the east of the River Neath, that is currently dominated by an industrial estate in its western part, and a retail park and modern housing in its easternmost part. The land gently slopes upwards from west to east, starting at a maximum height of 5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) adjacent to the River Neath and reaching a maximum height of 16m aOD on Foundry Road.

Geology

Geology can provide an indication of suitability for early settlement, and potential depth of archaeological remains.

The BGS Geology of Britain viewer (BGS 2025) shows the geology within the Site comprises:

- Swansea Member bedrock, which is sedimentary bedrock of mudstone, siltstone, and sandstone formed between 309.5 and 308 million years ago during the Carboniferous period.
- Hughes Member bedrock, which is sedimentary bedrock of sandstone formed between 309.5 and 308 million years ago during the Carboniferous period.
- Tidal Flat Deposits of clay, silt and sand, which are sedimentary superficial deposits formed between 11.8 thousand years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

These deposits are characteristic of a marine and coastal environment, which were traversed by glaciers over successive periods. The Tidal Flat deposits generally offer good potential for preservation of paleoenvironmental remains (evidence of past environments), and good potential for the preservation of archaeological remains from all periods due to their waterlogged and sedimentary nature.

Overview of Historic Assets

HERITAGE DESIGNATIONS

There are no nationally designated historic assets, such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, or conservation areas within the Site. A number of designated historic assets are located within the 2km study area around the Site, including 102 listed buildings, 10 scheduled monuments, three registered parks and gardens, and a conservation area. All designated historic assets are shown on **Figure 2**. Note that the focus is those designated historic assets most likely to be impacted by any proposals relating to the Proposed Development.

LISTED BUILDINGS

St Catherine's Church (Grade II*)

The Grade II* listed St Catherine's Church (Cadw ref: 11816 – shown as A46 on **Figure 2**) is located 165m to the south of the Site and is of evidential, aesthetic, and historic value. The historic asset was built

between 1888-91 to the designs of J. Coates Carter in collaboration with D.M. Davies of Neath¹. The asset consists of a tall aisled hall church in an austere early gothic style, displaying bull-nosed snecked masonry, ashlar dressings, irregular stressed quoins, and steep slate roofs which are canted over the aisles. The church is noted as a fine early example of the work of Coates Carter and is notable for the quality of its interior and retention of original fittings. The church is located on a prominent raised position at the corner of School Road and Old Road within a modern housing estate and has landmark qualities in the street scene. These include more immediate and longer views of the historic asset, with longer views including those views along Evans Road and School Street. The top of the church is visible from the base of School Road where it meets the A474.

Milepost (Grade II)

The Grade II listed Milestone (Cadw ref: 11773 – shown as A3 on **Figure 2**) is located 175m to the south of the Site and is of evidential and historic value. The historic asset dates from 1841 and comprises a gothic style cast-iron milepost with raised lettering. The milepost has been re-sited to the edge of the A474 road, adjacent to a petrol station, and the original location is unclear.

Other Listed Buildings in wider vicinity of Site

Other listed buildings within the 2km study area include those listed below. Note that their locations are shown on **Figure 2** using a reference code for each i.e. A1, A2 etc. and that they are listed in order of their reference code.

- 'Church of Saint Cattwg' (Grade II*; A1) is located 1.9km to the north of the Site.
- 'Great Western Chambers' (Grade II; A2) is located 965m to the north of the Site and is within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Moose Hall' (Grade II; A4) is located 1.1km to the north of the Site and is within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Neath Castle' (Grade II*; A5) is located 1.1km to the north of the Site and is within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Old Town Church of St Thomas' (Grade II*; A6) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Gates, Gatepiers & Churchyard Wall of St Thomas' Church' (Grade II; A7) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Old Town Hall' (Grade II; A8) is located 975m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Mechanics Institute' (Grade II; A9) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Hugh Vaughan & Co Ltd' (Grade II; A10) is located 970m to the east of the Site.
- 'E. Griffiths, Family Grocer' (Grade II; A11) is located 760m to the north of the Site.
- 'Former Gate & Lodges to Gnoll House' (Grade II; A12) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Pillar Box' (Grade II; A13) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'War Memorial Gates' (Grade II; A14) is located 1.05km to the north-east of the Site.
- 'General Market' (Grade II; A15) is located 860m to the north of the Site and is located within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '23 Green Street' (Grade II; A16) is located 835m to the north of the Site and is located within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'National Westminster Bank' (Grade II; A17) is located 780m to the north of the Site and is within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Friends Meeting House' (Grade II; A18) is located 1.1km to the north of the Site and is within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Llewellyn Almshouses, including Boundary Walls' (Grade II; A19, A20, A21, A22, A23, A24, A25, A26) are located 1.5km to the northeast of the Site.
- 'Parish Church of St Illtyd' (Grade II*; A27) is located 1.85km to the north-east of the Site.
- 'Gatepiers to St Illtyd's Church' (Grade II; A28) is located 1.85km to the north-east of the Site.

¹ [Listed Buildings - Full Report - HeritageBill Cadw Assets - Reports](#)

- 'Bethania Baptist Chapel' (Grade II; A29) is located 700m to the north-east of the Site.
- 'Pillar Box' (Grade II; A30) is located 675m to the north of the Site.
- 'Soar Maes-yr-haf Congregational Chapel and forecourt railings' (Grade II; A31) is located 765m to the north of the Site.
- 'Subway Under Railway' (Grade II; A32) is located 780m to the north of the Site.
- '6 New Street' (Grade II; A33) is located 960m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '7 New Street' (Grade II; A34) is located 960m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '1 Old Market Street' (Grade II; A35) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '2 Old Market Street' (Grade II; A36) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '3 Old Market Street' (Grade II; A37) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '6 Old Market Street' (Grade II; A38) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '7 Market Street' (Grade II; A39) is located 1.1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '7a Old Market Street' (Grade II; A40) is located 1.1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'The St Ives Public House' (Grade II; A41) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '24 Church Street' (Grade II; A42) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Adrian Hicks & Son' (Grade II; A43) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '15 Market Street' (Grade II; A44) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '16 Old Market Street' (Grade II; A45) is located 1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Constitutional Club' (Grade II; A47) is located 915m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Parish Church of St David' (Grade II*; A48) is located 915m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Barclay's Bank' (Grade II; A49) is located 900m to the north of the Site and is within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'D S Morgan' (Grade II; A50) is located 830m to the north of the Site and is within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Masonic Temple' (Grade II; A51) is located 820m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Bandstand' (Grade II; A52) is located 860m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Pedestal & Bronze Statue of Howell Gwyn' (Grade II; A53) is located 875m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- '8 Wind Street' (Grade II; A54) is located 990m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Midland Bank' (Grade II; A55) is located 750m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Lloyd's Bank' (Grade II; A56) is located 735m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Old Post Office Building' (Grade II; A57) is located 670m to the north of Site.
- '52 Windsor Road' (Grade II; A58) is located 550m to the north of the Site.
- 'Gwyn Hall' (Grade II; A59) is located 880m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Bridge over S end of Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Dyffryn Cladach community)' (Grade II, A60) is located 1.25km to the west of the Site.
- 'Bridge over Tennant Canal to S of entrance to Neath Abbey' (Grade II; A61) is located 840m to the north-west of Site.
- 'Former engine manufacturing building at former Neath Abbey Ironworks' (Grade II; A62) is located 1km to the north-west of the Site.

- 'Neath River Bridge (partly in Blaenhonddan community)' (Grade II; A63) is located 980m to the north of the Site.
- 'Quaker's Viaduct (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)' (Grade II; A64) is located 1.5km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Horeb Chapel' (Grade II; A65) is located 1.8km to the west of the Site.
- 'Tramroad bridge over Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Dyffryn Clydach Community)' (Grade II; A66) is located 1.27km to the west of the Site.
- 'Neath River swing bridge (partly in Neath and Briton Ferry Communities)' (Grade II; A67) is located 1.5km to the south-west of the Site.
- 'Bridge over Tennant Canal W of former Crown Copperworks' (Grade II; A68) is located 1.4km to the west of the Site.
- 'Tabernacle Chapel' (Grade II; A69) is located 1.7km to the west of the Site.
- 'Gorphwysfa Chapel' (Grade II; A70) is located 1.5km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Tabernacle Chapel Hall' (Grade II; A71) is located 1.75km to the west of the Site.
- 'Ynysmaerdy Incline bridge over Pant Howel Ddu' (Grade II; A72) is located 1.5km to the south of the Site.
- 'Salem Baptist Chapel' (Grade II; A73) is located 1.9km to the south of the Site.
- 'Bridge over Ynysmaerdy Incline' (Grade II; A74) is located 1.6km to the south of the Site.
- 'Neath River Swing Bridge (partly in Coedffranc and Neath Communities)' (Grade II; A75) is located 1.4km to the south-west of the Site.
- 'Forge tramroad bridge at Neath Abbey Ironworks (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)' (Grade II; A76) is located 1.25km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Bridge over Tennant Canal SE of the Church of Saint Cattwg' (Grade II; A77) is located 1.75km to the north-east of the Site.
- 'Bridge over Tennant Canal, including towpath retaining walls and overflow channels' (Grade II; A78) is located 980m to the north of the Site.
- 'Cwm Clydach Dam (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)' (Grade II; A79) is located 1.9km to the north of the Site.
- 'Former forge and rolling mill at Neath Abbey Ironworks' (Grade II; A80) is located 1.35km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Gates, gate piers, walls and railings at Church of Saint Cattwg' (Grade II; A81) is located 1.9km to the north-east of the Site.
- 'Milestone on A4230' (Grade II; A82) is located 1.95km to the north-east of the Site.
- 'Monument in churchyard of St Cattwg' (Grade II; A83) is located 1.9km to the north-east of the Site.
- 'Neath River Bridge (partly in Neath community)' (Grade II; A84) is located 980m to the north of the Site.
- 'Railway bridge over Cadoxton Road' (Grade II; A85) is located 1.15km to the north of the Site.
- 'Neath Abbey Railway Viaduct (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)' (Grade II; A86) is located 1.1km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'No. 1 Blast Furnace at former Neath Abbey Ironworks' (Grade II*; A87) is located 1.1km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'No. 2 Blast Furnace at former Neath Abbey Ironworks' (Grade II*; A88) is located 1.1km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Neath Abbey Railway Viaduct (partly in Blaenhonddan community)' (Grade II; A89) is located 1.1km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Forge tramroad bridge at Neath Abbey Ironworks (partly in Blaenhonddan community)' (Grade II; A90) is located 1.25km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'The Smiths Arms' (Grade II; A91) is located 930m to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Cwm Clydach Dam (partly in Blaenhonddan community)' (Grade II; A92) is located 1.95km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Clydach Aqueduct on Tennant Canal' (Grade II; A93) is located 700m to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Bridge over River Clydach to S of Neath Abbey' (Grade II; A94) is located 710m to the northwest of the Site.
- 'Bridge over Tennant Canal N of former Mines Royal Copper Works' (Grade II; A95) is located 1.2km to the west of the Site.
- 'Tramroad bridge over Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Coedffranc community)' (Grade II; A96) is located 1.2km to the west of the Site.
- 'Bridge over S end of Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Coedffranc community)' (Grade II; A97) is located 1.25km to the west of the Site.
- 'Church of St John the Baptist' (Grade II; A98) is located 1.2km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Quaker's Viaduct (partly in Coedffranc community)' (Grade II; A99) is located 1.5km to the north-west of the Site.

- 'Neath Library' (Grade II; A100) is located 770m to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Neath Mission Hall' (Grade II; A101) is located 1.1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Stench Pipe on Daphne Road / Cromwell Avenue' (Grade II; A102) is located 1.65km to the north of the Site.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

There are no scheduled monuments within the Site. There are a number of scheduled monuments within the 2km study area around the Site, which include:

- 'Neath Abbey' (A103) is located 720m to the west of the Site.
- 'Neath Abbey Ironworks Dam' (A104) is located 1.95km to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Ynysmaerdy Railway Incline' (A105) is located 1.45km to the south of the Site.
- Carreg Hir Standing Stone, Pen-Rhiw-Tyn (A106) is located 1.2km to the south of the Site.
- Court Herbert Cross & Grave Slab (A107) is located 830m to the north-west of the Site.
- 'Neath Roman Site' (A108) is located 775m to the north of the Site.
- 'Neath Castle' (A109) is located 1.1km to the north of the Site and is within Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- 'Tennant Canal: Skewen Cutting and tramroad bridge' (A110) is located 1.2km to the west of the Site.
- 'Neath Abbey Ironworks' (A111) is located 1.1km to the northwest of the Site.
- 'Neath Abbey Ironworks Calcining Kilns' (A112) is located 1.2km to the northwest of the Site.

REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS

There are no registered parks and gardens within the Site but there are three within the 2km study area around the Site, which include:

- Victoria Gardens (Grade II; A113) is located 780m to the north of the Site and is within the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area.
- The Gnoll (Grade II*; A114) is located 950m to the north-east of the Site.
- Jersey Park (Grade II; A115) is located 1.5km to the south of the Site.

CONSERVATION AREAS

Neath Town Centre Conservation Area (A116)

Neath Town Centre Conservation Area (A116) was first designated in 2005 and captures the historic town centre of Neath. It extends to Croft Road in the west, to Rhodfar Knoll in the east, to Neath Castle at its northernmost extent, and Greenway Road at its southern extent. There is no conservation area appraisal document available, but the NPTCBC Local Development Plan 2011-2026 (NPT 2019) provides the following brief description:

Neath Town Centre: features of importance include the traditional commercial centre with some small shop units, the general market, public buildings, the castle, St Thomas's Church, Victoria Gardens and other architectural features and structures.

There are 39 listed buildings, including three Grade II* listed buildings and 36 Grade II listed buildings, one scheduled monument, and one registered park and garden within the conservation area which are identified above.

NON-DESIGNATED HISTORIC ASSETS

There are three non-designated historic assets within the Red Line Boundary of the Site recorded on the HER:

- Roman Road, Neath to Coelbren (A117);
- Neath Branch Line Railway (A122), a post-medieval railway line; and
- Neath Canal (A120), a section of post-medieval canal.

There are four additional non-designated historic assets within the 500m study area around the Site. The four assets date to the post-medieval period and consist of a former colliery (A118), an iron foundry (A119), a canal (A121), and a former railway (A123). All non-designated heritage assets are shown on **Figure 3**.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been six investigations that have taken place within the Site. These largely relate to landscape level studies by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) and the University of Reading and Cotswold Archaeology. Other work has been desk-based and related to specific developments. No further historic assets were identified.

Archaeological and Historical Background

PREHISTORIC (800,000BC – AD 43)

The earliest evidence for human occupation within southern Wales dates from the Upper Palaeolithic period, which began around 40,000 BC, and mostly comprises finds of human and animal bone and assorted flint assemblages. Large amounts of these finds have been located in caves in the Gower, which is a limestone area in southern Wales, which is approximately 25km to the south-west of the Site. It is likely that small groups used these caves for shelter during the Early to Late Upper Palaeolithic. There is no archaeological evidence located within the Site or the 500m study area dating to the Palaeolithic.

Mesolithic hunter-gatherer groups of the postglacial period (10,000-4000 BC) would have inhabited a largely wooded environment. River valleys and coastal areas would have been attractive as predictable sources of food and water and for use as a means of transport and communication. There is no archaeological evidence located within the Site or the 500m study area dating to the Mesolithic.

During the Neolithic period, communities began to transition from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to a more sedentary one based around agriculture and permanent settlement. Large communal tombs of megalithic construction were constructed in the landscape. There is no archaeological evidence located within the Site or the 500m study area dating to the Neolithic period.

The Bronze Age (2200-600 BC) was characterised by technological change, with flint being replaced by copper and subsequently bronze as the main material for the construction of everyday tools. This period is seen as a time of increasing social complexity and organised landscapes, likely due to increasing pressure on available resources. Large stone monuments continued to dominate the landscape, with 'Carreg Hir Standing Stone, Pen-Rhiw-Tyn' (A106) located 1.2km to the south of the Site and dating to the Bronze Age. It is of Pennant sandstone and measures 2.8m high by 1.7m wide. There is no archaeological evidence located within the Site or the 500m study area dating to the Bronze Age.

The Iron Age followed on from the Bronze Age, with iron becoming the dominant material for making tools and weapons. Settlements became more complex, with hilltop settlements known as 'hillforts' erected in the landscape which varied greatly in size and complexity. There is no archaeological evidence located within the Site or the 500m study area dating to the Iron Age.

ROMAN (AD 43-410)

The Roman invasion of Britain occurred in AD 43, after which the Roman army began to move north and west establishing forts and road systems. The Roman name for south-east Wales was *Siluria* with the native tribes living in this area known as the *Silures*. The *Silures* provided formidable opposition to the Roman invasion, which led to the establishment of a fort in Neath named *Nidum* (A108), which is located 775m to the north of the Site. A small fort was first built in AD 75, which was followed by more substantial fortifications in the 2nd century built of earth and clay and then stone. After the final construction stage in stone, it is likely that the fort was relatively short lived. The fort at Neath was linked to a fort at Coelbren via

a road, which is located within the Site. The location of the road was confirmed by the presence of metalled surfaces and roadside drainage ditches. A north-east to south-west aligned metalled surface constructed from pebbles, gravel, and sand formed the western edge of the Roman road leading from the north-east gate of Neath fort. A similarly aligned U-shaped ditch was located to the north-west which contained Roman pottery dating the 2nd century AD (Barber 2007).

EARLY MEDIEVAL (AD 410-1066)

Following the withdrawal of the Roman army from Britain in the early 5th century, it is likely that the region fell into a period of socio-economic decline. There are few known settlements in south-west Wales dating to this period and it is unclear as to whether the Neath area continued to be settled. Christianity was established in south-east Wales during this time, which is reflected by the presence of the 'Court Herbert Cross and Grave Slab' (A107) 830m to the north-west of the Site. The monument consists of a free-standing stone pillar with two incised crosses. There is no recorded evidence dating from the early medieval period within the Site or the 500m study area.

MEDIEVAL (AD 1066-1540)

During the early stages of the medieval period, it is unclear as to how extensive the settlement of Neath was. Neath Abbey (A103) was founded in 1130 as a Savignac monastery but was later absorbed into the Cistercian order in 1147 during which time it expanded greatly. The expansion of the abbey led to numerous reconstruction programmes through the 12th and 14th centuries. The abbey was suppressed in 1539 as part of the dissolution of the monasteries and a house was constructed in the south-east of the monastic complex, but this had fallen into disrepair by the 18th century. During the 12th century a castle (A109) was erected by Robert, Earl of Gloucester, in a strategic spot guarding the river crossing. The castle was repeatedly harried by local Welsh populace and may have been destroyed by Llywelyn ab Iorwerth in 1231, which led to it being rebuilt in stone in the early 13th century. It was further rebuilt in the 14th century, leading to the construction of its notable gatehouse, due to further attacks.

There is no recorded evidence dating from the medieval period within the Site or the 500m study area.

POST-MEDIEVAL (AD 1540 – 1900)

Neath emerged in the post-medieval period as a small market town but saw a significant expansion during the industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries. In 1795, the 'Neath Abbey Ironworks' (A111) was founded on the western edge of the River Clydach, 1.1km north-west of the Site. The facility was eventually closed in 1885/86, but two 19th century blast furnaces (A87 and A88) still survive. Associated with the ironworks are the 'Neath Abbey Ironworks Calcining Kilns' (A112), which were a series of four calcining kilns built contemporaneously with the ironworks. Only three survive, as the fourth was demolished between 1897-1914 to accommodate the South Wales Railway. Another ironworks named the Eaglesbush Foundry (A119) was opened in the late 19th century and depicted on the first edition OS mapping and consisted of a linear complex of rectilinear buildings. The foundry closed in the first half of the 20th century and now exists as ruined buildings, 50m to the south-east of the Site. The Neath (A120) and Tennant (A121) canals were constructed in the late 18th and 19th centuries, transporting goods such as coal, timber, iron ore, and sand, allowing for an expansion in trade and the town itself. The two canals provided 21 miles of waterway from Aberdulais to Swansea, and from Glynneath to Briton Ferry. Elements of the Neath Canal (A120) is present within the Site. The 'Tennant Canal: Skewen Cutting and tramroad bridge' (A110) still survives as a well-preserved section of the canal located 1.2km to the west of the Site. It was built between 1820-24 by the engineer William Kirkhouse.

With the industrial revolution came the introduction of railroads. The 'Ynysmaerdy Railway Incline' (A105) was opened in 1863 and was one of the last generations of rope hauled railway inclines that were designed by Brunel in the 1850s. The Dulais Valley Mineral Railway (A123), also known as the Neath-Breacon

Railway, was opened in 1863 and ran from Neath up to the Dulais Valley and is located within the 500m study area. The Neath Branch of the Rhondda and Swansea Bay Railway (A122) was opened in 1895 and is partially located within the Site. Neath had access to significant coal deposits during this time making it an ideal location for redevelopment. The Eaglesbush Colliery (A118) was opened in the late 19th century and first recorded on the First Edition OS mapping. The colliery closed in 1935 and now exists as cropmarks within the 500m study area 140m to the south-west of the Site. As a result of the prosperity brought by the industrial revolution Neath flourished as a market town, with evidence of this now visible in the Neath Town Centre Conservation Area, with the former 19th century market buildings and craft shops still present.

MODERN (AD 1901-PRESENT)

During the modern period the heavy industry in the town began to decline with the closure of coal mines and the canals falling out of use. In the early 20th century, the town retained the same layout as that in the 19th century during its industrial heyday. The town consisted of the central area containing the railway station, the central market, and the canals. Housing estates were present on the eastern and north-eastern sides of the town, with a large amount of agricultural land to the east of these housing estates. The Site was occupied by a large brick field and brick works on the western side of the railway, and housing estates and a tin works on the eastern side of the railway. By the mid-20th century, the town had expanded with large areas of modern housing constructed in the east of the town. The brickfields present in the early 20th century had been replaced by a steel sheet galvanising works, and the housing estates on the eastern side of the railway had also expanded. It is unclear when the steel works was demolished, but the Site area is now the location of a modern industrial estate. On the eastern side of the railway, within the Site area, is a modern retail park and large areas of modern housing estates.

KEY HISTORIC ASSET CONSTRAINTS

There are two listed buildings (A3 & A46) within the 500m study area around the Site (see **Figure 2**). These historic assets will not be physically impacted during the construction phase, but there is potential for the Proposed Development to visually impact on the settings of these historic assets. In this regard, design and siting will be important considerations.

There are three non-designated historic assets within the Site boundary (see **Figure 3**):

- Roman Road, Neath to Coelbren (A117);
- Neath Branch Line Railway (A122), a post-medieval railway line; and
- Neath Canal (A120), a section of post-medieval canal.

The three non-designated historic assets within the Site are likely to experience physical impacts during construction. The three assets are linear features and would experience partial removal, confined to the elements that are within the Site boundary, rather than the removal of the whole length of the asset.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HISTORIC ASSETS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

Any construction activities which require breaking ground within the Site have the potential to lead to the truncation and removal of archaeological remains. It is possible that the construction of the modern industrial estate, modern housing and modern retail buildings within the Site have partially disturbed and truncated archaeological remains that would have been present.

There is a possibility that previously unrecorded archaeological remains associated with the brickworks and steelworks noted on historic mapping may be present, but modern developments have likely led to the truncation and removal of any remains.

BUILT HERITAGE

There is the potential for impacts to the settings of two designated historic assets located within the 500m study area around the Site. The Grade II* listed 'St Catherine's Church' (A46) and the Grade II listed 'Milepost' (A3) are both located to the south of the Site boundary and have intervisibility with the Site. The design details relating to the siting and heights of the Proposed Development are not currently available, but there is potential for the Proposed Development to be at least partially visible within views to and from these designated historic assets. The Milepost has been re-sited since its initial placement, so it has been removed from its original setting. It is unlikely that the addition of the flood alleviation scheme in views from the asset will constitute a negative impact to the significance of the Milepost due to changes in its setting. The Grade II* listed church is located in a prominent location on the corner of School Road and Old Road and is visible from numerous directions and locations within Neath. The presence of the Proposed Development is unlikely to interrupt these views of the church as it will be sited on low-lying land to the north-west. Furthermore, the church was not constructed with the intention of providing long range views outwards over Neath, meaning the presence of the Proposed Development away from the church may not constitute a negative impact on the significance of the church due to changes in its setting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is the potential for impacts to the setting of two listed buildings within the 500m study of the Site, as well as physical impacts on the buried remains of both known and previously unrecorded archaeological sites, as well as possible impacts on deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential close to the River Neath. In order to capture the full scale of potential impacts to the designated and non-designated historic assets within the Site, it is recommended that a Heritage Statement and Archaeological DBA is prepared as part of any planning application. This will allow for a comprehensive review of all historic assets within the Site and the 500m and 2km study areas and allow for an accurate assessment of all impacts to archaeological and built historic assets.

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HISTORIC ASSET GAZETTEER

Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
A1	11767	275592	198572	Church of Saint Cattwg	Medieval
A2	11772	275173	197721	Great Western Chambers	Post-medieval
A3	11773	274615	196382	Milepost	Post-medieval
A4	11774	275356	197765	Moose Hall	Post-medieval
A5	11775	275366	197795	Neath Castle	Medieval
A6	11776	275325	197673	Old Town Church of St Thomas	Medieval/post-medieval
A7	11777	275332	197653	Gates, Gatepiers & Churchyard Wall of St Thomas' Church	Post-medieval
A8	11778	275268	197680	Old Town Hall	Post-medieval
A9	11779	275304	197703	Mechanics Institute	Post-medieval
A10	11780	276002	196553	Hugh Vaughan & Co Ltd	Modern
A11	11781	275066	197546	E.Griffiths, Family Grocer	Post-medieval
A12	11782	275641	197318	Former Gate & Lodges to Gnoll House	Post-medieval
A13	11783	275529	197402	Pillar Box	Modern

Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
A14	11784	275898	197092	War Memorial Gates	Modern
A15	11785	275226	197575	General Market	Post-medieval
A16	11786	275234	197538	23 Green Street	Post-medieval
A17	11787	275189	197504	National Westminster Bank	Modern
A18	11788	275356	197818	Friends Meeting House	Post-medieval
A19	11789	275876	197869	Llewellyn Almshouses, including Boundary Walls	Post-medieval
A20	11790	275880	197866	Llewellyn Almshouses, including Boundary Walls	Post-medieval
A21	11791	275884	197864	Llewellyn Almshouses, including Boundary Walls	Post-medieval
A22	11792	275888	197861	Llewellyn Almshouses, including Boundary Walls	Post-medieval
A23	11793	275899	197854	Llewellyn Almshouses, including Boundary Walls	Post-medieval

Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
A24	11794	275902	197852	Llewellyn Almshouses, including Boundary Walls	Post-medieval
A25	11795	275907	197850	Llewellyn Almshouses, including Boundary Walls	Post-medieval
A26	11796	275911	197848	Llewellyn Almshouses, including Boundary Walls	Post-medieval
A27	11797	276195	198038	Parish Church of St Illtyd	Medieval
A28	11798	276214	197992	Gatepiers to St Illtyd's Church	Post-medieval
A29	11799	275296	197302	Bethania Baptist Chapel	Post-medieval
A30	11800	275325	197240	Pillar Box	Modern
A31	11801	275126	197522	Soar Maes-yr-haf Congregational Chapel and forecourt railings	Post-medieval
A32	11802	275108	197547	Subway Under Railway	Post-medieval
A33	11803	275278	197656	6 New Street	Post-medieval
A34	11804	275275	197660	7 New Street	Post-medieval

Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
A35	11805	275397	197674	1 Old Market Street	Post-medieval
A36	11806	275394	197678	2 Old Market Street	Post-medieval
A37	11807	275393	197682	3 Old Market Street	Post-medieval
A38	11808	275371	197717	6 Old Market Street	Post-medieval
A39	11809	275367	197722	7 Market Street	Post-medieval
A40	11810	275366	197725	7a Old Market Street	Post-medieval
A41	11811	275358	197703	The St Ives Public House	Post-medieval
A42	11812	275350	197698	24 Church Street	Post-medieval
A43	11813	275367	197685	Adrian Hicks & Son	Post-medieval
A44	11814	275372	197679	15 Market Street	Post-medieval
A45	11815	275375	197674	16 Old Market Street	Post-medieval
A46	11816	274848	196355	St Catherine's Church	Post-medieval
A47	11817	275370	197535	Constitutional Club	Post-medieval
A48	11818	275409	197504	Parish Church of St David	Post-medieval
A49	11819	275204	197614	Barclay's Bank	Modern
A50	11820	275285	197495	D S Morgan	Post-medieval
A51	11821	275324	197443	Masonic Temple	Post-medieval

Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
A52	11822	275429	197394	Bandstand	Post-medieval
A53	11823	275401	197454	Pedestal & Bronze Statue of Howell Gwyn	Post-medieval
A54	11824	275365	197629	8 Wind Street	Post-medieval
A55	11825	275179	197468	Midland Bank	Post-medieval/modern
A56	11826	275175	197458	Lloyd's Bank	Modern
A57	11827	275120	197423	Old Post Office Building	Modern
A58	11828	275145	197254	52 Windsor Road	Post-medieval
A59	11829	275316	197539	Gwyn Hall	Post-medieval
A60	11833	273135	196915	Bridge over S end of Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)	Post-medieval
A61	11834	273733	197287	Bridge over Tennant Canal to S of entrance to Neath Abbey	Post-medieval
A62	11845	273803	197678	Former engine manufacturing building at former Neath Abbey Ironworks	Post-medieval

Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
A63	11866	275009	197806	Neath River Bridge (partly in Blaenhonddan community)	Post-medieval
A64	23065	273063	197520	Quaker's Viaduct (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)	Post-medieval
A65	23066	272761	197396	Horeb Chapel	Post-medieval
A66	23067	273233	197196	Tramroad bridge over Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Dyffryn Clydach Community)	Post-medieval
A67	23068	273003	196370	Neath River swing bridge (partly in Neath and Briton Ferry Communities)	Post-medieval
A68	23069	272980	196640	Bridge over Tennant Canal W of former Crown Copperworks	Post-medieval
A69	23070	272756	197326	Tabernacle Chapel	Post-medieval
A70	23075	273038	197411	Gorphwysfa Chapel	Post-medieval
A71	23076	272732	197318	Tabernacle Chapel Hall	Post-medieval
A72	23303	275243	195051	Ynysmaerdy Incline bridge over Pant Howel Ddu	Post-medieval

Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
A73	23305	274268	194582	Salem Baptist Chapel	Post-medieval
A74	23308	274743	194925	Bridge over Ynysmaerdy Incline	Post-medieval
A75	23310	273071	196362	Neath River Swing Bridge (partly in Coedffranc and Neath Communities)	Post-medieval
A76	82077	273809	197957	Forge tramroad bridge at Neath Abbey Ironworks (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)	Post-medieval
A77	82078	275691	198362	Bridge over Tennant Canal SE of the Church of Saint Cattwg	Post-medieval
A78	82079	274991	197817	Bridge over Tennant Canal, including towpath retaining walls and overflow channels	Post-medieval
A79	82081	273899	198767	Cwm Clydach Dam (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)	Post-medieval
A80	82083	273765	198059	Former forge and rolling mill at Neath Abbey Ironworks	Post-medieval
A81	82085	275556	198596	Gates, gate piers, walls and railings at	Post-medieval

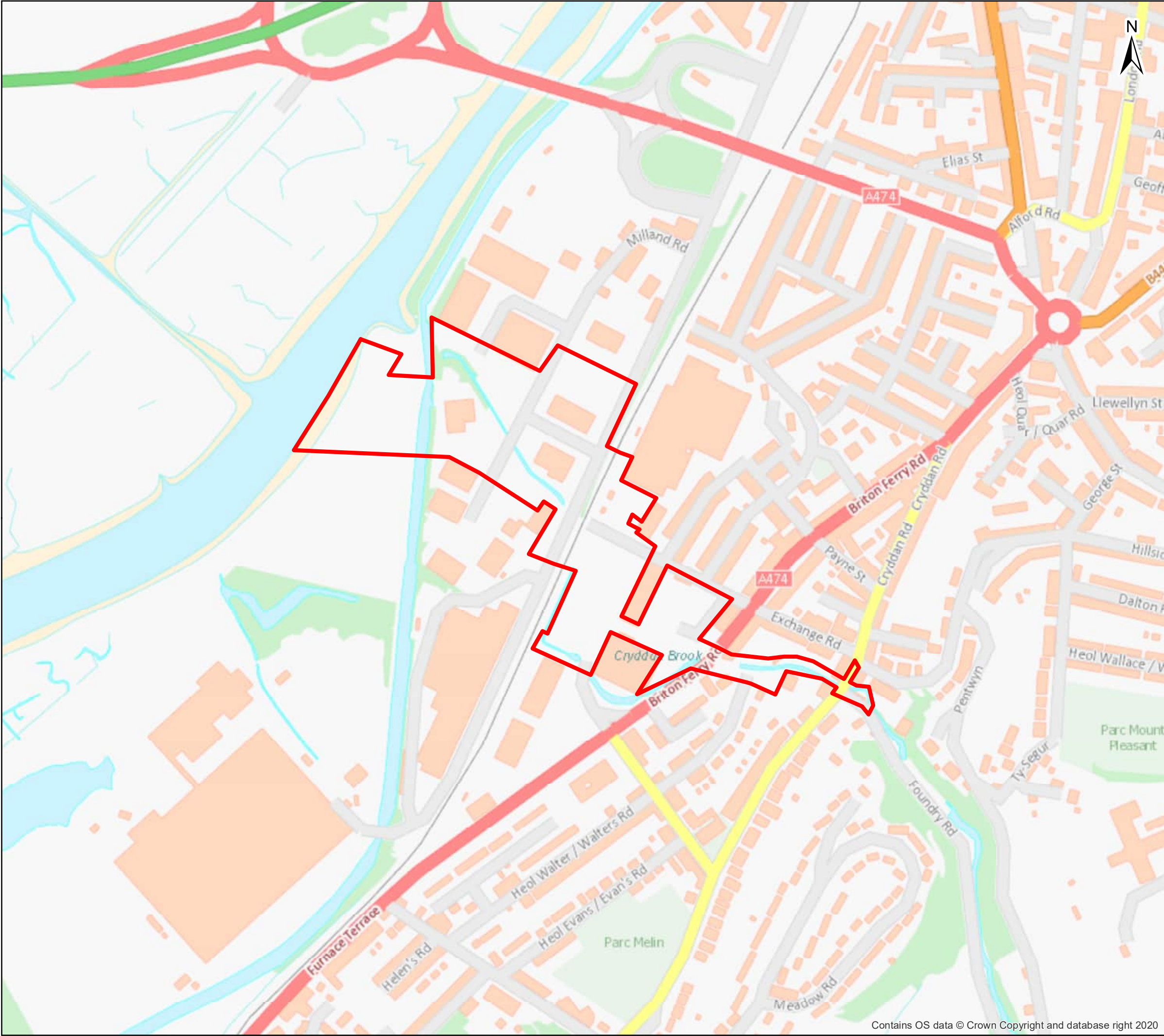
Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
				Church of Saint Cattwg	
A82	82088	275619	198644	Milestone on A4230	Post-medieval
A83	82089	275559	198564	Monument in churchyard of St Cattwg	Post-medieval
A84	82090	274972	197827	Neath River Bridge (partly in Neath community)	Post-medieval
A85	82091	274956	198020	Railway bridge over Cadoxton Road	Post-medieval
A86	82092	273850	197838	Neath Abbey Railway Viaduct (partly in Dyffryn Clydach community)	Post-medieval
A87	82332	273793	197785	No. 1 Blast Furnace at former Neath Abbey Ironworks	Post-medieval
A88	82333	273793	197753	No. 2 Blast Furnace at former Neath Abbey Ironworks	Post-medieval
A89	82334	273835	197832	Neath Abbey Railway Viaduct (partly in Blaenhonddan community)	Post-medieval
A90	82335	273803	197952	Forge tramroad bridge at Neath Abbey Ironworks (partly in	Post-medieval

Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
				Blaenhonddan community)	
A91	82336	273856	197597	The Smiths Arms	Post-medieval
A92	82338	273904	198766	Cwm Clydach Dam (partly in Blaenhonddan community)	Post-medieval
A93	82339	273876	197293	Clydach Aqueduct on Tennant Canal	Post-medieval
A94	82340	273826	197200	Bridge over River Clydach to S of Neath Abbey	Post-medieval
A95	82341	273336	197265	Bridge over Tennant Canal N of former Mines Royal Copper Works	Post-medieval
A96	82342	273252	197182	Tramroad bridge over Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Coedffranc community)	Post-medieval
A97	82343	273139	196914	Bridge over S end of Skewen Cutting, Tennant Canal (partly in Coedffranc community)	Post-medieval
A98	82344	273425	197505	Church of Saint John the Baptist	Post-medieval

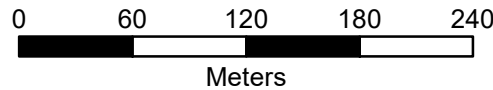
Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
A99	82345	273087	197518	Quaker's Viaduct (partly in Coedffranc community)	Post-medieval
A100	87652	275386	197315	Neath Library	Modern
A101	87818	275408	197729	Neath Mission Hall	Modern
A102	87879	275126	198492	Stench Pipe on Daphne Road / Cromwell Avenue	Post-medieval
A103	GM006	273790	197367	Neath Abbey	Medieval
A104	GM395	273909	198767	Neath Abbey Ironworks Dam	Post Medieval/Modern
A105	GM489	275212	195044	Ynysmaerdy Railway Incline	Post Medieval/Modern
A106	GM170	274453	195340	Carreg Hir Standing Stone, Pen-Rhiw-Tyn	Prehistoric
A107	GM207	274089	197635	Court Herbert Cross & Grave Slab	Early Medieval
A108	GM215	274704	197771	Neath Roman Site	Roman
A109	GM039	275364	197801	Neath Castle	Medieval
A110	GM394	273203	197099	Tennant Canal: Skewen Cutting and tramroad bridge	Post Medieval/Modern
A111	GM389	273773	197750	Neath Abbey Ironworks	Post Medieval/Modern

Asset No.	NHLE/HER reference	NGR		Site Name	Period
		Easting	Northing		
A112	GM635	273682	197764	Neath Abbey Ironworks Calcining Kilns	Industrial
A113	PGW(Gm)64 (NEP)	275435	197384	Victoria Gardens	Post-medieval
A114	PGW(Gm)50 (NEP)	276583	197436	The Gnoll	Post-medieval
A115	PGW(Gm)62 (NEP)	274540	194833	Jersey Park	Modern
A116	N/A	275369	197449	Neath Town Centre Conservation Area	Post-medieval
A117	RR60c-06	274641	196796	Roman Road	Roman
A118	07845w	275136	196214	Eaglesbush Colliery	Post-medieval
A119	08611w	275062	196395	Eaglesbush Foundry (Iron)	Post-medieval
A120	01027.0w	274533	196804	Neath Canal	Post-medieval
A121	01070.0w	274507	197353	Tennant Canal	Post-medieval
A122	01701.7w	274485	196813	Neath Branch Line, Railway	Post-medieval
A123	02817.0w	274494	197401	Dulais Valley Mineral Railway	Post-medieval

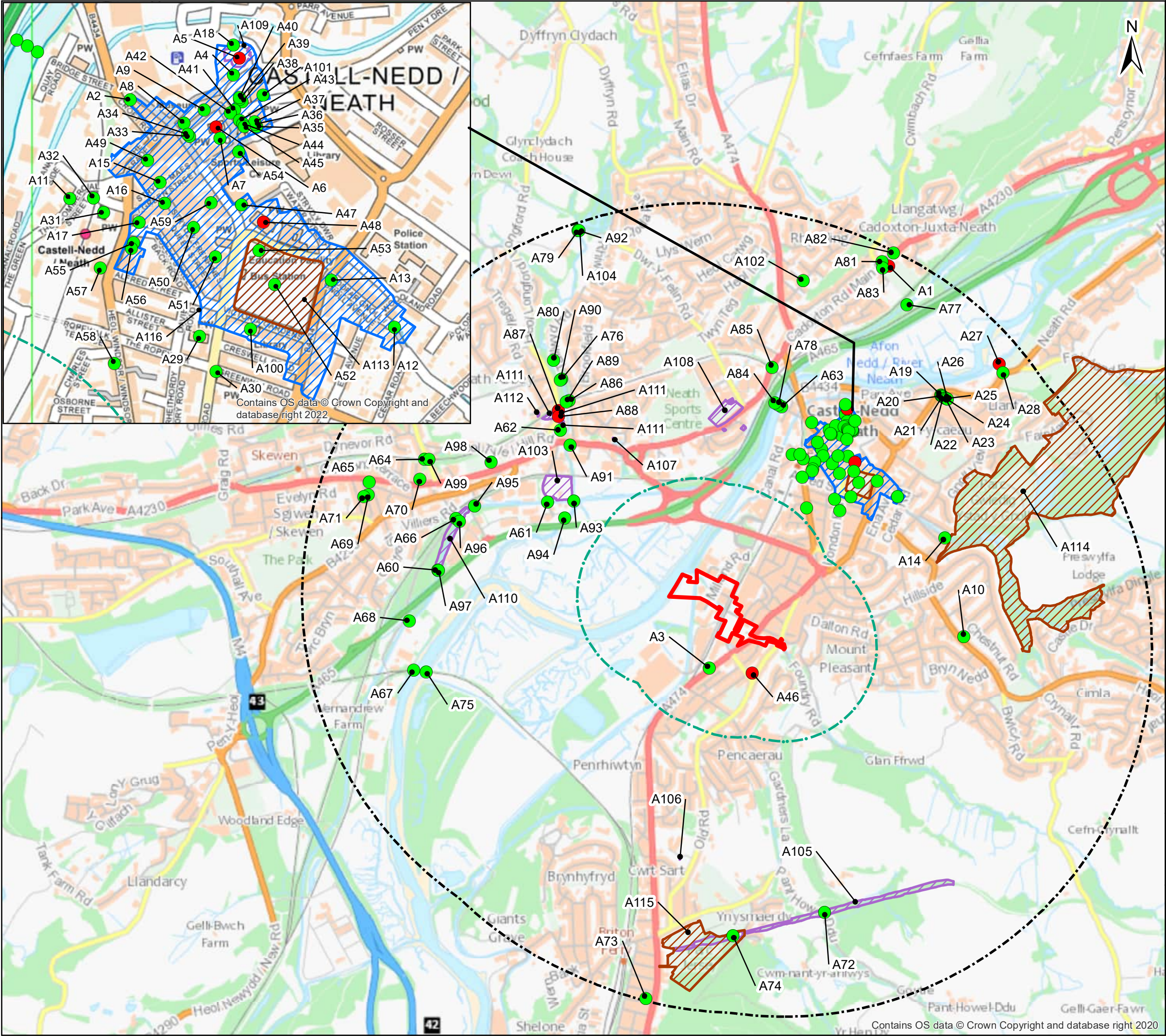
FIGURES



Key
 Site Boundary

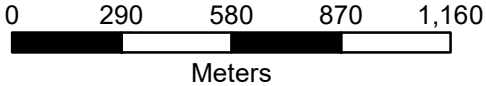


Client:	Neath and Port Talbot County Borough Council	
Project:	Cryddan Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme	
Title	Figure 1 Site Location Plan	
Date:	14/10/2025	Scale: 4,000 @ A3
Drawn: AHB	Checked: CC	Approved: HM

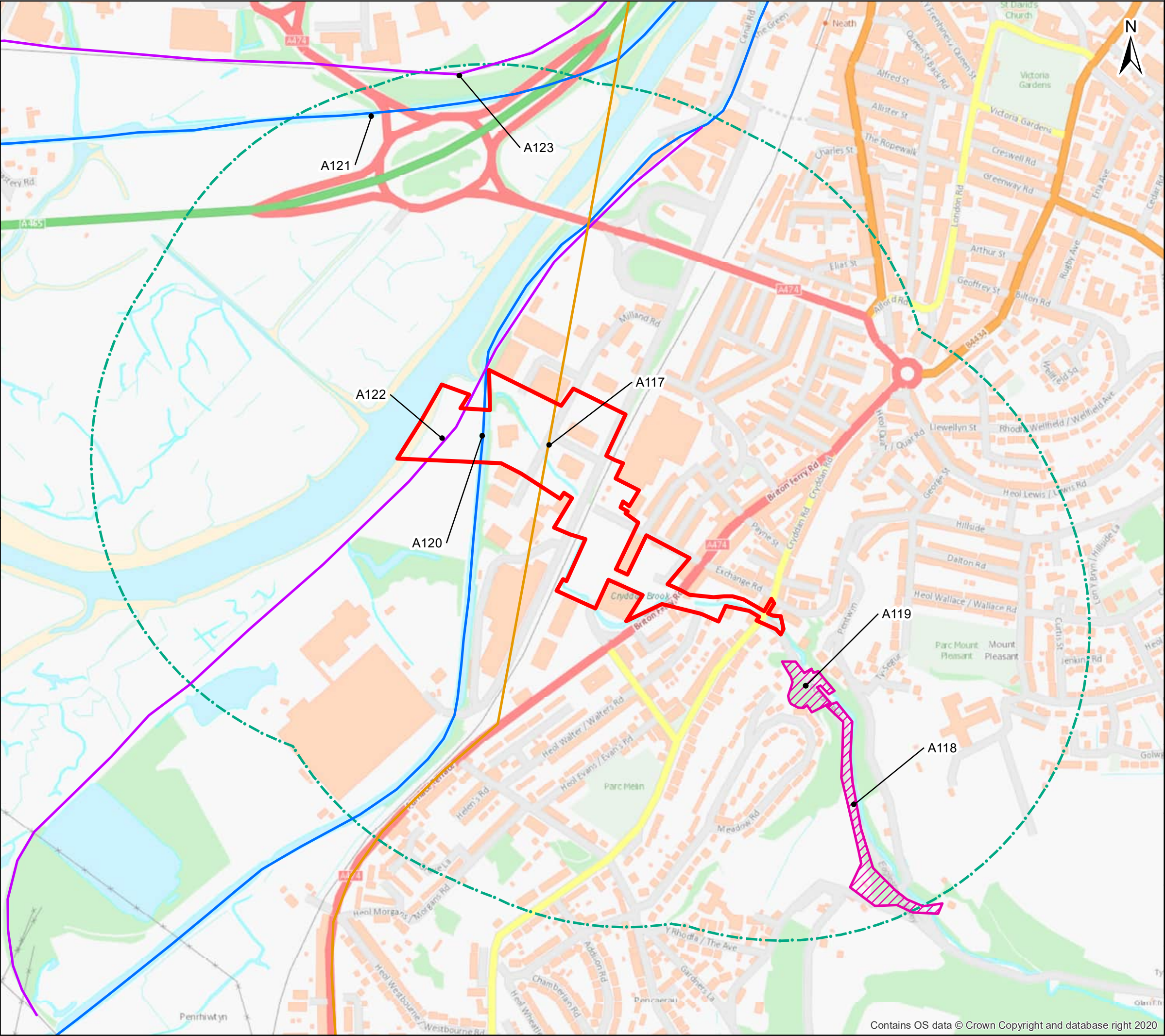


Key

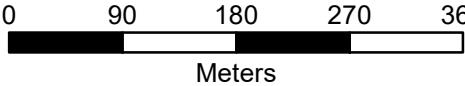
- Site Boundary
- 500m Study Area
- 2km Study Area
- Listed Buildings**
 - Grade II*
 - Grade II
- Scheduled Monuments
- Registered Parks and Gardens
- Conservation Areas



Client:	Neath and Port Talbot County Borough Council		
Project:	Cryddan Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme		
Title:	Figure 2 Designated Heritage Assets		
Date:	14/10/2025	Scale:	20,000 @ A3
Drawn:	AHB	Checked:	CC
		Approved:	HM



- Key**
- Site Boundary
 - 500m Study Area
 - Non-Designated Assets
 - Non-Designated Roman Roads
 - Non-Designated Railways
 - Non-Designated Canals



Client:
Neath and Port Talbot
County Borough Council

Project:
Cryddan Brook
Flood Alleviation Scheme

Title
Figure 3
Non-designated historic assets

Date: 14/10/2025 Scale: 6,000 @ A3
Drawn: AHB Checked: CC Approved: HM