



## Foreword

The Rhydycar West development proposals seek to create the flagship indoor leisure resort in Wales – for “all year round”. It will be an exemplary and internationally recognised, sports, leisure and tourism destination able to offer a unique experience to both the people of South Wales and the UK as a whole.

Indoor snow sports are one of the anchor attractions at Rhydycar West. It will host the Welsh & UK National Centre of Excellence for snow sport and be the training headquarters for the Welsh and UK national and Olympic teams as well as offering world class recreational facilities. The resort will be home to a wide variety of indoor and outdoor pursuits including an indoor water park and indoor & outdoor activity centres. These facilities will be supported by a wide range of associated accommodation from the spa hotel to the sport & value hotel and woodland lodges – all able to cater for the long and short stay visitor.

The resort will also complement and enhance the existing sport, leisure and tourism offer currently thriving in the South Wales Valleys and Brecon Beacons such as Bike Park Wales and Zip World. Ideally situated and extremely well connected the development will strengthen Merthyr Tydfil’s regeneration and position as both a destination of choice in its own right and the gateway to the Brecon Beacons.

The proposal is the carefully considered outcome of a period of several years of engagement and understanding of the local and regional economy, ecology, history and heritage. Further details regarding the formulation of the scheme and the design process are set out in full in the Design & Access Statement and other reports and documents which are all available at: [www.rhydycarwest.com/planning](http://www.rhydycarwest.com/planning).



# Rhydycar West

## Landscape and Visual Appraisal

R05

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 Tir Collective is instructed by Marvel Ltd. to prepare this Landscape and Visual Appraisal which relates to an Outline Planning Application for a destination sports, leisure and tourism led, mixed-use development proposal comprising indoor snow centre (up to 39,200 sq. m), waterpark (up to 7,500 sq. m), indoor activity centre (up to 9,000 sq. m), external activity areas, hotel accommodation (up to 418 bedrooms), forest lodge accommodation (up to 30 units), car parking (up to 830 spaces) and associated earthworks, access, drainage, servicing and utilities connections/infrastructure on land to the Southwest of the Rhydyicar roundabout on the A470, South of Merthyr Tydfil.
- 1.1.2 The site extends to 30.4 hectares. It is located west of Rhydyicar and to the southwest of Merthyr Tydfil, between the A470 to its east, Gethin Woodland Park to the south and west, and Heolgerrig to the north, as shown on **Figure LA.1**.

### 1.2 Executive Summary

- 1.2.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal has examined the landscape and visual impacts in relation to the development proposals. All impact assessments are based on the proposed design approach, which incorporates mitigation measures. The potential impacts have been thoroughly assessed through a combination of desk study research and walk-over surveys of the site and the surrounding context.
- 1.2.2 The sensitive integration of development at the site represents a significant challenge due to the combination of former mining features, disused railway infrastructure, tips and the distinctive character of the site and its context. The vision of the proposed development is centred around what will be the longest indoor snow centre in the UK (incorporating the national training headquarters and facility for Snowsports Cymru Wales and GB Snowsport). The master plan is for a new destination sports, leisure and tourism resort. Central to this is the creation of a high-quality holiday resort destination that focuses on indoor and outdoor activities, wildlife and reinforces the special character of the local environment. The masterplan and landscape strategy respond sensitively to its landscape setting and contribute positively to the local area.
- 1.2.3 The proposals for the site have been formulated through an iterative process with the design evolution responding to the findings of baseline surveys to avoid or moderate adverse effects. The proposals have been informed by comprehensive survey and assessment work. As a result, the potential landscape and visual impacts have been moderated. The proposals therefore satisfy policy requirements relating to the site. Adverse landscape effects are largely constrained to the direct impacts on the site itself and reflect the scale of the built form and earthworks proposed. The effectiveness of mitigation measures is demonstrated by the reduction in the significance of effects which is assessed following the completion of construction, and particularly at 15 years after construction.

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- 1.2.4 Similarly, the indirect effects beyond the site boundary are also reduced following the completion of the construction work as the proposed development becomes integrated into its context.
- 1.2.5 The visual impacts of the development proposals have been assessed through a process of identifying assessment viewpoints, using computer-generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and accurate visual representation to illustrate the proposed development from a significant proportion of the identified assessment viewpoints. The visual assessment has identified adverse impact for areas with open views towards the site from the east within the urban area. Built development within the urban area reduces the extent of areas where uninterrupted views are available. Effects for other visual receptors are generally moderate adverse and there is a reduction in significance of effects for several receptors following construction and after 15 years.
- 1.2.6 The Landscape and Visual Appraisal has identified that the site could accommodate the proposed development without resulting in an unacceptable adverse impact on landscape character and visual amenity experienced within the surrounding landscape/townscape.

### 1.3 Scope of the Assessment

- 1.3.1 The proposed development at the site is centred around what will be the longest indoor snow centre in the UK (incorporating the national headquarters and training facility for Snow Sports Wales and Team GB). The master plan is for a new destination sports, leisure and tourism resort, which will include:
- An International Ski Federation (FIS) standard indoor snow centre capable of hosting National and International Indoor ski competitions
  - A water park;
  - Space for indoor adventure activities;
  - Space for outdoor adventure activities;
  - A variety of resort accommodation, including up to 420 hotel/ hostel keys and 30 forest lodges;
  - Associated retail outlets;
  - Associated Food and Beverage offers;
  - Conference facilities
  - New public spaces and extensive external landscaped areas, including the provision of public access to existing Heritage Assets; and
  - Ancillary accommodation in support of the above, including parking, public transport drop off, active travel infrastructure, energy centre, snow management infrastructure and back-of-house areas.
- 1.3.2 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVApp) provides an assessment of the effects of the proposed development, on the landscape of the site and its context. The design of the

proposed development and the identification of mitigation measures incorporated within the design to minimise adverse effects, is informed by the findings of the assessment process as it progressed. In this LVApp, effects on features identified as important to the scenic quality, or effects on the landscape character of the site and its setting are assessed. Effects on peoples' views of the site and its setting, or visual amenity, are also assessed.

1.3.3 For the purposes of assessing the landscape and visual effects of this proposal, study areas have been defined:

- The site extends to the redline boundary as shown on **Figure LA.1**.
- The immediate landscape context extends to approximately 0.5km to the north, west and south from the site with the A470 reducing the immediate context to circa 0.1km to the east of the site.
- The wider landscape context extends between 1 and 2km from the site boundary, which is influenced by vegetation, built form and/or topography
- The visual study area, which is defined by the surrounding valleys topography, extends 3km to the west and south of the site, 5km to the southeast of the site, 4km to the east of the site, and 6km to the north, see **Figure LA.1**.

1.3.4 The objectives of the assessment are to:

- Describe and evaluate the landscape of the site and surrounding landscape context and the visual amenity of people in the surrounding area, which might be affected by the proposed development;
- Examine the development proposals and analyse the potential effects on the landscape and visual amenity associated with the scheme's design, and whether they are likely to be significant;
- Set out mitigation measures which could be implemented in order to avoid, reduce or offset adverse effects, especially those identified as significant, and, where possible, incorporate these in the scheme design;
- Describe any enhancements of the landscape or visual amenity incorporated in the development proposals, and
- Provide an assessment of the significance of the landscape and visual effects of the proposed development with integral mitigation measures in place.

1.3.5 The LVApp is presented with separate sections dealing with effects on landscape, and effects on visual amenity. The LVApp is illustrated by plans and photographs (see **Appendix 1**), as follows:

- Figure LA.1 Site Location
- Figures LA.2 Designations
- Figure LA.3 Public Access

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- Figures LA.4 LANDMAP
- Figures LA.5 Site Context
- Figures LA.6 Site Photographs
- Figure LA.7 Zone of Theoretical Visibility
- Figures LA.8 Context Photographs
- Figures LA.9 Viewpoint Photographs

1.3.6 Detailed information is presented in Appendices as follows:

- Appendix 2 Assessment Methodology
- Appendix 3 Assessment of effects
- Appendix 4 Viewpoint Selections
- Appendix 5 Accurate Visual Representations

### 1.4 Assessment Methodology

1.4.1 The methodology used for assessing the landscape and visual effects is based on the recommendations in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition, published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in 2013 (GLVIA3), as set out in **Appendix 2**.

1.4.2 The assessment process comprises a combination of desk studies and field surveys, with subsequent analyses, and involved:

- A review of landscape designations and planning policies for the landscape, and of other landscape studies relevant to the area, including LANDMAP assessment information and local landscape character assessments;
- A survey of the site and landscape context study areas and inspection of views of the site from publicly accessible viewpoints, including a photographic survey. The surveys were carried out on 30th March, 1st April, and 22nd April 2021 during dry weather with good visibility;
- The selected viewpoints followed discussions in writing with the Landscape Officer at MTCBC<sup>1</sup>;
- Evaluation of the features and elements of the landscape and their contribution to the landscape character, context and setting, based on these studies;
- Analysis of the development proposals and consideration of potential landscape and visual effects of the proposed development;

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<sup>1</sup> Emails between Emma Hayes (formerly Tetra Tech but now Tir Collective) and the Landscape Officer at MTCBC dated between 4<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021.

- Assessment of the susceptibility and sensitivity of the landscape to the changes likely to arise from the development;
  - Identification of the extent of theoretic visibility of the proposed development and viewers, their susceptibility and sensitivity, and view locations, supported by a viewpoint analysis; and
  - Consideration of the proposals and the mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or offset adverse effects.
- 1.4.3 Assessment of magnitude of change arising from the proposal, the degree and nature of effects on the landscape and on visual amenity and their significance, with the mitigation proposals in place.

### Assessment and Mitigation

- 1.4.4 The effects of the development, whether beneficial or adverse, may vary in nature and degree through its lifecycle and, where feasible, mitigation measures are proposed to be incorporated in the design of the development. Where design measures cannot address identified likely adverse effects, measures such as management of the construction and operational processes or of the use of public rights of way may be proposed. The purpose of mitigation measures is first, to prevent or avoid the potentially adverse effects identified, and if that is not possible, to reduce the potential adverse effect. Where adverse effects are unavoidable, the purpose is to offset or compensate for the effect.
- 1.4.5 Details of the criteria for assessing landscape effects and visual effects are set out in those respective sections.

### Weather

- 1.4.6 The weather is a factor affecting the assessment of, especially, visual impacts. The Met Office<sup>2</sup> publish average statistics for weather patterns for the region, monthly and annual, for maximum and minimum temperatures, days of air frost, hours of sunshine, amount of rainfall - both generally and the number of days when rainfall is above 1mm. For Tredegar, at about 10km to the east, the nearest Climate station to where the site is located:
- Rainfall above 1mm per day, which limits visibility, occurs on an average of 165.5 days in the year, about 45.5% of the year
  - There are on average 58.7 days when air frost occurs, which can produce hazy conditions limiting visibility, about 16.0% of the year
  - There is an average of 1381.2 hours of sunshine per annum for the station, less than the England SW & Wales S district average of 1519.7 hours.

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<sup>2</sup> The data quoted are those for Tredegar, England SW & Wales S, obtained from The Met Office website: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/maps-and-data/uk-climate-averages/gcjjww0udy> [accessed February 2021]

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### Guidance

- 1.4.7 In addition to GLVIA3, the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note, Visual Representation of Development Proposals, September 2019<sup>3</sup> was referred to.
- 1.4.8 Relevant policy, landscape character assessments, and other contextual information sources were also referred to, including:
- LANDMAP assessment information and Guidance Notes.
  - Policies relevant to the landscape and visual amenity in national, regional, and local policy including Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2016-2031, Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park 2015-2020, and the Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment (2012).

### Photography

- 1.4.9 Photographs have a special role in describing landscape character and illustrating key views. In order for photographs to be representative and to create an image that is as similar as possible to that which is seen with the human eye, the Landscape Institute (LI) advises using a lens with a focal length equivalent to 50mm for a 35mm Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera, and a horizontal field of view of a little under 40 degrees. The equipment used for the appraisal photography includes:
- A Canon EOS 5D Mark iii digital SLR camera with a full frame sensor;
  - Canon 50mm EF 1:1.8 II lens; and
  - Manfrotto tripod and panoramic head.
- 1.4.10 Photographs were taken with a focal length of 50mm, unless otherwise stated.
- 1.4.11 Landscape photography includes wide angle or panoramic views requiring a sequence of photographs to be taken across the view. Where this approach is taken, a series of overlapping photographs are digitally spliced together in PTGui Pro using a cylindrical projection to provide a panorama approximating to the normal field of view in a landscape context. Where necessary, the contrast and brightness of individual photographs is slightly manipulated in order to create a consistent panorama without visible joins.
- 1.4.12 The viewpoint locations were established using a camera mounted GPS device and verified against Ordnance Survey grid reference and height above Ordnance Datum.

### Visualisations

- 1.4.13 For each viewpoint the camera was mounted on a tripod and 360° photographs were taken. The viewpoint locations were recorded using an on-camera GPS unit. The GPS readings were plotted in GIS and fine-tuned with reference to aerial photography and LiDAR data to match accurately each photograph location. A 3d Sketchup model of the proposed development

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<sup>3</sup> The Landscape Institute Guidance Note, Visualisation of development, September 2019, on LI website: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/> [accessed March 2021]



was imported into 3ds Max software and georeferenced, with the base level of the proposed development blocks located at existing ground levels. The viewpoint locations were set up in this model and the wireline views were generated for each selected viewpoint. Each existing view and Type 3 visualisation view are presented in a cylindrical projection with a horizontal field of view of 90° to show the proposed development in its context, with the images presented as per the latest Landscape Institute guidance<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> The Landscape Institute Guidance Note, [Visualisation of development](https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/), September 2019, on LI website:

## 2.0 Landscape Policies and Designations

### 2.1 National Planning policy

#### Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

2.1.1 Future Wales sets out the development plan for Wales, influencing “all levels of the planning system in Wales and will help shape Strategic and Local Development Plans.”<sup>5</sup> The plan promotes development that enhances our wellbeing and our quality of life”<sup>6</sup> and embeds the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The plan sets out development policies for Wales, dividing it into 4 regions: The North, Mid Wales, The Southwest, and The Southeast, the site is located in the southeast region.

2.1.2 The key policies that are of relevance to the proposed development include:

- **Policy 1** – Where Wales will grow states “The Welsh Government supports sustainable growth in all parts of Wales. In three National Growth Areas there will be growth in employment and... investment in infrastructure. The National Growth Areas are:  
Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys  
[...]
- **Policy 2** – Shaping Urban growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking states “The growth and regeneration of towns and cities should positively contribute towards building sustainable places... and integrated with green infrastructure.”
- **Policy 9** – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure aims “To ensure the... provision of green infrastructure, the Welsh Government will work with key partners to:  
[...]  
... identify opportunities where existing and potential green infrastructure could be maximised as part of placemaking, requiring the use of nature-based solutions as a key mechanism for securing sustainable growth, ecological connectivity, social equality and well-being.  
... In all cases, action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of... green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals through innovative, nature-based approaches to site planning and the design of the built environment.”
- **Policy 33** – National Growth Area – Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys states “Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys will be the main focus for growth and investment in the South East region...The Welsh Government supports co-ordinated regeneration and investment in the Valleys area to improve well-being, increase prosperity and address social inequalities”.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040-0>

<sup>6</sup> Page 4, Future Wales The National Plan 2040

## Planning Policy Wales

2.1.3 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11 published 24 February 2021 sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties such as the Socio-economic Duty.

2.1.4 PPW translates The Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system, to be taken into account when preparing development plans, so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability. The key policies that are of relevance to the development include:

- **Chapter 2** People and Places, paragraph 2.1 states that "Everyone engaged with or operating within the planning system in Wales must embrace the concept of placemaking... in order to achieve the creation of sustainable places and improve the well-being of communities."

Paragraph 2.17 states ... the creation of sustainable places and in recognition of the need to contribute to the well-being of future generations in Wales through placemaking, development plans and development proposals must seek to deliver developments that address the national sustainable placemaking outcomes."

Paragraph 2.27 states "Planning authorities should ensure that social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits are considered in the decision-making process... to implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Sustainable Development Principle." A key factor is environmental considerations, with relevant questions listed as:

- "will important features of the natural and built environment be protected and enhanced;
- are the environmental impacts of development on... amenity limited to acceptable levels...;
- is environmental protection for people and natural resources, property and infrastructure maximised and environmental risks prevented or appropriately managed;  
[...]
- will the causes and impacts of climate change be fully taken into account through location, design, build, operation...  
[...]"

- **Chapter 3** Strategic and Spatial Choices paragraph 3.9 states "The special characteristics of an area should be central to the design of a development. The layout, form, scale and visual appearance of a proposed development and its relationship to its surroundings are important planning considerations."

Paragraph 3.10 goes on to state "In areas recognised for their particular landscape... or historic character and value, it can be appropriate to seek to promote or reinforce local

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distinctiveness. In those areas, the impact of development on the existing character, the scale and siting of new development... will be particularly important."

In relation to healthier places, paragraph 3.23 states "Green infrastructure can be an effective means of enhancing health and well-being, through linking dwellings, workplaces and community facilities and providing high quality, accessible green spaces."

- **Chapter 4** Active and Social Places, section 4.5 recreational spaces, paragraph 4.5.1 states "Recreational spaces are vital for our health, well-being and amenity, and can contribute to an area's green infrastructure... Networks of high quality, accessible green spaces and recreation spaces will also promote nature conservation, biodiversity and provide enjoyable opportunities for residents and visitors..."
- **Chapter 6** Distinctive & Natural Places, paragraph 6.0.2 states "The special and unique characteristics and intrinsic qualities of the natural and built environment must be protected in their own right, for historic, scenic, aesthetic and nature conservation reasons."

Paragraph 6.1.18 states "Planning authorities should value, protect, conserve and enhance the special interest of parks and gardens and their settings included on the register of historic parks and gardens in Wales. The register should be taken into account in planning authority decision making."

Paragraph 6.1.19 goes on to state "The effect of a proposed development on a registered park or garden, or its setting, is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications."

- **Section 6.2** Green infrastructure, paragraph 6.2.5 states "The quality of the built environment should be enhanced by integrating green infrastructure into development through appropriate site selection and use of creative design."
- **Section 6.3** Landscape, paragraph 6.3.3 states "All the landscapes of Wales are valued for their intrinsic contribution to a sense of place, and local authorities should protect and enhance their special characteristics, whilst paying due regard to the social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits they provide, and to their role in creating valued places." Paragraph 6.3.4 goes on to state "Where adverse effects on landscape character cannot be avoided, it will be necessary to refuse planning permission."
- **Section 6.6** Water and flood risk, paragraph 6.6.18 states "The provision of SuDS must be considered as an integral part of the design of new development and considered at the earliest possible stage when formulating proposals for new development." Paragraph 6.6.19 goes on to state "Design for multiple benefits and green infrastructure should be secured wherever possible..."

- 2.1.5 Planning Policy Wales is supplemented by 21 topic based Technical Advice Notes (TANs), of which the key elements of relevance to the landscape and visual aspects of the development are set out below:

## TAN 5 Nature Conservation and Planning

- 2.1.6 In preparing planning applications, “all relevant information” should be included and “all material considerations addressed in the layout, design and related access, drainage and infrastructure. Landscaping proposals should be included together with any measures designed to avoid, mitigate or compensate for potential adverse effects on nature conservation. Any proposals for enhancement of nature conservation interests should also be included”.
- 2.1.7 “The conservation and enhancement of locally designated sites is an important contribution to the implementation of Biodiversity Action Plans and to the management of features of the landscape of major importance for wild flora and fauna.

## TAN 12 Design

- 2.1.8 TAN 12 advocates a holistic approach to design, to meet the objectives of good design, set out in Figure 1, which include:
- Access: Ensuring ease of access for all;
  - Character: Sustaining or enhancing local character; Promoting a successful relationship between public and private space; Promoting innovative design; Promoting legible development; Promoting quality, choice and variety;
  - Community Safety: Ensuring attractive, safe public spaces; Security through natural surveillance;
  - Environmental Sustainability: Achieving efficient use and protection of natural resources; Enhancing biodiversity; Designing for change;
  - Movement: Promoting sustainable means of travel.
- 2.1.9 “Understanding the site and its immediate and wider context is the basis for a meaningful and sustainable design response”, including appraising “character”, including landscape character, skylines and vistas, prevailing uses, natural and cultural resources and locally distinctive features (4.3 - 4.8). The TAN makes reference to the information available in LANDMAP and the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales, in addition to detailed site appraisals. In relation to legibility and of relevance to this site, it advises concentrating on landmarks such as key buildings or landscape features, views and vistas, the coherence and connectivity of the footpath network (4.14).
- 2.1.10 At 5.5.2, the TAN recognises that “good design will almost always be dependent on working within the natural constraints and the historic character of the landscape ... The aim should be to achieve good design solutions which maximise the natural landscape assets and minimise environmental impact on the landscape. It is particularly important that proposals to amend or create new landscape are not considered as an afterthought and that the long-term impact of development on the landscape is fully understood. The quality of implementation and the long- term management of changes implicit in planting schemes are fundamental to a scheme’s success”.

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2.1.11 The contribution of “high quality public realm” to a stimulating environment and as a focus for community activity is addressed in 5.14 and of public art in 5.15.

### 2.2 Local Planning policy

2.2.1 The site lies within the boundaries of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC). Planning policy for the area is provided by the Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2016-2031, adopted in January 2020. Relevant policies relating to site and the proposed development are outlined below.

#### Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2016-2031

- **Policy SW10:** Protecting and Improving Open Spaces: Development proposals that improve the quality, quantity or access to open space will generally be supported.
- **Policy SW11:** Sustainable Design and Placemaking: Development must contribute to the creation of attractive and sustainable places through high quality, sustainable and inclusive design.
- **Policy CW1:** The Historic Environment: The integrity of our historic environment assets will be conserved and enhanced.
- **Policy EnW1:** Nature Conservation and Ecosystem Resilience: Development proposals will be required to promote the resilience of ecosystems. In particular, proposals will be required to maintain and enhance biodiversity interests.
- **Policy EnW5:** Landscape Protection: Development proposals will be permitted where it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that:
  - a) It would not cause unacceptable harm to the character and quality of the landscape setting of the County Borough;
  - b) Development within Special Landscape Areas is sensitive to their special characteristics;
  - c) Development respects the local distinctiveness and historic character of the landscape;
  - d) Development will safeguard local landscape character and landscape features, including views, which make a significant contribution to the character, history and setting of the locality;
  - e) Development secures the enhancement of the character, appearance and quality of the landscape, through restoration, management or enhancement where possible;
  - f) There is no satisfactory alternative and the benefits associated with the development can be demonstrated to outweigh the harm; and
  - g) Where damage to local landscape character cannot be avoided appropriate mitigation has been secured.

- 2.2.2 “These designations are not intended to prevent development but to ensure that, where development is acceptable, careful consideration is given to the design and scale of the development including siting, orientation, layout and landscaping and the special qualities and characteristics for which the SLAs have been designated are protected.”

## 2.3 Designations

- 2.3.1 Designations provide an indication of landscape value. They are areas that have been recognised for the scenic beauty and recreational potential of the landscape. Designations are shown on **Figures LA.2**.

### National Parks

- 2.3.2 The Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) covers part of the north and northwest of the study area. At its nearest point, the BBNP is circa 2.9km to the northwest of the application site, see **Figure LA.2-1**.
- 2.3.3 The current Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park 2015-2020 lists special qualities of the BBNP, which were identified during the preparation of ‘Managing Change Together’. Relevant special qualities are as follows:
- A feeling of vitality and healthfulness that comes from enjoying the Park’s fresh air... rural setting, open land...
  - A sense of place and cultural identity - “Welshness” - characterised by... relatively unspoilt historic towns, villages and family farms.
  - A sense of discovery where people are able to explore... prehistoric ritual sites, medieval rural settlements, early industrial sites, local myths, legends and geological treasures.
  - The Park’s sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty observed across a variety of harmoniously connected landscapes, including marvellous gorges and waterfalls, classic karst geology with caves and sink holes, contrasting glacial landforms such as cliffs and broad valleys carved from old red sandstone and prominent hilltops with extensive views in all directions.
  - A working, living “patchwork” of contrasting patterns, colours, and textures comprising of well-maintained farmed landscapes, open uplands, lakes and meandering rivers punctuated by small-scale woodlands, country lanes, hedgerows, stone walls and scattered settlements.
  - Extensive and widespread access to the Park’s diversity of wildlife and richness of semi-natural habitats...
  - In the context of the UK, geographically rugged, remote and challenging landscapes.
  - Enjoyable and accessible countryside...

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### Special Landscape Areas

- 2.3.4 Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are a non-statutory landscape designation applied by the local planning authority to define areas of high landscape importance within their administrative boundary.
- 2.3.5 In June 2017 MTCBC published the Local Development Plan (2016 – 2031) Background Paper: Special Landscape Areas<sup>7</sup>. It identified five SLAs, based on the preferred methodology LANDMAP Guidance Note 1: LANDMAP and Special Landscape Areas, NRW 2016.
- 2.3.6 The site is located within SLA 3: Merthyr West Flank, see **Figure LA.02-1**. Relevant landscape value and contributions are identified as:
- The rarity value of this area is significantly enhanced by its specific historic associations with the Crawshay family of Cyfarthfa and the substantial density of features across this landscape, including particularly significant concentrations of early extractive features a number of priority habitats are found and important key species
  - The area contains very special habitat of marshy grassland, species-rich neutral grassland and lowland acid grass land, it also contains native woodlands which adds value also
  - The area displays the reasonably intact condition of the upland pastoral fieldscape and the presence of substantial extant remains of mid -19th century extractive activity specifically associated with Robert and Lucy Thomas pioneers of the 'steam coal' industry
- 2.3.7 Relevant key management issues for the SLA include:
- Retain diversity of mosaic through limited reclamation and vegetation management
  - Implement creative land reclamation for sites where natural regeneration alone is insufficient
  - Limit forestry expansion to existing sites
  - Extend woodland framework while retaining mosaic character
  - Conserve and enhance semi-natural habitats
- 2.3.8 The SLA description does not refer to the A470 tip, which was added to the former mining tips in the mid-1990's when the A470 was constructed.

### Ancient Woodland

- 2.3.9 There is some ancient woodland mapped as occurring within the south-west corner of the application site boundary (**Figures LA.02 and LA.05**) and the application site encompasses areas of woodland subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) as identified on the replacement LDP 2016-2031 Proposals Map. No further elaboration of this designation is given in the Local Plan, but it is understood that the basis for the TPOs on the site is mainly for non-ancient woodland reasons.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/4434/sd26-special-landscape-areas-background-paper-june-2018.pdf> [accessed February 2021]

- 2.3.10 This is consistent with the conclusions of a file note obtained from the NRW SSSI file, which sets out the results of a desk and field-based investigation carried out by Dr Jim Latham in 2005 into the presence and extent of any ancient woodland on the site. This concludes that *"The available evidence suggests a long-term woodland presence in the vicinity, but cannot confirm its continuity at any given point required for the formal label of 'ancient woodland",* going on to say *"The area of woodland (some 3ha) along the northern fringe probably has the best claim to be 'ancient' as there is less obvious disturbance than across the rest of the site and to this day it holds the highest density of mature trees. However, given the degree of disturbance in the area, more evidence would be needed (e.g., maps from the 1700s) to be confident about this".*
- 2.3.11 Investigations by Bioscan also align with this conclusion, at least in respect of the central parts of the site. There is woodland cover and a high frequency of mature trees in the central southern area coinciding with an area shown as established woodland on the 1850 Tithe Map. Parts of this area fall within the application site and correlate with a concentration of older and/or veteran trees in the north-western part of the application site. Ribbon woodland along the more undisturbed stretches of incised stream courses in the northern part of the landholding and outside the application site (the Nant Cwm Glo, Nant Rhyd-y-car and Nant Cwm-pant-bach) may also be at least part ancient in origin. It is assumed that these are the areas 'along the northern fringe' being referred to by Latham in 2005.
- 2.3.12 Beyond the immediate vicinity of the site, there are numerous small parcels of Ancient Woodland, the majority Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland, although there is also a reasonable amount of Restored Ancient Woodlands Sites, scattered across the study area. The majority are located along water courses and on steep slopes on valley sides.

#### Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)

- 2.3.13 In the west of the site, along the eastern edge of the balancing pond and leat, woodland is covered by a TPO. A TPO also covers woodland within the southwest of the site.

#### Historic and cultural landscape designations

- 2.3.14 Relevant historic and cultural designations are shown on **Figure LA.2-2**.
- 2.3.15 The setting of historic and cultural designations is a consideration during the preparation of landscape and visual impact appraisals as these features inform the overall landscape character, quality and value of the area. The LVApp does not address the effects on heritage assets however it considers the contribution these features make to landscape value and scenic quality.

#### Conservation areas and listed buildings

- 2.3.16 The setting of conservation areas and listed buildings is a consideration during the preparation of landscape and visual impact assessments.
- 2.3.17 The nearest conservation area is Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre Conservation Area, which covers High Street and its buildings and is about 600m to the northeast of the planning application

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boundary and 850m from the proposed Snow Centre. "It contains the historic commercial, religious and administrative centre of the industrial district that developed between the mid-18th and early 20th centuries, creating the first major industrial town in Wales<sup>8</sup>".

- 2.3.18 Elsewhere there are two further conservation areas in the town centre and Cyfarthfa Conservation Area to the north. The latter covers the former ironworks site and parkland to the north of the town and "is important as it is a lasting symbol of Merthyr Tydfil's strength during the 18th and 19th Centuries as Ironworks of Worldwide significance<sup>9</sup>".
- 2.3.19 There is one listed structure within the site, which is the Grade II listed Base of Chimney at Cwm Pit, located in woodland in the southernmost part of the site in the proposed area for the forest lodges and about 450m to the south of the proposed Snow Centre. The feature is listed as a "particularly massively built chimney base, an historically important feature of this earlier C19 pit<sup>10</sup>".
- 2.3.20 Beyond the site boundary, the nearest Grade II\* listed building is Ynysfach Engine House, located approximately 400m to the northeast of the ownership boundary and 1.0km to the north of the proposed Snow Centre, and is open to the public as a heritage centre. Cyfarthfa Castle, 2.3km to the north of the proposed Snow Centre, is the nearest Grade I listed building.
- 2.3.21 There are also several groups of listed buildings in close proximity to the site, including the Grade II listed terrace, Upper Colliers Row to the northeast of the ownership boundary and Grade II listed Quay Row and Abercanaid House to the southeast of the application site.

### Scheduled Monuments

- 2.3.22 There are two scheduled monuments within the site boundary. Along the west boundary of the site is Cyfarthfa balance pond and leat and Cwm Pit and head of railway is located within the southwest of the site.
- 2.3.23 **Cyfarthfa balance pond and leat** "comprises the remains of a major balance pond and leat serving a number of deep mines. Coal and ironstone were extracted from land leased by the Cyfarthfa Works by surface and patch workings until 1826. From that date deep mines were dug and worked with water balances. A line of these pits was supplied with water from this balance pond by the leat, which ran along the contour to the north, from which water was taken for each pit. The system probably dates from the 1830s and is shown complete on the Tithe Map for Merthyr Tydfil of 1850... A leat runs from the NW corner of the pond. This leat is formed by a linear bank of earth and stone up to 4m in height, which creates a channel up to 3m in width between it and the slope to the W. The leat runs N for about 270m along the contour... The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance and illustrate our knowledge of the early 19th century coal mining and iron working industries of Wales. It is the largest and best-preserved balance pond that survives on the

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1148/towncentrecacalowres.pdf> [accessed February 2021]

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/1142/cyfarthfacacalowres.pdf> [accessed February 2021]

<sup>10</sup> <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=81752> [accessed February 2021]

Cyfarthfa estate, famous for its use of water balance technology in extracting coal and ironstone.”<sup>11</sup>

- 2.3.24 **Cwm Pit and head of railway** “comprises the remains of Cwm Pit and the head of the Cwm Pit Railway. ... Cwm Pit was not sunk as a deep mine until 1843 when it was a balance pit, eventually reaching a depth of 150 yards. The head of the railway and the site of the pit are bounded on the north side by a massive revetment wall of coursed Pennant sandstone blocks. The raking railway embankment wall rises to a height of about 4m under a heavy flat coping. It kicks out at a point where there are stone steps carried on a pair of semi-circular arches. The revetment wall continues at full height on a stepped base. There are lines of putlog holes, bigger sockets and remains of iron brackets. Within the revetment wall is a semi-circular arch opening into an adit tunnel running back under the site. ... Above and behind the revetment wall are the remains of the colliery buildings. These are reduced and buried except for the base of the engine house chimney made of massive stone blocks with yellow brick details.

The end of the railway is easily followed as a modern track... The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance and illustrate our knowledge of the late 18th and early 19th century coal mining industry... It is the most complete coal mine complex in the Merthyr area...”<sup>12</sup>.

- 2.3.25 Beyond the site boundary, circa 65m to the west of the Snowcentre is Black Pins early ironstone workings and to the south of the Cwm Pit remains Viewing Point is the Vale of Neath railway cutting and tunnel portal. There are also numerous scheduled monuments scattered throughout the study area, many of which are connected to the industrial past of Merthyr Tydfil.

### Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest

- 2.3.26 Registration is the way that a park or garden of special historic interest is recognised by designation.
- 2.3.27 Whilst preparing this LVApp, the non-statutory Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales has not yet been incorporated into the statutory register set up by the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 but is expected to come into force during 2022<sup>13</sup>.
- 2.3.28 Cyfarthfa Castle Park Grade II\* is the nearest registered park and garden to the site, located circa 1.8km to the north. The public park contains formal gardens and a lake that is overlooked and provides the landscape setting to the Grade I listed Cyfarthfa Castle.
- 2.3.29 Circa 2.9km to the northwest of the site is Cefn Coed Cemetery Grade II and circa 2.9km to the south of the site is Aberfan Cemetery Garden of Remembrance Grade II\*. The significant views at these sites are not towards the site and are therefore scoped out from further consideration in this LVApp.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=4338> [accessed May 2021]

<sup>12</sup> <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/sam/FullReport?lang=en&id=4336> [accessed May 2021]

<sup>13</sup> <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/historic-assets/registered-historic-parks-and-gardens/understanding-registered#section-what-is-registration> [accessed January 2022]

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### Registered Historic Landscapes

- 2.3.30 Cadw, in partnership with the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS UK) has compiled a non-statutory Register of 58 Landscapes of Outstanding or Special Historic Interest in Wales.
- 2.3.31 The site is located within the western part of Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (LOHI) with much of the wider study area located within the LOHI, which covers all of the settlement area of Merthyr Tydfil and some outskirts that includes part of Merthyr Common and Dowlais. Merthyr “still retains its industrial landscape character as the most significant Welsh town of the Industrial Revolution. The town and its environs remain a potent example of an internationally renowned industrial landscape of the 18th and 19th centuries and a permanent reminder of man’s exploitation of the landscape.”<sup>14</sup>
- 2.3.32 Part of the southeast of the study area is covered by Gelli-gaer Common LOHI. At its nearest point the LOHI is located approximately 4km from the site boundary. Due to the distance of the LOHI from the site and its very limited coverage by the ZTV, the Gelli-gaer Common LOHI has been scoped out from further consideration in this LVApp.
- 2.3.33 A small part of the most northwest extent of the study area is covered by the East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog Landscape of Special Historic Interest (LSHI). At its nearest point the LSHI is located approximately 4.6km from the site boundary. The LSHI mainly covers coniferous forest within the study area and is not covered by the ZTV. East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog LSHI is therefore scoped out from further consideration in this LVApp.
- 2.3.34 The LOHI includes the A470 tip, which was added to the former mining tips in the mid-1990’s when the A470 was constructed.

### Geopark

- 2.3.35 The north and northwest extent of the study area located in the BBNP is covered by the UNESCO Fforest Fawr Geopark. The purpose of a Global Geopark is to explore, develop and celebrate the links between geological heritage and all other aspects of the area’s natural, cultural and intangible heritages.

### Ecological designations

- 2.3.36 Ecological designations, although not specifically related to landscape amenity and not assessed within this report, are an indication of landscape value. Relevant ecological designations are shown on **Figure LA.2-3**.

### Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

- 2.3.37 Cwm Glo a Glyndyrys SSSI covers a similar outline to the ownership boundary but excludes the majority of the site apart from the most western extent. “Cwm Glo a Glyndyrys is of special interest for its extensive areas of marshy grassland, species-rich neutral grassland and

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<sup>14</sup> [https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/historiclandscape/FullReport?lang=&id=HLW%20\(MGL\)%202](https://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/historiclandscape/FullReport?lang=&id=HLW%20(MGL)%202) [accessed October 2021]

acid grassland, and for the association of these habitats with others including woodland and heath. It is also of special interest for its outstandingly diverse assemblage of grassland fungi”<sup>15</sup>. There are no other SSSIs within 2km of the site.

### Local Nature Reserve (LNR)

- 2.3.38 Cwm Taf Fechan LNR, which is also a SSSI, is located along the banks of the Taf Fechan, circa 2.8km to the north of the site. The reserve contains ancient broadleaved woodlands, calcareous grasslands, river, and cliffs.
- 2.3.39 Due to distance and separation from the site, LNRs are not considered to be a receptor that would be affected, either adversely or beneficially, by the proposed development. LNRs have therefore been scoped out as a receptor in this assessment.

### Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

- 2.3.40 MTCBC has identified SINC to protect areas of high wildlife value at a local level under Policy EnW3. The site and wider area that includes Gethin Woodland Park, the River Taff, Winch Fawr uplands to the northwest, and Merthyr Common to the southeast are covered by the SINC designation.

### Public access

- 2.3.41 Public rights of way and access land are shown on **Figure LA.03 and LA.05-2**.
- 2.3.42 Public rights of way routes and access land within the study area are generally concentrated on the surrounding hills, beyond the built-up area of Merthyr Tydfil and adjacent settlements, except for Long Distance Footpaths and National Cycle Routes which are described in more detail in the paragraphs below.
- 2.3.43 There is a public right of way within the site, which is a section of bridleway along the southern boundary<sup>16</sup>. A network of paths and desire lines within the site are used by walkers and mountain bikers. A number of the routes within the site are claimed rights of way, as shown on **Figure LA05.2**. A notable route includes Parish Road, which runs in a northeast to southwest direction across the north of the site, and Forest Road, which runs west to east across the south of the site. Bridleways and public footpaths terminate at the ownership boundary along the south, east and northeast that connect to some of the claimed rights of way.
- 2.3.44 Approximately 0.13km to the south of the site a bridleway transects Gethin Wood in a west to east direction bridleway, connecting to the Coed Morgannwy Way LDFP to the southwest of the site. Gethin Wood to the southeast of the site contains a strong network of public rights of way with several routes terminating at the ownership boundary.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/media/5090/ed049-cwm-glo-a-glyndyrys-sssi-citation-legal-version.pdf> [accessed February 2021]

<sup>16</sup> Public Path Creation Order – Troedyrhiw 167, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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### Open Access Land

2.3.45 In the study area there are large areas of access land covering high ground of Merthyr Common to the southeast, east and northeast, the high ground of the BBNP to the north and far northeast, and the majority of the Mynydd Aberdâr / Mynydd Gethin ridgeline to the southwest of the site. There is also access land on the upper slopes of Cwm Glo extending up to Mynydd Aberdâr.

### Long distance footpaths (LDFP)

2.3.46 The Taff Trail is an 88km combined walking and cycling route that passes along the Taff valley between Brecon and Cardiff. Within the study area, the route heads in a southwest direction around Morlais Castle before connecting to Merthyr Tydfil and bearing the to southeast through the centre of the town, and then onwards through Abercanaid and Pentrebach. At its nearest point the Taff Trail is located approximately 0.17km to the east of the site, on the east side of the A470.

2.3.47 At its nearest point the Coed Morgannwy Way LDFP is located circa 0.18km to the southwest of the site. The 58km route begins in Gethin Woods to the south of the site and heads in a broadly southwest direction through the coniferous woodland of Mynydd Gethin before continuing west and beyond the study area.

2.3.48 The Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk LDFP at its nearest point is located beyond 4.5km of the site to the northeast and is therefore scoped out from further consideration in this LVApp.

### National Cycle Routes (NCR)

2.3.49 The Taff Trail forms part of NCR8, further detail of the route is provided in paragraph 2.3.42 above.

2.3.50 NCR477 passes along the eastern side of the Taff valley, approximately 600m from the site and 1.1km from the proposed Snow Centre.

2.3.51 Elsewhere in the study area NCR46 crosses it from west to east to the north of the Merthyr Tydfil urban area.

### Other cycle routes

2.3.52 Bike Park Wales, a downhill mountain bike centre based in Gethin Woodlands, is centred approximately 0.9km to the south of the site. The facility is a popular attraction and has numerous routes descending through the woodlands overlooking the site.

### Roads

2.3.53 The A470 dual carriageway runs parallel to the eastern site boundary and crosses the study area from south to north. There is near continuous mature vegetation along the roadside that both screen views towards the site and provides a degree of separation.

2.3.54 Other major routes in the study area include the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, which bypasses Merthyr Tydfil to the north, and the A4060 dual carriageway that connects the two

former roads via an eastern bypass of Merthyr Tydfil. There are also numerous residential roads within the settlement limits of Merthyr Tydfil to the east and north-east of the site, and in Heolgerrig to the north. There are no roads within the site.

### Interim Summary

2.3.55 The following elements of the landscape policies and designations are relevant to the assessment of landscape and visual effects of this proposal:

- Publicly accessible open space and routes are desirable (SW10);
- The design and layout of the development proposals should contribute to its setting (SW11, EnW5);
- The setting of historic assets is a consideration (CW1);
- Safeguarding or enhancing the character and distinctiveness of the site and its setting is a material consideration (EnW5);
- The setting of, and views from, the BBNP are important considerations;
- The design and layout of the proposed development will need to be cognisant of features and character of the SLA;
- The Registered Historic Landscape;
- The setting of the historic and/or listed structures, conservation areas and registered parks and gardens is to be taken into account;
- The setting of landscapes designated for ecological allowances is a consideration, including SSSIs and SINCs;
- The setting of and views available to users of the Taff Trail is to be considered; and
- The views available to nearby residents is a material consideration.

## 3.0 The proposed development

3.1.1 Details of the proposed development are provided on the planning application drawings and the Design and Access Statement accompanying the outline planning application. This section describes the main aspects of the proposed development which could potentially affect landscape and/or visual amenity. It also identifies features of the proposals which will assist in mitigating adverse landscape and visual impacts.

3.1.2 The main feature of the proposed development is the construction of an indoor Snow Centre in the northwest of the site. The building would form the tallest feature of the proposed development with a maximum elevation of 287.5m Above Ordinance Datum (AOD) at its highest point in the northwest of the site. The Snow Centre includes a circa 400m long east facing ski slope that would utilise the natural gradient of the site, sloping down to the east to a maximum of circa 210m AOD. Adjacent to the south of the Snow Centre, the existing topography would be re-modelled to create a 1:3 south facing slope that would be planted

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with a mix of grassland and scrub. Maintenance access paths would also be created on the slope with a route located at the base of the slope that connects to the main area of development to the east.

- 3.1.3 At the base of the Snow Centre ski slope to the east, proposals for the site include a complex of buildings that incorporate hotels and leisure activities. To the northeast of the Snow Centre are two proposed hotels with maximum building heights of 32m and 39.4m. To the east of the proposed hotels is a proposed Water Park that integrates indoor and outdoor elements. The maximum building height of the proposed Water Park would be 20.5m. Another hotel with a maximum height of 21.3m would be located immediately to the south of the Water Park.
- 3.1.4 A proposed Indoor Activity Centre would be located immediately to the south of the base Snow Centre ski slope, east of the planted south facing slope. The proposed Indoor Activity Centre would have a maximum height of 20m.
- 3.1.5 Located in the central area of the hotel and leisure complex is a proposed area for a car park, service area and ancillary uses. A Piazza is also proposed that would include hard and soft landscape areas with space for seating and outdoor space related to cafes and restaurants. The Piazza would form the main arrival space for visitors to the development and would connect to the public routes passing through the site which are linked to the public right of way network. Landscape proposals within the space would include substantial tree planting to provide shelter from the prevailing winds and shade. The main car parking area and drop off area would be located to the south of the Piazza, to the east of the Indoor Activity Centre. The car parking area would centre around a sloping soft landscape area with SuDS features located around the perimeter.
- 3.1.6 A proposed Outdoor Activity area is proposed immediately to the south of the Indoor Activity Centre, to the southwest of the proposed main car parking area. The Outdoor Activity area would extend southwards, to the east of the balancing pond and leat, towards the south boundary of the site. Within the north and east of the Outdoor Activity Area, SuDS features are proposed.
- 3.1.7 In the most southerly extent of the site proposals include the installation of circa 30no. lodges and associated access tracks, which would be set within existing and retained woodland. The proposed lodges would have a maximum height of 4.5m.
- 3.1.8 The main access to the proposed development would be provided via a new road that connects to the roundabout on the A470 at the northeast of the site. The route would head southwards along the east edge of the hotel and leisure complex to connect with the main car parking area. A road would also be constructed close to the northern boundary of the site, along the northern edge of the hotel and leisure complex and provide maintenance access to the proposed Snow Centre. Track access would also be provided via the southeast corner of the site from the A470 underpass, which would head along the existing Forest Road along the southern boundary of the site.
- 3.1.9 Footpaths are also proposed across the site. A proposed route includes a north to south direction route that connects to the main access road in the north of the site and heads

southwards, east of the main hotel and leisure complex, to connect to several routes that transect the southern area of the site, which includes a route that follows the disused railway line. The proposed routes would also connect with the surrounding existing public right of way network beyond the site boundary, which provide connections to Merthyr Tydfil town centre and Pentrebach.

- 3.1.10 An existing network of paths and desire lines within the site are used by walkers and mountain bikers. A number of the routes within the site are claimed rights of way, as shown on **Figure LA05.2**. A proportion of the claimed routes may become formally accepted rights of way. While this network of claimed routes has informed the strategy for the movement of pedestrians and cyclists within the site, a proportion of the claimed routes conflict with the proposed built form of the development. If the routes which conflict with the proposed development are formalised, then they would need to be formally stopped-up.

### Sources of Potential Effects on Landscape and Views

- 3.1.11 The main features of the development proposal which could potentially result in landscape and visual impacts are:

#### Construction Phase

- Temporary fencing/hoarding protecting the site perimeter.
- The removal of some trees, vegetation and grassland where areas to be regraded and profiled.
- The clearance of material, the stripping of some land, and the change of local levels including cut and fill.
- Activities and movement of large vehicles and equipment during the construction period, including the use of tall cranes.
- The construction of the proposed Snow Centre, hotels, Water Park, Indoor Activity Centre, access roads and car parking, and other associated infrastructure.
- Potential lighting associated with the construction works.

#### Completion

- The change of use from existing moorland, woodland, and an abandoned tip site where natural regeneration of vegetation has occurred to a major tourist attraction.
- The introduction of several tall and largescale buildings, including the long Snow Centre building. The introduction of other built development and hard landscape such as access roads, car parking, and other associated infrastructure.
- The impact from the introduction and establishment of new woodland, trees, shrub planting, and grass mixes within the site on landscape character and nearby views.

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- The introduction of drainage proposals within the site such as detention basins, swales, and other SuDS features. The diversion of existing watercourses is also proposed.
- Occupation features such as vehicle movement along new access roads and car parks, pedestrian activity around the commercial buildings, potential increased activity on recreational routes within the site, and street lighting and the external lighting of proposed buildings.
- Formalising recreation uses of the site along dedicated pathways.

### Mitigation measures

3.1.12 The potential for adverse effects on landscape and visual amenity has been recognised and mitigation measures incorporated in the scheme to avoid or reduce adverse effects or to offset or compensate for unavoidable adverse effects.

3.1.13 Mitigation measures incorporated into the scheme design include:

- The retention of existing trees where possible, including TPO woodland. These features would also be protected during the construction phase.
- The location of the proposed lodges and access tracks in the south of the site would be determined by the existing trees, topographical, and ecological features, retaining these elements where possible.
- The north façade of the Snow Centre is designed to reduce its visual prominence from the north through the use of muted colours and a textured treatment of the elevation.
- The preservation and management of heritage features that contribute to the landscape character of the site. Access paths would be improved, and information boards would be installed to provide education opportunities.
- The proposed south facing slope adjacent to the Snow Centre would be planted with grassland and scrub with input from the Ecologist to conserve and enhance semi-natural habitats and mosaic character. The planting of the slope is also to help visually integrate the proposal into the surrounding landscape.
- Proposed tree, shrub and other vegetation, and grassland throughout the site. This is to help integrate and visually soften the proposed development within the landscape whilst contributing to the green infrastructure and placemaking of the site.
- Proposals for the site have also considered surrounding existing public rights of way and claimed rights of way within the site. Proposed routes seek to provide public access through the site, via some claimed rights of way, which connect to the surrounding public rights of way network.

## 4.0 Limitations of the assessment

4.1.1 This section describes the limitations and assumptions considered for the landscape character and visual amenity assessments.

### 4.2 Proposed buildings

4.2.1 At this stage of design, the proposed height for each individual building has not yet been detailed but building height parameters for minimum proposed building heights and maximum proposed building heights have been provided. This LVApp assesses the worst-case scenario i.e., all proposed buildings are assessed at the proposed maximum building height, which is set out in section 4 above. Following detailed design, it is likely that the proposed buildings would have varying heights and not all proposed buildings would be designed to the defined maximum heights.

4.2.2 The proposed siting for each individual building has not yet been detailed, but maximum and minimum widths and lengths for each building have been provided. This LVApp assesses the worst-case scenario i.e., all proposed buildings are assessed at the closest point to the viewpoint being assessed.

### 4.3 Phases of construction and development

4.3.1 The landscape character and visual amenity assessments considers the construction of the proposed development and its completion as a whole. The work could also be phased, which would not alter the findings of this assessment.

### 4.4 Access within the site

4.4.1 There is a public right of way within the site, which is section of bridleway along the southern boundary. The bridleway at the southern boundary of the site connects the A470 underpass with the entrance to the (disused) Merthyr tunnel. This is considered as part of the visual amenity assessments. A network of pathways and desire lines within the site are used by walkers and mountain bikers. A number of the routes within the site are claimed rights of way, as shown on **Figure LA05-2**. The assessment has not considered the changes to the landscape setting of the claimed rights of way or the impact on views experienced by users of those routes. While some of the routes would be removed as a result of the proposed development, a proposed network of public access will be created. Proposed routes would be safe, fit for purpose and would promote information boards to explain the heritage and biodiversity of the site. A number of the routes would have appropriate width, gradient and surfacing to enable access by disabled people and young families.

## 5.0 Effects on the Landscape

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This section deals with the effects on the landscape of the site and its surrounding context due to the proposed construction and occupation of the site.

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### Assessment Criteria

- 5.1.2 The assessment process follows the methodology for assessing effects set out in **Appendix 2**. The degree of the likely landscape effects of the proposed development is determined by relating the sensitivity of the receptors to the changes arising from the development proposals, and the degree and nature of the changes in the landscape arising from the proposals.

### Landscape Baseline

- 5.1.3 The landscape baseline is a description and analysis of the existing landscape, against which the effects of the proposed development are assessed, first, by reference to landscape character assessments for the area in which the site is located, at national and local levels and then, from site-specific surveys and analysis carried out for the purposes of this assessment.

## 5.2 LANDMAP

- 5.2.1 Landscape Assessment, following the LANDMAP methodology, has been undertaken for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. The assessment uses the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) / Wales Landscape Partnership Group approach which separates the defining aspects of the landscape into five categories, or aspect layers: Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Historic Landscape, Cultural Landscape Services, and Visual & Sensory. It considers the relationship that exist between people and places; how people have given meaning to places through time and how the physical landscape has shaped their actions, or how their actions have shaped the landscape.
- 5.2.2 Summarised descriptions for the most relevant aspect areas to the site and its context are outlined below for all five aspect layers. The findings of the LANDMAP studies have formed the basis of the landscape and visual baseline within this appraisal. **Table 5-1** below defines the criteria that LANDMAP uses for evaluating each aspect area.

**Table 5-1 Criteria for evaluating LANDMAP Aspect Areas<sup>17</sup>**

LANDMAP Evaluation	Definition
Outstanding	of international or national importance
High	of regional or county importance
Moderate	of local importance
Low	of little or no importance
Unassessed	insufficient information exists to evaluate

<sup>17</sup> LANDMAP Methodology Overview, June 2017 <https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/681752/landmap-methodology-overview-2017-eng.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=131547814890000000>

- 5.2.3 Characteristics of particular relevance to the site and its context are highlighted in bold. LANDMAP aspect areas for Historic Landscape and Visual and Sensory aspect layers are illustrated on **Figures LA.4**.

### Geological Landscape

- 5.2.4 The site is located within the south of aspect area Gellideg (**MRTHRGL007**), which is classified as **Glacial Mountain Valley** (Level 3). The geographical and topographical character of the area is described as (question GL4) "Shallow western slope above Afon Taf with two minor tributary valleys, dissected into gently S-dipping mudstone-dominated succession of Namurian Middle Shale - Productive Coal formations. Bounded to E by NNW-SSE Merthyr / Church Fault. Widespread cover of boulder clay on slopes. **Extensive made ground after coal and iron mining - closed coal mines, waste tips, old iron workings.**"
- 5.2.5 The rarity/uniqueness (question GL31) of the area is evaluated as **Moderate** and the overall evaluation (question GL33) for the area is **Moderate**, see **Figure LA.4-1**, as the aspect area is "mudstone dominated Middle Shale - Productive Coal formations of valley slopes, coal and ironstone workings".

### Landscape Habitats

- 5.2.6 The majority of the site is located in the most southerly extent of aspect area **MRTHRLH008**, which is classified as **Dwarf Shrub Heath** (Level 3). The key features that define the area's biodiversity character (question LH24) are those of an "area based on **semi-uplands, colliery spoil and tips** west of town".
- 5.2.7 The **overall evaluation** (question 45) for the area is **High**, see **Figure LA.4-2**, as the aspect area is "an area which contains very special habitat of marshy grassland, species-rich neutral grassland and lowland acid grassland, also contains woodland which add value also".
- 5.2.8 The southeast of the site, to the southeast of the former Merthyr Tydfil to Aberdare railway line, is located in the north of aspect area **MRTHRLH011**, which is classified as **Acid Grassland** (Level 3). The key features that define the area's biodiversity character (question LH24) are those of an "area based on semi-upland slopes west of Afon Taf".
- 5.2.9 The **overall evaluation** (question 45) for the area is **Moderate**, see **Figure LA.4-2**. No justification for the overall evaluation is given.

### Historic Landscape

- 5.2.10 The majority of the site is located within aspect area Taff Valley Corridor (**MRTHRHL012**), which is classified as **Nucleated Settlement** (Level 3). The aspect area is described as (question HL4) "... the main transport/communication corridor for the Merthyr area linking the area to the ports, in particular at Cardiff and Barry, of the Glamorgan Coast. The area is also characterised by generally later industrial settlement (largely post 1850s ribbon development) associated largely with coal extraction and transport, interspersed with valley bottom fieldscape. ... The area is dominated by public and industrial rail, canal and tramroad links

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from the industrial and urban centres of Merthyr Tydfil. The area is dominated by the embankments, cuttings, bridges and other features associated with a formerly much more extensive canal and rail corridor. The area contains nationally and internationally important canals, ... and numerous industrial railways. ... Other industrial remains in the area include Ironstone and coal mining features associated with Cyfarthfa, dating back to at least the late 18th century, though mostly of the period 1820-40, including the impressive remains at Cwm Pit. The site of the Merthyr Vale Colliery of 1875 also lies in the area. The valley bottom area, defined on the west by the Glamorganshire Canal and A470(T) and on the east by the A4054, shows a range of land-use. The area includes fieldscape and settlement of late 19th and 20th century date; a result of the development of the steam coal trade from new deep pits along the valley edge. ... One of the best-preserved sections of the canal follows the contour of the hill on the west side of the valley. ..."

- 5.2.11 The overall evaluation (question HL40) for the area is **High**, see **Figure LA.4-3**, as the aspect area "reflects the historic importance of the Taff Valley as a key industrial transport corridor, evidenced by the survival of extensive remains of industrial communication features (canals, disused tramroads and railway lines) and well-preserved 19th century industrial settlements at Abercanaid, Llwyn-yr-Eos and Pentrebach. The decision to rate this area as high rather than outstanding reflects the extent to which the remains of communication features have been impacted by modern infrastructure work and land reclamation activity"
- 5.2.12 The northwest of the site is located within aspect area Cwm-glo and Bryn-y-Badell (**MRTHRHL006**), which is classified as **Extractive** (Level 3). The aspect area is described as (question HL4) "largely enclosed hillside with extensive and nationally important industrial remains associated with the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, including outcrop and underground workings for coal and ironstone, rail and tramroad links and water management system. Agricultural use continues, though the fabric of the earlier medieval/post-medieval enclosures has been severely degraded by industrial development and subsequent dereliction. The area forms the western edge of the town of Merthyr Tydfil, rising to the Mynydd Aberdare ridge. Although mostly open ground, it has a diverse and complex pattern of past land-use. In the early post-medieval period, much of the area of the lower slopes was enclosed, and parts of the resulting fieldscape survive, notably within Cwm-glo itself. The mineral resources were heavily exploited, by 17th - 18th century hushing<sup>18</sup> near Winch Fawr, ironworking at Cwm Felin, and extensive ironstone levels, coal levels and coal mines, linked to the Cyfarthfa ironworks, the canal and railway to the east by a complex system of tramways, tracks and railways. Over the last century, these workings and their tips have been abandoned and now have begun to merge with area of surviving moorland and regenerated woodland as a visually integrated unit."
- 5.2.13 The overall evaluation (question HL40) for the area is **Outstanding**, see **Figure LA.4-3**, as the aspect area represents "a complex, historically significant industrial/extractive landscape with extensive, reasonably well-preserved remains of 18th-20th century coal and ironstone

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<sup>18</sup> Hushing is an ancient and historic mining method using a flood or torrent of water to reveal mineral veins

workings and related features, which has been characterised as being of 'national and international importance'

### Cultural Landscape Services

- 5.2.14 Cultural Landscape Services (CLS) now supersedes the Cultural Landscape aspect layer, which was updated in 2020. CLS responds to “Recent environment and well-being legislation and developments in current thinking relating to culture suggest the dataset would benefit from a different approach to mapping if revisited...”<sup>19</sup> The data for CLS uses data from the other four aspect layers and provide no overall evaluations for each aspect area.
- 5.2.15 The site is located within aspect area Merthyr West Flank (**MRTHRCLS045**), which is classified as **Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys** (Level 3), refer to Visual and Sensory aspect areas below.

### Visual & Sensory

- 5.2.16 The site is located within aspect area Merthyr West Flank (**MRTHRVS917**), which is classified as **Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys** (Level 3). The aspect area is described as (question VS3) lying “between the town and the ridgeline and reaches right down to the River Taf at various points along its lower edge. It is somewhat akin to a massive area of urban fringe in that the influence of the town is evident throughout, yet it is still distinctly rural in overall character. It is a complex mosaic of **tips**, transport features and **mine sites** intermingled with an upland pasture field pattern. **There are areas of woodland and substantial natural regeneration, which look like natural habitats from a distance.** There is a large total area of disused sites yet the majority of them are becoming well integrated within the mosaic... Recent housing and other developments between Heolgerrig and Gellideg has reduced the overall area size. Further south the balance is in favour of the remnant field pattern and small blocks of woodland e.g., Cwm Glo and Blaencanaid. Settlement rises to 350m on this side of the basin, which is higher than that on the eastern side of town. The **A470 cuts through this landscape** and reveals at close hand the mix of industrial heritage, field pattern and woodland on this edge of Merthyr. It is also seen as the backdrop to the town in long views from the east and the A4060. At both viewing distances the diversity and pattern of this landscape are distinctive and of high value. The naturally regenerated habitat mosaics are a particular feature of the Merthyr landscape and compare favourably visually with some of the sterile reclamation projects designed purely for industrial development or grazing.”
- 5.2.17 The **scenic quality** (question VS46) of the area is evaluated as **Moderate**, see **Figure LA.04-4**. The **character** (question VS48) of the area is evaluated as **High**, see **Figure LA.04-5**, and the **overall evaluation** (question VS50) for the area is **Moderate**, see **Figure LA.4-6**. The justification for the overall evaluation is that “the area has a distinctive sense of place, especially around Cwm Glo with a mix of vegetation and industrial heritage features and patterns with a particular richness... The area provides a positive backcloth to

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<sup>19</sup> LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services, Report No 336, prepared by E.K Naumann, Dr K Metcalf, Environmental Systems, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales

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the town of Merthyr and dominates its views west... However, there are detractors such as unvegetated tips”.

### LANDMAP Summary

5.2.18 The below table summarises the evaluations for each aspect area that the site is located in (overall evaluations are not provided for the Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Layer):

**Table 5-2 Summary of LANDMAP**

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area name and Unique ID	Classification (Level 3)	Overall Evaluations
Geological Landscape	Gellideg UID: <b>MRTHRGL007</b>	Glacial Mountain Valley	Moderate
Landscape Habitats	n/a (unnamed) UID: <b>MRTHRLH008</b>	Dwarf Shrub Heath	High
	n/a (unnamed) UID: <b>MRTHRLH011</b>	Acid Grassland	Moderate
Historic Landscape	Taff Valley Corridor UID: <b>MRTHRHL012</b>	Nucleated Settlement	High
	Cwm-glo and Bryn-y-Badell UID: <b>MRTHRHL006</b>	Extractive	Outstanding
Cultural Landscape Services	Merthyr West Flank UID: <b>MRTHRCLS045</b>	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	N/A
Visual and Sensory	Merthyr West Flank UID: <b>MRTHRVS917</b>	Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valleys	Moderate

### Contiguous LANDMAP Aspect Areas beyond the site

5.2.19 Aspect layers Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats and Cultural Landscape Services are only considered above for aspects areas that the site is located in<sup>20</sup>.

5.2.20 Historic Landscape and the Visual and Sensory aspect layers are considered further below for all aspect areas within the study area that have a High or Outstanding evaluation that are also indicated by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility plan (Figure LA.07) to have potential visibility of the proposed development.

<sup>20</sup> In accordance with NRW Guidance Note 46.

### Historic Landscape

- 5.2.21 To the south of the site is aspect area **Mid Taf enclosed valley side** (MRTHRHL024) and to the north and beyond 4km of the site are aspect areas **Twynau Gwynion** (MRTHRHL019) and **Morlais Quarries** (MRTHRHL021). All the aspect areas are classified as Extractive (Level 3) and have an overall evaluation of **High**. They form part of the well-defined and historically important extractive landscape.
- 5.2.22 To the north of the site is aspect area **Merthyr Tydfil Core** (MRTHRHL005), which is classified as Nucleated Settlement (Level 3). Merthyr Tydfil is linked to the intensive industrial industry from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. The overall evaluation for the area is **Outstanding** “reflecting its key importance as a nationally important industrial centre during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Merthyr Tydfil rapidly expanded from a modest village in 1750.” This aspect area is scoped out from further consideration in this LVApp as the historic character and appreciation of its industrial heritage are unlikely to change or impact the landscape character as a result of the proposed development. Merthyr Tydfil’s overall evaluation for Visual and Sensory is **Low** and the urban character of the area is likely to remain unaltered as a result of the proposed development.
- 5.2.23 Surrounded by Merthyr Tydfil Core aspect area is **Cyfarthfa Park** (MRTHRHL018), which is classified as Designed (Level 3). It “is characterised as a nationally important 19<sup>th</sup> century historic park and garden. It has an overall evaluation of **Outstanding** as “it represents an important, extremely rare and well-preserved example of an ironmaster’s residence and estate, with strong historic associations as the seat of the Crawshay family.”
- 5.2.24 Beyond 3km to the north of the site is aspect area **Taff Fechan Valley** (MRTHRHL003), which is classified as Irregular Landscapes (Level 3). The aspect area is “characterised by dispersed agricultural settlement and enclosed fields; the other dominant characteristic of the area is as a communications corridor: road and rail links. There is also evidence of limited small-scale extractive industry.” The overall evaluation for the area is **High** “reflecting the largely intact nature of the landscapes and settlement pattern, and its historic associations as a long-established communications route since the Roman period.”
- 5.2.25 Beyond 3km to the north of the site are aspect areas **Garn Ddu** (MRTHRHL002), **Morlais** (MRTHRHL004), **Pen March** (MRTHRHL009), and beyond 2km to the east of the site is aspect area **Cefn-y-Fan** (MRTHRHL014), which are all classified as Marginal Land (Level 3) and have an overall evaluation of **Outstanding or High** based on the survival of historic and archaeological sites and upland common.

### Visual and Sensory

- 5.2.26 To the north of the site, beyond 1km, is aspect area **Cyfarthfa Park**<sup>21</sup> (MRTHRVS588), which is classified as Amenity Land (Level 3). The park is a Registered Park and Garden set within the urban area of Merthyr Tydfil. There is a sense of enclosure (Q9) with the castle and park forming a prominent feature of the valley side with views from the A470 (Q22). It has a strong sense of place. Its overall evaluation is **High** as it is prominent in views from

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<sup>21</sup> [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=598](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=598)

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Merthyr and the A470 and it “has a strong visual relationship with the related furnaces across the valley which is a rare feature” and the “The park is very attractive with mature trees and well-maintained grounds.”

- 5.2.27 Mainly beyond 3km of the site to the northwest is aspect areas **Taff Fawr**<sup>22</sup> (MRTHRVS393), which is classified as Open/Wooded Mosaic Upland Valley (Level 3). “The open scree slopes contrast with the predominantly deciduous woodland on the western valley side... This area bounds the northwest fringes of Merthyr and acts as a buffer and as its rural setting.” Its overall evaluation is **High** as “The area is an attractive upland valley with good views and distinctive features such as scree slopes and rocky outcrops. It is generally unspoilt and acts as a setting to the uplands of the Beacons to the north.”
- 5.2.28 Also, to the northwest of the site and beyond 3km is aspect area **Vaynor Uplands**<sup>23</sup> (MRTHRVS387), which is classified as Upland Moorland (Level 3). It is a large open, exposed, unenclosed upland landscape that has no settlement and very little access. It has a strong sense of place with attractive views to the surrounding uplands and valleys, but Vaynor Quarry and Merthyr Tydfil provide some detracting features. The overall evaluation for the area is **High** as “The area has high scenic quality with panoramic views. It has consistent and unspoilt character throughout and a strong sense of place through rock outcrops and moorland character. The area forms part of the Brecon Beacons upland area.”

### Local Landscape Assessments

- 5.2.29 The most recently published Landscape Character assessment of relevance to the study area is the **Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment**, which was published in 2012. Paragraph 40 of A Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park 2015-2020 states the “the spatial approach of the Landscape Character Assessment provides a clear geographic reference for landscape character, special qualities and issues of landscape change across the National Park. It is intended to be used in a number of ways, including ... contributing to the development of policies with regard to large-scale developments on the fringes of the National Park...”
- 5.2.30 The landscape character assessment covers the northern part of the study area within the National Park. The area is covered by **Landscape Character Area 8: Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys** with the Broad Landscape Type of Upland Valleys. The summary description describes the LCA as “characterised by its reservoirs, surrounded by steep sided, dark green forested valleys. Between the reservoir valleys are more open ridges of upland moorland which have long views across the reservoirs and their surrounding forests. This LCA is easily accessed from Merthyr Tydfil and the A470 and is a popular recreation destination”.
- 5.2.31 In the Future section of Forces for Change in the Landscape, the assessment states that local forces for change and their landscape implications include “development proposals beyond

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<sup>22</sup> [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=590](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=590)

<sup>23</sup> [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=589](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=589)

the National Park boundary to the south ... **potentially affecting views southwards**, particularly from higher land”.

- 5.2.32 Specific Management Guidelines for the LCA include protecting “occasional **long views** which form the backdrop to the area” and to “plan to reduce the **visual impacts** of existing ... development beyond the National Park boundary, and resist applications for future development which would **harm the special qualities of the area**”.

### 5.3 Site-Specific Appraisal

- 5.3.1 The following paragraphs provide descriptions of the site and should be read alongside Site Context **Figures LA.5** and Site Photographs **Figures LA.06**.

#### The landscape of the site

- 5.3.2 The site is located on an east facing slope along the western side of the Taff Valley near Merthyr Tydfil, which historically functioned as iron and coal workings. The site slopes down from a high point of circa 255m AOD on the west boundary to approximately 180m AOD on the east boundary. The east boundary of the site is defined by land along the western side of the A470 road, which broadly forms the western edge of Merthyr Tydfil. The south boundary of the site mainly is defined by a forest access track with overhead cables of a major power line transecting the area in an east to west direction. Part of the southwest boundary is defined by the edge of the Cwm Pit and head of railway scheduled monument and the west boundary of the site is defined by the western edge of the Cyfarthfa balance pond and leat scheduled monument. The eastern section of the north boundary of the site is defined by an access track and the northwest boundary of the site is undefined by existing features.
- 5.3.3 Beyond the site boundaries, the surrounding landform to the northwest, west, and south continues to rise up towards the ridgeline of Mynydd Gethin and Mynydd Aberdare with highpoints of circa 491m AOD and 450m AOD beyond 1.5km of the site. The east facing slopes are covered by deciduous woodland with coniferous woodland located on the higher parts of the ridgeline at Mynydd Gethin. Mynydd Aberdare to the northwest is comprised of exposed upland moorland. Along the east facing slopes there are some steep sided valleys with Nant Canaid watercourse flowing to the south of the site. The alignment of the stream has been diverted to avoid the cutting for the former Merthyr Tydfil to Aberdare tunnel.
- 5.3.4 To the east of the site, and on the east side of the A470 is the western urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil. The urban edge is lined with mainly industrial and large out of town retail units, which is separated from the main settlement area of the town by the River Taff. The River Taff broadly flows through the western half of Merthyr Tydfil and close to the historic core of the town. There is a dense settlement pattern to the east of the River Taff comprised of terraces lined along the steep west facing slopes and other housing estates. There are some areas of parkland within the town, most notably Cyfarthfa Park and Thomas Town Park.
- 5.3.5 Further to the north of the site, beyond 3km, the northern edge of Merthyr Tydfil is broadly defined by the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road and surrounding former and existing

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extraction sites such as Ffos-y-Fran, Bryniau quarries, Morlais, and Vaynor Quarry before the exposed upland landscape expands northwards into the BBNP.

### Features of the site

5.3.6 There are several features on the site, which have mainly been informed by its industrial past and include the following:

- The A470 tip is located in the north of the site and extends southwards. This area has a steep east facing slope with a generally level upper part; the periphery is being colonised by birch and scrub while the central part is either grassland or exposed tip material.
- The upper slopes in the northwest of the site. Here the landform slopes steeply to the east and the ground cover consists of tussocky wet grassland with scattered trees, mostly birch with some more mature oak around old areas of relatively shallow, bell pit mine workings. This area is also covered by the Cwm Glo and Glyndyrys SSSI.
- Historic remains of iron and coal workings. These are present in numerous guises, from the remnants of adits, airshafts, drifts and levels to stone ruins, former tramways and railways track beds, including the northeast entrance of the Merthyr Tunnel, the Cyfarthfa balance pond and leat scheduled monument, Cwm Pit and head of railway scheduled monument, and most prominent of all, overburden mounds. The latter are present across the southern part of the site, occupying all available space between the other mining infrastructure and comprise of a steep downslope embankment, formed by the angle of repose of the material, and topped by severely pockmarked and uneven topography.
- A large part of the site, particularly the south and eastern areas are covered by woodland. The woodland in the west of the site covered by TPO. Trees within the site are of varying ages from pioneering scrubby woodland to mature and veteran trees. Species of trees also vary from oak and birch to a mixture of alder on the wetter ground.
- Some tracks and former railway lines cross the site. An old trackway, known as Parish Road, crosses the site from the northeast to the southwest, approximately dividing the site in terms of its historic use. Forest Road crosses the southern part of the site and there are also numerous other tracks and paths, many with historic connections to the coal and iron workings or to the former railway network. A former railway, which currently appears as its track bed and is demarked on either side by a line of concrete fence posts, gently arcs across the southeast part of the site, where it is crossed by a branch running north to south in the east of the site. The former railway lines are mainly situated in cuttings or are on embankments, both of which consist of steep slopes. There are also numerous bridges associated with the railway lines that are present within the site, crossing both under and over the former track beds.
- On the north side of the former Cwm Pit workings is a stream that enters subterranean channels linking it to Nant Cannaid to the south, beneath the tips.

### Characteristics and aesthetics

- 5.3.7 The character of the site is derived from its landform and past industrial activities. Key characteristics and aesthetics of the site include:
- An east facing slope that is part of the large-scale landscape that forms the backdrop to Merthyr Tydfil.
  - Mosaic character: varied habitats that include woodlands that contrasts with areas of grassland. The varied heritage features and structures on the site linked to the site's historical land use. This contributes to the site's sense of place.
  - Woodland areas and tips create a sense of enclosure which contrasts with areas of openness on top on the A470 tip and on grassland areas.
  - Some attractive and distant views from open areas that look over Merthyr Tydfil and are backdropped by the BBNP.
  - The site forms the setting to Merthyr Tydfil. The site in places has urban influences such as road sound from the A470, views of major overhead pylons and cables, and some near views of large-scale retail/ industrial units.

### Public Access

- 5.3.8 There is a public right of way within the site, which is a section of bridleway along the southern boundary<sup>24</sup>. The bridleway at the southern boundary of the site connects the A470 underpass with the entrance to the (disused) Merthyr tunnel. A network of paths and desire lines within the site are used by walkers and mountain bikers. A number of the routes within the site are claimed rights of way, as shown on **Figure LA05.2**. A notable route includes Parish Road, which runs in a northeast to southwest direction across the north of the site, and Forest Road, which runs west to east across the south of the site. Bridleways and public footpaths terminate at the ownership boundary along the south, east and northeast that connect to some of the claimed rights of way.

### Landscape Value

- 5.3.9 The characteristics, sensitivities and guidelines in the existing character assessments at national and local level and the site-specific analyses carried out for the purposes of this LVApp were taken into account as indicators of the aspects of the landscape important to the character and evaluated according to the criteria in **Appendix 2, Table A2-1** in order to determine the value of the landscape receptors.
- 5.3.10 The features/elements/characteristics identified as important or "key" to the landscape character of the site are:
- The landform of the east facing slope
  - Areas of woodland and trees

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<sup>24</sup> Public Path Creation Order – Troedyrhiw 167, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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- Mosaic character influenced by the ranging habitats and various heritage features
- Some attractive distance views from open elevated areas
- Setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil
- Setting to areas of public access and PRowS

5.3.11 Beyond the site boundary, important landscape character areas are:

- Cyfarthfa Park
- The upland and extractive landscape between Merthyr Tydfil and the BBNP
- The BBNP
- Upland common to the east of the site

### 5.4 Effects on the Landscape

5.4.1 This section examines the nature and significance of the landscape effects arising as a result of the proposed development with reference to:

- effects on landscape fabric within the site, its features and qualities;
- effects on landscape character, including consideration of effects on designated landscapes; and
- effects on the landscape setting of settlements, public rights of way and roads.

5.4.2 Landscape character is derived from the combination and pattern of landscape elements. The effects of proposed development on landscape character would arise from its relationship to these combinations and patterns, and thus the character of the landscape. Effects on the landscape features, qualities and character may occur where there are either direct or indirect physical changes to the landscape. Direct changes to landscape fabric would only occur within the application boundary.

5.4.3 The effect of the proposed development on landscape character will depend on key characteristics of the receiving landscape; the degree to which the proposed development is considered consistent with or at odds with them; and how the proposed development would be perceived within the setting, with perception being influenced by:

- the distance to the site;
- weather conditions; and
- the 'fit' of the proposed development within the landscape pattern and characteristics.

5.4.4 The LVApp covers the following scenarios:

- Construction phase - this includes all clearance works, local level changes, remediation of the site, tree and vegetation removal, and of the construction of the proposed development.

- Completion – the fully constructed and completed proposed development, which would be open to the public.
- At year 15 – the establishment of the proposed landscape strategy and mitigation proposals.

### Sensitivity

5.4.5 Landscape sensitivity is a product of consideration of the value associated with the landscape receptor and its susceptibility to the changes likely to arise from the proposed development. Criteria for determining the landscape value and landscape susceptibility are set out in **Appendix 2**. For this appraisal the assessment of sensitivity is based on bringing value and susceptibility considerations together in one combined step, in accordance with the criteria set out in **Appendix 2**.

5.4.6 The receptors, their value and susceptibility are set out in the following table, with the resultant judgement of their sensitivity to the proposed development:

**Table 5-3 Susceptibility and Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors**

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
<b>Features, qualities, and characteristics within the site</b>			
<b>The landform of the east facing slope</b>	<b>Medium value:</b> a key characteristic of the site but it is in a deteriorating condition with several tips, shafts, and alterations within the site from past industrial and construction activities. Reflective of Moderate LANDMAP evaluation for geological landscape.	<b>Highly susceptible</b> to change and disturbance as the site is to be re-profiled and levels altered.	<b>Moderate-high sensitivity</b>
<b>Areas of woodland and trees</b>	<b>High value:</b> some areas are covered by TPOs. The site also contains veteran trees. The woodland habitat forms part of the important mosaic character of the site.	<b>Highly susceptible</b> to disturbance as some trees and areas of woodland are to be removed, protected areas are to be retained.	<b>High sensitivity</b>
<b>Mosaic character</b>	<b>High value:</b> A key characteristic and feature of the local SLA designation, which also contributes to the sense of place. Some cultural and heritage, and ecological designated sites of national and local value. Mostly high LANDMAP overall evaluations for landscape habitats and historic landscape aspect layers.	<b>Highly susceptible</b> to change and disturbance with the construction of built development, the removal of some habitat areas, and changes to the setting of heritage features.	<b>High sensitivity</b>

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Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
<b>Attractive distant views from open elevated areas</b>	<b>Medium value:</b> Where available forms a characteristic, views are backdropped by the BBNP with a visual connection to Merthyr Tydfil and contributes to the sense of place. Reflects the Moderate visual and sensory evaluation for scenic quality.	<b>Highly susceptible</b> to change with the construction of tall and large-scale buildings.	<b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>
<b>Setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil</b>	<b>Medium value:</b> of local importance forming the backdrop to Merthyr Tydfil. Some detractors such as unvegetated tips. Reflective of Moderate LANDMAP overall evaluation for visual and sensory.	<b>Highly susceptible</b> to change with the construction of tall and large-scale buildings.	<b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>
<b>Setting to areas of public access and PRowS</b>	<b>Medium value:</b> of local importance for recreational use.	<b>Highly susceptible</b> to change with proposals for connecting existing PRowS to routes within the site and potential for increased recreational use. Setting to the routes susceptible to change.	<b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>
<b>Landscape context of the site</b>			
<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	<b>Medium value:</b> reflective of LANDMAP High overall evaluations for historic landscape but Low overall evaluations for visual and sensory. Covered by the non-statutory designation LOHI.	<b>Low susceptibility</b> to change as the landscape character and appreciation for its industrial heritage are unlikely to alter.	<b>Lesser sensitivity</b>
<b>Cyfarthfa Park</b>	<b>High value:</b> Registered Park and Garden Grade II*, contains listed buildings, important area of public open space and visitor attraction for the region. It also reflects the outstanding and high LANDMAP evaluations for aspect areas MRTHRHL018 and MRTHRVS588.	Visual relationship and heritage connection <b>Highly susceptible</b> to change with the construction of tall and large-scale buildings.	<b>High sensitivity</b>
<b>Upland and extractive landscape between Merthyr Tydfil and the BBNP and upland</b>	<b>Medium value:</b> reflective of LANDMAP Outstanding and High overall evaluations for historic landscape but Moderate and Low overall evaluations for visual and sensory. Covered by the non-statutory designation LOHI.	<b>Low susceptibility</b> to change as the landscape character and historic associations are unlikely to alter.	<b>Lesser sensitivity</b>

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
common to the east of the site			
BBNP	<b>High value:</b> a statutory designated landscape of national importance.	Views to the south <b>Moderately susceptible</b> to change with the construction of tall and large-scale buildings.	<b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>

### Magnitude of change

- 5.4.7 The magnitude of change considers the key features of the proposed development, as described in **section 3.0**, and the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered by these changes or by the structures associated with the development. The magnitude of change is described and set out in **Appendix 3, Table Appendix 3.1. Table 5-4** below provides a summary of the assessments:

**Table 5-4 Landscape receptors and magnitude of change summary**

Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change
<b>Features, qualities, and characteristics within the site</b>	
<b>The landform of the east facing slope</b>	During Construction: <b>Great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Small - medium</b>
<b>Areas of woodland and trees</b>	During Construction: <b>Great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium</b>
<b>Mosaic character</b>	During Construction: <b>Great</b> Completion: <b>Medium - great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium</b>
<b>Attractive distant views from open elevated areas</b>	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>Setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil</b>	During Construction: <b>Medium - great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium - great</b>
<b>Setting to areas of public access and PRowS</b>	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Negligible</b>

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Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change
<b>Landscape context of the site</b>	
<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	During Construction: <b>Small</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Negligible</b>
<b>Cyfarthfa Park</b>	During Construction: <b>Small - medium</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>Upland and extractive landscape between Merthyr Tydfil and the BBNP and upland common to the east of the site</b>	During Construction: <b>Small - medium</b> Completion: <b>Small – medium</b> At 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>BBNP</b>	During Construction: <b>Small</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Negligible</b>

- 5.4.8 The assessments conclude that for features and characteristics within the site during the construction phase, the magnitude of change would be mainly great or medium-great. At completion the magnitude of change would mainly remain great or medium-great with the magnitude of change reducing for some landscape receptors reducing.
- 5.4.9 At 15 years after completion, the magnitude of change would be mainly medium or small. The site would undergo large-scale changes, including changes to landform and removal of woodland and trees and other habitats that contribute to the mosaic character. Beyond the boundary of the site where existing woodland and trees are retained the change to landscape character would be limited due to the enclosure provided by vegetation. The changes to the character of the site would change the setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil and partially alter the setting to routes used by the public and public rights of way. Overtime, planted woodland and trees would continue to establish, seeded grassland and scrub would be established, all of which would help to integrate the proposed development into the surrounding landscape and contribute to the mosaic character.
- 5.4.10 For the wider landscape character, the magnitude of change would be limited to indirect effects on the visual appreciate of the landscape. The magnitude of change was assessed as predominantly small or small-medium during construction and at completion. At 15 years after completion, the magnitude of change would diminish with some reducing to negligible as the proposed development is likely to become assimilated into the landscape.

### Assessment of effects on the landscape

- 5.4.11 Consideration of the magnitude of the changes due to the proposals is combined with consideration of the sensitivity of landscape receptors affected by the proposals to assess the

degree and nature of the effect at each stage of the proposed development from construction to 15 years after completion.

- 5.4.12 Final conclusions about the degree of landscape effect, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in **Table A2-11**. The assessment is provided in **Appendix 3, Table Appendix 3.2** and a summary of the effects is provided below in **Table 5.5**:

**Table 5-5 Effects on Landscape Receptors**

Landscape Receptors and Sensitivity	Effects during construction	Effects at completion	Effects after 15 years
Features, qualities, and characteristics within the site			
The landform of the east facing slope: <b>moderate-high sensitivity</b>	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate neutral
Areas of woodland and trees: <b>high sensitivity</b>	Major adverse	Major adverse	Moderate adverse
Mosaic character: <b>high sensitivity</b>	Major adverse	Major-moderate adverse	Moderate neutral
Attractive distant views from open elevated areas: <b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor neutral
Setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil: <b>moderate-high sensitivity</b>	Major-moderate adverse	Major adverse	Major-moderate adverse
Setting to areas of public access and PRowS: <b>moderate-high sensitivity</b>	Moderate adverse	Minor neutral	Negligible
Landscape context of the site			
Merthyr Tydfil: <b>Lesser sensitivity</b>	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Negligible
Cyfarthfa Park: <b>High sensitivity</b>	Moderate adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse

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Landscape Receptors and Sensitivity	Effects during construction	Effects at completion	Effects after 15 years
Upland and extractive landscape between Merthyr Tydfil and the BBNP and upland common to the east of the site: <b>Lesser sensitivity</b>	<b>Minor adverse</b>	<b>Minor adverse</b>	<b>Minor adverse</b>
BBNP: <b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>	<b>Minor adverse</b>	<b>Minor adverse</b>	<b>Negligible</b>

- 5.4.13 The landscape receptors within the site where effects were assessed as major adverse or major-moderate adverse during construction and at completion phases are mainly receptors that have high sensitivity. These receptors would undergo great change as a result of the proposed development, and include landform, areas of woodland and trees, the mosaic character, and setting the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil. At 15 years after completion, effects would reduce to mainly moderate adverse as the magnitude of change reduces.
- 5.4.14 The remaining landscape receptors within the site have a moderate-high sensitivity and were assessed as having a medium and small magnitude of change during construction and at completion. These receptors were mainly assessed as moderate or minor adverse effects resulting from the proposed development, reducing to minor natural or negligible 15 years after completion.
- 5.4.15 For the wider landscape character, indirect effects resulting from the proposed development were assessed to be mostly minor adverse during construction and at completion. After 15 years some effects would reduce to negligible as the magnitude of change reduced as the proposed development is likely to become assimilated into the landscape.

## 6.0 Effects on Visual Amenity

### 6.1 Scope and Assessment Criteria

- 6.1.1 This section deals with the effects on visual amenity, arising from changes in the views available to people in the surrounding area.
- 6.1.2 The general methodology for assessing the effects in this report is set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 6.1.3 The degree of the likely visual effects of the proposed development is determined by relating the sensitivity of the receptors to the changes arising from the development proposals, and the degree and nature of the changes in the views available to people and in their visual amenity arising from the proposals.

## 6.2 Visual Baseline

### Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

- 6.2.1 A Zone of Theoretic Visibility (ZTV) plan has been generated by computer to identify the geographic extents within which views may be available of the proposed development within the visual study area. The ZTV is calculated to the maximum height of the proposed Snow Centre, which forms the tallest proposed feature on the site, to represent the 'worst case scenario'. The viewer eye-height for the ZTV has been set at 2m above ground level.
- 6.2.2 **Figure LA.7** shows the predicted extent of the ZTV for the proposed development, including the screening effect of surrounding buildings and woodlands, which was calculated using LiDAR 2m DTM resolution data (with heights of existing buildings and vegetation included in the LiDAR data). The screening effects of other surface features such as individual trees and hedgerows may not be picked up in the data.

### Viewpoint study

- 6.2.3 A photographic survey was undertaken to identify the potential extent of the visibility of the proposed development by locating viewpoints available to sensitive receptors. To inform the initial viewpoint selection, a visual study area from the site was mapped showing the surrounding landscape designations, public access, landscape character, and the predicted ZTV for the proposed development. Potentially sensitive visual receptors within the study area include residents, users of public rights of way and areas of open access land, visitors to the BBNP and areas or sites of historic interest, visitor attractions, and road users.
- 6.2.4 Based on the collated data, initial representative viewpoint locations were selected that relate to the "receptors", that is, residents and users of the landscape, and locations from which they may have views towards or of the site. MTCBC were consulted about the scope of the visual studies, including the initial viewpoint selection, MTCBC requested additional views to be considered which were all photographed, further detail is provided in **Appendix 4**.
- 6.2.5 For each of the viewpoints, the precise location was chosen during the field studies to represent the most open view available subject to local features such as vegetation, buildings or localised topographic variation. From some locations, the ground level of the site may not be visible. However, due to the height of the proposed development, which may be taller than surrounding features, viewpoint locations include areas where the proposed development may potentially be seen extending above intervening screening features.
- 6.2.6 A total of 24 views were photographed to illustrate the site and its appearance in publicly available locations. Of the 24 views that were taken, 16 views were carried forward as representative viewpoints for the visual amenity assessment. The locations of the 16 viewpoints (1-16) and 8 context views (A-G) are shown on Figure LA.07. Viewpoints prefixed with the letters MC are locations that were requested by MTCBC. **Appendix 4** details the reasons why the context views were not carried forward as viewpoints for assessment.
- 6.2.7 The context photographs are shown on **Figures LA.8** and viewpoint photographs are presented on Figures LA.09. Some viewpoints were selected to show wireline visualisations

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of the proposed development within the view. The location maps of the viewpoints and wireline views are shown on **Figures LA.10**. Photographs from within the site were also taken to illustrate the site, its features and context, see **Figures LA.6**.

6.2.8 Table 6.1 below lists the 16 viewpoints, the location details, the receptors represented, and the reasons for selection.

**Table 6-1 Viewpoint details**

VP Ref	Location	Distance from site (km)	Receptors represented/Reasons for selection
01	Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)	100m	<p>Users of the footbridge, bridleway and nearby Taff Trail walking route, National Cycle Route 8, and road users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is located within 1km of the proposed snow centre buildings.</li> <li>It is located on a public right of way</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</li> </ul>
MC 02	A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road	2.1km	<p>Users of the National Cycle Route, public path and local road users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint was requested by the LPA.</li> <li>The ZTV indicates that the majority of the proposed snow centre buildings would be visible.</li> </ul>
03	Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd	1.4km	<p>Residents and local road users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is located at an elevated settlement area within 2km of the proposed snow centre buildings.</li> <li>The ZTV illustrates there would potentially be views of the majority of the proposed buildings.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest</li> </ul>
04	Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue	1.0km	<p>Residents and local road users</p>

VP Ref	Location	Distance from site (km)	Receptors represented/Reasons for selection
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is located at an elevated settlement area within 2km of the proposed snow centre buildings.</li> <li>The ZTV illustrates there would potentially be views of the majority of the proposed snow centre buildings.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in a conservation area and a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</li> </ul>
<b>MC 05</b>	Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park	1.4km	<p>Users of the park and visitors to the memorial, nearby residents and local road users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The view was requested by the LPA.</li> <li>The park is popular with local residents.</li> <li>The viewpoint offers elevated views towards the site.</li> <li>The viewpoint is next to the listed buildings/ monument and within a conservation area.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</li> </ul>
<b>MC 06</b>	Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial	1.3km	<p>Visitors to Merthyr Tydfil town centre and local road users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The view was requested by the LPA.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located within 2km of the proposed snow centre buildings.</li> <li>The illustrates there would potentially be views of the majority of the proposed snow centre buildings.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located within the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</li> </ul>
<b>07</b>	Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig	1.8km	Residents and local road users

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VP Ref	Location	Distance from site (km)	Receptors represented/Reasons for selection
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is located at an elevated settlement area within 2km of the proposed snow centre buildings.</li> <li>The ZTV illustrates there would potentially be views of the majority of the proposed buildings.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest</li> </ul>
<b>MC 08</b>	Cyfarthfa Park	2.1km	<p>Visitors to Cyfarthfa Castle and Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The view was requested by the LPA.</li> <li>Cyfarthfa Park and Castle is a popular tourist attraction, which has received backing from the Council for a masterplan to transform the site to a major museum and visitor attraction.</li> <li>The ZTV indicates that there would potentially be views of the majority of the proposed snow centre buildings from the park and grounds.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in a Historic Park and Garden</li> <li>The viewpoint is also located in a Conservation Area and close to Grade I and II Listed Buildings</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</li> </ul>
<b>09</b>	Galon Uchaf Road/ 5th Avenue, Galon Uchaf	2.4km	<p>Residents, users of the public open space, and local road users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It represents key receptors including residents.</li> <li>The viewpoint is at an elevated location.</li> <li>The ZTV indicates that the majority of the proposed buildings would be visible.</li> </ul>

VP Ref	Location	Distance from site (km)	Receptors represented/Reasons for selection
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is located in the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest</li> </ul>
10	Cefn Cil-Sanws above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club	4.3km	<p>Visitors to the BBNP, users of the access land, and users of the nearby golf course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is located in the Brecon Beacons National Park</li> <li>The viewpoint is at an elevated location and the ZTV indicates that the majority of the proposed buildings would be visible.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest</li> </ul>
11	Morlais Castle	4.6km	<p>Visitors to the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is in a Special Landscape Area.</li> <li>Although not designated as access land and there are no formal public rights of way at the location, it is a popular local walking route.</li> <li>The viewpoint is in the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and close to a Scheduled Monument.</li> <li>The ZTV indicates that the majority of the proposed snow centre buildings would be visible from the elevated location.</li> </ul>
MC 12	Twynau Gwynion Quarries	5.6km	<p>Users of the bridleway and access land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint was requested by the LPA.</li> <li>Popular climbing and recreational pursuit area.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in an elevated area and the ZTV illustrates that there</li> </ul>

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VP Ref	Location	Distance from site (km)	Receptors represented/Reasons for selection
			<p>would potentially be views of the majority of the proposed snow centre buildings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is located in the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</li> </ul>
13	National Cycle Route 46, Dowlais Top	4.5km	<p>Users of the public footpath, the National Cycle Route, and visitors to the reservoir.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is at a popular recreation area</li> <li>The viewpoint is located at an elevated location.</li> <li>The ZTV indicates that the majority of the proposed buildings would be visible.</li> </ul>
14	Duffryn Fawr, Pentrebach	2.1km	<p>Users of the public path, nearby residents, and local road users</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It represents key receptors including residents.</li> <li>The ZTV indicates that the majority of the proposed snow centre buildings would be visible.</li> <li>The viewpoint is located in the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</li> </ul>
15	Merthyr Common (Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil)	3.6km	<p>Users of the access land (Merthyr Common)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The viewpoint is at an elevated location.</li> <li>The ZTV indicates that there would be views of the majority of the proposed buildings from the common.</li> <li>The site is located within Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest and close to a Scheduled Monument</li> </ul>
16	Gethin Woodland Park	2.2km	<p>Visitors to Bike Park Wales, users of the bridleway and access land</p>

VP Ref	Location	Distance from site (km)	Receptors represented/Reasons for selection
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike Park Wales is a popular and nationally recognised tourist attraction.</li> <li>• The viewpoint is located in a Special Landscape Area</li> <li>• The viewpoint is located in the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</li> <li>• To verify the ZTV as some woodland has been recently cleared.</li> </ul>

6.2.9 Table 6-2 below provides a description of the landscape context at each of the 16 viewpoint locations and description of the existing view towards the site.

**Table 6-2 Existing assessment viewpoint descriptions**

Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
<b>01 - Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)</b>	The viewpoint is located on the eastern side of the A470 on the bridleway over bridge crossing the A4102. It is located to the south of the retail park overlooking the roundabout on the A470 at the proposed site access. The bridleway link through to a second over bridge crossing the A 470 where the bridleway enters the site. This section of A 470 is well vegetated along both sides of the road. Along the western side woodland and scrub throughout the former mining landscape extent towards the coniferous woodland of Mynydd Gethin which forms the horizon.	The foreground of the view is of the roundabout Providing a connexion from the A470 to the A4102. High railings along each side of the overbridge filter the view of the roundabout. Existing vegetation along the eastern side of the A470 frames the view of the roundabout. Beyond the roundabout the vegetation along the western side of the A470 extends away into the distance and merges into other woodland and scrub extending up the hillside towards Mynydd Gethin. The land surface of the site is not visible out of the screening provided by this intervening vegetation.
<b>MC02 - A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road</b>	The viewpoint is located in the south of Merthyr Tydfil, on the eastern side of the roundabout on the A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road. It is in the centre of an industrial area with the River Taff and the Cardiff railway line to the west, a group of car showrooms to the north, the former Hoover factory to the south, and open space and woodland around the Trevithick Tunnel to the east. Trees along the roads, river, railway, and between industrial sites create a degree	The foreground of the view is of the roundabout with mature ornamental trees and the grounds of a car show room and an industrial unit. Views towards the site on the east facing slopes are partially screened and filtered by the foreground trees with more open views between the gaps of the trees and industrial unit. The ground level of the site is largely screened by a combination of foreground and middle ground trees. Above the site, the horizon is formed by the conifer woodland on Mynydd

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Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
	of fragmentation in the area and restrict views towards the nearby hills. The Trevithick Tunnel, which is set amidst dense woodland nearby to the east, is accessed via a footpath and cycle route from a car park just to the south of the viewpoint. Vegetation screens external views from these routes and from the nearby National Cycle Route 477.	Gethin and Mynydd Aberdare further to the north. In the distance to the north there are some views of the residential properties in Heolgerrig.
<b>03 - Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd</b>	<p>Ysgubor Newydd is a residential area in the south of Merthyr Tydfil, primarily consisting of semi-detached two-storey houses. It is located on land that drops to the southwest into the Taff valley. The gradient is sufficient to allow views from residential properties over the rooflines of nearby buildings to the opposite side of the Taff valley.</p> <p>Several open spaces around the residential areas also allow for views towards the west across the valley. Ysgubor Newydd is situated in the Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, while the open spaces are protected for informal recreation and amenity in the Local Development Plan 2006-2021.</p>	The foreground of the view is occupied by two storey semi-detached residential properties, which can be seen descending the hillside to the southwest. Although nearby properties screen the bottom of the Taff valley, the gradient of the slope allows for views over nearby properties to the western valley side, including towards the site. Views of the site and the east facing slopes above the residential properties are covered in deciduous woodland. Above the site and deciduous woodland there are views of conifer woodland blocks on the horizon. A major powerline can be seen on the horizon in a gap in the conifers above the site. To the right of the conifer woodland there are distant views of Mynydd Aberdare and the residential area of Heolgerrig below.
<b>04 - Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue</b>	The viewpoint is located in the central area of Merthyr Tydfil, in a residential area east of the town centre. The viewpoint is located in the south of Thomastown conservation area. The elevated viewpoint is on a west facing slope with two storey semi-detached and terraced properties lined along the lower slopes in a northwest to southeast direction. The properties are generally orientated towards the west/ southwest alongside the residential roads with brick walls forming curtilage boundaries. The residential area is dense with properties, except to the north around Sandbrook Place. Further to the north is Thomastown Park.	The foreground of the view is of local roads and residential properties descending steeply down the west facing slope. The properties screen views of the centre of Merthyr Tydfil below, although there are some views of taller buildings such as the Welsh Government Offices and residential flats. Above the built development, there are views towards the site in the mid-distance and the deciduous wooded east facing slopes. Within the site there are views of some features such as the A470 tip and access tracks. Above the site, there are views of the coniferous woodland blocks on Mynydd Gethin which forms the horizon.
<b>MC05 - Boar War Memorial,</b>	The viewpoint is located in the west of Thomastown Park, close to the Boar War Memorial. The memorial is Grade II listed and Thomastown Park is within the	Foreground views of amenity grass with the Boar War Memorial and benches orientated to the east before the land steeply falls with views of deciduous trees and vegetation on

Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
<b>Thomas Town Park</b>	<p>Thomastown conservation area. The park is bisected by Queen's Road, a north to south direction local road, with the most popular area of the park in the east comprising mature trees, circular footpath routes, play spaces and equipment. The west of the park is on an elevated grassed area with the Boar War Memorial surrounded by fencing and benches that has distant views to the west. To the west of the memorial, land steeply drops to a wooded area that defines the edge of the residential area. To the northeast of the memorial, some two storey properties are orientated towards the west with partial views over the bowls green, hardcourt tennis courts, and club house.</p>	<p>the lower slopes. Views of Merthyr Tydfil in the valley below are mainly screen by the topography, but there are some filtered roofscape views between the vegetation and trees. In the distance, there are views of the site and surrounding wooded east facing slopes with features on the site difficult to perceive. To the north, there are some views of Heolgerrig. The horizon, above the site, is comprised of the Mynydd Aberdare and Mynydd Gethin ridgelines with the coniferous woodland blocks on top of Mynydd Gethin.</p>
<b>MC06 - Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial</b>	<p>The viewpoint is located in the north of Merthyr Tydfil town centre, close to the Civic centre and a war memorial. The war memorial, just to the northeast of the viewpoint, is set with a formal square with amenity grass, flower beds, footpaths, and benches. Immediately to the southeast of the viewpoint is Castle Street and the bus station. At the time of the viewpoint photography, the bus station was operational, but the station has since moved to a new site further to the southeast, which opened in June 2021. To the west of the viewpoint is the A4054, which forms part of the one-way system around Merthyr Tydfil town centre. The River Taff is immediately to the west and below the road with a public car park to the west of the river.</p>	<p>Hard landscape with Castle Street occupies the foreground of the view, with some amenity grass and trees to the right. A commercial unit and the bus station are viewed in the middle ground with retail units, a shopping centre, and two trees viewed above the bus station. A public car park and Merthyr Tydfil College is viewed to the right. Wooded slopes form the backdrop in the mid-distance to Merthyr Tydfil College and public car park. To the left, views towards the site are above the bus station and retail units in the distance, comprised of wooded slopes with features on the site difficult to discern. Above the site, there are views of the coniferous woodland block that forms the horizon along Mynydd Gethin.</p>
<b>07 - Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig</b>	<p>The residential areas of Heolgerrig, Gellideg and Clwydfagwyr to the north, represent existing development to the west of Merthyr Tydfil on the lower slopes of Mynydd Aberdare, which are separated from the main urban area by the A470 dual carriageway. The irregular street pattern of the Heolgerrig, which also contains a large variety of building styles and sizes, is unusual for the area. The often narrow roads and curtilage vegetation limit the availability of views</p>	<p>Publicly accessible areas from which views towards the site are available are infrequent from Heolgerrig, although views are likely to be more commonplace from within private properties. The viewpoint is located on a hill which provides sufficient elevation for a view to be available above the mid-ground residential area towards site. Land in the context of the site is predominantly covered with deciduous trees, although it is interspersed with areas of wet grassland with tussocky vegetation. The ground level</p>

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Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
	<p>out from the area, those that are available are generally towards the east and northeast across Merthyr Tydfil and towards the BBNP. The viewpoint is located where a framed view towards the site is available, while also depicting that the majority of the properties in the surrounding area are either orientated perpendicular to the direction of the site or are set on lower ground where other nearby buildings and vegetation are likely to screen the views.</p>	<p>of the site is not visible, being screened by both topography and vegetation. Above the site to the right, the horizon consists of the conifer woodland blocks on top of Mynydd Gethin with far distant views of uplands to the southeast. Between gaps of nearby residential properties in the left of the view, there are distant views of central Merthyr Tydfil.</p>
<b>MC08 - Cyfarthfa Park</b>	<p>Cyfarthfa Park is both a conservation area and a historic park and garden with a significant view from the castle, a Grade I listed building in its centre, towards the southwest. The park is situated on the northern side of Merthyr Tydfil and on the eastern side of the Taff valley, near to the point where the Taf Fawr and Taf Fechan converge.</p> <p>The viewpoint is located in parkland about 220m to the southeast of the castle. The park contains numerous mature trees and areas of woodland, limiting views out of the park to surrounding area. Open areas in the park are either at its lowest point along the western boundary or along the eastern boundary where woodland and treelines screen views. Dense suburban development of varying ages and design surround the park.</p>	<p>Open views towards the site from within the Cyfarthfa Park are unusual, requiring both gaps between the mature parkland trees and sufficient elevation to see over intervening features. The viewpoint represents such a combination providing an open, but framed view to the south.</p> <p>The south-westernmost part of the park occupies the foreground of the view with suburban Merthyr Tydfil visible beyond the park boundary, consisting of roofscape views of school buildings, residential properties, and large retail units, interspersed with woodland. The wooded slopes of Mynydd Gethin are visible beyond, with deciduous lower slopes and conifers along the horizon. Views towards the site are distant, situated amid the deciduous woodland on the lower slopes and its position is difficult to discern from this distance and elevation.</p>
<b>09 - Galon Uchaf Road/ 5th Avenue, Galon Uchaf</b>	<p>Pen-y-Darren and Galon Uchaf are large and dense residential suburbs on the northern side of Merthyr Tydfil with Galon Uchaf Park at their centre. The properties are primarily two storey and either semi-detached or short terraces. The residential area is situated on a plateau of between approximately 250m and 300m AOD which slopes gently towards the south. Aside from around the perimeter of the park, trees and mature vegetation are uncommon. The park itself consists of a number of terraces containing playing fields and a wooded valley along its western side.</p>	<p>Views towards the site from publicly accessible areas are either framed by buildings or filtered by vegetation. At the viewpoint, trees along Galon Uchaf Road restrict the availability of views and frame those that do exist. From the viewpoint the land drops into playing fields into the adjacent park, which provides the opportunity for distant views across the Taff valley towards Mynydd Gethin and Mynydd Aberdare. Topography screens the lower parts of Merthyr Tydfil although filtered views of Heolgerrig and Trago Mills below are available through trees to the right. The site is situated in the distance amongst woodland on the far side on the valley, with</p>

Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
		the conifer capped ridgeline of Mynydd Gethin above the site. The rooflines of buildings near to the A465 are just visible below the site.
<b>10 - Cefn Cil-Sanws above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club</b>	<p>Cefn Cil-Sanws is an upland limestone ridge to the north of Merthyr Tydfil, on the eastern side of the Taf Fawr valley, and is in the BBNP. It is a mountain environment with areas of tussocky and stony ground and is grazed by sheep. The higher slopes of the hill show little sign of human use with only a few indistinct paths across the area. On the lower slopes to the south and east is Merthyr Tydfil Golf Course.</p> <p>Panoramic views to the west, south and east are available from the southern side of the hill, over Merthyr Tydfil and down the Taff valley. The view is representative of the views available to users of the nearby Merthyr Tydfil Golf Course, although buildings screen the view from the car park itself.</p>	<p>From an upland setting the view faces south directly down the Taff valley, dropping away in the immediate foreground to reveal urban Merthyr Tydfil beyond. In the centre of the valley and on the eastern lower slopes the grounds of Cyfarthfa Castle, with its parkland and lake, are visible. To the right of this are views of the buildings of Cyfarthfa Retail Park and the large building of Trago Mills superstore. Throughout Merthyr Tydfil the urban area is interspersed by trees and areas of woodland, which softens the built form in the view. Beyond the urban area, the open Merthyr Common ridge on the eastern side of the Taff valley is prominent. To the west the ridge is predominantly wooded, with deciduous trees on the lower slopes and conifers on the upper. The site is situated here on the lower deciduous slopes and its location identifiable by the nearby major powerline.</p>
<b>11 – Morlais Castle</b>	<p>Morlais Hill is a local high point just beyond the northern edge of urban Merthyr Tydfil and a 360° panorama is available from its summit. Below the hill to the southeast is a golf course and to the north and west are disused quarries. The hill is topped by the ruined remains of Morlais Castle, a scheduled monument. Further north is the deeply incised and wooded valley of Cwm Taf Fechan, through which run the Taf Fechan river and the Taff Trail. Pastoral farmland consisting of small and irregular shaped tree-lined fields surround these features, which then give way to the open moorland of the BBNP to the north and to the built form of Merthyr Tydfil to the south. Although there are no public rights of way on the hill and it is not access land, it is a popular and well visited location with no constraints to access.</p>	<p>In the foreground the land drops steeply across pastoral farmland bounded by trees and hedgerows. To the south, the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road forms an edge to the built-up area of Merthyr Tydfil in the mid-ground of the view as the land use changes abruptly from rural to urban. The built form of the town occupies the lower reaches of the Taff valley and includes views of large buildings such as the Prince Charles Hospital and Trago Mills superstore. Built development is viewed extending southwards and out of sight in the left of the view. The site is viewed among woodland on the far side of the valley, above built development and below the conifer woodland blocks on Mynydd Gethin that form part of the horizon in the distance. Although the location of site is identifiable within the view, features within the site are barely perceptible.</p>

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Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
<b>MC12 - Twynau Gwynion Quarries</b>	<p>The viewpoint, located by Twynau Gwynion Quarries, represents views available from high ground on the northeast side of Merthyr Tydfil, including Morlais Hill, Dowlais Top and the BBNP. Twynau Gwynion Quarries are located on the northernmost part of Merthyr Common between the urban fringe of north Merthyr Tydfil and the BBNP. The quarries, which are disused, are a popular destination for informal recreational activities. To the north and east is an upland plateau of rough moorland interspersed with limestone rocky outcrops. To the west the land drops steeply into the wooded Cwm Taf Fechan, which is bordered by small tree lined pastoral fields. To the south, beyond small stone walled pastoral fields, is suburban Merthyr Tydfil, the edge of which consists of mixed land uses including a golf course, industrial estate, and cemetery to the southwest, a residential area to the south, and an industrial and retail area to the southeast.</p>	<p>The view is oriented towards the southwest across the bowl in the Taff valley that Merthyr Tydfil occupies. The foreground of the view contains a pockmarked landscape of disused mining features that are covered in short grazed grass. In the mid-ground there are views of the northern suburbs of Merthyr Tydfil, but the town centre beyond is screened by topography. To the left of Merthyr Tydfil, the Ffos-y-frân opencast coal working are prominent on the skyline, while disused quarries at Morlais Hill and Vaynor are visible to the right among pastoral farmland, woodlands and golf courses.</p> <p>The views towards the site in the distance are above Pant Industrial Estate with features within the site difficult to identify as part of the lower wooded slopes of the Mynydd Aberdare ridgeline. The coniferous woodland blocks on Mynydd Gethin are prominent along the skyline above the site, while wind turbines and masts can be seen along the horizon to the right.</p>
<b>13 - National Cycle Route 46, Dowlais Top</b>	<p>Dowlais Top is a mixture of industrial sites, residential areas, major infrastructure, allotments, farmland and moorland, all punctuated with public footpaths, cycleways, and areas with public access around reservoirs. This irregular pattern is further emphasised by the area's exposure, being at nearly 400m AOD and in a pass between the Taff and Rhymney valleys. The altitude also dictates the vegetation types, with scrub and tussocky grass widespread and a notable absence of large trees. To the north the land rises gently to the open expanse of Merthyr Common and the BBNP, while to the south are the cutting and overburden mounds of the Ffos-y-frân opencast coal mine. The section of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road immediately in front of the viewpoint is currently in the process of being dualled, resulting in vegetation along the roadside being cleared and opening up views to the southwest and across Merthyr Tydfil.</p>	<p>The site of the proposed Snow Centre lies to the southwest of the viewpoint on the far side of the Taff valley. The A465 crosses the foreground of the view. An associated reservoir is just visible on the south side of the road with the roofscape on a nearby industrial area. To the south of the industrial area the land drops, which screens most of Merthyr Tydfil. The bowl-shaped topography of Merthyr Tydfil's setting is apparent, with the ridgeline to its west, and behind the site, forming the horizon. The site occupies approximately the lower third of Mynydd Aberdare slope in the distance, which is hard to distinguish amongst the deciduous woodland and context. The coniferous trees of Gethin Woodlands occupy the skyline above the site and extend southwards along the skyline to the left. In the mid-distance, the left of the view is occupied by the partially screened Ffos-y-frân opencast coal mine. To the right of the site the blades of wind turbines protrude above the horizon of</p>

Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
	<p>The A465 is a key transport route to the north of Merthyr Tydfil with its associated road sound influencing the character of the area.</p>	<p>Mynydd Aberdare, while the residential area of Heolgerrig and the Trago Mills superstore are identifiable on the lower slopes above foreground vegetation.</p>
<p><b>14 - Duffryn Fawr, Pentrebach</b></p>	<p>Pentrebach is a suburb in the south of Merthyr Tydfil, situated on the eastern side of the valley bottom between the River Taff and where the land starts to rise. Industrial areas occupy the valley floor to the northwest and south of the suburb, with the residential area of Abercanaid on the opposite bank of the River Taff to the west. National Cycle Route 477 runs along the eastern side of the residential area, beyond which the land rises steeply to Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil. The lower slopes consist of scattered small woodlands and fields interspersed with remnants of former mining activity. Higher the slopes transition to open grazing land, which are part of Merthyr Common. The area is well served by infrastructure with the A470 dual-carriageway, a railway and the A4054 running along the valley bottom. External views from publicly accessible locations in the area are relatively unusual due to a combination of the orientation of the streets and vegetation along the side of the major roads and cycleway. However, views are likely to be available from residential properties, particularly from upper floors.</p>	<p>The viewpoint is located on a section of pavement that is raised above the adjacent street level by approximately 2m. The height difference allows for an open view over the adjacent housing, between properties, towards the site and is representative of the views available from residential properties in the area, particularly from the first floor. The foreground of the view consists of the roofscape of residential properties with filtered views of the roofscape of industrial buildings behind some trees. The site is viewed in the mid-distance above the roofscape on the west facing slopes of Mynydd Aberdare. The open areas in the west of the site, in its upper reaches, are just visible amidst trees, while the lower parts are indiscernible among the woodland. The Mynydd Aberdare ridgeline forms the horizon in the view above the site. The surrounding context appears heavily wooded and undeveloped in the view, but it is partially backdropped against Heolgerrig residential area, and partially interrupted by pylons and overhead cables for a major powerline that climbs the hill before disappearing over the skyline.</p>
<p><b>15 - Merthyr Common (Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil)</b></p>	<p>Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil, at 445m AOD, is the highpoint on the ridgeline along the east side of the Taff valley to the south of Merthyr Tydfil. The ridgeline is capped by common and access land, which consists of grassland tightly cropped by grazing horses and sheep. To the west, the land drops steeply into the Taff valley with the lower slopes containing signs of old mining activities and are becoming bracken covered. To the east is Cwm Bargoed, a unique valley in South Wales as there are no roads or residential areas along the valley floor. From Dowlais Road, an old track that runs along the top of the ridgeline that provides access</p>	<p>Industrial areas in Pentrebach and residential areas of Abercanaid and Pentrebach occupy the Taff valley floor between the viewpoint and the site in the middle ground of the view. Some trees and areas of public open space break up areas of development. Above the built-up area there are some views of the A470. Views towards the site, in the mid-distance, are just above the A470 and it is viewed amongst the surrounding woodland. Above the site, the summit and ridgeline of Mynydd Aberdare is mainly comprised of coniferous blocks of woodland, which partially screen views of the uplands with wind farms that forms part of the horizon in</p>

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Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
	to the common, panoramic views are available in all directions.	the far distance. In the right of the view, the built-up area of Merthyr Tydfil extends northwards and spreads out up the valley in the distance and include views of some distinctive buildings such as Trago Mills and Cyfarthfa Retail Park. The Brecon Beacons form the horizon in the far distance above Merthyr Tydfil.
<b>16 - Gethin Woodland Park</b>	Gethin Woodlands cover the Mynydd Gethin ridgeline and its slopes on the western side of the Taff Valley, to the south and west of the site. The woodlands are NRW managed forestry, in which sections are felled in rotation. This would allow for views across the Taff valley and north towards Merthyr Tydfil and the Brecon Beacons until new planting has become established. The woodlands are also the location of Bike Park Wales, a very popular downhill mountain bike centre, which is based in the woods approximately 1.5km to the south of the proposed Snow Centre. The woodlands are access land and are crossed by a network of public rights of way, particularly in their northern half.	The viewpoint is located on a bridleway approximately halfway up the side of Mynydd Gethin where young trees currently allow for views across the Taff valley. The bridleway is also used as part of the 'up track' for Bike Park Wales, which cyclists can climb to get to the start of the downhill routes if not using the uplift bus. The young trees and the elevated position on the steep side slope allow for distant views to the north. Pen-y-Fan forms a distinctive feature in the far distance on a clear day with the surrounding uplands of the BBNP forming the horizon. Below the uplands, views of the built-up area of Merthyr Tydfil form the middle ground of the view and include views of Heolgerrig and Trago Mills superstore. The built-up area of Merthyr Tydfil extends southwards in the view and closer to the viewpoint with views of A470 and Pentrebach industrial area to the east. To the west of the A470 and south of Trago Mills there are views of the site. To the south of the site the steep slopes comprised of mixed woodland occupy the foreground.

### 6.3 Visual receptors

6.3.1 The assessment of visual effects is described by considering how the different groups of "visual receptors" may be affected. The following is a review of the viewers (the visual receptors) and the views available to them at the selected representative locations:

#### People in settlements and residential properties

6.3.2 People in settlements located along the valley floor and eastern valley side slopes will have opportunities for views towards the site along the western side slopes of the valley. Many potential views are filtered or partly obscured by other built development and intervening features, however, open views towards the site are available from some locations within

Merthyr. A representative sample of these open views have been taken forward to the assessment:

- **03** - Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd
- **04** - Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue

6.3.3 A representative sample of view available to residents which are filtered, oblique or partly obstructed have also been taken forward to the assessment:

- **MC05** - Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park
- **MC06** - Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial
- **07** - Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig
- **09** - Galon Uchaf Road/ 5th Avenue, Galon Uchaf
- **14** - Duffryn Fawr, Pentrebach

#### Users of public rights of way and areas of public access

6.3.4 Walkers, cyclists and equestrians experience changing views while moving through the landscape and many potential views are filtered or partly obscured by intervening features. Where a particular view is available these receptors are more likely for their attention or interest to be focused on the views or the visual amenity they experience at particular locations. There are several public rights of way locally, including the Taff Trail walking route, National Cycle Route 8, from which views are oblique or partially screened. A representative sample of these views have been taken forward to the assessment:

- **01** - Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)
- **MC02** - A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road
- **MC05** - Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park
- **MC06** - Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial
- **MC08** - Cyfarthfa Park
- **10** - Cefn Cil-Sanws above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club
- **11** - Morlais Castle
- **15** - Merthyr Common (Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil)
- **16** - Gethin Woodland Park

#### Road users

6.3.5 Users of public roads are less sensitive to changes in the wider landscape because their view is constantly changing as they travel through the landscape/townscape. Movement through the landscape results in views being filtered or partly obscured by intervening features and any specific development would not be the focus of interest for a long duration. Within

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Merthyr the roads, dwellings, other buildings and the activity of the street would occupy the foreground of views for road users and provide a focus for the view available.

6.3.6 There are many locations within Merthyr and the surrounding areas where views are available for road users. A representative sample of these views have been taken forward to the assessment:

- **01**-Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)
- **MC02**-A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road
- **03** - Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd
- **04** - Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue
- **MC05** - Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park
- **MC06**-Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial
- **07**-Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig

### Other areas with a specific landscape interest

6.3.7 Visitors to the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) are more aware of changes in the landscape and the views available from public rights of way and access land. There are many locations within the National Park where views are available for visitors, the nearest of which would be beyond 2.5km to the north-northwest of the site at Gellideg, to the north of Heolgerrig. However, the ZTV has intermittent coverage in this location and a view could not be found during the field survey. The BBNP Authority were consulted on the location of assessment viewpoints within the LVApp as part of the EIA scoping/screening and made no comment.

6.3.8 The available views from within the BBNP are generally more elevated than the site and over 4km away from the proposed development. A representative sample of these views have been taken forward to the assessment:

- **10** - Cefn Cil-Sanws above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club
- **11** - Morlais Castle

## 6.4 Effects on visual amenity

6.4.1 The visual assessment covers the assessment scenarios described in paragraph 5.4.4.

### Sensitivity

6.4.2 The susceptibility of viewers is affected by factors such as the distance to the viewer, the relative number of viewers affected and the importance of the site in the overall view. The context of the viewpoint may also contribute to the ability to accommodate change, for example, people viewing from residential properties or from a valued landscape might be regarded as less able to accommodate change, than those viewing from an industrial context.

Table A2-8 in Appendix 2 provides examples of High, Moderate and Lesser sensitivity, demonstrating how the contributing factors are interpreted.

6.4.3 The sensitivity of the visual receptors is assessed as follows:

- People in settlements and residential properties: high susceptibility to changes in their visual amenity; open unobstructed views including the site assessed as of high value: high sensitivity, and filtered, oblique or partial views of medium value: moderate sensitivity.
- Users of public rights of way or access land within the BBNP: high susceptibility to change in their visual amenity; open views of the site high value: high sensitivity and filtered, oblique or partial views of medium value: moderate sensitivity.
- Users of public rights of way or access land: moderate susceptibility to change in their visual amenity; open views of the site of medium value: moderate sensitivity and filtered, oblique or partial views of low value: lesser sensitivity.
- Users of public roads: low susceptibility to change in their visual amenity: filtered, oblique or partial views of low value: lesser sensitivity.

6.4.4 The sensitivity of each receptor is listed below in **Table 6.2**.

### Magnitude of Change

6.4.5 The existing views for each representative viewpoint are described in Table 6.2 above. Descriptions of the proposed development within each view is described and an analysis of the degree and nature of changes is presented in Appendix 3, Table Appendix 3.3. A summary of the magnitude of change is provided in Table 6-3 below.

**Table 6-3 Viewpoint and magnitude of change summary**

Reference viewpoints	Magnitude of change:
<b>01</b> -Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)	During Construction: <b>Medium-great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium-great</b>
<b>MC02</b> -A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road	During Construction: <b>Medium-small</b> Completion: <b>Medium-small</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium-small</b>
<b>03</b> - Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd	During Construction: <b>Great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium-great</b>
<b>04</b> - Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue	During Construction: <b>Medium-great</b> Completion: <b>Medium-great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium</b>

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Reference viewpoints	Magnitude of change:
<b>MC05</b> - Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> At completion: <b>Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>MC06</b> – Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> At completion: <b>Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>07</b> -Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig	During Construction: <b>Small</b> At completion: <b>Small</b> After 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>MC08</b> - Cyfarthfa Park	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> At completion: <b>Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Medium</b>
<b>09</b> - Galon Uchaf Road/ 5th Avenue, Galon Uchaf	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> At completion: <b>Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Medium</b>
<b>10</b> - Cefn Cil-Sanws above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club	During Construction: <b>Medium-small</b> At completion: <b>Medium-small</b> After 15 years: <b>Medium-small</b>
<b>11</b> – Morlais Castle	During Construction: <b>Medium-small</b> At completion: <b>Medium-small</b> After 15 years: <b>Medium-small</b>
<b>MC12</b> - Twynau Gwynion Quarries	During Construction: <b>Small</b> At completion: <b>Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>13</b> – National Cycle Route 46, Dowlais Top	During Construction: <b>Small</b> At completion: <b>Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>14</b> -Duffryn Fawr, Pentrebach	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> At completion: <b>Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>15</b> – Merthyr Common (Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil)	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> At completion: <b>Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Small</b>
<b>16</b> - Gethin Woodland Park	During Construction: <b>Medium-great</b> At completion: <b>Medium-great</b> After 15 years: <b>Medium</b>

6.4.1 The assessments generally concluded that for viewpoints with open views located within 1km of the site, the magnitude of change would mostly be great or medium-

great during construction and at completion. The magnitude of change may reduce from great to medium-great 15 years after completion as proposed planting becomes established.

- 6.4.2 For viewpoints located between 1 and 3km of the site, the magnitude of change was mainly assessed as medium during construction and at completion. The magnitude of change may reduce from medium to small 15 years after completion.
- 6.4.3 Beyond 4km of the site, the magnitude of change for elevated viewpoints were mainly assessed as medium-small or small during construction and at completion with the magnitude of change reducing 15 years after completion as the proposed development becomes more ingrained into the landscape and planting becomes established.

### Effects on visual receptors

- 6.4.4 Final conclusions about the degree of visual effects, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in **Table A2-11**. Visual receptors are grouped based on their sensitivity and the nature of the view available. For each group of receptors, representative viewpoints are listed. Detailed assessments are provided in **Appendix 3**, **Table Appendix 3.4** and a summary of the effects is provided below in **Table 6.4**:

**Table 6-4 Effects on Visual Receptors**

Visual receptors, sensitivity, and reference viewpoints	Effects during construction	Effects at completion	Effects after 15 years
Users of the footbridge, bridleway and nearby Taff Trail walking route, National Cycle Route 8, oblique views, partially screened: <b>moderate sensitivity</b> <b>01</b> -Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Major -moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>
Users of the National Cycle Route and public footpaths: <b>moderate sensitivity</b> <b>MC02</b> -A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>
People in settlements and residential properties, open views to the east of the site: <b>high sensitivity</b> <b>03</b> - Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd	<b>Major adverse</b>	<b>Major adverse</b>	<b>Major -moderate adverse</b>

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Visual receptors, sensitivity, and reference viewpoints	Effects during construction	Effects at completion	Effects after 15 years
<p>Users of public roads within 2km of the site: <b>lesser sensitivity</b></p> <p><b>01</b>-Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)</p> <p><b>MC02</b>-A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road</p> <p><b>03</b> - Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd</p> <p><b>04</b> - Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue</p> <p><b>MC05</b> - Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park</p> <p><b>MC06</b> – Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial</p> <p><b>07</b>-Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig</p>	Moderate-minor adverse	Moderate-minor adverse	Moderate-minor adverse
<p>People in settlements and residential properties, open views to the northeast of the site: <b>high sensitivity</b></p> <p><b>04</b> - Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue</p>	Major adverse	Major-moderate adverse	Moderate adverse
<p>Visitors to Thomas Town Park, Merthyr Tydfil town centre and visitors to the memorial, nearby residents with filtered, oblique or partly obstructed views: <b>moderate sensitivity</b></p> <p><b>MC05</b> - Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park</p> <p><b>MC06</b> – Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial</p>	Moderate adverse	Moderate adverse	Moderate – minor adverse
<p>People in settlements and residential properties in elevated locations to the northwest with filtered, oblique or glimpsed views: <b>moderate sensitivity</b></p> <p><b>07</b>-Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig</p>	Minor adverse	Minor adverse	Minor adverse

Visual receptors, sensitivity, and reference viewpoints	Effects during construction	Effects at completion	Effects after 15 years
Visitors to Cyfarthfa Castle and Park with filtered, oblique or partial views: <b>moderate sensitivity</b> <b>MC08</b> - Cyfarthfa Park	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>
People in settlements and residential properties close to the site with filtered, oblique or partial views: <b>moderate sensitivity</b> <b>09</b> - Galon Uchaf Road/ 5th Avenue, Galon Uchaf	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>
Visitors to the BBNP, users of the access land, and users of the nearby golf course, visitors to Morlais Castle. <b>high sensitivity</b> <b>10</b> - Cefn Cil-Sanws above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>
Users of public rights of way beyond 4km to the north: <b>moderate sensitivity</b> <b>11</b> – Morlais Castle <b>MC12</b> - Twynau Gwynion Quarries	<b>Moderate-minor adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate-minor adverse</b>
Users of the public paths and nearby residents at Pentreback to the southeast of the site with filtered, oblique or partly obstructed views. <b>moderate sensitivity</b> <b>14</b> -Duffryn Fawr, Pentreback <b>15</b> – Merthyr Common (Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil)	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate-minor adverse</b>
Users of access land, public rights of way, Bike Park Wales with filtered, oblique/partial views or glimpsed open views: <b>moderate sensitivity</b> <b>16</b> - Gethin Woodland Park	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>	<b>Moderate adverse</b>

6.4.5 The visual assessments conclude that for residents with open views to the east of the site that have high sensitivity, the visual effects would be major adverse during construction and at completion as the magnitude of change was assessed as great. Effects would reduce to

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major-moderate after 15 years of completion as the magnitude of change reduces. For residents to the northeast of the site where the proposed development would be less prominent in views, the visual effects were assessed as major at construction, reducing to moderate 15 years after completion. For residents with moderate sensitivity, effects were assessed as moderate or minor for each phase.

- 6.4.1 For users of public open space within Merthyr Tydfil with moderate sensitivity, visual effects were assessed as moderate adverse during construction and at completion, reducing to moderate-minor 15 years after completion as the mitigation planting establishes reducing potential visual effects.
- 6.4.2 For users of public rights way and National Cycle Route 8 with oblique or partially screened views with moderate sensitivity, the visual effects were mainly assessed as moderate adverse during construction, at completion, and after 15 years.
- 6.4.3 For road users within 2km of the site with lesser sensitivity, the visual effects were assessed as moderate-minor adverse during construction, at completion, and 15 years after completion. Road users would typically have oblique or partial views towards the proposed development that would be short in duration with the proposals viewed in context to the surrounding townscape.

## 7.0 Summary and Conclusions

### 7.1 Baseline

- 7.1.1 Tir Collective is instructed by Marvel Ltd. to prepare this Landscape and Visual Appraisal which relates to an Outline Planning Application for a destination sports, leisure and tourism led, mixed-use development proposal on land to the South West of the Rhydycar roundabout on the A470, South of Merthyr Tydfil. The site extends to 30.4 hectares. It is located west of Rhydycar and to the southwest of Merthyr Tydfil, between the A470 to its east, Gethin Woodland Park to the south and west, and Heolgerrig to the north.
- 7.1.2 This LVApp has assessed the potential effects of the proposed development on the landscape character and visual amenity. The immediate landscape context extends to approximately 0.5km to the north, west and south from the site with the A470 reducing the immediate context to circa 0.1km to the east of the site. The wider landscape context extends between 1 and 2km from the site boundary, which is influenced by vegetation, built form and/or topography. The visual study area, which is defined by the surrounding valleys topography, extends 3km to the west and south of the site, 5km to the southeast of the site, 4km to the east of the site, and 6km to the north.
- 7.1.3 The methodology used for assessing the potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity were based on the recommendations in GLIVA3. The application of the guidance document established an appropriate scope for this assessment to be undertaken. Merthyr Tydfil Country Borough Council were also consulted on the viewpoint selection, study area sizes, and assessment methodology. BBNP Authority were consulted on the scope of the LVApp within the EIA scoping/screening and made no comment.

## 7.2 The proposed development

- 7.2.1 Details of the proposed development are provided on the planning application drawings and the Design and Access Statement accompanying the outline planning application. The largest building within the proposed development is the indoor Snow Centre in the northwest of the site. The building would rise to a maximum elevation of 287.5m Above Ordinance Datum (AOD) at its highest point in the northwest of the site. The Snow Centre includes a circa 400m long east facing ski slope that would utilise the natural gradient of the site, sloping down to the east to a maximum of circa 210m AOD. Adjacent to the south of the Snow Centre, the existing topography would be re-modelled to create a 1:3 south facing slope that would be planted with a mix of grassland and scrub.
- 7.2.2 At the base of the Snow Centre to the east, proposals for the site include a complex of buildings that incorporate hotels and leisure activities. To the east of the proposed hotels is a proposed Water Park that integrates indoor and outdoor elements. A second hotel would be located immediately to the south of the Water Park. A proposed Indoor and Outdoor Activity Centre would be located immediately to the south of the base Snow Centre ski slope, east of the planted south facing slope.
- 7.2.3 Located in the central area of the hotel and leisure complex is a proposed area for a car park, service area and ancillary uses. A Piazza is also proposed that would include hard and soft landscape areas with space for seating and outdoor space related to cafes and restaurants. The Piazza would form the main arrival space for visitors to the development and would connect to the public routes passing through the site which are linked to the public right of way network. Landscape proposals within the space would include substantial tree planting to provide shelter from the prevailing winds and shade.
- 7.2.4 In the most southerly extent of the site proposals include the installation of circa 30no. lodges and associated access tracks, which would be set within existing and retained woodland. The proposed lodges would have a maximum height of 4.5m.

Footpaths are also proposed across the site. The proposed routes would connect with the surrounding existing public right of way network beyond the site boundary, which provide connections to Merthyr Tydfil town centre and Pentrebach. A proportion of the claimed routes within the site, as shown on **Figure LA05.2**, may be formally accepted. While this network of paths has informed the strategy for the movement of pedestrians and cyclists within the site, a proportion of the claimed routes would be truncated by the proposed development. In the event of those routes being formalised as public rights of way they would need to be stopped up as a result of the proposed development.

## 7.3 Summary of findings

### Landscape assessment

- 7.3.1 The landscape assessment assessed the potential impact on landscape receptors during the construction phase, at completion, and 15 years after completion of the proposed development.

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- 7.3.2 LANDMAP assessments and the BBNP Landscape Character Assessment were referred to. The key characteristics that are of relevance to the site and surrounding area include: the site's location between an upland ridge and the town of Merthyr Tydfil, adjacent to the A470 road; the site and surrounding area contains several historical features associated with former industrial activities such as railway and canal corridors, mining features and tips; the biodiversity character is influenced by the historic mining and transport routes, and natural regeneration containing areas of woodland and grassland; and the characteristics are rural, but on the urban fringe. In the wider landscape context, the study area contains the urban area of Merthyr Tydfil, which contains several historic sites including Cyfarthfa Park. Extractive and upland landscape is located between the northern edge of Merthyr Tydfil and the south edge of the BBNP. The BBNP extends northwards and beyond the study area.
- 7.3.3 A site-specific appraisal was also carried out identifying the landscape features, characteristics, and aesthetics. The site appraisal confirmed the site's location on an east facing slope above Merthyr Tydfil, below the ridgelines of Mynydd Gethin and Mynydd Aberdare. There are some distant views out of the site from open areas, but other areas of the site are enclosed by woodland and steep sided tips and embankments. Grassland areas are located in the northwest of the site and in the north on top of the A470 tip. In the western part of the site an area of woodland is covered by a TPO. The site also contains several heritage features associated with the former iron and coal workings including former railway tracks, embankments, bridges, shafts and tips. There is a public right of way within the site, which is a section of bridleway along the southern boundary connecting the A470 underpass with the entrance to the (disused) Merthyr tunnel<sup>25</sup>. A network of paths and desire lines within the site are used by walkers and mountain bikers. A number of the routes within the site are claimed rights of way.
- 7.3.4 The assessment of landscape effects considered the effects of the proposed development on landscape features, qualities, and characteristics within the site, as well as effects on the wider surrounding landscape character. The findings of the assessment concluded that during the **construction phase**, effects would be **adverse** ranging from **major** to **moderate** effects. The site would undergo large-scale changes, including changes to landform and removal of woodland and trees and other habitats that contribute to the mosaic character. Heritage features would be retained, but former mining tips and the A470 tip formed in the mid 1990's would be removed/dispersed on site, and distant views out of the site would be disturbed. This would change the character of the site's setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil and partially alter the setting to access and public rights of way. **At completion**, some effects would remain **major**, but some would reduce to **minor adverse** or **neutral** in relation to views out of the site and the setting to public access and routes. **After 15 years**, planted woodland and trees would be continuing to establish, seeded grassland and scrub would be established, which would help integrate the proposed development into the surrounding landscape and its contribution to the mosaic character with effects reduced to **moderate**. Changes to the landform would also be settled with effects

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<sup>25</sup> Public Path Creation Order – Troedyrhiw 167, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020

reduced to **moderate neutral**. Access through the site would also be established with the effects on the setting to public access and routes reduced to **negligible**.

- 7.3.5 For the wider landscape character, indirect effects resulting from the proposed development were concluded to be mostly **minor adverse** during the **construction phase**. Construction activities would be mostly viewed in the distance and within the surrounding context of Merthyr Tydfil with the key characteristics of each area remaining unaltered. However, the character area of Cyfarthfa Park was assessed as **moderate adverse** as the visual connection, a historic feature of the area, would be altered. **At completion**, effects were all assessed as **minor adverse**. **At 15 years after completion**, effects were either assessed as **minor adverse** or **negligible**. The establishment of woodland and vegetation is likely to reduce the extend of views of the proposed development. The proposed development is likely to be ingrained within the landscape with key characteristics of the landscape character areas remaining intact, including from the BBNP.
- 7.3.6 Overall, the development of the site would change the character of some features within the site, particularly during the construction phase and at completion. The proposed development would introduce new features, including buildings and associated infrastructure. However, some areas of the site, particularly in the south, and within the wider area of ownership the key characteristics would remain largely intact. The development of the site provides some opportunities for education with the retention of historic features and connect local people to the landscape with enhancements to the public access through the site, which would connect to the wider network. 15 years after completion, it is likely that some features of the site would be ingrained within the wider landscape and would contribute to its mosaic character, including the planted south facing slope and new woodland areas. Other characteristics are likely to remain largely unchanged, including available distant views out of the site and retained woodland areas.

### Visual assessment

- 7.3.7 To confirm the baseline studies of designations, landscape character, and ZTV mapping, a total of 24 views were photographed to illustrate the site and its appearance in publicly available locations. Of the 24 views that were taken, 16 views were carried forward as representative viewpoints for the visual amenity assessment. The photographs are reproduced on Figure LA.09 in **Appendix 1**. The locations of the 16 viewpoints (1-16) and 8 context views (A-G) are shown on Figure LA.07 in **Appendix 1**. Viewpoints prefixed with the letters MC are locations that were requested by MTCBC. **Appendix 4** provides details the reasons why the context views were not carried forward as viewpoints for assessment.
- 7.3.8 The visual assessment concluded that for **residents** within 2km of the site with filtered, oblique or partial views visual effects were assessed as **moderate adverse** during construction and at completion. Following the completion of the proposed development, adverse visual effects would remain as **moderate adverse**. As distance increases from the site, visual effects would further reduce to **minor adverse** and the opportunity for views would reduce as the number of potential intervening features increases. Proposed mitigation measures included within the design of the proposed development would moderate potential

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effects after construction and reduce the visual effects 15 years after completion by softening the appearance of the development in the view.

- 7.3.9 The visual assessment concluded that for **residents** with open views visual effects were assessed as **Major adverse** during construction. At completion visual effects were assessed as **Major adverse** for direct, open views experienced by residents on the opposite side of the valley from the site at Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd. In other locations where the site is viewed from along the valley from the north or south the effects on residents' views is assessed as **Major-moderate adverse**, because the site is less prominent in the view. Proposed mitigation measures included within the design of the proposed development would moderate potential effects 15 years after completion by softening the appearance of the development in the view. For residents at Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd, the effects on views would be **Major-moderate adverse** and for residents with a less direct view, **Moderate adverse**.
- 7.3.10 For **users of public open space** within Merthyr Tydfil visual effects were assessed as **moderate adverse** during construction and at completion. This includes visitors to the Memorial, Merthyr Tydfil town centre and Cyfarthfa Castle and Park, where there would be filtered, oblique or partial views of the proposed development. Proposed mitigation measures included within the design of the proposed development would moderate potential effects after construction and reduce the visual effects 15 years after completion for visitors to Merthyr Tydfil town centre to **Moderate – minor adverse**.
- 7.3.11 Visual effects for **users of public rights way and National Cycle Route 8** with oblique views, partially screened would be **moderate adverse** during construction, at completion and after 15 years. At one location on the bridleway overbridge crossing the A4102 effects are assessed as **major-moderate** adverse after construction because of the close proximity of the site to receptors in this location. For walkers, cyclists and equestrians on public rights of way beyond 1km from the site effects range from **moderate-minor adverse to moderate adverse** during construction, at completion, and 15 years after completion.
- 7.3.12 For **road users** within 2km of the site, the visual effects were assessed as **Moderate-minor adverse** during construction, at completion, and 15 years after completion. Road users would typically have oblique or partial views towards the proposed development that would be short in duration with the proposals viewed in context to the surrounding townscape.
- 7.3.13 Overall, the most adverse visual effects would mainly occur during construction and at completion. During these periods, the removal of vegetation, construction activities, built form would appear within available views from the surrounding townscape/ landscape and add movement to the view. After the completion of the proposed development and after 15 years, adverse visual effects would reduce to **Minor adverse - Moderate adverse** for all receptors with the exception of nearby residents with open views where the effects remain as **Major - moderate adverse**. These large scale and significant visual effects would occur for visual receptors close to the site, but as distance increases from the site, the significance and degree of visual effects would reduce.

- 7.3.14 Weather conditions, as described in paragraph 1.3.6 above would limit visibility for receptors as conditions that limit visibility occur due to rainfall (165.5 days on average in the year) and air frost (58.7 days on average in the year).

### Designated landscapes

- 7.3.15 The site is located in the Merthyr Tydfil West Flank Special Landscape Area (SLA) as designated within the Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan (2016 – 2031). The site is located in the east of the SLA, which covers an expansive area. Proposals for the site include retaining historic associations of the industrial activity that occurred on the site and retaining the mosaic character, including the different habitats of woodland and some areas of grassland, which contribute to the character of the area. SLA is a local designation and does not preclude development proposals of any sort. The proposed heritage trail will help to raise awareness of the heritage interest of the SLA and create managed and sensitive access to the heritage assets.
- 7.3.16 The Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) covers the most northern extent of the study area and is located circa 3.1km from the site at its nearest point. A Force for Change developments to the south of the national park potentially affect views, particularly from higher ground. The landscape assessment concluded that 15 years after completion of the proposed development, the key characteristics and special qualities of the BBNP would not be affected by the development proposals. This is because the proposals would be viewed in the context of the built development of Merthyr Tydfil in the distance, beyond 3km at its nearest point, with the establishment of soft landscape features and the treatment north elevation of the snow centre helping the development to integrate with its surroundings. During construction and at completion there would be indirect minor adverse effects with some distant views of the proposed development, but the key characteristic of the national park would remain intact. The visual assessment also concluded that effects on visual amenity to visitors to the BBNP would be moderate adverse. The proposed development would form a distant feature viewed in context of the built development.

## 7.4 Conclusions

- 7.4.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal has examined the landscape and visual impacts in relation to the development proposals. All impact assessments are based on the proposed design approach, which incorporates mitigation measures. The potential impacts have been thoroughly assessed through a combination of desk study research and walk-over surveys of the site and the surrounding context.
- 7.4.2 The sensitive integration of development at the site represents a significant challenge due to the combination of former mining features, disused railway infrastructure, tips and the distinctive character of the site and its context. The vision of the proposed development is centred around what will be the longest indoor snow centre in the UK (incorporating the national training headquarters and facility for Snowsports Cymru Wales and GB Snowsport). The master plan is for a new destination sports, leisure and tourism resort. Central to this is the creation of a high-quality holiday resort destination that focuses on indoor and outdoor

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activities, wildlife and reinforces the special character of the local environment. The masterplan and landscape strategy respond sensitively to its landscape setting and contribute positively to the local area.

- 7.4.3 The proposals for the site have been formulated through an iterative process with the design evolution responding to the findings of baseline surveys to avoid or moderate adverse effects. The proposals have been informed by comprehensive survey and assessment work. As a result, the potential landscape and visual impacts have been moderated. The proposals therefore satisfy policy requirements relating to the site. Adverse landscape effects are largely constrained to the direct impacts on the site itself and reflect the scale of the built form and earthworks proposed. The effectiveness of mitigation measures is demonstrated by the reduction in the significance of effects which is assessed following the completion of construction, and particularly at 15 years after construction.
- 7.4.4 Similarly, the indirect effects beyond the site boundary are also reduced following the completion of the construction work as the proposed development becomes integrated into its context.
- 7.4.5 The visual impacts of the development proposals have been assessed through a process of identifying assessment viewpoints, using computer-generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and accurate visual representation to illustrate the proposed development from a significant proportion of the identified assessment viewpoints. The visual assessment has identified adverse impact for areas with open views towards the site from the east within the urban area. Built development within the urban area reduces the extent of areas where uninterrupted views are available. Effects for other visual receptors are generally moderate adverse and there is a reduction in significance of effects for several receptors following construction and after 15 years.
- 7.4.6 The Landscape and Visual Appraisal has identified that the site could accommodate the proposed development without resulting in an unacceptable adverse impact on landscape character and visual amenity experienced within the surrounding landscape/townscape.

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### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Figures

Appendix 2 – Assessment Methodology

Appendix 3 – Assessment of Effects

Appendix 4 – Viewpoint Selections

Appendix 5 – Accurate Visual Representations

the same time, the fact that the two countries have similar political systems and similar political culture may have contributed to the similar results.

It is interesting to note that the results of the present study are similar to those of the study by Wong and Chan (2001) on the political participation of Hong Kong citizens. This may be due to the fact that Hong Kong and the mainland have similar political systems and political culture.

The present study has several limitations. First, the sample size is relatively small. Second, the data are self-reported and may be subject to bias. Third, the study only focuses on the political participation of Hong Kong citizens and does not consider the political participation of mainland citizens.

Despite these limitations, the present study provides valuable insights into the political participation of Hong Kong citizens. It suggests that Hong Kong citizens are more likely to participate in politics if they are more educated, have higher income, and are more politically active. It also suggests that Hong Kong citizens are more likely to participate in politics if they are more satisfied with the political system and the government.

Future research should investigate the political participation of mainland citizens and the political participation of Hong Kong citizens in mainland politics. It should also investigate the political participation of Hong Kong citizens in different political systems and political cultures.

In conclusion, the present study shows that Hong Kong citizens are more likely to participate in politics if they are more educated, have higher income, and are more politically active. It also shows that Hong Kong citizens are more likely to participate in politics if they are more satisfied with the political system and the government.

The present study has several implications. First, it suggests that the government should improve the political system and the government to increase the political participation of Hong Kong citizens. Second, it suggests that the government should improve the education system to increase the political participation of Hong Kong citizens.

Third, it suggests that the government should improve the income level of Hong Kong citizens to increase the political participation of Hong Kong citizens. Fourth, it suggests that the government should improve the political culture of Hong Kong to increase the political participation of Hong Kong citizens.

Finally, it suggests that the government should improve the political system and the government to increase the political participation of Hong Kong citizens. The present study provides valuable insights into the political participation of Hong Kong citizens and has several implications for the government and the society.

The present study is a preliminary study and needs to be replicated in the future. It also needs to be replicated in other political systems and political cultures. The present study provides valuable insights into the political participation of Hong Kong citizens and has several implications for the government and the society.

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## Appendix 1 - Figures

Figure LA. 1	Site Location
Figure LA. 2	Designations
Figure LA. 3	Public Access
Figure LA. 4	LANDMAP
Figure LA. 5	Site Context
Figure LA. 6	Site Photographs
Figure LA. 7	Zone of Theoretical Visibility
Figure LA. 8	Context Photographs
Figure LA. 9	Viewpoint Photographs

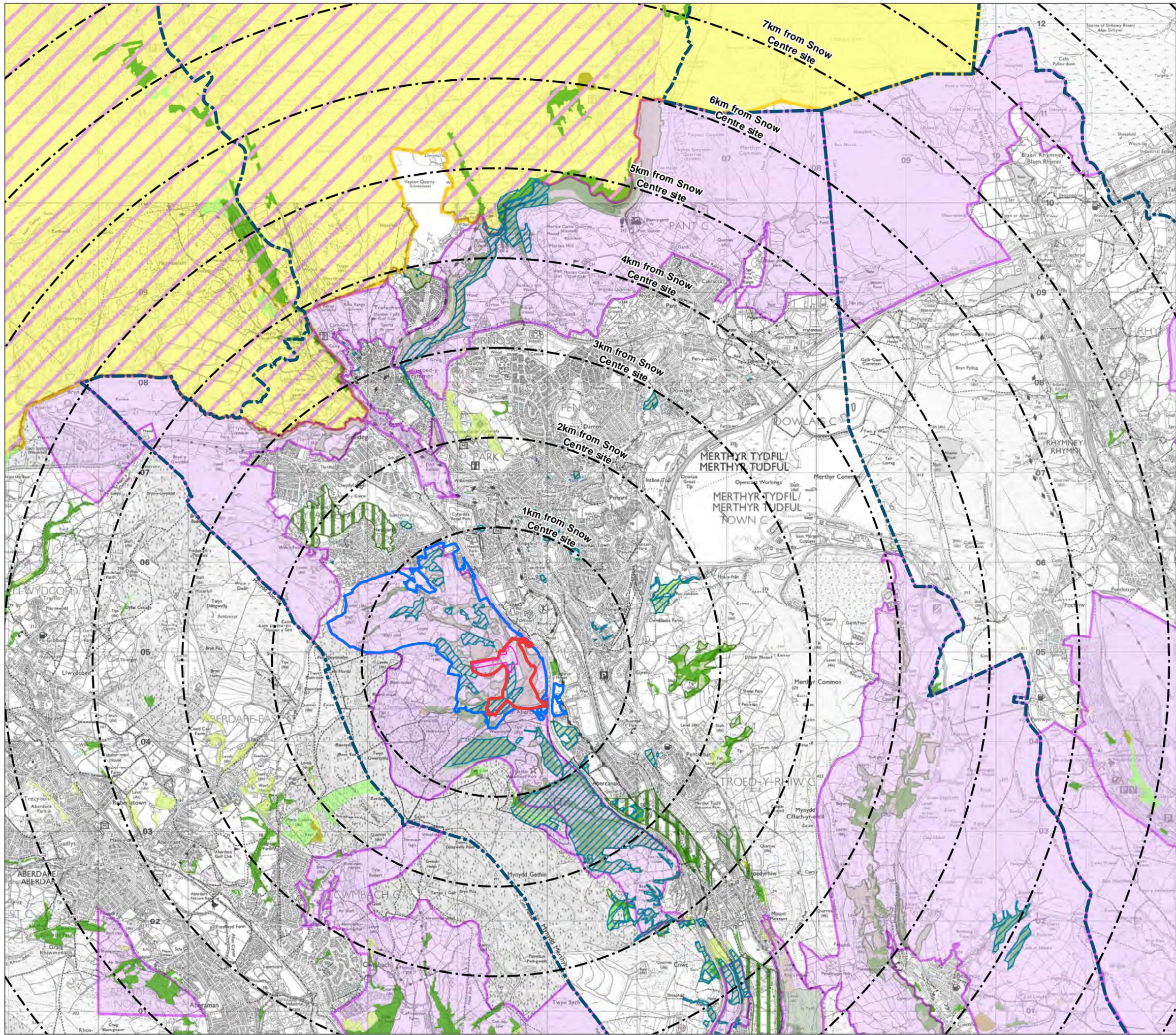




# Rhydyar West, Merthyr Tydfil

Designations: Landscape

LA.02-1



### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate Snow Centre
- Unitary Boundary
- Special Landscape Areas (SLA)
- Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP)
- Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland
- Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category
- Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
- Restored Ancient Woodland Site
- Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)

Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2006-2021:

- AS5 - Green Wedge
- BW5 - TPO and Ancient/Semi-Ancient Woodland

RCT Local Development Plan:

- Fforest Fawr Geopark (UNESCO)

scale 1:40,000 @A3  
0 250 500 1,000 m

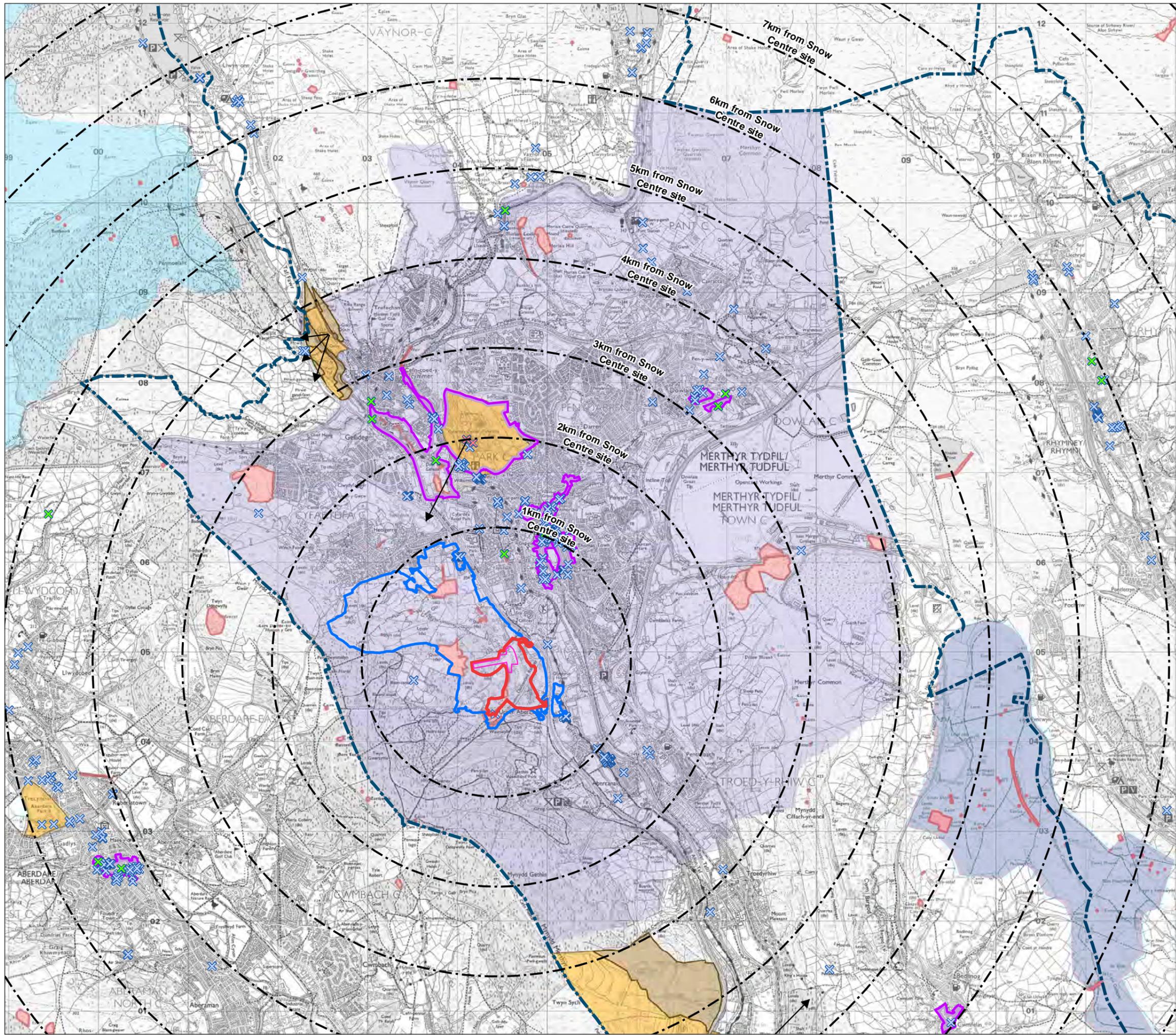
January 2022



# Rhydyar West, Merthyr Tydfil

Designations: Historic and cultural

LA.02-2



### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate Snow Centre
- Unitary Boundary
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Listed Building:**
  - Grade I
  - Grade II\*
  - Grade II
- Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
- Landscape of Special Historic Interest
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Essential Setting
- Significant View

scale 1:40,000 @A3  
0 250 500 1,000 m

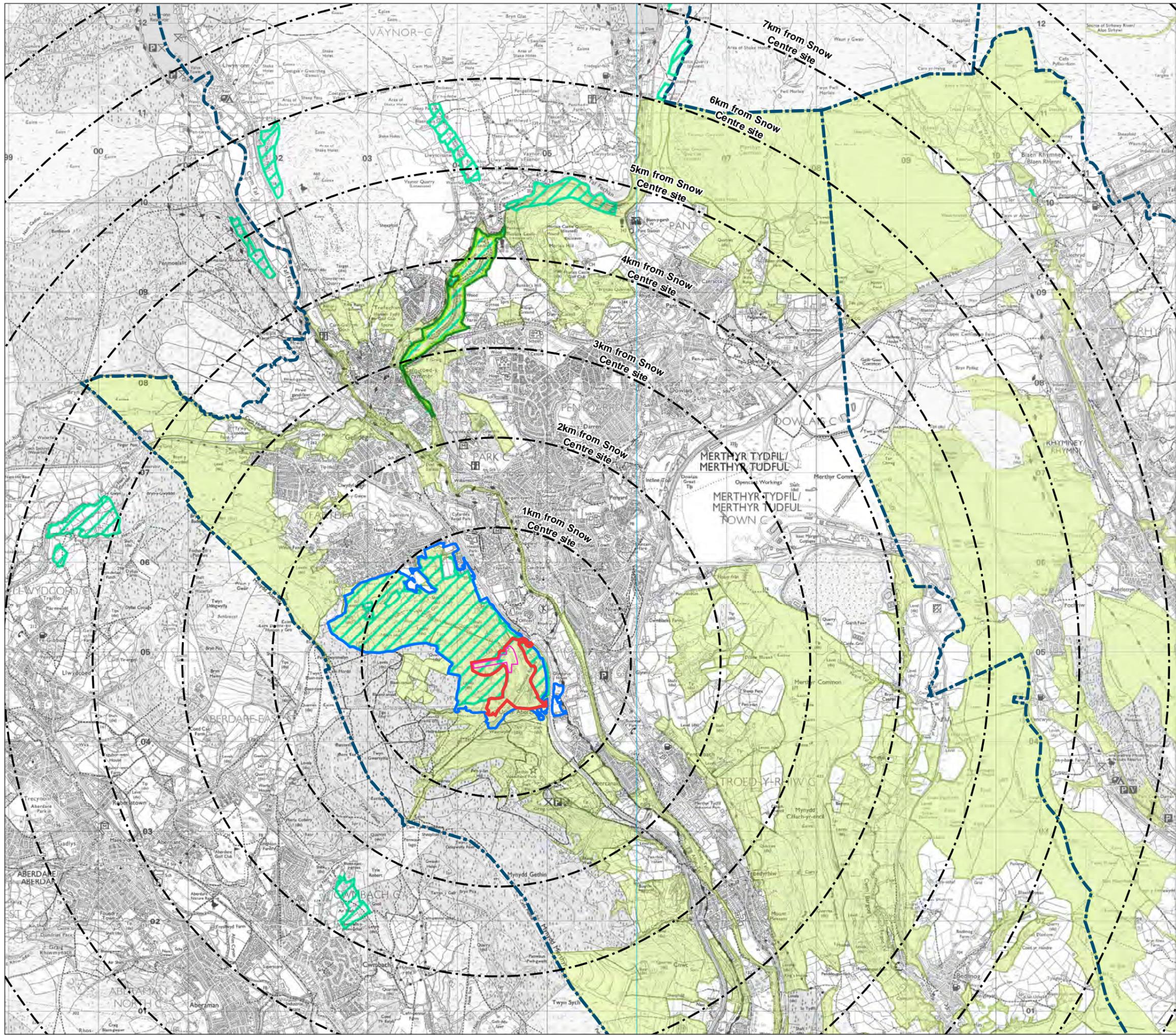
January 2022



# Rhydyar West, Merthyr Tydfil

Designations: Ecology

LA.02-3



### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate Snow Centre
- Unitary Boundary
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)

scale 1:40,000 @A3  
0 250 500 1,000 m

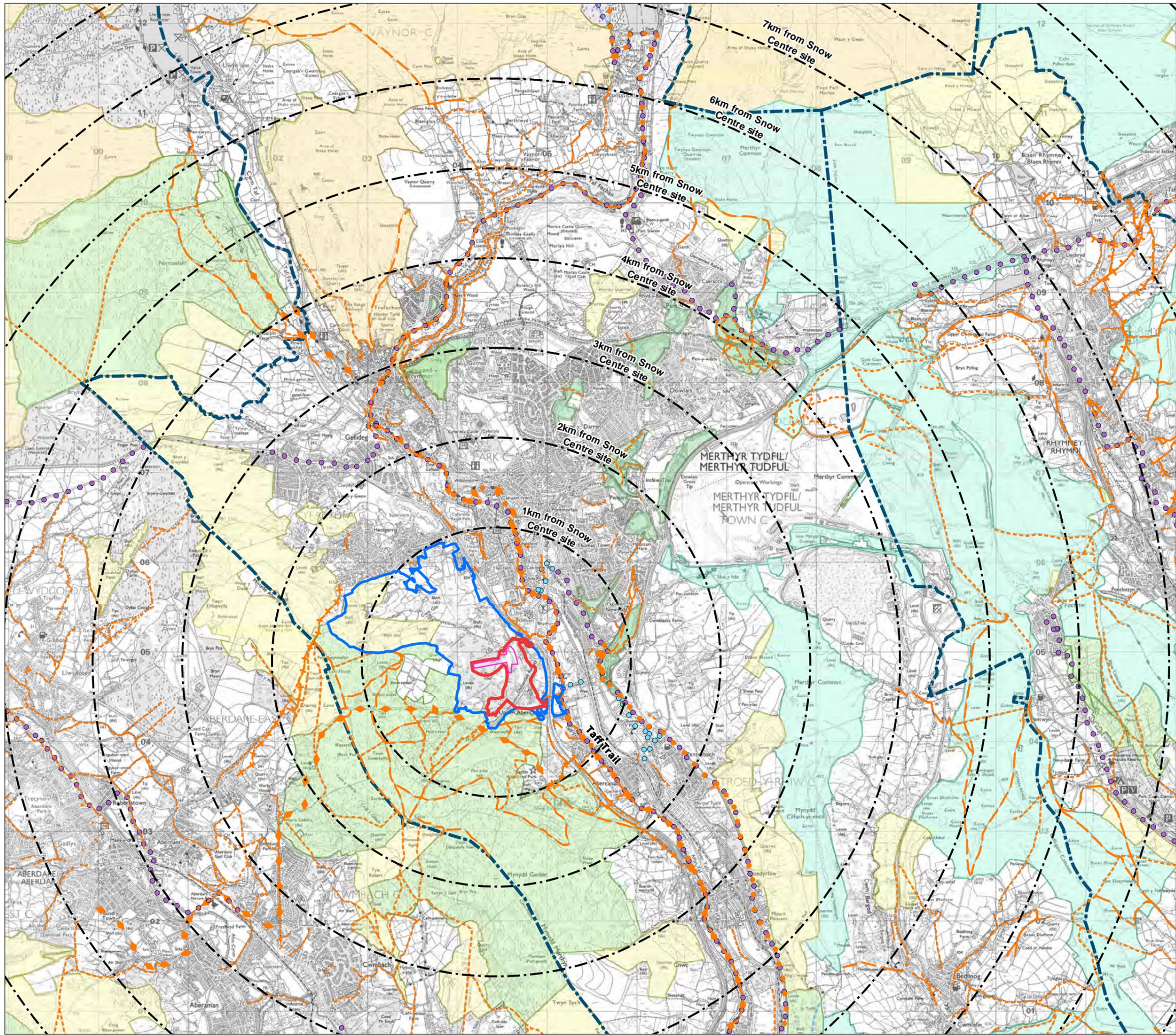
January 2022



# Rhydyar West, Merthyr Tydfil

Public access

LA.03



### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate proposed Snow Centre
- Unitary Boundary
- Public Rights of Way:**
  - Footpath
  - Bridleway
  - Byway Open to All Traffic
  - Road Used as a Public Path
  - Restricted Byway
  - Recreational Route
- CROW Common Land
- CROW Public Forests
- CROW Open Country
- CROW Other Statutory Access Land
- National Cycle Route (NCR)
- Link to National Cycle Route

Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2006-2021:

- BW16 Open Spaces Protected for Informal Recreation & Amenity

scale 1:40,000 @A3  
0 250 500 1,000 m

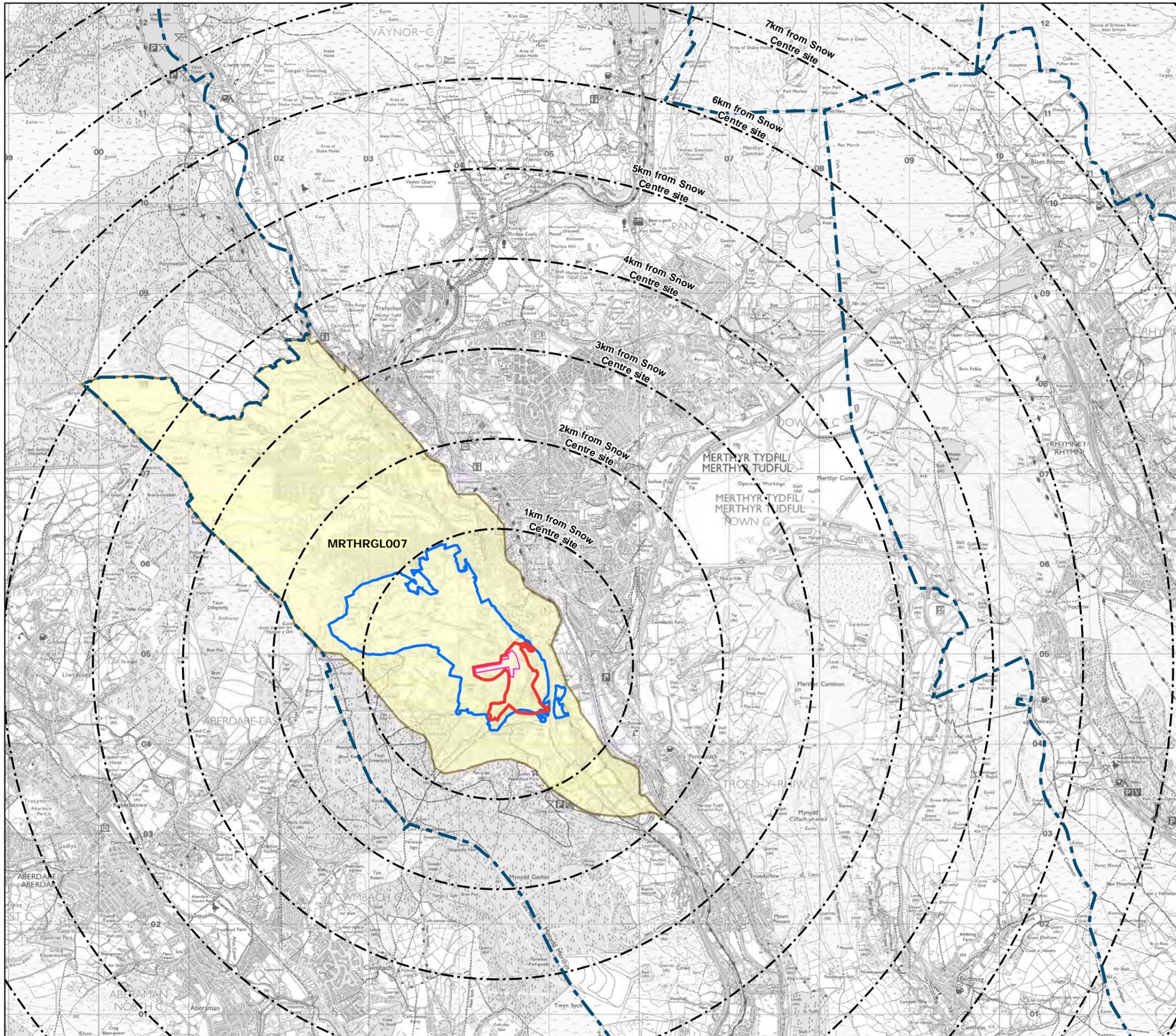
January 2022



# Rhydycar West, Merthyr Tydfil

LANDMAP: Geological Landscape overall evaluation

LA.04-1



### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate proposed Snow Centre
- Unitary Authority Boundaries

LANDMAP - Overall Evaluation :

Geological Landscape

Moderate

scale 1:40,000 @A3  
0 250 500 1,000 m

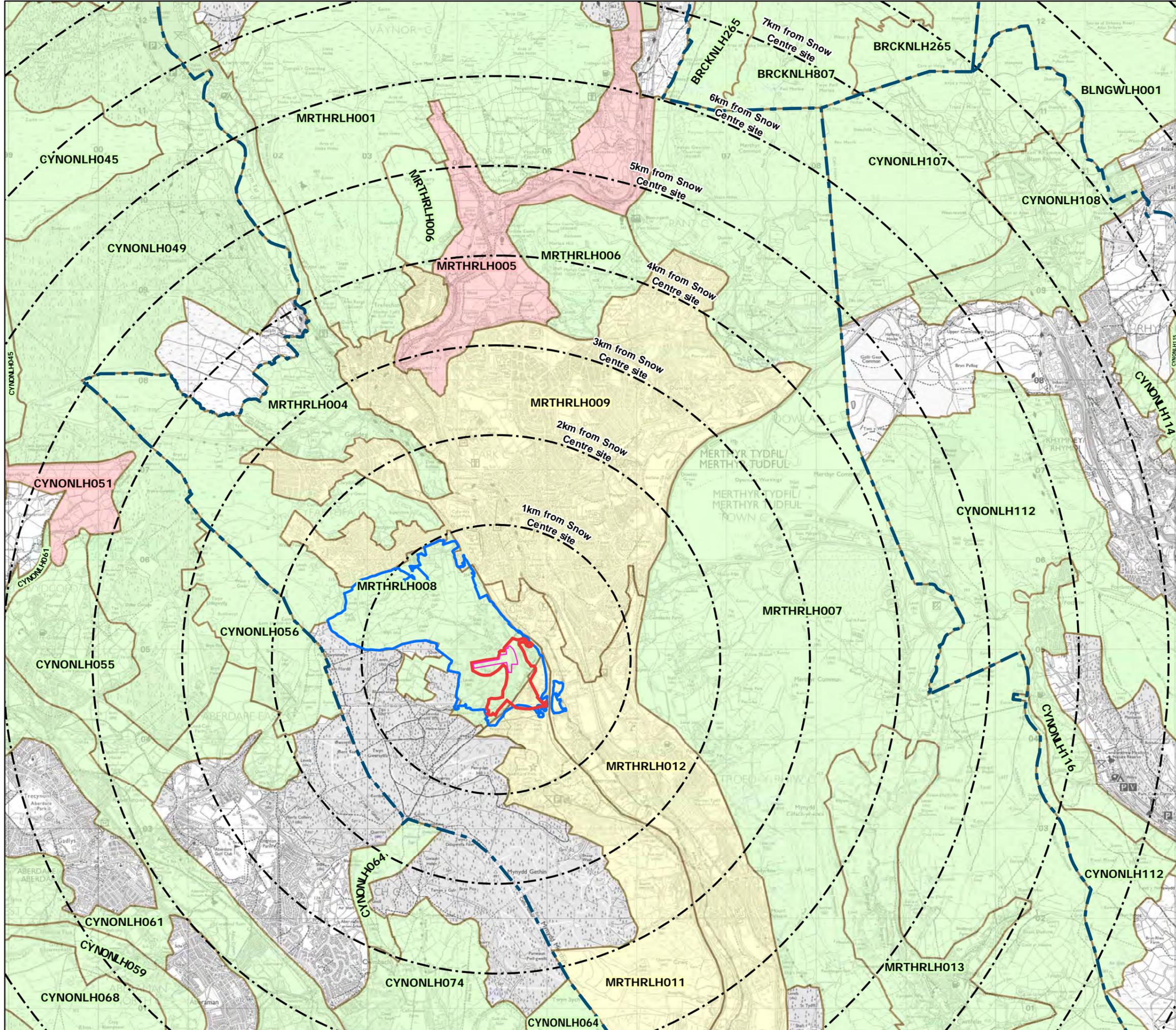
January 2022



# Rhydycar West, Merthyr Tydfil

LANDMAP: Landscape Habitats overall evaluation

LA.04-2



### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate proposed Snow Centre
- Unitary Authority Boundaries

LANDMAP - Overall Evaluation :

Landscape Habitats

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate



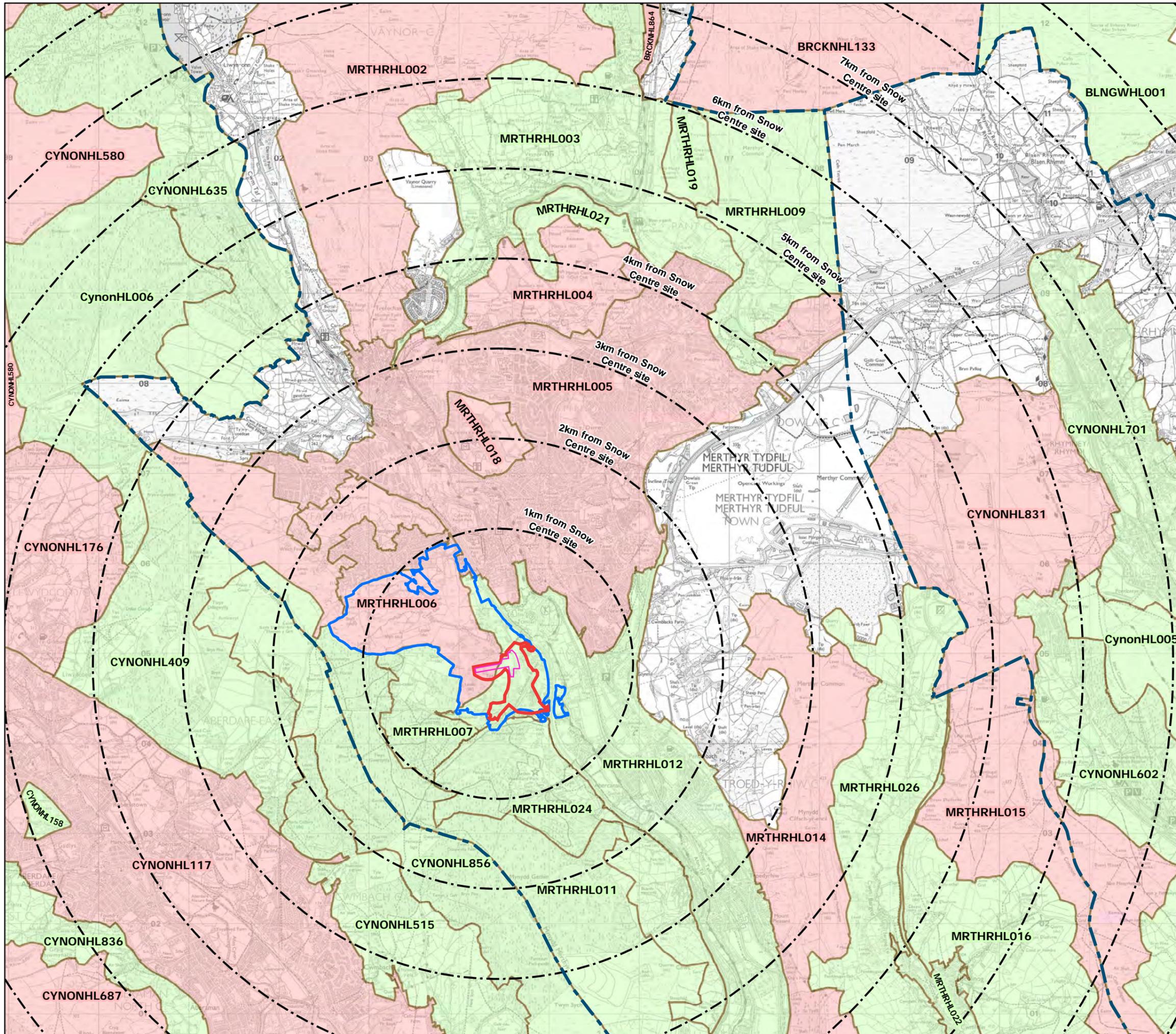
January 2022



# Rhydycar West, Merthyr Tydfil

LANDMAP: Historic Landscape overall evaluation

LA.04-3



**Key**

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from aproximate proposed Snow Centre
- Unitary Authority Boundaries

LANDMAP - Overall Evaluation :

Historic Landscape

- Outstanding
- High

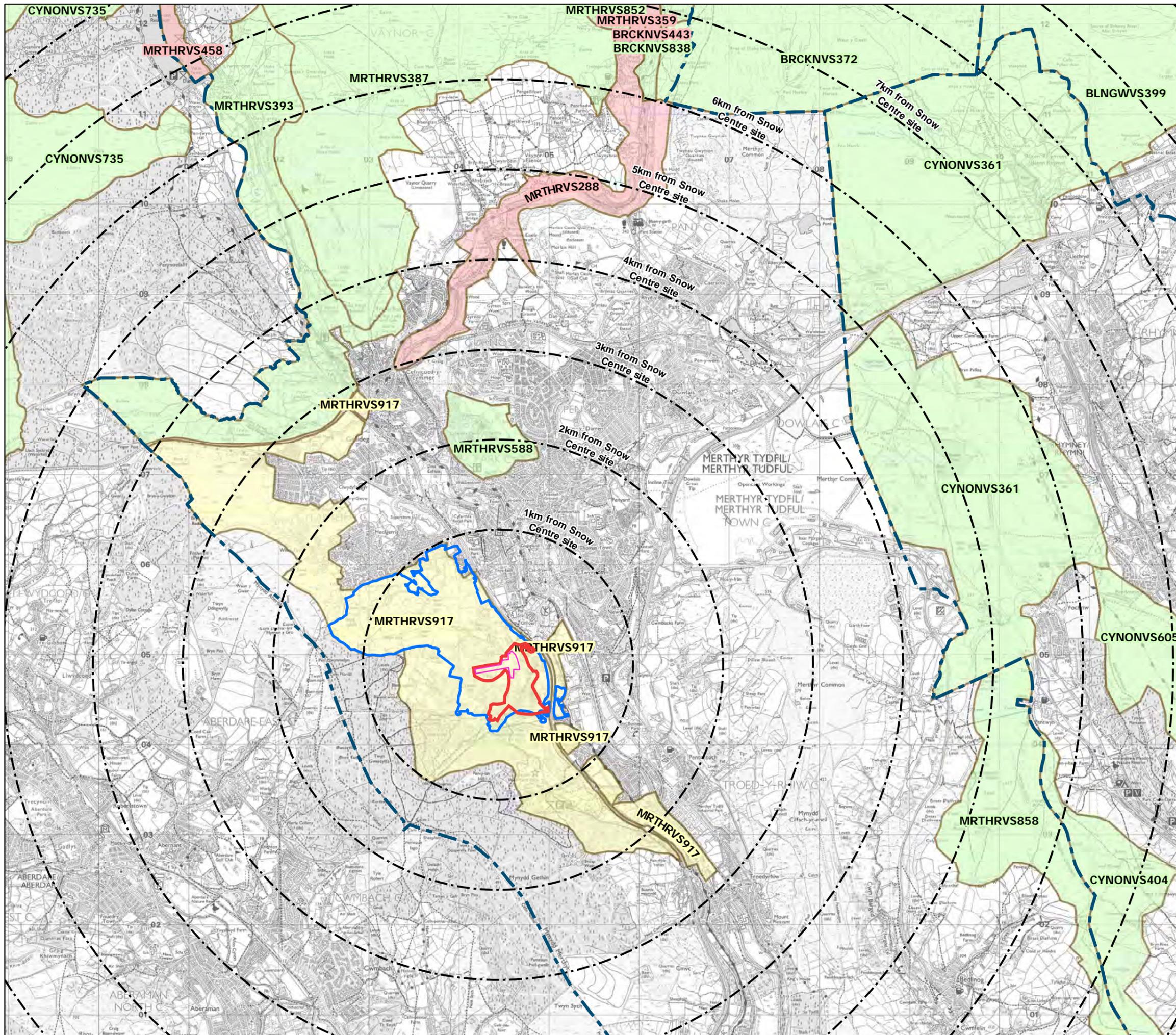
scale 1:40,000 @A3  
 0 250 500 1,000 m

January 2022  
  
 North

### Rhydycar West, Merthyr Tydfil

LANDMAP: Visual & Sensory - Scenic quality

LA.04-4



#### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate proposed Snow Centre
- Unitary Authority Boundaries

LANDMAP - Thematic Evaluation :

Visual and Sensory - Scenic Quality :

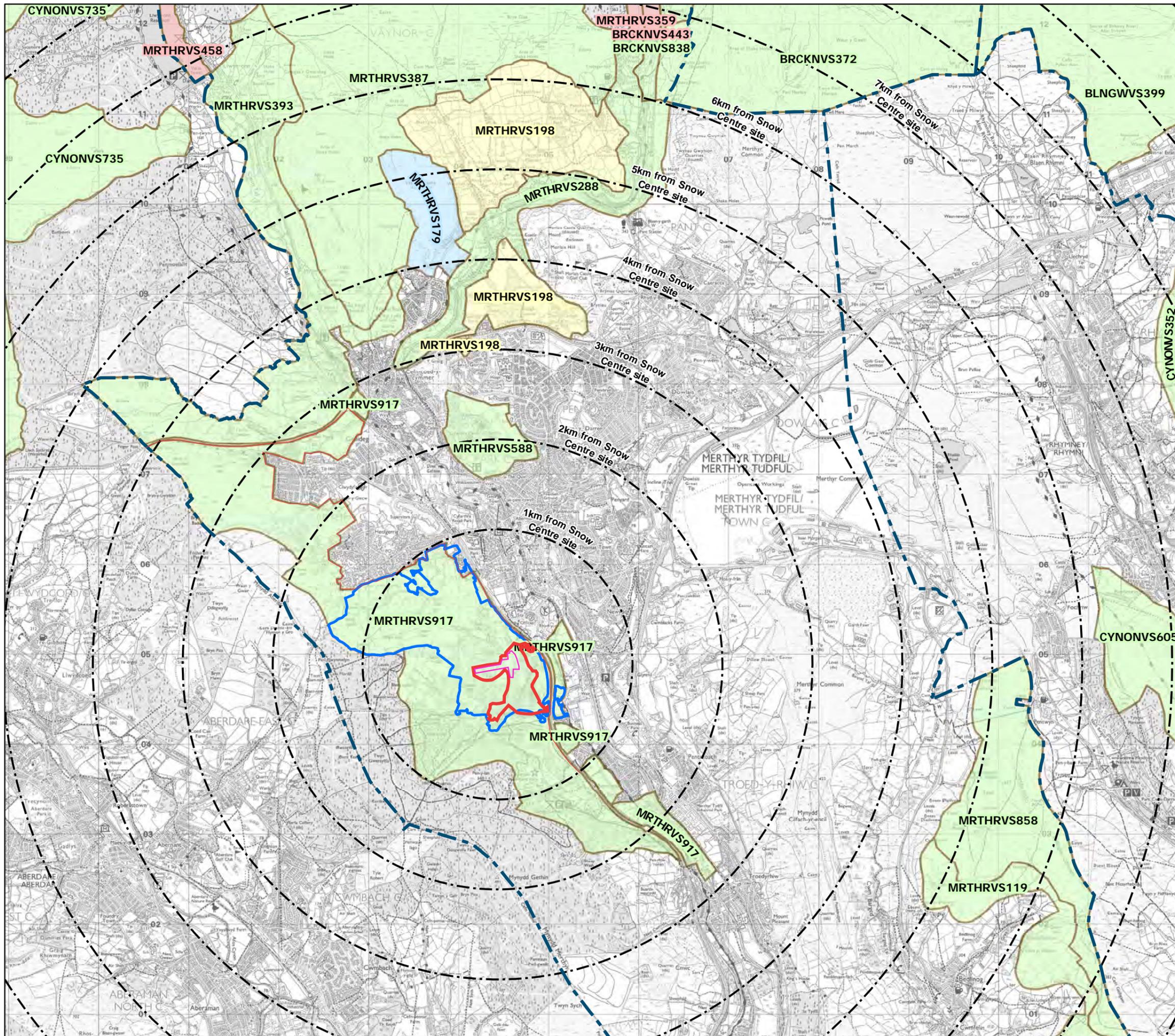
- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate



### Rhydycar West, Merthyr Tydfil

LANDMAP: Visual & Sensory - Character

LA.04-5



#### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate proposed Snow Centre
- Unitary Authority Boundaries

#### LANDMAP - Thematic Evaluation :

##### Visual and Sensory - Character

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low

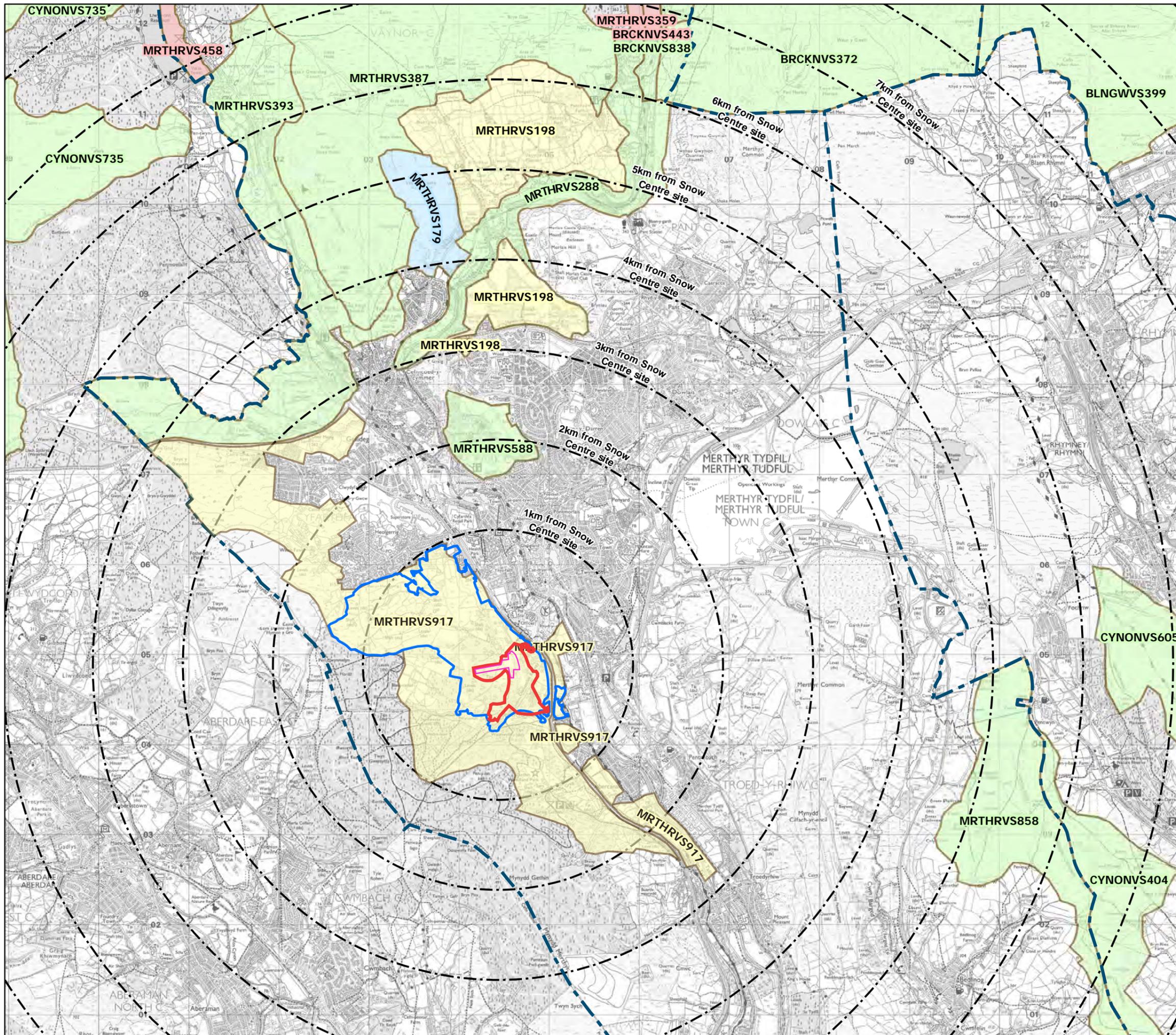
scale 1:40,000 @A3  
 0 250 500 1,000 m

January 2022  
  
 North

### Rhydycar West, Merthyr Tydfil

LANDMAP: Visual & Sensory overall evaluations

LA.04-6



#### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate proposed Snow Centre
- Unitary Authority Boundaries

LANDMAP - Overall Evaluation :

Visual and Sensory

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low

scale 1:40,000 @A3  
0 250 500 1,000 m

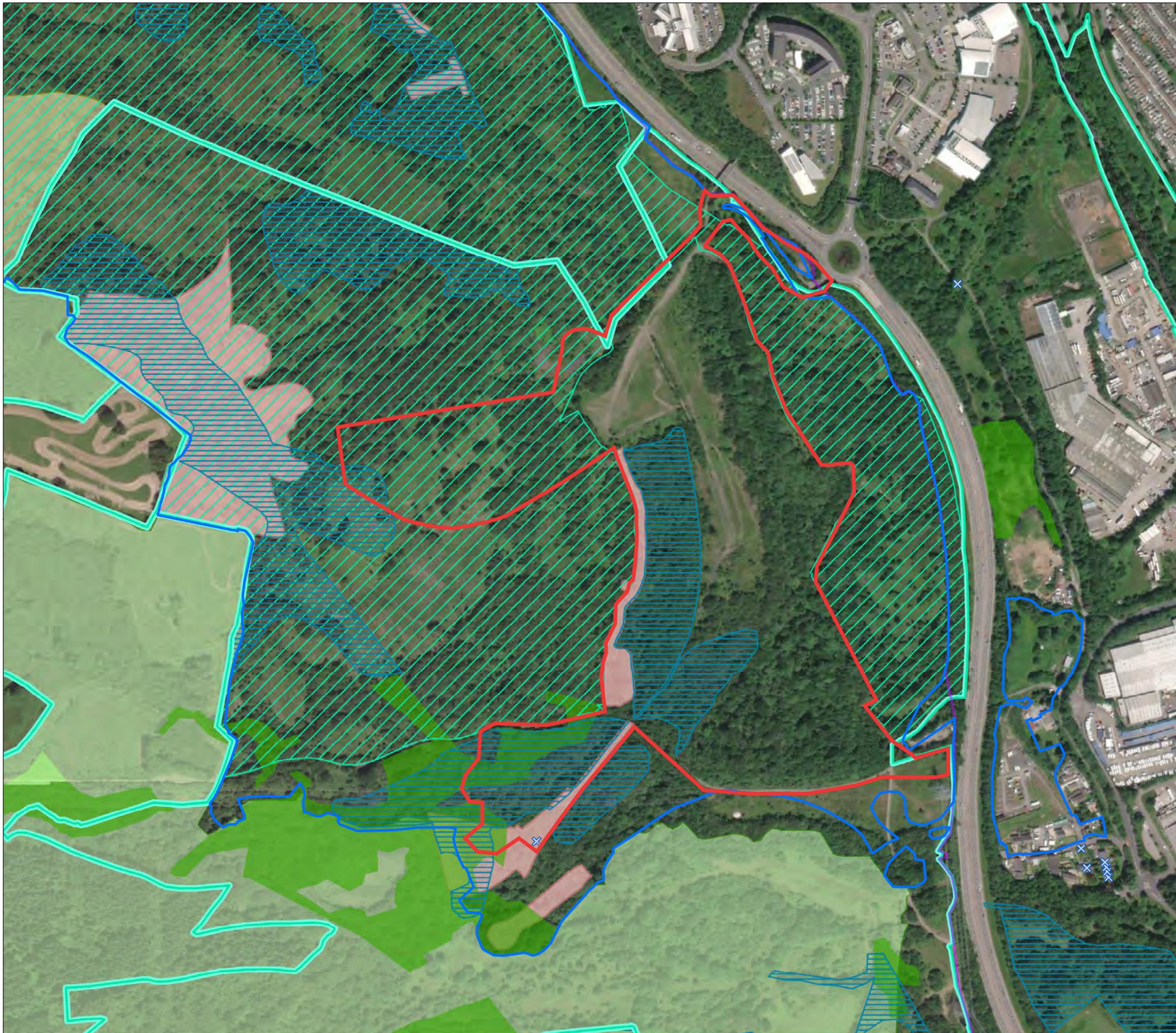
January 2022



### Rhydyar West, Merthyr Tydfil

Site context:  
Designations

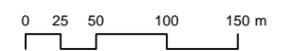
LA.05-1



#### Key

-  Application Site
-  Ownership Boundary (approximate)
-  EnW5\_Special\_Landscape\_Area
-  Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland
-  Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category
-  Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site
-  Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Grade II
-  Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
-  Site of Special Scientific Interest
-  Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
-  CROW Public Forests

scale 1:5,000 @A3



January 2022



### Rhydyar West, Merthyr Tydfil

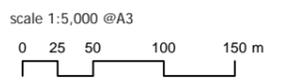
Site context: Public  
access

LA.05-2



#### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Public Rights of Way:
  - Footpath
  - Bridleway
  - Byway Open to All Traffic
  - Road Used as a Public Path
  - Recreational Route
- Claimed routes
- CROW Public Forests
- CROW Open Country
- Recreation Routes within Public Forests
- National Cycle Route (NCR)
- Link to National Cycle Route



January 2022





Site Photograph 01: View looking southwest towards A470 tip from northeast corner of site



Site Photograph 02: View looking northeast along an access track in the southeast of the site



Coniferous woodland  
on Mynydd Gethin

Track along the south  
boundary of the site

Site Photograph 03: View looking southwest from the southeast site boundary towards Mynydd Gethin



Site Photograph 04: View looking northwards across Cyfarthfa balance pond and leat scheduled monument



Site Photograph 05: View from within the central area of the site showing a steep spoil tip



Site Photograph 06: View from within the central area of the site showing a track and former railway bridge surrounded by woodland



Site Photograph 07: View from within the central area of the site showing examples of existing structures, tracks and woodland within the site



Site Photograph 08: View looking northeast towards Merthyr Tydfil from on top of the A470 tip in the north of the site

# Rhydyar West, Merthyr Tydfil

## Zone of Theoretical Visibility: Screening features analysis

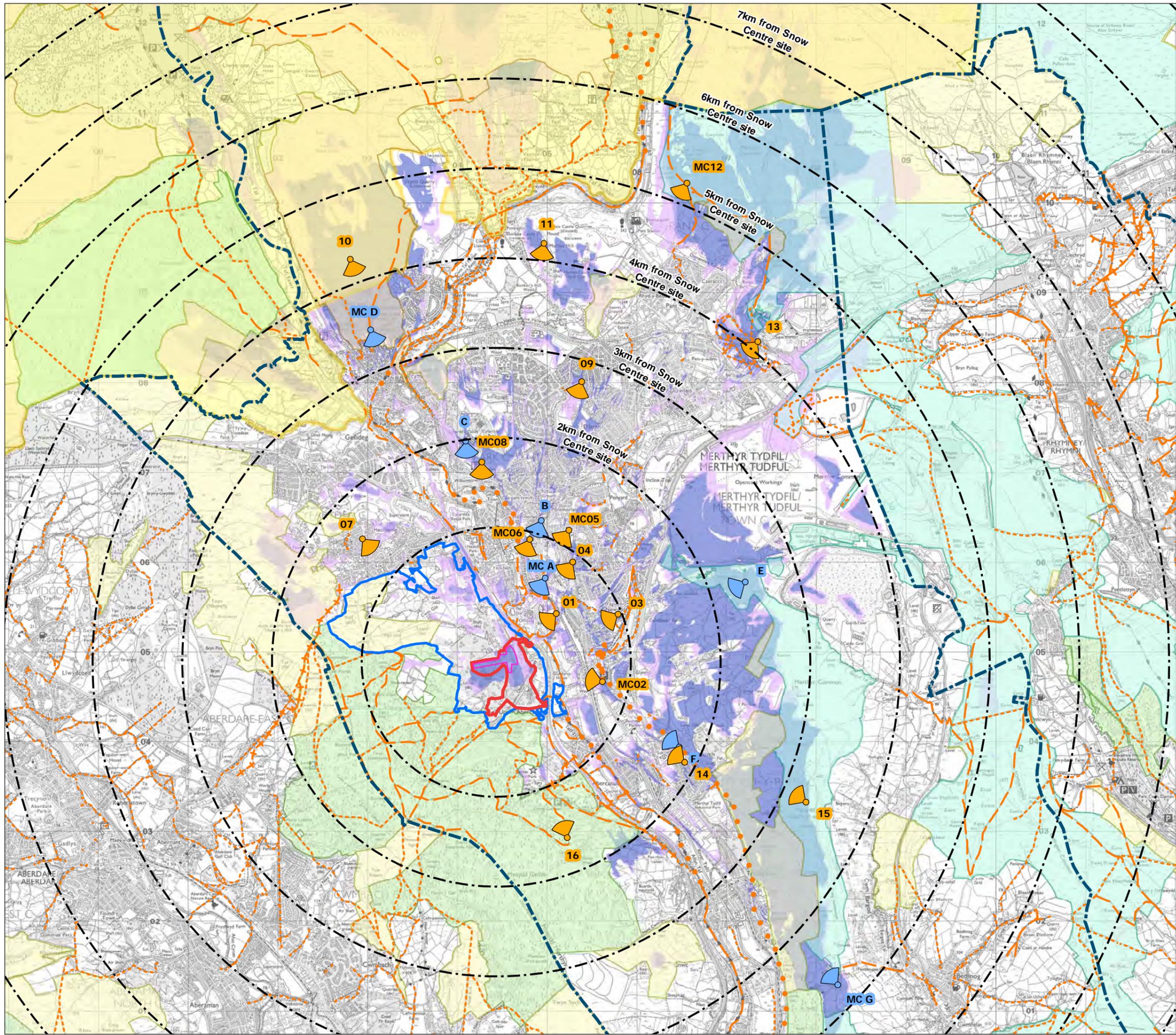
LA.07

### Key

- Application Site
- Ownership Boundary (approximate)
- Snow Centre, Hotel and Leisure Complex
- 1km buffers from approximate proposed Snow Centre
- Unitary Boundary
- Public Rights of Way:**
  - Footpath
  - Bridleway
  - Byway Open to All Traffic
  - Road Used as a Public Path
  - Restricted Byway
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility:**
  - Small part of site visible
  - Moderate part of site visible
  - Majority of site visible
  - Viewpoint photographs
  - Context photographs

scale 1:40,000 @A3  
0 250 500 1,000 m

January 2022





Context Photograph MC A: Robert and Lucy Thomas Fountain



Context Photograph B: Castle Yard/ Castle Street Car Park, Merthyr Tydfil



Cyfarthfa Park car park

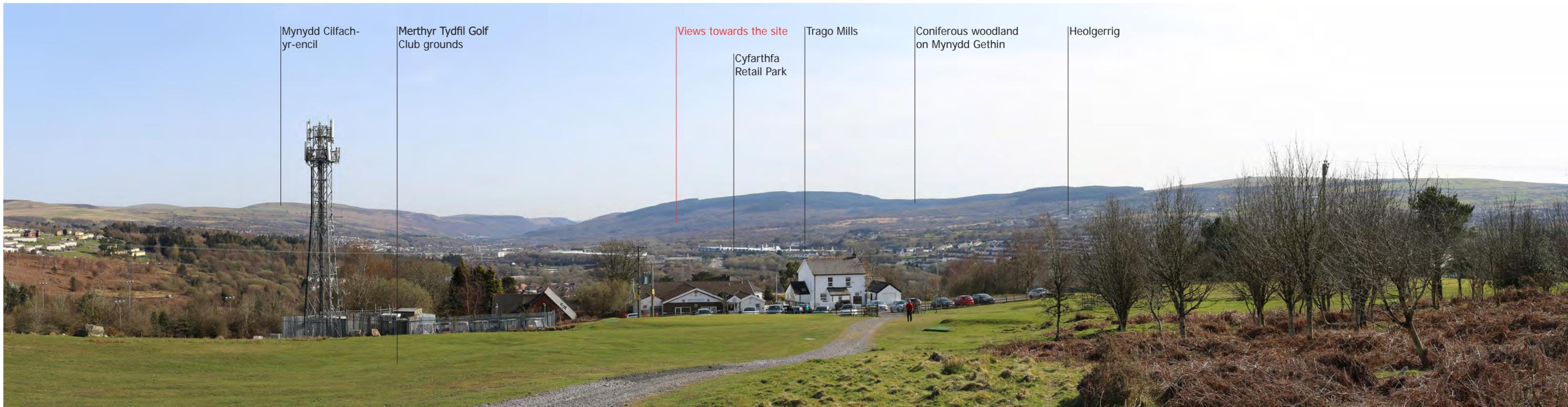
Views towards the site  
largely screened

Coniferous woodland  
on Mynydd Gethin

Cyfarthfa  
Park Lake

Trago Mills

Context Photograph C: Cyfarthfa Castle



Mynydd Cilfach-  
yr-encil

Merthyr Tydfil Golf  
Club grounds

Views towards the site

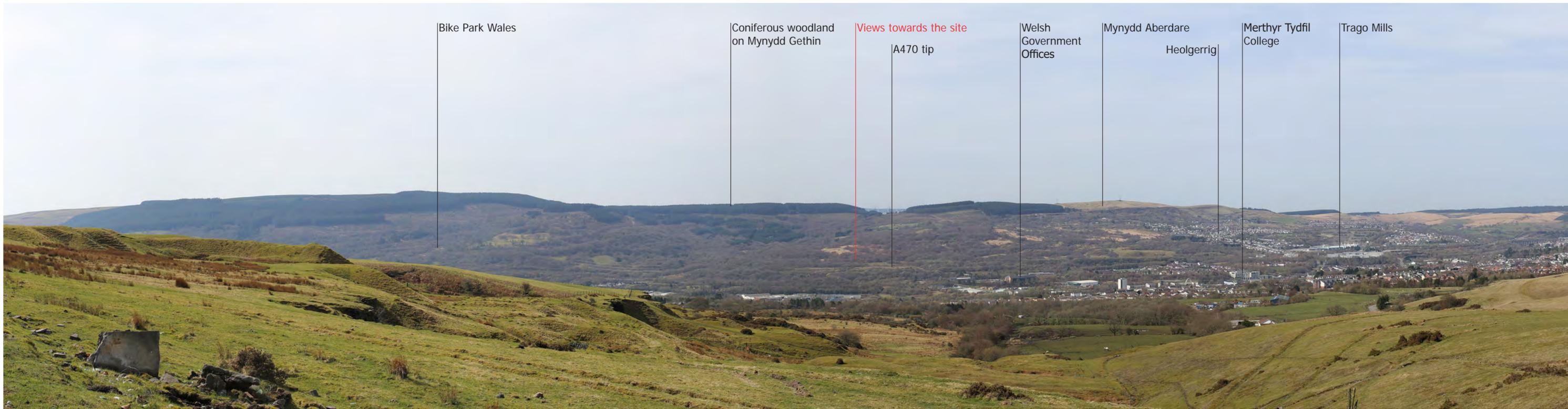
Trago Mills

Cyfarthfa  
Retail Park

Coniferous woodland  
on Mynydd Gethin

Heolgerrig

Context Photograph MC D: Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club



Bike Park Wales

Coniferous woodland  
on Mynydd Gethin

Views towards the site

A470 tip

Welsh  
Government  
Offices

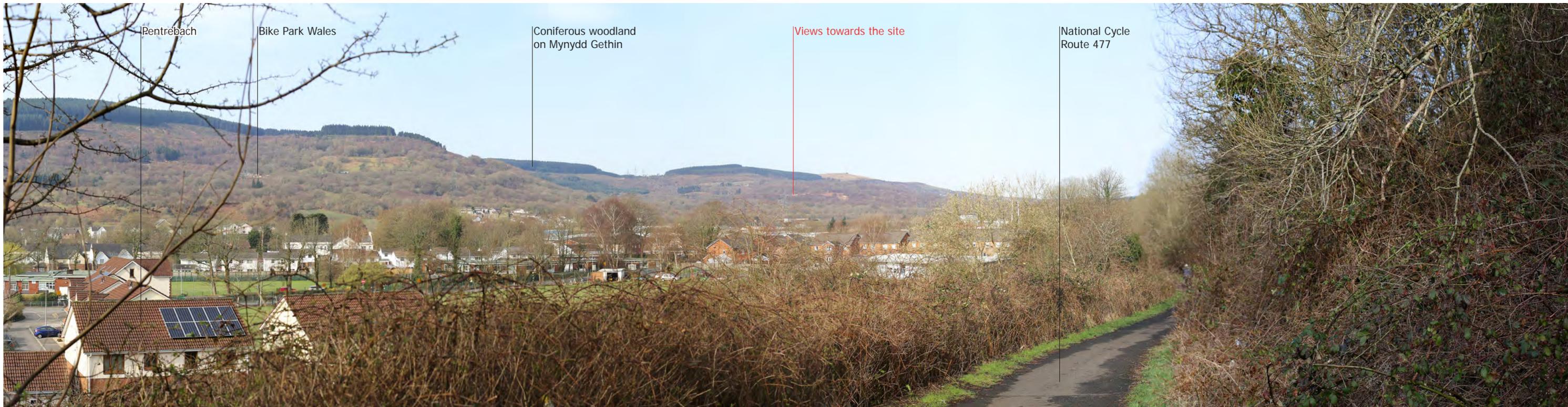
Mynydd Aberdare

Heolgerrig

Merthyr Tydfil  
College

Trago Mills

Context Photograph E: Dowlais Road, Ffos-y-frân



Pentrebach

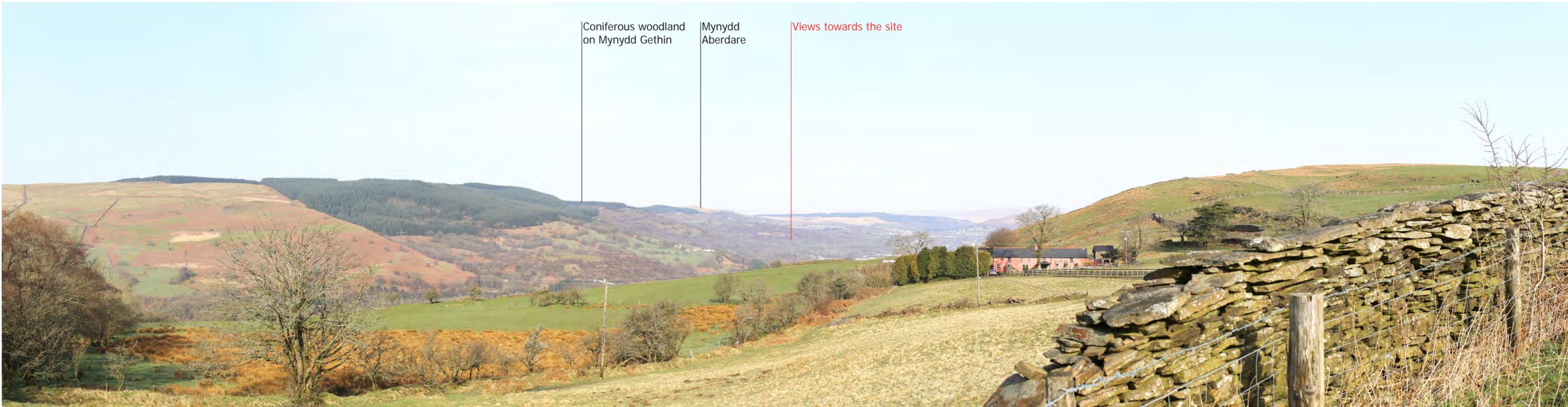
Bike Park Wales

Coniferous woodland  
on Mynydd Gethin

Views towards the site

National Cycle  
Route 477

Context Photograph F: National Cycle Route 477, Pentrebach



Coniferous woodland on Mynydd Gethin

Mynydd Aberdare

Views towards the site

Context Photograph MC G: Minor road at Penddeugae



Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305104 N205430  
 Ground level: 188m AOD  
 Direction of view: 230°  
 Distance to site: 0.1km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 01/04/2021 14:09

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 01:** Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-1





Site extents

Extent of Snow Centre, Water Park, Indoor Activity, and Hotel sites

Mynydd Aberdare

Heolgerrig

Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305619 N204674  
 Ground level: 180m AOD  
 Direction of view: 280°  
 Distance to site: 0.67km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 11:29

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

Viewpoint MCO2: A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-2





Coniferous woodland on Mynydd Gethin

Power line junction in southeast corner of site

Site extents

Extent of Snow Centre, Water Park, Indoor Activity, and Hotel sites

A470 tip

Footbridge over A4102

Welsh Government Offices

Mynydd Aberdare

Heolgerrig

Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305791 N205426  
 Ground level: 226m AOD  
 Direction of view: 240°  
 Distance to site: 0.99km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 11:40

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Rhydycar West,  
Merthyr Tydfil**

LA.09-3

**Viewpoint 03:** Jowett Avenue,  
Ysgubor Newydd





Site extents

Extent of Snow Centre, Water Park, Indoor Activity, and Hotel sites

Coniferous woodland on Mynydd Gethin

A470 tip

Welsh Government Offices

Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305286 N206007  
 Ground level: 209m AOD  
 Direction of view: 215°  
 Distance to site: 1.0km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 01/04/2021 12:18

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 04:** Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-4

**Marvel  
 Limited**

**tir collective**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305244 N206360  
 Ground level: 243m AOD  
 Direction of view: 215°  
 Distance to site: 1.25km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 22/04/2021 13:13

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint MC05:** Boar War Memorial, Thomastown Park

**Rhydyar West,  
Merthyr Tydfil**

LA.09-5

**Marvel  
Limited**

**tir collective**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E304808 N206258  
 Ground level: 193m AOD  
 Direction of view: 200°  
 Distance to site: 1.05km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 01/04/2021 11:03

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint MCO6:** Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-6





Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E302943 N206263  
 Ground level: 291m AOD  
 Direction of view: 140°  
 Distance to site: 2km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 16:33

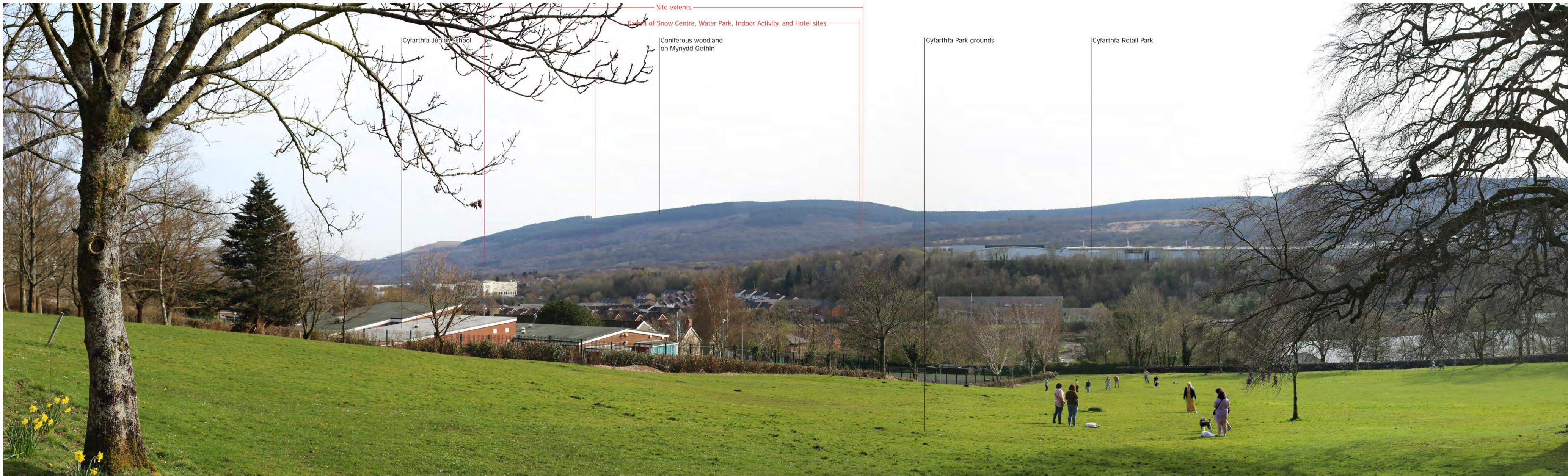
Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 07:** Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-7

**Marvel  
 Limited**

**tir collective**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Cyfarthfa Junior School

Coniferous woodland on Mynydd Gethin

Cyfarthfa Park grounds

Cyfarthfa Retail Park

Site extents

Extent of Snow Centre, Water Park, Indoor Activity, and Hotel sites

Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E304272 N207119  
 Ground level: 213m AOD  
 Direction of view: 180°  
 Distance to site: 1.96km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 16:15

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

Viewpoint MC08: Cyfarthfa Park

**Rhydycar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-8

Marvel  
 Limited

**tir collective**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305387 N208015  
 Ground level: 308m AOD  
 Direction of view: 200°  
 Distance to site: 2.95km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 12:42

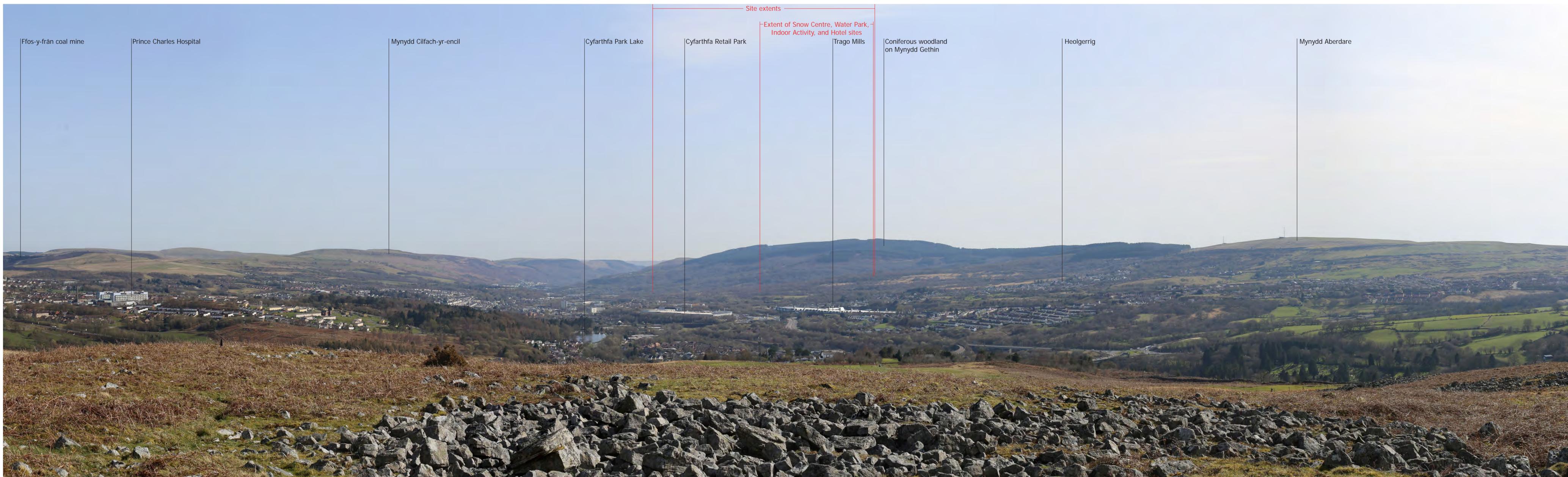
Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-9

**Marvel  
 Limited**

**tir collective**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

**Viewpoint 09:** Galon Uchaf Road,  
 Galon Uchaf



Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E302805 N209378  
 Ground level: 388m AOD  
 Direction of view: 160°  
 Distance to site: 4.57km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

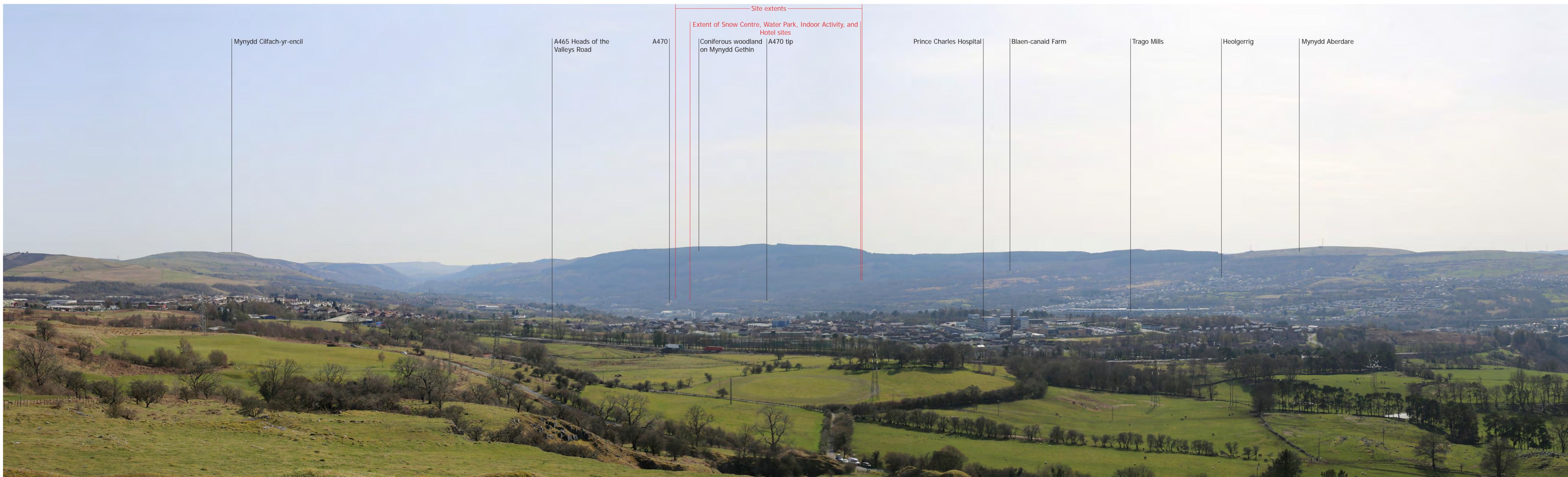
Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 15:28

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 10:** Cefn Cil-Sanws, above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-10





Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E304964 N209555  
 Ground level: 393m AOD  
 Direction of view: 190°  
 Distance to site: 4.36km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 14:48

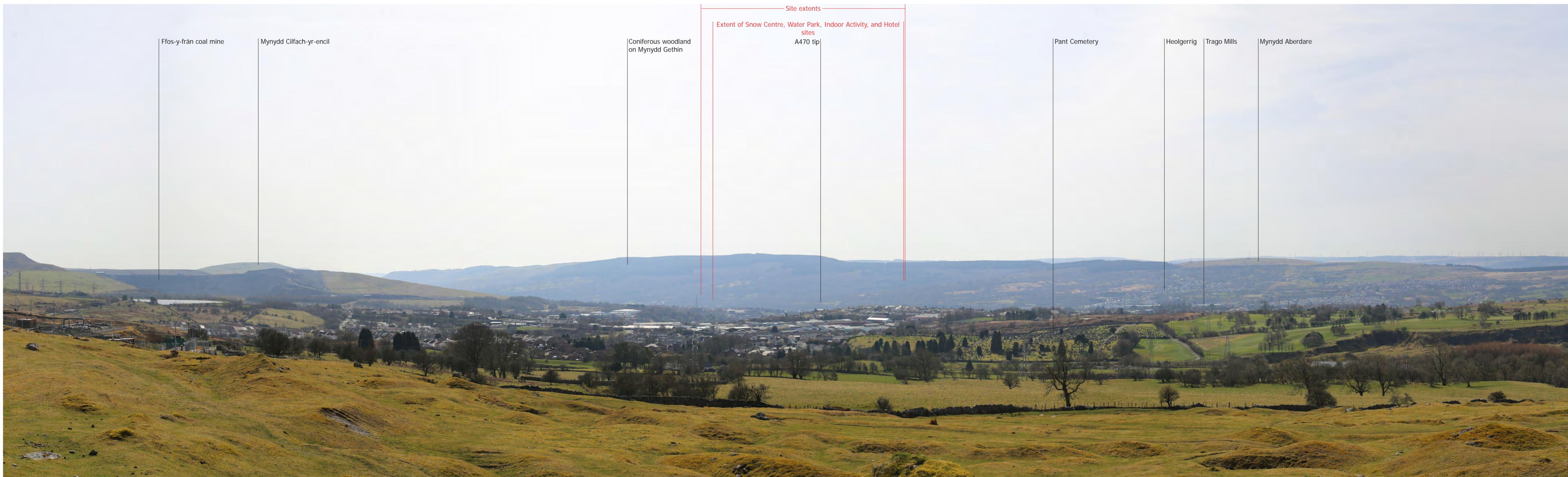
Project no. TC22027 January 2022

Viewpoint 11: Morlais Castle

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-11

Marvel  
 Limited

**tir collective**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E306558 N210226  
 Ground level: 435m AOD  
 Direction of view: 210°  
 Distance to site: 5.44km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

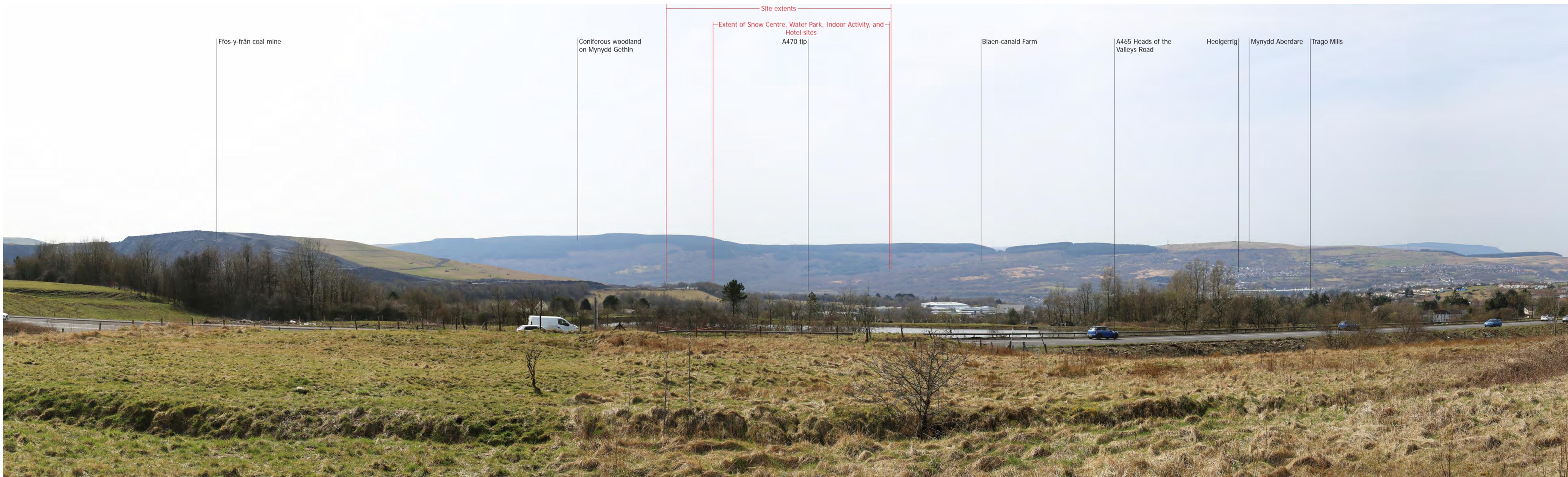
Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 13:13

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint MC12:** Twynau Gwynion Quarries

**Rhydycar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-12





Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E307350 N208461  
 Ground level: 373m AOD  
 Direction of view: 220°  
 Distance to site: 4.21km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 12:23

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 13:** National Cycle Route 46, Dowlais Top

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-13

**Marvel  
 Limited**

**tir collective**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E306534 N203774  
 Ground level: 174m AOD  
 Direction of view: 305°  
 Distance to site: 1.68km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 10:15

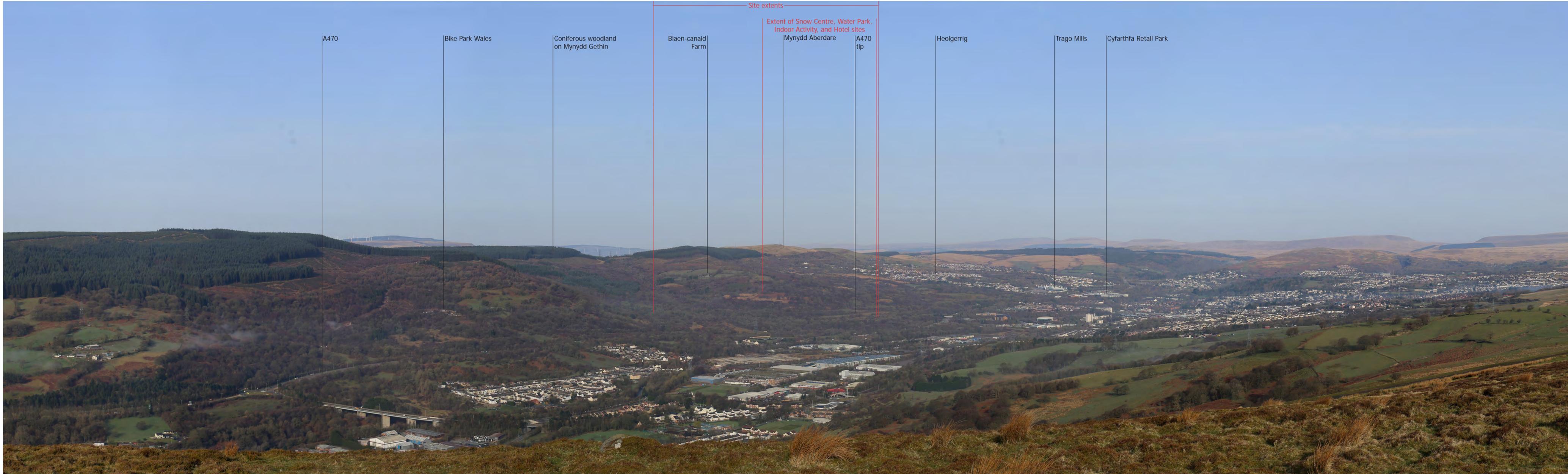
Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 14:** Duffryn Fawr, Pentrebach

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-14

**Marvel  
 Limited**

**tir collective**  
 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E307887 N203330  
 Ground level: 454m AOD  
 Direction of view: 305°  
 Distance to site: 3.05km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

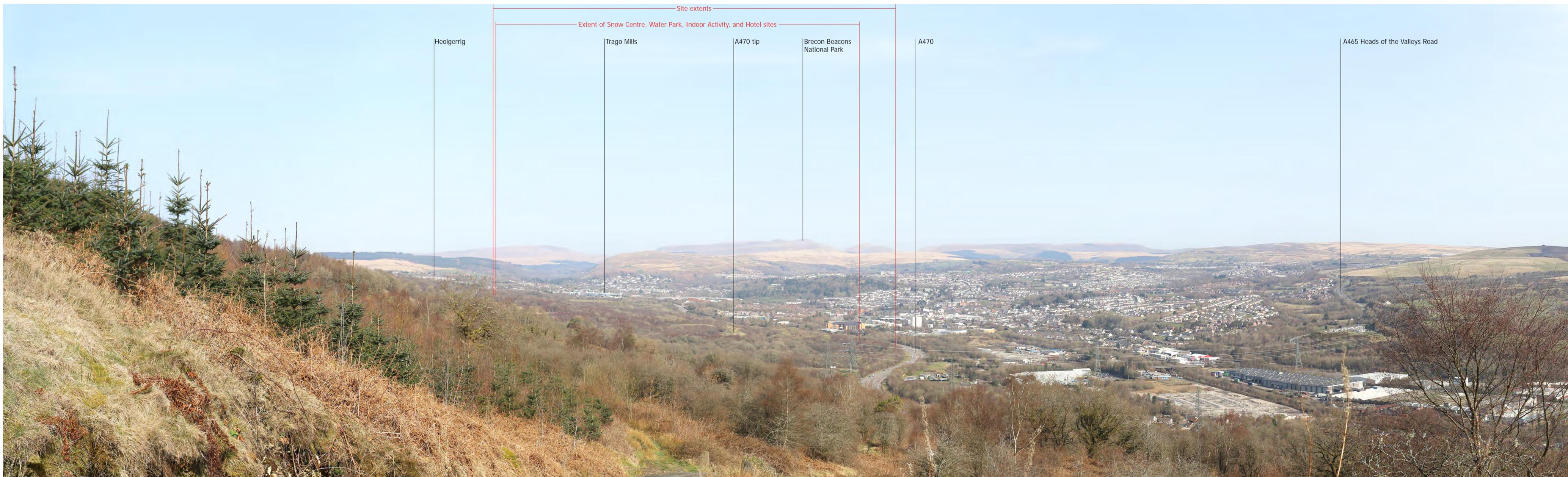
Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 8:55

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 15:** Merthyr Common (Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil)

**Rhydycar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-15





Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305226 N202934  
 Ground level: 337m AOD  
 Direction of view: 340°  
 Distance to site: 1.48km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 10:48

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 16:** Bridleway, Gethin Woodland Park

**Rhydycar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.09-16





### Appendix 2 – Assessment Methodology

The methodology used in this assessment has been based upon the recommendations in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in April 2013 (GLVIA3).

#### Landscape Effects Assessment

Establishing the landscape baseline

Baseline studies for assessing the landscape effects included a mix of desk study and field work to identify and record the character of the landscape and the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors which contribute to it.

The elements that make up the landscape in the study area were recorded, including:

- physical influences - geology, soils, landform, drainage and water bodies;
- land cover, including different types of vegetation and patterns and types of tree cover;
- the influence of human activity, such as, land use and management, the character of settlements and buildings, the pattern and type of fields and enclosure; and
- the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape, e.g.: its scale, complexity, openness, tranquillity, wildness.

The overall character of the landscape in the study area was considered, including the particular combinations of elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects that make each distinctive, usually by identification as key characteristics of the landscape. Evidence about change in the landscape was considered, including the condition of the different landscape types and/or areas, and their constituent parts and evidence of current pressures causing change in the landscape.

#### Landscape value

The European Landscape Convention promotes taking account of all landscapes, including ordinary or undesignated landscapes. The relative value attached to the landscape was considered at the baseline stage to inform the judgments about the effects likely to occur, whether to areas of landscape as a whole or to individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions, at the community, local, national or international levels.

Landscape designation is a starting point in understanding landscape value, but value may also be attached to undesignated landscapes. Special Qualities, reasons for designation, relevant policies in management plans or designation-specific policies in development plans, were consulted in assessing the relative value of the landscape within designated areas.

Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact and in good condition, and where scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and natural or cultural heritage features make a particular contribution to the landscape, or where there are important associations, are likely to be highly valued. For “ordinary, everyday landscapes”, the judgement was based upon the

degree to which they are representative of typical character, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of its elements, scenic quality, sense of place, aesthetic and perceptual qualities.

In Wales, the evaluation of the five aspects of the landscape described in LANDMAP was used, in conjunction with the criteria in Table A2-1 below, where appropriate.

When determining the landscape value, the following elements were considered, in addition to consideration of values associated with designations:

- The importance of the landscape, or the perceived value of the landscape to users or consultees, as indicated by, for example, international, national or local designations;
- The importance of elements or components of the landscape in the landscape character of the area or in their contribution to the landscape setting of other areas;
- Intrinsic aesthetic characteristics, scenic quality or sense of place, including providing landscape setting to other places;
- Cultural associations in the arts or in guides to the area, or popular use of the area for recreation, where experience of the landscape is important;
- The presence and scale of detractors in the landscape and the degree to which they are susceptible to improvement or upgrading; and
- Conservation interests: The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.

The following table indicates the criteria used to determine the Landscape value:

**Table A2-1 Criteria to determine landscape value**

Value	Criteria
High Value	<p>Landscapes subject to international or national designations, and non-designated landscapes where the following considerations apply:</p> <p>Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact and in good condition;</p> <p>Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features make a particular contribution to the landscape;</p> <p>There are important cultural and artistic associations;</p> <p>They are representative of typical character of the area or have a character or elements that are valued for their rarity;</p> <p>Particular components may be identified as important contributors to the landscape character;</p> <p>The landscape is valued for recreational activities where experience of the landscape is important.</p>

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Value	Criteria
Medium Value	<p>Landscapes subject to local designations, and non-designated landscapes where the following considerations apply:</p> <p>Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact with few detractors;</p> <p>Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features make a contribution to the landscape;</p> <p>There are cultural and artistic associations;</p> <p>They are representative of typical character of the area or have a character or elements that are identified for their rarity;</p> <p>Particular components may be identified as contributors to the landscape character;</p> <p>The landscape is a setting for recreational activities where experience of the landscape forms part of the experience.</p>
Low Value	<p>Areas of non-designated landscapes whose character is in poor condition;</p> <p>Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features are not key characteristics of the landscape;</p> <p>Cultural and artistic associations are absent;</p> <p>They are not representative of typical character of the area, but are also not valued for rarity;</p> <p>Particular components may be identified as contributors to the landscape character;</p> <p>There is little scope for recreational activities where experience of the landscape is important.</p>

The landscape baseline report aims to:

- describe, map and illustrate the character of the landscape of both the wider study area and the site and its immediate surroundings;
- identify and describe the individual elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape, particularly those that are key characteristics contributing to its distinctive character;
- indicate the condition of the landscape, including the condition of landscape elements or features;
- project forward drivers and trends in change and how they may affect the landscape over time, in the absence of the proposal; and
- evaluate the landscape and, where appropriate, its components, aesthetic and perceptual aspects, particularly the key characteristics.

## Assessing the Landscape Effects

The baseline information about the landscape was combined with understanding of the details of the proposal to identify and describe the landscape effects. The landscape receptors were identified, that is, the components or aspects of the landscape likely to be affected, such as, overall character or key characteristics, individual elements or features, or specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects.

Interactions between the landscape receptors and the components or characteristics of the development at its different stages were considered: construction and operation, and the different types of effect: direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, adverse and beneficial.

Landscape effects considered included:

- change in and/or partial or complete loss of elements, features or aesthetic or perceptual aspects that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the landscape;
- addition of new elements or features that will influence the character and distinctiveness of the landscape; and
- combined effects of these changes on overall character.

The landscape effects were categorised as adverse, beneficial, or negligible in their consequences for the landscape, judged from the degree to which the proposal fits with existing character and the contribution the development makes to the landscape in its own right, even if in contrast to existing character.

The assessment of the landscape effects was based on assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and the magnitude of the change in the landscape arising from the proposal.

## Sensitivity of the landscape receptors

The sensitivity of landscape receptors combines judgments of their susceptibility to the type of change arising from the development proposal and the value attached to the landscape.

Susceptibility to change means the ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.

The value attached to the landscape receptors was established in the baseline study.

The sensitivity of landscape receptors to change is categorised as high, moderate or lesser, in accordance with the criteria set out below to determine the susceptibility and value of the landscape receptor.

When determining the landscape susceptibility, the following elements were considered:

- The ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the landscape character and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies;

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- The degree to which the changes arising from the development would alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area;
- The degree to which the changes arising from the development would alter individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to the landscape character; and
- Existing landscape studies may identify the sensitivity of the landscape type or area or its characteristics to the general type of development that is proposed.

The following table indicates the criteria used to determine the landscape susceptibility:

**Table A2-2 Criteria for landscape susceptibility**

Susceptibility	Criteria
High Susceptibility	<p>The changes arising from the type of development would alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area.</p> <p>The changes arising from the type of development would alter or remove individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to, or add new elements incongruous to, the landscape character.</p> <p>The type of development would compromise the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies for the landscape.</p> <p>The changes arising from the type of development would alter or remove elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to the landscape character or add new elements that would reinforce the key characteristics of the landscape character.</p>
Low Susceptibility	<p>The changes arising from the type of development would not alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area.</p> <p>The type of development would not compromise the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies for the landscape.</p> <p>The changes arising from the type of development would not alter or remove individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to, or add new elements incongruous to, the landscape character.</p>

Where the susceptibility identified falls between high and low, an intermediate level of susceptibility is assigned, e.g., “moderate”. The basis for the scale of susceptibility assigned to the landscape receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

**Table A2-3 illustrates indicative criteria for assessing landscape sensitivity combining**

Category	Indicative criteria
High sensitivity	<p>A highly valued landscape e.g., of national or international importance, whose character or key characteristics are very susceptible to change;</p> <p>Aspects of the landscape character are highly valued as “key characteristics” and, often identified as susceptible to change in national or local character assessments;</p> <p>The landscape character is highly valued as intact and in good condition and particularly vulnerable to disturbance;</p> <p>A highly valued landscape with no or limited potential for substitution or replacement.</p>
Moderate sensitivity	<p>A landscape of local importance or value, whose character or key characteristics are susceptible to change;</p> <p>Other characteristics of the landscape character also valued in national or local character assessments and susceptible to change;</p> <p>The landscape character is valued for moderate condition and not particularly vulnerable to disturbance;</p> <p>A moderately valued landscape with some potential for substitution or replacement.</p>
Lesser sensitivity	<p>No or little evidence of value or importance attached to the landscape area, its features or characteristics;</p> <p>Few features, characteristics or qualities susceptible to disturbance or particularly susceptible to improvement or upgrading</p> <p>Good potential for substitution or replacement</p>

### Magnitude of Landscape Change

Effects on landscape receptors are assessed in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.

**Table A2-4 Considerations for assessing magnitude of landscape change**

Consideration	Indicative criteria
Size or scale of change	<p>Categorised on a scale of Large, Medium, Small, Negligible or None, based upon:</p> <p>The extent of existing landscape elements that will be lost (or added), the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape;</p> <p>The degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or additions of new ones;</p>

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Consideration	Indicative criteria
	Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.
Geographical area over which the landscape would be changed	Categorised on a scale of: Small: at site level, within the development site itself or at the level of the immediate setting of the site; Medium: at the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies; Large: where the development influences several landscape types or character areas.
The duration of the changes	The durations of changes due to the development are categorised as: Short term: zero to five years; Medium term: five to ten years; Long term: ten to twenty-five years; Permanent: more than twenty-five.
Reversibility	The prospect and the practicality of the effect being reversed within twenty-five years.

Indicative criteria used to determine the magnitude of change is as follows:

**Table A2-5 Indicative criteria for assessing magnitude of landscape change**

Magnitude of Change	Landscape Change
Great change	Major size or scale of change, affecting the landscape type or character of the area within which the proposal lies or extending over the wider area; likely to be longer term or permanently, with low prospect of reversibility
Medium change	Intermediate size or scale of change, affecting part of the landscape type or character of the area within which the proposal lies, or larger scale of change at the level of the site or immediate context; likely to continue into the medium term, with good prospect of reversibility
Small change	A minor proportion of the extent of the character type or area is affected or smaller scale of change over a larger extent; the changes occur at the level of the site or immediate context, and likely to be short term and reversible.
Negligible/no change	No apparent change to landscape characteristics

While GLVIA3 includes the duration of the change in the consideration of the magnitude of change, in some cases a major size or scale of change of shorter duration may be considered a “great change”.

### Significance of landscape effects

Final conclusions about the degree of effect, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes combined, based upon the following indicative considerations and criteria:

**Table A2-6 Indicative criteria for assessing landscape effects**

Landscape effect	Indicative criteria
Major	Highly sensitive landscape completely degraded or greatly changed, with little or no scope for mitigation; Great improvement, sufficient to upgrade overall landscape character. Irreversible adverse or beneficial effects, over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes.
Moderate	Medium change to moderately sensitive landscape or its character; lesser change to higher sensitivity landscape or greater change to less sensitive landscape.
Minor	Small or limited adverse change to the existing landscape or its character; greater change to less sensitive landscape; Considerable scope for mitigation; Small improvement to the existing landscape. Reversible adverse or beneficial effects of short duration, over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to but are not key characteristics of the character of landscapes of community value.
Negligible	No perceptible change to the existing landscape or its character; The change is difficult to discern.

Intermediate conditions may be described, such as Moderate-Major, where the criteria for Moderate may be exceeded but not qualify as Major. Where magnitude of change is “None”, the effect would correspondingly be “None”.

Effects may be adverse or beneficial. In some instances, the effect may be offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation or landscape proposals, and the resulting effect may be neither beneficial nor adverse.

The criteria for significance of landscape effects are based upon the following considerations:

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- Major loss or irreversible negative effects, over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes are likely to be of the greatest significance.
- Reversible negative effects of short duration, over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to but are not key characteristics of the character of landscapes of community value, are likely to be of least significance and may be judged not significant.
- Where assessments of significance place landscape effects between these extremes, judgments are made about whether they are significant.
- Where landscape effects are judged to be significant and adverse, proposals for preventing/avoiding, reducing or offsetting or compensating for them are set out (referred to as mitigation).

The significant landscape effects remaining after mitigation are summarised as the final step in the process.

### Visual Effects Assessment

Establishing the visual baseline

Baseline studies for visual effects establish:

- the area in which the development may be visible;
- the different groups of people who may experience views of the development;
- the location where they will be affected;
- the nature of the views at those points; and
- the different groups of people who may be affected by the changes in views or visual amenity.

The potential areas where the site and development proposal are likely to be visible were mapped. Landscape components affecting visibility, like buildings, walls, fences, trees, hedgerows, woodland and banks, were identified through field surveys and mapped where relevant.

The people within the area who may be affected by the changes in views and visual amenity – the visual receptors – were identified, for example:

- people living in the area;
- people passing through on roads and the local lanes;
- people visiting promoted landscapes or attractions; and
- people engaged in recreation of different types, including users of public rights of way, bridleways and access land.

Where relevant, views that form part of the experience and enjoyment of the landscape were noted, for example, from promoted paths, tourist or scenic routes and associated viewpoints.

The proposed viewpoints selected were discussed with the local authority, and informed by the visual appraisal, field surveys, and by desk-based research on various issues, for example, access and recreation, valued landscapes, tourist attractions and destinations, popular vantage points, and relative distribution of population. Viewpoints were selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptors.

The details of viewpoint locations were mapped and catalogued, sufficient to allow someone else to return to the location and record the same view. Photography was carried out in accordance with the Landscape Institute, Advice Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (2019).

The baseline report aims to describe, map and illustrate:

- the type of people (visual receptors) likely to be affected, making clear the activities they are likely to be involved in when enjoying the view;
- details of the viewpoints and of the visual receptors likely to be affected at each;
- the nature, composition and characteristics of the existing view, noting any particular horizontal or vertical emphasis, and any key foci; existing views have been illustrated in annotated photographs identifying important components of the view.
- elements, such as landform, buildings or vegetation, which may interrupt, filter or otherwise influence the views;
- whether or how the view may be affected by seasonal or weather variation.

### Assessing the Visual Effects

#### Predicting and describing visual effects

The baseline information about the visual receptors was combined with understanding of the details of the proposal to identify and describe the visual effects, considering:

- changes in views and visual amenity arising from elements of the development;
- the distance of the viewpoint from the development and whether the viewer would focus on the development due to its scale and proximity or whether the development would be only a small or minor element in a panoramic view;
- whether the view is stationary or transient or one of a sequence of views;
- the nature of the changes: changes in the skyline, creation of a new visual focus in the view, introduction of new elements, changes in visual simplicity or complexity, alteration of visual scale or the degree of visual enclosure; and
- seasonal differences in effects, arising from the varying degree of screening and/or filtering of views by vegetation in summer and winter.

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Categorising the visual effects as adverse or beneficial (or neutral) in their consequences for views and visual amenity was based on judgments about whether the changes affect the quality of the visual experience, and the nature of the existing views and the nature of the changes to the views.

The visual effects were assessed, based on assessment of the nature of the visual receptors and their sensitivity, and the nature of the effect on views and visual amenity, that is, the magnitude of visual change.

### Sensitivity of the visual receptors

The people or groups of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint – the visual receptors – are assessed in terms of their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity and the value attached to particular view locations and views.

The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations and the extent to which their attention or interest is focused on the views or the visual amenity they experience at particular locations. The context of the location also contributes to susceptibility, for example, people viewing from residential properties or from a valued landscape are likely to be more susceptible to change than people viewing from an industrial context. Table A2-7 illustrates indicative criteria used to determine visual receptor susceptibility:

**Table A2-7 Indicative criteria to determine visual receptor susceptibility**

Susceptibility	Criteria
High Susceptibility	<p>Residents at home.</p> <p>People engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views.</p> <p>Visitors to designated landscapes, heritage assets, or other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience.</p> <p>Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.</p>
Low Susceptibility	<p>People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape.</p> <p>People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity not on their surroundings and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life.</p> <p>Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes, except along recognised scenic routes, where awareness of views is likely to be high.</p>

Where the susceptibility identified falls between high and low, an intermediate level of susceptibility is assigned, e.g., “medium”. The basis for the scale of susceptibility assigned to the visual receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

Judgments were made about the value attached to the views identified, taking account of recognition, for example, in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations, appearance in guidebooks or on tourist maps, promotion of particular locations or provision of facilities provided for their enjoyment, such as parking places, sign boards and interpretive material, or references to them in literature or art.

The sensitivity of visual receptors to change is categorised as high, moderate or lesser, in accordance with the criteria set out below.

**Table A2-8 Indicative criteria for visual sensitivity**

Category	Indicative criteria
High sensitivity	<p>Viewers in residential or community properties.</p> <p>Views experienced by many viewers.</p> <p>Daily, prolonged or sustained views available over a long period, or where the view of the landscape is an important attractant.</p> <p>A view from a landscape, recreation facility or route valued nationally or internationally for its visual amenity.</p>
Moderate sensitivity	<p>Viewers in residential or community properties with partial or largely screened views of the site.</p> <p>Frequent open views available.</p> <p>Viewers are pursuing activities such as sports or outdoor work, where the landscape is not the principal reason for being there or the focus of attention is only partly on the view.</p> <p>A view from other valued landscapes, or a regionally important recreation facility or route.</p>
Lesser sensitivity	<p>A view of low importance or value, or where the viewer’s attention is not focused their surroundings.</p> <p>A view from a landscape of moderate or less importance, or a locally important recreation facility.</p> <p>Occasional open views or glimpsed views available; passing views available to travellers in vehicles.</p> <p>A view available to few viewers.</p>

### Magnitude of visual change

The visual effects identified are evaluated in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, duration and reversibility.

**Table A2-9 Considerations for assessing magnitude of visual change**

Consideration	Indicative criteria
Size or scale of change	<p>Categorised on a scale of major, moderate, minor or none, based upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The degree of the loss or addition of features in the view;</li> <li>The extent of changes in the composition of the view, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development;</li> <li>The degree of contrast or integration of the changes with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics;</li> <li>The nature of the view of the proposed development, whether full, partial or glimpsed, or the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced.</li> </ul>
Geographical area over which the changes would be experienced	<p>The geographic extent reflects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible;</li> <li>The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor;</li> <li>The distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development.</li> </ul>
The duration of the changes	<p>Categorised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short term: zero to five years;</li> <li>Medium term: five to ten years;</li> <li>Long term: ten to twenty-five years</li> <li>Permanent: more than twenty-five.</li> </ul>
Reversibility	<p>The prospect and the practicality of the effect being reversed within twenty-five years, or within a generation</p>

Indicative criteria used to determine the magnitude of change is as follows:

**Table A1-10 Indicative criteria for assessing magnitude of visual change**

Magnitude of Change	Visual Change
Great change	Major size or scale of change, affecting a large proportion of the angle of the view, or affecting views from a wide area; continuing into the longer term or permanently, with low prospect of reversibility.
Medium change	Intermediate size or scale of change, affecting part of the angle of the view, or affecting some views from the wider area, or larger scale of

Magnitude of Change	Visual Change
	change in views from within the immediate context of the site; continuing into the medium term, with good prospect of reversibility.
Small change	A minor proportion of the angle of view is affected or the contribution of the changed elements or characteristics to the composition of the view is not important; the changes are viewed from longer distances, are short term and reversible.
Negligible/no change	Barely perceptible change or the change is difficult to discern; No change in the view or the changes due to the development are out of view.

### Judging the overall significance of visual effects

Final conclusions about the degree of visual effects, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in Table A2-11:

**Table A2-11 Indicative criteria for assessing visual effects**

Visual effect	Indicative criteria
Major	Great change or visual intrusion experienced by highly sensitive viewers or from highly sensitive public viewpoints; The proposal would cause a great deterioration in the existing view available to highly sensitive viewers; Great improvement in the view, sufficient to upgrade overall visual amenity. Large scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view, especially where affecting people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity or people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes.
Moderate	Medium change or visual intrusion experienced by moderately sensitive viewers; Smaller change to higher sensitivity viewers or greater change to less sensitive viewers.
Minor	Small or localised visual intrusion in the existing view, especially for less sensitive viewers. Small or localised reduction in visual intrusion, or improvement in the view.

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Visual effect	Indicative criteria
	Reversible short-term changes, in views available to people for whom the view of the landscape is not the principle focus of interest.
Negligible	Negligible change in the view or the change is difficult to discern even for a highly sensitive viewer.

In addition to these criteria, in some instances the effect may be discernible or greater, but offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation or landscape proposals for the development, and the resulting effect is neither beneficial nor adverse.

The following factors inform the judgment about the significance of visual effects:

- Major effects on people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity are more likely to be significant.
- Major effects on people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes are more likely to be significant.
- Large scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view are more likely to be significant than small changes or changes involving features already present within the view.
- As for landscape effects, where visual effects are judged to be significant and adverse, proposals for preventing/avoiding, reducing or offsetting or compensating for them are set out (referred to as mitigation).

The significant visual effects remaining after mitigation are summarised as the final step in the process.



### Appendix 3 – Assessment of Effects



Table Appendix 3.1: Landscape Magnitude of Change

Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change <u>during construction</u>	Magnitude of Change <u>at completion</u>	Magnitude of Change <u>15 years after completion</u>
<b>Features, qualities, and characteristics within the site</b>			
<b>The landform of the east facing slope</b>	<p>There would be changes to the landform throughout the site with the construction of the Snow Centre and adjacent south facing slope. There would be local level changes associated with the construction of the hotel and leisure complex, access roads and car parking, and for associated SuDS features. There would also be the removal/displacement of the tips on site. Changes to the landform would be exposed following clearance of vegetation and spreading of material.</p> <p>The permanent changes would be of large scale over a small geographical area. The landform would principally remain an east facing slope, but with some plateau interruptions, which would be exposed. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>great</b>.</p>	<p>The permanent changes to landform would have occurred during the construction phase. Landform changes would be continuing to settle. Exposed areas would be newly planted with vegetation and grass seeding.</p> <p>The scale of the changes would be medium over a small geographical area. There are likely to be some areas of exposed landform. The changes would be permanent, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>great</b>.</p>	<p>Changes to the landform would be assimilated into the landscape with the establishment of woodland and other vegetation. The site would function as an east facing slope, part of the wider hillside, with built proposals integrated with its surroundings.</p> <p>The changes would be medium scale over a small geographical area. Although the changes would be permanent, the changes to the landform would be integrated into its surroundings. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small-medium</b>.</p>
<b>Areas of woodland and trees</b>	<p>Some areas of woodland and trees would be removed and cleared exposing some areas of the site, particularly in the northwest and central part of the site. Fencing would be erected to protect areas of woodland and trees that are to be retained. Construction activities would occur in the south and west of the wooded areas associated with the lodges and Outdoor Activity Centre, interrupting some of the woodland character. Woodland areas in the southwest of the site are likely to remain unchanged. Proposals for the site also include the planting of new areas of woodland and trees which would introduce a more diverse mix of tree species to the site.</p> <p>The scale of the changes would be large over a small geographical area, affecting large parts of the woodland and treed character of the area. The changes would be permanent, the magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>great</b>.</p>	<p>Newly planted trees and woodland would be starting to establish with new areas connecting to retained woodland areas within and beyond the site. The northwest and north of the site would be sparse of woodland and replaced with buildings, although newly planted trees in the north and central part of the site would partially break up built form. Woodland in the south would be partially interspersed with lodges and tracks, and the Outdoor Activity Centre in the west of the site would be in use, resulting in an increase of use and recreational use of the area. However, the woodland character of these areas is likely to remain a key feature. Woodland areas in the southwest of the site are likely to remain unchanged.</p> <p>The scale of the changes would be medium over a small geographical area, affecting part of the character of the area. The changes would be permanent, the magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>great</b>.</p>	<p>Planted trees and woodland within the site would be continuing to establish but is likely to ingrained within the wider landscape. The trees are likely to soften some parts of the proposed development. The lodges and Outdoor Activity Centre in the south and west of the site are likely to be integrated within the woodland areas with recreational use forming part of the character of the areas. Woodland areas in the southwest of the site are likely to remain unchanged.</p> <p>The scale of the changes would be medium over a small geographical area, affecting part of the character of the area. The changes would be permanent, the magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>
<b>Mosaic character</b>	<p>The mosaic character of the site would be disturbed with the clearance and removal of some habitats and the removal/displacement of tips, which would create areas of exposure. Heritage features are likely to be retained, although some works may be carried out for their preservation. The construction of SuDS features would alter the drainage of the site. Activity and movement of large construction vehicles and tall cranes would also interrupt the mosaic character.</p> <p>The scale of the changes would be large over a small-medium geographical area. The construction activities on site would occur over the short-term but lead to permanent change. The changes would be permanent, the magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>great</b>.</p>	<p>The mosaic character of the site would be interrupted with the introduction of new structures and tall buildings and associated hard landscape. New woodland, tree, vegetation, and grass planting would be starting to establish, although some areas may remain partially exposed such as the south facing slope adjacent to the Snow Centre. Heritage features on site would be retained with some education opportunities, which would integrate the features into the proposed development. The Vegetation on the SuDS features would also be establishing, contributing to the mosaic character. Although additional movement and recreational activities would be created in the south of the site, some wooded areas would remain unaltered and continue to form a feature of the mosaic character.</p> <p>The scale of the changes would be medium-large over a small-medium geographical area. The changes would be permanent, but some would include restoration and the retaining of key characteristics. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>medium-great</b>.</p>	<p>Some habitats on the site would be established or continuing to establish such as the planted south facing slope adjacent to the Snow Centre and areas of woodland. The proposed buildings and hard landscape would interrupt some of the mosaic character. However, the heritage and SuDS features would be ingrained within the landscape of the site. The woodland areas in the southern part of the site would continue to contribute to the mosaic character of the site.</p> <p>The scale of the changes would be medium over a small geographical area. The changes would be permanent, but some would contribute to the mosaic characteristics. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>



Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change <u>during construction</u>	Magnitude of Change <u>at completion</u>	Magnitude of Change <u>15 years after completion</u>
<b>Attractive distant views from open elevated areas</b>	Views out from elevated areas, where available on the site, would be partially interrupted by construction activities, more so during the construction of the tall and large-scale buildings in the north and northwest of the site. From some locations on the site, views out of the site may become more available with the removal of woodland, trees and vegetation.  The scale of the changes would be medium over a small geographical area. Construction activities would be over the short-term but lead to permanent change. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b> .	In the north of the site some views out from the site would be interrupted by built development. Newly planted woodland and trees may also partially screen and filter some views out. However, distant views out of the site are likely to be available from several locations and would continue to form a key characteristic.  The scale of the changes would be small over a small geographical area. Although the changes would be permanent the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b> .	Establishing woodland and trees may partially screen and filter views out of the site, alongside built development, reducing the availability of some views. However, distant views out of the site are likely to be available from several locations and would continue to form a key characteristic.  The scale of the changes would be small over a small geographical area. Although the changes would be permanent the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b> .
<b>Setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil</b>	There would be some disruption to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil. Construction activities are likely to result in views of large vehicles and tall cranes, create associated movement and sound, although the sound would be in context to the road sound of the A470. Areas of the site are likely to be exposed following clearance and removal of trees, vegetation and grassland to form a backdrop feature.  The scale of the changes would be large over a medium geographical area. The construction activities would be over the short-term but lead to permanent change. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-great</b> .	The proposed development would result in additional tall buildings, structures and associated hard and soft landscape in the setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil. Additional movement would be created with vehicles using the site and recreational users of the public routes. Some areas of the site are likely to remain exposed as new planting and seeding is establishing. At night, street lighting and other internal and external lighting on the site would change the night-time characteristics. The southern areas of the site are likely to remain largely unaltered in the setting.  The permanent changes would be large in scale over a medium geographical area. The setting of the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil would have changed from mainly rural to an urban backdrop with the influences of tall buildings and commercial characteristics. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>great</b> .	The presence of the proposed development within the setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil is likely to be softened and more ingrained with the surrounding landscape with the establishment of new woodland, trees and vegetation. However, tall buildings, movement, and lighting on site would create urban features characteristics. The southern areas of the site are likely to remain largely unaltered in the setting.  The permanent changes would be medium-large in scale over a medium geographical area. The setting of the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil would have changed from mainly rural to a backdrop with urban influences. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-great</b> .
<b>Setting to areas of public access and PRowS</b>	Construction hoarding around the site would be erected. Construction activities would be undertaken which is likely to create associated movement and sound, although the sound would be in context to the road noise associated with the A470. The surrounding access and routes are generally located within woodland which provides some separation from the site and influences the character of the routes.  The scale of the changes would be medium over a medium geographical area. The construction activities would be over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b> .	Changes to the setting of the access and routes would be over short sections of the routes, which are generally located in woodland that influences the character. There may be an increase of activity along the route due to the improved connections within the site.  The scale of the changes would be small over a medium geographical area. Although the changes would be permanent, the primary characteristics of the routes are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b> .	The establishing woodland, trees and vegetation on the site is likely to soften the presence of the proposed development from the setting of access and routes. Recreational uses are likely to increase with improved connections through the site to the surrounding landscape. The overall character of the routes and access, primarily within woodland, is likely to remain a key characteristic. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>negligible</b> .
<b>Landscape context of the site</b>			
<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	Indirect changes would include views of construction vehicles and construction activities, including the movement of tall cranes within the surrounding urban context of Merthyr Tydfil.  The changes would be small in scale, from small, scattered areas over a medium geographical area. The construction activities would be over the short-term leading to a permanent change. The historic character and urban features that define Merthyr Tydfil are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>small</b> .	Indirect changes resulting from the proposed development would be limited to visual change from small, scattered areas, which would be viewed in context to the urban surroundings.  The changes would be small in scale, from small, scattered areas over a medium geographical area. The visual change would be permanent, but the historic character and urban features that define Merthyr Tydfil are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>small</b> .	Indirect changes resulting from the proposed development would be limited to visual change from small, scattered areas. The establishment of woodland and trees is likely to soften some views of the proposals with the proposed development ingrained within the context of the urban surroundings.  The changes would be small in scale, from small, scattered areas over a medium geographical area. However, the historic character and urban features that define Merthyr Tydfil are likely to remain the defining characteristics. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>negligible</b> .



Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change <u>during construction</u>	Magnitude of Change <u>at completion</u>	Magnitude of Change <u>15 years after completion</u>
<b>Cyfarthfa Park</b>	<p>Indirect changes would include distant views of construction vehicles and construction activities, including the movement of tall cranes between gaps in trees and vegetation, above the urban context of Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p>The changes would be small-medium in scale over a small geographical area. The distant visual connection would partially alter, but the overall characteristics of the park are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small-medium</b>.</p>	<p>Indirect changes resulting from the proposed development would be limited to visual change between gaps in trees and vegetation and above the urban context of Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p>The changes would be small in scale over a small geographical area. The distant visual connection would partially alter above the urban context of Merthyr Tydfil, but the overall characteristics of the park would remain intact. Although the changes would be permanent, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>	<p>Indirect changes would be limited to visual change, but the establishment of woodland, trees, and other vegetation is likely to soften some views of the proposed development in the distance, which would be in context with other urban features.</p> <p>The scale of the changes would be small form a small geographical area, between gaps in trees within the park. Although the changes would be permanent, the key characteristics of the park are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>
<b>Upland and extractive landscape between Merthyr Tydfil and the BBNP and upland common to the east of the site</b>	<p>Indirect changes would include distant views large construction vehicles and construction activities and might include the movement of tall cranes where perceptible.</p> <p>The changes would be small in scale, over a large geographical area. Some changes would be permanent with construction activities over the short-term leading to a permanent change. The key and historic characteristics that define the uplands and/or extractive landscape are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>small-medium</b>.</p>	<p>Indirect changes resulting from the proposed development would be limited to visual change in distant views.</p> <p>The changes would be small in scale, over a large geographical area. Although the distant visual change would be permanent, the overall historic and key characteristics that define the upland and/or extractive landscape are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>small-medium</b>.</p>	<p>Indirect changes resulting from the proposed development would be limited to visual change in distant views. The establishment of woodland and trees is likely to soften some views of the proposals with the proposed development viewed in context to the wider area of Merthyr Tydfil and adjacent suburbs.</p> <p>The changes would be small in scale, over a large geographical area. The establishment of the planted south facing slope would reduce the distant permanent visual change. The overall historic and key characteristics that define the upland and/or extractive landscape are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>
<b>BBNP</b>	<p>Indirect changes would include distant views large construction vehicles and construction activities and might include the movement of tall cranes where perceptible, above Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p>The changes would be small in scale, over a medium geographical area. Some changes would be permanent with construction activities over the short-term leading to a permanent change. Whist distant views to the south would change, the overall key characteristics that define the BBNP are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>	<p>Indirect changes resulting from the proposed development would be limited to visual change in distant views to the south, above Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p>The changes would be small in scale, over a medium geographical area. Although the distant visual change would be permanent, the overall key characteristics that define the BBNP are likely to remain intact. The magnitude of change is therefore considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>	<p>Indirect changes resulting from the proposed development would be limited to visual change in distant views to the south, above the urban context of Merthyr Tydfil. The establishment of woodland and trees is likely to soften some views of the proposed development, which would help integrate it into its surroundings.</p> <p>The key characteristics of the BBNP are likely to remain intact, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>negligible</b>.</p>



Table Appendix 3.2: Landscape effects

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity to changes arising from the proposals	Magnitude of change	Degree & nature of effects & significance: during construction	Degree & nature of effects & significance: completion	Degree & nature of effects & significance: at year 15
<b>Features, qualities, and characteristics within the site</b>					
<b>The landform of the east facing slope</b>	<b>Moderate-high sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Small - medium</b>	Effects would be <b>major adverse</b> with large-scale earthworks changes to the landform that would also expose some areas.	Effects would be <b>major adverse</b> with large-scale earthworks changes to the landform with some areas remaining exposed.	Effects would be <b>moderate neutral</b> as the landform is settled and vegetation established, which would integrate the changes into the surrounding landscape.
<b>Areas of woodland and trees</b>	<b>High sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium</b>	Effects would be <b>major adverse</b> due to the removal of woodland areas and trees, and other areas would be planted with trees. The woodland and treed character in some parts of the site would change.	Effects would be <b>major adverse</b> as planted woodland and trees would not be established. Some woodland and treed characteristics would be altered, although areas in the south would remain largely intact.	Effects would be <b>moderate adverse</b> proposed woodland areas and trees would be establishing within the site and are likely to be integrated into the surrounding landscape. Some areas of the site remain unaltered.
<b>Mosaic character</b>	<b>High sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Great</b> Completion: <b>Medium - great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium</b>	Effects would be <b>major adverse</b> as key characteristics would be altered and/or removed. Areas of the site would be exposed. Construction activities would also interrupt the mosaic character.	Effects would be <b>major-moderate adverse</b> as the proposed development would alter and change the character in some parts of the site, although south areas would remain largely unaltered. Some areas of the site are likely to partially exposed.	Effects would be <b>moderate neutral</b> proposed planting of scrub and grass mixes would be established with areas of woodland continuing to establish. The mosaic character would be partially interrupted by built development, but other areas would have regenerated or remain unaltered.
<b>Attractive distant views from open elevated areas</b>	<b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Small</b>	Effects would be <b>moderate adverse</b> some views would be interrupted by tall cranes and other construction activities.	Effects would be <b>minor adverse</b> some views would be prevented from some parts of the site, but distant views from some areas of the site would continue to be available and continue as a characteristic of the site.	Effects would be <b>minor neutral</b> distant views out of the site would be a key feature and characteristic of the site.
<b>Setting to the urban edge of Merthyr Tydfil</b>	<b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Medium - great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium - great</b>	Effects would be <b>major-moderate adverse</b> the construction activities would disrupt the setting to the urban edge with tall cranes, construction vehicles, movement, and associated sound.	Effects would be <b>major adverse</b> the setting would change from predominantly rural to urban character within the setting of Merthyr Tydfil.	Effects would be <b>major-moderate adverse</b> the establishment of woodland and other vegetation is likely to soften the proposed development and integrate into its surroundings, but the character of the setting would be largely altered.
<b>Setting to areas of public access and PRowS</b>	<b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Negligible</b>	Effects would be <b>moderate adverse</b> construction activities would add movement and sound in the setting of access and public rights of way routes.	Effects would be <b>minor neutral</b> as recreational use maybe increased, but connections through the site and to the surrounding landscape would be improved. The existing woodland character of access and routes in the setting of the site would remain largely unaltered.	Any indirect effects are <b>negligible</b> . The key characteristics of the access and routes are likely to remain intact.



Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity to changes arising from the proposals	Magnitude of change	Degree & nature of effects & significance: during construction	Degree & nature of effects & significance: completion	Degree & nature of effects & significance: at year 15
<b>Landscape context of the site</b>					
<b>Merthyr Tydfil</b>	<b>Lesser sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Small</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Negligible</b>	The indirect effects are <b>minor adverse</b> with changes to views from small, scattered areas. Construction activities would be viewed in context to the surrounding urban context and the historic and urban characteristics of Merthyr Tydfil are likely to remain intact.	The indirect effects are <b>minor adverse</b> with changes to views from small, scattered areas. The proposed development would be viewed in context to the surrounding urban context and the historic and urban characteristics of Merthyr Tydfil are likely to remain intact.	The indirect effects are <b>negligible</b> with changes to views from small, scattered areas. The proposed development is likely to be ingrained within the surrounding urban context and the historic and urban characteristics of Merthyr Tydfil are likely to remain intact.
<b>Cyfarthfa Park</b>	<b>High sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Small - medium</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Small</b>	The indirect effects would be <b>moderate adverse</b> as the visual connection in the distance, a historical characteristic of the park, would alter with views of the construction activities.	The indirect effects are <b>minor adverse</b> the visual connection, a historical characteristic of the park, would be altered, but would be within the urban context of Merthyr Tydfil. The overall key characteristics of the park would remain intact.	The indirect effects would be <b>minor adverse</b> . The establishing woodland and tree are likely to soften distant views of the proposed development, but the visual connection, a historical characteristic of the park, would be partially altered. The proposed development would be viewed in context Merthyr Tydfil and the key characteristics of the park would remain intact.
<b>Upland and extractive landscape between Merthyr Tydfil and the BBNP and upland common to the east of the site</b>	<b>Lesser sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Small - medium</b> Completion: <b>Small - medium</b> At 15 years: <b>Small</b>	The indirect effects are <b>minor adverse</b> with changes to a small proportion of distant views. Construction activities would be viewed in context to surrounding development and the overall key characteristics that define the uplands and extractive landscape are likely to remain intact.	The indirect effects are <b>minor adverse</b> with changes to a small proportion of distant views. The proposed development would be viewed in context to surrounding development and the overall key characteristics that define the uplands and extractive landscape are likely to remain intact.	The indirect effects are <b>minor adverse</b> with changes to a small proportion of distant views reduced further with the establishment of the planted south facing slope. The proposed development would be viewed in context to surrounding development and the overall key characteristics that define the uplands and extractive landscape are likely to remain intact.
<b>BBNP</b>	<b>Moderate-High sensitivity</b>	During Construction: <b>Small</b> Completion: <b>Small</b> At 15 years: <b>Negligible</b>	The indirect effects are <b>minor adverse</b> with changes to a small proportion of distant views to the south from the BBNP. Construction would be viewed in context to surrounding development and the overall key characteristics that define the BBNP are likely to remain intact.	The indirect effects are <b>minor adverse</b> with changes to a small proportion of distant views to the south from the BBNP. The proposed development would be viewed in context to surrounding development and the overall key characteristics that define the BBNP are likely to remain intact.	Any indirect effects are <b>negligible</b> . The key characteristics of the BBNP are likely to remain intact.



Table Appendix 3.3: View with development & magnitude of change

Viewpoint Ref	View of the proposed development <u>during construction</u> and Magnitude of Change	View of the <u>completed</u> proposed development and Magnitude of Change	View of the completed proposed development <u>at year 15</u> and Magnitude of Change
<p><b>01 - Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)</b></p>	<p>There are likely to be views of stripped land on the site and the re-profiled area associated with the proposed Snow Centre above the middle ground woodland. However, the foreground trees are likely to screen views of stripped land in the south of the site. The railings of the footbridge and roundabout on the A470 occupy the foreground of the view. Retained vegetation would screen views of the initial stages of construction activities associated with the proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings, however, there may be some views of cranes. There would be views of the construction of the Snow Centre and Indoor Activity Centre above the middle ground woodland.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be large. Equestrians in this location would have a more elevated view. The majority of the changes at ground level would be obscured on the site would be screened by foreground and middle ground trees. The changes of the view would be experienced from a small geographical area, experienced as a short duration and forming part of a changing view experienced as walking the footpath. The construction activities would be viewed over the short-term but would lead to permeant change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-great</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed above the roundabout and would appear just above the skyline formed by the coniferous woodland block (refer to LA10.2). Views of the proposed Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the right with views of the proposed south facing slope on the south side of the building extending down to the left. The proposed Spa Hotel would be visible to the right and the top of the hotel is visible above the horizon. The Water Park buildings would be viewed to the left of the Spa Hotel, although it would be partially screened by intervening vegetation. In the left of the view, the foreground trees would screen views of the car parking area and proposed lodges. The new access into the site would change the roundabout in the foreground of the view and involve the removal of existing vegetation to form this access.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be large. The changes of the view would be experienced from a small geographical area, experienced as a short duration and forming part of a changing view experienced as walking the footpath. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>great</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed above the roundabout and would appear just above the skyline formed by the coniferous woodland block (refer to LA10.2). Views of the proposed Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the right with views of the proposed south facing slope on the south side of the building extending down to the left. The proposed Spa Hotel would be visible to the right and the top of the hotel is visible above the horizon. The Water Park buildings would be viewed to the left of the Spa Hotel, although it would be partially screened by intervening vegetation. In the left of the view, the foreground trees would screen views of the car parking area and proposed lodges. Proposed planting would supplement this vegetation to create more effective screening.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be large. The changes of the view would be experienced from a small geographical area, experienced as a short duration and forming part of a changing view experienced as walking the footpath. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-great</b>.</p>
<p><b>MC02 - A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road</b></p>	<p>There are likely to be some views of some stripped land on the site and the re-profiled area associated with the proposed Snow Centre above the middle ground woodland. However, the foreground trees are likely to screen views of stripped land in the south of the site. The industrial unit in the right of the view is likely to screen views of construction activities associated with the proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings, however, there may be some views of cranes above the unit. There are likely to be views of the construction of the Snow Centre and Indoor Activity Centre above the middle ground woodland.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium-small. Although the extent of the site would extend over a small proportion of the angle of view, the majority of the site and changes on the site would be screened by foreground and middle ground trees. The changes of the view would be experienced from a small geographical area near Pentrebach. The construction activities would be viewed over the short-term but would lead to permeant change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-small</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed above the roundabout and would appear just below skyline formed by the coniferous woodland block (refer to LA10.4). Views of the proposed Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the right with views of the proposed south facing slope on the south side of the building extending down to the left. The proposed Spa Hotel is mainly screened by the existing industrial unit, although the top of the hotel visible just above the unit, but below the horizon. The Water Park buildings would be viewed to the right of the Spa Hotel, although it would be partially screened by the industrial unit and middle ground woodland. To the left, the middle ground woodland may partially screen and filter views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. In the south of the site, the foreground trees would screen views of the car parking area, proposed lodges, and new access roads in the east of the site.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium-small which would be viewed over a small proportion of the angle of view as foreground and middle ground trees and industrial unit would screen view of some of the site. The changes to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area near Pentrebach. The permanent changes to the view would be viewed in context to existing development. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-small</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre would remain visible above the roundabout and would appear just below skyline formed by the coniferous woodland block (refer to LA10.4). Views of the proposed Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the right with views of the proposed south facing slope on the south side of the building extending down to the left. The proposed Spa Hotel would be screened by the existing industrial unit, although the top of the hotel would be visible just above the unit, but below the horizon. The Water Park buildings would be viewed to the right of the Spa Hotel, partially screened by the industrial unit and middle ground woodland. To the left, the middle ground woodland would partially screen and filter views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. In the south of the site, foreground trees and proposed planting would screen views of the car parking area, proposed lodges, and new access roads in the east of the site.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium-small which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view as foreground and middle ground trees and industrial unit would screen views some of the site. The changes to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area near Pentrebach. The permanent changes to the view would be viewed in context to existing development. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-small</b>.</p>



Viewpoint Ref	View of the proposed development <u>during construction</u> and Magnitude of Change	View of the <u>completed</u> proposed development and Magnitude of Change	View of the completed proposed development <u>at year 15</u> and Magnitude of Change
<p><b>03 - Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd</b></p>	<p>Above the residential properties in the foreground, there are likely to be views of stripped land within the east and south of the site and the re-profiled area of the proposed Snow Centre above. As construction progresses, there are likely to be views of the activities associated with the construction of the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, the Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings. Above the constitution of these buildings, there are likely to be views of the construction of the proposed Snow Centre.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be large which would be viewed over a large proportion of the angle of view. Changes to the view in the mid-distance would be experienced from a medium geographical area around the residential area of Ysgubor Newydd. Views of the construction activities would be over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>great</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings would be viewed above the residential roofscape, backdropped against the deciduous wooded slopes (refer to LA10.6). To the left of the buildings there would be views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. Views of the car parking area to the south may be partially filtered by retained and proposed trees and vegetation. Further to the south, there are unlikely to be views of the proposed lodges, but there may be some glimpse views of the access roads. The proposed Snow Centre would be viewed above the Indoor Activity Centre and Water Park buildings with the building extending up the slope. The top of the building would be viewed below the coniferous woodland block along the horizon and below the powerlines. It is also likely that there would be views of the south facing slope that extends from the Snow Centre building to the left.</p> <p>The scale of visual change to the mid-distance view is considered to be large which would be viewed over a large proportion of the angle of view. The permanent change to the view would be experienced from a medium geographical area around Ysgubor Newydd. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>great</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings would be viewed above the residential roofscape, backdropped against the deciduous wooded slopes (refer to LA10.6). To the left of the buildings there would be views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. Views of the car parking area to the south may be partially filtered by retained and proposed trees and vegetation. Further to the south, there are unlikely to be views of the proposed lodges, but there may be some glimpse views of the access roads. The proposed Snow Centre would be viewed above the Indoor Activity Centre and Water Park buildings with the building extending up the slope. The top of the building would be viewed below the coniferous woodland block along the horizon and below the powerlines. It is also likely that there would be views of the south facing slope that extends from the Snow Centre building to the left.</p> <p>The scale of visual change to the mid-distance view is considered to be large which would be viewed over a large proportion of the angle of view. The permanent change to the view would be experienced from a medium geographical area around Ysgubor Newydd. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-great</b>.</p>
<p><b>04 - Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue</b></p>	<p>There are likely to be some views of stripped land within the site and of the re-profiled area associated with the proposed Snow Centre. As construction progresses, there would be views of construction activities associated with the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings. To the left of this, there are likely to be some views of the construction of the car parking area with some views of the construction of the access roads, although the foreground residential roofscape may screen some views. To the right and above the construction of the Spa Hotel, there are likely to be views of the construction of the Snow Centre, which would extend up the slope, above views of the Welsh Government Offices.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is large which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view. Changes to the view in the mid-distance would be viewed over a small geographical residential area to the east of Merthyr Tydfil town centre. Views of the construction activities would be over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-great</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed development would be viewed above the Welsh Government Offices and surrounding residential roofscape (refer to LA10.6). The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed just below the coniferous woodland block. Views of the Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the left with views of the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings to below. To the left of the Indoor Activity Centre, there are likely to be some views of the car parking area, although the foreground residential roofscape may screen some views. In the south of the site, there are unlikely to be views of the proposed lodges, but there may be some glimpse views of the proposed access roads. In the east of the site, there may be some glimpse views of the new access road.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be large which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view. The proposed development would be viewed in the mid-distance in context to existing development that includes some taller buildings. The permanent change to the view would be experienced from a small geographical residential area to the east of Merthyr Tydfil town centre. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-great</b>.</p>	<p>There would be open views of the proposed development on the east facing slopes in the distance. The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed below the coniferous woodland block on Mynydd Gethin in the west of the site. The Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the left. At the base of the proposed Snow Centre, there would be partly obscured views of the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, and some views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings.</p> <p>The proposed car parking area to the left of the buildings would be largely screened by proposed planting in the foreground and any views would be restricted to small glimpses. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence. Existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north but would assist in assimilating the development into the view. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b> after 15 years.</p>



Viewpoint Ref	View of the proposed development <u>during construction</u> and Magnitude of Change	View of the <u>completed</u> proposed development and Magnitude of Change	View of the completed proposed development <u>at year 15</u> and Magnitude of Change
<p><b>MC05 - Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park</b></p>	<p>There are likely to be filtered views of stripped areas of land on site with the re-profiled area associated with the proposed Snow Centre. As construction progresses there are likely to be views of the construction activities for the proposed Snow Centre. To the left and at the base of the snow Centre, there are likely to be filtered views of the construction activities associated with the proposed Spa hotel, Water Park buildings, the Indoor Activity Centre and other proposed hotel buildings. Further to the left, any views of the stripped land and construction activities of the proposed car parking area are likely to be limited to glimpses as the foreground vegetation and trees would screen views, which would also screen views of the construction of the proposed lodges and access roads in the south of the site.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view, although views would be partially screened and filtered by trees and vegetation in the foreground. The changes to the view in the distance would be experienced from a small area to the northeast of Merthyr Tydfil town centre. Views of the construction activities would be over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>There would be filtered views of the proposed development on the east facing slopes in the distance (refer to LA10.10). The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed below the coniferous woodland block on Mynydd Gethin in the west of the site. The Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the left. At the base of the proposed Snow Centre, there would be filtered views of the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, and some views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. The proposed car parking area to the left of the buildings is likely to be largely screened from the proposed buildings and the foreground trees and vegetation, any views would be restricted to small glimpses. In the south of the site, there are unlikely to be any views of the proposed lodges and access roads. Views of the proposed access roads in the east of the site are also likely to be largely screened from view.</p> <p>The scale of visual change would be medium. Partially screened and filtered changes to the view would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view. The permanent changes to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area to the northeast of Merthyr Tydfil town centre, with the east side of the park having no views of the changes. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>There would be filtered views of the proposed development on the east facing slopes in the distance (refer to LA10.10). The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed below the coniferous woodland block on Mynydd Gethin in the west of the site. The Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the left. At the base of the proposed Snow Centre, there would be filtered views of the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, and some views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings.</p> <p>The proposed car parking area to the left of the buildings is likely to be largely screened from the proposed buildings and the foreground trees and vegetation, any views would be restricted to small glimpses. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence. Existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north but would assist in assimilating the development into the view. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b> after 15 years.</p>
<p><b>MC06 - Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial</b></p>	<p>There are likely to be views of the re-profiled area of land associated with the proposed Snow Centre above the wooded slope in the middle ground of the view. As construction progresses with the Snow Centre, there are likely to be views of the construction activities. Other areas of striped land to the left and at the base of the Snow Centre and further south within the site are likely to be screened from view by the surrounding topography and buildings within the middle ground of the view, but there may be some views of tall cranes and structures above the buildings.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is medium and would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view and from a small geographical area in the north of the town centre. The construction activities in the mid-distance would be viewed over the short-term but would lead to a permanent change to the view. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be above the coniferous woodland block as is likely to just puncture the skyline (refer to LA10.12). Views of the Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the left, above the middle ground wooded slope. At the base of the Snow Centre to the left, views of the Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings are likely to be partially screened by the buildings in the middle ground of the view, with views limited to rooftop views. The Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings just to the left are likely to be largely screened from view. Further to the south, there are unlikely to be views of the car parking area or proposed lodges.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view. The permanent change to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area in the north of Merthyr Tydfil town centre and in context to built development. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>Views of the Snow Centre would extend down the slope to the left, above the middle ground wooded slope (refer to LA10.12). At the base of the Snow Centre to the left, views of the Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings are likely to be partially screened by the buildings in the middle ground of the view, with views limited to rooftop views. The scale of visual change is medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view.</p> <p>The permanent change to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area in the north of Merthyr Tydfil town centre and in context to built development. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence. Existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north but would assist in assimilating the development into the view. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b> after 15 years.</p>



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<p><b>07 - Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig</b></p>	<p>There are likely to be views of the construction of the proposed Snow Centre building above the mid-ground residential roofscape. However, views of the construction of the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, Other hotel buildings, the car park, and access road are likely to be screened from view by the foreground residential properties.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be small which would be viewed over a small proportion of the angle of view. Changes to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area around Heolgerrig. The construction activities would be viewed over the short-term but would lead to a permanent change to the view. The magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed Snow Centre would be viewed above the residential roofscape and wooded context. The top of the building is unlikely to puncture the skyline and is likely to be viewed just below the far distant uplands that forms the horizon to the south. The other proposed buildings, car parking area, and access roads to the left of the proposed Snow Centre are likely to be screened from view by the intervening foreground residential properties.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be small which would be viewed over a small proportion of the angle of view. Available views of the proposed development would be viewed in context to existing development and form a small feature of the wider view. The permanent changes to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area around Heolgerrig. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed Snow Centre would be viewed above the residential roofscape and wooded context. The top of the building is unlikely to puncture the skyline and is likely to be viewed just below the far distant uplands that forms the horizon to the south. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence. Existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north but would assist in assimilating the development into the view. The permanent changes to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area around Heolgerrig. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b> after 15 years.</p>
<p><b>MC08 - Cyfarthfa Park</b></p>	<p>There would be views of stripped and re-profiled land associated with the proposed Snow Centre to the left of Cyfarthfa Retail Park buildings. There would also be views of the construction of the Snow Centre as it progresses below the coniferous woodland blocks on Mynydd Gethin. To the left of the Snow Centre, at its base, there are likely to be views of the construction of the Spa hotel and Water Park buildings above the residential roofscape in the mid-ground of the view. Views of stripped ground and the construction of the car parking area are likely to be screened from view. There may be some glimpse views of the construction of the new access road and the movement of large construction vehicles.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view. Changes to the view in the mid-distance would be viewed over a medium geographical area around Cyfarthfa Park, although may views would be partially screened and filtered by intervening vegetation. Views of the construction activities would be viewed over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre building would be viewed to the left of the Cyfarthfa retail Park buildings and below the coniferous woodland block on top of Mynydd Gethin. The Snow Centre building would extend down the slope and viewed above the deciduous woodland block in the mid-ground of the view. To the left of the proposed Snow Centre there would be views of the proposed Spa hotel and Water Park buildings, which are likely to screen the majority of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. The proposed car parking area is likely to be screened from view and there would be no views of the proposed lodges in the south of the site. The proposed new access roads and vehicles using the routes are likely to be largely screened and filtered from view, any views are likely to be limited to glimpses.</p> <p>The scale of change is considered to be medium, which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view from a medium geographical area around Cyfarthfa Park, although partially restricted in places by intervening trees and vegetation. The proposed development would be viewed in context to existing built development, including large retail units. Although the change to the view would be permanent, overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The view of the proposed Snow Centre building would remain unchanged after 15 years, viewed to the left of the Cyfarthfa retail Park buildings and below the coniferous woodland block on top of Mynydd Gethin. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence, but existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north. The change in the view would be permanent and overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>



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<p><b>09 - Galon Uchaf Road/ 5th Avenue, Galon Uchaf</b></p>	<p>There are likely to be distant views of stripped land and the re-profiled area associated with the proposed Snow Centre between gaps in the foreground trees. To the left of the Snow Centre there are likely to be views of the construction of the Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, with some limited views of the construction of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. Any views of the construction of the car parking area are likely to be limited due to the screening effect of foreground vegetation, particularly during the summer months when the trees are in leaf. Views of the construction of the new access road is likely to be limited, any views of construction vehicles using the routes are likely to be limited to glimpses.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view, although construction activities in the southern part of the site would be filtered by foreground vegetation. The changes to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area in Galon Uchaf. Views of the construction activities would be experienced over the short-term but would lead to pertinent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed Snow Centre would be viewed in the distance below the coniferous woodland blocks extending down the slope to the left. At the base of the Snow Centre, there are likely to be views of the proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings, which are likely to screen the majority of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. To the left of the proposed buildings, foreground vegetation is likely to screen views of the proposed car parking area, any views are likely to be limited to glimpses. In the south of the site, there are unlikely to be any views of the proposed lodges.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view. The permanent change to the view would be experienced from a small geographical area and would be viewed in context to existing development. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The view of the proposed Snow Centre building would remain unchanged after 15 years, where it would appear below coniferous woodland block on top of Mynydd Gethin. The landscape proposals would help to assimilate the development into its context and reintroduce areas of woodland and scrub removed during construction. The change in the view would be permanent and overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>
<p><b>10 - Cefn Cil-Sanws above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club</b></p>	<p>There would be distant views of stripped land and re-profiled area associated with the proposed Snow Centre. To the left of the Snow Centre and above Cyfarthfa Retail Park, there are likely to be views of the construction of the proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings with limited views of the construction of the indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. There are unlikely to be views of the construction of the new access roads and car parking area.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view. The changes to the view in the distance would be experienced from a large geographical area to the north of Merthyr Tydfil. Views of the construction activities would be experienced over the short-term but would lead to pertinent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-small</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed development would be viewed in the distance above Cyfarthfa Retail Park and partly above the large Trago Mills building. The top of the proposed Snow Centre building would be viewed on the lower slopes with the steeper slopes of Mynydd Gethin and its coniferous woodland blocks forming the backdrop. The proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park building would be viewed to the left of the Snow Centre and are likely to screen and limit views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings. The proposed buildings are also likely to screen views of the proposed car parking area and there are unlikely to be any views of the proposed lodges in the south of the site. Views of the new access road are also likely to be large screened or be imperceptible in the view.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view. The permanent change to the view in the distance would be experienced from a large geographical area to the north of Merthyr Tydfil but would be viewed in context to existing large buildings and built development. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-small</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed development would be viewed in the distance above Cyfarthfa Retail Park and partly above the large Trago Mills building. The top of the proposed Snow Centre building would be viewed on the lower slopes with the steeper slopes of Mynydd Gethin and its coniferous woodland blocks forming the backdrop. The proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park building would be viewed to the left of the Snow Centre and are likely to screen and limit views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-small</b>.</p>



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<p><b>11 – Morlais Castle</b></p>	<p>It is likely there would be distant views of stripped land within the site and re-profiled area associated with the proposed Snow Centre. There are likely to be views of the construction of the proposed Snow Centre, Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings above existing built development and below the coniferous woodland ridgeline. There may be some glimpse views of the construction of the new access road, but views of moving construction vehicles are likely to be imperceptible.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a small-medium proportion of the angle of view. The changes to the view would be experience from a small-medium geographical area around Morlais Hill. Views of the construction activities would be over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-small</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed in the distance circa halfway down the west facing slopes and above existing development. The proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park building, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings would be viewed at the base of the Snow Centre, but it is likely that identifying individual buildings would be difficult to perceive. The proposed buildings would be viewed in the vicinity of the existing outlet retail centre. There are likely to be some glimpse views of the proposed car parking area between retained trees and vegetation, but any views of the new access road are likely to be limited. There are unlikely to be any views of the proposed lodges in the south of the site.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium over a small-medium proportion of the angle of view. The proposed development would be viewed in context to existing development that include large buildings, which would be backdropped against the vegetated slope. The permanent change to the view would be experienced from a small-medium geographical area at Morlais Hill. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-small</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed development would be viewed in the distance above Merthyr and to the left of Cyfarthfa Retail Park and the large Trago Mills building. The top of the proposed Snow Centre building would be viewed on the lower slopes with the steeper slopes of Mynydd Gethin and its coniferous woodland blocks forming the backdrop. The proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park building would be viewed to the left of the Snow Centre and are likely to screen and limit views of the Indoor Activity Centre and other hotel buildings.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-small</b>.</p>
<p><b>MC12 - Twynau Gwynion Quarries</b></p>	<p>Distant views of stripped land within the site and re-profiled land associated with the proposed Snow Centre are likely to be visible but would be viewed in context to Ffos-y-Fran and other disturbed land within the view. There are likely to be distant views of the construction of the proposed Snow Centre, Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings backdropped against the west facing slopes. Construction of the new access roads and construction vehicles using the routes are likely to be difficult to discern.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be small which would be viewed over a small proportion of the angle of view. The changes to the view would be viewed in context to existing disturbed land within the view and above existing built development. Changes to the view in the distance would be viewed over a large area in the north of Merthyr Common. The views of the construction activities would be over the short term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed development would be viewed in the distance above Pant Industrial Estate. The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed circa halfway down the Mynydd Aberdare slope with the proposed ski slope extending down the hill towards the other proposed buildings. The proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings would be viewed below the proposed Snow Centre although identifying individual buildings maybe hard to perceive. To the south, it is likely that the proposed car park area would be indiscernible. There are unlikely to be any views of the proposed lodges in the south of the site. In the east of the site, there may be glimpsed views of the new access road but views of vehicles using the road are likely to be barely perceptible.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a small proportion of the angle of view and in context to existing built development. Distant views of the proposed development would be viewed over a large geographical area in the north of Merthyr Common. Overall, permanent change to the view is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed in the distance approximately halfway down the Mynydd Aberdare slope, above the industrial roofscape in the middle ground of the view. The proposed Snow Centre would extend down the slope with distant views of the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings at the base of the Snow Centre slope. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence, but existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>Small</b> as the development becomes integrated into surrounding landscape to a greater extent.</p>



Viewpoint Ref	View of the proposed development <u>during construction</u> and Magnitude of Change	View of the <u>completed</u> proposed development and Magnitude of Change	View of the completed proposed development <u>at year 15</u> and Magnitude of Change
<b>13 - National Cycle Route 46, Dowlais Top</b>	<p>It is likely that there would be distant views of stripped land within the site and the re-profiled area for the proposed Snow Centre below the coniferous wooded ridgeline of Mynydd Aberdare. The stripped land would be viewed in context to the stripped land of Ffos-y-Fran just to the right. There are likely to be distant views of tall cranes and the construction of the proposed Snow Centre, Spa Hotel, Water Park building, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings against the backdrop of the west facing slopes. Views of the construction of the new access road in the east of the site are likely to be largely screened from view by middle ground vegetation and topography.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be small medium which would be viewed over a small proportion of the angle of view. The changes to the view in the distance would be viewed in context to the surrounding disturbed landscape, which would be experienced from a medium geographical area near Dowlais. The construction activities would be over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed in the distance approximately halfway down the Mynydd Aberdare slope, above the industrial roofscape in the middle ground of the view. The proposed Snow Centre would extend down the slope with distant views of the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings at the base of the Snow Centre slope. Any views of the proposed access road and car parking area are likely to be partially screened and filtered by retained and proposed trees and vegetation on site as well as vegetation in the middle ground of the view. In the south of the site, there are unlikely to be any views of the proposed lodges.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a small proportion of the angle of view. The proposed development in the distance would be viewed in context to the surrounding disturbed landscape and built development that include the roofscape of large industrial buildings. The permanent changes to the view would be experienced from a medium geographical area near Dowlais. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The top of the proposed Snow Centre would be viewed in the distance approximately halfway down the Mynydd Aberdare slope, above the industrial roofscape in the middle ground of the view. The proposed Snow Centre would extend down the slope with distant views of the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings at the base of the Snow Centre slope. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence, but existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north.</p> <p>Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>Small</b> as the development becomes integrated into surrounding landscape to a greater extent.</p>
<b>14 - Duffryn Fawr, Pentrebach</b>	<p>It is likely there would be views of stripped and re-profiled land associated with the proposed Snow Centre above the roofscape. Below, views of the construction proposed car parking area are likely to be partially screened and filtered by the surrounding retained woodland. In the south of the site, construction associated with the proposed lodges are likely to be largely screened and filtered, but there are likely to be some glimpses of the construction of the access roads. In the north and east of the site it is likely there would be views of tall cranes and construction activities for the proposed spa Hotel, Water Park, Indoor Activity Centre, and hotel above the roofscape. Some tall cranes may puncture the skyline in the distance towards the north and west of the site.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view in the mid-distance. The construction activities would remove and add features to the view such as tall cranes, but these would be viewed in context to existing development. The changes to the view in the mid-distance would be viewed over a large geographical area to the southeast of the site. The construction activities would be viewed over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed Snow Centre would be viewed above the roofscape and below the Mynydd Aberdare. To the right of the proposed Snow Centre there would be views of the proposed Spa Hotel, which is likely to just puncture the skyline and partially screen views of Heolgerrig. Views of the proposed Water Park buildings, Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings would be viewed between the proposed Snow Centre and Spa Hotel, backdropped against the slopes of Mynydd Aberdare. Below the Snow Centre and south facing slope there are likely to be views of the proposed car parking area, although some views may be partially screened and filtered by retained and proposed trees and vegetation. In the south of the site, there are unlikely to be any views of the proposed lodges but there may be glimpse views of vehicles using the access roads. Views of the main access road into the site is likely to be largely screened and filtered by trees and vegetation, any views of vehicles using the road are likely to be restricted to glimpse views.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium which would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view. The changes to the view in the mid-distance would be experienced from a large geographical area to the southeast of the site. The changes to the view would be permanent but would be viewed in context to existing built development. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>Proposed landscape vegetation on south facing slope of the snow centre would have established after 15 years. The proposed Snow Centre and associated south facing slope would be viewed in the west of the site below the Mynydd Aberdare ridgeline. In the north of the site, the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park, Indoor Activity, and hotel buildings are likely to be visible.</p> <p>The landform along the south-eastern edge of the main car park would also have become vegetated with scrub. The development would be viewed in context of residential development in the foreground and industrial development on the valley floor. Overall, the permanent change to the view is considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>



Viewpoint Ref	View of the proposed development <u>during construction</u> and Magnitude of Change	View of the <u>completed</u> proposed development and Magnitude of Change	View of the completed proposed development <u>at year 15</u> and Magnitude of Change
<p><b>15 - Merthyr Common (Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil)</b></p>	<p>There are likely to be views of the stripped land for the proposed car parking area, hotels, and activity centres in the mid distance above the industrial area of Pentrebach. The re-profiled land associated with the proposed Snow Centre is also likely to be visible. Views of construction vehicles using new access routes may be partially screened by retained trees and vegetation, although any views would be seen in context to the nearby A470. As construction on the site progresses, there are likely to be views of tall cranes and the construction of buildings and hard landscape areas, which would be backdropped by the slopes and ridgeline of Mynydd Aberdare and the settlement of Heolgerrig.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium, which would be viewed over a small- medium proportion of the angle of view. Views of the construction activities would add new features to the view, but they would be viewed in context to the industrial area of Pentrebach that includes large buildings and derelict land. Changes to the view in the mid-distance would be viewed over a large geographical area to the southeast of the site. The construction activities would be viewed over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>The proposed development would be viewed in the mid-distance above the A470 and Pentrebach industrial area. The proposed car parking area is likely to be visible to the south of the proposed Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings. Retained and proposed trees and vegetation may filter and partially screen some views. In the south of the site, views of the proposed lodges are likely to be largely screened by retained trees and vegetation, although there may be some glimpse views of the access roads. The proposed Snow Centre and associated south facing slope would be viewed in the west of the site below the Mynydd Aberdare ridgeline. In the north of the site, the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park, Indoor Activity, and hotel buildings are likely to be visible. Any glimpse views of the new access road would be viewed above and in context to the A470.</p> <p>The scale of visual change is considered to be medium. Although changes to the view would include built development on the west facing slope, views of the proposed development would be viewed in context to existing development that includes the A470, the Pentrebach industrial area, and the wider developed area of Merthyr Tydfil. Changes to the view would be over a small-medium proportion of the angle of view and over a medium geographical area on Merthyr Common. Overall, the permanent change to the view is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>	<p>Proposed landscape vegetation on south facing slope of the snow centre would have established after 15 years. The proposed Snow Centre and associated south facing slope would be viewed in the west of the site below the Mynydd Aberdare ridgeline. In the north of the site, the proposed Spa Hotel, Water Park, Indoor Activity, and hotel buildings are likely to be visible. Any glimpse views of the new access road would be viewed above and in context to the A470.</p> <p>The landform along the south-eastern edge of the main car park would also have become vegetated with scrub. The development would be viewed in context to the industrial area. Overall, the permanent change to the view is considered to be <b>small</b>.</p>



Viewpoint Ref	View of the proposed development <u>during construction</u> and Magnitude of Change	View of the <u>completed</u> proposed development and Magnitude of Change	View of the completed proposed development <u>at year 15</u> and Magnitude of Change
<p><b>16 - Gethin Woodland Park</b></p>	<p>There are likely to be mid-distant views of the stripped land and re-profiled area for the proposed Snow Centre, which would be followed by views of the construction activities for the building. To the east, there are likely to be views of tall cranes associated with the construction of the Spa Hotel, Water Park buildings, the Indoor Activity Centre, and other hotel buildings. There are also likely to be some views of the construction of the car parking area and new access roads with large vehicles using the routes.</p> <p>The scale of visual change in the distance are considered to be large but would be viewed over a medium proportion of the angle of view over a small geographical area to the south of the site. Although views of the construction activities on the site would occur over the short-term, they would lead to a permanent change to the view. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-great</b>.</p>	<p>There are likely to be views of the proposed Snow Centre in the west of the site, which would be viewed to the south of Heolgerrig and Trago Mills. Views of the Snow Centre would extend down to the east towards the proposed Spa Hotel. Views of the Spa Hotel and Water Park buildings are likely to be visible in the east of the site, which are likely to be viewed in context to the existing built-up area of Merthyr Tydfil. The car parking area in the south of the site, west of the A470, and the nearby other proposed hotel buildings and Indoor Activity Centre are also likely to be visible, although some retained and proposed trees and vegetation may filter some views.</p> <p>The scale of the changes to the view are considered to be medium-large. Although the permanent changes to the view would include the addition of built form and some taller buildings on undeveloped land, the changes to the view would be viewed in context to the existing built-up area of Merthyr Tydfil and the A470. Proposals for the site also include retaining some trees and vegetation, which may filter and partially screen some views. The mid-distant views of the proposed development would occupy a medium proportion of the angle of view over a small geographical area to the south of the site. However, overtime as the NRW managed woodland matures, views of the proposed development are likely to become more restricted for a period of time before the woodland is cut again. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium-great</b>.</p>	<p>The car parking area in the south of the site, west of the A470, and the nearby other proposed hotel buildings and Indoor Activity Centre are also likely to be visible, although some retained and proposed trees and vegetation may filter some views. Proposed landscape planting on south facing slope of the snow centre would have established. The development would be viewed in context to the industrial area. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be <b>medium</b>.</p>



Table Appendix 3.4: Visual effects

Visual Receptors & Sensitivity	Reference Viewpoints	Magnitude of change:	Degree & nature of effects & significance: during construction	Degree & nature of effects & significance: completion	Degree & nature of effects & significance: after 15 years
Users of the footbridge, bridleway and nearby Taff Trail walking route, National Cycle Route 8, oblique views, partially screened. <b>moderate sensitivity</b>	<b>01</b> -Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)	During Construction: <b>Medium-great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium-great</b>	Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest. The A470 occupies the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. Large scale earthworks and construction activity would introduce change and movement into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary, but much of this would be obscured by intervening vegetation. The development would be a large-scale built feature located in the middle distance and only the higher elements would extend above the horizon.	Effects are <b>Major-moderate adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest. The A470 occupies the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. After construction the landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects due to the scale of built form visible within a currently undeveloped portion of the view. The higher buildings within the development would extend above the horizon.	Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest. The A470 occupies the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. Existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would help to reduce the extent of built form in the view after 15 years. Proposed planting along the eastern side of the car park would supplement existing vegetation to obscure it after 15 years.  The higher buildings within the development would extend above the horizon. The scale of built form would remain, but as the periphery of the site becomes vegetated, the development would be viewed as part of the wooded hillside of Mynydd Gethin.
Users of the National Cycle Route and public footpaths <b>moderate sensitivity</b>	<b>MC02</b> -A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road	During Construction: <b>Medium-small</b> Completion: <b>Medium-small</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium-small</b>	Effects are <b>moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest but not the dominant part of the view. Highways and the activity of the street occupy the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. Large scale earthworks and construction activity would introduce change and movement into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary, but much of this is obscured by intervening features. The development is located in the middle distance and whilst only partly obscured or filtered in the view, it is viewed in the context of built development.	Effects are <b>moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest but not the dominant part of the view. Highways and the activity of the street occupy the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. After construction the built form of the development would rise above existing retail buildings. Landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects due to the scale of built form visible in the view.	Effects are <b>moderate-minor adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest but not the dominant part of the view. The treatment of the south facing slope to the south of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence. Existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would also establish to reduce the extent of the development visible in the view after 15 years. The scale of built form would remain, but as the periphery of the site becomes vegetated the development would be viewed as part of the wooded hillside of Mynydd Gethin.



Visual Receptors & Sensitivity	Reference Viewpoints	Magnitude of change:	Degree & nature of effects & significance: during construction	Degree & nature of effects & significance: completion	Degree & nature of effects & significance: after 15 years
People in settlements and residential properties, open views to the east of the site: <b>high sensitivity</b>	<b>03</b> - Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd	During Construction: <b>Great</b> Completion: <b>Great</b> At 15 years: <b>Medium-great</b>	Effects are <b>Major adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest or available as a primary view from dwellings. Highways, dwellings and the activity of the street occupy the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. Large scale earthworks and construction activity would introduce change and movement into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. The development would be a large-scale built feature located in the middle distance and below the horizon.	Effects are <b>Major adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest or available as a primary view from dwellings. Highways, dwellings and the activity of the street occupy the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. After construction the landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects due to the scale of built form visible within a currently undeveloped portion of the view.	Effects are <b>Major -moderate adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest or available as a primary view from dwellings. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre and slope to the south would help to reduce its prominence and existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would help to reduce the extent of built form in the view after 15 years. Proposed planting along the eastern side of the car park would obscure it after 15 years. The scale of built form would remain, but as the periphery of the site becomes vegetated, the development would be viewed as part of the wooded hillside of Mynydd Gethin.
Users of public roads within 2km of the site <b>lesser sensitivity</b>	<b>01</b> -Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3) <b>MC02</b> -A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road <b>03</b> - Jowett Avenue, Ysgubor Newydd <b>04</b> - Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue <b>MC05</b> - Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park <b>MC06</b> -Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial <b>07</b> -Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig	During Construction: <b>Great to small</b> Completion: <b>Great to small</b> At 15 years: <b>medium-great to small</b>	Effects are <b>Moderate-minor adverse</b> changes for receptors of lesser sensitivity where views of the wider landscape are filtered, partly obscured and not a focus of interest. Highways, dwellings and the activity of the street occupy the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. Large scale earthworks and construction activity would introduce change and movement into views for road users where the development would be visible beyond the settlement boundary. The development would be a large-scale built feature located below the horizon.	Effects are <b>Moderate-minor adverse</b> changes for receptors of lesser sensitivity where views of the wider landscape are filtered, partly obscured and not a focus of interest. Highways, dwellings and the activity of the street occupy the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. After construction the landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects due to the scale of built form visible within a currently undeveloped portion of the view.	Effects are <b>Moderate-minor adverse</b> changes for receptors of lesser sensitivity where views of the wider landscape are filtered, partly obscured and not a focus of interest. Highways, dwellings and the activity of the street occupy the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre and slope to the south would help to reduce its prominence and existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would help to reduce the extent of built form in the view after 15 years. Proposed planting along the eastern side of the car park would obscure it after 15 years. The scale of built form would remain, but as the periphery of the site becomes vegetated, the development would be viewed as part of the wooded hillside of Mynydd Gethin.



Visual Receptors & Sensitivity	Reference Viewpoints	Magnitude of change:	Degree & nature of effects & significance: during construction	Degree & nature of effects & significance: completion	Degree & nature of effects & significance: after 15 years
<p>People in settlements and residential properties, open views to the northeast of the site:</p> <p><b>high sensitivity</b></p>	<p><b>04</b> - Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue</p>	<p>During Construction: <b>Medium-great</b></p> <p>At completion: <b>Medium-great</b></p> <p>After 15 years: <b>Medium</b></p>	<p>Effects are <b>Major adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest or available as a primary view from dwellings. Highways, dwellings and the activity of the street occupy the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. Large scale earthworks and construction activity would introduce change and movement into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. The development is located in the middle distance and whilst only partly obscured or filtered in the view, it is viewed in the context of built development.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Major-moderate adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest or available as a primary view from dwellings. Highways, dwellings and the activity of the street occupy the foreground of views and provide a focus for the view available. After construction the landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects due to the scale of built form visible in the view.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are a focus of interest or available as a primary view from dwellings. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence, but existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north after 15 years. The scale of built form would remain, but as the periphery of the site becomes vegetated the development would be viewed as part of the wooded hillside of Mynydd Gethin.</p>
<p>Visitors to the park, Merthyr Tydfil town centre and visitors to the memorial, nearby residents with filtered, oblique or partly obstructed views</p> <p><b>moderate sensitivity</b></p>	<p><b>MC05</b> - Boar War Memorial, Thomas Town Park</p> <p><b>MC06</b>-Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial</p>	<p>During Construction: <b>Medium</b></p> <p>At completion: <b>Medium</b></p> <p>After 15 years: <b>Small</b></p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are not the principal focus of interest. Activity within the foreground of the town centre view is the focus of the view available at MC06. Large scale earthworks and construction activity would introduce change and movement into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. The development is located in the middle distance and is partly obscured or filtered in the view, which is in the context of built development.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are not the principal focus of interest. After construction the landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate – minor adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are not the principal focus of interest. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence, but existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north after 15 years. The scale of built form would remain, but as the periphery of the site becomes vegetated the development would be viewed as part of the wooded hillside of Mynydd Gethin.</p>
<p>People in settlements and residential properties in elevated locations to the northwest with filtered, oblique or glimpsed views.</p> <p><b>moderate sensitivity</b></p>	<p><b>07</b>-Shirley Drive, Heolgerrig</p>	<p>During Construction: <b>Small</b></p> <p>At completion: <b>Small</b></p> <p>After 15 years: <b>Small</b></p>	<p>Effects are <b>Minor adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are not the principal focus of interest. Available views are typically obscured, or part obstructed by intervening built form, however, landform does direct the view towards the site along the valley. Large scale earthworks would generally be obscured by intervening vegetation, but construction activity would introduce change and movement into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. The development is located in the middle distance and is partly obscured or filtered in the view, which is in the context of built development.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Minor adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are not the principal focus of interest. After construction the landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Minor adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the wider landscape are not the principal focus of interest. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence, but existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north after 15 years. The scale of built form would remain, but as the periphery of the site becomes vegetated the development would be viewed as part of the wooded hillside of Mynydd Gethin.</p>



Visual Receptors & Sensitivity	Reference Viewpoints	Magnitude of change:	Degree & nature of effects & significance: during construction	Degree & nature of effects & significance: completion	Degree & nature of effects & significance: after 15 years
<p>Visitors to Cyfarthfa Castle and Park with filtered, oblique or partial views</p> <p><b>moderate sensitivity</b></p>	<p><b>MC08</b> - Cyfarthfa Park</p>	<p>During Construction: <b>Medium</b></p> <p>At completion: <b>Medium</b></p> <p>After 15 years: <b>Medium</b></p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are not the principal focus of interest. The development is located in the middle distance and is viewed in the context of built development, a proportion of which is large scale retail development located on higher ground.</p>	<p>Effects remain at <b>Moderate adverse</b> for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are not the principal focus of interest. The development would be viewed within a well wooded setting, consistent with existing retail development.</p>	<p>Effects remain at <b>Moderate adverse</b> for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are not the principal focus of interest. The development would be viewed within a well wooded setting, consistent with existing retail development.</p>
<p>People in settlements and residential properties close to the site with filtered, oblique or partial views:</p> <p><b>moderate sensitivity</b></p>	<p><b>09</b> - Galon Uchaf Road/ 5th Avenue, Galon Uchaf</p>	<p>During Construction: <b>Medium</b></p> <p>At completion: <b>Medium</b></p> <p>After 15 years: <b>Medium</b></p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are not the principal focus of interest. Large scale earthworks and construction activity would introduce change and movement into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. The development is located in the middle distance and is viewed in the context of built development.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are not the principal focus of interest. After construction the landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are not the principal focus of interest. The development would to a degree become assimilated into the landscape as a result of the landscape proposals which would re-establish areas of woodland on scrub remove during the construction works. The scale of built form would remain along with the effects.</p>
<p>Visitors to the BBNP, users of the access land, and users of the nearby golf course, visitors to Morlais Castle.</p> <p><b>high sensitivity</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> - Cefn Cil-Sanws above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club</p>	<p>During Construction: <b>Medium-small</b></p> <p>At completion: <b>Medium-small</b></p> <p>After 15 years: <b>Medium-small</b></p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are the principal focus of interest. The proposed development would introduce large scale earthworks and construction activity into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. At over 3km away the development would be a distant feature viewed in the context of built development.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are the principal focus of interest. After construction the proposed development would result in large-scale built form being introduced into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. At over 3km away the development would be a distant feature viewed in the context of built development.</p>	<p>Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for highly sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are the principal focus of interest. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence, but existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north. The scale of built form would remain along with the effects.</p>



Visual Receptors & Sensitivity	Reference Viewpoints	Magnitude of change:	Degree & nature of effects & significance: during construction	Degree & nature of effects & significance: completion	Degree & nature of effects & significance: after 15 years
Users of public rights of way beyond 4km to the north <b>moderate sensitivity</b>	<b>11</b> -Morlais Castle <b>MC12</b> - Twynau Gwynion Quarries <b>13</b> - National Cycle Route 46, Dowlais Top	During Construction: <b>Small or medium-small</b> At completion: <b>Medium-small or Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Small or Medium-small</b>	Effects are <b>Moderate-minor adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are the principal focus of interest. The proposed development would introduce large scale earthworks and construction activity into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. At over 4km away the development would be a distant feature, viewed obliquely in the context of built development in the middle distance. The dark colour and textured appearance of the existing hillside of Mynydd Gethin would help to assimilate the development into the view, but disturbed ground would be visible during construction.	Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are the principal focus of interest. The proposed development would introduce built form into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. At over 4km away the development would be a distant feature, viewed obliquely in the context of built development in the middle distance. The dark colour and textured appearance of the existing hillside of Mynydd Gethin would help to assimilate the development into the view, and the treatment of the northern elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence.	Effects are <b>Moderate-minor adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where views of the landscape are the principal focus of interest. The treatment of the north elevation of the snow centre would help to reduce its prominence, but existing woodland and proposed woodland planting within the site would not significantly alter the view of the snow centre from the north after 15 years. The scale of built form would remain, but as the periphery of the site becomes vegetated the development would be viewed as part of the wooded hillside of Mynydd Gethin.
View from the southeast including users of the public paths and nearby residents at Pentrebach with filtered, oblique or partly obstructed views.  Users of access land at Merthyr Common with distant, elevated, open views: <b>moderate sensitivity</b>	<b>14</b> -Duffryn Fawr, Pentrebach <b>15</b> - Merthyr Common (Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil)	During Construction: <b>Medium</b> At completion: <b>Medium</b> After 15 years: <b>Small</b>	Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where the landscape is the principal focus of interest. The proposed development would introduce large scale earthworks and construction activity into part of the view in the middle distance beyond the settlement boundary.	Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where the landscape is the principal focus of interest. After construction the proposed development would result in large-scale built form being introduced into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. After construction the landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development, particularly along the southern side of the snow centre and south-eastern edge of the main car park. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects.	Effects are <b>Moderate-minor adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where the landscape is the principal focus of interest. After 15 years the landscape proposals would have revegetated landform along the southern side of the snow centre and south-eastern edge of the main car park. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view and the effects as the development becomes assimilated into the landscape.
Users of access land, public rights of way, Bike Park Wales with filtered, oblique/partial views or glimpsed open views: <b>moderate sensitivity</b>	<b>16</b> - Gethin Woodland Park	During Construction: <b>Medium-great</b> At completion: <b>Medium-great</b> After 15 years: <b>Medium</b>	Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where the landscape is the principal focus of interest. The proposed development would introduce large scale earthworks and construction activity into part of the view in the middle distance beyond the settlement boundary.	Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where the landscape is the principal focus of interest. After construction the proposed development would result in large-scale built form being introduced into part of the view beyond the settlement boundary. After construction the landscape proposals would revegetate disturbed ground and earthworks around the periphery of the proposed development, particularly along the southern side of the snow centre. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects.	Effects are <b>Moderate adverse</b> changes for moderately sensitive receptors where the landscape is the principal focus of interest. After 15 years the landscape proposals would have revegetated landform along the southern side of the snow centre. This would reduce the overall extent of disturbance in the view but would not significantly reduce the effects.



## Appendix 4 – Viewpoint Selections

Following the site visit and reconnaissance of the study area, some photographed views were not carried forward as part of the viewpoint assessments. Table A4-1 below lists the context views and reasons why they were not carried forward. Locations suggested by MTCBC are prefixed with the letters MC.

**Table A4-1 Context view details and reasons why they were not carried forward as viewpoints for assessment**

Context view Ref	Location	Distance from site (km)	Receptors represented	Reasons why the views were not carried forward for assessment.
MC A	Robert and Lucy Thomas Fountain	850m from Snow Centre building	Visitors to Merthyr Tydfil town centre	<p>Although the view is located on a listed structure, within a Conservation Area and in a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, the existing view towards the site is mostly screened by mature trees and vegetation located in the nearby St Tydfil's Old Parish Church churchyard and nearby large buildings, see <b>Figure LA.08-1</b>.</p> <p>Views towards the site are tunnelled between buildings above a busy local road with foreground features forming the focal point of the view.</p>
B	Castle Yard/ Castle Street car park, Merthyr Tydfil	1.4km from Snow Centre building	Visitors to Merthyr Tydfil town centre	<p>Although the view is located within a Conservation Area, close to several listed buildings, and is within a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, the existing view towards the site is mostly screened by large buildings close to the view location, see <b>Figure LA.08-1</b>.</p> <p>Viewpoint MC06 is located close to Context View B, close to listed structures, and is located within the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest.</p>

Context view Ref	Location	Distance from site (km)	Receptors represented	Reasons why the views were not carried forward for assessment.
C	Cyfarthfa Castle	2.4km from Snow Centre building	Visitors to Cyfarthfa Castle and Park	Viewpoint MC08 provides a more open view towards the site from within Cyfarthyr Castle and Park. Views towards the site from the location of context view C is partially screened by trees and vegetation that backdrop the car park, see <b>Figure LA.08-2</b> .
MC D	Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club	4.3km from Snow Centre building	Users of the access land, bridleway, and users of the golf course.	Viewpoint 10 was carried forward for assessment instead of context view MC D. Viewpoint 10 is located close to MC D and also includes receptors visiting the Brecon Beacons National Park. Viewpoint 10 is from a more elevated location with fewer detracting foreground features that represents more of a 'worst case scenario'. See <b>Figure LA.08-2</b> for context view.
E	Dowlais Road, Ffos-y-frân	2.9km from Snow Centre building	Users of the access land (Merthyr Common)	Viewpoint 15 was carried forward for assessment and provides a more elevated view towards the site from within Merthyr Common. Viewpoint 15 is also located close to Scheduled Monuments and is a popular walking destination. See <b>Figure LA.08-3</b> for context view.
F	National Cycle Route 477, Pentrebach	1.8km from Snow Centre building	Users of the NCR	Viewpoint 14 was carried forward for assessment to represent views for users of NCR 477 in Pentrebach as well as nearby residential receptors. See <b>Figure LA.08-3</b> for context view.

# Rhydycar West

## Landscape and Visual Appraisal

Context view Ref	Location	Distance from site (km)	Receptors represented	Reasons why the views were not carried forward for assessment.
MC G	Minor road at Penddeugae	5.0km from Snow Centre building	Road users and walkers	Views towards the site are distant and viewpoints 14, 15, and 16 represent views towards the site from the southeast for sensitive receptors. See <b>Figure LA.08-4</b> for context view.

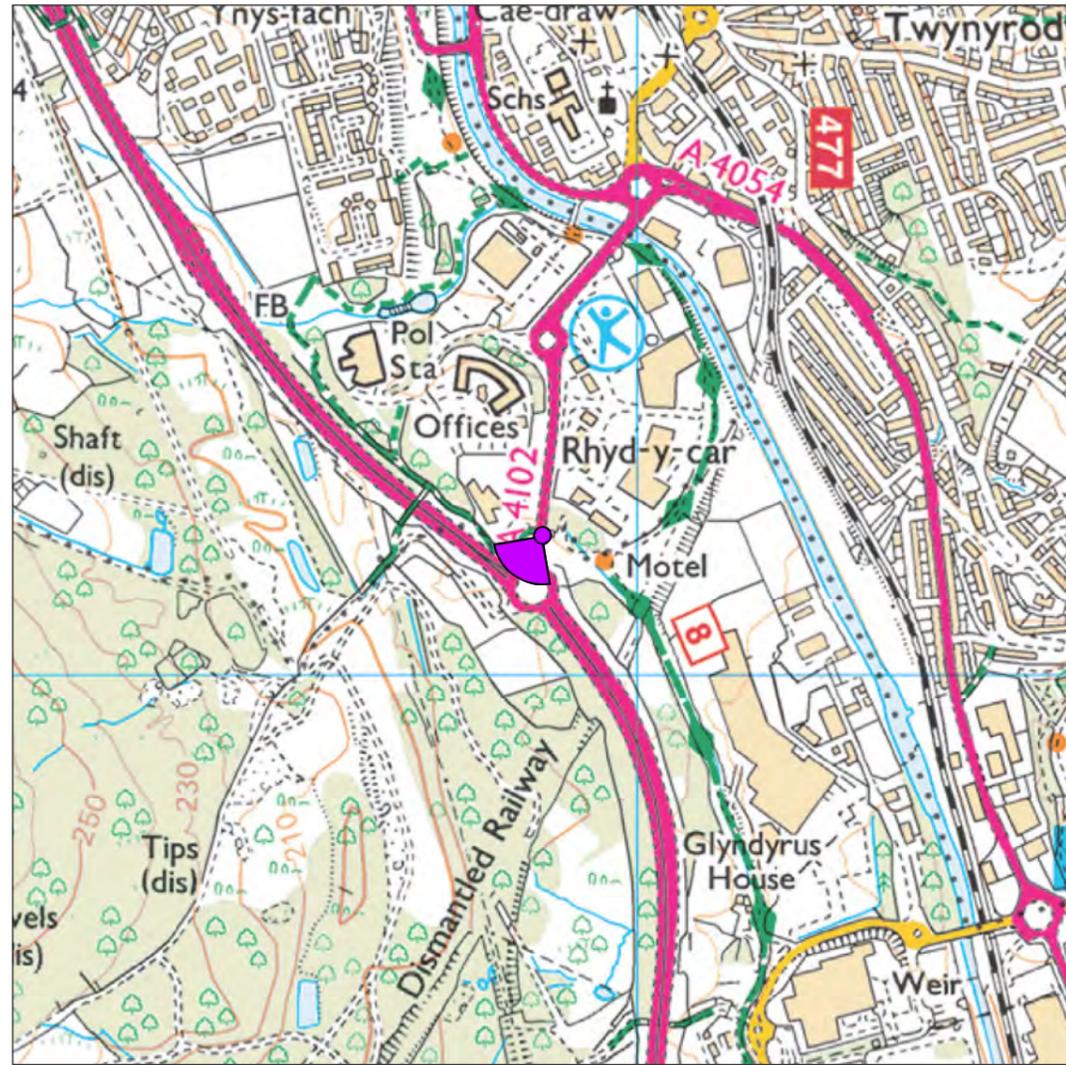


## Appendix 5 – Accurate Visual Representations

Figures LA. 10

AVRs

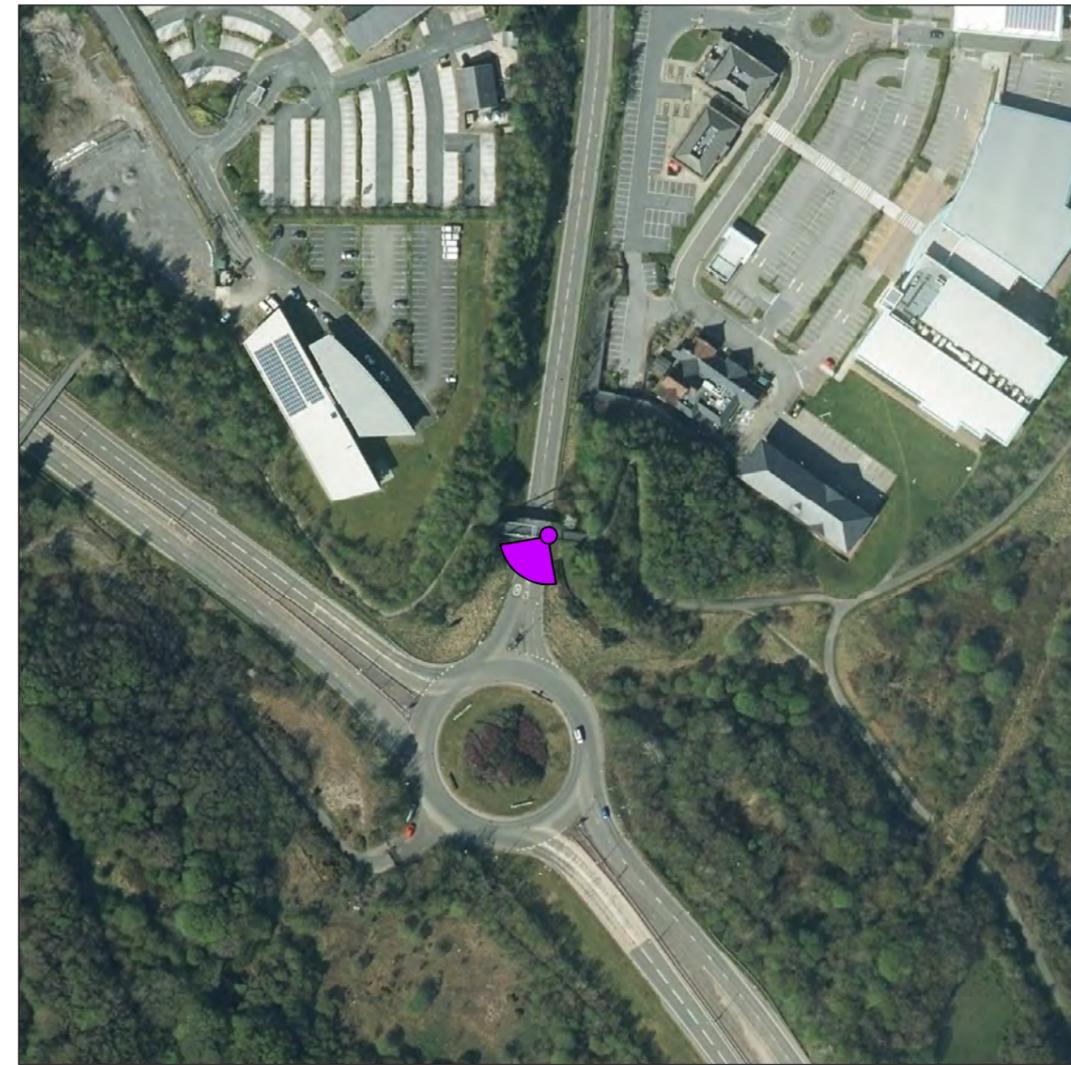
**Viewpoint location**



Scale 1:10,000

**Viewpoint information:**

OS reference: E304866 N205199  
Ground level: 182.7m AOD  
Direction of view: 215°  
Distance to site: 0.1km



Scale 1:2,500

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Aerial Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,  
USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community.

Project no. TC22027

January 2022

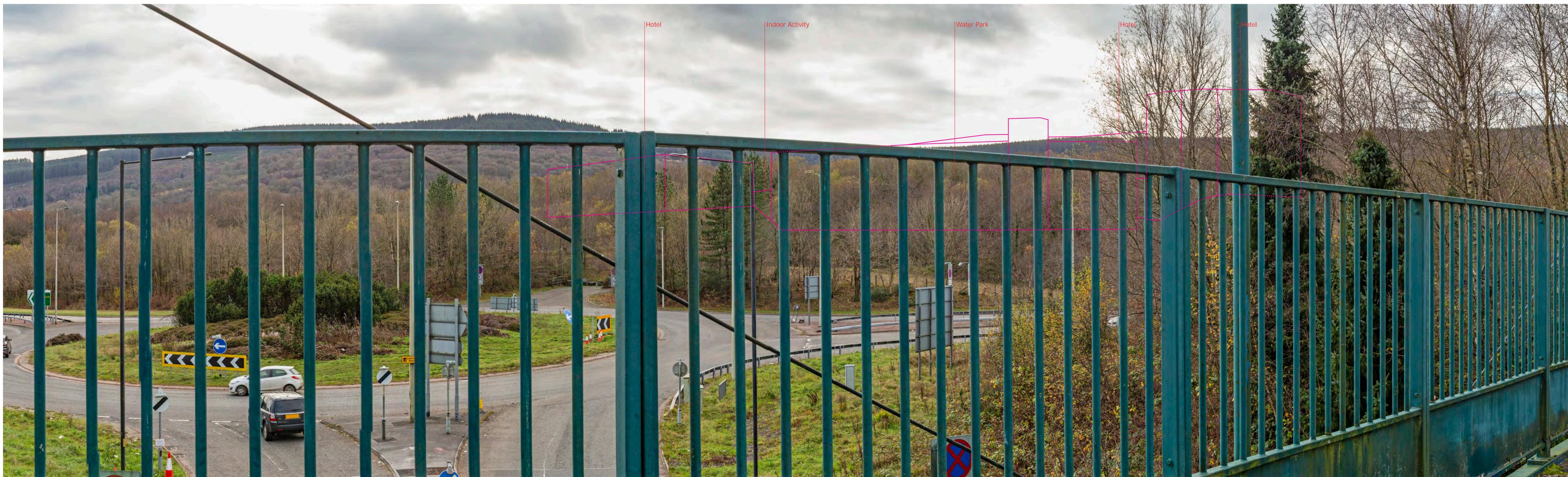
**Rhydyar West,  
Merthyr Tydfil**

**Marvel  
Limited**

**tir collective**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

**Viewpoint 01:** Footbridge over  
A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)

**LA.10-1**



Type 3 Visualisation - Photowire

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E304866 N205199  
 Ground level: 182.7m AOD  
 Direction of view: 215°  
 Distance to site: 0.1km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 28/11/2021 14:01

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

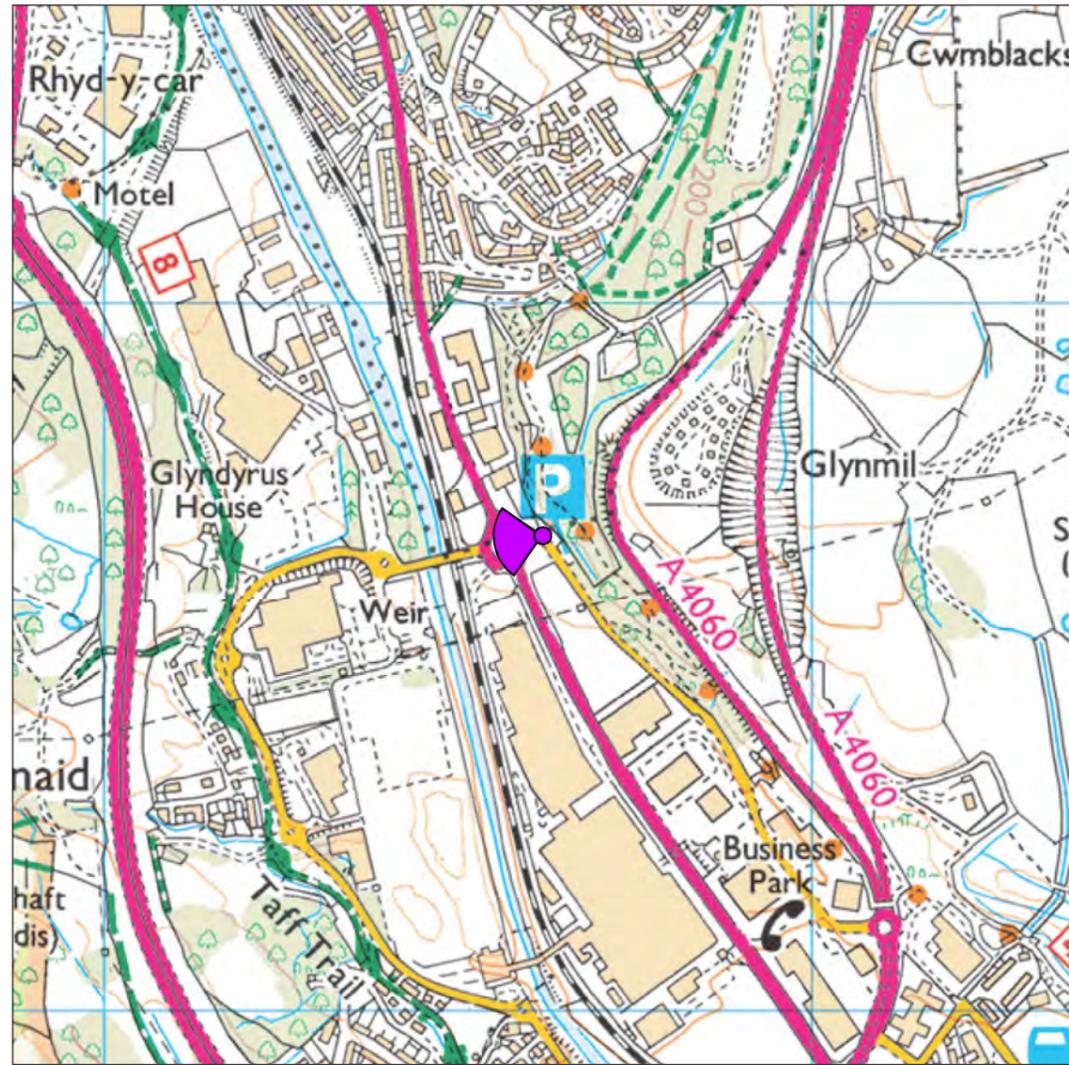
**Viewpoint 01:** Footbridge over A4102 (Bridleway 101/3)

**Rhydyar West,  
Merthyr Tydfil**

LA.10-2



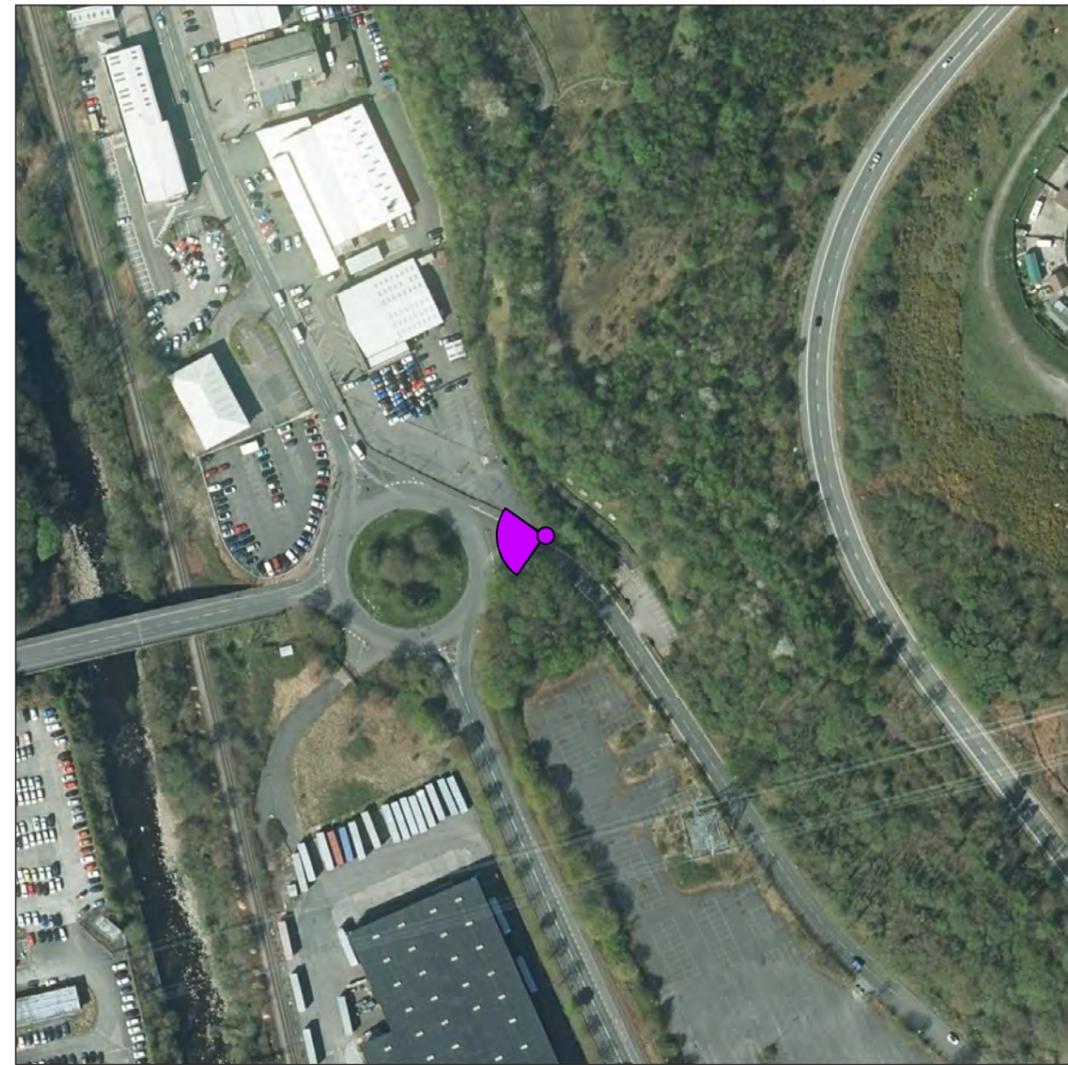
**Viewpoint location**



Scale 1:10,000

**Viewpoint information:**

OS reference: E305619 N204674  
Ground level: 180m AOD  
Direction of view: 280°  
Distance to site: 0.67km



Scale 1:2,500

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Aerial Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,  
USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community.



Type 3 Visualisation - Photowire

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305619 N204674  
 Ground level: 180m AOD  
 Direction of view: 280°  
 Distance to site: 0.67km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
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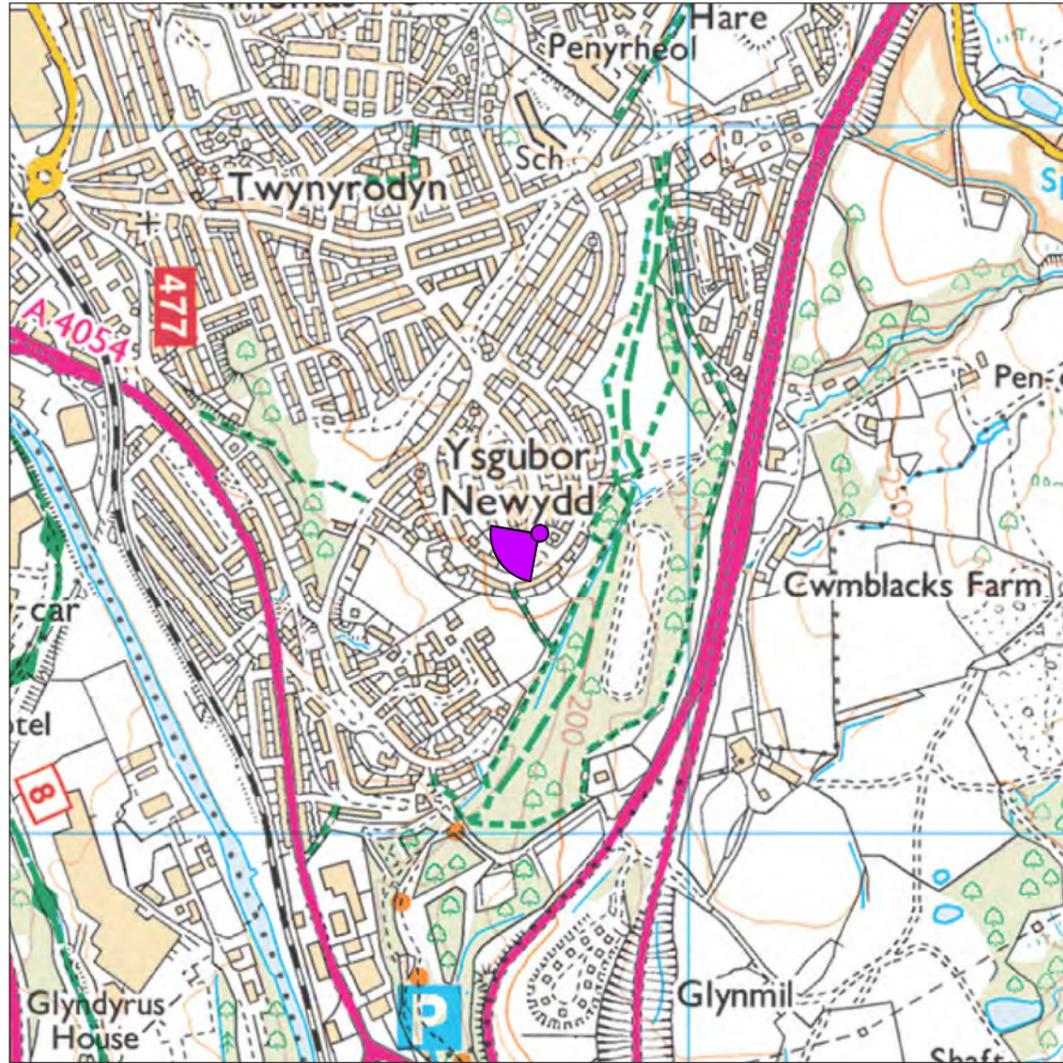
Project no. TC22027 January 2022

Viewpoint MCO2: A4054 between Pentrebach Road and Merthyr Road

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.10-4



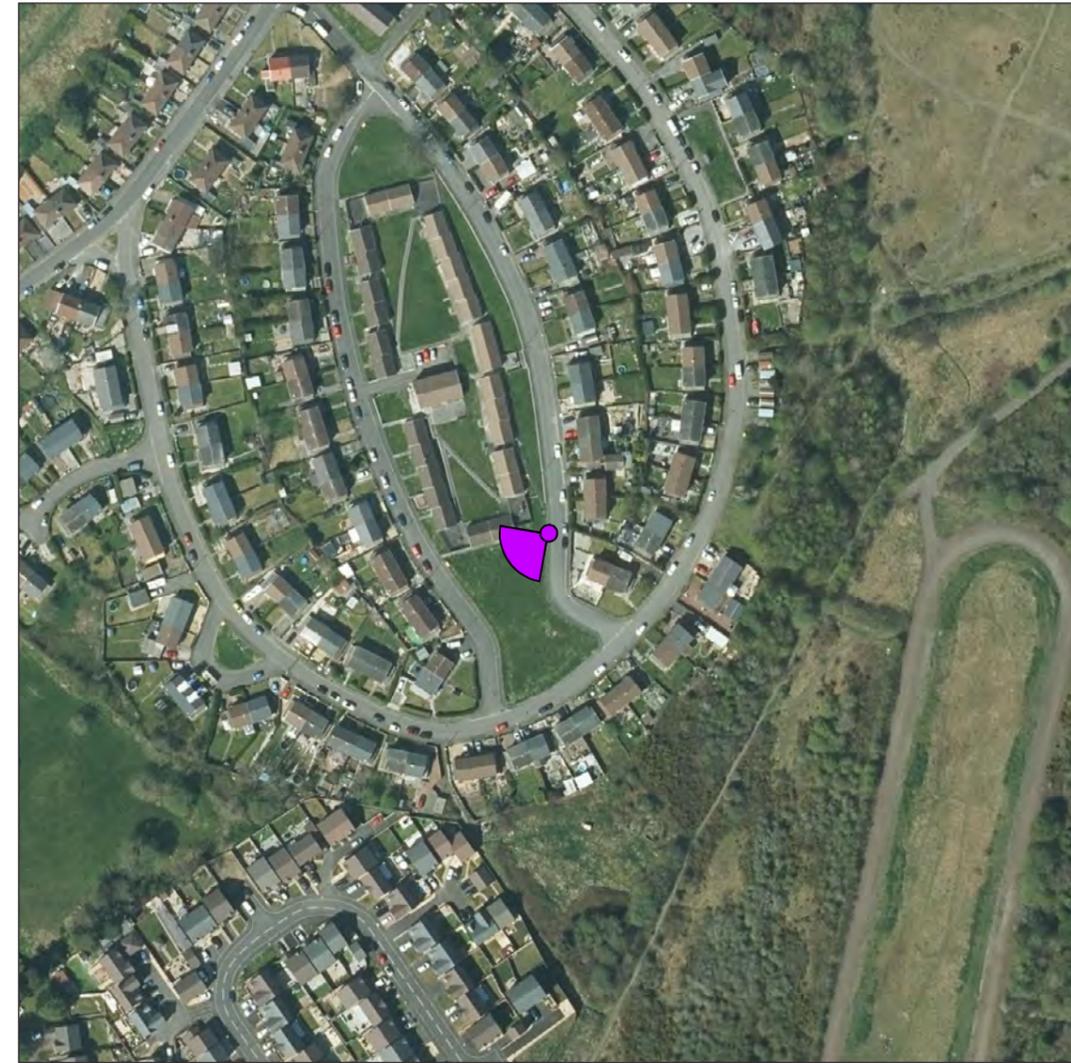
**Viewpoint location**



Scale 1:10,000

**Viewpoint information:**

OS reference: E305791 N205426  
Ground level: 226m AOD  
Direction of view: 235°  
Distance to site: 0.99km



Scale 1:2,500

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Aerial Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,  
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Project no. TC22027

January 2022

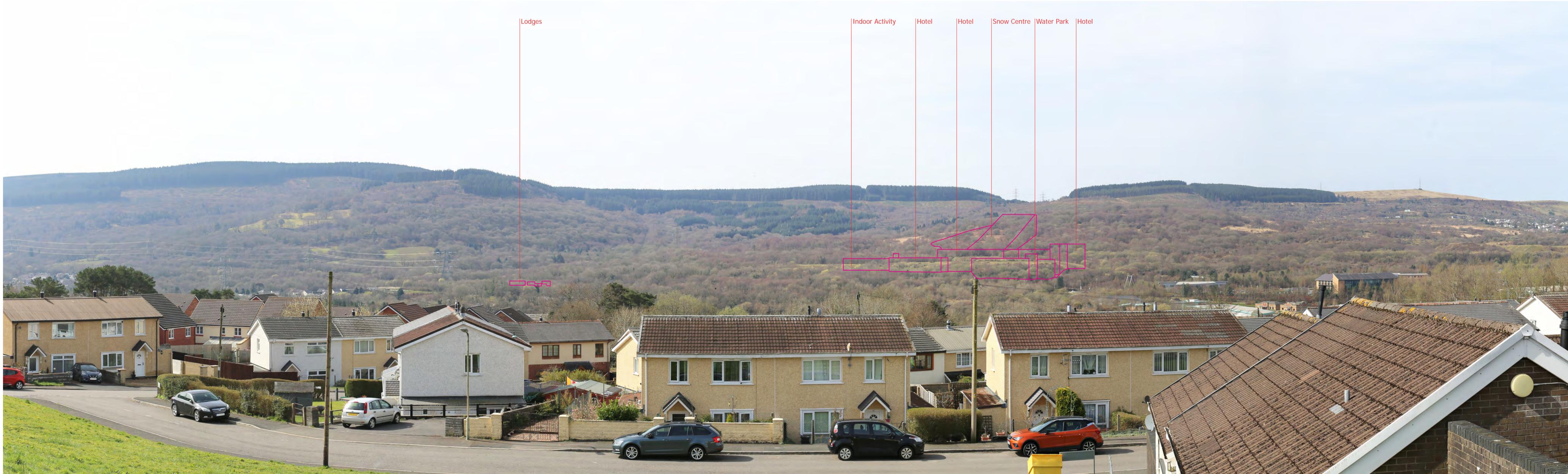
**Rhydyar West,  
Merthyr Tydfil**

**Viewpoint 03:** Jowett Avenue,  
Ysgubor Newydd

LA.10-5

**Marvel  
Limited**

**tir collective**  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS



Type 3 Visualisation - Photowire

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305791 N205426  
 Ground level: 226m AOD  
 Direction of view: 235°  
 Distance to site: 0.99km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
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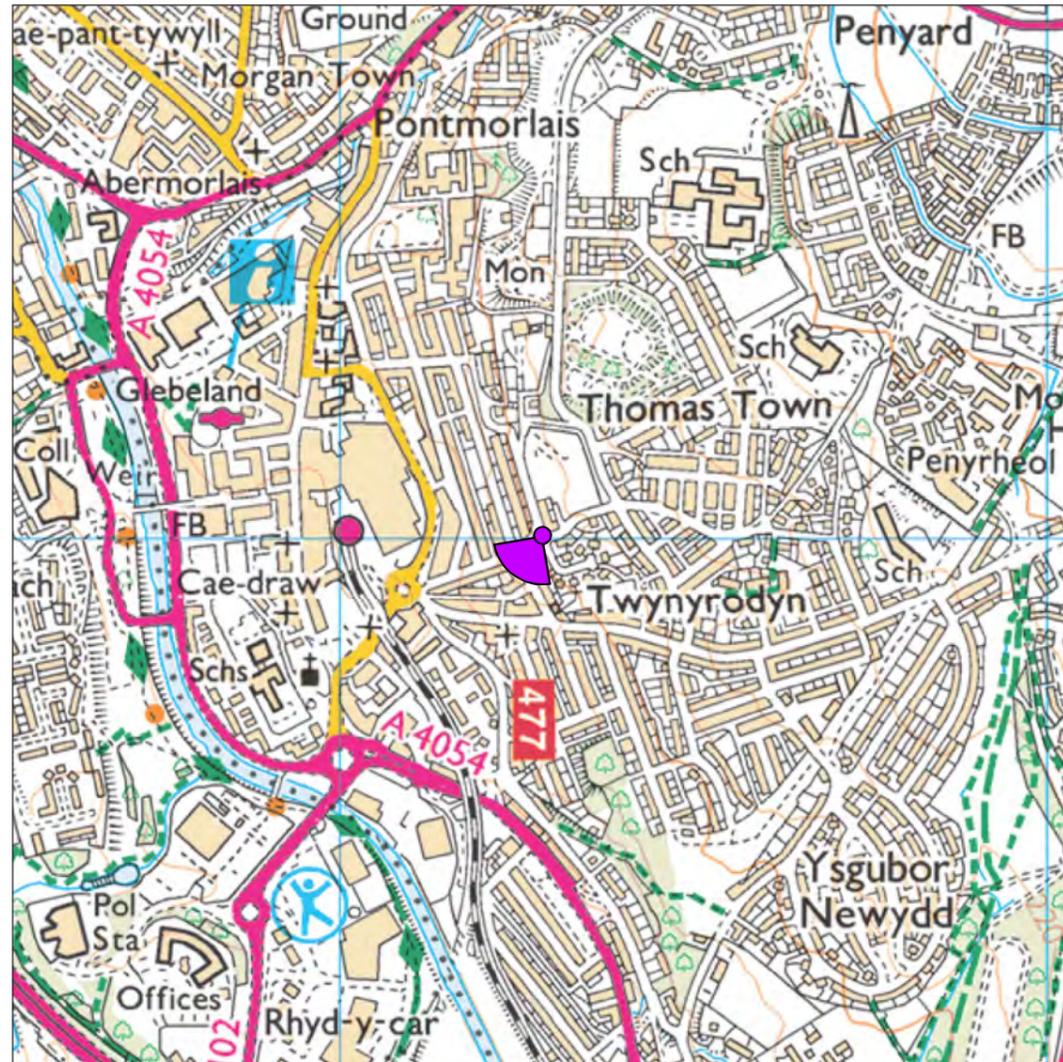
Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 03:** Jowett Avenue,  
 Ysgubor Newydd

**Rhydycar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.10-6



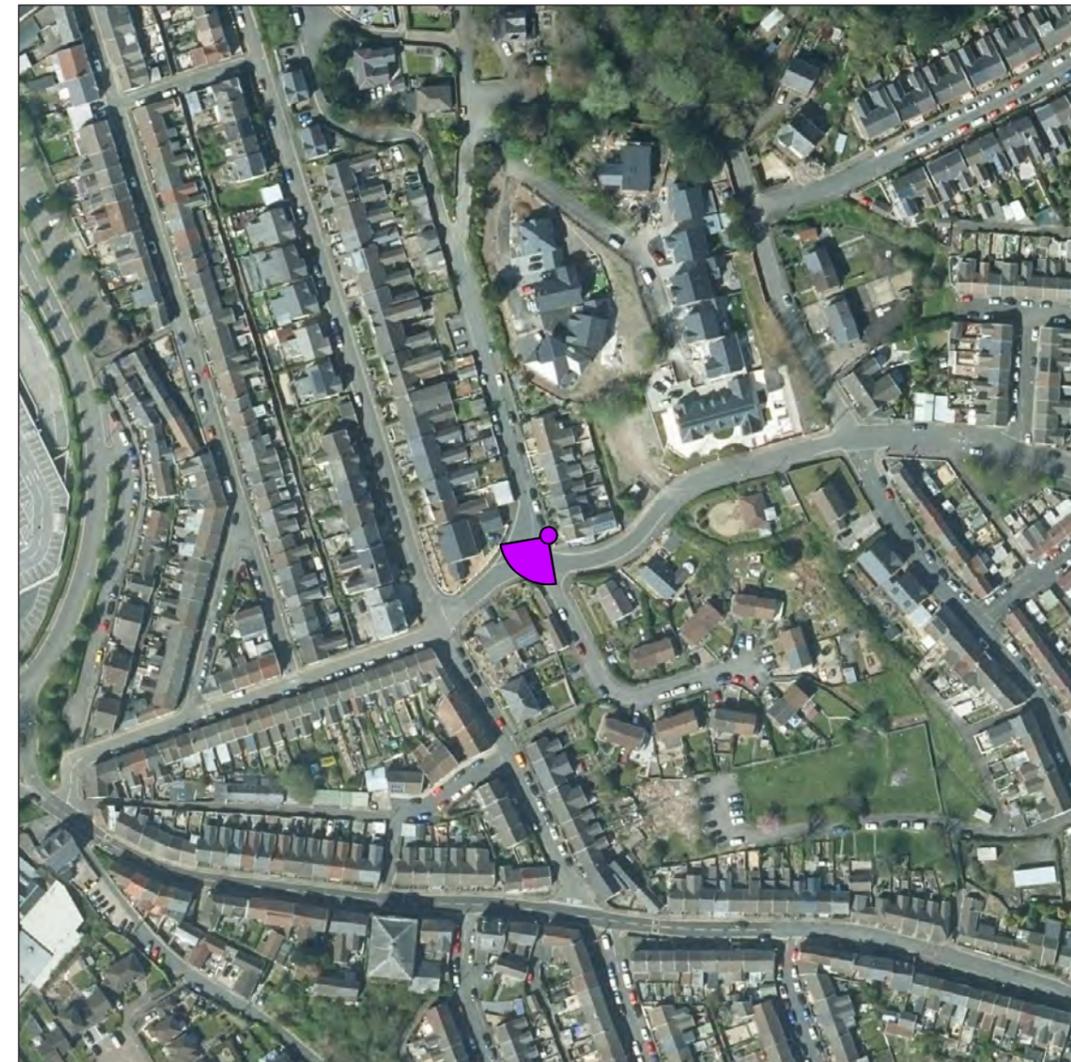
**Viewpoint location**



Scale 1:10,000

**Viewpoint information:**

OS reference: E305286 N206007  
Ground level: 209m AOD  
Direction of view: 215°  
Distance to site: 1.0km



Scale 1:2,500

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Aerial Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS,  
USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community.



Type 3 Visualisation - Photowire

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305286 N206007  
 Ground level: 209m AOD  
 Direction of view: 215°  
 Distance to site: 1.0km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
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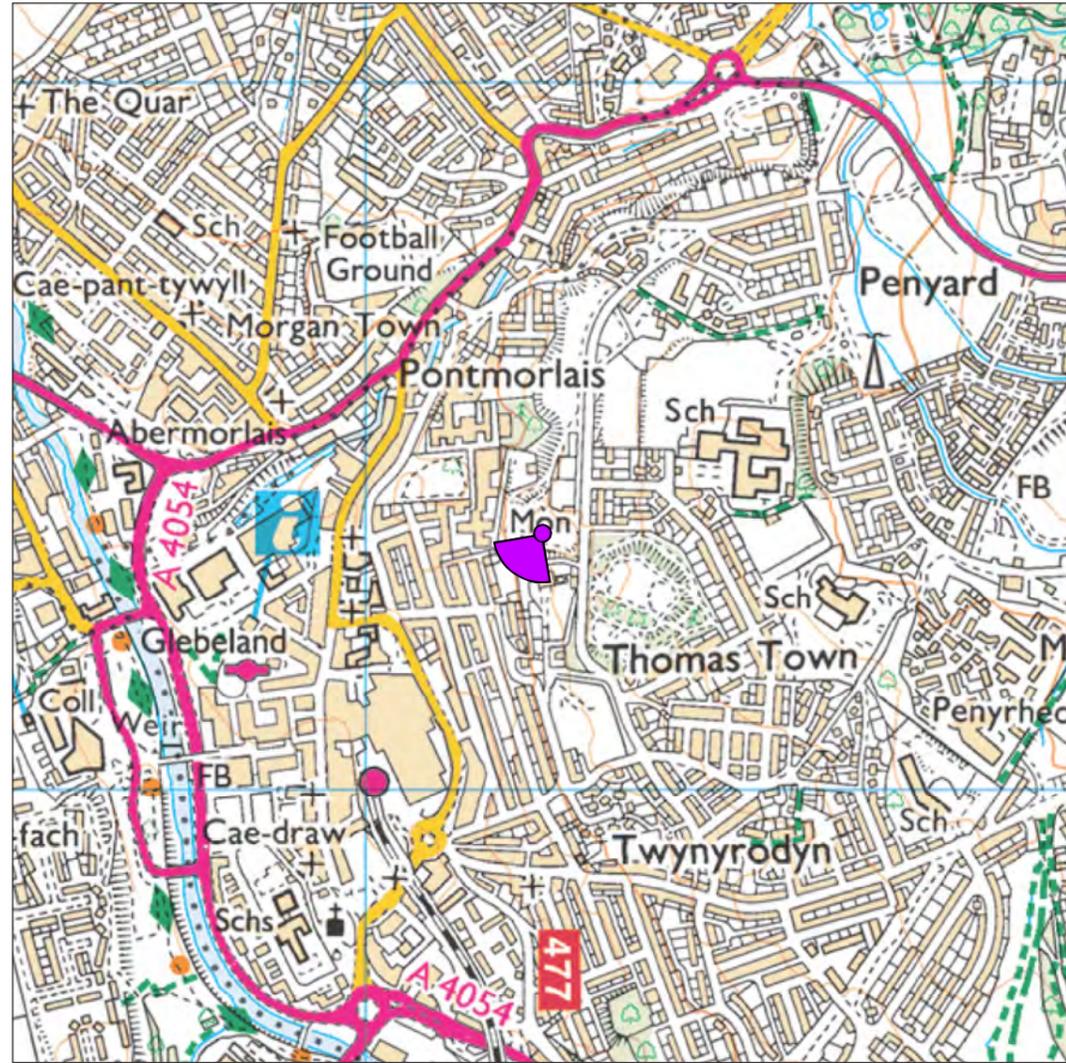
Project no. TC22027  
 January 2022

**Viewpoint 04:** Junction of Brynteg Terrace and St Tydfil's Avenue

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.10-8



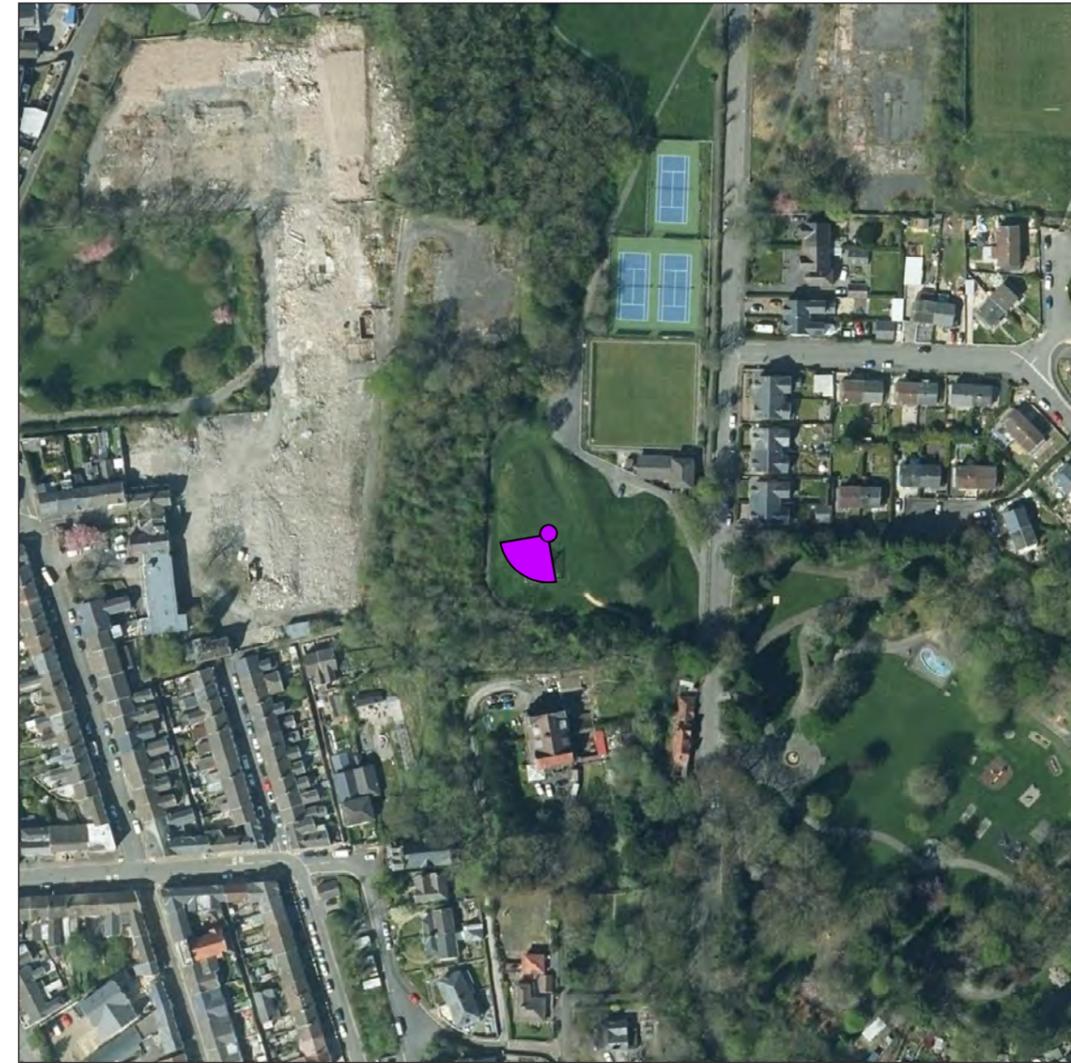
**Viewpoint location**



Scale 1:10,000

**Viewpoint information:**

OS reference: E305244 N206360  
 Ground level: 243m AOD  
 Direction of view: 215°  
 Distance to site: 1.25km



Scale 1:2,500

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Type 3 Visualisation - Photowire View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E305244 N206360  
 Ground level: 243m AOD  
 Direction of view: 215°  
 Distance to site: 1.25km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
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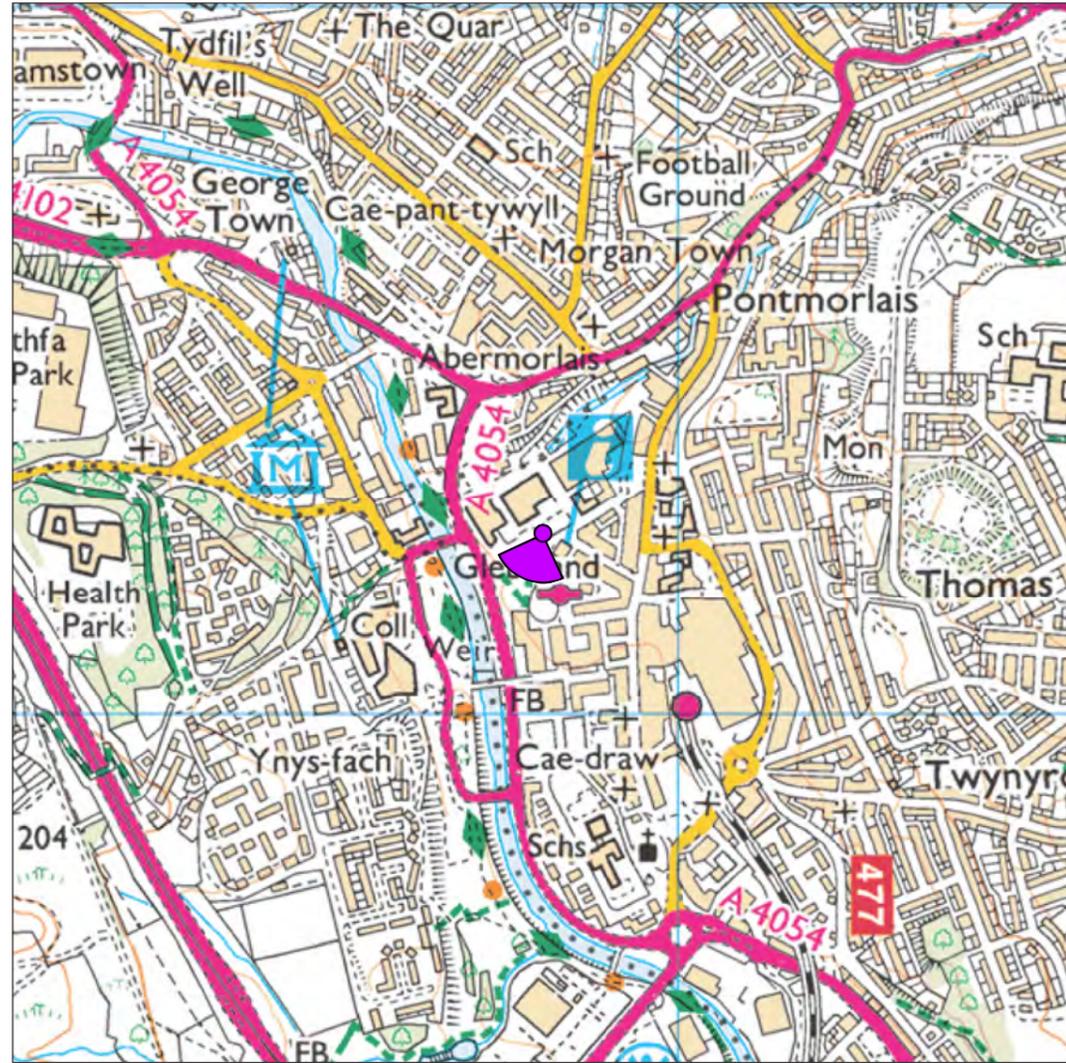
Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint MC05:** Boar War Memorial, Thomastown Park

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.10-10



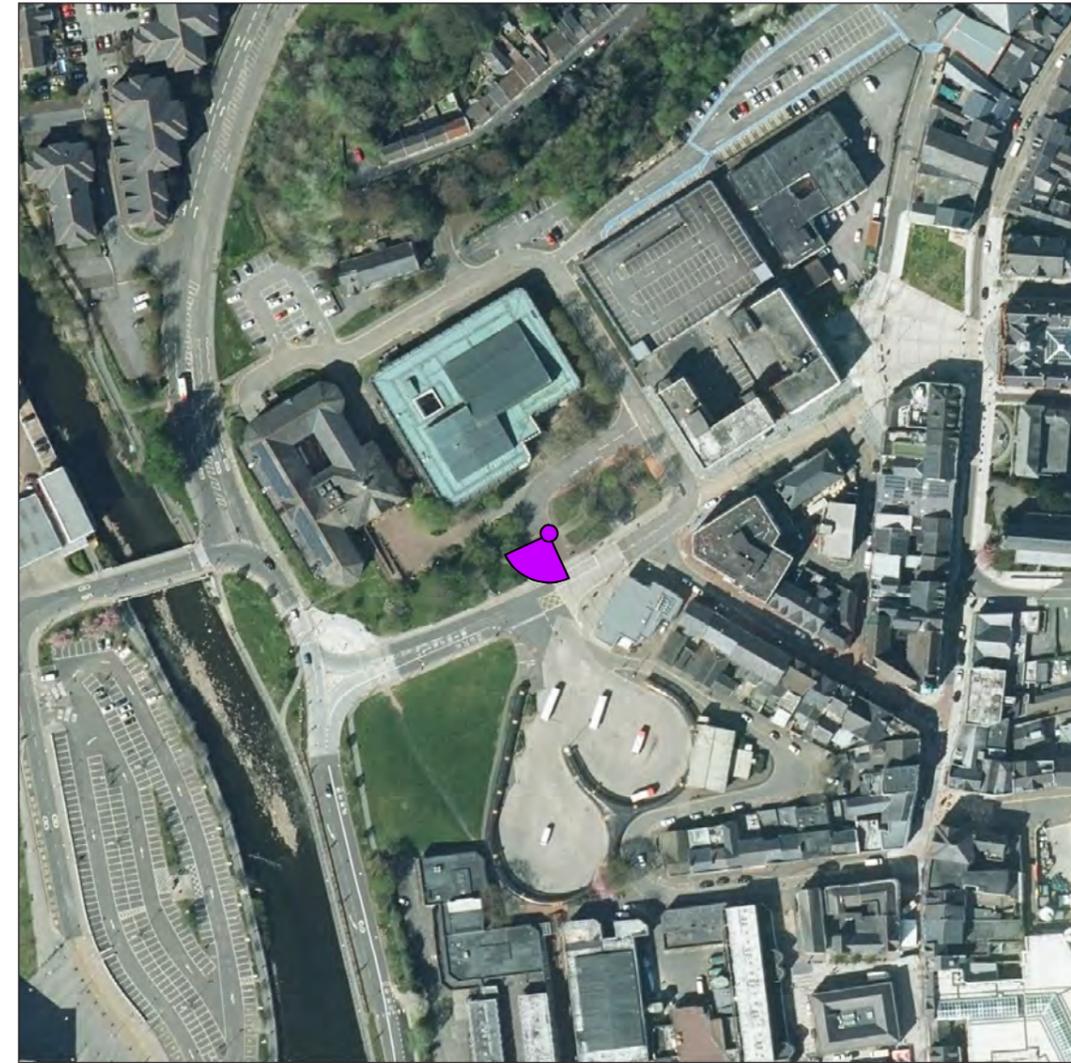
**Viewpoint location**



Scale 1:10,000

**Viewpoint information:**

OS reference: E304808 N206258  
 Ground level: 193m AOD  
 Direction of view: 200°  
 Distance to site: 1.05km



Scale 1:2,500

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 USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community.



Type 3 Visualisation - Photowire

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E304808 N206258  
 Ground level: 193m AOD  
 Direction of view: 200°  
 Distance to site: 1.05km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
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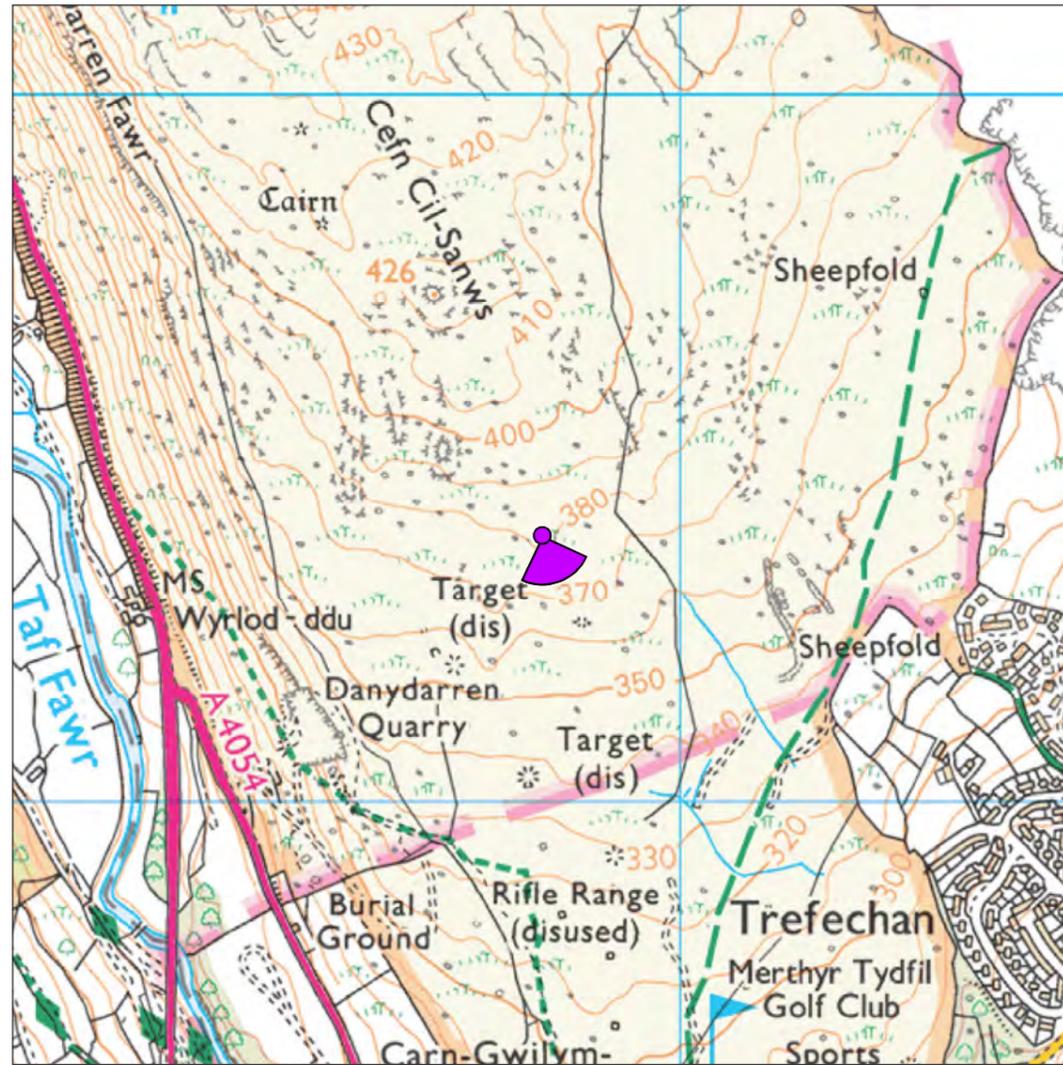
Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint MCO6:** Merthyr Tydfil Civic Centre, Law Courts and War Memorial

**Rhydyar West,  
 Merthyr Tydfil**  
 LA.10-12



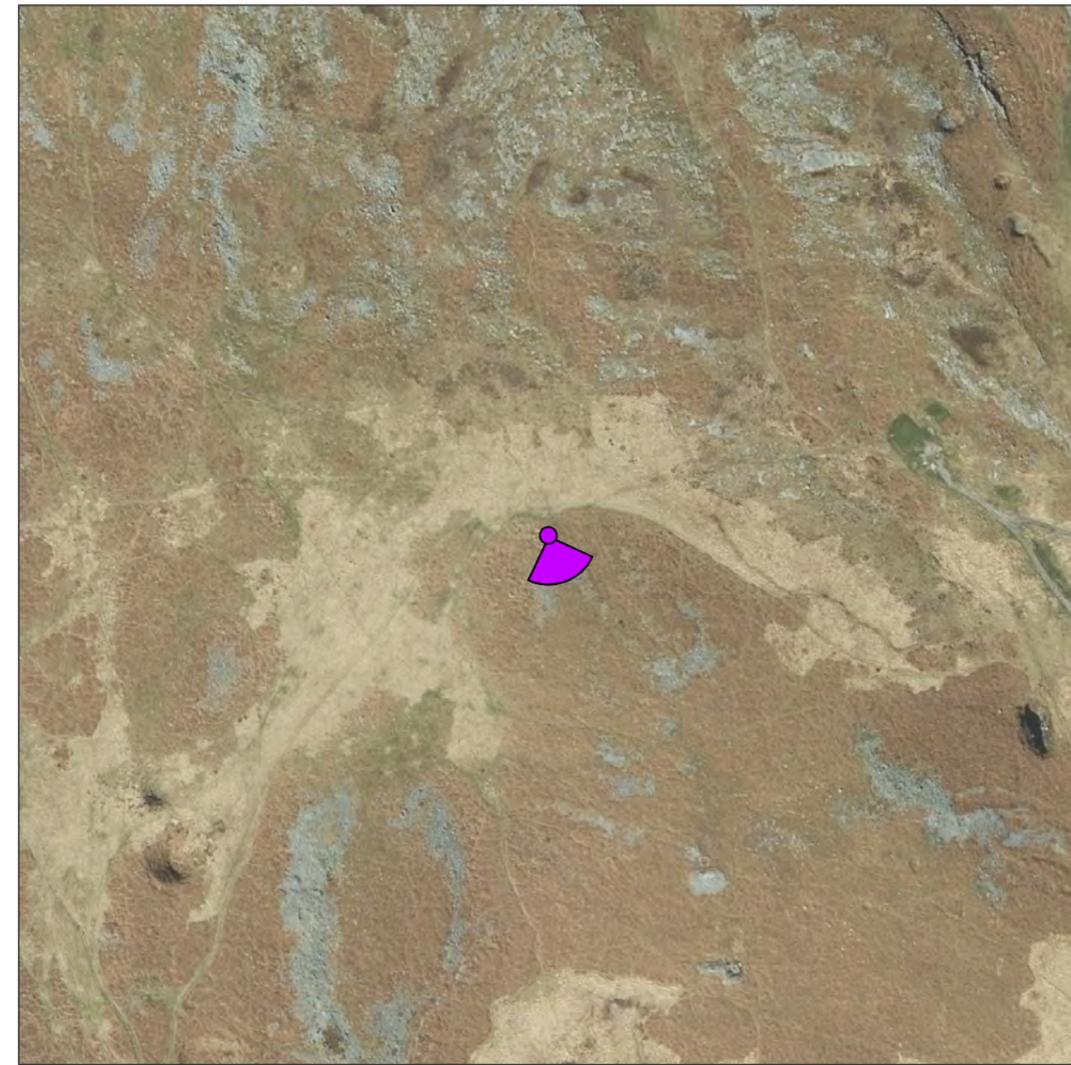
**Viewpoint location**



Scale 1:10,000

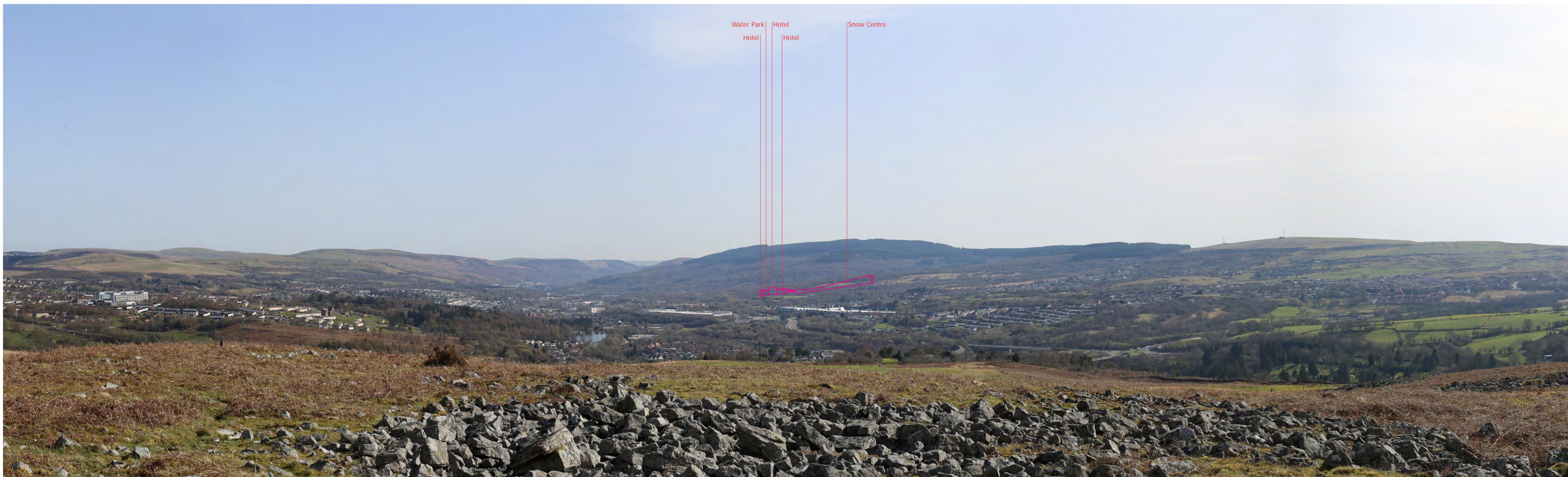
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OS reference: E302805 N209378  
Ground level: 388m AOD  
Direction of view: 160°  
Distance to site: 4.57km



Scale 1:2,500

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Water Park

Hotel

Snow Centre

Hotel

Hotel

Type 3 Visualisation - Photowire

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E302805 N209378  
 Ground level: 388m AOD  
 Direction of view: 160°  
 Distance to site: 4.57km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 30/03/2021 15:28

Project no. TC22027 January 2022

**Viewpoint 10:** Cefn Cil-Sanws, above Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club

**Rhydycar West,  
Merthyr Tydfil**  
LA.09-10



