Bargoed, Station Road

Landscape and Visual Appraisal

Langstone Construction
61538
July 2026

TACP

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S0 – Work in progress **S1** – For coordination **S2** – For information
S3 – For review and comment **S4** – For approval **FI** – Final

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GLOSSARY

Abbreviation	Full Description
CBLDP	Caerphilly Borough Local Development Plan
CCBC	Caerphilly County Borough Council
CW	Countywide Policy
EAP	Environmental Action Plan
EMP	Environmental Masterplan
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GI	Ground Investigation
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HOVRA	Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
LLCA	Local Landscape Character Areas
LEMP	Landscape Environment Management Plan
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
LCA	Landscape Character Area(s)
LVA	Landscape and Visual Appraisal
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NCC	Northern Connections Corridor
NCN	National Cycle Network
NCR	National Cycle Route
NGR	National Grid Reference
NL	National Landscape (formerly (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)
NLCA	National Landscape Character Area
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSRI	National Soil Resources Institute
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RAMS	Risk Avoidance Method Statement
RPA	Root Protection Area
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SCC	Southern Connections Corridor
SI	Geoenvironmental Site Investigation
SLA	Special Landscape Area

Abbreviation	Full Description
SM	Scheduled Monument
SO	Strategy Objective
SP	Strategy Policy
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TPO	Tree Preservation Order
VE	Visual Envelope
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility
ZVI	Zone of Visual Influence

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Assessment

1.1.1 TACP (UK) Ltd was commissioned by Langstone Construction in May 2026 to prepare a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) in relation to the Scheme. In consultation with the Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) Landscape Officer, it was confirmed that a LVA would provide an appropriate level of assessment, as opposed to a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), given the limited magnitude of potential effects arising from the Station Road Residential Development, Bargoed.

1.1.2 The purpose of this LVA is to assess the potential effects of the Scheme, as described in Section 2.2, on the landscape and visual amenity of the surrounding area. It describes the methods used to establish the study area of the assessment and the baseline landscape and visual resources found within it. This baseline has been used to assess the potential direct and indirect effects of the scheme considering the sensitivity of the landscape and visual amenity. Where adverse effects have been identified, mitigation measures to prevent, reduce or offset adverse effects have been considered together with relevant planning policy requirements.

1.1.3 In addition, the assessment has drawn on the guidance outlined in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' (GLVIA), The Landscape Institute (LI) with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 3rd Edition, 2013.

1.1.4 This LVA (and its associated figures) should be read in conjunction with the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)[1] and the Geoenvironmental Site Investigation (SI)[2] for the Scheme.

1.1.5 The purpose of this report is to identify likely significant landscape and visual issues which would result from the Scheme at both construction and post construction stages. The report focuses on the landscape and visual receptors and viewpoints considered most likely to be affected by the Scheme.

1.2 Scope of Limitations

1.2.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been prepared based on information available at the time of writing, including the proposed site layout, landscape strategy and supporting technical reports. The assessment has been informed by a site visit and includes an appraisal of potential visibility using mapping, preliminary Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis and the identification of representative viewpoints. These tools have been used to understand the extent and nature of visual influence associated with the proposed development.

1.2.2 The appraisal has been undertaken using a combination of a desk-based review and field observations, drawing on available information, and including the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)[1] and Geoenvironmental Site Investigation (SI)[2]. An updated topographic survey has been incorporated into the landscape design. The level of assessment is proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposed development and reflects agreement with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) that an LVA, rather than a full LVIA, is appropriate.

1.2.3 The appraisal assumes that proposed mitigation measures, including structured planting, boundary treatments and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), are implemented and maintained as part of the development. This LVA should be read in conjunction with the accompanying figures found in the Appendix, including viewpoint plans and visibility mapping, which support the assessment of potential landscape and visual effects.

1.2.4 Landscape Character Effects relate to changes in the physical fabric, character and quality of the landscape. For a residential Scheme, this might include:

- Transformation of existing brownfield site into residential development on the fringes of existing settlement
- Introduction of new infrastructure such as formalised access road, fencing and built form associated with the proposed development
- Potential changes to the landscape including removal of existing vegetation for Scheme footprint.

1.2.5 Visual Amenity Effects assess the extent to which the Scheme would alter existing views from public viewpoints and residential receptors. Key considerations include:

- Visibility of new residential Scheme from roads, PRoW footpaths, existing settlements and existing culturally or socially sensitive sites.
- Seasonal variation in screening (winter vs summer)

1.3 Methodology Overview

1.3.1 Desk top assessment and field surveys have been undertaken to identify and provide an overview of the study area.

The following data sources have been used to establish the baseline conditions:

- Natural Resources Wales / National Landscape Character Areas (NCLA) (https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en)
- Local County Council Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Guidance (Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough)
- DataMap Wales (New map | DataMapWales)
- LANDMAP (Wales Environmental Information Portal)

1.3.2 For the purposes of this LVA the following search areas have been used:

- World Heritage Sites (WHS), National Parks and National Landscapes (NL) – 5km radius from the centre of the Site.
- Scheduled Monuments (SM) and Conservation Areas – 0.5km radius from the nearest Site extent
- Listed Buildings: Grade I and II* – 0.5km radius from the centre of the site
- Listed Buildings: Grade II – 0.5km radius from the centre of the site

- Statutory nature conservation and wildlife Sites (Site of Special Scientific Importance [SSSI]; National Nature Reserves [NNR] and similar) and Ancient Woodland - 1km radius from the centre of the site; and

- Registered Parks and Gardens or similar - 2km radius from the centre of the site.

1.3.3 The extent of the study area was established through review of the National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) published by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), LANDMAP landscape aspect evaluations, and relevant local landscape character assessments prepared by Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC). A site-specific Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) has been undertaken using LANDMAP aspect layers to identify and describe the landscape characteristics of the Site and its surrounding area. The use of assessments at national, local authority and site scales provide a hierarchical framework for understanding landscape character, allowing the Site to be considered within its wider landscape context. This approach assists in identifying the contribution and importance of existing site landscape features and characteristics at both the local and wider scale and informs the assessment of the Site developments effect on the landscape.

1.3.4 The report is set out under the following headings.

- **Site Context** – this section includes the following:
    - **Site Location and Description,** A brief description of the location and existing conditions of the site
    - **Planning Context and Relevant Designations,** A brief description of the local authority conditions affecting this scheme and whether there are any significant/ notable landscape designations present or adjacent.
- **Baseline Conditions:** Including the following:
- **Landscape Baseline Conditions:** this section includes three elements.
    - **Landscape Character,** a description of the Landscape Character, its landscape elements, characteristics and form and the effect this will have on the Scheme including the proximity of notable Landscape Character elements described within the National Landscape Character Assessment and Local Landscape Character that results in the scoping of this LVA.
    - **Landscape Features,** a description of the existing topographic features alongside the surrounding or effected waterbodies and vegetation present
    - **Landscape Value,** a description of the existing association whether this be recreational or cultural alongside visual aspects of value such as scenic quality or existing planting elements of visual interest
- **Visual Baseline Conditions:** this section is split into three elements.
    - **Identification of Visual Receptors,** identifying the visual receptors that would be most affected by the scheme introduction and the level of impact
    - **Descriptions of Views to and From Site,** description of views to and from the Scheme and the Scheme's visibility at different times of year
    - **Visual mapping,** identifying Scheme's visibility, either described as a Visual Envelope or shown as a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) if available.

- **Description of Proposed Development,** this section provides a summary of the Scheme's design and layout, key elements that could affect surrounding views or landscape and the Scheme's overall materials, scale and form.

- **Assessment of Landscape Effects**, this section provides a description of the proposals and sets out the potential landscape and visual effects, their significance arising from the construction and operational phases, as well as the overall magnitude of changes to landscape character if no mitigation measures were implemented. This further considers the sensitivity of the landscape, the likelihood of positive and negative effects upon it, and whether these will be temporary or permanent impacts.

- **Assessment of Visual Effects** this section provides a description of the proposals potential impact on views from key receptors, the overall visual sensitivity and magnitude of change and the likelihood of visual impacts should no mitigation be implemented.

- **Mitigation Measures** – this section sets out the general approach to the development of the design and the adopted mitigation measures incorporated into both the construction and operational phases. Including embedded mitigation (e.g. siting and materials) and any additional mitigation including planting and for screening. It also considers any residual effects that may remain after mitigation.

- **Conclusion-** this section provides a summary of the above sections, including recommendations for design mitigation and a statement of overall planning acceptability.

The LVA should be read in conjunction with the following Figures and Appendices:

- Figures:
  - Figure 1: Proposed Development Location
  - Figure 2: National Landscape Character Areas for Caerphilly County Borough Council
  - Figure 3: Site Location
  - Figure 4: Project Location
  - Figure 5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility Current
  - Figure 6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility DSM
  - Figure 7: Zone of Theoretical Visibility
  - Figure 8: Viewpoint Locations
  - Figure 9: Viewpoint Sheets
  - Appendices:
  - Appendix A: Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology
  - Appendix B: Site Location, Designations and Viewpoints
  - Appendix C: Landscape GA Plan

2 SITE CONTEXT

2.1 Location of Scheme

2.1.1 This site is located to the east of A469 (Station Road) directly opposite the Bargoed Railway Station and north of the Station car park at the National Grid Reference (NGR) SO 15106 00102.

2.1.2 The Site is an area approximately 0.4417 hectares in size, situated on a brownfield site adjacent to Station Road (A469). This has been cleared following demolition of the former structure, leaving a mixture of exposed ground, residual hardstanding and remnants of the former development encompassed by areas of ruderal vegetation, unmanaged groundcover and dense scrub including site boundaries of dense existing mature vegetation and trees. The site is situated within the county of Caerphilly within the Rhymney Valley and lies approximately 200m to the east of Bargoed town centre and 13.01km north of Caerphilly.

2.1.3 The site is situated adjacent to Afon Rhymey/ Rhymney River which lies directly along the eastern perimeter of the site's eastern boundary, a Public Right of Way (PRoW) (BARG/ FP114/ 1) runs north to south along the river's eastern boundary crossing a second PRoW (BARG/FP114/2) running along the southern site boundary.

2.1.4 The Aberbargoed Grasslands SSSI (also a SAC and NNR) lies approximately 1km to the southeast with Cefn yr Brithdir SSSI lying 2.8 km to the northwest.

2.1.5 The main access to the site is via the A469 Station Road that runs to the north to south along the western boundary giving access to Aberbargoed which lies on the other side of the Rhymney River to the east.

2.2 Scheme Proposals

2.2.1 The proposal is for the development of a five-storey residential apartment block with associated car parking and outdoor landscape amenity space. See Figure 1

2.2.2 The proposed layout comprises a five-storey residential building with associated parking, access and circulation routes, within a landscaped setting. The layout integrates structured planting, including low-growing shrub and grassland areas, with a communal external space located within the southern portion of the site. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), including a shallow rain garden, are incorporated within the central and western areas of the site to manage surface water runoff.

2.2.3 A proposed vegetated terra-mesh retaining wall forms part of the site boundary treatment, with associated native hedge planting and climbing vegetation softening its appearance. Existing features, including the southern boundary woodland and adjacent pond, are retained and protected within the layout.

Figure 1: Proposed Development Location (Source: C2J Architects (2026), Job No: 23_054, Drawing No: AL (90)0, Drawing Title: Existing Site Plan (Drawn March 2026)

North

Date	Drawn	Check	Description	Rev.
//**	***	***	**********	*

Station Road, Bargoed

Job No. 23_054

Dwg No. AL(90)02 Rev.

Title: Existing Site Plan

Date: March 2026 Drawn:

Scale: 1:500 @ A3

Architects · Town planners
Environmental & Urban design

Unit 1A, Compass Business Park, Pacific Road, Cardiff. CF24 5HL

www.c2jarchitects.co.uk tel: 029 20452100

2.3 Policy Context and Landscape Designations

National Planning Policy - Planning Policy Wales (PPW)

2.3.1 Planning policy Wales (PPW) (published 2018) was updated on February 2024. The PPW represents the overarching document for National Planning Policy in Wales and supports the spatial plan for Wales as set out in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 influences the way we plan for new development; it demands that development and use of land contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

2.3.2 The PPW supports the commitment as set out in the Well-being of the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to the achievement of sustainable development through appropriate planning. Identifying four overarching objectives – cultural, social, economic and environmental to be pursued in mutually supportive ways through the planning system.

2.3.3 The Future Wales Outcomes of specific relevance in relation to sustainability, the natural environment, landscape and visual issues are:

Future Wales – The National Plan 2040

2.3.4 The National Plan 2040 provides the national spatial framework for development across Wales and sets out key priorities for sustainable growth, placemaking and environmental resilience. The proposed development is supported by:

- Policy 2: Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration, which promotes development within existing settlements and encourages the reuse of previously developed land. The Station Road, Bargoed site represents a brownfield location within an established settlement, aligning with this policy objective.

- Policy 9: Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure is of particular relevance, requiring the protection and enhancement of ecological networks and the integration of green infrastructure into development proposals. The scheme responds to this through the retention of the southern boundary woodland, protection of the adjacent pond, and the introduction of structured planting, including native shrub and hedge planting.

- Policy 12: Regional Connectivity supports well-located development that integrates with existing infrastructure and promotes sustainable communities. The proposed development, located within the urban area of Bargoed, contributes to this objective by making effective use of land within an accessible location.

- Policy 8: Future Wales also places strong emphasis on placemaking principles, requiring development to respond to local character and landscape context. The scheme incorporates a coordinated landscape strategy, including Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) such as a shallow rain garden, which contributes to Flood Risk, ensuring that development manages surface water in a sustainable manner.

2.3.5 Overall, the proposed development accords with the strategic objectives of Future Wales by delivering a sustainable, design-led scheme that integrates built form with green infrastructure, enhances biodiversity, and responds appropriately to landscape and visual sensitivities.

Local Planning Policy - Caerphilly Borough Council Local Development Plan

2.3.6 The Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (CCBLDP) was adopted in November 2010 and currently forms the adopted plan for the areas. A replacement Local Development Plan covering the period 2020-2036 is currently under review; however, as it has not yet been adopted, this assessment has been prepared with reference to the adopted 2010 Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan.

2.3.7 Listed below in **Error! Reference source not found.** are the CLDP objectives relevant to this assessment:

Table 1: CCBLDP key issues, vision and objectives

Aims	Relevant Details of Aim-related Objectives	Page No.
Aim 1: To protect the environment as a whole whilst balancing the need for development with the need to conserve valuable resources. **Aim 10: To use resources efficiently making the best use of our assets.**	□ □ ey □ b□ ective □ □ □ nsure that effectiv and efficient use of natural and built resources whilst preventing the unnecessary sterilisation of finite resources through inappropriate development. Key Objective 7: Ensure the reuse and/ or reclamation of appropriate brownfield and contaminated land and prevent the incidence of further contamination or dereliction. Key Objective 11: Identify, protect and, where appropriate enhance, valuable landscapes and landscape features and protect them from unacceptable development. Key Objective 12: Identify, protect and enhance sites of nature conservation and earth science interest and ensure the biodiversity of the County Borough is enhanced.□	Page 20-21
Aim 2: To ensure that new development minimised emissions of greenhouse gases as far as practically possible in order to mitigate the effects of climate change	□ □ ey □ b□ ective 4□ □ nsure that the environmental impact of all new development is minimised. Key Objective 5: Improve energy, waste and water efficiency while promoting environmentally acceptable renewable energy to maintain a cleaner environment and help reduce our impact on climate change.□	Page 20-21
Aim 3: To underpin all developments with the principle of good design, that meets the diversity of needs; which uses resources efficiently; and which makes adequate provision for	□ □ ey □ b□ ective 1□ □ □ nsure that all nev development is well designed and has regard for its surroundings in order to reduce the opportunity for crime to occur. Key Objective 15: Reduce the impact of flooding by ensuring that highly vulnerable	Page 20-22

Aims	Relevant Details of Aim-related Objectives	Page No.
recycling and waste management.	development is directed away from areas of ris□ wherever possible.□	
Aim 4: To make Caerphilly County Borough a clean, green, safe and pleasant place to live and work with decent public services.	□ □ ey □ b□ ective 1□ □ □ reate appropriat new landscape and ecological features and habitats as an integral part of new development wherever appropriate. Key Objective 14: Manage, protect and enhance the quality and quantity of the water environment and reduce water consumption	Page 20-22
Aim 6: To ensure equal opportunities for all to proposed and existing facilities and services within and outside the County Borough.	□ □ ey □ b□ ectiveA t□commodate sustainable levels of population growth. Key Objective 9: Ensure an adequate and appropriate range of housing sites are available across the County Borough in the most suitable locations to meet the housing requirements of all sections of the population.	Page 20-22
Aim 7: To provide a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and protects the environment; where public transport, walking and cycling provide real travel alternatives.	□ □ ey □ b□ ective □ □ □ oncentrate new development in appropriate locations along existing infrastructure networks that are accessible to pedestrians, cyclists and to public transport in order to sustain and complement the role and function of individual settlements. Key Objective 16: Reduce congestion by minimising the need to travel, promoting more sustainable modes of transport and making the most efficient use of existing transport infrastructure.□	Page 20-22

2.3.8 The overarching Vision for Caerphilly County Borough Council emphasises the need to □□ capitalise on the strategic location of Caerphilly County Borough at the centre of the □ apital □ etwor□ Region. It will ensure that the needs of all the □ ounty Borough's residents and visitors are met and the regeneration of our towns, villages and employment centres and the surrounding countryside is delivered in a well-balanced and sustainable manner that reflects the specific role and function of individual settlements'.

2.3.9 Under the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan (CCBLDP), several objectives closely link to the integration of green infrastructure, regeneration of previously developed land and the protection of landscape character:

- Strategic Objective SO1 – To promote sustainable development patterns by making the most efficient use of land within existing settlements, including the reuse of previously developed (brownfield) land.
- Strategic Objective SO5 – To protect, manage and enhance the natural environment, including landscape character, biodiversity and ecological networks.
- Strategic Objective SO6 – To promote high quality design in all development, ensuring that proposals are integrated into their surroundings and contribute positively to the character of the area.
- Strategic Objective SO7 – To ensure that development incorporates green infrastructure and responds to environmental constraints, including flood risk and water management.

These objectives are directly relevant to the Station Road, Bargoed Scheme, which proposes development on previously developed land, retains key landscape features such as woodland and the adjacent pond, and integrates a structured landscape strategy including planting and SuDS.

2.3.10 The Development Strategy will be delivered through several strategic policies. Within the Development Strategy, the County Borough has been split between 3 broad areas:

- The Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area (HOVRA) (Bargoed included within this area identified as the Principal Town)
- The Northern Connections Corridor (NCC)
- The Southern Connections Corridor (SCC)

The HOVRA is characterised within the Development Strategy as being an area of, □□ the highest levels of unemployment, social deprivation and population loss in the □ ounty Borough' with Bargoed (the HOVRA principal town) being identified as providing a wide range of function and services for the surrounding settlement which might not be equally available elsewhere in the Borough. The Development Strategy therefore seeks to, □□ elevate the status of Bargoed within the Heads of the Valley Region as a whole□ '.

2.3.11 Listed below in Table 2 are CLDP policies relevant to this assessment:

Table 2: CLDP Policy

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
Development Strategy 2: Allow for development opportunities in the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area	1.□ □ □ Bargoed, as the principal town of HOVRA, will be a catalyst for further investment across the wider area. The Plan will facilitate other development opportunities in the area through the allocation of a range of sites across the settlements□ in order to deliver more affordable and attractive housing'	Page 29
Development Strategy 3: Promote a balanced approach to future growth	1.□ □ □ Future population pro□ ections are fundamental in the determination of the number of additional dwellings that will be required on sites across the County Borough over the Plan period.' 1.□ □ □ □ evelopment to be directed to pa of the County Borough that have the environmental capacity to accommodate it without causing undue harm to areas that are valued for their intrinsic value in terms of biodiversity, landscape, historic or conservation interest.' 1.□ □ □ □ ore significant development opportunities on brownfield and greenfield sites are proposed where appropriate for principal towns and local centres in the Northern Connections Corridor (NCC) and the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area (HOVRA) in order to spread prosperity throughout the County Borough.' 1.□ □ □ The Strategy also recognises the existence of a major urban conurbation in the NCC and Greater Bargoed HOVRA area, which because of its central location, could provide the main driver for the regeneration of the County Borough as a whole.'	Page 29-30
Development Strategy 4: Exploit Brownfield opportunities where appropriate	1.□ □ □ □ here brownfield sites e□ ist and th redevelopment of these sites for alternative uses would be viable and realistically likely to be developed within the Plan period, these sites have been allocated for appropriate forms of development.' 1.□ □ □ In determining the most appropriate use of all brownfield sites, consideration has been given to the need to reserve land for employment or urban facilities as well as ensuring that development would not have an adverse effect on the role	Page 31

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	and function of the County Borough as a whole.'	
Development Strategy 8: Reduce the impact of development upon the countryside	1.□ □ □ □ here settlements are identified for growth in line with their role and function, care has been taken to ensure that the environment has the capacity to accommodate it whilst having regard for the need to protect and/or conserve those aspects of the natural environment that are valued for their landscape, biodiversity or agricultural interest. Where greenfield sites have been identified, primarily in the Heads of the Valleys or Northern Connections Corridor areas, consideration will be given to the potential for the development of the sites to realise landscape enhancement and biodiversity gain as a result of their development. This will include the need to consider the creation and maintenance of green corridors for the movement of all species.'	Page 36-37
Strategy Policy SP1– Development for Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area	SP1 □ Proposals in the □ eads of the Valleys Regeneration Area will be re□ uired to□ B) Provide appropriate growth in response to the role and function of settlement and C) Serve to address existing problems of deprivation in order to sustain and develop communities in a manner that is consistent with the underlying principles of sustainable development' 1.□ □□□seek to accommodate new housing in villages where there is a need to diversify housing stock in order to retain the existing population and regenerate e□ isting communities.' 1.□ □ □ Brownfield sites will be utilised in preference to greenfield sites where feasible, subject to satisfactory environmental and community safeguards. Proposals for the reclamation and beneficial after-use of contaminated land will be considered favourably.'	
Strategy Policy SP5 Settlement Boundaries	SP□ □ The Plan defines settlement boundaries. In order to: B) Promote the full and effective use of urban land and thus concentrate development within settlements, C) Prevent the coalescence of settlements, ribbon development and fragmented development, D) Prevent	Page 38

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	inappropriate development in the countryside'	
Strategy Policy SP6 Place Making	SP□ □ □ evelopment proposals should contribute to creating sustainable places by having full regard to the context of the local, natural, historic and built environment and its special features through: A) An appropriate mix of uses that reflect the role and function of settlements, B) A high standard of design that reinforces attractive qualities of local distinctiveness, C) Design in accordance with best practice in terms of designing out crime, D) A location and layout that reflects sustainable transport and accessibility principles and provides full, easy and safe access for all, E) The incorporation of resource efficiency and passive solar gain through layout, materials, construction techniques, water conservation, and where appropriate the use of sustainable drainage systems, F) The efficient use of land, including higher densities where development is close to key transport nodes, G) The incorporation and enhancement of existing natural heritage features, H) The incorporation of mitigation measures that improve and maintain air □ uality.' 1.□ □ □ The L□ P Strategy see□ s to ensure th sustainable places are created that are socially cohesive, enhance quality of life, meet the needs of current and future residents and reflect the role and function of settlements. The promotion of good design, sustainable transport, resource efficiency and the enhancement of natural heritage will contribute to developments that encourage a sense of place and identity, whilst reflecting local distinctiveness'	Page 38-39
Strategy Policy SP10 Conservation of Natural Heritage	SP1□ The Council will protect, conserve, enhance and manage the natural heritage of the County Borough in the consideration of all development	Page 40-41

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	proposals within both the rural and built environment' 1.□ □ □ The term □ atural □ eritage covers tl geology, geomorphology, biodiversity, landscape and amenity value of the County Borough. It embraces the relationships between landform and landscape, habitats and wildlife and the natural and built environment. It also includes natural features such as trees, woodlands, hedgerows and rivers. The natural heritage is not confined to the countryside or designated sites and is just as prevalent and important in our urban areas. The natural heritage is a positive asset that enriches people's □ uality of life and promotes the regeneration of areas.' 1.□ □ □ □ hilst change is inevitable and opportunities for growth and development of the Borough need to be provided, respecting the unique and distinctive features or characteristics of the natural heritage of the County Borough is essential in protecting, conserving, enhancing and managing the valuable features in both the natural and built environment'	
Strategy Policy SP14 Total Housing Requirements	1.□ □ □ □ pportunities for residential development will be distributed across the whole County Borough, in line with the role and function of individual settlements. In particular, housing development will be targeted at settlements with good rail and bus services and also former mining villages that require additional housing in order to promote and sustain them as viable residential areas. Furthermore, brownfield sites will be promoted over greenfield sites where appropriate.'	Page 42
Strategy Policy SP15 Affordable Housing Target	1.□ 1 □ The □ ouncil aims to ensure that everyone in the County Borough has access to a good quality home that meets their housing requirements and the provision of a choice of housing that is affordable to the local population is vital in achieving this.'	Page 42
Countywide Policies CW2: Amenity	□ □ □ □ □ evelopment proposals must have regard for all relevant material planning considerations in order to satisfy the following requirements:	Page 47- 48

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	A) There is no unacceptable impact on the amenity of adjacent properties or land, B) The proposal would not result in overdevelopment of the site and / or its surroundings, C) The proposed use is compatible with surrounding land-uses and would not constrain the development of neighbouring sites for their identified land-use, D) Where applicable, the viability of existing neighbouring land uses would not be compromised by virtue of their potential impact upon the amenity of proposed new residential development. □ .□ □ Proposals for development have the potential for causing undue nuisance that adversely affect the amenity of adjoining land-uses. The effects are predominantly, though not entirely, related to residential uses. Consequently, the policy will apply to all forms of development in all locations. The policy addresses two sides of the issue, firstly the adverse effects of a development on adjoining uses, and secondly whether the development of a new residential site would prejudice existing land-uses that would have detrimental effects upon the amenity of those new residents.'	
Countywide Policies CW5: Protection of the Water Environment	□ □ □ □ □ evelopment proposals will only be permitted where: A) They do not have an unacceptable adverse impact upon the water environment, and B) where they would not pose an unacceptable risk to quality of controlled waters (including groundwater and surface water)' □ .14 □ The approach to the protection of the water environment will need to take into account the quality and quantity of the local water resource, and how this impacts upon the wider environment in terms of preventing further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems, associated habitats, fisheries, promoting the sustainable use of water, and controlling water abstractions. This is particularly important in terms of any development proposals that are likely to	Page 49-50

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	impact on the rivers Rhymney, Ebbw and Sirhowy.'	
Countywide Policies CW6: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerow Protection	□ □ □ □ □ evelopment proposals on sites containing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, or which are bordered by one of more such trees or hedgerows, will only be permitted provided that: A) Where arboricultural surveys are required, they are submitted and approved, including any mitigation, compensation or management requirements, as part of the planning application. B) Root systems will be retained and adequately protected for the duration of all development activity on site, C) Development proposals have made all reasonable efforts to retain, protect and integrate trees, woodlands or hedgerows within the development site. D) Where trees, woodlands or hedgerows are removed, suitable replacements are provided where appropriate.' □ .1□ □ □ ffective measures should be ta□ e to protect existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows that have been identified as worthy of retention through the arboricultural survey process. These features, if integrated sensitively and with due care, will enhance the quality of the development and amenity, safeguard biodiversity and natural heritage resources and minimise loss of trees and woodlands' □ .1□ □ □ here the loss of □ uality trees, woodlands and hedgerows is unavoidable, the loss should be minimised by providing appropriate replacements. This will ensure that the overall amenity, landscape and ecological value of the site and its setting is conserved.'	Page 50
Countywide Policies CW10: Leisure and Open Space Provision	□ □ 1□ □ All new housing sites capable of accommodating 10 or more dwellings or exceeding 0.3Ha in gross site area will be required to make adequate provision for: A) Well designed useable open space as an integral part of the development□ to meet the needs of the residents of the proposed development' □ .□ 1 □ The design and layout of new residential development should	

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	incorporate adequate areas of useable public open space as an integral part of the development. Care should be taken to ensure that where amenity open space is incorporated into the layout of the site it should be designed in such a way as to exploit site topography, create open views and avoid incidental areas of un-useable space'	
Countywide Policies CW15: General Location Constraints	□ □ 1□ □ □ evelopment proposals will be considered against the following criteria, where they apply: A) Development proposals will not be permitted if they prejudice the implementation of wider comprehensive redevelopment or constrain the development of any adjacent site for its allocated land-use. B) Within settlement boundaries proposals for all types of development accord with the role and function of the settlement within which they are located, and C) Outside settlement boundaries proposals will not be permitted unless the proposed development is either: v) Associated with the reclamation /treatment of derelict or contaminated land'	Page 56
Countywide Policies CW19: Locational Constraints - Rural Development and Diversification	□ □ 1□ □ Rural □ evelopment and Diversification schemes will be permitted where: A) They are consistent in scale and compatible with their rural location, including the retention and enhancement of e□ isting natural heritage features□ C) They will be complementary to, and not prejudice, the operation of the existing business' □ .4□ □ All proposals for rural development diversification schemes will need to demonstrate that they are compatible with their rural location. The scale and nature of the development should not have an unacceptable impact upon the rural character or the area by way of design, noise, smell, visual or traffic impact. Immediate and distant views should be considered. Where new buildings or facilities are required then evidence as to why existing buildings are not suitable for the proposed use will be required. If	Page 57-58

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	extensive new or replacement buildings or facilities are required, it will be considered that development or diversification is unlikely to be appropriate for a rural location.'	
Countywide Policies CW20: Locational Constraints Conversion, Extension and Replacement of Buildings in the Countryside	□ □ □ □ □ The conversion, e□ tension or replacement of a building outside settlement boundaries will be permitted where: A) The proposed use, scale, form, siting, design and materials are suitable within its context, B) A conversion is justified by demonstrating that: i) The building is not makeshift in nature and is of permanent, substantial construction... iii) The building is capable of accommodating the proposed use without materially changing its existing character. Iv) The development does not result in the domestication or urbanisation of an otherwise rural setting or the unacceptable loss of undeveloped countryside□ □) Replacement is □ ustified by demonstrating that: i) The existing building is structurally unsound and not capable of rehabilitation or conversion to an alternative use without major alteration or rebuilding ii) The use of the existing building has not been abandoned, iii) The use cannot practicably continue to be accommodated in the existing building and iv) All practical appropriate alternatives for reuse have been e□ amined' □ .44 □ □ hen permitting development beyond the settlement boundary a careful balance is required to conserve, protect and enhance the rural environment through a sensitive approach to design including scale, form, siting and the use of materials, all of which should be appropriate to the context of the proposed development. Careful consideration should be given to the character of the building and its immediate and wider setting.' □ .4□ □ In order to maintain appropriate forms of development in the countryside and avoid their replacement with inappropriate development, replacement buildings will only be permitted where part D can be satisfied. This policy is designed to ensure that where buildings are clearly ruinous or abandoned, they are not	Page 58-59

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	classed as buildings that require rebuilding; and that where buildings are replaced, the new development is sympathetic to its location in terms of both use and design'	
Area Specific Policies for HOVRA: Conservation of Natural Heritage: Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)	□ Special Landscape Areas are identified and will be protected at the following locations: □ □ 1.□ Gelligaer □ ommon' [1.1km west] □ .1□ □ Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are local non-statutory designations that seek to protect areas that exhibit distinct landscape, historical, cultural, biodiversity and geological features and characteristics within the County Borough. They are locally important elements of the natural heritage of the rural and urban environments, and provide a living history of the area's landscape as well as cultural backdrop and visual settings. The designation of SLAs highlights the holistic consideration of the landscape, with emphasis placed on the □ special' nature of the distinctive landscape features and characteristics in these areas' 3.20 □Two special landscape areas have been identified in the HOVRA. These areas will be protected from any development that would harm their distinctive characteristics. This policy is not designed to preclude development. However, an applicant will need to demonstrate that any development proposal will not have an unacceptable impact on the specific distinctive features or characteristics associated with the SLA' □ .□ 1 □ All of the SLAs have been identified using LANDMAP information and SLA designation methodology. This recognises that an SLA may include small parts of the local landscape that do not display the same level of landscape importance'	Page 65-66
Area Specific Policies for HOVRA: Conservation of Natural Heritage:	□ □ □ □ Visually important Local Landscapes are identified and will be protected at the following locations: NH2.1 Northern Rhymney Valley □ □ □ .□ □ anmoel' □ .□ □ □ Visually important Local Landscapes (VILLS) are non-statutory designations that seek to protect the distinctive features or characteristics of the visual and sensory landscape of the County Borough and how we perceive and respond to the	

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	landscape around us. VILLS have been identified using only the visual and sensory layer of LANDMAP. The HOVRA has two Visually Important Local Landscapes. □ □ .□ □ □ □ evelopment will only be permitte where it conserves and, where appropriate, enhances the distinctive visual and sensory landscape features of the visual and sensory LANDMAP aspects layer are conserved and, where appropriate enhance the benefit of the visual landscape.'	
Area Specific Policies for HOVRA: Conservation of Natural Heritage: Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCSs)	□ □ □ □ Sites of Importance for □ ature Conservation are identified and will be protected at the following locations: River Rhymney; NH3.2 Pen March and Traed y Milwyr, Llechryd; NH3.3 Bute Town, Llechryd and Rhymney Grasslands, Rhymney; NH3.4 Nant Bargoed Rhymni, Darran Valley; NH3.5 Tair Carreg Moor, North West of Fochriw; NH3.6 Cwm-Llydrew Wood, South of Fochriw; NH3.7 Nant Bargod Flush, Deri; NH3.8 Cefn y Brithdir, South of Pontlottyn; NH3.9 Mile End Pond, Abertysswg; NH3.10 Y Graig Mire, South of Abertysswg; NH3.11 River Sirhowy; NH3.12 River Ebbw; NH3.13 Cwmsyfiog Woodland, North of New Tredegar; NH3.14 Coed Cefn-Rhychdir, North of New Tredegar; NH3.15 Troed-Rhiw'r-Fuwch, North West of New Tredegar; NH3.16 Parc Cwm Darran Larch Plantation, Deri; NH3.17 Cefn Gelligaer, West of Deri; NH3.18 Craig Ysgwydd-Gwyn, Deri; NH3.19 Ysgwydd-Gwyn-Isaf Wood, South of Deri; NH3.20 Coed Deri-Newydd, Deri; NH3.21 Pont Caradog and Nant Llan Woodlands, East of Deri; NH3.22 Tir-y-Ferch-Gryno, Brithdir; NH3.23 Coed-y-Moeth and Cwmsyfiog Hillside, Cwmsyfiog; NH3.24 Mynydd Manmoel, North of Manmoel; NH3.25 Twyn y Bleiddiaid, South East of Manmoel; NH3.26 Coed Waun-Bleiddian, North of Hollybush; NH3.27 Hollybush Spring, Hollybush; NH3.28 Llwyn-Bach Woodland, South of Hollybush; NH3.29 Nant-y-Felin Wood, North East of Markham; NH3.30 Markham Tips, North of Markham; NH3.31 Pen-yr-Heol Meadows, Markham; NH3.32 Markham Railway Line, Markham; NH3.33 Pen- Rhiw'r-Eglwys, East of Markham;	Page 66-67

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	NH3.34 Hafodrisclawdd, East of Markham; NH3.35 Pen-y-Waun, South of Markham NH3.36 Markham Colliery, North of Markham; NH3.37 Coed Argoed, East of Bedwellty; NH3.38 Bedwellty Churchyard, Bedwellty; NH3.39 Land opposite St Sannan's □ hurch, Bedwellty; NH3.40 Nant Cwm-Crach, Bedwellty; NH3.41 Nant-Gau and Darran Woodlands, North of Oakdale; NH3.42 Caeau Cwm-Corrwg, North of Oakdale□ ' □ .□ 4 □ Sites of Importance for □ ature Conservation (SINCS) are an important biodiversity resource covering significant areas of priority habitats and species. Designations are based on objective scientific criteria to accord with the (developing) Wales-wide guidelines' □ .□ □ □ □ evelopment will normally be permitted where it would not cause unacceptable harm to the particular features of the SINC. Where harm is unavoidable it should be minimised by effective mitigation measures to ensure that there is no reduction in the overall nature conservation value of the area or feature. Where this is not possible, compensation measures designed to conserve, enhance and manage locally distinctive natural habitats and species should be provided, including for example details of restoration and reclamation schemes.'	

2.4 Local Planning Policy: Supplementary Planning Guidance

2.4.1 Alongside the Local Development Plan, the following Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) information provided by Caerphilly Borough Council are also relevant to this assessment.

Table 3: SPG Policy

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
Supplementary Planning Guidance LDP 4: Trees and Development (adopted January 2017)	□ .1 □ □ here trees e□ ist on site, it will be the duty of the developer to demonstrate that all reasonable effort has been made to retain, protect and integrate trees, woodland or hedgerows within development proposals'	Page 11-17

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	□ .□ □ □ evelopers should anticipate the need to accommodate trees within a development, whether through the retention of existing trees or the planting of new trees' □ .4 □ Good □ uality design that successfully integrates trees as part of a development proposal can be achieved if opportunities and constraints of sites are identified and considered during the early stages of the design process. Consultation with council officers, including the Arboricultural Officer and Landscape Architect, prior to the submission of a planning application is encouraged through pre-application advice and discussions.' □ .□ □ The following aspects of a site containing trees should be considered when drawing up the design for a development proposal: Existing trees on site; The long term retention of existing trees taking into account future growth potential of the tree; Appropriate space for new tree planting where proposals will involve felling or removal; Retention of hedgerow cover, including long-term retention of □ important' hedgerows.' □ .□ □ Trees should be integrated into the layout so that they make a positive contribution to the layout of the development. Trees can increase property values by 5-20% due to their landscaping value.' □ .□ □ □ here possible, it is always best practice to integrate the trees into public open space rather than within the curtilage of residential properties to minimise the pressure to remove or e□ cessively prune them.' □ .□ □ All landscaping proposals and wor□ s that have been approved by the LPA should be accompanied by a method statement detailing how retained trees will be protected to prevent damage.'	
Supplementary Planning Guidance LDP 10: Buildings in the Countryside (Adopted January 2012)	□ .4 □ If a replacement building is proposed, the use of the building should be the same as the building it is replacing. A new dwelling will only be permitted where it is	Page 7-20

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	replacing an existing dwelling, not if it is replacing an agricultural building or building used for business purposes. Where a building is currently in business use, it should only be replaced by another business use, although the nature of any replacement should be considered to ensure that there is no adverse effect on amenity.' 4.□ □ If a building has been found to be structurally unsound and not capable of conversion, a replacement building may be permitted provided it is for the same use as the building it is replacing. When considering whether a replacement building would be acceptable, it will be necessary for the applicant to demonstrate that the existing use of the building is not redundant, and the building has not been abandoned. The physical condition of the property, the period of non-use, whether there have been any other uses and evidence regarding the owner's intention will be considerations in determining whether a building has been abandoned.' □ .1 □ □ ew buildings in the countryside may only be permitted where they are proposed as part of rural development and diversification schemes and, by the nature of the business proposed and/or the availability of buildings, it would not be possible for the business to be accommodated within e□ isting buildings.' □ .1 □ It is important that rural developments do not result in the domestication or urbanisation of the countryside setting. In order to ensure that this does not occur, the following should be considered: Where an existing building has a clearly defined curtilage boundary (the area immediately surrounding a building and directly related to it), the curtilage used for future development should normally reflect the original boundary line Where the existing building does not have a readily defined curtilage, the amount of land included as part of a curtilage should be kept to a minimum. Boundary treatments should be appropriate for the context of the area and should ensure that the area remains	

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	open in character where this was traditionally the case. Where boundary treatments such as gates, walls or hedges already form part of the traditional character of the countryside location, these should be incorporated into any scheme. Opportunities for the repair of boundary structures where necessary will be favoured over their replacement. Suitable new boundary treatments are likely to include native species hedges, dry stone walls and post and wire fencing. Boundary treatments more common to an urban area such as close board fencing, brick walls or concrete will not be appropriate for a residential use. The type of use proposed should be suitable in amenity terms and should not adversely affect the character of the area by virtue of an unacceptable impact on visual amenity or an increase in pollution (for example noise, smell, light or traffic). □ .□ □ The replacement building should be within the curtilage of the existing building. It should normally be located on the footprint of the previous building, unless highways safety or flood risk benefits can be gained from its relocation elsewhere within the curtilage. Only one main replacement building should be constructed foreach original main building it is replacing. It will not be appropriate for a single dwelling to be replaced by two or more dwellings.' □ .□ □ If the proposal is for a replacement building it may be acceptable for the replacement to be larger in size than the original buildings where this is appropriate for the local context and would not have an adverse impact on the local landscape. However, any increase in volume should not be greater than 50% of the volume of the original building, excluding any extensions. Replacement buildings should reflect the type of building that is being replaced. If the original building was single storey (such as a bungalow), it would not be appropriate for this to be replaced with a building of two storeys or more unless this increase in height would accord with other	

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	buildings on the site and would have no harmful visual impact. If new buildings are allowed as part of rural development and diversification schemes, the number and size of buildings proposed to be used for the new or expanded business should be proportionate to the number of existing buildings on a site. Consideration will be given to recent developments that have occurred on the site and the potential impact that further development may have on the setting of the area.' □ .4.1 □ aterials and □ esign □ □ any e□ istin buildings in the countryside have characteristics that are worthy of protection, and it is important that conversions, extensions and replacements respect the local context, both in terms of materials and design.' □ .4.□ □ alls □ If new buildings are proposed they should be constructed from materials that reflect other buildings on the site and in the locality.' □ .4.□ Landscaping □ It will not be appropriate for large areas of hard surfaces to be introduced where these did not exist previously. Any new hard surfaced areas, where they are considered to be acceptable, should be constructed in materials that are traditional for the area.' □ .4.□ . Par□ ing and Access □ The original access serving the buildings should be utilised unless this would not be appropriate in the interests of highway safety. New accesses or improvements to existing access will only be permitted where there is no detrimental impact on the character or biodiversity value of the area.' □ .4.□ Par□ ing and Access □ The upgradin of access roads/tracks may have a detrimental impact on the landscape and therefore, if improvements to existing access roads are necessary, appropriate materials should be used that minimise the visual impact' □ .4.□ Par□ ing and Access □ The level of parking provision should accord with the required number of spaces for the proposed use class as set out within	

Policy	Relevant Details of Policy	Page no.
	Supplementary Planning Guidance LDP5: Car Parking Standards for the type of use proposed' □ .4.□ □ nergy □ fficiency □ □ ew dwellings required to meet Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3 plus obtain additional credits under ENE1 – Dwelling Emission Rate.' □ .4.□ □ nergy □ fficiency □ □ here low and zero carbon energy technologies are proposed, consideration should be given to whether these can be incorporated in a manner that is suitable for the setting of the area' □ .4.□ □ nergy □ fficiency □ Technologies su as solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and wind turbines will only be acceptable where the effect of these technologies on the appearance of the building can be minimised' □ .4.□ □ nergy □ fficiency □ □ here PV or sol thermal collection panels are used, they should be located in discreet locations wherever possible and should avoid principal elevations. Evolving technologies, such as PV cladding that replicates the appearance of natural slate, means that the impact of any panels can be significantly reduced and will therefore be encouraged.'	

3 METHOD

3.1.1 The appraisal methodology used in the preparation of this assessment follows the guidance set out in (DMRB) LA 107 Landscape and Visual Effects Revision 2 Landscape Effects (February 2020) and (DMRB) LA 104 Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Revision 1 (August 2020). These have been further developed from the previous □ □ □ RB Interim Advice Note (IAN) 135/10 Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment (November 2010) and draws from Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA); Third Edition Landscape LI and IEMA 2013.

3.1.2 Landscape effects and visual effects are separate but related topics. Assessment of landscape effects relate to the character and individual features that contribute to local and regional distinctiveness and the extent to which the proposals would alter the character and quality of landscape as a resource. For the landscape assessment, the landscape itself is the resource, regardless of who can see the changes. Assessment of visual effects relates to the potential change in view from particular locations, as perceived by receptors.

3.2 Landscape Character Assessment

3.2.1 Landscape is characterised by dividing the study area into geographical areas which have readily identifiable characteristics in common. These characteristics may include topography; other natural characteristics such as waterways; patterns of land use; urban grain; and building form.

3.2.2 Landscape effects can be defined as the changes in the fabric, character, and quality of the landscape as a result of a development through:

- Direct effects upon specific landscape elements.
- Subtler effects upon the overall patterns of elements that give rise to landscape character and regional and local distinctiveness.
- Effect upon special interests or values such as designated landscapes, conservation sites and cultural associations; and,
- The capacity of the landscape to accept change of the scheme proposed.

3.3 Visual Appraisal Method

3.3.1 The process of visual appraisal is undertaken through analysis of the site from strategic viewpoints. This is done by determining the geographical area from which the site is visible, known as the Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) or Visual Envelope (VE)

3.3.2 A series of key representative viewpoints have been identified from where it may be possible to see an aspect of the Scheme from publicly accessible viewpoints, such as roads, PRoW and areas of public open space (including Hangar Youth & Community Centre, Bargoed).

3.3.3 Visual effects relate solely to changes in available views of the landscape and the effect of those changes on people, including.

- The direct effects of the development upon views of the landscape through intrusion or obstruction;
- The overall effect on visual amenity, be it degradation or enhancement; and
- The reaction of viewers who may be affected.

3.3.4 The GLVIA stipulates that the significance of any effect should be evaluated both during the construction phase and following completion of the development. The significance is determined by assessing the sensitivity and susceptibility of the receptor to the magnitude of change that will occur.

3.3.5 The assessment process aims to be objective and to quantify effects as far as possible. However, LI and IEMA guidance recognise that subjective judgement is appropriate, if it is based upon, '*…professional expertise supported by clear evidence, reasoned argument and informed opinion*'. Whilst changes to a view can be factually defined, the evaluation of landscape character and visual effects does require qualitative judgements to be made. The conclusions of this assessment therefore combine objective measurement with subjective professional interpretation

3.4 Visual Impact on Affected Receptors

3.4.1 The assessment of effects on receptors immediately adjacent to the Scheme. For the baseline condition a list of receptors affected has been developed. Each receptor is described in terms of its location, distance from the Scheme, and the nature and quality of the current visual amenity.

3.4.2 The impact is derived from identifying a Magnitude of Effect affecting each property or property group. This magnitude measure takes account of scale, extent and reversibility and uses a four-point scale defined as in Table 4, being adverse or beneficial:

Table 4 - Visual impact of Affected Receptors Magnitude of Effect

Magnitude	Definition
Substantial	Total loss or major alteration of/enhancement to key elements, features, or characteristics of the landscape/townscape.
Moderate	Partial loss/enhancement of or alteration to one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape/townscape.
Slight	Minor loss/enhancement or alteration, or short-term major change, to one or more key elements/features/ characteristics of the landscape /townscape
Negligible/ No Change	No loss or alteration to one or more key elements/ features/ characteristics of the landscape or townscape and/or no introduction of new elements/features/ characteristics.

4 BASELINE CONDITIONS

4.1 Site Visit

4.1.1 A site visit was made to the Scheme during early summer of 2026, this comprised:

22nd May 2026: by the Landscape Architect to assess the initial baseline conditions, undertake the Landscape Effects Assessment, Landscape characterisation and photographic surveys.

4.1.2 The weather conditions for the site visit was warm and sunny, with clear visibility. The site visit included:

- Site specific character analysis, through consideration of landform, vegetation, human influence (bult form and culture) and nature of views;
- Assessing likely construction stage and longer-term impacts;
- Assessing receptor locations and
- Identifying Visual receptors and viewpoints

4.1.3 Refer to Appendix B for the Scheme location, Environmental Constraints, and Viewpoint locations.

4.2 Baseline

4.2.1 Desk top assessment and field surveys have been undertaken to identify and provide an overview of the study area.

4.2.2 The following data sources have been used to establish the baseline conditions:

- Natural Resources Wales / National Landscape Character Areas (NCLA) (https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en)
- Caerphilly County Council Local Development Plan and Supplementary Planning Guidance: (Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough)

- LANDMAP (https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/)

4.2.3 For the purposes of this LVA, the following search areas have been used:

- World Heritage Sites, National Parks and National Landscapes (NL) – 5km radius from the centre of the Site;
- Scheduled Monuments (SM) and Conservation Areas – 0.5km radius from the nearest Site extent
- Listed Buildings: Grade I and II* – 2km radius from the centre of the site
- Listed Buildings: Grade II – 0.5km radius from the centre of the site
- Statutory nature conservation and wildlife Sites (Site of Special Scientific Importance [SSSIs]; National Nature Reserves [NNR] and similar) and Ancient Woodland - 2km radius from the centre of the site;
- Non-Statutory locally classified nature conservation and wildlife Sites (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation [SINC] and Visually Important Local Landscapes [VILLS])- 2km radius from the centre of the site; and
- Registered parks and gardens, National Parks or similar - 2km radius from the centre of the site.

4.2.4 The extent of the Landscape Study Area has been determined through review of the National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) published by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), LANDMAP landscape aspect area evaluations, and relevant local landscape character prepared by Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC). A site-specific landscape character assessment has been developed. This hierarchy of assessment scales (national and local) allows the character of the site to be put into its wider context and helps to establish an understanding of the importance of the various features both locally and at a wider scale. The study of the landscape character assessments responds to these various scales.

4.3 Visual Envelope: The Study Area

4.3.1 The study area for the visual assessment was informed by an initial Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), which was prepared to identify the potential extent of visibility of the Proposed Development. The findings of the ZTV were subsequently reviewed and refined through the desktop assessment and field verification undertaken during the site visit in Summer 2026. This process informed the development of the Visual Envelope (VE), which identifies the actual extent of short, medium and longer-range views of the Scheme and defines the visual study area for the assessment. The VE has been used to identify the visual receptors most likely to experience views of the Scheme and to determine the location from which visual impact may arise. Receptors have been grouped where they share broadly similar visual characteristics, views and sensitivities.

4.3.2 The study area for this LVA is taken to encompass the scheme area itself together with the surrounding countryside up to 1km from the site as indicated in Appendix B.

4.4 Landscape Designations

4.4.1 The Scheme and associated study area are not located within any statutory landscape designations.

4.4.2 The Scheme lies within approximately 1.1km west of Gelligaer Special Landscape Area (SLA), 0.85km south-east of Aberbargoed Grasslands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), 2.7km north-east of Cefn y Brithdir (SSSI), and 3.3km north-east of Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney and Sirhowy (Sides SSSI).

4.4.3 Bannau Brycheiniog National Park lies approximately 12.6km to the north. Due to the distance and intervening urban and topographic features, the Scheme is unlikely to result in significant effects on the setting of the National Park or other nationally designated landscapes.

4.4.4 The Landscape and Planning Designations are detailed in Table 5 to Table 7.

Table 5: Landscape Designations

Designation	Type and Scale	Description
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	Statutory, National	The Scheme lies approximately 12.6km to the south of the National Park Boundary.
Local Woodland (non-designated)	Non-statutory, Local	A semi-natural woodland is located immediately east of the Site boundary, adjacent to the river corridor. This forms a key local landscape and ecological feature providing visual containment and habitat connectivity. The woodland is retained as part of the proposed development and contributes significantly to screening, enclosure and landscape integration.
Parc Coetir Green Corridor / Riparian Landscape	Non-statutory, Local	Located directly east and north-east of the Site, associated with the river corridor. This landscaped open space contributes to local character and ecological connectivity. Due to its proximity, it provides immediate visual context to the Site but will be retained and unaffected in terms of function.

Designation	Type and Scale	Description
Bargoed Town Urban Landscape (Settlement Edge Context)	Non-statutory, Local	The Site lies within an urbanised valley setting, characterised by transport infrastructure, residential development and green corridors. This context influences baseline landscape character and limits wider visibility of the development.

Table 6: Ecological Designations

Designations	Type and Scale	Description
Aberbargoed Grasslands SSSI	Statutory (SSSI – National)	Located approximately 0.85 km south-east of the Site, along the river corridor. This designation is of high ecological value; however, due to separation distance, intervening development and the containment of the Site, the Scheme is unlikely to result in significant effects on its integrity or setting.
Cefn y Brithdir SSSI	Statutory (SSSI – National)	Located approximately 2.7 km north-east of the Site. Due to the substantial distance and intervening landform and urban development, no significant effects on its setting are anticipated.
Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney and Sirhowy Sides SSSI	Statutory (SSSI – National)	Located approximately 3.3 km north-east of the Site. Given the scale of separation and topography, the development is unlikely to influence its landscape or ecological setting.
Gelligaer Special Landscape Area (SLA)	Non-statutory (Local)	Located approximately 1.1 km west of the Site. This area contributes to wider landscape character; however, due to urban context and distance, the Scheme is not expected to result in significant effects on its character or setting.

Table 7: Cultural Heritage Designations

Designation	Type and Scale	Description
Grade II Listed Structure – Railway Viaduct over Factory Road	Statutory; National	Located approximately 0.35 km north-west of the Site. A prominent historic transport structure spanning the valley. Due to topography, intervening infrastructure (rail corridor) and urban form, the Scheme is unlikely to result in significant effects on its setting.
Grade II Listed Building – Bargoed & Gilfach War Memorial (St Gwladys Gardens)	Statutory; National	Located approximately 0.25 km south-west of the Site. This commemorative structure is within the town centre; however, visual separation caused by buildings and the railway limits intervisibility, and no significant effects on its setting are anticipated.
Grade II Listed Building – Aberbargoed War Memorial Gates	Statutory; National	Located approximately 1.0 km north-west of the Site. Due to distance, intervening topography and urban development, the Scheme is unlikely to affect its setting.
Grade II Listed Building – Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel and Schoolrooms	Statutory; National	Located approximately 0.45 km west of the Site. While within the wider town centre, intervening built form and street layout limit visual linkage, resulting in no significant effects on its setting.
Grade II Listed Building – Police Court and Police Station (including forecourt walls, gates and railings)	Statutory; National	Located approximately 0.15 km south-west of the Site. Although relatively close, the presence of adjacent buildings, Station Road infrastructure and limited direct views reduces intervisibility; therefore, the Scheme is unlikely to result in significant effects on its setting.

Table 8: Public Rights of Way

Designation	Type and Scale	Description
Footpaths	Non- Statutory; Local	There are a very few Public Rights of Way (PRoW) close to the study area that may be influenced by the scheme. The closest is BARG/FP114/2 which is directly south of the site (around 20m south) and runs from the south to the east of the site up into Aberbargoed. To the east there is another PROW footpath, BARG/FP53/1 which is 180m to the east and at an elevated position in comparison to the site, this runs north to south. 240m to the northeast is a PROW BARG/FP50/1 which runs north west to south east. To the south/ south-south-east the BARG/FP114/1 is 150m south of the southern site boundary.
Coastal Paths	Non- Statutory; National	There are no coastal paths is close proximity to the site.

Table 9: Planning Designations and Allocations

Designation	Type and Scale	Description
Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)	Statutory; Local	There are no Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Scheme. The nearest TPO tree is 578m to the southwest.

4.5 Landscape Character Baseline

The landscape baseline has been determined through consideration of landscape character at national, regional, local and site-specific scales.

4.5.1 National Landscape Character Area; NLCA 37: South Wales Valleys

4.5.1.1 This section considers the wider landscape character and context of the study area, through consideration of Natural Resources Wales Natural Character Area profiles.

4.5.1.2 The Scheme is found within the Natural Resources Wales and falls into the [one/two] Landscape Character Area, one of which being NLCA 37 South Wales Valleys. The key relevant components of the landscape character are described as follows:

4.5.1.3 "Extensive ribbon development fills many valley bottoms and lower slopes. Their urban and industrial character is juxtaposed with dramatic upland settings with steep hillsides, open moors or forests. Networks of railways and roads connect valley settlements. Topography constrains passage between valleys, and there are only a limited number of high passes between valleys. The noise and business of many valleys contrast with the relatively remote and wild qualities of adjacent hill plateaux."

Figure 2: National Landscape Character Areas for Caerphilly County Borough Council

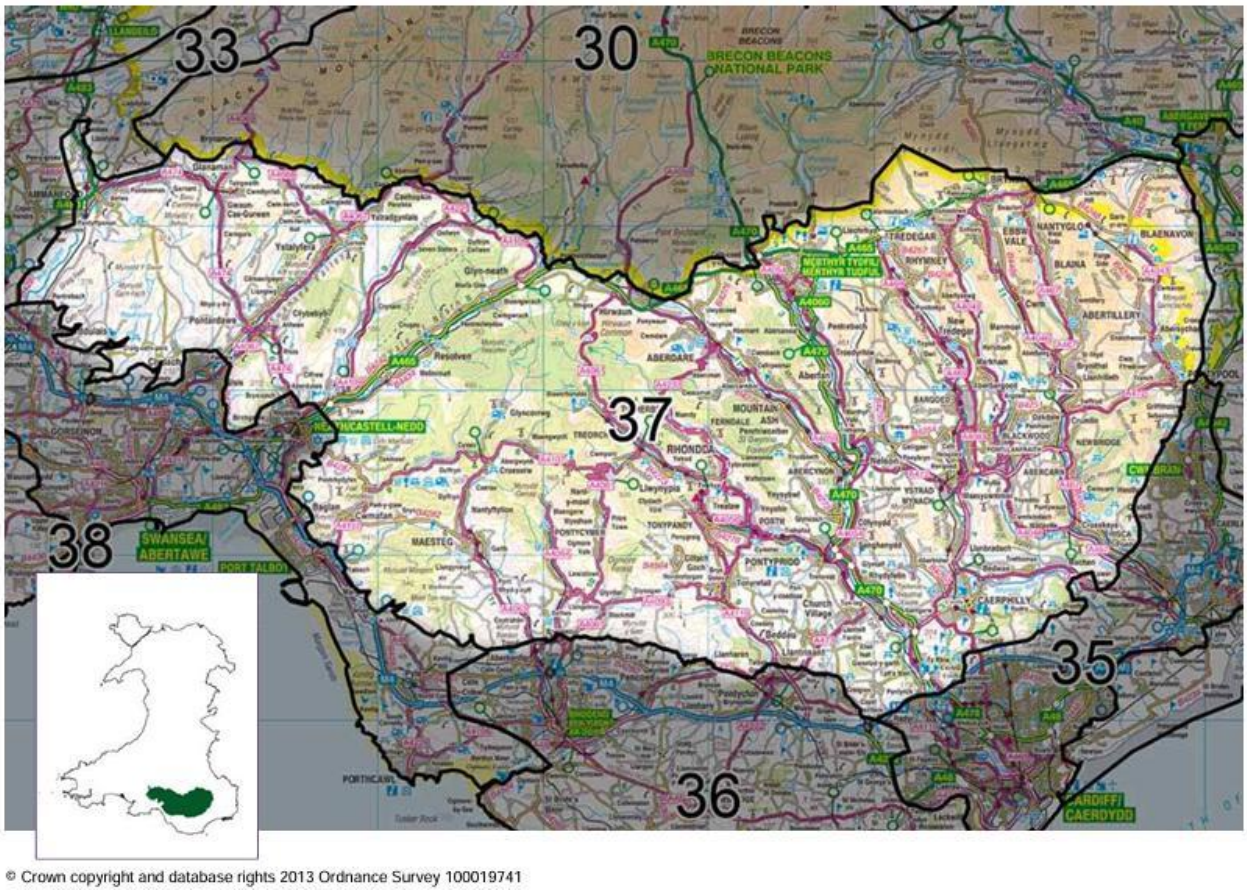

Image Source: Natural Resources Wales (2014), National Landscape Character NCLA37 South Wales Valley (NLCA37 South Wales Valleys - description)

4.5.2 Local Landscape Character Assessment

4.5.2.1 Countywide Landscape Character Area Assessment as provided by Caerphilly County Borough Council does not provide a clear local landscape character area, consequently LANDMAP has been used to provide further insight into the local landscape character.

4.5.3 LANDMAP

4.5.3.1 *LANDMAP is comprised of five interrelated datasets that represent the characteristics of the landscape. Subdivided into aspects areas. The five LANDMAP datasets aspects are:*

- **Visual and Sensory:** pertaining to the physical and perceptual characteristics of the landscape including landform, vegetation/ landcover, key characteristics and qualities that make up the sense of place and identity in the landscape.
- **Geological Landscape:** considering the physical geological influence on the landscape
- **Landscape habitats:** primarily focused on biodiversity and ecological habitat
- **Historic Landscape:** recording the key historic developments, land use patterns and features that contribute to the overall historic character and value of the landscape
- **Cultural Landscape:** provides a landscape-based approach to mapping cultural services looking at connections between people and place.

4.5.4 LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Classification: Blackwood

4.5.4.1 LANDMAP places the Scheme within the Visual and Sensory Aspect Area of Blackwood (CYNONVS114).

4.5.4.2 The Scheme lies within the northern aspect of this area- which runs from Aberbargoed in the north to Llanbradach in the south including areas such as Ystrad Mynach, Penybryn, Newbridge and Blackwood.

4.5.4.3 This summary description of the land within this character type is defined as:

4.5.4.4 *'Conglomeration of many settlements which all coalesce. An odd environment with the scale of a large town but with some areas of fields and open/ vegetated areas within the built form. Rolling topography with north-south trending valleys loses some of its distinctiveness as a result of being swathed in layer of built-form-however the marked difference in elevation between valley floor (e.g. 100m AOD) and hilltops (e.g. 2329m AOD) are still apparent and contribute to its sense of place'.*

4.5.4.5 LANDMAP classify this aspect area's value as being, *'75% Criteria Low but the distinctive combination of strong north/south trending valleys and prominent hills swathed beneath built form adds to the sense of place and sufficient to justify the moderate value for character'*

4.5.5 LANDMAP Geological Classification: Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley

4.5.5.1 LANDMAP places the Scheme within the Geological Aspect area of Upper Rhymney and Bargoed Rhymney Valley (CYNONGL008).

4.5.5.2 This Aspect area is classified as Mountain and upland valley, Glaciated mountain terrain, and Glacial mountain Valley.

4.5.5.3 The summary description of the land within this character type is defined as:

4.5.5.4 'Steep-sided valleys trending NW-SE cut into South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones (Upper Carboniferous), separated by ridge representing remnant of high-level plateau. Valley floor contains alluvium & glacial sand/gravel; boulder clay in the form of hummocky moraine, and head on higher ground. Numerous derelict mine workings, shafts & adits.'

4.5.6 LANDMAP Landscape Habitats

4.5.6.1 LANDMAP places the site within the Landscape Habitat Aspect area of CYNONLH128. This Aspect Area is classified as: Dry (relatively) terrestrial habitats, and Mosaic.

4.5.6.2 The summary description of land within this landscape type is defined as:

4.5.6.3 'River valley with broadleaved woodland, mixed plantation and including marshy, amenity and improved grassland.'

4.5.7 LANDMAP Historic Classification: Rhymney Valley

4.5.7.1 LANDMAP places the site within the Historic Landscape Aspect areas of Rhymney Valley (CYNONHL701).

4.5.7.2 The Scheme lies within the middle aspect of this classification area- which runs along the Afon Rhymni/ Rhymney River corridor via the main transport roots and nuclear settlements from Rhymney to north of Caerphilly.

4.5.7.3 This area is defined in LANDMAP as:

4.5.7.4 'The longest transport corridor within the region. The aspect area is characterised by heavy industrial activity and urban growth along the length of the valley, from Rhymney in the extreme north to Machen on the Gwent border to the south. The Rhymney Valley exhibited occupation evidence from the Neolithic through the present and represent an important and historically significant aspect of the area.'

4.5.8 LANDMAP Cultural Classification: Blackwood

4.5.8.1 LANDMAP places the Scheme within the Visual and Sensory Aspect Area of Blackwood (CYNONCLS010).

4.5.8.2 This Aspect Area is classified as Development, Built Land and Urban.

4.5.8.3 LA□ □ □ AP classify this aspect area's value as being *'75% Criteria Low but the distinctive combination of strong north/south trending valleys and prominent hills swathed beneath built form adds to the sense of place and sufficient to justify the moderate value for character'*

4.5.9 Special Landscape Area: NH 1.2 Gelligaer Common

4.5.9.1 Whilst this SLA lies approximately 1.1km to west of the Scheme (as seen in Figure 5), it shares a number of characteristics with the wider landscape of the Scheme's surrounding area and therefore provides a useful point of reference for this assessment.

4.5.10 The SLA is characterised as □ □an important and increasingly rare upland landscape within South East Wales exhibiting continuity of land use over many centuries□ ' with surrounding settlements including Bargoed (the Scheme's town) forming part of the physical and visual buffer zones to the core of the SLA.

4.5.11 The SLA also exhibits distinct visual and sensory characteristics, including extensive views across the coalfield plateau towards the Brecon Beacons, prominent rock outcrops that contributed to a strong upland character and a rolling landscape pattern interspersed with woodland blocks, spinney and hedgerows. Whilst urban influences, noise and movement are evident in places, the landscape generally e□ perienced as tran□ uil, identified as a generally □ uiet landscape'. These characteristics are also evident within parts of the wider landscape surrounding the Scheme despite it being part of Bargoed's urban fringe.

4.5.12 Visually Important Local Landscapes: NH2.1- Northern Rhymney Valley

4.5.12.1 The proposed Visually Important Local Landscape (VILL) sits between the Upper Rhymney and Gelligaer SLAs, with the VILL designation designed to serve as a protective designation safeguarding the Visual and Sensory values that could be degraded by adjacent urban development and consequently effecting views from these urban pockets.

4.5.12.2 The visual character for the area around the Scheme is predominantly characterised as upland and open areas where the, '*…distinctive rocky hillside with rock outcrops, upper valley sides and views across the Rhymney valley give it a strong upland character, occasionally limited by topography and/or vegetation. The upland sense of place is complicated by urban edges and visual detractors (pylons) but increases with elevation and views out. Stonewalls are the usual boundary treatment in this area… scattered rural settlements and farms are the predominant built form in the area. Evidence of industrial and mining throughout the VILL.*'

4.6 Site Landscape Character

4.6.1 The Scheme abuts the Rhymney River, a key riparian corridor in the study area, as well as the fringes of Bargoed. It is nestled between the infrastructure elements of the railway and the A469 (Station Road) to the west and the River and ascending valley up to Aberbargoed settlement to the east.

4.6.2 The Scheme is located within the wider valley form, with its southern boundary delineated by a tall retaining wall forming part of the railway carpark and creating both a physical and visual boundary. The Site dramatically terraces from west to east in a series of manmade landscape terraces remanent of the existing site's previous identity, leading to a large waterbody (approx. 865m2), with no obvious surface inflow or outflow, characterised by largely still or static conditions, adjacent to the River Rhymney beyond the Site's eastern boundary. The western edge of the Site is formed by the Station Road (A469, which rises from the site entrance along the western boundary to create a slight elevation change between the western boundary and Station Road, as it rises from north to south.

4.6.3 The majority of the Site is enclosed by vegetation. To the centre of the Site there are a number of stands of Japanese knotweed. Vegetation cover to the south and western boundaries includes a number of mature trees with species such as oak, hawthorn, silver birch, sycamore, hazel and goat willow. Within the site, the southern and eastern areas of the Scheme are predominantly overgrown with dense ruderal and tall-herb vegetation leading down towards the waterbody.

4.7 Landscape Value

4.7.1 The Landscape Value of the Study Area can be determined by a number of factors identified in the site survey to identify the character in relation to aspects of landcover, pattern, texture, scale and appearance; tranquillity; cultural; and human interactions.

Table 10: Landscape Value

Landscape/Visual Component	Baseline Description	Key Qualities	Sensitivity
Tranquillity / Perceptual Qualities	The study area are characterised by a strong sense of tranquillity, derived from sparse ex-mining settlements, absence of intrusive development, and dominance of natural soundscapes. Expansive views across both sides of the valleys and along the Rhymney River, and dark skies, and historic cultural landscape identity enhance perceptions of remoteness and continuity.	Highly sensitive to visual or acoustic intrusion. Contributes significantly to the experiential and cultural value of the landscape.	High
Human Interactions/ Experiential Qualities	Human interaction is generally low to moderate with recreational use along scattered footpaths and PRoWs throughout the surrounding area.	Low-impact use maintains a largely undisturbed experience; sensitive to increased access, development or infrastructure especially along fridges of existing development	Medium
Scale and Appearance/ Visual Character	The valley and surrounding hillside exhibit a gently undulating topography carved through by the Rhymney River, creating an intermediate upland and valley landscape with scattered woody areas, fields within valley and nuclear settlements on escarpments of the valleys, complete with linear rows of terraced housing and old mining cottages.	Sensitive to vertical intrusion and poorly sited developments	Medium - High
Cultural	The landscape contains elements of old mining history, having been development between 18-20th century to support the surrounding coal mines,	Features are integral to the local character and cultural value	Medium-High

Landscape/Visual Component	Baseline Description	Key Qualities	Sensitivity
	Bargoed has also invested in its community heritage through the conservation of local historical assets such as Bargoed's □ anbury Road Chapel.		
Landcover, Pattern and Texture	The valley is a mosaic of field boundaries, hedgerows, and scattered woodland blocks (mostly either following the river course or along the valley escarpment acting as greenbelts between settlements). Towns cut within the valley with rows of terraced housing running north to south, each street elevated over the one below. Field boundaries and valley banks remain visually legible and create a balance between openness and enclosure from elevated viewpoints within the valley.	Contributes to a sense of calm and structural cohesion, sensitive to loss of woodland, field pattern or linear housing pattern.	High

5 VISUAL BASELINE

5.1 Identification of Visual Receptors

5.1.1 Appendix B illustrates the verified Visual Envelope of the Scheme. As described in the methodology, the Visual Envelope wads developed through a review of the initial Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and refined through field verification. Whilst the initial Zone of Theoretical Visibility defined the visual Study Area, the verified VE indicates that the actual visibility of the Schem is much more limited, with views generally restricted to the immediate surroundings of the Site, extending to approximately 160m. The VE has therefore informed the identification of visual receptors and an assessment of these against the visual effects within the wider study area (up to 1km).

5.1.2 As such the visual baseline is confined in the most part by the surrounding PRoW and the train station/ train station car park. The site's current appearance is one of a derelict and slightly overgrown brownfield site characterised by mature specimen trees, a large waterbody along the eastern edge and the sound of the adjacent river. The southern and eastern boundaries of the site are heavily vegetated creating a strong visual enclosure.

5.1.3 The landscape and visual receptors identified during the appraisal have been recorded in Table 11and Table 12, together with the sensitivity of each receptor to the changes proposed. From this, a number of key views have been selected as representative of typical or important views for sensitive receptors within the study area. These are used as a baseline against which to assess the potential visual impact of the Scheme.

Table 11: Summary of Landscape Receptor Sensitivity

Landscape Element	Scale	Landscape Sensitivity to the Proposals
Topography	Local	Medium
Woodland belts, including trees assessed as high and moderate quality and value in tree survey, and hedgerows	Local	Medium
Railway Viaduct over Factory Road (Grade II)	Local	Medium- High
Bargoed & Gilfach War Memorial (St Gwladys Gardens) (Grade II)	Local	Medium- High
Aberbargoed War Memorial Gates (Grade II)	Local	Medium- High
Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel and Schoolrooms (Grade II)	Local	Medium- High

Landscape Element	Scale	Landscape Sensitivity to the Proposals
Police Court and Police Station (including forecourt walls, gates and railings) (Grade II)	Local	Medium- High
PROWs	Local	High
Landscape Character Areas		
NLCA No.	National	Medium
LLCA (as identified using LANDMAP)	Local	Medium
Study Area Character	Local	High

5.2 Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

5.2.1 Visual receptors identified during the site assessments and following consultation are included in Table 12. It explains the type of view that each receptor has and its sensitivity to the visibility of the proposals.

5.3 Key Viewpoints and Description

5.3.1 A number of key views have been identified as representative of, or as being important views within the study area. These have been used as a baseline against which to assess the potential visual impact of the Scheme.

5.3.2 They have been chosen to reflect the following:

- Those identified as having a clear view towards the Scheme and providing a representative selection across study area
- Consideration has been made for views from PRoW, in particular those running along the Scheme boundaries, and sensitive receptor locations with a clear view or within close proximity of the proposed Scheme
- Consideration has been made to include views both close to the Scheme i.e.., development in foreground/ middle ground and of distant views.

5.3.3 GLVIA guidance states that visual effects should,

"… consider the area from which the proposed development will potentially be visible. The emphasis must be on a reasonable approach which is proportional to the scale and nature of the proposed development.",

5.3.4 Viewpoint locations and photographs are illustrated in Appendix B. A number of factors may have an effect on a given view of the Scheme. These include:

- **Proximity**: objects within the foreground will potentially have a greater visual impact than those viewed in the background.
- **Aspect**: The Scheme includes a new ground mounted solar PV site that to be installed in a field bounded by tall mature trees and established hedgerows. Due to the nature of the Scheme, loss of grassland and relocation of young trees will create a change to the environment.
- **Context**: development viewed against a similar background will often appear less notable within the landscape.
- **Materials**: The materials used for the solar panels could be at odds to the existing setting, draw the eye, increasing impact, creating glint and glare. Sympathetic and neutral colouration with low levels of reflectivity of the solar panel surfaces will diminish adverse impact.

5.3.5 Visual receptors identified during the site assessments and following consultation are included in Table 12. It explains the type of view that each receptor has and its sensitivity to the visibility of the proposals.

Table 12 - Viewpoint Locations and receptors

Viewpoint ID	Description	Distance from the Scheme	Receptors	Sensitivity
VP_1	**View from Bargoed Park and Ride Railway Carpark** A north view from the Bargoed Park and Ride Car Park looking from the retaining wall, north towards the Scheme's southern boundary. An attractive panoramic view across the valley, north towards New Tredegar framed by mature tree vegetation that form woodland blocks in the background with more mature on-site vegetation forming part of the foreground alongside the mature vegetation that forms part of the River Rhymney that flows along the site's eastern boundary. Those parking or using the Park and Ride Car Park are likely to have a direct view onto the scheme extents. The Scheme will be in the foreground with a direct view from the receptor	20m	Visitors/ Vehicle Users	Low-Moderate
VP_2	**View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP114/2** A view from the main public right of way from the Bargoed Park and Ride Car park down towards the National Cycle Network paths and towards	12m	Recreational Users	High

Viewpoint ID	Description	Distance from the Scheme	Receptors	Sensitivity
	Aberbargoed. This view is from a lower vantage point that VP1 and therefore gives a direct view into the Scheme extents with the Scheme being within the foreground. In the background, woodland blocks frame the River Rhymney and the footpath on the eastern side of the River with views across towards Brithdir and New Tredegar further afield. These mature pieces of vegetation and previous woodland blocks are a strong landscape feature. Those visiting public right of way, whether for a local walk or to use the public rights of way to access the National Cycle Network trails, users will have a direct view onto the scheme extents.			
VP_3	**View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP188/1** A view from the Public Right of Way that leads west to the National Cycle Network, this path is on the eastern side of the Scheme and has a slightly elevated profile from the National Cycle Network route as it forms part of the elevating topography towards Aberbargoed to the east. The trees and mature vegetation form part of the foreground with the Bargoed settlement	127m	Residents / Recreational Users	High

Viewpoint ID	Description	Distance from the Scheme	Receptors	Sensitivity
	including St Gwladys' □ hurch form part of the background. Those visiting public right of way, whether for a local walk or to use the public rights of way to access the National Cycle Network trails, users will have a filtered view onto the scheme extents due to the mature vegetation and river's mature treeline forming part of the foreground despite elevated profile.			
VP_4	**View from PRoW (National Cycle Network route 468)** A view from the National Cycle Network, this path extends along the eastern boundary of the Scheme. The mature river vegetation is in the immediate foreground. Those using the National Cycle Network trails, users' views are currently filtered by the dense vegetation in the foreground, however this is a summer view and therefore this could be more direct or unfiltered during winter months	33m	Recreational Users.	High
VP_4A	**View from PRoW (National Cycle Network route 468)** A view from the National Cycle Network, this path extends along the eastern boundary of the Scheme. The mature river vegetation is in the immediate	53m	Recreational Users	High

Viewpoint ID	Description	Distance from the Scheme	Receptors	Sensitivity
	foreground. Those using the National Cycle Network trails, users' views are currently filtered by the dense tree branches and vegetation in the foreground, however this is a summer view and therefore this could be more direct or unfiltered during winter months.			
VP_5	**Railway Viaduct over Factory Road, Bargoed (Grade II Listed).** A view from the road junction beneath the Grade II listed viaduct looking towards Station Road and up towards Bargoed. The residential buildings are in the foreground of the view with the roadside and riverside vegetation and tree line forming part of the background landscape features. Those living within the properties on Station Road heading towards Bargoed are likely to be affected by views to the south of their properties, up towards Station Road and the Bargoed Railway Station. The angle of the road at this junction obscures views around the bend towards the Scheme location making the views for a vehicle user more transitory	190m	Residents of neighbouring properties/ Vehicular users	High
VP_6	**View from Bargoed Station.** A view from the station entrance and bus stop looking directly east towards	10m	Visitors/ Residents	Low-Moderate

Viewpoint ID	Description	Distance from the Scheme	Receptors	Sensitivity
	the Scheme's western boundary. The Scheme's existing western boundary vegetation form part of the foreground. This view affects those using the bus stop and visiting Bargoed, as well as residents using their railway infrastructure. This view gives an unimpeded view into the scheme and its existing western boundary vegetation, making the Scheme the dominant feature of this viewpoint.			
VP_7	**View from Bargoed & Gilfach War Memorial (Grade II Listed).** The view from the war memorial looks down from the elevated view from the top of the High Street down onto the Bargoed Park and Ride Car Park and across the valley towards Aberbargoed settlement. The Scheme would be in the transitory area between the foreground and the background of this view, with the Aberbargoed woodland block and River Rhymney riverside vegetation forming the foreground landscape elements. This view is particularly sensitive due to its culturally and socially historic nature as well as Grade II historic listing. It will primarily affect visitors to the war memorial or Bargoed residents who	106m	Visitors/ Residents of Bargoed	High

Viewpoint ID	Description	Distance from the Scheme	Receptors	Sensitivity
	interact with St Gwladys' □ hurch. This view gives an elevated view across the Scheme, where the Scheme is obstructed slightly by the railway wall, however clearance of the western boundary vegetation may cause this to become a more dominant aspect of the foreground.			
VP_8	**View from Bristol Place/ Church Lane Junction.** This view is across the valley from the railway retaining wall, looking towards the Aberbargoed settlement, with the woodland block between the Bargoed and Aberbargoed valley forming part of the foreground, alongside the railway vegetation that is in the immediate foreground. This view is taken looking over the retaining wall of the railway and therefore due to the height of the wall being approximately 1.4m high, this blocks transitory views for vehicle users, therefore the main receptors are assumed to be the residents of Bristol Place who will be affected from elevated view.	81m	Bargoed Residents of Bristol Place	High
VP_9	**View from A469 Layby near Gwaelod y Brithdir Cemetery.**	615m	Vehicular users	Negligible-Low

Viewpoint ID	Description	Distance from the Scheme	Receptors	Sensitivity
	This view is a long-distance view across the Bargoed valley looking from Brithdir to the south towards the Bargoed settlement and Station Road. Here, the valley's mature roadside vegetation and woodland blocks form part of the foreground and create filtered views into the valley. These are subject to the summer vegetation forming the foreground and may be changed by the loss of vegetation in the winter view. This view is along the A469 towards Bargoed and therefore will be transitory as vehicle pass from Brithdir towards Bargoed, creating filtered and quick views into the valley as cars drive at speed.			
VP_10	**View from Hangar Youth and Community Centre, Aberbargoed.** This view looks along the valley from a higher vantage point within the Aberbargoed settlement, looking west down the valley through the lower Aberbargoed settlement and across towards Bargoed. The residential elements form the foreground of this view, while the undulating topography and mature woodland blocks form the background.	725m	Recreational users	Low

Viewpoint ID	Description	Distance from the Scheme	Receptors	Sensitivity
	Due to the nature of the recreational ground and community centre, this view is chosen due give an idea of the impact of the Scheme on the background views from local greenspace/ formal open spaces. Due to the undulating topography, it is unlikely that the Scheme will be visible from this viewpoint.			
VP_11	**View from Morrisons Petrol Station PRoW BARG/FP114/1.** This view is taken from the entrance road to Bargoed from Caerphilly, along the existing PRoW looking north towards the Scheme. This view is blocked by the mature tree planting on the Station Road roundabout as well as the mature vegetation along the southern boundary of the Scheme that interconnects with the mature tree planting that leads further up the valley. Because of this, it is unlikely that the Scheme will be visible in the summer, however loss of the southern boundary vegetation or winter views may cause the Scheme to become partially visible through filtered views.	470m	Recreational users of the PRoW/ Workers at the Morrisons Service Station/ Vehicular users travelling along A469 (Station Road)	High

6 PREDICTED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

6.1.1 This section consider the predicted and potential environmental impacts of the Scheme at both construction and operational phases.

6.1.2 The Scheme description is given in 1.2, but in summary would include:

- The installation of formalised access entrance and associated residential parking area
- Five-storey residential building with associated landscaping, including SuDS design
- Gabion retaining wall element
- Any lighting included as part of this design will be sympathetic to the surrounding area and local landscape character.

6.1.3 The construction programme is subject to the completion of the statutory processes, timeline currently unknown.

6.1.4 In conducting this assessment, a number of assumptions have been made in terms of construction methods which may be implemented, these are based on best practice working methodology as proposed by the contractor.

6.1.5 The construction and installation of the proposed residential development with associated hard and soft landscape and new Gabion retaining wall, is anticipated to require the use of machinery, plant, storage of materials, earthworks, as well as temporary land take for site compounds throughout the construction works.

6.1.6 Considering the descriptors of magnitude of the effects, and the summary of the landscape sensitivity, the following section of this assessment described the likely significance of the effects if the Scheme at Construction stage, winter of the Opening year (Year 1) and again at Winter and Summer in Year 15. An assessment then made of the cumulative impacts anticipated. Impact will be assessed against the Viewpoint and Receptors assessment to provide a Visual Impact Assessment for each phase of the Scheme.

6.2 Landscape/Townscape Appraisal

6.2.1 National Landscape Character Area 37: The South Wales Valleys

6.2.1.1 *It is anticipated that there would be low to moderate direct effects in relation to the introduction of Scheme and the loss of vegetation on the NCLA 37 The South Wales Valleys due to the location of the proposal within an area that is on the fringes of an existing settlement, however the Scheme built form and scale is not in keeping with the surrounding residential terraced housing character and more in keeping with the superstore built form within the Bargoed settlement or aspects of the Bargoed High Street, therefore making the magnitude of effect moderately adverse when compared to the surrounding NLCA. Table 13 summarises the landscape impact at the national scale:*

Table 13: NLCA 37: South Wales Valleys Landscape Impact

LCA 37: South Wales Valleys	Landscape Impact
Landscape Sensitivity	Medium-Low
Magnitude of Effect	Moderate Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate-Slight

6.2.2 Local Landscape Character

6.2.2.1 *In relation to the Local Landscape, the report must attempt to conclude the effect of the Scheme from the varying LANDMAP Aspects. As a residential development on the fringe of an existing development, the proposed Scheme is anticipated to have a low to moderate impact on the landscape sensitivity, in terms of visual and sensory and historical aspect, due to its characterisation of 'odd environment of large-scale towns and urban settlements within rolling hills'. However, the loss of vegetation along the southern and western boundary could be considered to have a moderately adverse impact on the landscape habitat aspect if not mitigated.*

6.2.2.2 *Table 14 summarises the landscape impact at the local scale:*

Table 14: LCA Cumulative LANDMAP Aspects

LCA Cumulative LANDMAP Aspects	Landscape Impact
Landscape Sensitivity	Medium-Low
Magnitude of Effect	Moderate Adverse
Significance of Effect	Moderate-Slight

6.3 Visual Appraisal

6.3.1 VP1: View from Bargoed Park and Ride Railway Car Park

6.3.1.1 *This viewpoint provides a clear view of the Scheme, with receptors using the Park and Ride being able to see over the retaining wall element and into the Scheme at present. This is despite the mature trees along the southwestern boundary attempting to distort area of the Scheme within the direct foreground.*

6.3.1.2 *The installation of the residential Scheme will result in a permanent change to the character of the site (currently a derelict brownfield site with concrete hard standing and overgrown vegetation). Construction activities are anticipated to be confined to the boundaries of the site visually however this will also change the Scheme location audibly during the construction stage as well as visually through the introduction of compounds, machinery and plant.*

6.3.1.3 *Both construction and operational activities will occur within close proximity (20m) of this viewpoint, leading to a permanent alteration to the existing visual setting.*

6.3.1.4 *Table 15* summarises the visual impact of VP_1:

Table 15: LCA Cumulative LANDMAP Aspects

6.3.2 VP2: View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP114/2

VP_1	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	Low-Moderate
Magnitude of Effect	Major
Visual Impact Significance	Moderate

6.3.2.1 *This viewpoint provides a direct view into the Scheme extents with the Scheme being within the foreground. This PRoW is very well used due to its close proximity to the railway station and ability to join the National Cycle Network trails, while the southern boundary vegetation providing some initial foreground distortion, this is subject to it being retained as part of the Scheme's proposals.*

6.3.2.2 *Both construction and operational activities will occur within close proximity (20m) of this viewpoint, leading to a permanent alteration to the existing visual setting.*

6.3.2.3 *Table 16 summarises the visual impact at VP_2:*

Table 16: Viewpoint VP_2 Visual Impact

6.3.3 VP3: View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP188/1

VP_2	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	High
Magnitude of Effect	Major
Visual Impact Significance	Large to Very Large

6.3.3.1 *This viewpoint is taken from an elevated profile on a PRoW to the east of the Scheme's boundary, slightly elevated from the National Cycle Work route as part of the undulating topography towards Aberbargoed settlement.*

6.3.3.2 *Filtered views of the Scheme from this viewpoint are aided by the established dense tree line and dense vegetation both along the neighbouring River Rhymney and the Scheme's eastern boundary, creating partial or indirect views of the Scheme through the dense vegetation. However, this is taken during the summer, and therefore this viewpoint could result in better Scheme visibility during winter when the vegetation is lost.*

6.3.3.3 *Table 17 summarises the visual impact at VP_3:*

Table 17: Viewpoint VP_3 Visual Impact

VP_3	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	High
Magnitude of Effect	Negligible to Minor
Visual Impact Significance	Slight to Moderate

6.3.4 VP4: View from Footpath (National Cycle Network route 468)

6.3.4.1 *This viewpoint is taken from the footpath part of the National Cycle Network route 468, looking directly towards the Scheme.*

6.3.4.2 *Direct views of the Scheme are blocked by established dense tree lines and mature vegetation along the River Rhymney and the Scheme's eastern boundary vegetation. The Scheme is currently not visible from this viewpoint; however, this is subject to the summer vegetation creating dense Scheme cover. Therefore, this viewpoint could result in better Scheme visibility during winter when the vegetation is lost.*

6.3.4.3 *Table 18 summarises the visual impact at VP_4:*

Table 18: Viewpoint VP_4 Visual Impact

VP_4	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	High
Magnitude of Effect	Negligible to Minor
Visual Impact Significance	Slight to Moderate

6.3.5 VP4A: View from Footpath (National Cycle Network route 468)

6.3.5.1 *This viewpoint is taken from the footpath part of the National Cycle Network route 468, looking directly towards the Scheme.*

6.3.5.2 *Direct views of the Scheme are blocked by established dense tree lines and mature vegetation along the River Rhymney and the Scheme's eastern boundary vegetation. The Scheme is currently not visible from this viewpoint; however, this is subject to the summer vegetation creating dense Scheme cover. Therefore, this viewpoint could result in better Scheme visibility during winter when the vegetation is lost.*

6.3.5.3 *Table 19 summarises the visual impact at VP_4A:*

Table 19: Viewpoint VP_4A Visual Impact

VP_4	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	High
Magnitude of Effect	Negligible to Minor
Visual Impact Significance	Slight to Moderate

6.3.6 VP_5: View from Railway Viaduct over Factory Road, Bargoed (Grade II Listed)

6.3.6.1 *This viewpoint is taken from the road junction beneath the Grade II Listed Railway Structure at the bottom of Station Road, adjacent to the residential properties most likely to be affected by the Scheme.*

6.3.6.2 *These adjacent residential properties are likely to be affected by more direct views of the Scheme from their first-floor windows that face South or by sun-shadow created by the scale of the proposed Scheme. However, from this junction, the bend in the road and ascension of the road up from this junction into Bargoed, will obscure views of the Scheme from this viewpoint. This makes any views of the Scheme above the existing residential properties, transitory for vehicular users whilst being more prominent for residential properties adjacent to the Scheme.*

6.3.6.3 *Table 20 summarises the visual impact at VP_5:*

Table 20: Viewpoint VP_5 Visual Impact

VP_5	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	High
Magnitude of Effect	Negligible
Visual Impact Significance	Slight

6.3.7 VP_6: View from Bargoed Station

6.3.7.1 *This viewpoint was a westerly view towards the Scheme directly outside Bargoed Station's waiting room, next to the bus stop on Station Road. Despite the Scheme's western boundary vegetation, this viewpoint provides clear visibility of the Scheme.*

6.3.7.2 *The Scheme installation will result in a permanent change to the character of the local landscape area, with both construction and operational activities occurring in close proximity (10m) of this viewpoint leading to a permanent alteration of the existing visual setting.*

6.3.7.3 *Table 21 summarises the visual impact at VP_6:*

Table 21: Viewpoint VP_6 Visual Impact

VP_6	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	Low-Moderate
Magnitude of Effect	Major
Visual Impact Significance	Moderate to Large

6.3.8 VP_7: View from Bargoed & Gilfach War Memorial (Grade II Listed)

6.3.8.1 *This viewpoint is an elevated view from the Bargoed High Street looking north northeasterly towards the Scheme and was chosen for both its historical and cultural significance within Bargoed.*

6.3.8.2 *The view of the Scheme from this viewpoint will be partially obstructed by the railway retaining wall, however this does not account for the scale of the development and therefore partial views may be caused by the height of this Scheme. Furthermore, the clearance of the western boundary vegetation may cause the Scheme to be a more dominant feature. The construction and operation activities will lead to permanent but possibly minor alteration of the existing visual setting.*

6.3.8.3 *Table 22 summarises the visual impact at VP_7:*

Table 22: Viewpoint VP_7 Visual Impact

VP_7	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	High
Magnitude of Effect	Moderate to Major
Visual Impact Significance	Moderate to Large

6.3.9 VP_8: View from Bristol Place/ Church Lane Junction

6.3.9.1 *This viewpoint provides an elevated view from the railway retaining wall looking Aberbargoed settlement with the woodland block between the River Rhymney valley and Aberbargoed settlement.*

6.3.9.2 *This viewpoint is filtered for vehicular users by the height of the railway retaining wall, however it is possible due to the elevated aspect of first floor residential windows of the residents of Bristol Place.*

6.3.9.3 *The activities could leave a permanent but minor alteration to the existing visual setting; however, this could only be visible from the first-floor residential properties.*

6.3.9.4 Table 23 summarises the visual impact at VP_8:

Table 23: Viewpoint VP_8 Visual Impact

VP_8	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	High
Magnitude of Effect	Minor to Negligible
Visual Impact Significance	Slight to Moderate

6.3.10 VP_9: View from A469 Layby near Gwaelod y Brithdir Cemetery

6.3.10.1 This viewpoint provides a view from A469 across the Bargoed valley towards Station Road (A469), with mature vegetation and mature trees creating the foreground screening.

6.3.10.2 The dense vegetation and mature trees screen the Scheme from view and create a filtered view of the existing Bargoed Park and Ride Car Park and Station Road, however, this is subject to the summer vegetation creating dense Scheme cover. Therefore, this viewpoint could result in better Scheme visibility during winter when the vegetation is lost.

6.3.10.3 Table 24 summarises the visual impact at VP_9:

Table 24: Viewpoint VP_9 Visual Impact

VP_9	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	Negligible to Low
Magnitude of Effect	Minor to Negligible
Visual Impact Significance	Neutral to Slight

6.3.11 VP_10: View from Hangar Youth and Community Centre, Aberbargoed

6.3.11.1 This view is a north-westerly view across lower Aberbargoed towards Bargoed from the elevated position of the Hanger Youth and Community Centre Recreation Ground.

6.3.11.2 The Scheme is not visible from this view due to the housing in the foreground and the dense vegetation and undulating landscape obscuring the approximate position of the Scheme.

6.3.11.3 Table 25 summarises the visual impact at VP_10:

Table 25: Viewpoint VP_10 Visual Impact

VP_10	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	Low
Magnitude of Effect	Negligible to No change
Visual Impact Significance	Neutral

6.3.12 VP_11: View from Morrisons Petrol Station Public Right of Way BARG/FP114/1

6.3.12.1 This view was taken from the PRoW adjacent to Station Road and Morrisons Petrol Station looking north towards the Scheme.

6.3.12.2 This view is blocked by the mature tree planting on the Station Road roundabout as well as the mature vegetation along the southern boundary of the Scheme. Because of this, it is unlikely that the Scheme will be visible in the summer, however loss of the southern boundary vegetation or winter views may cause the Scheme to become partially visible through filtered views.

6.3.12.3 Table 26 summarises the visual impact at VP_11:

Table 26: Viewpoint VP_11 Visual Impact

VP_11	Visual Impact
Receptor Sensitivity	High
Magnitude of Effect	Minor to Negligible
Visual Impact Significance	Slight to Moderate

6.4 Landscape/ Townscape Impact Assessment

6.4.1 Table 27 brings together the landscape impacts assessment for construction on the landscape character areas identified in 5.2 and then compares that with a reassessment at Year 1 and Year 15 Summer considering any mitigation.

6.4.2 This section outlines the anticipated landscape impacts arising from the residential Scheme at Station Road, Bargoed, assessed at the local scale within the defined Study Area. The appraisal considers how the proposed development may alter the character and qualities of the existing landscape.

Table 27: Magnitude of Landscape/Townscape Impacts

Landscape Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Impacts				Comments
		Without mitigation		With mitigation		
		During Construction	Year 1	During Construction	Year 1	
NLCA 37: **South Wales Valleys**	Medium-Low	Moderate	Moderate	Slight-Moderate	Slight	There would be some direct effects in relation to the Scheme on the National Landscape Character Area 37 South Wales Valley due to the location of the proposal within an area that is on the fringes of an existing settlement, however the Scheme built form and scale is not in keeping with the surrounding residential terraced housing character and more in keeping with the superstore built form within the Bargoed settlement or aspects of the Bargoed High Street, therefore making the magnitude of effect moderately adverse when compared to the surrounding NLCA.
LLCA: Cumulative LANDMAP Aspects	Medium-Low	Moderate	Moderate	Slight-Moderate	Slight	There would be indirect direct effects in relation to the Scheme on the Local Landscape Character Area due to the scale of the proposals in relation to the wider context of the character area. Night-time visual impacts at the local scale would change due to light spill at a larger height/ scale of the proposed Scheme.
Railway Viaduct over Factory Road (Grade II)	High	Moderate	Moderate	Slight-Moderate	Slight	Due to the views from this viewpoint area being distorted by the road and the undulating topography there is no direct effects in relation to the Scheme. Night-time visual impacts would remain unchanged to

Landscape Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Impacts				Comments
		Without mitigation		With mitigation		
		During Construction	Year 1	During Construction	Year 1	
						slightly adversely effected.
Bargoed & Gilfach War Memorial (St Gwladys Gardens) (Grade II)	High	Moderate	Moderate	Slight-Moderate	Slight	Due to the views from this viewpoint area being distorted by the railway retaining wall and the topography there is no direct effects in relation to the Scheme. Night-time visual impacts would remain unchanged to slightly adversely effected.
Aberbargoed War Memorial Gates (Grade II)	High	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Slight-Neutral	Due to the views from this viewpoint area being distorted by the railway retaining wall and the topography there is no direct effects in relation to the Scheme. Night-time visual impacts would remain unchanged to slightly adversely effected.
Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel and Schoolrooms (Grade II)	High	Neutral	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Slight-Neutral	There would be no direct effects from Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel and Schoolrooms in relation to the Scheme. Night-time visual impacts would remain unchanged.
Police Court and Police Station (including forecourt	High	Neutral	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Slight-Neutral	There would be no direct effects from Police Court and Police Station in relation to the Scheme. Night-time visual impacts would remain unchanged.

Landscape Character Area	Landscape Sensitivity	Landscape Impacts				Comments
		Without mitigation		With mitigation		
		During Construction	Year 1	During Construction	Year 1	
walls, gates and railings) (Grade II)						
PRoW	High	Minor-Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Slight-Neutral	There would be some direct effects from PRoWs in relation to the Scheme due to their visibility and direct views into the Scheme. Night-time visual impacts would remain unchanged.
Study Area	Low-Medium	Moderate adverse	Moderate	Minor to Moderate adverse	Minor	The study area has the Scheme as its focus and therefore any changes would be noticeable. The study area falls within the immediate surrounding of the site [1km] with the Scheme visibility falling within 160m. The new Scheme would be visible in the local landscape with it predominantly being visible from elevated aspects of the south/ south eastern boundary and from the immediate western boundary. Careful landscaping and biodiversity enhancement should be incorporated to would re-establish landscape integration where boundary vegetation is lost.

7 PREDICTED VISUAL IMPACTS

7.1.1 This section outlines the anticipated landscape impacts arising from the proposed residential development, assessed at the local scale within the defined Study Area. The appraisal considers how the proposed development may alter the character and qualities of the existing landscape.

7.1.2 Landscape Character

7.1.3 The Study Area is situated within the immediate surrounding of the Scheme approximately [1Km]. Within this area, the stepped valley comprises of the River Rhymney and two substantial settlements of Bargoed and Aberbargoed that rise from the riverplain onto the valley slopes, beyond this the river valley comprises of areas of enclosed farmland and nucleated old mining settlements. The Site is situated on a derelict brownfield site on the fringe of the Bargoed urban settlement.

7.1.4 The introduction of a new residential Scheme will result in some slight-moderately adverse impacts on the character of the landscape; however, this will be mostly localised due to the undulating topography and the mature vegetation and tree planting that create the enclosed boundaries of the site. Localised character changes will occur due to the residential development becoming a permanent fixture in the landscape of a previously overgrown and concrete slab site, including the loss of possible boundary vegetation. These impacts are considered to be moderate adverse without mitigation especially in areas where views are direct or within close proximity of the Scheme.

7.1.5 Direct impacts upon the physical landscape are expected to be moderate within the localised area. Where interventions are necessary, reinstatement and compensatory planting including boundary planting will need to be undertaken to retain continuity of local landscape character and ecological functionality through habitat corridors.

7.1.6 Views and visual connections to key landmarks, including historical and socially significant such as Bargoed & Gilfach War Memorial (St Gwladys Gardens), will be retained with little to no visual impact on the wider scale.

7.1.7 Summary of Local Landscape Effects

- Sensitivity of the landscape is considered low to medium, due to its surrounding socially historic and cultural value, however the immediate Scheme location is considered to be low due to its character as a seemingly brownfield site with little to no sense of place.

- Magnitude of change is moderate adverse, given the distinct change to immediate landscape character of the Scheme location, including the introduction of a built form not necessarily in keeping with the surrounding built form or materiality, as well as the potential loss of existing boundary vegetation.

- Significance of effect is assessed as slight-moderate adverse, due to the specific location within the Study Area, with scope for enhancement in areas of improved biodiversity planting.

7.1.8 Appropriate mitigation measures, including soft landscaping, will ensure the proposal integrates into the existing landscape, this should include the use of mature tree planting where mature vegetation is lost and consider soft landscaping along the western edge of the Scheme boundary where the Study area visibility is most prevalent.

7.1.9 Overall, the significance of this is considered to be;

7.1.10 Year 1: **Moderately adverse.** (This would be for Summer views and is assumed for the Winter views due to the lack of these, however it is recommended that winter views should be taken to confirm this).

7.1.11 Year 15: **Slight adverse** as mitigation matures and the landscape fit of the Scheme is re-established.

7.2 Visual Impact Assessment

7.2.1 The permanent changes to the landscape features such as loss of existing vegetation, due to the installation of the new residential Scheme, its associated soft and hard landscaping and access formalisation would occur during the construction phase and remain a constant throughout the operational phase.

7.2.2 The residential Scheme itself will create a visual impact on a localised scale within the immediate vicinity of the Scheme; however, it may have long reaching changes to the surrounding visual envelope if the scale impacts upon the foreground of particularly sensitive views. However, it will provide valuable local amenity in the form of new housing provision for the Bargoed community.

7.2.3 The visual impacts are assessed against the following criteria;

- *Scale of change;* This change can be in the form of the addition of new features into the view or the removal of existing features (such as trees, woodland or modification to slope profiles).

- *Nature of change*; the extent to which a given change is out of character with the existing view can influence the effects which it would produce.

- *Duration of change*; this is categorised as being short term (i.e. up to 1 year or during construction if the construction period exceeds one year), short/medium term (i.e. 1 to 5 years, during which time new planting would have little significant effect in most cases), medium/long term (5 to 15 years, when planted mitigation would begin to take increasing effect) or long term (i.e. lasting beyond 15 years).

- *Distance*; the magnitude of any change would generally decrease with distance from its source until a point is reached where there is no discernible change.

- *Screening;* intervening features may block the view completely (in which case there would be no change), or there may be a partial screen, in which case the magnitude of change would decrease. Intervening vegetation where present has been highlighted as this often filters views. The degree to which this filter or screens a view would change with the seasons, and this has been noted where applicable.

- *The direction and focus of the view;* if the change occurs in the part of the landscape which is the principal area of existing visual interest, the effects are likely to be perceived to be greater than if the proposed change occurs away from the main area

of visual interest. This is especially relevant in the context of views from within houses (which are effectively framed by their windows), or from gardens (where views are often restricted by vegetation),and from promoted or locally valued viewpoints.

- *Removal of existing vegetation;* has been given consideration as part of the visual assessment.

7.2.4 These are presented in Table 28 for each of the viewpoints and identify the visual impacts during construction, at Year 1 and at Year 15 (Winter and Summer) with established mitigation

Table 28 - Magnitude of Visual Impacts

VP	Name	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effects for Visual Impacts				Comments
				Without mitigation		With mitigation		
				During Construction	Year 1	Year 15 (Winter)	Year 15 (Summer)	
VP_1	View from Bargoed Park and Ride Railway Car Park	Low-Moderate	Major	Slight – Moderate adverse	Slight-Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse to Neutral	**Year 1:** Direct views of the Scheme will be visible from this viewpoint. The first year of operational use will remain largely the same as they are during construction, with a major change to the existing view of a brownfield site with concrete slab and overgrown boundary vegetation. The scheme will therefore cause a moderate change to the existing character of the landscape and surrounding area. The retention of the existing mature trees and mature boundary vegetation along the southern boundary that form part of the foreground with the northern boundary forming part of the background to the Scheme, situating it within the existing landscape. The retention of these boundary vegetation elements is key to minimising visual impact and ensuring the recovery of the immediate landscape, post construction to mitigate the previously categorised as moderate adversity. Planted mitigation should also include swales for water runoff mitigation due to the topography of the site as well as to incorporate the existing waterbody within the identity of the new Scheme development. **Year 15:** The scale and nature of the change will be slight to minimal, resulting in slight to neutrally adverse visual impact

VP	Name	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effects for Visual Impacts				Comments
				Without mitigation		With mitigation		
				During Construction	Year 1	Year 15 (Winter)	Year 15 (Summer)	
								as the Scheme settles into the surrounding fringes of the Bargoed development, aided by the planted Scheme boundaries.
VP_2	View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP114/2	High	Major	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	**Year 1:** Direct views into the Scheme will be visible from this view, with this being among the views with the most significant change. Both the operational and construction phases will be visible from this view due to the elevated view and sloping topography creating a □ gap' in the e□ isting boundary vegetation at this viewpoint, creating a direct view in. Consequently, the retention of existing boundary vegetation will aid in some respect however it will be minimal without the use of other screening mitigation being introduced on site to filter and break up views of the Scheme. **Year 15:** While the scale and nature of the change will be significant, it is assumed that by Year 15, the Scheme will have settled into the landscape with the aid of retained boundary vegetation, Bolstered by further landscape screening opportunities and on-site mature tree planting to filter views and soften built form.

VP	Name	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effects for Visual Impacts				Comments
				Without mitigation		With mitigation		
				During Construction	Year 1	Year 15 (Winter)	Year 15 (Summer)	
VP_3	View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP188/1	High	Negligible to Minor	Slight – Moderate adverse	Slight-Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse to Neutral	**Year 1:** Direct views from this viewpoint will be filtered by the eastern boundary vegetation and River Rhymney mature treelined banks. Therefore, the views of this Scheme will be over the top of existing trees and mature boundary vegetation, with it forming part of the more industrial looking built form of the High Street further south. Tall vegetative screening opportunities could be used to break up this view and further establish the Scheme within the surrounding fringes of the Bargoed settlement. **Year 15:** The views will have changed from existing due to the scale and built form of the development in comparison to existing, however with additional mitigation it is believed that the Scheme could settle into the Bargoed development and become slight to neutrally adverse.
VP_4	View from Footpath (National Cycle Network route 468)	High	Negligible to Minor	Slight – Moderate adverse	Slight-Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse to Neutral	**Year 1:** There are no direct view of the Scheme visible from this viewpoint due to screening by existing boundary and riverside vegetation and established existing tree planting. Operational impacts should be moderated to prevent views from this viewpoint due to its proximity to the Scheme. Consequently, there is currently no change from the existing, however, this is measured on the existing Summer views with the possibility of this being more severe during winter views.

VP	Name	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effects for Visual Impacts				Comments
				Without mitigation		With mitigation		
				During Construction	Year 1	Year 15 (Winter)	Year 15 (Summer)	
								Year 15: There will be no change from the existing landscape and character (based on the Summer views this is subject to change if Winter views indicate further visual impact)
VP_4A	View from Footpath (National Cycle Network route 468)	High	Negligible to Minor	Slight – Moderate adverse	Slight-Moderate adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse to Neutral	**Year 1:** There are no direct view of the Scheme visible from this viewpoint due to screening by existing boundary and riverside vegetation and established existing tree planting. Operational impacts should be moderated to prevent views from this viewpoint due to its proximity to the Scheme. Consequently, there is currently no change from the existing, however, this is measured on the existing Summer views with the possibility of this being more severe during winter views. **Year 15:** There will be no change from the existing landscape and character (based on the Summer views this is subject to change if Winter views indicate further visual impact)
VP_5	Railway Viaduct over Factory Road, Bargoed (Grade II Listed)	High	Negligible	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse	Slight adverse to neutral	**Year 1:** There are no direct views from this viewpoint due to the rising topography and angle of the road travelling up towards Bargoed Station. Because of this the impact of the Scheme will be localised to the upper floors of the residential properties where their windows face towards the Scheme. Consequently, boundary vegetation and landscape screening mitigations would be recommended to soften this

VP	Name	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effects for Visual Impacts				Comments
				Without mitigation		With mitigation		
				During Construction	Year 1	Year 15 (Winter)	Year 15 (Summer)	
								view. However overall, the impact of the Scheme from this view will be minimal. **Year 15:** The scale and nature of the change will be minimal, resulting in little visual impact.
VP_6	View from Bargoed Station	Low-Moderate	Major	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Slight to Moderate Adverse	Slight to Moderate Adverse	**Year 1**: There are direct views from this viewpoint into the Scheme. This will cause a significant change to the landscape and townscape character of the area. The retention of any existing vegetation along the western boundary will be key to minimising the visual impact and ensuring that the area recovers post construction. If this is not possible, efforts should be made to implement boundary tree and hedge planting to soften the built form. **Year 15:** The scale and nature of the change will be noticeable and permanently change the existing character of the Scheme location, however as the built form settles into the landscape this could become slightly adverse rather than moderate.

VP	Name	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effects for Visual Impacts				Comments
				Without mitigation		With mitigation		
				During Construction	Year 1	Year 15 (Winter)	Year 15 (Summer)	
VP_7	View from Bargoed & Gilfach War Memorial (Grade II Listed)	High	Low-Negligible	Slight Adverse	Slight Adverse	Slight Adverse to Neutral	Neutral	**Year 1:** The view towards the Scheme from this viewpoint location would be partially screened by the Bargoed railway station retaining wall, however there will be some change to the collective view from this viewpoint due to the scale of the development. The construction and operational phases will lead to permanent but possibly minor alteration to the existing character, rising to moderate in the winter when vegetation screening is vastly reduced. As such any boundary vegetation along thew western and southern boundary that create the woodland block middle ground within this view should be retained where possible. Tree protection works and root protection zones would need to be implemented through the construction phase. **Year 15:** The scale and nature of the change will become noticeable but minimal, resulting in little visual impact as the vegetation matures.
VP_8	View from Bristol Place/ Church Lane Junction	High	Moderate-Major	Moderate /Large Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Slight-Moderate Adverse	Slight Adverse	**Year 1:** There are no direct views for vehicular users from this view towards the Scheme due to the railway retaining wall element. Because of this the impact of the Scheme will be localised to the upper floors of the residential properties where their windows face towards the Scheme. Consequently, boundary vegetation and landscape

VP	Name	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effects for Visual Impacts				Comments
				Without mitigation		With mitigation		
				During Construction	Year 1	Year 15 (Winter)	Year 15 (Summer)	
								screening mitigations would be recommended to soften this view. However overall, the impact of the Scheme from this view will be minimal. **Year 15:** The scale and nature of the change will be minimal, resulting in little visual impact.
VP_9	View from A469 Layby near Gwaelod y Brithdir Cemetery	Low	Minor to Negligible	Neutral to Slight Adverse	Neutral to Slight Adverse	Neutral	Neutral	**Year 1:** There are no direct views of the Scheme visible from this point due to the long-distance view across the valley being screened by intervening tall trees and established vegetation. However, this is measured based on the summer views, whereas the winter views could make the Scheme much more visible (winter views are recommended to confirm this). The views will not change from existing currently. **Year 15:** There will be no change from the existing landscape and character.
VP_10	View from Hangar Youth and Community Centre, Aberbargoed	Low	Negligible to No change	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	**Year 1:** There are no direct views of the Scheme visible from this point due to the intervening woodland blocks and undulating topography. Operational phase impacts are moderated by no views of the Scheme, consequently, the views will not change from the existing.

VP	Name	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of Effect	Significance of Effects for Visual Impacts				Comments
				Without mitigation		With mitigation		
				During Construction	Year 1	Year 15 (Winter)	Year 15 (Summer)	
								Year 15: There will be no change from the existing landscape and character.
VP_11	View from Morrisons Petrol Station Public Right of Way BARG/FP114/1	High	Minor to Negligible	Slight-Moderate Adverse	Slight-Moderate Adverse	Slight	Slight	**Year 1:** There are no direct views of the Scheme visible from this point due to the mature vegetation along Station Road roundabout and along the southern boundary of the Scheme. Consequently, the southern boundary vegetation should be retained. Tree protection works and root protection zones would need to be implemented through the construction phase. **Year 15:** Should boundary mitigation be implemented, and mature vegetation retained, it is anticipated that there will be no change from existing landscape and character.

8 PROPOSED MITIGATION

8.1.1 The following are recommendations for landscape and visual mitigation both during construction andoperational phases following completion.

8.2 Construction Mitigation

8.2.1 Construction activity would introduce volume of traffic and daytime movement of vehicle and workers that is occasionally experienced within the study area due to the existing railway and road infrastructure. This alongside hoarding, stockpiles and potential for noise and dust generation will be a temporarily consequence of construction works.

8.2.2 Despite this, the following mitigation measures may help to slightly reduce the negative effects of the site preparation and construction on the identified local landscape and visual receptors:

- Careful siting of site offices, compounds, and car parks, with screen hoardings around sensitive perimeters- especially along the western boundary where the main access road (Station Road) is adjacent to site access routes- to provide recessive and appropriate screening.
- Tidy site management would reduce the uncharacteristic visual clutter associated with building and construction works
- Consideration of materials and colours for temporary fencing etc, whilst taking into account safety requirements
- Limiting the length of time that machinery are in use and consideration of deliveries, excessive noise or dust generation is anticipated
- No night-time or weekend working- this is particularly relevant given the nature of the Bargoed settlement and the recreational paths that abut the Scheme boundaries, also allowing for the general public to access areas around the immediate site for recreational and commuting purposes
- Maintain access to public footpaths, and provide clear information to the users on any diversions and how long these are likely to affect these areas
- Any re-routing of pathways should remain as close to the existing routes as possible, in accordance with best practice.
- Temporary seeding of topsoil and subsoil storage heaps and reinstatement of all works in a timely manner and to a high standard as soon as works allow or on immediate completion of the works
- Retention of existing trees and woodland where Scheme proposal allows, retain existing trees and woodland to BS5837:2021 Standards
- Consideration of the location of storage stockpiles, compounds temporary offices, access routes and similar to minimise impact on landscape character, landscape elements and views from high sensitivity receptors

- Night working should be avoided where possible to minimise disturbances on commuting and foraging bats using surrounding woodland blocks. Artificial lighting and human activity at night might disrupt their flight paths and discourage them from using key foraging areas

- Excavations, if left unfilled overnight, should be covered to avoid animals becoming trapped or excavations fitted with a scaffolding board ramp to allow any trapped animals to exit

- Any vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of bird nesting season (1st March-31st August). Any construction works undertaken within the bird breeding season where suitable bird breeding habitat exists will require a site check for nesting birds by a suitably qualified ecologist.

- If any suitable bird nesting habitat is lost from vegetation clearance in the areas of scrub and woodland along Scheme boundaries and within central area, enhancements for birds in the form of nest boxes should be located within suitable areas to mitigate for this loss.

8.3 Operational Mitigation

8.3.1 During construction, mitigation measures would be provided to remove or reduce adverse landscape and visual effects arising during operational phase associated earthworks, traffic movement and lighting.

- Restore land used for construction access, material storage or compound back to its previous state or improved.

- Retain boundary vegetation, including mature scrub, field hedgerow and tree planting where possible. The Scheme mitigation will seek to incorporate the existing boundary vegetation- leaving the eastern and northern areas mostly untouched- alongside the introduction of new tree planting and hedgerows throughout would retain, restore and where possible enhance aspects of the local character. These would take into account opportunities to mitigate visual impacts and improve biodiversity in regard to habitat creation through the introduction of species rich Flowering Lawn Mixes to residential amenity space and the introduction of seeds swales and rain garden features to aid run off and promote the existing waterbody habitat on site.

- Through the use of a variety of wildflower planting within the flowering lawn, this will promote local pollinator diversity and whilst providing a food source for other invertebrates. An increase in local invertebrate populations will also provide an increased food source for birds and bats

- Structural scrub, individual tree planting and mixed species hedgerows using an appropriate mix of native or locally available species and existing plant communities found within the Scheme boundary, will ensure that the planting ties into its surrounding visually as well as maximises biodiversity benefits. The majority of these species would be of British Native Origin, Local Provenance and Biogeographical Provenance Zone 303/304 (as identified by the Forestry Commission □ Regions of provenance and seed □ ones in Great Britain (including □ ones for indigenous Scots pine[13]) but also include individual specimen trees to match any trees removed as part omission the construction works.

- Careful consideration of the built form design has been undertaken, the materiality and built form must be sympathetic to the surrounding landscape character, visual identity and immediate environment. Materials must be in keeping with the surrounding built form's landscape and materiality, whilst the Scheme must be seen to take advantage of the terraced topography of the site and its depression alongside the western roadside boundary to reduce the overall scale of the built form and remain sympathetic to the undulating topography of the surrounding landscape.

9 CONCLUSION

9.1.1 This appraisal has identified the likely landscape and visual effects for the residential development Scheme at Station Road (A469), Bargoed. Where adverse impacts have been identified, mitigation measures have been recommended that would avoid, reduce or compensate for these effects.

9.1.2 The Study Area is considered to be of low to medium landscape sensitivity. There are no statutory landscape designations within the study area, however the study area is in close proximity to sites of cultural and heritage significance in the form of Bargoed & Gilfach War Memorial (Grade II Listed) and Railway Viaduct over Factory Road (Grade II).

9.1.3 The Local Landscape Character is defined by the mature trees and dense vegetation set within rolling hills with a mi□ ture of nuclear and □ odd' large scale towns and settlements set within rolling valleys and hills. Established trees and strong vegetative land patterns represent important landscape features and contribute to the surrounding amenity value.

9.1.4 The proposed residential development will introduce additional artificial lighting, creating the potential for increased visual influence on the fringes of the Bargoed settlement, particularly during the hours of darkness. However, the retention of the existing boundary vegetation and the introduction of new tree planting will assist in screening and filtering views of the development, helping to reduce its visual prominence and potential light spill.

9.1.5 The most significant visual effects are anticipated to be in the immediate vicinity of the Scheme, largely affecting Viewpoints 1,2 and 6 (PRoW and views from built development along the western boundary such as Bargoed Station). These will undergo a permanent and irreversible change to the local landscape character due to the scale of the development and its built form in contrast to surrounding terraced housing and urban settlement fringe which includes smaller scale ground level to second storey industrial developments and terraced ex-mining homes. This can be alleviated by landscape mitigation providing screening or filtering of views through tree planting, mature vegetation retention, and the use of building materials sympathetic and in keeping with the local vernacular to the surrounding landscape character.

9.1.6 The impact upon the Landscape Impact is largely limited to the local level of the Scheme and are tightly confined to the immediate surroundings. There is little to no impact at a National or Regional Scale. In terms of visual impact, only 4 of the 11 Viewpoints were categorised as being significantly impacted by the introduction of the Scheme at construction, Year 1 and Year 15 stages. This would result in the Scheme being assessed as having a Moderately adverse impact on the surrounding landscape character and visual amenity, with the most significant visual and landscape effects anticipated to occur during construction and the first year of establishment when mitigation measures have not yet matured. During the operational phase, impacts are expected to reduce through mitigation measures including tree planting, hedgerow screening, SuDS incorporation and the establishment of wildflower areas. These interventions alongside the Gabion vegetated retaining wall (which will be visible from the PRoW to the southern boundary) will help to maintain landscape character, improve ecological value and provide a new green infrastructure habitat within a semi-rural/ urban fringe setting.

9.1.7 This concludes that while the built form and scale is uncharacteristic to the surrounding landscape character, there are mitigation methods in which these visual impacts can be softened to aid the built form's integration within the landscape. Overall, the proposed residential Scheme is expected to result in limited landscape and visual impacts, confined to a local scale, with little impact on long-range views. With the additional mitigation measures included to the design, the Scheme is unlikely to cause majorly significant adverse effects on visual amenity, landscape character or ecological value beyond its immediate surroundings.

10 REFERENCES

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2. Earth Environmental & Geotechnical Solutions Ltd (2024). Geoenvironmental Site Investigation Report: B5556 Station Road, Bargoed. Cardiff: EEGSL.
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4. Caerphilly County Council (2016) □ Supplementary Planning Guidance L□ P 4□ Trees and Development Plan Up to 2021 (Revision 2), Adopted January 2017 [trees and development 2016.indd]
5. □ aerphilly □ ounty □ ouncil (□ □ 1□) □ Supplementary Planning Guidance L□ P 1□ □ Building in the Countryside Local Development Plan Up to 2021, Adopted January 2012 [buildings in the countryside indd.indd]
6. Caerphilly County Council, LDP Appendix 1: Special Landscape Areas [LDP Appendices: APPENDIX 1: SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS]
7. Caerphilly County Council, LDP Appendix 2: Visually Important Local Landscapes [LDP Appendices: APPENDIX 2: VISUALLY IMPORTANT LOCAL LANDSCAPES]
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10. Natural Resources Wales, LandMap VIA Wales Environmental Information Portal [NRW Open Data | Wales Environmental Information Portal]
11. Natural Resources Wales, National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) NCLA Map and Names [nlca-map-and-names.pdf]
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APPENDICES

Appendix A

Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Introduction

Assessment of landscape effects relate to the character and individual features that contribute to local and regional distinctiveness and the extent to which the proposals would alter the character and quality of landscape as a resource. For the landscape assessment, the landscape itself is the resource, regardless of who can see the changes.

The assessment of visual effects relates to changes in the view of the site and the effects of those changes on the specific viewers of the landscape (e.g. footpaths, residential properties, or from roads). Receptors are the users of properties (dwellings, public buildings including work places, and recreational buildings) public rights-of-way (roads, public footpaths, bridleways, byways and permissive paths etc.) and other places accessible to the public.

The assessment describes the extent of the difference between the existing view and the view with the proposed scheme in place. The assessment takes into account whether the scheme is central or peripheral to the view, what proportion of the view alters and the distance between the receptor and the site. Potential visual effects have been considered at two stages of the proposals; construction and operational phases.

Principal viewpoints, sensitive visual receptors and the approximate visibility of the development proposals have been recorded. A landscape enhancement and mitigation strategy (local and strategic) is needed in order to avoid, reduce and if possible, remedy any adverse effects that have been identified through this process.

The assessment of effects draws on the guidance set out for a □ detailed assessment□ within LAN 107 and LAN 104. The Landscape Institute (LI) and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidelines stipulate that the significance of any effect should be evaluated both during the construction phase and following completion of the development. The significance is determined by assessing the sensitivity of the receptor and its susceptibility to the nature of change generated by the proposals and the magnitude of change that will occur.

The assessment methodology used to determine the value (sensitivity) of resources, magnitude of effects (change) and significance of landscape and visual effects is set out below and the tables have been developed from Interim Advice Note (IAN 135/10) on Landscape and Visual Effects Assessment. Throughout this assessment, where reference is made to landscape, this also includes the built environment (townscape).

The assessment process aims to be objective and to quantify effects as far as possible. However, LI and IEMA guidance recognise that subjective judgement is appropriate, if it is based upon □ professional e□ pertise supported by clear evidence, reasoned argument and informed opinion'. □ hilst changes to a view can be factually defined, the evaluation of landscape character and visual effects does require qualitative judgements to be made. The conclusions of this assessment therefore combine objective measurement with subjective professional interpretation.

Landscape Effects

Value (Quality) of Landscape Resource

Existing Landscape Character Assessments have been used to describe the character areas within and surrounding the Study Area at National, Regional and Local levels. These describe

the typical landscape components and structure of the study area but do not assign an assessment of Landscape Quality against which further sensitivity and impact assessments can be made. For the purpose of this study a five-point scale was employed, as follows in Table A.1:

Table A.1 - Landscape Value/Quality

LANDSCAPE	
Exceptional	Strong landscape structure; A harmonious combination of complementing components; Distinct landscape characteristics, identity or patterns; Landmark features worthy of retention; Strong positive sense of place; No detractive elements
Very Good	Strong landscape structure; Composed of generally harmonious components; Distinct landscape characteristics, identity or patterns; Identifiable features worthy of retention; Occasional or minor detractive elements
Good	Distinguishable landscape structure; Comprised of generally complementing components; Identifiable landscape characteristics, identity or patterns; Some detractive elements
Ordinary	Weak landscape structure, including some complementing components; Remnant or weak indication of landscape characteristics, identity or patterns; No identifiable features worthy of retention; Frequent detracting elements
Poor	Degraded or damaged landscape structure; No complementing components; No identifiable landscape characteristics, identity, or patterns; Extensive detracting elements

Value (Sensitivity) of Landscape Resource

The sensitivity of landscape character areas, within the study area, was determined using the definitions set out in Table A.2.

Table A.2 - Landscape Sensitivity (susceptibility and value) and Typical descriptions

Value Sensitivity	Sensitivity Typical Descriptors
Very High	Landscapes of very high international/national importance and rarity or value with no or very limited ability to accommodate change without substantial loss/gain (i.e. national parks, internationally acclaimed landscapes – UNESCO World Heritage Sites).

Value Sensitivity	Sensitivity Typical Descriptors
High	Landscapes of high national importance containing distinctive features/elements with limited ability to accommodate change without incurring substantial loss/gain (i.e. designated areas, areas of strong sense of place – registered parks and gardens, country parks).
Medium	Landscapes of local or regional recognition of importance able to accommodate some change (i.e. features worthy of conservation, some sense of place or value through use/perception).
Low	Local landscape areas or receptors of low to medium importance with ability to accommodate change (i.e. non-designated or designated areas of local recognition or areas with little sense of place).
Negligible	Landscapes of very low importance and rarity able to accommodate change.
Source: Based on LAN 107, Revision 2, Table 3.22 (Highways England, Feb 2020).	

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

The magnitude of landscape effects for the Proposed Scheme has been determined based on the definitions set out in Table A.3. Where night-time effects are anticipated, these have been described, together with the day-time impacts, and the overall magnitude of effect adjusted accordingly.

Table A.3 - Magnitude and Nature of Effect and Typical Descriptors for Landscape

Magnitude of Effects		Typical Criteria Descriptors
Major	Adverse	Total loss or large-scale damage to existing character or distinctive features and elements, and/or the addition of new uncharacteristic, conspicuous features or elements (i.e. road infrastructure).
	Beneficial	Large scale improvement of landscape character to features and elements, and/or addition of new distinctive features or elements. Or removal of conspicuous road infrastructure elements.
Moderate	Adverse	Partial loss or noticeable damage to existing character or distinctive features or elements, and/or the addition of new uncharacteristic, noticeable features and elements (i.e. road infrastructure).
	Beneficial	Partial or noticeable improvement of landscape character by the restoration of existing features or elements, or addition of new characteristic features or elements or removal of noticeable features or elements.

Magnitude of Effects		Typical Criteria Descriptors
Minor	Adverse	Slight loss or damage to existing landscape character of one (maybe more) key features and elements, and/or the addition of new, uncharacteristic features and elements.
	Beneficial	Slight improvement of landscape character by the restoration of one (maybe more) key existing features and elements, and/or the addition of new characteristic elements.
Negligible	Adverse	Very minor loss, damage, or alteration to existing landscape character of one or more features and elements.
	Beneficial	Very minor noticeable improvement of character by the restoration of one or more existing features and elements.
No Change		No noticeable alteration or improvement, temporary or permanent, of landscape character of existing features and elements.

[a]Source: Based on LAN 107, Revision 2, Table 3.24 (Highways England, Feb 2020).

Significance of Landscape Effects

The significance of landscape effects has been determined by examining the sensitivity of resources and magnitude of effect at Scheme opening (winter) and 15 years after opening (both winter and summer).

The significance of landscape effects has been formulated as a function of the resource sensitivity and the magnitude of Scheme impact. The following matrix was used to determine the significance of effect:

Table A.4 - Significance of Effect Categories for Landscape

		Magnitude of Impact				
		No Change	**Negligible**	**Minor**	**Moderate**	**Major**
Sensitivity	Very High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate/ Large	Large / Very Large	Very Large
	High	Neutral	Slight	Slight/ Moderate	Moderate/ Large	Large/ Very Large
	Medium	Neutral	Neutral /Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate/Large
	Low	Neutral	Neutral /Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Slight	Slight/ Moderate
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Slight

[a]Source: Based on LA 104, Revision 1, Table 3.8.1 (Highways England, Aug 2020).

Table A.5 describes the typical descriptors of significance of effect for landscape as used in the assessment:

Table A.5 - Typical Descriptors of Significance of Effect Categories for Landscape

Significance of Effect		Description
Very Large	Adverse	Be at complete variance with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Cause the integrity of characteristic features and elements to be lost. Cause a sense of place to be lost. Effects at this level are material in the decision-making process
	Beneficial	Greatly enhance the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Create an iconic high-quality feature and/or series of elements. Enable a sense of place to be created or greatly enhanced.
Large	Adverse	Be at considerable variance with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Degrade or diminish the integrity of a range of characteristic features and elements. Damage a sense of place. Effects at this level are likely to be material in the decision-making process
	Beneficial	Enhance the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements lost as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development. Enable a sense of place to be enhanced.
Moderate	Adverse	Conflict with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Have an adverse impact on characteristic features or elements. Diminish a sense of place. Effects at this level can be considered to be material decision-making factors
	Beneficial	Improve the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Enable the restoration of characteristic features and elements partially lost or diminished as a result of changes from inappropriate management or development. Enable a sense of place to be restored.
Slight	Adverse	Not quite fit the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Be at variance with characteristic features and elements. Detract from a sense of place. Effects at this level are not material in the decision-making process
		Complement the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Maintain or enhance characteristic features and

Significance of Effect		Description
	Beneficial	elements. Enable some sense of place to be restored.
Neutral		Maintain the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. Blend in with characteristic features and elements. Enable a sense of place to be retained. No effects or those that are beneath levels of perception, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
[a]Source: Based on LAN 104, Revision 1, Tables 3.4N and 3.7 (Highways England, Aug 2020).		

Visual Effects

Visual Sensitivity

The sensitivity of visual receptors, within the study area, was determined using the definitions set out in Table A.6.

Table A.6 - Visual Sensitivity and Typical Descriptors

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria
Very High	Static views from and of major tourist attractions; Views from and of very important national/international landscapes, cultural/historical sites (i.e. National Parks, UNESCO World Heritage sites). Receptors engaged in specific activities for enjoyment of dark skies.
High	Residential properties. Views by users of Public Rights of Way or other recreational trails (e.g. National Trails, footpaths, bridleways etc.) Views by users of public open space for the enjoyment of the countryside (e.g. Country Parks, National Trust or other access land etc.) Static views from dense residential areas, longer transient views from designated public open space, recreational areas Views from and of rare, designated areas of national importance
Moderate	Static views from less populated residential areas, schools and other institutional buildings and their outdoors areas. Views by outdoor workers Transient views from local/regional areas such as public open space, scenic

Sensitivity	Typical Criteria
	roads, railways or waterways. Users of local/regional designated tourist routes of moderate importance Views from and of landscapes of regional importance
Low	Views by users of main roads or passengers in public transport on main arterial routes Views by indoor workers Views by users of recreational/formal sports facilities where the landscape is secondary to enjoyment of the sport (e.g. sports facilities) Views by users of local public open spaces of limited importance with limited variety or distinctiveness.
Negligible	Quick transient views such as from fast moving vehicles Views from industrial areas, land awaiting redevelopment Views from landscapes of no importance with no variety or distinctiveness
[a]Source: Based on LAN 107, Revision 2, Table 3.41 (Highways England, Feb 2020).	

Magnitude of Effects

The magnitude of visual effects for the Scheme has been determined based on the definitions set out in Table A.7. Where night-time effects are anticipated these have been described, together with the daytime effects and the overall magnitude of effect adjusted accordingly.

Table A.7 - Magnitude of Effect and Typical Descriptors for Visual Receptors

Magnitude of Impact	Typical Criteria Descriptors
Major	The project, or a part of it, would become the dominant feature or focal point of the view
Moderate	The project, or a part of it, would form a noticeable feature or element of the view which is readily apparent to the receptor
Minor	The project, or a part of it, would be perceptible but not alter the overall balance of features and elements that comprise the existing view.
Negligible	Only a very small part of the project would be discernible or being at such a distance that it would form a barely noticeable feature or element of the view.
No change	No part of the project, or work or activity would be discernible

Magnitude of Impact	Typical Criteria Descriptors

[a]Source: Based on LAN 107, Revision 2, Table 3.43 (Highways England, Feb 2020).

Significance of Visual Effects

The significance of visual effects has been determined by examining the sensitivity of receptors and their susceptibility to the changes brought about the scheme and magnitude of effect at Scheme opening (winter) and 15 years after opening (winter and summer).

The significance of visual effects has been formulated as a function of the visual sensitivity and the magnitude of Scheme effect. The following matrix was used to determine the significance of effect:

Table A.8 - Significance of Effect Categories for Visual Receptors

		Magnitude of Effect				
		No Change	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major
Visual Sensitivity	Very High	Neutral	Slight	Moderate/ Large	Large/ Very Large	Very Large
	High	Neutral	Slight	Slight/ Moderate	Moderate/ Large	Large/ Very Large
	Moderate	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate/ Large
	Low	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Slight	Slight/ Moderate
	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral/ Slight	Neutral/ Slight	Slight

[a]Source: Based on LAN 104, Revision 1, Table 3.8.1 (Highways England, Aug 2020).

Table A.9 describes the typical descriptors of significance of effect for visual receptors as used in the assessment:

Table A.9 - Typical Descriptors of the Significance of Effect Categories for Visual Receptors

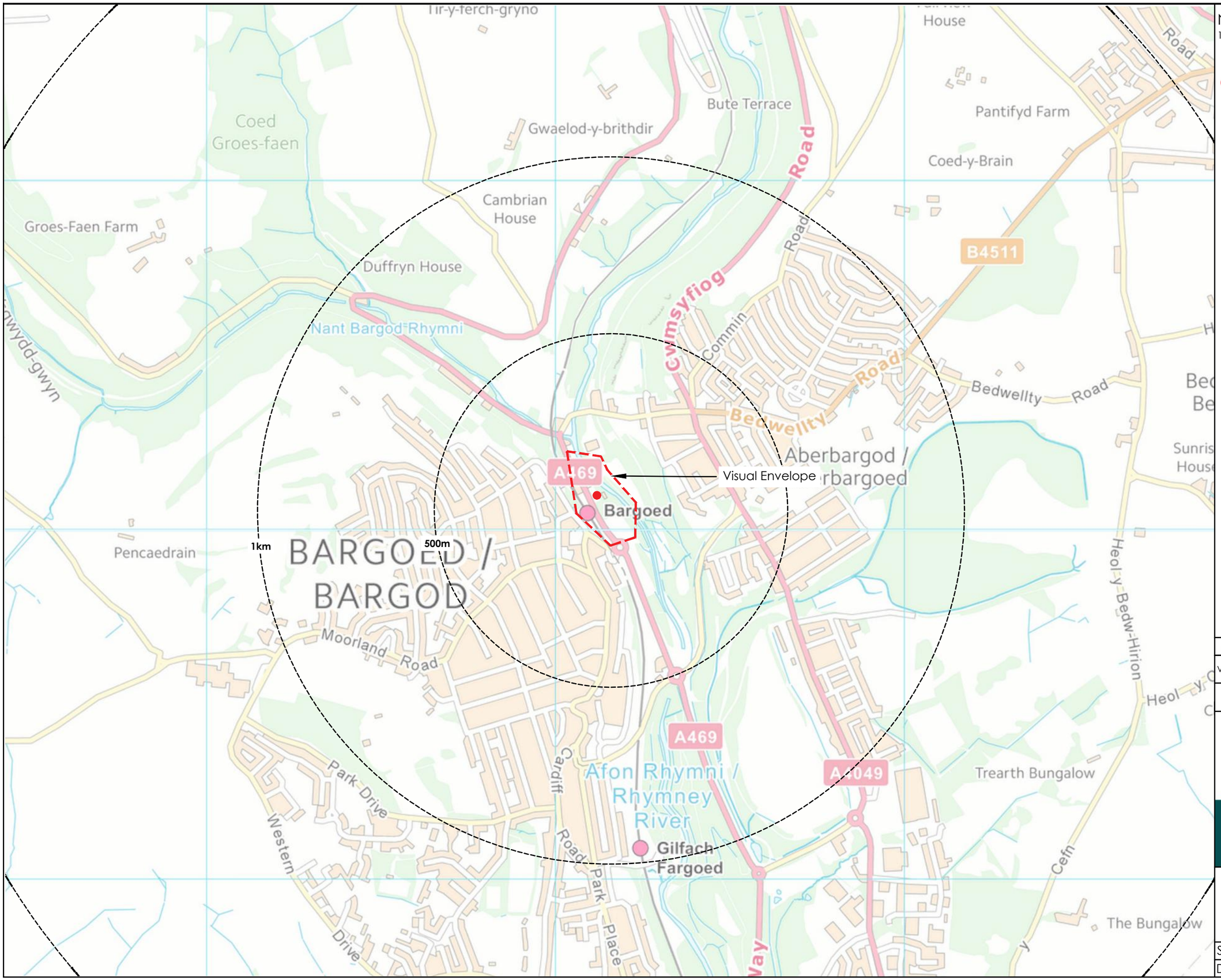
Magnitude of Impact	Typical Criteria Descriptors
Very Large Beneficial	The project would create an iconic new feature that would greatly enhance the view.
Large Beneficial	The proposals would cause obvious improvement to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, or perceptible improvement to a view from a more sensitive receptor.
Moderate Beneficial	The project would cause limited improvement to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or would cause greater improvement to a view from a receptor of low sensitivity.

Magnitude of Impact	Typical Criteria Descriptors
Slight Beneficial	The project would cause limited improvement to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or would cause greater improvement to a view from a receptor of low sensitivity.
Neutral	No perceptible change in the view.
Slight Adverse	The project would cause limited deterioration to a view from a receptor of medium sensitivity or cause greater deterioration to a view from a receptor of low sensitivity.
Moderate Adverse	The project would cause obvious deterioration to a view from a moderately sensitive receptor, or perceptible damage to a view from a more sensitive receptor.
Large Adverse	The project would cause major deterioration to a view from a highly sensitive receptor and would constitute a major discordant element in the view.
Very Large Adverse	The project would cause the loss of views from a highly sensitive receptor and would constitute a dominant discordant feature in the view.

Appendix B

Site Location, Designations and Viewpoints

Figure 3: Site Location



NOTES:

1. DO NOT SCALE ANY ITEMS OR INFORMATION FROM THIS DRAWING.

KEY:

PROJECT LOCATION

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P01	S3	08/07/2026	LVA Issue	GT	SN

S3:FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

TACP

4th Floor, James William House,
9 Museum Pl, Cardiff CF10 3BD

Langstone Construction
Station Road, Bargoed
Landscape and Visual Assessment
Figure 3: Site Location

Scale @A3:1:10000

Dwg No:61538_DWG_Fig3SiteLocation_P1_S3

Figure 4: Project Location

NOTES:

1. DO NOT SCALE ANY ITEMS OR INFORMATION FROM THIS DRAWING.

KEY:

PROJECT LOCATION

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P01	S3	08/07/2026	LVA Issue	GT	SN

S3:FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

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Langstone Construction
Station Road, Bargoed
Landscape and Visual Assessment
Figure 4: Project Location

Scale @A3:1:2500

Dwg No:61538_DWG_Fig4ProjectLocation_P1_S3

Figure 5: Landscape Designations

Visual Envelope

1km

500m

2km

11 Gate piers with flanking doorways and walls at entrance to Maes Manor (Grade II)
North Lodge (Grade II)
South Lodge (Grade II)

12 Kitchen garden walls, pavilion and terrace at Maes Manor(Grade II)
Gate piers and flanking walls to forecourt of Maes Manor(Grade II)
Maes Manor Hotel (Grade II)
Former Coach House at Maes Manor (Grade II)
Upper terrace revetment and steps in garden to South of Maes Manor (Grade II)
Upper terrace revetment and steps in garden to South of Maes Manor (Grade II)

13 Pont Syr Dafydd (partly in Penmaen Community)(Grade II)
Pont Syr Dafydd (partly in Blackwood and Argoed Communities)(Grade II)

14 Oakdale Hospital(Grade II)
Wall, railings and gates at Oakdale Hospital(Grade II)

15 Gelli-Dywyll Farmhouse (also known as Cwmgelli Farm)(Grade II)
T-plan agricultural range at Gelli-Dywyll Farm (also known as Cwmgelli Farm)(Grade II)

16 Penmaen House(Grade II)

17 Iron Bridge in grounds of Woodfield Park(Grade II)

18 Pengam & Fleur de Lis war memorial (Grade II)

19 Tir Pengam including attached barn and byre range to South(Grade II)

20 Cascade House(Grade II)

21 Stable at Cascade House drive(Grade II)

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS
1 Three Platform Houses on Cefn Brithdir
2 Site of Tegernacus Stone
3 Capel y Brithdir
4 Dyke 387m East of Clawdd Trawscae Farm
5 Capel Gwladys
6 Fforest Gwladys Roman practice camp
7 Rectangular Earthworks 530m SSW of Heol-Ddu-Uchaf
8 Gelligaer Roman Site
9 Twyn Castell
10 St. Sannan's Churchyard Cross

NOTES:
1. DO NOT SCALE ANY ITEMS OR INFORMATION FROM THIS DRAWING.

KEY:

PROJECT LOCATION

ECOLOGICAL DESIGNATIONS
1 Gelligaer SLA
2 Mynydd Eglwysilan SLA
3 Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed SLA
4 Cefn Manmoel SLA
5 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn & Cefn yr Arail SLA
6 Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney & Sirhowy Sides SLA
7 Cefn y Brithdir SSSI
8 Aberbargoed Grasslands SSSI SAC

LISTED BUILDINGS
1 New Tredegar War Memorial (Grade II)
2 Elliot Colliery Winding Engine House and Engine (Grade II*)
3 Pigsty at Cefn-y-Brithdir (Grade II)
4 Railway viaduct over Factory Road (Grade II)
5 Bargoed & Gilfach war memorial (Grade II)
6 Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel and Schoolrooms, including gates and gatepiers(Grade II*)
7 Police Court and Police Station, including forecourt walls, gates & railings(Grade II)
8 Aberbargoed war memorial gates (Grade II)
9 Cross in St Sannan churchyard(Grade II) Church of St Sannan (Grade II*)
10 Argoed Baptist Church (Grade II)

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P01	S3	08/07/2026	LVA Issue	GT	SN

S3:FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

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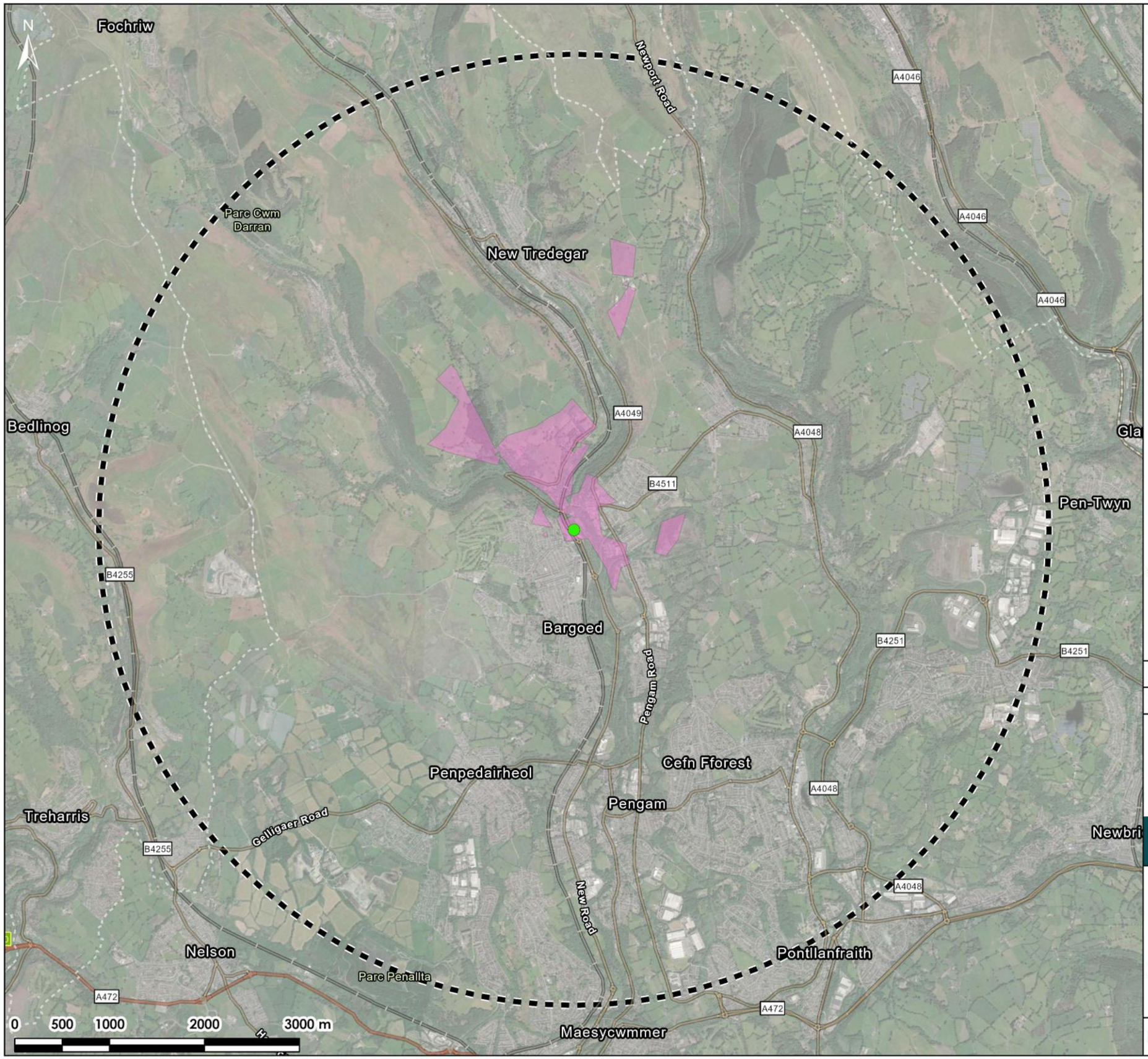
Landscape and Visual Assessment
Figure 5: Landscape Designations

Scale @A3:1:25000

Dwg No:61538-DWG-Fig5LandscapeDesignations-P1-S3

C:\Users\GeorginaTrueman\TACP (UK) Ltd\TACP Cardiff - 61538\02

Figure 6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility Current



Legend

- Centre of Building
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility
- 5km Analysis Area

Notes: The analysis assumes that the height of the point observing is at current topographic metres AOD and that an observer stands at a height of 1.7m, representing the height of a person. The elevation surface used was Ordnance Survey's 5m Terrain Digital Elevation Model, so non topographic features (buildings, vegetation, etc.) are not taken into account.

V.	S.	Date	Description	B.	C.	A.
P1	S2	02/07/2026	First Issue	LR	SN	LC

TACP
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9 Museum Pl, Cardiff CF10 3BD

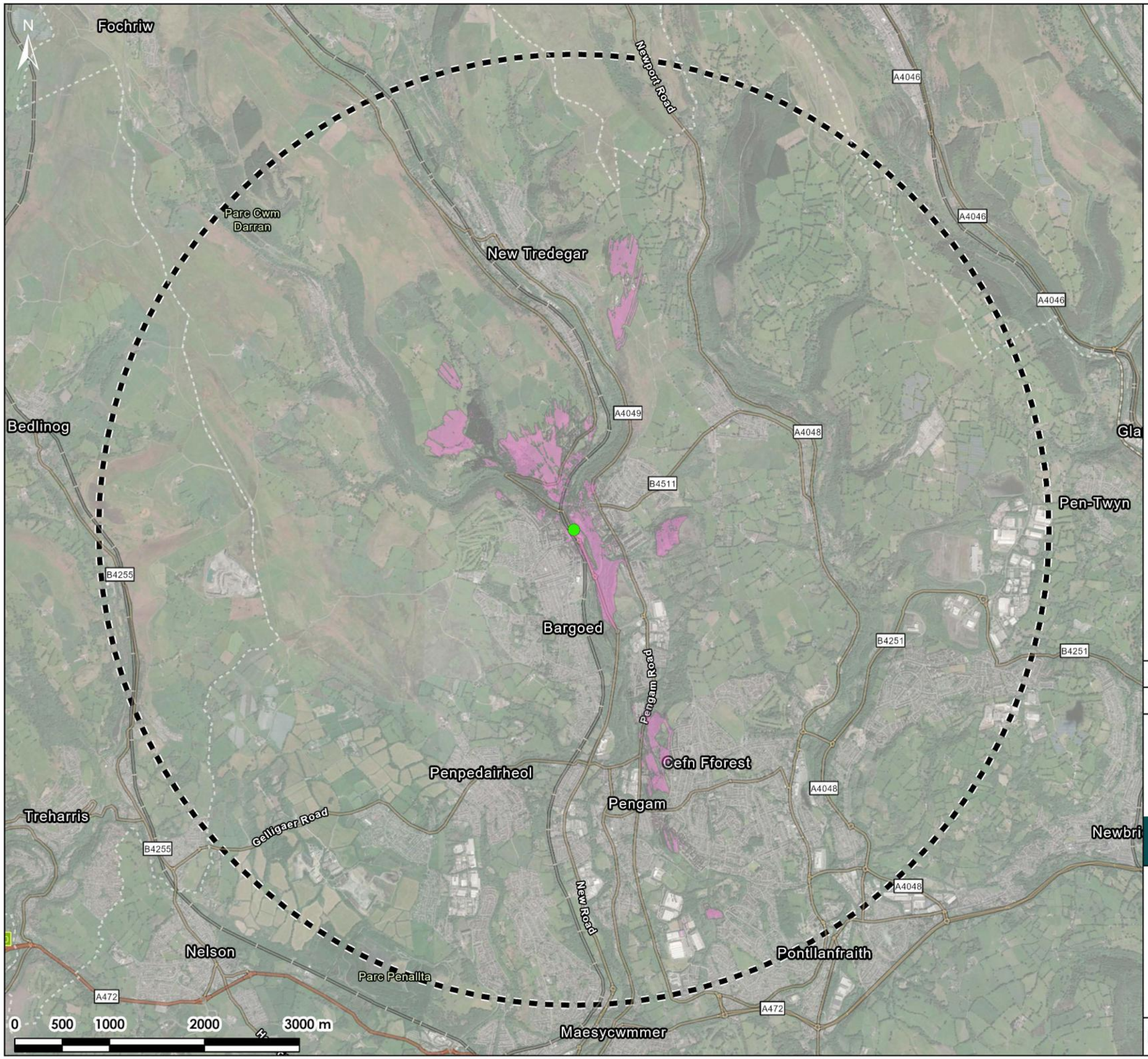
Langstone

Station Road, Bargoed

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Current

Drawing no.: 61538_DWG_ZTVCurrent

Figure 7 : Zone of Theoretical Visibility DSM



Legend

- Centre of Building
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility
- 5km Analysis Area

Notes: The analysis assumes that the height of the proposed building is 188.75m AOD and that an observer stands at a height of 1.7m, representing the height of a person. The elevation surface used was the Welsh Governments LIDAR Digital Surface Model at 2m quality, so non topographic features (buildings, vegetation, etc.) are taken into account.

V.	S.	Date	Description	B.	C.	A.
P1	S2	02/07/2026	First Issue	LR	SN	LC

TACP
4th Floor, James William House,
9 Museum Pl, Cardiff CF10 3BD

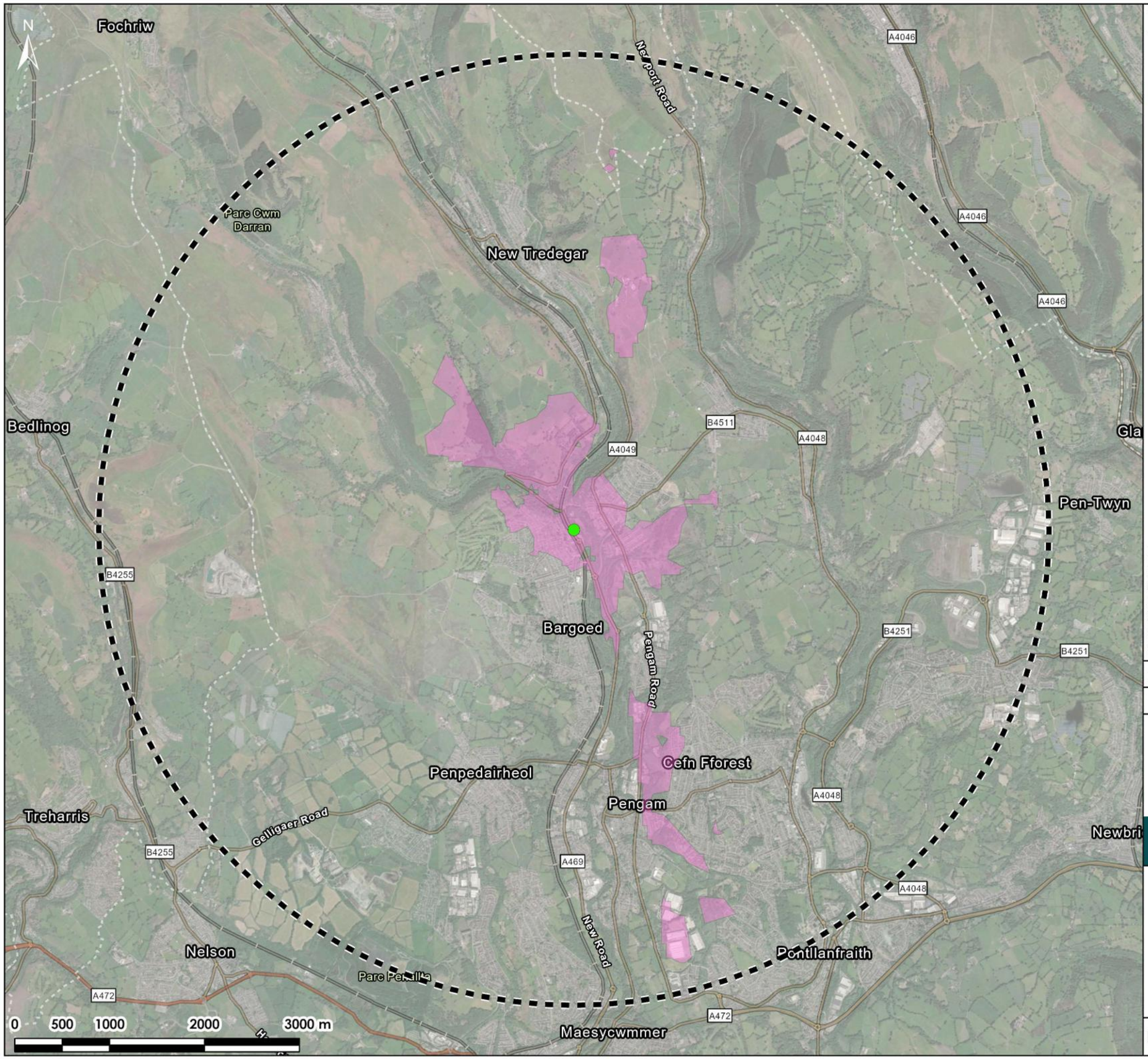
Langstone

Station Road, Bargoed

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) DSM

Drawing no.: 61538_DWG_ZTVDSM

Figure 8: Zone of Theoretical Visibility



Legend

- Centre of Building
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility
- 5km Analysis Area

Notes: The analysis assumes that the height of the proposed building is 188.75m AOD and that an observer stands at a height of 1.7m, representing the height of a person. The elevation surface used was Ordnance Survey's 5m Terrain Digital Elevation Model, so non topographic features (buildings, vegetation, etc.) are not taken into account.

V.	S.	Date	Description	B.	C.	A.
P1	S2	19/05/2026	First Issue	LR	SN	LC

TACP
4th Floor, James William House,
9 Museum Pl, Cardiff CF10 3BD

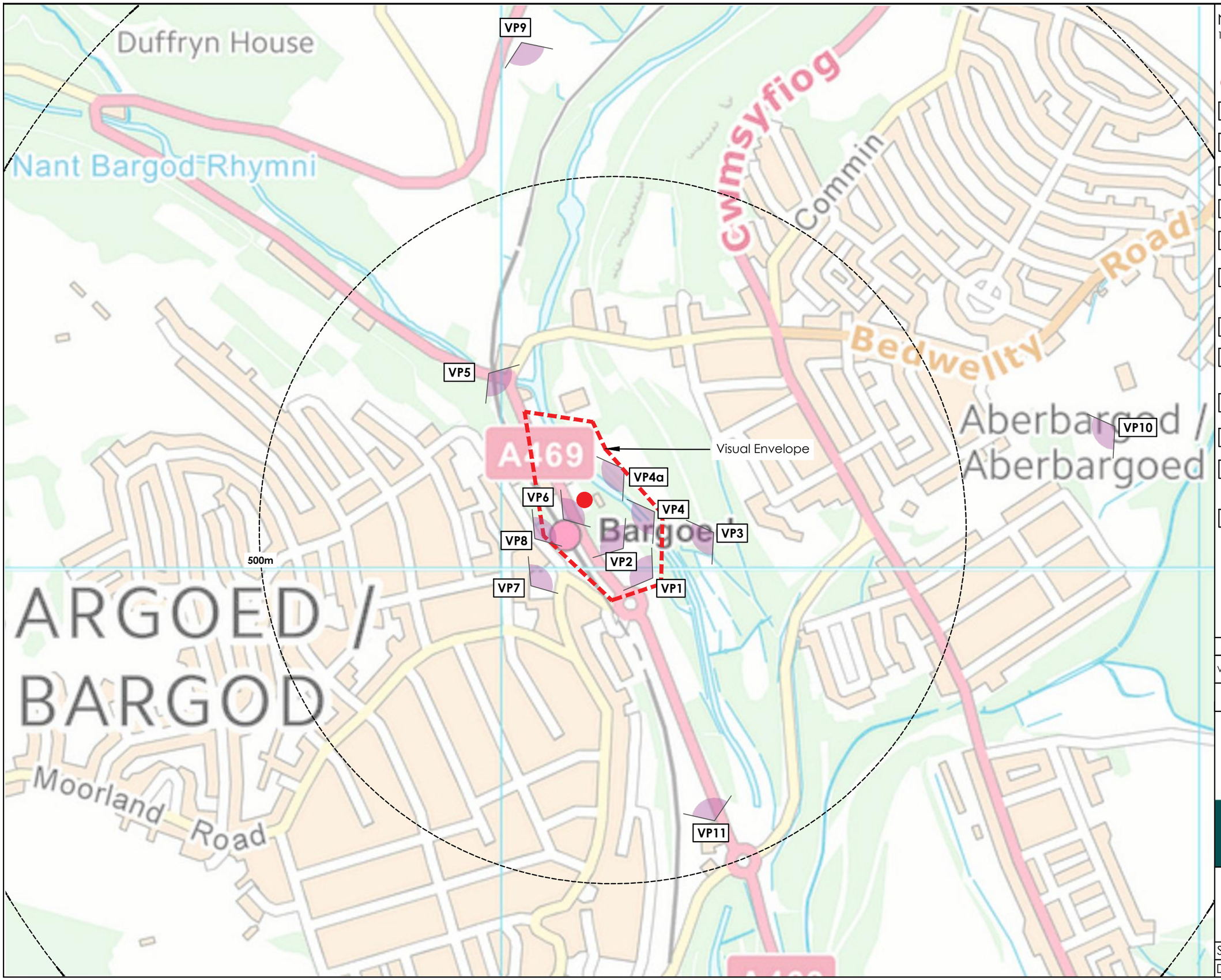
Langstone

Station Road, Bargoed

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

Drawing no.: 61538_DWG_ZTV

Figure 9: Viewpoint Locations



NOTES:

1. DO NOT SCALE ANY ITEMS OR INFORMATION FROM THIS DRAWING.

KEY:

- PROJECT LOCATION
- VP1 VIEWPOINT 1: View from Bargoed Park and Ride Railway Carpark
- VP2 VIEWPOINT 2: View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP114/2
- VP3 VIEWPOINT 3: View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP188/1
- VP4 VIEWPOINT 4: View from Footpath (National Cycle Network 468)
- VP4a VIEWPOINT 4a: View from Footpath (National Cycle Network 468)
- VP5 VIEWPOINT 5: View from Railway Viaduct over Factory Road, Bargoed (Grade II Listed)
- VP6 VIEWPOINT 6: View from Bargoed Station
- VP7 VIEWPOINT 7: View from Bargoed and Gilfach War Memorial (Grade II Listed)
- VP8 VIEWPOINT 8: View from Bristol Place/ Church Lane Junction
- VP9 VIEWPOINT 9: View from A469 Layby near Gwaelod y Brithdir Cemetery
- VP10 VIEWPOINT 10: View from Hangar Youth and Community Centre, Aberbargoed
- VP11 VIEWPOINT 11: View from Morrisons Petrol Station Public Right of Way BARG/FP114/1

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P01	S3	08/07/2026	LVA Issue	GT	SN

S3:FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

TACP
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Langstone Construction
Station Road, Bargoed
Landscape and Visual Assessment
Figure 9: Viewpoint Locations

Scale @A3:1:5000

Dwg No:61538-DWG-Fig9ViewpointLocations-P1-S3

Figure 10-21: Viewpoint Sheets

Viewpoint 1 : View from Bargoed Park and Ride Railway Car Park- Summer View

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2025
Time of photograph taken: 10:33
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.6925274, -3.228519587 looking north
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 20m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: NNW
Horizontal field of view: 150°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	06.07.2026	LVA Production	GT	LC

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Scale @A3:

Dwg No:Figure 10: LVA_Viewpoint1

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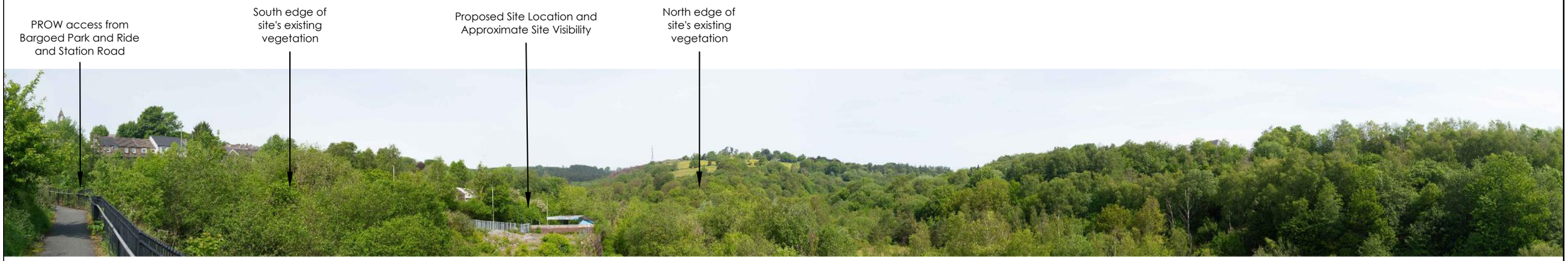
Viewpoint 2 : View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP114/2 - Summer View



Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 10:42
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.69263297, --3.228474744 looking north
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 12m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: NNW
Horizontal field of view: 180°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC
			S3:FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT		

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Scale @A3:N/A

Dwg No:Figure 11: LVIA_Viewpoint2

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Viewpoint 3 : View from Public Right of Way BARG/FP188/1 - Summer View

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 11:00
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.69245381, -3.226758622 looking west
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 127m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: NW
Horizontal field of view: 180°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC

S3:FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

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Scale @A3:N/A

Dwg No:Figure12: LVIA_Viewpoint3

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Viewpoint 4 : View from Footpath (National Cycle Network route 468) - Summer View

Approximate location of site visibility

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 10:03
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.69316187, -3.228310961 looking west
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 33m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: W
Horizontal field of view: 90°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC

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Scale @A3:N/A

Dwg No:Figure13: LVIA_Viewpoint4

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Viewpoint 4A : View from Footpath (National Cycle Network route 468) Summer View

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 10:05
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.693266, -3.228551 looking west
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 53m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: W
Horizontal field of view: 90°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC

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Scale @A3:N/A

Dwg No:Figure14: LVIA_Viewpoint4A

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Viewpoint 5: View from Railway Viaduct over Factory Road, Bargoed (Grade II Listed)- Summer View

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 11:17
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.69275966 -3.22962055 looking south-east
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 190m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: SE
Horizontal field of view: 90°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC
			S3:FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT		

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Scale @A3:N/A
Dwg No:Figure15.: LVIA_Viewpoint5

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Viewpoint 6 : View from Bargoed Station- Summer View

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 11:22
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.69275966, -3.22962055 looking east
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 10m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: E
Horizontal field of view: 180°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC

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Scale @A3:N/A

Dwg No:Figure16: LVIA_Viewpoint6

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Viewpoint 7 : View from Bargoed & Gilfach War Memorial (Grade II Listed) - Summer View

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 11:32
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.69209997, -3.230456393 looking south-west
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 106m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: NEE
Horizontal field of view: 150°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC

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Scale @A3:N/A

Dwg No:Figure17: LVIA_Viewpoint7

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Viewpoint 8 : View from Bristol Place/ Church Lane Junction- Summer View

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 11:36
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.69248641, -3.23005314 looking south-west
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 81m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: SEE
Horizontal field of view: 60°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC

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Scale @A3:N/A

Dwg No:Figure18: LVIA_Viewpoint8

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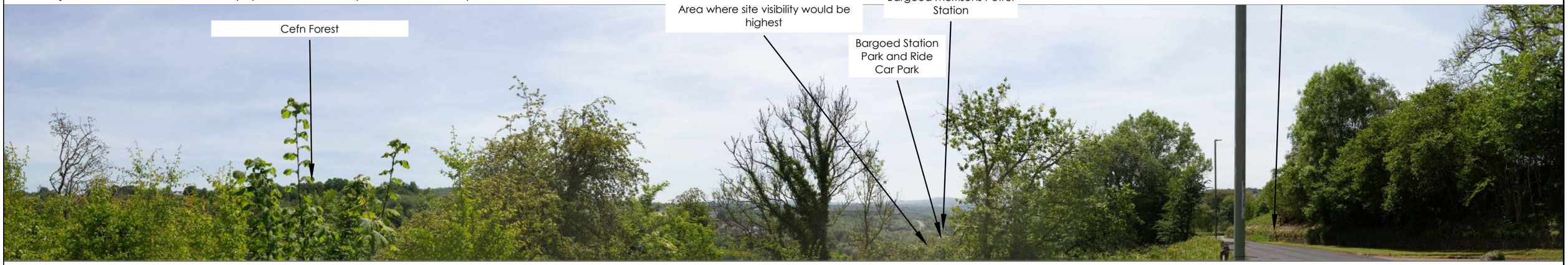
Viewpoint 9 : View from A469 Layby near Gwaelod y Brithdir Cemetery- Summer View



Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 11:59
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.69887284, -3.231502036 looking south-west
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 615m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: SSE
Horizontal field of view: 180°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC

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Scale @A3:N/A

Dwg No:Figure19: LVIA_Viewpoint9

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Viewpoint 10 : View from Hangar Youth and Community Centre, Aberbargoed- Summer View

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 12:12
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.69647348, -3.235723414 looking north-west
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 725m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: NWW
Horizontal field of view: 110°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC
			S3:FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT		

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Scale @A3:N/A
Dwg No:Figure20: LVIA_Viewpoint10

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Viewpoint 11 : View from Morrisons Petrol Station Public Right of Way BARG/FP114/1- Summer View

Date of photograph taken: 22/05/2026
Time of photograph taken: 12:27
Viewpoint Location *(Latitude, Longitude)*: 51.689161,-3.226660 looking north-northeast
Approximate distance from proposed scheme: 470m

Weather/ lighting conditions: Fair/ Sunny

Camera and lens: Nikon D3200 18 - 55mm lens
Focal Length:35mm
Camera height above ground: 1.5m
Direction of view: NNE
Horizontal field of view: 170°

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	26.01.12	LVIA Production	GT	LC

S3:FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

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Scale @A3:N/A

Dwg No:Figure21: LVIA_Viewpoint11

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Appendix C

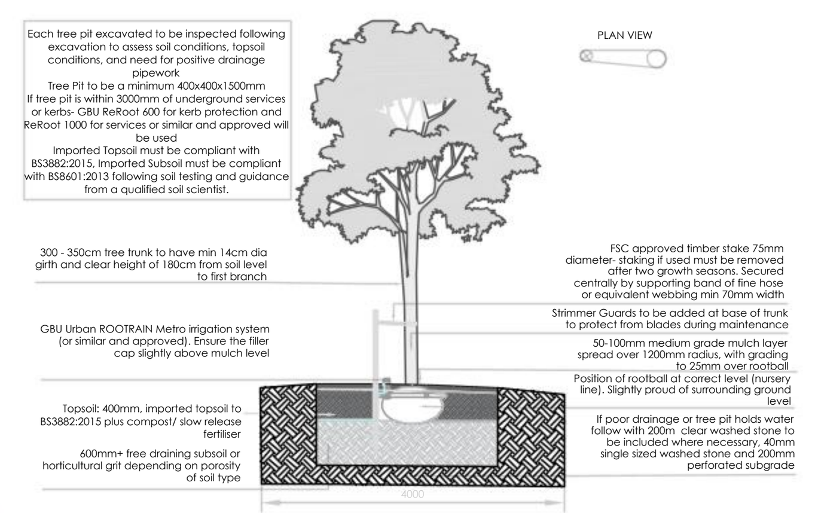
Landscape Plan

Planting Schedule List

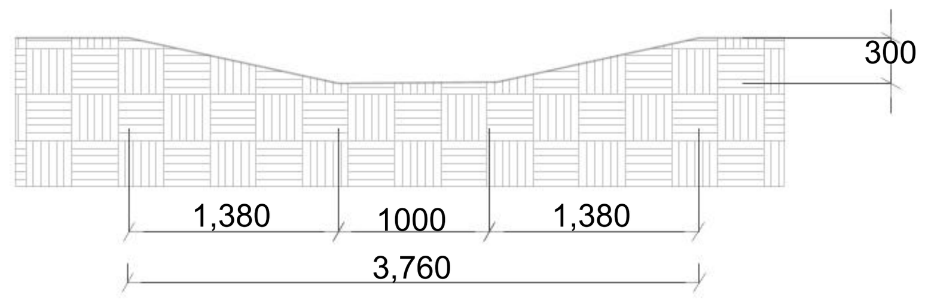
T1: Trees					
Species	**No.**	**Height (cm)**	**Girth (cm)**	**Type**	
Salix caprea (Sc)	2	250-300	10-12	RB	
Prunus avium (Pa)	2	250-300	10-12	RB	
Sorbus aucuparia (Sa)	3	250-300	10-12	RB	
	Total - 7				
NOTE: Small to medium-sized native trees suitable for urban / parking environments. All trees to be planted in engineered tree pits.					
S1: Shrubs (50.38 m2)					
Species	**Common name**	**Height (cm)**	**Density per m2**	**Type**	**No.**
Cornus sanguinea	Dogwood	40-60	2-3	2L	51
Viburnum opulus	Guelder rose	40-60	2-3	2L	51
Rosa canina	Dog rose	40-60	2-3	2L	51
S1: Ground Cover + Edging (50.03 m2)					
Species	**Common name**	**Height (cm)**	**Density per m2**	**Type**	
Calluna vulgaris	Heather	20-40	4-6	9cm	50
Erica cinerea	Bell heather	20-40	4-6	9cm	50
Festuca ovina	Sheep's fescue	20–30	6-8	9cm	70
Molinia caerulea	Purple moor-grass	40-60	3-5	9cm	50
Geranium 'Rozanne'	Cranesbill ('Rozanne')	30-40	4-5	2L	50
RG1: Rain Garden (27.8 m2)					
Species	**Common name**	**Height (cm)**	**Density per m2**	**Type**	
Libertia chilensis	Chilean iris	40-30	4	2L	28
Verbena bonariensis	Verbena	40-60	4	2L	28
Kniphofia spp	Red Hot Poker	40-60	3	2L	21
Rudbeckia fulgida	Black-eyed Susan	40-60	4	2L	28
RW1: Green Retaining Wall Planting					
Species	**Common name**	**Height (cm)**	**Density per m2**	**Type**	
Hedera helix	Ivy	20–40	3-5	2L	
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'	Creeping rosemary	15-30	3-5	2L	
Thymus spp.	Thyme	10-20	4-6	1L	
Erigeron karvinskianus	Mexican fleabane	20-40	4-6	1L	
H1: Native Hedge Planting (55.79m2)					
Species	**Common name**	**Height (cm)**	**Density per m2**	**Type**	
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	60–80	4-5	Bare root	76
Corylus avellana	Hazel	60–80	4-5	Bare root	76
Ligustrum vulgare	Wild privet	60–80	4-5	Bare root	76

G1: Flowering Lawn Mix Emorsgate EL1 (or similar approved) Area: 86.09 m²		
Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**% of Mix**
Wildflowers 20%		
Anthyllis vulneraria	Kidney Vetch	1.00%
Betonica officinalis	Betony	1.00%
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	1.60%
Galium album	Hedge Bedstraw	1.00%
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy	1.40%
Lotus corniculatus	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.10%
Medicago lupulina	Black Medick	0.70%
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	2.40%
Primula veris	Cowslip	1.00%
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	1.20%
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	1.60%
Silene vulgaris	Bladder Campion	1.00%
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	0.40%
Trifolium repens	White Clover (ag)	5.60%
Grasses 80%		
Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent	8.00%
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dogstail	28.00%
Festuca rubra	Red Fescue	24.00%
Phleum bertolonii	Smaller Cat's-tail	4.00%
Poa pratensis	Smooth-stalked Meadow-grass	16.00%

SW1: Swale Mix - Meadow Mix EM8 (or similar approved) Area: 164.56 m²		
Scientific Name	**Common Name**	**% of Mix**
Wildflowers 20%		
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	1.00%
Agrimonia eupatoria	Agrimony	0.40%
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica	0.10%
Betonica officinalis	Betony	2.00%
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	3.00%
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet	0.80%
Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw	1.60%
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	0.40%
Leontodon hispidus	Rough Hawkbit	0.20%
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy (Moon Daisy)	1.60%
Lotus corniculatus	Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.20%
Lotus pedunculatus	Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil	0.10%
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain	0.40%
Primula veris	Cowslip	2.00%
Prunella vulgaris	Selfheal	2.00%
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup	2.00%
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	0.60%
Silene flos-cuculi	Ragged Robin	1.00%
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	0.40%
Vicia cracca	Tufted Vetch	1.00%
Grasses 80%		
Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent	8.00%
Carex echinata	Star Sedge (wetland)	4.80%
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dogstail	36.00%
Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted Hair-grass (wetland)	3.20%
Festuca rubra	Red Fescue	20.00%
Phleum bertolonii	Smaller Cat's-tail (wetland)	1.60%
Poa pratensis	Smooth-stalked Meadow-grass	6.40%



Typical Standard Tree Pit Detail with Single Staking
1:100 on A1



Typical Swale Detail
1:50 on A1

NOTES:
1. DO NOT SCALE ANY ITEMS OR INFORMATION FROM THIS DRAWING.

TECHNICAL / SuDS NOTES

- All soft landscape areas to be formed using clean imported soils in accordance with site conditions
- Tree planting to be undertaken within engineered tree pits with suitable growing medium
- Trees to be located a minimum of 3m from structural edges where possible
- Rain garden areas to function as shallow attenuation systems designed to receive and temporarily store surface water runoff
- Swales to function as shallow linear conveyance features designed to direct and manage surface water flow across the Site
- Planting within SuDS areas to tolerate both wet and dry conditions
- Surface water to be managed in accordance with the approved drainage strategy

KEY

- Applicant Site Boundary
- Proposed Tree Planting, to be read in conjunction with associated planting schedule
- Proposed Native Structural Shrub Planting (Cornus sanguinea, Viburnum opulus, Rosa canina), to be read in conjunction with associated planting schedule
- Proposed Heather-based Groundcover Mix (Calluna vulgaris, Erica cinerea, Festuca ovina, Molinia caerulea, with low-level Edging Planting (Geranium 'Rozanne'), to define planting edges and margins.
- Swale / SuDS Feature Seeded with Meadow Mix EM8 (or similar approved)
- Proposed climber planting, to be read in conjunction with associated planting schedule
- Proposed Rain Garden / SuDS Planting (to be read in conjunction with associated planting schedule)designed for wet and dry tolerance
- Proposed Native Hedge Planting (Crataegus monogyna, Corylus avellana, Ligustrum vulgare)
- Planting Associated with Green Terramesh Retaining Structure to be read in conjunction with planting schedule
- EL1 Flowering Lawn Mixture Emorsgate EL1 (or similar approved)
- Amenity Grass / Lawn Areas within communal spaces

Vers.	Suit.	Date	Description	Drawn	Chk.
P1	S3	24/06/2026	First draft	SD	SN

S3: FOR REVIEW

Langstone Construction

Station Road, Bargoed

TACP

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General Arrangement Plan

Scale @ A1: 1:250

Dwg No: 61538_DWG_GAPLAN_001_P1_S3 | Rev P1

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