

HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL

LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)

May 2026

solt4sbrewster

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Landscape and Visual Effects

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1. This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been prepared by Soltys Brewster Consulting. It assesses the likely effects, during the construction and operational stages of a Special Educational Needs (SEN) school, located on the southern fringes to the town of Bridgend. It also considers cumulative effects in relation to the consented development of a Tennis Centre located adjacent to the Proposed Development site to the south-east.
- 1.1.2. In addition to the school building, proposals include a car park, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), 4G sports pitch, outdoor play areas and extensive landscape areas. The proposals also include the construction of two five-bedroom houses, offering residential provision for pupils and for the Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate's residential and respite services. The proposed layout is illustrated on the proposed Landscape GA Plan (*drawing number HER-HLM-ZZ-ZZ-D-L-0004 PL01*). The term 'Proposed Development' has been used within this LVIA and refers to all proposed elements of the school.
- 1.1.3. This LVIA describes and evaluates the existing baseline environment within the site and the study area, including landscape character, policy context and designations and visual amenity. Using the methodology as described in Appendix A, the potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity during construction and during the operation phase of the Proposed Development are assessed.

Potential Landscape and Visual Receptors

- 1.1.4. Landscape and visual assessments are separate, although linked, procedures.
- 1.1.5. Landscape effects derive from changes to the pattern of physical and perceptual aspects that are distinctive to a landscape and help define its particular landscape character. Assessment of landscape impacts, therefore, requires consideration of three categories:
 - Direct impacts usually within the confines of the Proposed Development site. These comprise changes to the physical baseline landscape resulting directly from the imposition of the Proposed Development itself, including temporary impacts during the construction period. These will likely arise as a consequence of changes to the existing pattern of land-use, vegetation, habitats, landform and other features found within the site.
 - Indirect impacts on landscape character within the wider study area. Baseline landscape character will be assessed using LANDMAP and existing published Landscape Character Assessments, where these are available.
 - Impacts on the character and settings of any areas designated specifically for their landscape value.
- 1.1.6. Assessment of visual impacts requires consideration of people's views and the constituent parts within them that contribute to the overall quality of the available views. Viewers, known as visual receptors,

will include people with views from residential properties, local communities, vehicles traversing transportation routes, or undertaking outdoor recreational activities or employment. Visual effects will arise from changes to the constituent parts that contribute to the overall quality of the views or the visual amenity.

1.1.7. Views may be glimpsed, filtered, open or panoramic, direct or oblique and short, medium or long-range. Impacts on the visual amenity of a particular receptor may arise where elements of the Proposed Development intrude into or obstruct views, or where there is some other qualitative change to the view.

1.1.8. Viewpoint selection may be:

- *Representative.* These represent the experience of more than one and often different types of visual receptor at or close to the position of the viewpoint.
- *Specific.* These are selected to illustrate a key viewpoint at a specific position within the landscape.
- *Illustrative.* These are selected to illustrate or demonstrate a particular visual issue.

1.1.9. Viewpoints 1 to 5 (refer to *Figures 1.16 VP 1 Island Farm Close* to *1.20 VP 5 VMH Trail Tair Croes*) included within this assessment are representative, with receptors typically including travellers using the highway, residents in nearby properties and people visiting and using recreational assets, such as public footpaths or Open Access Land (CRoW Act).

1.2. Relevant Legislation, Policy and Guidance

Legislative and Policy Context

- 1.2.1. The European Landscape Convention (ELC) is a Council of Europe initiative that provides a broad framework for landscape planning and management across all member states, including the UK, which ratified the ELC in 2007.
- 1.2.2. The ELC defines landscape as “*an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors,*” and is committed to several core principles and aims. These commitments are implemented through existing domestic policy and legislation rather than through any ELC-specific framework. Whilst ‘Brexit’ ensured the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union (EU) on the 31st January 2020, the status of this convention was unaffected. The ELC is a convention of the Council of Europe, not the EU and the UK remain a signatory.
- 1.2.3. The recognition that Government has given to landscape raises the profile of this important area and emphasises the role that landscape can play as an integrating framework for many areas of policy. The ELC is designed to improve approaches to the planning, management and protection of landscapes throughout Europe and to put people at the heart of this process.
- 1.2.4. In line with the statutory requirements legislated by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017, a review of national and local landscape-related planning policy has been undertaken. Relevant policy is detailed below:

National Planning Policy

Future Wales (FW) - The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)

- 1.2.5. FW provides a national spatial strategy setting out where Wales should focus development to address key national priorities through the planning system until 2040. It provides the national tier and sets the direction for strategic and local development plans as well as complementing PPW (outlined below) with a shared commitment to placemaking and towards national ambitions and well-being goals. Together, PPW and FW set out how the planning system should respond to and address national challenges and opportunities.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12, (February 2024)

- 1.2.6. This document sets out land-use aspirations of the Welsh Government and is the foundation of all planning policy in Wales. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW, provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. The primary objective of PPW 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. PPW also recognises the rich and varied landscape of Wales, including National Parks and AONB's and specifically supports the use of the National Resources Wales (NRW) LANDMAP Information System as an important information resource to inform baseline landscape character assessment within Wales.

Local Planning Policy

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Local Development Plan 2018 - 2033

- 1.2.7. The Proposed Development site falls entirely within BCBC administrative area. The Proposed Development site is allocated in the LDP as a Strategic Mixed-Use Sustainable Urban Extension under Policy PLA2 Land South of Bridgend (Island farm), Bridgend Sustainable Growth Area. The policy includes a requirement to comply with Masterplan Development Principles, which includes:

- *'4 hectares of land for the relocation of Heronsbridge Special Education Needs School.'*

- 1.2.8. Within the wider study area and outside the Proposed Development site, the following BCBC local Planning Policy relevant to landscape and visual matters will be considered within the LVIA:

- *DNP 4 Special Landscape Areas: Special Landscape Areas.* This policy identifies areas of the County where development will only be permitted where it retains or enhances the character or distinctiveness of the SLA. The policy also requires *'the settings of SLAs will be protected with consideration of the views from those areas to the settlements of the County Borough. New development within settlements must be designed to provide an attractive transition between the urban area and the countryside.'* The policy is not intended to unduly restrict acceptable development in the countryside, rather to *"ensure that such development is compatible with the surrounding landscape"*. Within the study area, *Laleston SLA (DNP4 (7))* extends across land to the north east, approximately 2.1 km from the site boundary at its closest point and *Merthyr Mawr Warren (DNP4(9))*, which approximately 0.9 km south west from the site boundary at its closest point.
- *DNP 7: Trees, Hedgerows and Development.* This policy states that *'Development that would adversely affect trees, woodlands and hedgerows of public amenity or natural/cultural heritage value, or that provide important ecosystem services, will not normally be permitted.'* Furthermore, *'Development proposals on sites containing or adjacent to, trees will be required to assess the trees in line with BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Where trees are to be replaced a scheme for tree*

replacement must be agreed prior to the commencement of development, including details of planting and aftercare.'

- 1.2.9. The study area also extends into the administrative area of the Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoG) to the south. The following policy is relevant to landscape and visual matters:

Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026 (Adopted 2017)

- *Policy MG17 – Special Landscape Areas.* The Policy states that ‘*Within the SLA, development proposals will be permitted where it is demonstrated they would cause no unacceptable harm to the important landscape character of the area.*’ Upper and Lower Thaw Valley SLA extends across southern parts of the study area beyond around 950m from the site boundary.
- *Policy MD8 – Historic Environment.* This Policy states that development proposals must “*protect the qualities of the built and historic environment of the Vale of Glamorgan, specifically:*
 1. *Within conservation areas, development proposals must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area;*
 2. *For listed and locally listed buildings, development proposals must preserve or enhance the building, its setting and any features of significance it possesses;*
 3. *Within designated landscapes, historic parks and gardens, and battlefields, development proposals must respect the special historic character and quality of these areas, their settings or historic views or vistas;*
 4. *For sites of archaeological interest, development proposals must preserve or enhance archaeological remains and where appropriate their settings”.*

1.3. Assessment Criteria and Methodology

- 1.3.1. Landscape and visual assessments require consideration of a wide variety of aspects, including topography, vegetation and land cover, landscape condition, quality, visibility and aesthetics. Together these help in defining the sensitivity and robustness of receptors within the study area, and their capacity to accommodate changes of a given development scale, form and appearance. These aspects have been examined through both desk and field-based studies. The site assessment was undertaken in April 2026.

- 1.3.2. The assessment will adopt a methodology compliant with the following current guidance:

- *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA). The Landscape Institute/ IEMA. Third Edition, 2013.*
- *NRW Guidance Note 46, Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, (LVIA), January 2021.*
- *Visual Representation of Development Proposals – Technical Advice Note 06/19, Landscape Institute (September 2019), including supporting Technical Information Notes 07/19, 08/19 and 09/19.*

- 1.3.3. Evaluations for receptor sensitivity will be established through consideration of receptor value and its susceptibility to change. Significance of effect, in turn, will be established as a function of the magnitude

of any impact and receptor sensitivity. Criteria for establishing and defining the sensitivity of receptors, magnitude of impact and significance of effects are provided in Appendix A.

1.3.4. In accordance with the GLVIA, a less prescriptive approach will be adopted by the assessment. The emphasis will be on creating a narrative approach to describing the magnitude and significance of effect.

1.3.5. In accordance with EIA regulations¹ ‘*impact*’ is defined as the change resulting from an action, (i.e. from the construction or operation of the Proposed Development), and ‘*effect*’ is defined as the consequence of an impact.

1.3.6. Effects identified will be classified into one or more of the following:

- Beneficial effects that may have a positive influence, adverse effects that may have a negative influence. For the purposes of this assessment, however, all effects have been listed as adverse to ensure the worst-case scenario is recorded.
- Temporary effects that persist for a limited period only, such as construction operations.
- Permanent effects that result from an irreversible change and/or which persist for the foreseeable future.
- Direct effects that arise from activities that result from an integral part of the construction or operation of the Proposed Development.
- Indirect/secondary effects that arise from activities not explicitly forming part of the Proposed Development.

1.3.7. The LVIA comprises the following stages:

- A description of the existing baseline environment within the study area, including a review of relevant landscape-related policy and designations.
- An assessment of the overall sensitivity to change for receptors, reflecting judgements reached on value and susceptibility.
- An assessment of the magnitude of the change arising from the Proposed Development following construction, including inherent primary mitigation measures.
- An evaluation of the significance of effects, quantified as a function of the receptor sensitivity and the magnitude of change.
- A description of the anticipated effects on the existing baseline environment, including the evaluations of receptor sensitivity, magnitude of change and significance of effects.

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

- A description of the anticipated cumulative effects on the existing baseline environment in relation to the consented development of a Tennis Centre that is likely to be built adjacent to the Proposed Development site to the south-east.

1.3.8. The assessment of significance determines the level or degree of effect that is likely to occur. Evaluations of significance identified as greater than moderate were considered to be significant. Evaluations of significance less than moderate were considered to be not significant. Where effects are determined to be of moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant will depend on the individual and specific circumstances relating to each receptor and the professional opinion of the assessor.

Photography

1.3.9. Viewpoint photography was carried out in accordance with relevant guidance² and was undertaken in April 2026. Climatic conditions were dry and sunny with light cloud and were seasonally typical. Deciduous trees were not in leaf during the photographic survey that was undertaken.

1.3.10. Photographs illustrating views from each viewpoint were taken with a full frame Canon Eos 5D MKII digital camera using a fixed lens with a 50 mm focal length. Each frame was taken in portrait format, and individual frames have been stitched together using appropriate software to illustrate a maximum field of view of 90°. This provides a panoramic image stitched in cylindrical projection and should be viewed flat.

1.3.11. Panoramic views are intended to give an understanding of the visual context. Theoretically, when printed at the correct size on an A1 page and viewed at a comfortable arms-length, the photographs closely represent the view experienced from each viewpoint by the viewer's naked eye. The photographs, therefore, provide a tool for the reader that can be compared with an actual view in the field. However, they should never be considered as a substitute to visiting a viewpoint.

Study Area and Viewpoints

1.3.12. A 3km radius study area from the centre of the Proposed Development site boundary is considered appropriate for the scale and nature of the Proposed Development.

1.3.13. A total of five viewpoints were selected for inclusion within the assessment. These have been identified for their potential sensitivity to change and are indicative of a broad range of typical views across the study area. Their locations are indicated on *Figure 1.1 ZTV Viewpoint Locations*.

1.3.14. *Figure 1.1 ZTV Viewpoint Locations* also provides an indication of the approximate visual extent of the Proposed Development, in a bare-earth scenario that excludes the modifying visual influence of vegetation and buildings. This indicates that intervisibility may extend beyond 3km. However, an initial site-based appraisal established that visual impacts beyond 3 km were considered to be highly unlikely to be significant, given the distance, the nature of the Proposed Development and the broad character of the landscape, (including the modifying effect of intervening vegetation and built form).

² Technical Advice Note 06/19 - Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Landscape Institute (September 2019) and Technical Information Notes 07/19, 08/19 and 09/19.

Temporal Scope

- 1.3.15. This assessment will consider construction stage effects that will persist for a limited period of time. Effects will be considered as temporary in nature although they may, in some instances, be experienced in combination with sections of the site where construction operations have ceased, and that portion of the site or phase may be operational.
- 1.3.16. Following construction activities, effects resulting as a consequence of the operation of the Proposed Development will be considered as likely to persist for the foreseeable future and are assessed as permanent and irreversible.

Baseline Data Collection

- 1.3.17. Baseline data has been collected using both professional judgement and industry best practice and has been achieved through a mix of both desk and field-based study.
- 1.3.18. Preliminary baseline survey work, including a desk-based review of landscape-related policy and designations and LANDMAP data was carried out in March and April 2026 to identify the likely scope of the LVIA, (i.e. to identify areas and/or features of potential sensitivity to change).
- 1.3.19. Field studies were carried out in April 2026 and included a site walk-over and visits to contextual areas and sensitive landscapes considered likely to be within the visual envelope as well as each of the viewpoints selected for assessment. Viewpoint photography was undertaken in April 2026.

1.4. Baseline Landscape and Visual Conditions

Baseline Landscape

- 1.4.1. The baseline landscape conditions of the Proposed Development site and the wider study area have been established by drawing together existing desktop information, including maps, planning designations, LANDMAP data and published Landscape Character Assessments and other reports, supplemented with site surveys.

The Proposed Development Site

- 1.4.2. The Proposed Development site is located on the southern edge of Bridgend and encompasses an area of land, approximately 4.2ha in extent, that is currently used for agriculture. Land within the site slopes from a height of approximately 31m AOD in the south-eastern corner to approximately 24m in the north-western corner. The north of the site is bound by residential development, while to the eastern boundary a hedgerow and mature trees separate the site from the adjacent Science Park. The southern boundary adjoins agricultural fields and is open, while to the west, the boundary is a block woodland and Island Farm, a former World War II Prisoner of War camp.

The Study Area

- 1.4.3. Beyond the Proposed Development site, the town of Bridgend dominates the northern half of the study area. Land-use within Bridgend predominantly comprises residential properties, typically mid to late to 20th century in age, with older, late 19th century terrace housing more common closer to the town centre. The town centre is predominately dominated by buildings used for commercial and leisure activities, typically two to three-storeys in height and of mixed architectural styles. The eastern edge of the study area is dominated by Bridgend Industrial Estate that includes a number of larger-scale industrial units, adjacent to which is a retail park.

- 1.4.4. The southern half of the study area is agricultural in character and is dominated by a patchwork of fields, predominantly of improved grassland that is used for arable farming, together with fragmented blocks of deciduous woodland. To the southern edge of the study area is Ogmores Down, which lies at a maximum elevation of approximately 102m AOD. Development is typically restricted to ribbon development along the B4524 and includes the small settlements of Corntown, Ewenny and Ewenny Cross. Flowing through the lower-lying, gently undulating or flat agricultural land that lies between the A48 and the B4524, flow the Ogmores River and Ewenny River.
- 1.4.5. Several historic features, including Ogmores Castle, Ewenny Priory and Merthyr Mawr House are located within the study area.
- 1.4.6. Major road transport routes that pass through the study area are primarily located within or in proximity to Bridgend and include the A48, A473, A4061 and the A4063. Within the southern half of the study area, the road network is less developed, with the main route being the B4265 and the B4524 that pass through Corntown, Ewenny and Ewenny Cross. A series of country lanes are also found through the lower-lying land within this part of the study area.
- 1.4.7. Passing through the study area in a broad, north-south direction is the Vale of Glamorgan train line that runs from Barry to Bridgend. The Cardiff to Swansea mainline extends through Bridgend and the north-eastern part of the of the study area.
- 1.4.8. Footpaths are primarily located within the southern half of the study area and include the promoted long-distance footpaths of Bridgend Circular Walk and the Valeways Millenium Heritage (VMH) Trail. In addition to these routes, there are several local public footpaths.
- 1.4.9. National Cycle Route 88 (NCR88) extends through the study area, running from Newport and terminating at Ewenny.

Statutory and Non-Statutory Landscape Designations

- 1.4.10. Landscape designations provide an indication of the value that national and local government, plus other agencies, attach to various landscapes. All landscapes have some importance, particularly to those people who live and work in them or use them for leisure activities and to an extent, the qualitative evaluation of landscape is subjective. However, Statutory and Non-Statutory landscape designations are a key consideration in establishing landscape value. The designations that fall within the study area are described below and are illustrated in *Figure 1.2 Statutory Landscape Designations* and *Figure 1.3 Non Statutory Landscape Designations*.

Statutory Designations

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

- 1.4.11. The Register of Parks and Gardens has been established, by Cadw/ICOMOS UK to identify those sites that can be considered of importance within Wales based upon a clear set of criteria. There are two Registered Parks and Gardens within the study area, Merthyr Mawr (Grade II*) and Ewenny Priory (Grade II) and their locations are shown in *Figure 1.2 Statutory Landscape Designations*.
- 1.4.12. Both sites are well-contained by existing mature vegetation and together with intervening vegetation beyond the designated sites, it is predicted that there will be no views of the Proposed Development. Therefore, it is concluded that there will be no effects on these designated sites and so both have been scoped out from further assessment.

Non-Statutory Designations

Registered Landscape of Special and Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales

- 1.4.13. The Register of Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Part 2.1) and Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Part 2.2) has been established, by Cadw/ International Council on Monuments & Sites (ICOMOS) UK to identify those landscape that can be considered of importance within Wales based upon a clear set of criteria. There is one Registered Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest that lies partly within the study area, Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows and its location is shown in *Figure 1.3 Non Statutory Landscape Designations* and a brief description is provided below.

Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

- 1.4.14. A coastal area defined by extensive sand dunes that have dramatically shaped human history. From prehistoric times through the medieval period, the area supported settlements, agriculture, and strategic sites. From around the 13th–15th centuries, advancing dunes buried large parts of the landscape, most notably the town of Kenfig. Today, it is valued for its well-preserved but often hidden archaeological remains, illustrating the long-term interaction between people and a dynamic, changing coastal environment.

Special Landscape Areas

- 1.4.15. Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are areas that are considered to be important for their geological, natural, visual, historic or cultural significance. There are three SLAs whose boundaries extend into the study area. Their location is illustrated in *Figure 1.2 Statutory Landscape Designations* and a description of each is provided below.

Laleston SLA (BCBC – Policy DNP4(7): Special Landscape Areas)

- 1.4.16. ‘A distinctive plateau area rising to 100 metres AOD to the west of Bridgend. It is an area of mixed farmland with fields enclosed by hedgerow boundaries. It includes the Cefn Cribwr Grasslands SAC. The area is dissected by the M48 motorway, A48(T) road and the Swansea-Paddington railway line which create local corridors of visual and sensory detracting. The underlying geology is of national value and is reflected in the designation of a SSSI, where non-conforming deposits are visible through quarrying. Its western boundary abuts the former Newton Down airfield which is used for karting and has a number of industrial units dispersed across the area. These provide further local zones of visual and sensory detracting. The southern boundary abuts the village of Tythegston and includes the house and parkland of Tythegston Court, together with the wider landscape that forms its essential setting. The house is listed (Grade II), and the whole feature stretches back to the medieval period, with the current house and park showing primarily eighteenth century features with additions to the parkland gardens to the Edwardian period. The site is included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales.³

Merthyr Mawr Warren SLA (BCBC – Policy DNP4(9): Special Landscape Areas)

- 1.4.17. ‘The proposed SLA comprises of two discrete yet interrelated landscape units, namely Merthyr-mawr Warren and the historic parkland and adjoining area associated with Merthyr Mawr house. The Warren is an extensive area of littoral windblown sand deposits, rising up in places to 80 metres AOD, and dominating the views of the estuary and immediate hinterland around Merthyr Mawr, it also includes the foreshore down to the mean low water level. Within the dune system are a series of small spinneys, which together with the rolling landforms create a series of intimate spaces. The views across the Severn Estuary provide a distinct sense of place, although this is somewhat compromised by its interrelationship to the urban edge of Porthcawl at Newton and

³ <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/izcfgp1f/written-statement.pdf>

Trecco Bay. The remainder of the area is formed by the historic house and parkland and associated estate village of Merthyr Mawr. The house and landscape park (Grade II) was laid out in the early nineteenth century and was added to in 1900. It is included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. Culturally and historically it is an important landscape containing Merthyr Mawr House, estate village and the remains of the medieval castles/fortified houses. The area provides an outstanding example of an evolved landscape and dual order. Importantly due to its besandment it has resulted in layers of former landscapes dating back to the Neolithic, being buried.’

Castle Upon Alun SLA (VoGC – Policy MG17: Special Landscape Areas)

- 1.4.18. Located “at the western edge of the Vale of Glamorgan and abuts the Heritage Coast boundary. It is of outstanding value over large areas in the geological, habitat, and visual and sensory aspects. It is characterised by broad plateaus, gentle rolling hills and the Ewenny and Alun River valleys. The Alun Valley is a narrow, confined, wooded lowland valley and although much of the woodland is inappropriately managed (leaving bare or degraded areas) and gives a discordant feeling, it is still an attractive landscape and contains several SSSIs. The form and natural vegetation give the valley a distinctive character complemented by the downs to the south and contrasting with farmed landscape to the north. However, there is a threat of conversion of further woodland into intensively managed farmland and from bracken invasion, which prevents woodland regeneration. The Ewenny Valley to the north feels sheltered due to the enclosing topography of valley sides and wooded hillsides. It is an open, large scale and exposed landscape with few, scattered settlements and some agricultural fields. Vegetation is typically semi-improved, dry grasslands and heaths. The linear settlement of Ewenny has an inappropriate, suburban feeling and has been excluded from the SLA. Around the valleys, the landscape is open, rolling lowland plateau with high intervisibility and an exposed character. Fences replacing hedgerows are reducing the field boundary quality and intensive farming is reducing interest and is of little value to biodiversity. However, the feeling is tranquil with visually calming unity. To the west, and outside the UA boundary, The Ogmere River provides a specific marsh landscape and dune system of international importance. It contains SSSI and GCR designations and habitats for several protected species. Exposed, elevated areas give wide, generally unspoilt views across the Ogmere Valley, estuary and Bristol Channel. Old Castle Down (with SSSI designation) is an attractive and distinctive heath area, rare in the Vale and supporting important species. The Pant St Bride’s separates it from Ogmere Down, which falls within the Heritage Coast designation. The strong topography and ‘natural’ vegetation create a rugged and wild landscape with a strong sense of place and character. The plateau slopes towards the coast and has a sense of openness and a strong sense of place from its location, wind sculpted trees and use of stone in walls and vernacular buildings”.⁴

Landscape Character – National Landscape Character Areas (NCLA’s)

- 1.4.19. Wales has been divided into 48 broad-scale National Landscape Character Areas (NCLA’s), which distinguish one landscape type from another. Two NCLA’s extend into the study area and are illustrated in Figure 1.14 National Landscape Character Areas and described below.

NLCA36 Vale of Glamorgan

- 1.4.20. This NLCA extends across the majority of the study area and includes the full extent of the Proposed Development site. The landscape is described as ‘a distinctive, gentle lowland landscape, largely comprising a rolling limestone plateau. Glacial till contributes to its undulating topography. A variety of rural land uses characterise the area, reinforced by thick hedgerows, frequent small woodlands and trees, which create a

⁴ <https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Living/Planning/Policy/LDP/LDP-Adoption/Adopted-LDP-Written-Statement-June-2017-final-interactive-web-version.pdf>

sense of enclosure and intimacy. This is despite the proximity to large towns such as greater Cardiff, Barry and Bridgend, and a number of large built features within the Vale. The area's historic character was shaped by Anglo-Norman influences. Norman castles and medieval villages centred on churches are key features.'

1.4.21. Key Characteristics of this NLCA are outlined below:

- Lowland, rolling limestone plateau with glacial till.
- Mixed agricultural land uses - with predominantly rural character
- Small woodlands – mainly to the east. Few large woods.
- Mixed field patterns and sizes - with hedgerows and hedge banks, frequent hedgerow trees. Limestone walls define land above the cliffs in the west.
- Norman castles and medieval villages centred on churches.
- Predominantly still rural - with strong senses of enclosure by historic field boundaries.
- A number of large built developments – including Cardiff International Airport and Aberthaw Power Station. Some areas with traffic noise, e.g. in the M4 corridor.
- Commuter settlement - modern suburban housing extending but contrasting with historic settlement character.⁵

NLCA38 Swansea Bay

1.4.22. The eastern edge of this NLCA extends across western parts of the study area. The landscape is described as 'A narrow coastal plain links the lowlands of Glamorgan to those of Gwendraeth. In the middle section around Port Talbot its width is constricted by the adjacent sea and steeply uplands. Extensive sandy coast is backed by dunes, with lagoons and important coastal heath. Major river estuaries issue within the area, including those of rivers Loughor, Neath and Tawe. Large parts of the area have been built on, with major docks by the Neath and Tawe estuaries. The focus of development is the city of Swansea, Wales' second largest, but also Llanelli, Neath Port Talbot and Pyle. Character is urban and suburban with large housing and industrial estates. Heavy industries and settlement have made use of these strategically important locations, between coalfield and sea, and major ports around Swansea and the Steel Works at Port Talbot are landmark features. In that section, strange geometric apparatus and steam belching chimneys dominate the skyline as seen from busy arterial roads and railways. It is a busy, noisy, ambitious urban landscape with good road and rail links to capitals Cardiff and London. The sweeping crescent of sand, is backed by dunes that have buried archaeology at Kenfig, Merthyr Mawr, as have the immediate rising hinterland. At either end of the bay there are limestone outcrops and Porthcawl and Mumbles have become the recreational destinations. Respectively, the very large caravan park, amusement centre and the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club sits at one end and the lively tourist-attracting former fishing settlement, notable pier and headland sits at the other. Many prominent figures in the world of arts hail from this coastal strip, and there is a lively local choral tradition.'

⁵ <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/682623/nlca36-vale-of-glamorgan-description.pdf?rmode=pad&v=1d35c98edea8370>

1.4.23. Key Characteristics of this NLCA are outlined below:

- *Narrow coastal plain – a long lowland area, of limited width in its middle section, between uplands and the sea, and opening out into wider lowland areas at either end.*
- *Estuaries – including those of the Rivers Loughor, Tawe, Neath and Ogmore.*
- *Extensive soft coastline - sand dunes and sweeping sandy beaches and lagoons. Kenfig dunes /lagoon have important species including fen orchid and medicinal leech.*
- *Relict, prehistoric and later period landscapes, successively buried by wind blown sand.*
- *Setting of steeply rising hills – in the central section around Port Talbot, and belonging to South Wales Valleys to the north*
- *Coal measures - beneath much of the area, but Triassic mudstones form the northern bank of the Ogmore Estuary.*
- *Limestone outcrops - near and Mumbles Porthcawl.*
- *Major glacial moraine deposits by estuaries e.g. Glais Moraine 1 mile long x 45m high*
- *Urban areas - dominated by the city of Swansea and the coalescing towns of Llanelli, Neath and Port Talbot. Swansea, with its strong architectural heritage and cultural importance forms a regional focus. Housing and business planned in large estates.*
- *Heavy industry – giant apparatus with large buildings and chimneys with steam issuing focussed at Port Talbot, with dominating visual and audible presence.*
- *Major transport corridor – with main road and rail lines linking settlements along the corridor, with associated movement, busyness and noise.*
- *Ports and docks – at major river estuaries. Historically the focus for industry but today regenerating and redesigning as post-industrial housing, education and leisure marinas.*
- *Historically strategic location - recognised early for good coal for industry and sea transport, and latterly by rail.*
- *Agriculture - in areas away from dunes and lagoons that have not been built on. Predominantly pasture for dairy, sheep or horse paddocks in regular, hedged fields. In the few remaining rural parts – the pattern is settlements along roads, with scattered stone or white/cream render farmsteads.⁶*

Regional/Local Landscape Character and LANDMAP

1.4.24. To ensure the LVIA focusses on potentially sensitive landscapes receptors within aspect areas most likely to be affected, a 4-step filtering process has been applied to the LANDMAP datasets to ascertain those that are required to be assessed within the LVIA. This has been carried out in accordance with NRW Guidance Note 046, 'Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, (LVIA),'

⁶ <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/682627/nlca38-swanea-bay-description.pdf?rmode=pad&v=1d35c9c5cd0fcd0>

(January 2021)⁷. The methodology used for the filtering exercise is summarised within Appendix A and aspect areas taken forward or eliminated from the LVIA are illustrated on *Figures 1.5 Geological Landscape Classification to 1.13 Historic Landscape*.

1.4.25. In addition to LANDMAP data, the following published Landscape Character Assessments have been produced that form the basis for the regional/local landscape character, supplemented with site surveys.

- *Landscape Character Assessment for Bridgend County Borough, Final Report Prepared by LUC July 2013.*
- *Vale of Glamorgan County borough council Designation of Landscape Character areas, Final report august 2008 TACP.*

1.4.26. *Figure 1.15 Landscape Character Areas* illustrates landscape character areas (LCA's) falling within the study area. Following site surveys, it is clear that the following LCAs will possess no or very minimal intervisibility with the Proposed Development site due to intervening vegetation and/or built form. They are also located on the periphery of the study area where any influence will be of limited scale due to distance. These LCAs will be 'scoped-out' of the LVIA and will not be considered any further.

- *LCA 10 Coity Rural Hinterland*
- *LCA 9 Cefn Cribwr Ridge and Settled Farmland*

Regional/Local Landscape Character Areas

1.4.27. The following Regional/Local LCAs extend into the study area and are illustrated on *Figure 1.14 Landscape Character Areas*. LANDMAP Aspect Areas filtered for assessment are also scheduled in the relevant table for each LCA:

LCA 01 Bridgend

Visual and Sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS726 - L	CYNONLH044- M	CYNONGL044 - H	CYNONHL675-M CYNONHL173-H CYNONHL973-O VLFGHL057 - O VLFGHL022 - O VLFGHL051- H	CYNONCLS085

Table 1: LANDMAP Aspect Areas Taken Forward for Assessment

1.4.28. This LCA comprises the urban area of Bridgend and extends across the northern section of the study area. It is an urban area dominated by housing, industry and major road and rail corridors. Views out to the wider rolling landscape are limited by built-form. Traffic noise from the motorway and the A473, A48 and A4061 provide a constant background noise throughout much of the urban area. The LANDMAP visual and sensory aspect layer description notes that Bridgend is an 'urban area with no

⁷ <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/using-landmap-in-landscape-and-visual-impact-assessments-gn46/?lang=en>

notable qualities, weak sense of place and unattractive urban views, with limited views out to the wider landscape, and noise from the many main roads.’ The LCA contains key transport corridors including the A48 Trunk Road that extends east to west around 200m to the north of the Proposed Development site. The built form/settlement and transport corridors are the key defining characteristics of the LCA and areas falling within the study area generally encompass the expansion of the town after the 1920s. It consists of a mix of housing, public buildings, shops and services, together with some industry.

1.4.29. Key Characteristics of this LCA are:

- Urban area dominated by housing, industry and major roads and rail corridors.
- Weak sense of place.
- Limited views out to the wider landscape.

LCA 02 Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS987- O VLFGVLS663 – O CYNONVS726- L	CYNONLH044- M	CYNONGL044 – H	CYNONHL973-O CYNONHL231 - O VLFGVHL051-H	-

Table 2: LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward for assessment

1.4.30. This LCA extends across the Proposed Development site and parts of the study area to the west. It comprises the farmland of an estate character around Merthyr Mawr village, as well as distinctive sand dunes and coastline of Merthyr Mawr Warren (within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast), that are found beyond the study area boundary.

1.4.31. The majority of the LCA falls within the Merthyr Mawr SLA. Other designations include Merthyr Mawr Warren SAC, SSSI and NNR, Newton Fault RIGS, several Scheduled Monuments, Merthyr Mawr village Conservation Area and the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Merthyr Mawr House. Much of the landscape is designated as of Outstanding Historic Importance.

1.4.32. Key relevant characteristics of this LCA are:

- Coastal landscape within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, dominated by the high sand dunes of Merthyr Mawr, reaching up to 80m AOD, backed by rolling estate farmland.
- Landscape drained by the River Ogmore along its southern boundary. Ground water aquifers within the limestone bedrock (emergency water supplies to local communities).
- Varied woodland pattern creating landscape interest, including small spinneys within the sand dunes, broadleaved woodland fringing the River Ogmore, mixed estate plantations and in-field parkland trees.
- Buildings within Merthyr Mawr village nestled within tree groups, frequently Scots Pine.

- Well-developed, loamy brown earths supporting predominantly pastoral farming, wood pasture and parkland, with some arable fields and wet meadows on the floodplain.
- Regular fields enclosed by estate stone walls, railings or low-cut hedges.
- Broadleaved estate plantations, patches of semi-natural woodland and remnant unimproved grasslands, many designated as SINCs.
- Historic and archaeological features of national importance including the Norman-origin Ogmores Castle (within the Vale of Glamorgan but strongly associated with this landscape), 14th century fortified manor house of Candleston Castle, Chapel Hill Iron Age hillfort, and the early medieval Vervil Dyke.
- Evidence beneath the dunes of occupation from the Neolithic period. Much is designated a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance.
- Grade II* Merthyr Mawr House and parkland, with pleasure grounds, specimen trees and estate plantations.
- Distinctive village and medieval church of Merthyr Mawr designated as a Conservation Area, including well-maintained stone cottages with thatched or slate roofs.
- Limestone local vernacular creating unity in the landscape – used in buildings, walls and bridges.
- Settlement limited to the historic nucleated village of Merthyr Mawr, with scattered farmsteads linked by minor rural lanes and tracks.
- A peaceful and strongly rural landscape on the doorsteps of Bridgend and Porthcawl, with important visual connections with the surrounding coast and seascapes.

LCA 03 Ewenny Valley

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVLS378 - H VLFGVLS663 - O			VLFGVHL022-O VLFGVHL034-H VLFGVHL051-H VLFGVHL057-O	

Table 3: LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward for assessment

- 1.4.33. This LCA extends centrally east to west through the study area. To the west, the River Ogmores joins the Ewenny at Ogmores and the valley continues in a south-westerly direction beyond the study area into the culturally and historically important landscape of Merthyr Mawr.
- 1.4.34. The Ewenny Valley LCA is part of an active lowland river system which forms a distinctive flood plain together with the adjacent valley sides which are visually interlinked. The LCA includes a range of riparian and lowland habitats including grasslands and woodlands, particularly on the valley sides.

Throughout the valley there are a number of historically important features, including Merthyr Mawr, Ogmore Castle and Ewenny Priory.

1.4.35. Key Characteristics of this LCA are:

- Lowland river system with a distinctive flood plain.
- Valley sides are visually interlinked.
- Culturally and historically important landscape of Merthyr Mawr.
- A range of riparian and lowland habitats including grasslands and woodlands, particularly on the valley sides.
- Historically important features, including Merthyr Mawr, Ogmore Castle and Ewenny Priory

LCA 04 Ogmore Down

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVLVS663 – O VLFGVLVS890 – O			VLFGHLHL034 - H VLFGHLHL036 - O	

Table 4: LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward for assessment

1.4.36. This LCA comprises an area of open, rolling heathland and a golf course on an elevated ridgeline abutting the Ewenny valley, rising to an elevation approaching 100m AOD. Its key feature is that, notwithstanding the presence of the golf course and a visually dominating clubhouse and associated car park, it remains the largest area of heath in the Vale area, comprising a mosaic of dry heath and acid grassland. The area is of high nature conservation value as identified in the LBAP. In addition to the heathland habitats, there are areas of less important grasslands associated with the golf course. To the east of the LCA, there is also the Pont Alun Quarry, which together with the sharply defined Pant St Bridge valley dissects the ridge. In certain locations, the artificial nature of the golf fairways and greens dominate the views, but its presence contributes to the retention of the heathland. The area has a sense of openness and exposure, and its tranquillity is affected by quarry vehicles.

1.4.37. Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Open, exposed, rolling heathland.
- Recreational value through golf course and long-distance footpath.
- Nature conservation value due to mosaic of dry heath and grassland.
- Tranquillity reduced by quarry traffic, visually dominating golf club house.

LCA 05 Northern Vale Lias Slopes

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVLS378- H			VLFGHL022-O VLFGHL034-H VLFGHL051-H	

Table 5: LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward for assessment

1.4.38. This LCA comprises an expanse of open, rolling agricultural land rising to 100m AOD and extending east across the southern section of the study area. It is underlain by the broad Lias ridge that extends through this part of the Vale. It includes a range of terrestrial dry lowland habitats including areas of neutral and improved grassland and marshy habitats in lower-lying areas. There are also some woodlands predominantly along the Ewenny Valley including at Tan-y-Lan, Cae Coed and at Ruthin. The LCA is typified by a landscape of medium to large fields with hedgerows and trees. The lack of extensive areas of woodland allows for a high level of intervisibility within and out across the wider landscape. These distant views detract from the character of the area, particularly those to Bridgend and Waterton which brings an urban feel to the area.

1.4.39. Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- An expanse of open rolling lowland rising to 100m AOD.
- Agricultural land defined by medium to large fields with hedgerows and trees
- A range of terrestrial dry lowland habitats including areas of neutral and improved grassland and marshy habitats in lower lying areas.
- High level of intervisibility within and out across the wider landscape. Distant views detract from the character of the area, particularly those to Bridgend and Waterton which brings an urban feel to the area

LCA 06 Afan and St Brides Valleys

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVLS378 - H VLFGVLS663 - O			VLFGHL034 - H VLFGHL051 - H	

Table 6: LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward for assessment

1.4.40. This LCA comprises a small, confined area of steep-sided valleys incised into the limestone plateau and draining into the Ewenny Valley. The LCA is densely wooded and there are associated riparian habitats with the Afon Alun which runs through the valley. The LCA is narrow, V-shaped incised valleys cut into the limestone plateau running from 80 to 13 m AOD. The area is isolated, secluded, and distinctive and despite the presence of the Bridgend Barry railway along its length it still has a strong sense of

place. The small river and its associated footbridges and fords add to this. The St Brides Valley is equally steep sided but more open in terms of vegetation with rough pasture / bracken giving over to grazing. Both valleys show evidence of quarrying, both active and disused.

1.4.41. Key Characteristics of this LCA are:

- Steep-sided incised valleys, high sense of enclosure.
- Sense of isolation
- Strong/distinctive sense of place
- Densely wooded with riparian habitats.

LCA 07 Lias Plateau

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
			VLFGHL036-O	

Table 7: LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward for assessment

1.4.42. This LCA comprises a broad, low dissected plateau which exhibits little visual, sensory or physical evidence of proximity to the coast. The plateau is dissected by a number of small streams that flow into the adjacent lowland valleys of the Thaw and the Ewenny. There is typically a mosaic of lowland habitats amongst the intensively farmed landscape, including hedgerows, hedgerow trees, streams and ditches with scattered small blocks of woodland. The landscape is open and rolling predominantly arable farmland with a mixture of medium and large field sizes set in a matrix of hedgerows with hedgerow trees. The main settlements are Wick, Colwinston and Llysworney and there are scattered farmsteads throughout the LCA. These are subject to development pressures evidenced by urban detailing in new developments near villages and inappropriate conversions at some farms.

1.4.43. Key characteristics of this LCA are:

- Mosaic of lowland habitats amongst the intensively farmed landscape, including hedgerows, hedgerow trees, streams and ditches with scattered small blocks of woodland
- Open and rolling arable farmland
- Settled landscape with scattered farmsteads and small settlements
- Medium and large field sizes set in a matrix of hedgerows with hedgerow trees

LCA 08 Newton Down Limestone Plateau

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS726- L		CYNONGL044 – H	CYNONHL675-M	CYNONCLS085

Table 8: LANDMAP Aspect Areas taken forward for assessment

1.4.44. This LCA comprises a distinctive elevated limestone plateau defined by a steep scarp slope to the south and west. It is a gently undulating landscape of intensively-farmed, medium and small-sized fields enclosed by closely trimmed hedgerows. The LCA is softened by the presence of parkland trees, retaining an estate character. There are also occasional mixed and broadleaved plantations on prominent ridges. There are dispersed farms linked by minor roads and tracks, fringing onto dense development at Bridgend.

1.4.45. Key relevant characteristics of this LCA are

- Gently undulating plateau, with occasional hill summits rising to just over 100m AOD.
- Intensively farmed landscape softened by the presence of parkland trees, retaining an estate character.
- Mixed and broadleaved plantations on prominent ridgelines.
- Improved pasture with some fields of arable cultivation.
- Closely trimmed hedgerows or walls dividing a regular pattern of medium-large fields on the plateau, becoming smaller and more irregular on slopes.
- A lightly settled landscape fringing onto dense development at Bridgend.
- Dispersed farms linked by minor roads and tracks.
- Local vernacular of limestone buildings with slate roofs

Baseline Visual Conditions

Visual Appraisal of Study Area

1.4.46. Figure 1.1ZTV Viewpoint Locations has been produced for the Proposed Development and indicates broad areas where all or parts of the Proposed Development may be theoretically visible from within the study area. It has been established using software that recognises a bare-earth 3D model but excludes the modifying influence of vegetation and built-form. The ZTV provides a useful tool to establish the likely 'worst-case' extent of visibility of the Proposed Development within the study area and to identify areas where any visibility will not occur and where any impacts can be excluded or scoped out at an early stage.

1.4.47. The ZTV indicates that visibility of the Proposed Development within the study area can be excluded from:

- Land to the east of the study area falling within the Ewenny valley, extending broadly from Ewenny to Waterton. The Proposed Development site is enclosed by a tongue of higher land that provides visual enclosure along the eastern edge.
- Lower-lying parts of the Ogmore Valley and its tributaries, to the north of the study area, falling predominantly within the urban setting of Bridgend.
- Land to the south of the study area that falls broadly beyond the ridgeline of elevated land extending along the Northern Vale Lias Plateau from the south-east around to Ogmore Down to the south-west.
- Land falling within the Alun and St Brides valleys to the south of the study area. These valleys are sharply incised, well-wooded and visually enclosed.

1.4.48. *Figure 1.1 ZTV Viewpoint Locations* indicates that visibility would theoretically be available widely across lower-lying and undulating areas of the Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Ewenny Valley to the south and the north facing slopes of Ogmore Down and Northern Vale Lias Plateau to the south and southwest. Areas where theoretical visibility exists were subject to further field and desk-based investigations to establish the extent to which existing vegetation and built form would modify potential visibility. Notably the areas of visibility illustrated across more elevated parts of Bridgend to the north can be eliminated from the assessment due to the degree of visual containment from both built-form and vegetation.

1.4.49. A total of five viewpoints were identified to illustrate typical representative views towards the Proposed Development site. The locations of these viewpoints are listed in Table 9 below and indicated on *Figure 1.1 ZTV Viewpoint Locations*. The existing views are illustrated on *Figures 1.15 VP1 Island Farm Close* to *1.19 VMH Trail, Tair Croes*.

Table 9: Viewpoint locations

VP no.	Location	Easting	Northing	Reason for inclusion
1	Island Farm Close	290236	178466	Close-range views from the north that are representative of residents and highway users, (including cyclists, pedestrians, vehicle users) within the vicinity of the viewpoint.
2	New Inn Road	289740	177879	Close-range views from the south/south-east, representative of highway users, (including cyclists, pedestrians, vehicle users).
3	Ogmore Castle	288181	176983	Distant views from the south-west from a popular tourist and historic monument, a designated landscape (SLA and Area of Outstanding Historic Interest) strategically located adjacent to the Wales Coast Path. The views

				are representative of users of tourists and recreational visitors, users of the long-distance route, travelers on the nearby road.
4	Old Castle Down	290009	175782	Middle range views from the south from elevated land, representative of users of the Bridgend Circular Walk and open access land.
5	Valeways Millenium Heritage (VMH) Trail, Tair Croes	291677	176474	Middle-distance views from the south west, representative of users of the VMH Trail.

Viewpoint Descriptions – Existing views

Viewpoint 1: Island Farm Close.

1.4.50. This viewpoint is located around 80m to the north of the Proposed Development site (OS grid reference 290236, 178466), on a public highway providing access to a residential development of detached properties set around a cul-de-sac. The viewpoint is representative of residents on Island Farm Close as well as travellers to the estate, primarily vehicle drivers and passengers but also cyclists and pedestrians on the footways.

1.4.51. Within the foreground of available views south are a series of two-storey detached properties set back from the highway within large gardens and driveways. The buildings are aligned generally on an east to west axis with views and general visual amenity typically contained and filtered by garden boundary hedgerow and tree planting. Beyond the buildings and garden hedges at the southern boundary of the cul-de-sac is a timber close-boarded fence. Above the fence, a glimpse view extends south more distantly to the wooded valley slope enclosing the Ewenny Valley, albeit with some containment by intervening vegetation located along the western boundary of the Bridgend Science Park. Detractors within the view include traffic/cars, lighting, signage, hard surfaces and boundary treatments typical of an urban environment.

Viewpoint 2: New Inn Road

1.4.52. This viewpoint is located around 200m to the south-west of the Proposed Development site on New Inn Road, a minor highway extending between Ewenny to the south-east and the A48 at Bridgend to the north-west, (OS grid reference 289740, 177879). The viewpoint is representative of travellers using the route, including drivers and passengers in vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

1.4.53. The view extends north-east from a gateway across farmland comprising arable fields defined by low uniform, well-maintained hedgerows. The landform rises gently to the north and north-east and in the middle distance, beyond the Proposed Development site, woodland and tree planting constrains visibility and provides a strong sense of enclosure to the views in this direction. Elsewhere, to the south of the viewpoint, views extend across the Ewenny valley to the wooded higher land at Old Castle Down and south-west to Ogmor Down. In the foreground of the view north-east, there is a temporary soil mound, but beyond this, the view extends openly across the majority of Proposed Development site. Amongst the woodland and trees in the middle distance, there are glimpses of buildings including housing along the southern edge of Bridgend and at Island Farm Close, and commercial buildings at the

Bridgend Science Park. Detractors also include pylons and cables extending east to west across the fields in the foreground and on the distant skyline to the north, wind turbines are visible. There are also some smaller-scale detractors visible in the near distance, including telegraph poles to the east, agricultural fences and traffic intermittently.

Viewpoint 3: Ogmore Castle

1.4.54. This viewpoint is located around 2.4km to the south-west of the Proposed Development site, within the grounds of Ogmore Castle (OS grid reference 288181, 176983). This is a popular tourist destination and a historic monument designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). The viewpoint is also located adjacent to the Wales Coast Path that extends through an area of Open Access Land (CRoW Act) and near a facility offering recreational equestrian activities, (Ogmore Farm). The adjacent areas are designated as the Merthyr Mawr Warren Special Landscape Area's (SLA) and the Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. The viewpoint is representative of typical views that visitors to the Castle may experience as well as recreational visitors to the equestrian facilities, the Wales Coast Path and areas of Open Access Land and the views will be a primary contributor to the experience.

1.4.55. The Castle is located on a bluff above the River Ogmore and commands panoramic views across the valley floor, from the south-west extending around to the north-east, from this elevated position. To the south of the viewpoint, the landform rises sharply to the enclosing high-point of Ogmore Down (82m AOD) and the wooded slopes provide an attractive backcloth to the scene. The foreground of the view elsewhere across the valley, is dominated by the meandering Ewenny River, adding considerable movement and interest. Beyond the river, the view extends north across the open, grazed pasture on the valley floor with some relict overgrown hedgerows. Beyond this open and flat landscape, the Afon Ogwr/River Ogmore is partially visible in the middle-distance set amongst riparian woodland. Views to the north-west extend more widely along the Ogmore valley, albeit strongly filtered by some tall hedges, trees and woodland. The views are highly picturesque throughout although there are some visual detractors including pylons, some glimpses of buildings amongst woodland at/around Merthyr Mawr and intermittent traffic using the nearby B4524 road.

Viewpoint 4: Old Castle Down

1.4.56. This viewpoint is located around 2.5 km to the south of the Proposed Development site (OS grid reference 290009, 175782) on the high point of Old Castle Down (102m AOD). This viewpoint is within the SLA an area of Open Access Land (CRoW Act) and adjacent to a section of the long-distance footpath of the Bridgend Circular Walk and is representative of recreational users of the footpath and the open access land.

1.4.57. The viewpoint offers open panoramic views north over the Ewenny Valley and extending across the urban development at Bridgend to the enclosing hills to the north. The Proposed Development site is visible in the middle-distance, strongly contained by development set amongst woodland, including the residential development at Island Farm Close and some buildings at the Bridgend Science Park and extending south along Ewenny Road. Nearer to the viewpoint, buildings within the village of Ewenny are also visible, again set amongst woodland and trees. Elsewhere within the panoramic view more to the east over the Vale of Glamorgan, the landscape is largely rural in character with a mosaic of fields with hedges and trees visible on the valley floor. Within the foreground of the views, land-use comprises a more open mix of upland grassland with bracken and scrub on steeper slopes. Detractors within the

view include the widespread mixed scale, urban development at Bridgend as well some visibility of pylons and other infrastructure, including wind turbines on the distant hillside and skyline to the north. Although not notably visible, awareness of large-scale quarrying at the nearby limestone quarries at Litalum and Pant is also evident through noise and dust, and this detracts from the sense of tranquillity and remoteness.

Viewpoint 5: VHM Trail, Tair Croes

- 1.4.58. This viewpoint is located around 2.4 km to the south-east of the Proposed Development site (OS grid reference 291677, 176474) on the relative high point of Tair Cross (96m AOD). This viewpoint is on a section of the long-distance footpath of the VHM Trail and is representative of recreational users of the footpath. The cycle route of NCR 88 passes along the lane near to the viewpoint and cyclists may also experience glimpses of the view through gaps in the hedge.
- 1.4.59. The viewpoint offers open panoramic views north over the Ewenny Valley, extending widely across southern parts of Bridgend. The Proposed Development site is hidden amongst woodland extending along Ewenny Road in the middle-distance. Beyond the Proposed Development site to the north and east, Bridgend is widely visible extending broadly into the distance with the enclosing hills to the rear providing an attractive backdrop. Along the southern edge of Bridgend, the larger-scale commercial units at Bridgend Industrial Estate are notable detracting features as well as a wind farm on the hills to the north. Existing development elsewhere in Bridgend appears smaller in scale and the town appears to have strong matrix of woodland and trees that softens the appearance. Nearer to the viewpoint, the landscape is largely rural in character with a mosaic of fields with hedges and on the valley floor the Ewenny River is set in a strong corridor of riparian woodland. Detractors within the view include the widespread urban development at Bridgend, wind turbines, pylons, electricity poles and other infrastructure.

1.5. Inherent Design Mitigation

- 1.5.1. During the course of the EIA, the layout of the Proposed Development has evolved through an iterative assessment and design process. Mitigation measures used to avoid or reduce landscape and visual effects have been considered as part of this process and are illustrated on the *Landscape GA Plan* (HER-HLM-ZZ-ZZ-D-L-0004 HLM Architects) and the *Soft Landscape Strategy* (HER-HLM-ZZ-ZZ-D-L-450001 HLM Architects) .
- 1.5.2. Mitigation during the Construction stage will be developed through implementation of a CEMP and will likely include:
 - Use of site hoardings to reduce local visibility of construction activities.
 - Construction works sensitively programmed to minimise extent of construction activity and equipment on site at any one time
 - Implementation of advanced key structural planting early in the construction programme, to allow for establishment and maximise screening effects during construction and operation, where feasible.

1.6. Construction Stage Effects.

1.6.1. This section considers potential effects likely to occur during the construction phase of the development. These will generally be of lower magnitude overall than those of the operational phase, predominantly due to the temporary nature of the construction phase. However, as outlined taller elements such as cranes, piling rigs or cement silos are more visually prominent than the operational Proposed Development, but will be likely to occur over a very limited duration.

1.6.2. In all cases, construction effects will be considered to be adverse in nature.

1.6.3. The following typical construction activities are likely to occur:

- Ground remediation and ground excavation works, including clearance works, topsoil stripping, levelling and cut and fill activities.
- Establishment of site compounds and facilities.
- Movement and storage of plant, equipment and construction materials both within and to the site,
- Erection of construction infrastructure (e.g., mobile cranes, piling rigs, etc).
- Installation of site services and utilities.
- Construction of roads, car parks and buildings, involving the use of taller more visible cranes, piling operations and other machinery.

Construction Stage – Direct Landscape effects.

1.6.4. The direct impact of the construction phase of the development will be the temporary imposition of a construction site within the Proposed Development site. The existing agricultural grassland and some patches of bramble scrub and topsoil will be removed and the construction area defined with temporary fencing. Existing trees and hedges to be retained will be enclosed by temporary protective fencing during these operations and will be largely unaffected. Topsoil and pasture will be stripped and stored in temporary mounds for reuse within the site where possible.

1.6.5. The value and susceptibility attributed to the site-based former agricultural pasture and scrub habitat areas will be low. The sensitivity of this receptor will be very low.

1.6.6. The magnitude of impact will relate to the loss of former agricultural pasture and bramble scrub and is evaluated as very low and the significance will be negligible.

Construction Stage- Effects on Landscape Designations.

1.6.7. Key statutory and non-statutory landscape designations indicate the value attached to particular landscapes by national and local government, plus other agencies. Landscape designations are illustrated on *Figure 1.2 Statutory Landscape Designations* and *Figure 1.3 Non Statutory Landscape Designations*.

1.6.8. There are no landscape designations extending across the Proposed Development site.

Statutory Designations

- 1.6.9. As identified in section 1.5.12, Statutory designated sites, (comprising two Registered Parks and Gardens within the study area, Merthyr Mawr (Grade II*) and Ewenny Priory (Grade II)) within the study area have been scoped out from assessment.

Non-Statutory Designations

Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

- 1.6.10. This designation extends to the south-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1km from the Proposed Development site boundary. The value of this designated landscape is evaluated as high to outstanding. The susceptibility, due the extent of vegetation, will be medium to low. The sensitivity of this receptor will be medium.
- 1.6.11. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the designation. However, the landscape is well-vegetated with woodland and trees and, in reality, visibility would be largely filtered and obscured so that any indirect influence on the setting of this designated landscape would be limited to the tallest construction activities, such as the use of piling rigs or cranes for example. Furthermore, these activities would be very limited in duration. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as very low, and the significance will be minor (not significant).

Laleston SLA

- 1.6.12. This designation extends to the north-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 2.1km from the Proposed Development site boundary. The value of this designated landscape is evaluated as high. The susceptibility of this relatively open landscape will be medium. The sensitivity of this receptor will be medium-high.
- 1.6.13. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a limited proportion of the designation. However, in reality, any available visibility would be relatively distant. It would also be largely filtered and obscured by intervening vegetation, notably the woodland to the north-western edges of the Proposed Development site as well as built-form within Bridgend. It is considered that there would be little if any indirect influence on the setting of this designated landscape. The magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be minor (not significant).

Merthyr Mawr Warren SLA

- 1.6.14. This designation extends to the south-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 0.85km from the Proposed Development site boundary. The value of this designated landscape is evaluated as high. The susceptibility, due the extent of vegetation, will be medium to low. The sensitivity of this receptor will be medium.
- 1.6.15. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the designation. However, the landscape is well-vegetated with woodland and trees and, in reality, visibility would be largely filtered. It is considered that any indirect influence on the setting of this designated landscape would be limited to the tallest construction activities, such as the use of piling rigs or cranes for example. Furthermore, these activities would be very limited in duration. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as very low, and the significance will be minor (not significant).

Castle Upon Alun SLA

- 1.6.16. This designation extends to the south of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1km from the Proposed Development site boundary. The value of this designated landscape is evaluated as high. The susceptibility, due the extent of vegetation, will be low. The sensitivity of this receptor will be medium.
- 1.6.17. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a limited proportion of the designation. Lower lying sections of the designated landscape are well-vegetated with woodland and trees and, in reality, visibility would be largely filtered and obscured. Any indirect influence in these locations on the setting of this designated landscape would be limited to very occasional glimpse views of the tallest construction activities, such as the use of piling rigs or cranes for example. From elevated locations, such as at Old Castle Down, (i.e. *Figure 1.19 VP 4 Old Castle Down*), construction operations would have a more perceptible influence but would form a relatively small component of the wider panoramic views to the north. In this context, is considered that the construction activities visible would not be incongruous with the influence of the wider urban context of Bridgend, that spreads widely beyond the Proposed Development site to the north.
- 1.6.18. Furthermore, these activities would be very limited in duration. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).

Construction Stage – Effects on National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA's).

NLCA36 Vale of Glamorgan

- 1.6.19. The Proposed Development site will be located entirely within this NLCA. This broad landscape has a wide range of attributes and characteristics at a strategic level and is considered to have a medium value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will, therefore, be medium to low.
- 1.6.20. The replacement of open areas within the Proposed Development site, comprising a former agricultural field with construction activities will result in some direct reduction in the rural character and a slight increase in the influence of built development within the confines of the Proposed Development site and some indirect impacts beyond this locally. However, the strong network of hedges, trees and woodland will be largely retained and will help to reduce awareness of construction operations beyond the site in this broadly enclosed landscape. In the context of the scale and extent of the NLCA, the magnitude of impact will be negligible. The significance will be negligible (not significant).

NLCA38 Swansea Bay

- 1.6.21. This NLCA extends to the west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 0.6km from the Proposed Development site boundary. This broad landscape has a wide range of attributes and characteristics at a strategic level and is considered to have a medium value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will, therefore, be medium to low.
- 1.6.22. The taller construction activities will again have an indirect influence across some parts of the rural farmland that extends into study area although it is likely that the well vegetated nature of the landscape will help to reduce the influence. In the context of the scale and extent of the NLCA, the magnitude of impact will be negligible. The significance will be negligible (not significant).

Construction Stage – Effects on Regional/Local Landscape Character and LANDMAP

LCA 01 Bridgend

- 1.6.23. The Proposed Development is located entirely within this LCA. This landscape has key characteristics relating to urban development and transport corridors and is considered to have a low value and a low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be low.
- 1.6.24. This urban LCA extends across a large part of the Study Area to the north and the ZTV indicates that the construction phase activities are theoretically likely to have some indirect influences beyond the site boundary. Any indirect influence beyond the site boundary will, however, in reality be highly constrained by the extent of built form and vegetation. At a more local level, the construction activities will directly strengthen the key characteristics relating to urban development within the Proposed Development site and extend the influence of this into undeveloped or open areas that fall within the LCA. However, it is expected that the fabric of retained hedge, trees and woodland enclosing the site will assist in absorbing construction activities into the landscape. The magnitude of the impact overall will be low. The significance will be minor (not significant).

LCA 02 Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline

- 1.6.25. This LCA extends to the west and south-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 0.1 km from the Proposed Development site boundary. It comprises farmland of an estate character and possesses key valued characteristics relating to its historic aspects and is a peaceful and strongly rural landscape on the doorsteps of Bridgend. The LCA within the extents of the study area is well vegetated with a strong fabric of hedges together with broadleaved estate plantations, patches of semi-natural woodland. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.
- 1.6.26. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the LCA within the extents of the study area. However, the landscape is well-vegetated with woodland and trees and in reality, visibility would be largely filtered and obscured. Any indirect influence on the key rural characteristics and other values including the historic landscapes and features would be limited with only the tallest construction activities, such as the use of piling rigs or cranes for example, likely to be experienced occasionally. The influence would, however, increase in proximity to the Proposed Development site to the east, where lower-level activities including site cabins, hoarding and traffic may be experienced. However, these activities would be very limited in scale and often intermittent in duration. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as low to very low, and the significance will be minor (not significant).

LCA 03 Ewenny Valley.

- 1.6.27. This LCA extends centrally east to west through the study area and at its closest point, is around 0.9 km from the Proposed Development site boundary. It comprises a well-wooded valley with a distinctive flood plain. There are historic features throughout, including Ogmere Castle and Ewenny Priory. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.
- 1.6.28. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the LCA within the extents of the study area. However, due to the extent and density of intervening woodland and trees, in reality, visibility would be largely filtered and obscured so that any indirect influence on the key rural characteristics and other values aspects including the historic landscapes and features would be limited with only the tallest construction activities, such as the use of piling rigs or cranes for

example, likely to be experienced very occasionally. However, these activities would be intermittent in duration. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as very low to negligible, and the significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).

LCA 04 Ogmere Down.

1.6.29. This LCA extends to the south-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 2km from the Proposed Development site boundary. It comprises an area of open, rolling heathland and a golf course on an elevated ridgeline abutting the Ewenny valley. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.

1.6.30. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a relatively limited proportion of the LCA within the extents of the study area. However, due to the extent and density of intervening woodland and trees along the steep north-facing slopes, any indirect influence would be limited to only the tallest construction activities, such as the use of piling rigs or cranes for example, likely to be experienced very occasionally and for a limited duration. Due to distance, the taller construction activities likely to be experienced intermittently would also be small in scale. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be negligible (not significant).

LCA 05 Northern Lias Slopes.

1.6.31. This LCA extends to the south-east of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1.5km from the Proposed Development site boundary. It comprises an area of open, rolling agricultural land, typically comprising a matrix of medium to large fields. The lack of extensive areas of woodland allows for, with a high level of intervisibility, including a detracting urban influence from Bridgend. The LCA is considered to have a medium value and a medium susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.

1.6.32. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the LCA within the extents of the study area. Taller construction activities are likely to be experienced intermittently, more from higher elevations beyond the intervening effect of trees and woodland but would also be small in scale due to distance. They would also be experienced in the context of urban development at Bridgend. On the lower-lying parts of the LCA to the north, there is a higher degree of enclosure from woodland, and it is unlikely that taller construction activities would have any influence on character. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be negligible (not significant).

LCA 06 Afan and St Brides Valleys.

1.6.33. This LCA extends to the south of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1.3 km from the Proposed Development site boundary. It comprises a small, confined area of wooded steep-sided valleys incised into the limestone plateau and draining into the Ewenny Valley. It also includes Old Castle Down, an open elevated upland heath offering panoramic views north. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.

1.6.34. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a relatively limited proportion of the LCA comprising the elevated Old Castle Down. Within the valleys there will be no influence from construction operations. However, from Old Castle Down there will be some indirect influence, likely to comprise activities including earthworks, compounds and site cabins, traffic and machinery as well as taller operations including cranes. Due to distance, however, the activities will likely be experienced intermittently as small-scale features set amongst a context of varied urban development within

Bridgend. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as very low, and the significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).

LCA 07 Lias Plateau.

- 1.6.35. This LCA is located on the southern edge of the study area and at its closest point, is around 2.5km from the Proposed Development site boundary. It comprises a broad, open rolling plateau with expanses of intensively managed farmland set amongst medium and large fields with hedges. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.
- 1.6.36. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a very limited proportion of the LCA comprising the agricultural fields adjoining Old Castle Down. This indirect influence is likely to comprise activities including earthworks, compounds and site cabins, traffic and machinery as well as taller operations including cranes. However, due to distance, the activities will likely be experienced intermittently as very small-scale features set amongst a context of varied urban development at Bridgend. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).

LCA 08 Newton Down Limestone Plateau.

- 1.6.37. This LCA is located to the west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1.9 km from the Proposed Development site boundary. It comprises an undulating plateau of fields on the western fringe of Bridgend. The LCA is considered to have a medium to low value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium to low.
- 1.6.38. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a limited proportion of the LCA. However, the areas falling within the ZTV are on the fringe of the urban area of Bridgend and any indirect influence will be limited to the tallest construction activities only. The LCA is also well-vegetated with trees, and the activities will likely be experienced very intermittently as very small-scale features set amongst a context of varied urban development at Bridgend. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).

Construction Stage – Visual Effects

- 1.6.39. Five viewpoints within the study area have been identified for an assessment of construction stage visual effects. These are described below.

Viewpoint 1: Island Farm Close

- 1.6.40. This viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.16 VP 1 Island Farm Close*, is located around 80m to the north of the Proposed Development site (OS grid reference 290236, 178466), on a public highway providing access to a residential development of detached properties set around a cul-de-sac. The viewpoint is representative of residents on Island Farm Close as well as travellers to the estate, primarily vehicle drivers and passengers but also cyclists and pedestrians on the footways. The viewpoint is located at a position where the views are locally valued and where they contribute to the setting of the area. The value is evaluated as medium to high. Visual receptors will be primarily residents of the properties. It is considered that the landscape within which the Proposed Development site is located will form an ancillary or secondary view and the susceptibility of the receptors is evaluated as medium. The sensitivity to change of the primary receptors will be medium to high.

- 1.6.41. It is predicted that some taller construction activities would be intermittently visible beyond the close-boarded timber boundary fence at the southern edge of the estate, such as cranes, piling rigs, scaffolding and other structures. Ground level operations and broadly, activities to the western portions of the Proposed Development would not be visible from the viewpoint due to intervening vegetation and buildings.
- 1.6.42. The taller construction operations would be viewed at close distance and would form a visually apparent and prominent new element within a narrow proportion of the view south from the viewpoint. The activities will likely be seen intermittently and for a relatively short duration and activities at ground level will be obscured by the intervening boundary fence. From the viewpoint construction operations occurring within the western portion of the site will be obscured. The construction activities will be viewed in combination with a variety of detractors in the foreground including traffic/cars, lighting, signage, hard surfaces and boundary treatments typical of an urban environment. It is considered that visible construction activities will not be visually incongruous and there may be some degree of integration with existing components. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium to low.
- 1.6.43. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high, and the magnitude of visual impact is medium to low. Effects are, therefore, considered to be moderate (significant).

Viewpoint 2: New Inn Road

- 1.6.44. This Viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.17 VP 2 New Inn Road*, is located around 200m to the south-west of the Proposed Development site on New Inn Road, a minor highway extending between Ewenny to the south-east and the A48 at Bridgend to the north-west, (OS grid reference 289740, 177879). The viewpoint is located at a position where the views are not recognised or associated with a designated landscape or feature. The view is not provided for in terms of any facilities and the views towards the Proposed Development site are secondary and oblique. The value of the viewpoint is evaluated as low. Visual receptors will be road users, including drivers and passengers in vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, whose attention will not be focused on the surrounding landscape. The susceptibility of the receptors is evaluated as low. The sensitivity to change of the receptors will be low.
- 1.6.45. It is predicted that construction activities, likely to include visibility of site hoardings, cabins and traffic and machinery and taller activities, would be visible across the southern and western sections of the Proposed Development site. There would be some temporary screening provided by the existing soil mound in the foreground.
- 1.6.46. The construction activities would be visible in the middle-distance of the view and are likely to be perceived as a contrasting and prominent feature within the rural scene. However, the views from the road would be oblique to the direction of flow and given the degree of roadside vegetation, including hedges and trees, would be glimpsed in nature. The construction activities will be viewed in combination with some detractors including the pylons extending across the foreground of the view. It is considered that visible construction activities will be visually incongruous and prominent but will be of limited duration and some activities will be intermittent. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium.
- 1.6.47. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as low, and the magnitude of visual impact will be medium to high. Effects are, therefore, considered to be moderate to minor (not significant).

Viewpoint 3: Ogmere Castle

- 1.6.48. This viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.18 VP 3 Ogmere Castle*, is located around 2.4km to the south-west of the Proposed Development site, within the grounds of Ogmere Castle. This is a popular tourist destination and a historic monument designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). The viewpoint is also located adjacent to the Wales Coast Path that extends through an area of Open Access Land (CRoW Act) and near a facility offering recreational equestrian activities, (Ogmere Farm). The adjacent areas are designated as the Merthyr Mawr Warren Special Landscape Area's (SLA) and the Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. The value of the viewpoint is evaluated as medium to high. The viewpoint is representative of typical views that visitors to the Castle may experience as well as recreational visitors to the equestrian facilities, the Wales Coast Path and areas of Open Access Land and the views will be a primary contributor to the experience. The susceptibility of the receptors is evaluated as high. The sensitivity to change will be high.
- 1.6.49. It is predicted that some taller construction activities, such as cranes and possibly piling rigs or other structures may be visible within the Proposed Development site.
- 1.6.50. The taller construction activities would be very intermittently visible within the distant and panoramic views to the north-west. However, due to the extent intervening vegetation along the Ogmere/Ewenny valleys, it is likely that any construction activities visible will be largely imperceptible within the picturesque scene and there would be no marked effect on the overall quality of the view. It is considered that the existing view will remain intact. The magnitude of impact is assessed as very low to negligible.
- 1.6.51. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high, and the magnitude of visual impact will be very low to negligible. Effects are, therefore, considered to be minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 4: Old Castle Down

- 1.6.52. This viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.19 VP 4 Old Castle Down*, is located around 2.5km to the south of the Proposed Development site on the high point of Old Castle Down (102m AOD). This viewpoint is within Castle Upon Alun SLA, an area of Open Access Land (CRoW Act) and adjacent to a section of the long-distance footpath of the Bridgend Circular Walk. The value of the viewpoint is evaluated as medium-high. The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the footpath and the open access land, and the susceptibility is evaluated as medium-high. The sensitivity to change will be medium to high.
- 1.6.53. It is predicted that from this elevated position, most construction activities, including activities at ground level, site hoarding and cabins, scaffolding, cranes and piling rigs, would be visible within the Proposed Development site.
- 1.6.54. The construction activities would be visible from this open and elevated position as a perceptible component of the wider panoramic views to the north. It is likely that the construction activities visible will not be incongruous with the wider urban context of Bridgend, spreading widely beyond the Proposed Development site to the north. It is considered that there would be no marked effect on the overall quality of the view, despite the slight loss of rural land to edge of urban areas. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low to negligible.

- 1.6.55. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high, and the magnitude of visual impact will be low to negligible. Effects are, therefore, considered to be minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 5: VMH Trail, Tair Cross

- 1.6.56. This viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.20 VMH Trail, Tair Croes*, is located around 2.4km to the south-east of the Proposed Development site on the relative high point of Tair Cross (96m AOD). This viewpoint is on a section of the long-distance footpath of the VHM Trail. In addition, National Cycle Route (NCR) 88 passes along a minor road to the south. The value of the viewpoint is evaluated as medium. It is representative of recreational users of the footpath where views of the landscape are likely to be a primary reason for the visit. The susceptibility is evaluated as medium to high. The sensitivity to change will be medium to high.
- 1.6.57. It is predicted that from this elevated position, taller construction activities, such as cranes and piling rigs, may be visible within the Proposed Development site.
- 1.6.58. Taller construction activities, (and depending on the relative height of the activity compared to the intervening woodland canopy height), may be partially visible from this open and elevated position above intervening woodland and trees along the eastern boundary of the site. Due to the distance and the extent of urban development at Bridgend widely visible in the views, the construction activities would likely be perceptible but would have no discernible impact on the panoramic views. Furthermore, it is likely that the construction activities visible will not be incongruous with the wider urban context of Bridgend, spreading widely beyond the Proposed Development site to the north. The magnitude of impact is assessed as very low to negligible.
- 1.6.59. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high, and the magnitude of visual impact will be very low to negligible. Effects are, therefore, considered to be minor to negligible, (not significant).

1.7. Operational Stage Effects

- 1.7.1. This section considers potential effects likely to occur during the operational phase of the development. These will generally be of higher magnitude overall than those of the construction phase, predominantly due to the longer term or permanent nature of the operational phase.
- 1.7.2. In all cases operational stage effects will be considered to be adverse in nature.

Operational Stage Landscape Effects - Direct

- 1.7.3. The direct impact of the operational phase will be the permanent imposition of the Proposed Development within the site. Areas of existing agricultural fields and some scrub habitat will be replaced with the educational buildings, residential dwellings and external facilities, including play areas, sports pitch, car parking and highway access. The Proposed Development includes proposals for extensive planting and seeding to supplement the existing retained green infrastructure surrounding the site.
- 1.7.4. The value and susceptibility attributed to the site-based former agricultural pasture and scrub habitat areas will be low. The sensitivity of this receptor will be very low.
- 1.7.5. The magnitude of impact will relate to the replacement of the fields and some limited areas of scrub habitat (following the construction operations) with the educational development. Topsoil and subsoil

stripped and stored during the construction stages within areas subject to development will be reused throughout the site. Within the confines of the site, there will be a pronounced degree of change and the magnitude is considered overall to be very high. The significance will, therefore, be moderate (significant).

Operational Stage- Effects on Landscape Designations.

- 1.7.6. Key statutory and non-statutory landscape designations indicate the value attached to particular landscapes by national and local government, plus other agencies. Landscape designations are illustrated on *Figure 12.1 Landscape Designations*.

- 1.7.7. There are no landscape designations extending across the Proposed Development site.

Statutory Designations

- 1.7.8. As identified in section 1.5.12, Statutory designated sites, (comprising two Registered Parks and Gardens within the study area, Merthyr Mawr (Grade II*) and Ewenny Priory (Grade II)) within the study area have been scoped out from assessment.

Non-Statutory Designations

Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

- 1.7.9. This designation extends to the south-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1km from the Proposed Development site boundary. The value of this designated landscape is evaluated as high to outstanding. The susceptibility, due the extent of vegetation, will be medium to low. The sensitivity of this receptor will be medium.
- 1.7.10. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the designation. However, the landscape is well-vegetated with woodland and trees and in reality, visibility would be largely filtered and obscured. Any indirect influence on the setting of this designated landscape would be intermittent and largely limited to occasional glimpsed views of the taller elevations of the school building only. At locations nearer to the Proposed Development, along the north-eastern edge of the designation, it is possible that there may be an increased influence from the Proposed Development. It is possible that lower lying elements such as perimeter fencing, traffic and lower sections of the building elevations would have an influence, although again there would be filtering and screening intermittently from vegetation. This would include some softening by tree planting proposed within the site. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as low, and the significance will be moderate to minor (not significant).

Laleston SLA

- 1.7.11. This designation extends to the north-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 2.1km from the Proposed Development site boundary. The value of this designated landscape is evaluated as high. The susceptibility of this relatively open landscape will be medium. The sensitivity of this receptor will be medium-high.
- 1.7.12. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a limited proportion of the designation. However, in reality, any potential visibility would be relatively distant. It would also be largely filtered and obscured by intervening vegetation, notably the woodland to the north-western edges of the Proposed Development site as well as built-form within Bridgend. It is considered that there would be

little if any indirect influence on the setting of this designated landscape. The magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be minor (not significant).

Merthyr Mawr Warren SLA

- 1.7.13. This designation extends to the south-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 0.85km from the Proposed Development site boundary. The value of this designated landscape is evaluated as high. The susceptibility, due the extent of vegetation, will be medium to low. The sensitivity of this receptor will be medium.
- 1.7.14. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the designation. However, the landscape is well-vegetated with woodland and trees and in reality, visibility would be largely filtered and obscured. It is considered that indirect influence on the setting of this designated landscape would be intermittent and largely limited to occasional glimpsed views of the taller elevations of the school building only. At locations nearer to the Proposed Development, along the north-eastern edges of the designation, it is possible that there may be an increased influence from the Proposed Development. It is possible that lower lying elements such as perimeter fencing, traffic and lower sections of the building elevations would have an influence, although again there would be filtering and screening intermittently from vegetation. This would include some softening by tree planting proposed within the site. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as low and the significance will be moderate to minor (not significant).

Castle Upon Alun SLA

- 1.7.15. This designation extends to the south of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1km from the Proposed Development site boundary. The value of this designated landscape is evaluated as high. The susceptibility, due the extent of vegetation, will be low. The sensitivity of this receptor will be medium.
- 1.7.16. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a limited proportion of the designation. Lower lying sections of the designated landscape are well-vegetated with woodland and trees and in reality, visibility would be largely filtered and obscured. Any indirect influence in these locations on the setting of this designated landscape would be limited to very occasional glimpse views of the taller building elevations. From elevated locations, such as at Old Castle Down, (i.e. *Figure 1.18 VP 4 Old Castle Down*), the Proposed Development would have a more perceptible influence, with buildings and hard surfaces with traffic likely to be visible. However, it would form a relatively small component of the wider panoramic views to the north. In this context, is considered that the Proposed Development would not be incongruous with the influence of the wider urban context of Bridgend, spreading widely beyond the Proposed Development site to the north.
- 1.7.17. The magnitude of impact is evaluated as very low, and the significance will be minor (not significant).

Operational Stage Effects – Effects on National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA's).

NLCA36 Vale of Glamorgan

- 1.7.18. The Proposed Development site will be located entirely within this NLCA. This broad landscape has a wide range of attributes and characteristics at a strategic level and is considered to have a medium value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will, therefore, be medium to low.
- 1.7.19. The replacement of open areas within the Proposed Development site, comprising a former agricultural field with the Proposed Development will result in some direct reduction in the rural character and a

slight increase in the influence of built development within the confines of the Proposed Development site and some indirect impacts beyond this locally. However, the strong network of hedges, trees and woodland will be largely retained and will help to reduce awareness of the Proposed Development beyond the site in this broadly enclosed landscape. In the context of the scale and extent of the NLCA, the magnitude of impact will be negligible. The significance of effects will be negligible (not significant).

NLCA38 Swansea Bay

- 1.7.20. This NLCA extends to the west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 0.6km from the Proposed Development site boundary. This broad landscape has a wide range of attributes and characteristics at a strategic level and is considered to have a medium value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will, therefore, be medium to low.
- 1.7.21. The taller building elevations will have an indirect influence across some parts of the rural farmland that extends into study area although it is likely that the well vegetated nature of the landscape will help to reduce the influence of the Proposed Development. In the context of the scale and extent of the NLCA, the magnitude of impact will be negligible. The significance will be negligible (not significant).

Operational Stage – Effects on Regional/Local Landscape Character and LANDMAP

LCA 01 Bridgend

- 1.7.22. The Proposed Development is located entirely within this LCA. This landscape has key characteristics relating to urban development and transport corridors and is considered to have a low value and a low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be low.
- 1.7.23. This urban LCA extends across a large part of the study area to the north and the ZTV indicates that the Proposed Development is theoretically likely to have some indirect influences beyond the site boundary. Any indirect influence beyond the site boundary will, however, be highly constrained by the extent of built form and vegetation. At a more local level, the Proposed Development will directly strengthen the key characteristics relating to urban development and extend the influence of this into undeveloped or open areas that fall within this part of the LCA. It is expected that the fabric of hedge, trees and woodland enclosing the site and supplemented with the proposed tree and other planting and seeding will assist in absorbing the Proposed Development into the landscape. The magnitude of the impact overall will be low. The significance will be minor (not significant).

LCA 02 Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline

- 1.7.24. This LCA extends to the west and south-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 0.1 km from the Proposed Development site boundary. It comprises farmland of an estate character and possesses key valued characteristics relating to its historic aspects and is a peaceful and strongly rural landscape on the doorsteps of Bridgend. The LCA within the extents of the study area is well vegetated with a strong fabric of hedges together with broadleaved estate plantations, patches of semi-natural woodland. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.
- 1.7.25. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the LCA within the extents of the study area. However, the landscape is well-vegetated with woodland and trees and, in reality, visibility would be largely filtered and obscured. Any indirect influence on the key rural characteristics and other values including the historic landscapes and features would be limited with only the taller elevations of the central east west core of the proposed school building likely to be

experienced from the majority of the LCA. The influence would, however, increase in proximity to the Proposed Development site to the east, including some awareness of the lower-level activities including the lower proposed school building elevations and perimeter fencing and other vertical elements. However, the tree and shrub planting around the boundaries would help to integrate the development. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as low, and the significance will be moderate to minor (not significant).

LCA 03 Ewenny Valley

1.7.26. This LCA extends centrally east to west through the study area and at its closest point, is around 0.9 km from the Proposed Development site boundary to the south. This comprises a well-wooded valley with a distinctive flood plain. There are historic features throughout, including Ogmere Castle and Ewenny Priory. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.

1.7.27. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the LCA within the extents of the study area. However, due to the extent and density of intervening woodland and trees, in reality, visibility would be largely filtered and obscured so that any indirect influence on the key rural characteristics and other values aspects including the historic landscapes and features would be limited with only the taller elevations of the central east-west core of the proposed school building likely to be experienced very occasionally. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as very low, and the significance will be minor (not significant).

LCA 04 Ogmere Down.

1.7.28. This LCA extends to the south-west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 2km from the Proposed Development site boundary. This comprises an area of open, rolling heathland and a golf course on an elevated ridgeline abutting the Ewenny valley. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.

1.7.29. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a relatively limited proportion of the LCA within the extents of the study area. However, due to the extent and density of intervening woodland and trees along the steep north facing slopes, any indirect influence would be limited to only the taller elevations of the central east west core of the proposed school building, likely to be experienced very occasionally and for a limited duration. Due to distance, any influence of built form would also be small in scale. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be negligible (not significant).

LCA 05 Northern Lias Slopes

1.7.30. This LCA extends to the south-east of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1.5km from the Proposed Development site boundary is. This comprises an area of open, rolling agricultural land, typically comprising a matrix of medium to large fields. The lack of extensive areas of woodland allows for, with a high level of intervisibility, including a detracting urban influence from Bridgend. The LCA is considered to have a medium value and a medium susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.

1.7.31. The ZTV indicates that there will be widespread visibility over a relatively large proportion of the LCA within the extents of the study area. Taller elevations of the central east-west core of the proposed school building may be experienced intermittently from higher elevations beyond the intervening effect of trees and woodland but would also be small in scale due to distance. The Proposed Development would also be experienced in the context of urban development at Bridgend. On the lower-lying parts

of the LCA to the north, there is a higher degree of enclosure from woodland, and it is unlikely that the Proposed development would have any influence on character. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be negligible (not significant).

LCA 06 Afan and St Brides Valleys

1.7.32. This LCA extends to the south of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1.3km from the Proposed Development site boundary. This comprises a small, confined area of wooded steep-sided valleys incised into the limestone plateau and draining into the Ewenny Valley. It also includes Old Castle Down, an open elevated upland heath offering panoramic views north. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.

1.7.33. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a relatively limited proportion of the LCA comprising the elevated Old Castle Down. Within the valleys there will be no influence from the Proposed Development. However, from Old Castle Down there will be a more perceptible indirect influence, with the proposed buildings, hard surfaces with traffic likely to form a relatively small component of the wider panoramic views to the north. In this context, is considered that the Proposed Development would not be incongruous with the influence of the wider urban context of Bridgend, spreading widely beyond the Proposed Development site to the north. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as low to very low, and the significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).

LCA 07 Lias Plateau

1.7.34. This LCA is located on the southern edge of the study area and at its closest point, is around 2.5km from the Proposed Development site boundary. This comprises a broad, open rolling plateau with expanses of intensively managed farmland set amongst medium and large fields with hedges. The LCA is considered to have a high value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium.

1.7.35. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a very limited proportion of the LCA comprising the agricultural fields adjoining Old Castle Down. This indirect influence is likely to include awareness of the buildings and external areas. However, due to distance, the Proposed Development will be experienced as a very small-scale features set amongst a context of varied urban development at Bridgend. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).

LCA 08 Newton Down Limestone Plateau.

1.7.36. This LCA is located to the west of the study area and at its closest point, is around 1.9 km from the Proposed Development site boundary. It comprises an undulating plateau of fields on the western fringe of Bridgend. The LCA is considered to have a medium to low value and a medium to low susceptibility. Sensitivity will be medium to low.

1.7.37. The ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility over a limited proportion of the LCA. However, the areas falling within the ZTV are on the fringe of the urban area of Bridgend and any indirect influence will be limited to upper levels of the tallest building elevations only, likely to be central east west core. However, the LCA is also well-vegetated with trees, and the activities will likely be experienced very intermittently as small-scale features set amongst a broad context of varied urban development at Bridgend. Overall, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).

Operational Stage – Visual Effects

- 1.7.38. Five viewpoints within the study area have been identified for an assessment of the operational stage visual effects. These are described below.

Viewpoint 1: Island Farm Close

- 1.7.39. This Viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.16 VP 1 Island Farm Close*, is located around 80m to the north of the Proposed Development site (OS grid reference 290236, 178466), on a public highway providing access to a residential development of detached properties set around a cul-de-sac. The viewpoint is representative of residents on Island Farm Close as well as travellers to the estate, primarily vehicle drivers and passengers but also cyclists and pedestrians on the footways. The viewpoint is located at a position where the views are locally valued and where they contribute to the setting of the area. The value is evaluated as medium to high. Visual receptors will be primarily residents of the properties. It is considered that the landscape within which the Proposed Development site is located will form an ancillary or secondary view and the susceptibility of the receptors is evaluated as medium. The sensitivity to change of the primary receptors will be medium to high.
- 1.7.40. It is predicted that there would be some partial visibility limited to the north-eastern corner of the core east-west aligned proposed school building. This would be seen beyond the close-boarded timber boundary fence at the southern edge of the estate. Lower-level elements of the Proposed Development, including the residential buildings and lower height north south aligned school buildings would not be visible from the viewpoint due to intervening vegetation, the close-boarded fence and buildings.
- 1.7.41. The taller northeastern corner of the east west aligned building would be viewed at close-distance and would form a visually apparent and prominent new element within a narrow proportion of the view south from the viewpoint. Lower-level elements of the Proposed Development, including the residential buildings and sections of the main school building extending to the west and external elements will be obscured by the intervening boundary fence and by intervening foreground vegetation. The visible sections of the Proposed Development will be seen with a variety of detractors in the foreground including traffic/cars, lighting, signage, hard surfaces and boundary treatments typical of an urban environment. It is considered that, in this context, the Proposed Development will not be visually incongruous and there may be some degree of integration with existing components. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium.
- 1.7.42. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high, and the magnitude of visual impact is medium. Effects are therefore considered to be moderate to moderate-major (significant).

Viewpoint 2: New Inn Road

- 1.7.43. This Viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.17 VP 2 New Inn Road*, is located around 200m to the south-west of the Proposed Development site on New Inn Road, a minor highway extending between Ewenny to the south-east and the A48 at Bridgend to the north-west, (OS grid reference 289740, 177879). The viewpoint is located at a position where the views are not recognised or associated with a designated landscape or feature. The view is not provided for in terms of any facilities and the views towards the Proposed Development site are secondary and oblique. The value of the viewpoint is evaluated as low. Visual receptors will be road users, including drivers and passengers in vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists, whose attention will not be focused on the surrounding landscape. The susceptibility of the receptors is evaluated as low. The sensitivity to change of the receptors will be low.

- 1.7.44. It is predicted that the Proposed Development would be visible, including the main school building elevations facing to the south and potentially some of the external vertical elements along the southern edge and to the west of the site. There may also be some partial visibility of the northern residential building to the north of the site. There would be some temporary screening provided by a soil mound in the foreground.
- 1.7.45. The proposed school building would be clearly visible in the middle-distance of the view, comprising the south facing elevations, together with some of the external vertical elements such as fencing and the northern residential building would be visible to the rear of the proposed school buildings. The Proposed Development is likely to be perceived as a contrasting new feature within the rural scene. There may be some filtering by proposed tree planting located along the southern edge of the site. However, the Proposed Development will be visually prominent. However, the views from the road would be oblique to the direction of flow and given the degree of roadside vegetation, including hedges and trees, would be glimpsed in nature. The Proposed Development will also be viewed in combination with some detractors including the pylons extending across the foreground of the view. It is considered that Proposed Development will be visually incongruous and prominent although it would occupy only a limited proportion of the overall view. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium to high.
- 1.7.46. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as low, and the magnitude of visual impact will be medium to high. Effects are, therefore, considered to be moderate to minor (not significant).

Viewpoint 3: Ogmere Castle

- 1.7.47. This Viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.18 VP 3 Ogmere Castle*, is located around 2.4km to the south-west of the Proposed Development site, within the grounds of Ogmere Castle. This is a popular tourist destination and a historic monument designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). The viewpoint is also located adjacent to the Wales Coast Path that extends through an area of Open Access Land (CRoW Act) and near a facility offering recreational equestrian activities, (Ogmere Farm). The adjacent areas are designated as the Merthyr Mawr Warren Special Landscape Area's (SLA) and the Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. The value of the viewpoint is evaluated as medium to high. The viewpoint is representative of typical views that visitors to the Castle may experience as well as recreational visitors to the equestrian facilities, the Wales Coast Path and areas of Open Access Land and the views will be a primary contributor to the experience. The susceptibility of the receptors is evaluated as high. The sensitivity to change will be high.
- 1.7.48. It is predicted that the south facing elevation of the taller central east-west core of the proposed school building may be visible.
- 1.7.49. The south facing elevation of the taller east west aligned core of the proposed school building would be partially visible within the distant and panoramic views to the north-west, where intervening vegetation along the Ogmere/Ewenny valleys allows. However, it is considered that any views of the proposed building would form a very small part of the panorama and would be glimpses where intervening vegetation allows. There would be no marked effect on the overall quality of the view, and the existing view would remain intact. The magnitude of impact is assessed as very low.
- 1.7.50. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high, and the magnitude of visual impact will be very low. Effects are, therefore, considered to be moderate to minor (not significant).

Viewpoint 4: Old Castle Down

- 1.7.51. This Viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.19 VP 4 Old Castle Down*, is located around 2.5km to the south of the Proposed Development site on the high point of Old Castle Down (102m AOD). This viewpoint is within Castle Upon Alun SLA, an area of Open Access Land (CRoW Act) and adjacent to a section of the long-distance footpath of the Bridgend Circular Walk. The value of the viewpoint is evaluated as medium-high. The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the footpath and the open access land, and the susceptibility is evaluated as medium-high. The sensitivity to change will be medium to high.
- 1.7.52. It is predicted that from this elevated position, the proposed buildings, including the flat roofs and south facing elevations, and the residential buildings would be visible, set amongst the external areas to the south and to the west of the Proposed Development site.
- 1.7.53. The Proposed Development would be visible from this open and elevated position as a perceptible component of the wider panoramic views to the north. The separate elements would be discernible, including the roofs and south facing elevations and the separate residential buildings. Also discernible would be the external elements, comprising the car parking areas with cars and the sports pitch. There would be some filtering of the visibility through the proposed tree planting, and it is likely that the Proposed Development will be perceived as not being incongruous with the wider urban context of Bridgend, spreading widely beyond the Proposed Development site to the north. It is considered that there would be no marked effect on the overall quality of the view, despite the slight loss of rural land to edge of the urban areas. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low.
- 1.7.54. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high, and the magnitude of visual impact will be low. Effects are, therefore, considered to be moderate to minor (not significant).

Viewpoint 5: VMH Trail, Tair Cross

- 1.7.55. This viewpoint, illustrated on *Figure 1.20 VP 5 VMH Trail, Tair Cross*, is located around 2.4km to the south-east of the Proposed Development site on the relative high point of Tair Cross (96m AOD). This viewpoint is on a section of the long-distance footpath of the Valeways Millenium Heritage Trail. In addition, National Cycle Route 88 (NCR 88) passes along a minor road to the south. The value of the viewpoint is evaluated as medium. It is representative of recreational users of the footpath where views of the landscape are likely to be a primary reason for the visit. The susceptibility is evaluated as medium to high. The sensitivity to change will be medium to high.
- 1.7.56. It is predicted that from this elevated position, the east-facing elevation of the east-west aligned core of the proposed school building would be partially visible within the Proposed Development site.
- 1.7.57. The east facing upper elevation of the east-west aligned core of the proposed school building would be partially visible from this open and elevated position above intervening woodland and trees along the eastern boundary of the site. Due to the distance and the extent of urban development at Bridgend widely visible in the views, the Proposed Development would be perceptible but would have no discernible impact on the panoramic views. Furthermore, it is likely that the parts of the Proposed Development visible would not be incongruous with the wider urban context of Bridgend, spreading widely beyond the Proposed Development site to the north. The magnitude of impact is assessed as very low to negligible.

1.7.58. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high, and the magnitude of visual impact will be very low. Effects are, therefore, considered to be minor to negligible, (not significant).

1.8. Effects on Transportation/Movement

1.8.1. Major road transport routes that pass through the study area are primarily located within or in proximity to Bridgend and include the A48, A473, A4061 and the A4063. The ZTV indicates that sections of these routes will experience visibility of the Proposed Development site. However, these routes are extensively enclosed by both built form and vegetation and in reality, there will be no intervisibility with the site. *Viewpoint 2: New Inn Road* describes effects from a minor road passing around 200m to the south of the Proposed Development site. The viewpoint illustrates a glimpse view from the road. However, during both construction and operational stages, effects were evaluated as non-significant.

1.8.2. Passing through the study area in a broad, north-south direction is the Vale of Glamorgan train line that runs from Barry to Bridgend. Sections of the line nearest to the Proposed Development site will be contained within a cutting. Further to the south the route is aligned north to south and there will no visibility of the Proposed Development to the north. There will be no views of the Proposed Development from the Cardiff to Swansea mainline route extending through Bridgend and the north-eastern part of the of the study area. However, during both construction and operational stages, effects were evaluated as non-significant.

1.8.3. The ZTV identifies sections of the long-distance recreational routes through the study area that may potentially receive effects from the Proposed Development. Following desk and field-based studies, *Viewpoints 3 Ogmere Castle, 4 Old Castle Down and 5 VHM Trail, Tair Croes* were selected to illustrate typical views towards the Proposed Development from locations on or near to long-distance trails, where the ZTV indicates that there will be some intervisibility with the Proposed development site. Sections 1.6.46 to 1.6.57 and 1.7.46 to 1.7.57 describes the effects from these locations during construction and operational stages. In all cases effects were evaluated as not significant.

1.8.4. *Viewpoint 5 VMH Trail, Tair Cross* is located adjacent to National Cycle Route 88 (NCR88) within the study area to the southeast. It is likely there maybe glimpse views of the Proposed Development. However, visual effects from Viewpoint 5 identifies that there will be no significant effects from this location.

1.8.5. In summary, it is considered that there will be no significant effects on transport and movement receptors during either the construction or operational phases of the Proposed Development.

1.9. Effects on Communities

1.9.1. *Viewpoint 1: Island Farm Close* is located around 80m to the north of the Proposed Development site on a public highway providing access to a residential development of detached properties set around a cul-de-sac of Island Farm Close. Nearby is a separate cul-de-sac of Island Farm Road. Whilst the viewpoint is representative of residents and is located at a position where the views contribute to the visual setting of the community, a number of properties will be located adjacent to the site boundary and will experience direct and oblique views onto the Proposed Development site. Significant effects have been evaluated from viewpoint 1.

1.9.2. It is considered that for five properties aligned along the northern edge of the Proposed Development site, there will be close range views of construction activities and following this, the operational stages for the residential properties in the foreground and car parking areas beyond this. The Proposed School building will also be widely visible beyond the residential buildings in the foreground, set back in the site to the south. The proposals include informal tree planting along the boundary, and this will filter visibility. However, it is considered that all five properties will experience significant effects during both the construction and operational phases. Properties elsewhere within the estate will experience some filtered and oblique views although effects will be variable depending on property alignment and filtering/screening for intervening vegetation, buildings and structures.

1.9.3. Elsewhere within the study area, there were other significant effects on communities identified.

1.10. Cumulative Effects

1.10.1. In addition to assessing the individual effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character and visual amenity, the LVIA is also assesses the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with the proposed Tennis Centre. This development is located adjacent to the south-eastern boundary of the site. The tennis centre was granted planning permission in January 2023 (*Planning Application no. P/20/995/FUL*).

1.10.2. The significance of cumulative effects on landscape character has been determined by combining the sensitivity of the LCA with the magnitude of cumulative change that would occur. Sensitivity in respect of cumulative effects is the same as identified for individual effects.

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character - Direct

LCA 01 Bridgend

1.10.3. The Proposed Development site, together with the cumulative development are located within this LCA. There will be a direct intensification of urban development onto open areas that fall within this part of the LCA. The developments would be contained within the fabric of hedge, trees and woodland enclosing the cumulative site's and supplemented with the proposed tree and other planting and seeding. Cumulatively the developments would be well-integrated into the existing landscape without having a material effect upon the wider urban landscape character. The magnitude of the cumulative impact overall will be low. The significance will be minor (not significant).

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character - Indirect

1.10.4. The scale and massing of the proposed cumulative developments are similar and will be relatively tightly grouped. From LCA's located across the southern sections of the study area, indirect effects on the character would be similar to those identified for individual effects. There may be some slightly increased awareness of urban development due to the increased massing. However, due to the extent of vegetation across the lower lying LCAs, there would be very limited instances where the interaction from the proposed cumulative developments with surrounding LCAs would differ markedly to the interaction that would occur from the Proposed Development in isolation. Within more elevated areas to the south, the cumulative developments would be experienced more distantly against a broad urban backcloth provided by Bridgend. Within this backcloth, large and medium scale buildings, particularly along the south edge of Bridgend and elsewhere are a feature. In this context, the cumulative developments would appear well integrated and to an extent, would be subsumed within the wider urban development.

1.10.5. For consistency, magnitude and significance are listed below for these LCAs:

- *LCA 01 Bridgend.* The cumulative magnitude of the impact overall will be low, and the cumulative significance will be minor (not significant).
- *LCA 02 Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline.* The cumulative magnitude of impact is evaluated as low, and the cumulative significance will be moderate to minor (not significant).
- *LCA 03 Ewenny Valley.* The cumulative magnitude of impact is evaluated as very low, and the cumulative significance will be minor (not significant).
- *LCA 04 Ogmore Down.* The cumulative magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the cumulative significance will be negligible (not significant).
- *LCA 05 Northern Lias Slopes.* The cumulative magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the cumulative significance will be negligible (not significant).
- *LCA 06 Afan and St Brides Valleys.* The cumulative magnitude of impact is evaluated as low to very low, and the cumulative significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).
- *LCA 07 Lias Plateau.* The cumulative magnitude of impact is evaluated as negligible, and the cumulative significance will be minor to negligible (not significant).

Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity

- 1.10.6. It is predicted that there will be no visibility of the Tennis Centre from *Viewpoint 1: Island Farm Close (Figure 1.16)* and therefore no cumulative effects on visual amenity with the Proposed Development.
- 1.10.7. From *Viewpoint 2: New Inn Road (Figure 1.17)* it is predicted that both the Proposed Development and the Tennis Centre would be visible, including the south and south-west facing elevations and potentially some of the external vertical elements along the southern and western edges of the site's. There would be some temporary screening provided by a soil mound in the foreground.
- 1.10.8. The proposed cumulative developments would be visible in the middle-distance of the view and is likely to be perceived as a contrasting new feature within the rural scene. There may be some filtering by proposed tree planting located along the southern and western edges of the site's. However, the cumulative development in combination will be visually prominent, with some vertical elements such as perimeter fencing also likely to be visible. There may be some perception of the Proposed Development infilling open land to the rear of the Tennis Centre, although the Proposed Development will be viewed more directly than the Tennis Centre, located slightly obliquely to the viewpoint. The combined developments will, however, be similar in apparent scale and massing and are likely to be generally perceived as a single coherent development.
- 1.10.9. The cumulative views from the road would be oblique to the direction of flow and given the degree of roadside vegetation, including hedges and trees, would be glimpsed in nature. The cumulative development will also be viewed in combination with some detractors including the pylons extending across the foreground of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impact is assessed as high. The

sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as low. Cumulative effects are, therefore, considered to be moderate and on balance not significant due to the nature of the views that are glimpsed and oblique.

1.10.10. From *Viewpoint 3: Ogmores Castle (Figure 1.18)*, the south facing elevation of the taller core of the proposed school building and south partial visibility of the southern and western façade of the tennis centre, would be intermittently visible in combination as a perceptible feature within the distant and panoramic views to the north-west, where intervening vegetation along the Ogmores/Ewenny valleys allows. The similar scale and massing of the cumulative developments and the distance between the viewpoint and the sites will likely ensure that the separate developments are perceived coherently. It is likely that the visible elements of the cumulative development will be a contrasting and recognisable element within the picturesque scene. However, the views would be glimpsed in nature and there would be no marked effect on the overall quality of the view. It is considered that the existing view will remain intact. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low.

1.10.11. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high, and the magnitude of visual cumulative impact will be low. Cumulative effects are, therefore, considered to be moderate and, on balance, not significant as the existing view will be retained intact.

1.10.12. From *Viewpoints 4: Old Castle Down (Figure 1.19)* and *Viewpoint 5: VMH Trail, Tair Cross (Figure 1.20)* the Proposed Development and cumulative development would be visible in combination from these open and elevated position as a perceptible component of the wider panoramic views. From both viewpoints, the cumulative and proposed developments will not be incongruous with the wider urban context of Bridgend, spreading widely beyond the Proposed Development site to the north. It is considered that there would be no marked effect on the overall quality of the views. The cumulative magnitude of impact is assessed as low from viewpoint 4 and very low from viewpoint 5. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high for both viewpoints. Cumulative effects are, therefore, considered to be moderate to minor, (not significant) for viewpoint 4 and minor for viewpoint 5, not significant for both.

1.11. Additional Mitigation, Compensation and Enhancement Measures

1.11.1. Strategic mitigation in the form of a strong network of tree and shrub planting forms part of the inherent mitigation and will assist in landscape integration of the Proposed Development. This is illustrated on the Proposed General Arrangement Plan, (ref: HER-CAM-ZZ-XX-D-C-000101-S3-P04) and the Soft Landscape Strategy (ref: HER-HLM-ZZ-ZZ-D-L-450001).

1.11.2. No further mitigation, compensation or enhancement measures are considered necessary.

1.12. Residual Impacts and Effects

1.12.1. Operational stage inherent mitigation measures are embedded into the design of the Proposed Development. Residual effects are likely to remain equivalent to those effects already assessed within the operational stage assessment as additional mitigation measures would not likely reduce the assessed magnitude of change.

1.13. Assessment Summary

- 1.13.1. Landscape and visual effects identified in this assessment are scheduled in *Table 10: Summary of Effects* below.
- 1.13.2. The LVIA has identified that potential landscape and visual effects resulting from the Proposed Development are limited by the nature of the surrounding landscape. The ZTV (*Figure 1.1 ZTV Viewpoint Locations*) indicates that the visual envelope for the scheme would theoretically extend widely across lower-lying and undulating areas of the Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Ewenny Valley and the north facing slopes of Ogmore Down and Northern Vale Lias Plateau. However, within these areas, extending broadly across the central southern sections of the study area, there is a strong fabric of mature trees and woodland and taller hedges and no significant effects on character, designations or visual receptors were identified, both individually and cumulatively.
- 1.13.3. From elevated and more open locations to the south rising above the Ewenny Valley, at Old Castle Down for example, (i.e. *Viewpoints 4 Old Castle Down*), the Proposed Development site will be more apparent. However, due to distance and the extensive nature of the open panorama, it will form relatively small component of the view. There will also be a strong influence from the existing urban development at Bridgend that extends across the northern sections of the study area and contains the site to the northern and eastern edges. Within this context there will be a high degree of assimilation of the Proposed Development with the existing settlement edge. While there may be some very slight perception of increased urban development onto undeveloped open land, the assessment also concludes that there will be no significant landscape or visual effects from this location.
- 1.13.4. To the south-east at Tair Cross, (i.e. *Viewpoint 5 VMH Trail, Tair Cross*), it is evident that the wooded eastern boundary to the site, extending across the Bridgend Science Park and elsewhere, visually contains the Proposed development site. Within this section of the study area, there will also be a strong influence from the existing urban development at Bridgend. Any influence or visibility of the Proposed Development is predicted to be largely imperceptible due to the intervening vegetation.
- 1.13.5. Short-distance views into the site from the residential development adjoining the site to the north are illustrated by *Viewpoint 1 Island Farm Close (Figure 1.16)*. From the viewpoint, there will be some partial visibility of construction activities and following this, the operational phase of the Proposed Development and significant effects have been recorded. It is also considered that for five properties aligned along the northern edge of the Proposed Development site, there will be close-range views of the Proposed development site. The residential properties in the foreground, car parking areas and beyond this, the proposed school building will be widely visible. Whilst the proposals include informal tree planting along the boundary that will filter visibility, it is considered that all five properties will experience significant effects during both the construction and operational phases. Properties elsewhere within the estate will experience some filtered and oblique views although effects will be variable depending on property alignment and filtering/screening for intervening vegetation, buildings and structures.
- 1.13.6. The LVIA is also assesses the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with the proposed Tennis Centre. This development is located adjacent to the south-eastern boundary of the site. However, it is predicted that there will be no significant cumulative effects on landscape character or visual amenity as a result of the two cumulative developments assessed.

Table 10: Summary of Effects

Potential effect	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
Construction Stage Effects – Landscape Designations			
Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest	Medium	Very Low	Minor (not significant).
Laleston SLA	Medium-high	Negligible	Minor (not significant).
Merthyr Mawr Warren SLA	Medium	Very Low	Minor (not significant).
Castle Upon Alun SLA	Medium	Negligible	Minor to negligible (not significant).
Construction Stage Effects – National Landscape Character Areas			
NLCA36 Vale of Glamorgan	Medium to low	Negligible	Negligible (not significant).
NLCA38 Swansea Bay	Medium to low	Negligible	Negligible (not significant).
Construction Stage Effects – Regional/Local Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 01 Bridgend.	Low	Low	Minor (not significant).
LCA 02 Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline	Medium	low to very low	Minor (not significant).
LCA 03 Ewenny Valley	Medium	Very low to negligible	Minor to negligible (not significant).
LCA 04 Ogmore Down	Medium	Negligible.	Negligible (not significant).
LCA 05 Northern Lias Slopes	Medium	Very low	Minor to negligible (not significant).
LCA 06 Afan and St Brides Valleys.	Medium	Very low to negligible	Negligible, (not significant).
LCA 07 Lias Plateau	Medium	Negligible	Minor to negligible, (not significant)
LCA 08 Newton Down Limestone Plateau	Medium to low	Negligible.	Minor to negligible, (not significant)
Construction Stage Effects – Visual/Views			
Viewpoint 1: Island Farm Close	Medium to high	Medium to low	Moderate (significant).
Viewpoint 2: New Inn Road.	Low	Medium to high.	Moderate to minor (not significant).
Viewpoint 3: Ogmore Castle	High	Very low to negligible.	Minor (not significant).

Viewpoint 4: Old Castle Down	Medium to high	Low to negligible.	Minor (Not significant).
Viewpoint 5: VMH Trail, Tair Cross	Medium to high	Very Low to negligible.	Minor to negligible (not significant).
Operational Stage Effects – Landscape Designations			
Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest	Medium	Low	Moderate to minor (not significant)
Laleston SLA	Medium-high	Negligible	Minor (not significant)
Merthyr Mawr Warren SLA	Medium	Low	Moderate to minor (not significant)
Castle Upon Alun SLA	Medium	Very low	Minor (not significant)
Operational Stage Effects – National Landscape Character Areas			
NLCA36 Vale of Glamorgan	Medium to low	Negligible	Negligible (not significant).
NLCA38 Swansea Bay	Medium to low	Negligible	Negligible (not significant).
Operational Stage Effects – Regional/Local Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 01 Bridgend.	Low	Low	Minor (not significant).
LCA 02 Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline	Medium	Low.	Moderate to minor (not significant).
LCA 03 Ewenny Valley	Medium	Very low.	Minor (not significant).
LCA 04 Ogmores Down	Medium	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 05 Northern Lias Slopes	Medium	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 06 Afan and St Brides Valleys.	Medium	Low to very low.	Minor to negligible, (not significant)
LCA 07 Lias Plateau	Medium	Negligible.	Minor to negligible, (not significant)
LCA 08 Newton Down Limestone Plateau	Medium to low	Negligible.	Minor to negligible, (not significant)
Operational Stage Effects – Visual/Views			
Viewpoint 1: Island Farm Close	Medium to high	Medium	Major moderate (significant).
Viewpoint 2: New Inn Road.	Low	Medium to high	Moderate to minor (not significant).
Viewpoint 3: Ogmores Castle	High	Low.	Moderate (not significant).
Viewpoint 4: Old Castle Down	Medium to high	Low	Moderate to minor (not significant).

Viewpoint 5: VMH Trail, Tair Cross	Medium to high	Very low	Minor (not significant).
Cumulative Effects – Regional/Local Landscape Character Areas			
LCA 01 Bridgend.	Low	Low	Minor (not significant).
LCA 02 Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline	Medium	Low.	Moderate to minor (not significant).
LCA 03 Ewenny Valley	Medium	Very low.	Minor (not significant).
LCA 04 Ogmore Down	Medium	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 05 Northern Lias Slopes	Medium	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)
LCA 06 Afan and St Brides Valleys.	Medium	Low to very low.	Minor to negligible, (not significant)
LCA 07 Lias Plateau	Medium	Negligible.	Minor to negligible, (not significant)
LCA 08 Newton Down Limestone Plateau	Medium to low	Negligible.	Minor to negligible, (not significant)
Cumulative Effects – Visual/Views			
Viewpoint 1: Island Farm Close	Medium to high	None	No effect
Viewpoint 2: New Inn Road.	Low	High	Moderate (not significant).
Viewpoint 3: Ogmore Castle	High	Low.	Moderate (not significant).
Viewpoint 4: Old Castle Down	Medium to high	Low	Moderate to minor (not significant).
Viewpoint 5: VMH Trail, Tair Cross	Medium to high	Very low	Minor (not significant).

APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY AND CRITERIA

1.1. LANDMAP and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

- 1.1.1. Within Wales, landscape character is assessed using LANDMAP. This is a GIS based landscape resource, where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent resource for landscape planning and decision-making. It assesses the diversity of landscapes within Wales and identifies its most important characteristics and qualities. LANDMAP information is collected in a structured and rigorous way that is defined by five Aspect Layers comprising Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Historic and Cultural Landscape and Visual and Sensory. LANDMAP, therefore, informs judgements on the quality, condition and relative value of landscapes and offers evaluations ranging from low to outstanding.
- 1.1.2. LANDMAP comprises five spatially related datasets:
- Geological Landscape;
 - Landscape Habitats;
 - Visual & Sensory;
 - Historic Landscape; and
 - Cultural Landscape Services.
- 1.1.3. *NRW Guidance Note 046, 'Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, (LVIA),' (January 2021)* requires an early desk search stage to help to identify the extent of study area needed for the detailed LVIA and to provide an evidence basis for the inclusion or exclusion of landscapes within the adopted study area.
- 1.1.4. To ensure the LVIA focusses on potentially sensitive landscape receptors within aspect areas most likely to be affected, a 4-step filtering process has been applied to the LANDMAP datasets to ascertain those that are required to be assessed within the LVIA.
- 1.1.5. For Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats and Cultural Landscape Services aspect areas/datasets, the initial search area, (Filter 1), includes areas that overlap fully or partially or are adjacent to the Proposed Development site boundary. Further filtering (Filters 2, 3 and 4) has then been applied, relating to the relationship to other aspect areas, theoretical visibility, evaluation scoring and /or specific characteristics, such as rarity/uniqueness, (Geological Landscape) or connectivity/cohesion, (Landscape Habitats). Aspect areas in which the proposed development is located are in all cases retained for assessment within the LVIA irrespective of their evaluation or any special characteristics.
- 1.1.6. For Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape aspect areas/datasets, the initial search area (Filter 1) adopted by the LVIA extends across the entire 3 km radius study area. Further filtering (Filters 2, 3 and 4) was then applied, relating to theoretical visibility and the overall evaluation scoring for both Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape aspect areas/datasets. Consideration of Scenic Value (Q48) and Character (Q48) were also applied to help filter areas evaluated as moderate overall.
- 1.1.7. Cultural Landscape Services aspect areas/datasets do not include landscape evaluation information and further filtering for these aspect areas/datasets has been applied relating to theoretical visibility.

1.1.8. Where professional judgement was applied to identify the LANDMAP Aspect Areas to be retained within the study area and to be taken forward for further assessment, the following criteria were considered:

- Extent/proportion of the aspect area likely to receive theoretical visibility;
- Distance from the Proposed Development site to the aspect area;
- Proportion of available view likely to be occupied by the Proposed Development;
- Characteristics of the aspect area influencing potential visibility, such as forestry and built form.

1.1.9. Following the above steps, Aspect Areas identified for assessment were overlaid and combined, together with published landscape character assessments to create Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The Visual and Sensory Aspect Area boundaries are regarded as the starting point for defining LCAs although the boundaries were further refined to take account of the other four Aspect Layers as appropriate.

1.1.10. The above filtering exercise outlined above is intended to ensure that the LVIA focusses on those LCA's where significant effects are most likely to occur. For all LCA's/Aspect Areas excluded from the LVIA, it is considered that there will be no significant effects on landscape character.

1.2. Assessment of Landscape Effects

1.2.1. Criteria for informing the sensitivity, magnitude and significance of effects are provided below:

Landscape Sensitivity

1.2.2. The sensitivity of landscape receptors to change is determined by combining judgements of the susceptibility of the landscape or the landscape receptor to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape or landscape receptor.

Landscape Value

1.2.3. Landscape value is concerned with the relative importance and quality/condition that is attached to different landscapes and landscape elements that contribute to the landscape character. In a policy context the usual basis for recognising value of landscapes is through local or national landscape designations. A landscape can nonetheless be valued for many different reasons without any formal designation.

1.2.4. The assessment of landscape quality (condition) is based on judgements about the physical state of the landscape and about its intactness from visual, functional and ecological perspectives. It also reflects the state of repair of individual features and elements that contribute to the landscape character in any one place.

1.2.5. As outlined above, within Wales, landscape character is assessed using LANDMAP and this database informs judgements on the quality, condition and relative value of landscapes, ranging from low through to outstanding.

1.2.6. The criteria for determining the value of landscape receptors are set out in the Table A1.1 below:

Table A1.1: Landscape Value Criteria

Value of Landscape Receptor	Description
Outstanding	Landscapes which are outstanding by nature of their scenic quality. They will be aesthetically pleasing with a strong sense of place and may be rare in terms of their character type. They may be located away from centers of population, with an undeveloped character. They may also possess attributes or features that are rare or distinctive, (i.e. sites of historic, cultural, geological or natural habitat importance), or may be important tourist destinations of national or international importance as defined by statutory designations.
High	Landscapes which are high by nature of their scenic quality. There may be scenes of picturesque quality, which are aesthetically pleasing. The landscape may be located near to centers of population, with some development evident though not dominant. They may also contain rare or historic features, have some notable cultural association, important geological features or contain a large proportion of high-quality habitats. These areas may be tourist destinations (e.g. Historic Park and Garden) and may be of regional or county importance as defined by Statutory and/or Local
Medium	Landscapes which are medium by nature because of their scenic quality. There may be some occasional picturesque attributes, which are aesthetically pleasing. Some characteristic features are evident, but others are fragmented and/or spoilt. The landscape may be close or within centers of population, with few restrictions on access. The area may have some tourist associations, though tourism is not the primary attraction. The landscape may contain a network of habitats, historic or geological features. These areas may be of local importance as defined by Local Authority designations.

Low	Landscapes which are low by nature of their scenic quality. There will be limited aesthetically pleasing scenes. Few characteristic features remain and the landscape may be highly fragmented and/or spoilt. The landscape will have very little coherent character and a weak sense of place and is unlikely to be rare in terms of character type. The landscape may be located within centers of population, with easy access. They are unlikely to contain tourist attractions, or to be of local importance as defined by the Local Authority
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Landscape Susceptibility

- 1.2.7. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to the type of change or development proposed is described within GLVIA31 as *‘the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality/ condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/ or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) 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 relationship between the various landscape character components assists in defining if, and how development may be placed in the landscape. It also allows choices to be made on informing design, which will vary according to the characteristics of the receiving landscape. The susceptibility to change of a given landscape is particular to both the specific landscape in question and the specific nature of proposed development.
- 1.2.8. A range of factors are relevant when considering landscape susceptibility including:
- The nature of existing features within the landscape, including the presence or absence of existing development.
 - Landscape pattern, land-use, density, built form and scale of the landscape.
 - Landscape features, including vegetation cover and man-made features.
 - Historic uses and the pattern of change within the landscape.
 - Stability, robustness and fragility of landscape attributes and the potential for these to be restored.
 - Sense of enclosure/openness.
 - The condition of the landscape, including the maintenance of individual elements such as hedgerows, buildings and woodland.
 - The nature of the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.9. The criteria for determining the susceptibility of landscape receptors to change within each LCA are set out in the Table A1.2 below:

¹ *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA). The Landscape Institute/ IEMA. Third Edition, 2013.*

Table A1.2: Landscape Susceptibility Criteria

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors	Description
High	A landscape where the majority of attributes are unlikely to withstand change without causing a change to overall character to the extent that it will be difficult or impossible to restore. The frequency and sensitivity of landscape characteristics are also likely to be high.
Medium	A landscape with a combination of attributes that can absorb some degree of change without affecting overall character. There are likely to be some sensitive landscape characteristics although the frequency of these will be moderate.
Low	A landscape where the majority of attributes are robust and/or tolerant of change to the extent that change or development will have little or no effect on overall character. It is likely to be easily restored, and the frequency and sensitivity of landscape characteristics are likely to be low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.2.10. The sensitivity of landscape receptors to change is assessed by combining the evaluations of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value of the townscape. Evaluations for sensitivity are outlined in the Table A1.3 below:

Table A1.3: Landscape Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors	Description
Very High	A landscape of outstanding value that may have key characteristics that will have a high susceptibility to development of the type/size proposed. The landscape may be unique, rare, contain valued features or may be designated at a national or regional level.

High	A landscape of high value that may have key characteristics that will have a high susceptibility to development of the type/size proposed. The landscape may have some attributes that will be unique or rare or may contain valued features or may be designated at a regional or local level.
Medium	A landscape typically of medium value and medium susceptibility to development of the type/size proposed. The landscape may display some characteristics and features that may have a higher susceptibility and/or value or may be designated at a local level, although not
Low	A landscape of low value and low susceptibility to development of the type/size proposed. The landscape may display some characteristics and features that may have a medium susceptibility and/or value but is unlikely to be designated at a local level, although not exclusively so.
Very Low	A landscape of low value and low susceptibility to development of the type/size proposed. The landscape is unlikely to display any characteristics and features that will be susceptible to development of the type/size proposed.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

1.2.11. Evaluations of magnitude are concerned with quantifying the degree of change to the existing baseline landscape in terms of size or scale, geographical extent of the change and its duration and reversibility.

1.2.12. Variables that influence the evaluations of magnitude include:

- The extent to which the constituent or key characteristics of the existing baseline landscape will be lost, gained or changed and the influence each characteristic affected will have on the integrity of the overall landscape character.
- The degree of contrast or integration of the Proposed Development with the key characteristics of the existing baseline landscape that may detract from or add to the landscape character.
- The scale and prominence of the Proposed Development within the landscape. Broadly, the greater the prominence, the greater the magnitude of change.
- The geographical area over which any change will take place, ranging from direct site specific through to indirect changes to the immediate site setting or beyond the site or site setting to the wider landscape character areas of the study area.

- The distance separating the Proposed Development from a landscape receptor. Generally, the magnitude will reduce as distance increases.
- The duration and reversibility of the impacts.

1.2.13. Evaluations to quantify the magnitude of landscape impacts are outlined in Table A1.4 below:

Table A1.4: Magnitude of Landscape Impact Criteria

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts	Description
Very High	The Proposed Development would result in substantial loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a fundamental and permanent change to landscape character. The change may occur over an extensive area and for a duration extending into the foreseeable future.
High	The Proposed Development would result in major loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a fundamental and permanent change to landscape character. The change may occur over a wide area and for a duration extending into the foreseeable future.
Medium	The Proposed Development would result in the loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a partial change to landscape character that may have a duration extending from the medium term or into the foreseeable future. The change may occur over a notable area.
Low	The Proposed Development would result in a minor loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a slight change to landscape character. The change may be temporary or occur over a limited area.
Very low	The Proposed Development would result in a very minor loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a very slight change to landscape character. The change may be temporary or occur over a limited area.

Negligible	The Proposed Development would result in such a minor loss or alteration to key attributes that there would be no fundamental change.
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Significance of Landscape Effects

- 1.2.14. The significance of impacts is assessed using the appropriate national and international quality standards and professional judgement. For clarity and transparency, criteria have been used to attribute levels of significance. Broadly, the significance is a function of the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of receptors.
- 1.2.15. Evaluations of significance identified as greater than moderate will be considered to be significant. Effects less than moderate will be considered to be not significant. Where effects are determined to be of moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant, will depend on the individual and specific circumstances and the professional opinion of the landscape specialist.
- 1.2.16. Descriptions of significance of effects are outlined below in Table A1.5.

Table A1.5: Significance of Landscape Effects Criteria

Significance of Landscape Effects	Description
Substantial	The Proposed Development would have a direct or indirect effect on key landscape characteristics. The Proposed Development is likely to become a prominent and defining landscape element across a significant proportion of the LCA.
Major	The Proposed Development would have a direct or indirect effect on key landscape characteristics. The proposed development is likely to become a prominent, but not necessarily defining, landscape element across a wide area of the LCA.
Moderate	The Proposed Development would have a notable direct or indirect effect on some key landscape characteristics. The proposed development is likely to become a characteristic new component of the landscape character but would not necessarily be a defining element.
Minor	The Proposed Development would have a direct or indirect effect on some landscape elements or attributes without a reduction of the overall defining landscape character. Effects are likely to extend across a limited area of the LCA.

Negligible	The development would be integrated into the existing landscape without having a material effect upon landscape character.
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1.3. Assessment of Visual Effects

Assessment of Viewpoints

1.3.1. From each viewpoint, assessment of the existing view and potential changes to it that will result from the Proposed Development will be completed in the field. The impact of the Proposed Development on the existing view has been assessed using the criteria as set out below. The following elements are considered in the description and assessment of visual effects from each viewpoint:

- The existing visual quality of views at the viewpoint (including whether it is within a designated landscape, the presence of visual detractors, etc);
- The visual character of the existing landscape within which the Proposed Development would be viewed, including any screening provided by existing surface features, built form, vegetation and local topography;
- The viewpoint location and the nature and sensitivity of visual receptors (viewers);
- The proportion of the Proposed Development that will be visible, its scale, distance from the viewpoint and position in the view in relation to other visible features including adjacent land-uses and the pattern of landcover;
- The duration of the potential impact, i.e. is it long term or temporary, continuous or transitory (the latter meaning that the receptor would be exposed to the effect for a short time);

Significance of Visual Effects

1.3.2. Significance of effects on visual amenity will be determined by combining the sensitivity of visual receptors with the magnitude of visual change or impact that will occur.

1.3.3. The criteria for informing the sensitivity, magnitude and the significance of effects on visual amenity is provided below:

Visual Sensitivity

1.3.4. Visual receptors are people whose visual amenity or views may be affected as a result of the Proposed Development. Sensitive visual receptors within the study area, who may potentially have views of the Proposed Development site will be identified within the baseline assessment.

1.3.5. The sensitivity of visual receptors to change is assessed by combining judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attributed to their views.

Value of views and visual amenity

- 1.3.6. Value is derived from evaluation of a receptor's location and context; the relationship of a receptor to landscape related designations; the existence of documentation and/or interpretation relating to specific views; and popularity or frequency of use of the viewpoint.
- 1.3.7. Criteria for determining the value of the views and visual amenity are set out in the Table A1.6 below:

Table A1.6: Visual Value Criteria

Value of View	Description
High	Location where the views are widely acknowledged through reference to them in officially promoted guide-books, leaflets or referenced in literature or art. Provision of facilities for the enjoyment of the views will be present such as parking, seating and interpretation boards. Views may also contribute to the setting of nationally/locally designated landscape(s) or features of landscape value. Views towards the Proposed Development site will be typically primary, direct, unrestricted and panoramic.
Medium	Location where the view may be locally valued, or it positively contributes to the setting of an area or route. Views may also contribute to the setting of locally designated landscape(s) or features of local landscape value. Views towards the Proposed Development site may be typically primary, direct or open but may be partially filtered or oblique in nature.
Low	Location where the view is not recognised or valued or associated with a designated landscape or feature. The view will not be provided for in terms of any facilities for the enjoyment of the view. Views towards the Proposed Development will be more typically secondary, oblique or filtered.

Visual Susceptibility

- 1.3.8. Susceptibility of visual receptors to change is derived from judgements regarding the viewers expectations, occupation or activity and the extent to which their attention may be focused on visual amenity.
- 1.3.9. Criteria for determining the degree of susceptibility of viewers are outlined below in Table A1.7 below.

Table A1.7: Visual Susceptibility Criteria

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors	Description
High	May typically include tourists at a recognised tourist attraction, residents of properties with primary views towards the Proposed Development site, or people undertaking recreation, such as walkers on a recognised trail, where the landscape within which the Proposed Development site is seen is a primary reason for the visit. It is unlikely that receptors will be able to accommodate any degree of visual change of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements.
Medium	May typically include people engaged in outdoor sport, or undertaking a recreational activity that does not involve or depend on an appreciation of views of the landscape; May also include residents of properties where the landscape within which the proposed development site is located would form an ancillary or secondary view. It is likely that receptors will be able to accommodate a degree of visual change of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements.
Low	May typically include travelers on road, rail, ferries or other transport routes or people at work, whose attention would not be focused on the surrounding landscape and whose setting is not typically important to the quality of their working life. Receptors will not be at a location recognised as a tourist attraction where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience. It is likely that receptors will be able to readily accommodate visual change of the type proposed, by virtue of location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements.

Visual Sensitivity

1.3.10. Judgements made regarding the value and susceptibility of visual receptors enables evaluations to be made on the relative sensitivity of visual receptors (viewers) identified within the study area as outlined in the Table A1.8 below:

Table A1.8: Visual Sensitivity Criteria

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors	Description
Very High	Receptors are highly responsive to new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors will have a high susceptibility to change and will be at a location that will be highly valued for its views.
High	Receptors are responsive to new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors would be susceptible to change and would be at a location that may be valued for its views.
Medium	Receptors are able to accommodate new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors are likely to have a medium susceptibility to change and will not be at a location valued for its views.
Low	Receptors are able to accommodate a degree of new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors are likely to have a low susceptibility to change or be at a location valued for its views.
Very Low	Receptors are able to accommodate a high degree of new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors will have a low susceptibility to change and will not be at a location valued for their views.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts

1.3.11. The assessment compares the quality of the existing view with that which would result from the construction and operation of the scheme. Evaluations of magnitude are concerned with quantifying the degree of change in terms of size or scale, geographical extent of the change and its duration and reversibility.

1.3.12. Variables that influence the evaluations of magnitude include:

- The size and scale of change in the view.
- The proximity of the viewpoint to visible elements of the development.

- The extent and composition of the view (e.g., degree of existing screening, partial, glimpsed or unobstructed views, fleeting or prolonged nature of view).
- The degree of contrast or integration of proposed elements with the existing or remaining features or characteristics of the receiving landscape, including other development and built structures within the view, that may detract from or add to the appearance and visual amenity.
- The relative angle of the view in relation to the receptor. Views can be direct or oblique in nature
- The duration and reversibility of the impact.

1.3.13. Evaluations to quantify the magnitude of visual impacts are outlined in Table A1.9 below

Table A1.9: Visual Magnitude Criteria

Magnitude of Visual Impact	Description
Very High	The Proposed Development would be an immediately apparent feature that would occupy the greater proportion of the overall view, contrasting with existing features within the view. It would affect and change the overall appearance of the view and to which other features would become subordinate. Development is likely to be visually dominant. Views of the development are likely to be from close distance and will be long in duration.
High	The Proposed Development would be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a wide proportion of the overall view. The development may contrast with existing features within the view. The proposed development is likely to be visually prominent. Views of the development are likely to be medium to short distance and long to moderate in duration.
Medium	The Proposed Development would form a recognisable new element and would occupy a limited proportion of the overall view. The Proposed Development may contrast with some existing features within the view although the quality of the view may remain intact. Development is likely to be visible although not prominent. Views are likely to be medium distance and moderate in duration.

Low	The Proposed Development would form a component of the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. Awareness of the development would not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the view. Views are likely to be medium to long distance and glimpsed or brief in duration.
Very low	The Proposed Development would be perceptible, although it would have no marked effect on the overall quality of the view. Development is likely to be partially visible or restricted to long distance views that would be glimpsed or very brief in duration.
Negligible	The Proposed Development would be imperceptible to the degree that there will be no discernible impact on the overall quality of the view.

Significance of Visual Effects

- 1.3.14. The significance of effects is assessed using the appropriate national and international quality standards and professional judgement. For clarity and transparency, criteria have been used to attribute levels of significance. Broadly, the significance is a function of the magnitude of the impact and the sensitivity of receptors.
- 1.3.15. Evaluations of significance identified as greater than moderate will be considered to be significant. Effects less than moderate will be considered to be not significant. Where effects are determined to be of moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant, will depend on the individual and specific circumstances and the professional opinion of the landscape specialist.
- 1.3.16. Criteria for determining the significance of visual effects are set out in the Table A1.10 below:

Table A1.10: Significance of Visual Effects Criteria

Significance of Visual Effects	Description
Substantial	The Proposed Development would affect existing views to the extent that defining visual elements would become subservient within the view. When viewed within the context of the landscape, the Proposed Development is likely to be seen to conflict with existing visual amenity. Receptors are likely to be categorized as being of high sensitivity, although not exclusively so.

Major	The Proposed Development would be visually prominent, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Receptors are more likely to be categorized as being of medium or high sensitivity, although not exclusively so.
Moderate	The Proposed Development would result in some alteration to landscape features which contribute to the existing visual character or quality, but the overall integrity of the landscape and its visual qualities are maintained. The Proposed Development may be suitably absorbed or accommodated within the view alongside existing visual elements. Receptors are likely to be categorized as being of medium sensitivity, although not exclusively so.
Minor	The Proposed Development would be visually integrated within the existing landscape without the loss of essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Receptors are more likely to be categorized as being of medium or low sensitivity, although not exclusively so.
Negligible	The Proposed Development would be integrated into the existing landscape without having a material effect upon the distinctive and valued characteristics of the view. Receptors are likely to be categorised as being of low sensitivity, although not exclusively so.

1.4. Assessment of Cumulative Landscape Effects

- 1.4.1. In addition to assessing the individual effects of the proposed development on landscape character and visual amenity, the LVIA will also assess the cumulative effects of the Proposed Development with the proposed Tennis Centre, which is located adjacent to the south eastern boundary of the site. The tennis centre was granted planning permission in January 2023 (*planning application number P/20/995/FUL*).
- 1.4.2. The significance of cumulative effects on landscape character will be determined by combining the sensitivity of the LCA with the magnitude of cumulative change that would occur. Note that sensitivity in respect of cumulative effects would be the same as identified for individual effects and therefore the same criteria as identified in Table 1.3 would be applied.
- 1.4.3. The criteria for determining the magnitude and the significance of cumulative effects on landscape character are demonstrated in the following tables below.

Table 1.11: Magnitude of Cumulative Landscape Impacts Criteria

Magnitude	Description
Very High	The Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre would result in substantial loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a fundamental and permanent change to landscape character. The change may occur over an extensive area and for a duration extending into the foreseeable future.
High	The Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre would result in major loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a fundamental and permanent change to landscape character. The change may occur over a wide area and for a duration extending into the foreseeable future.
Medium	The Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre would result in the loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a partial change to landscape character that may have a duration extending from the medium term or into the foreseeable future. The change may occur over a notable area.
Low	The Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre would result in a minor loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a slight change to landscape character. The change may be temporary or occur over a limited area.
Very Low	The Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre would result in a very minor loss or alteration to key landscape attributes to the extent that there is a very slight change to landscape character. The change may be temporary or occur over a limited area.
Negligible	The Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre would result in such a minor loss or alteration to key attributes that there would be no fundamental change.

Table 1.12: Significance of Cumulative Landscape Effects Criteria

Significance of Cumulative Landscape effects	Description
Substantial	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre into the landscape together with the Proposed Development would have a direct or indirect effect on key landscape characteristics. The Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre are likely to become a prominent and defining landscape element across a significant proportion of the LCA.
Major	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre into the landscape together with the Proposed Development would have a direct or indirect effect on key landscape characteristics. The Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre are likely to become a prominent, but not necessarily defining, landscape element across a wide area of the LCA.
Moderate	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre into the landscape together with the Proposed Development would have a notable direct or indirect effect on some key landscape characteristics. The Proposed Development together with the proposed Tennis Centre are likely to become a characteristic new component of the landscape character but would not necessarily be a defining element.
Minor	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre into the landscape together with the Proposed Development would have a direct or indirect effect on some landscape elements or attributes without a reduction of the overall defining landscape character. Effects are likely to extend across a limited area of the LCA.
Negligible	The proposed Tennis Centre together with the Proposed Development would be integrated into the existing landscape without having a material effect upon landscape character.

1.5. Assessment of Cumulative Visual Effects

- 1.5.1. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity will be determined by combining the sensitivity of the visual receptors with the magnitude of cumulative change that would occur. Note that sensitivity in respect of visual receptors would be the same as identified for individual effects and therefore the same criteria as identified in Table A1.8 would be applied.

Table A1.13: Visual Magnitude Criteria

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impact	Description
Very High	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre together with the Proposed Development would be an immediately apparent feature that would occupy the greater proportion of the overall view, contrasting with existing features within the view. They would affect and change the overall appearance of the view and to which other features would become subordinate. Development is likely to be visually dominant. Views of the Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre are likely to be from close distance and will be long in duration.
High	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre together with the Proposed Development would be an apparent feature that is likely to occupy a wide proportion of the overall view and may contrast with existing features within it. The proposed development and the proposed Tennis Centre are likely to be visually prominent and likely to be medium to short distance, and long to moderate in duration.
Medium	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre together with the Proposed Development would form a recognisable new element and would occupy a limited proportion of the overall view. The Proposed Development and the proposed Tennis Centre may contrast with some existing features within the view although the quality of the view may remain intact. Development is likely to be visible although not prominent. Views are likely to be medium distance and moderate in duration.
Low	The Proposed Development together with the proposed Tennis Centre would form a component of the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. Awareness of the developments would not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the view. Views are likely to be medium to long distance and glimpsed or brief in duration.

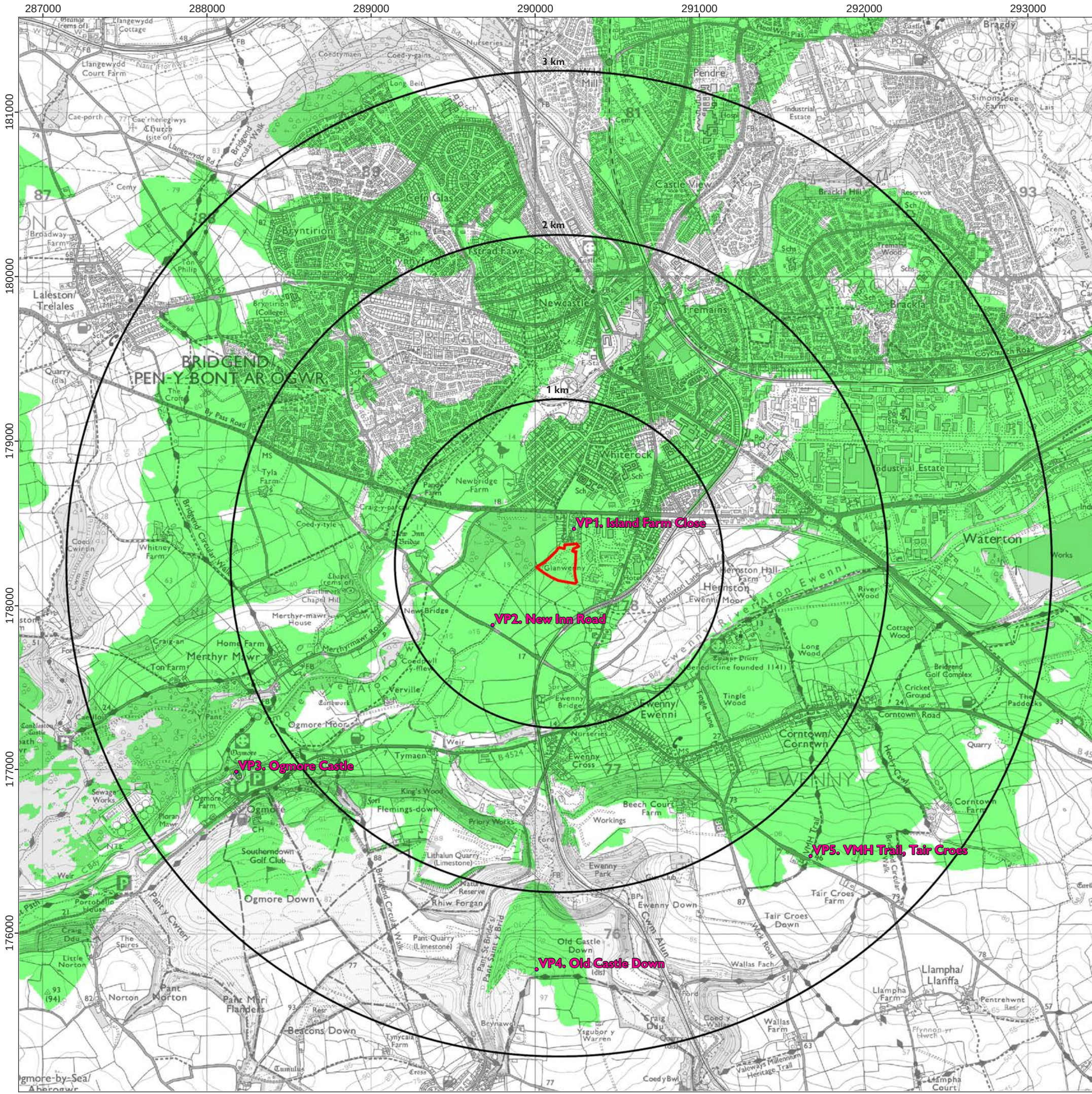
Very low	The Proposed Development together with the proposed Tennis Centre would be perceptible, although they would have no marked effect on the overall quality of the view. The developments are likely to be partially visible or restricted to long distance views that would be glimpsed or very brief in duration.
Negligible	The Proposed Development together with the proposed Tennis Centre would be imperceptible to the degree that there be no discernible impact on the overall quality of the view.

Table A1.14: Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects Criteria

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects	Description
Substantial	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre together with the Proposed Development would affect existing views to the extent that defining visual elements would become subservient within the view. When viewed within the context of the landscape, the Proposed Development together with the proposed Tennis Centre are likely to conflict with existing visual amenity. Receptors are likely to be categorized as being of high sensitivity, although not exclusively so.
Major	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre together with the Proposed Development would be visually prominent, which may lead to the loss of some essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Receptors are more likely to be categorized as being of medium or high sensitivity, although not exclusively so.
Moderate	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre together with the Proposed Development would result in some alteration to landscape features which contribute to the existing visual character or quality, but the overall integrity of the landscape and its visual qualities are maintained. The Proposed Development together with the proposed Tennis Centre may be suitably absorbed or accommodated within the view alongside existing visual elements. Receptors are likely to be categorized as being of medium

Minor	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre together with the Proposed Development would be visually integrated within the existing landscape without the loss of essential landscape features which contribute to the visual character or quality of the view. Receptors are more likely to be categorized as being of medium or low sensitivity, although not exclusively so.
Neutral	The addition of the proposed Tennis Centre together with the Proposed Development would be integrated into the existing landscape without having a material effect upon the distinctive and valued characteristics of the view. Receptors are likely to be categorised as being of low sensitivity, although not exclusively so.

APPENDIX B: FIGURES



Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.1: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and Viewpoint Locations

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

Viewpoint Location

Name	Easting	Northing
1 Island Farm Close	290236	178466
2 New Inn Road	289740	177879
3 Ogmore Castle	288181	176983
4 Old Castle Down	290009	175782
5 Vale Millennium Heritage Trail, Tair Croes	291677	176474

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

0

1

2 km

Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.1

Drawing by:

Soltys Brewster Consulting

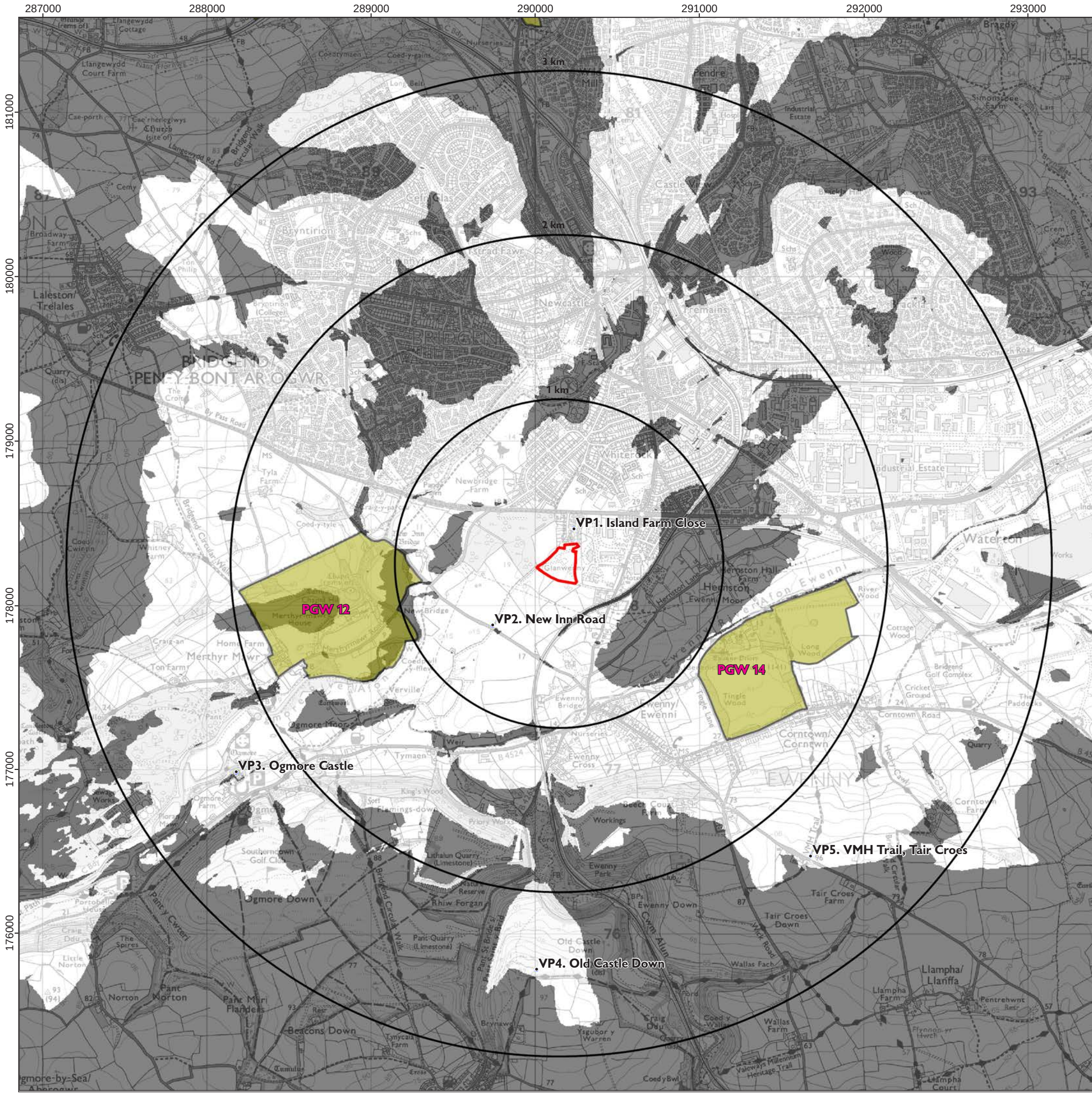
4 Slangate House

Stanwell Road

Penarth

Vale of Glamorgan

CF64 2AA



Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.2: Statutory Landscape Designations

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest

PGW 12

PGW 14

Name

Merthyr Mawr House

Ewenny Priory

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

012 km

N

Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.2

Drawing by:

Soltys Brewster Consulting

4 Slangate House

Stanwell Road

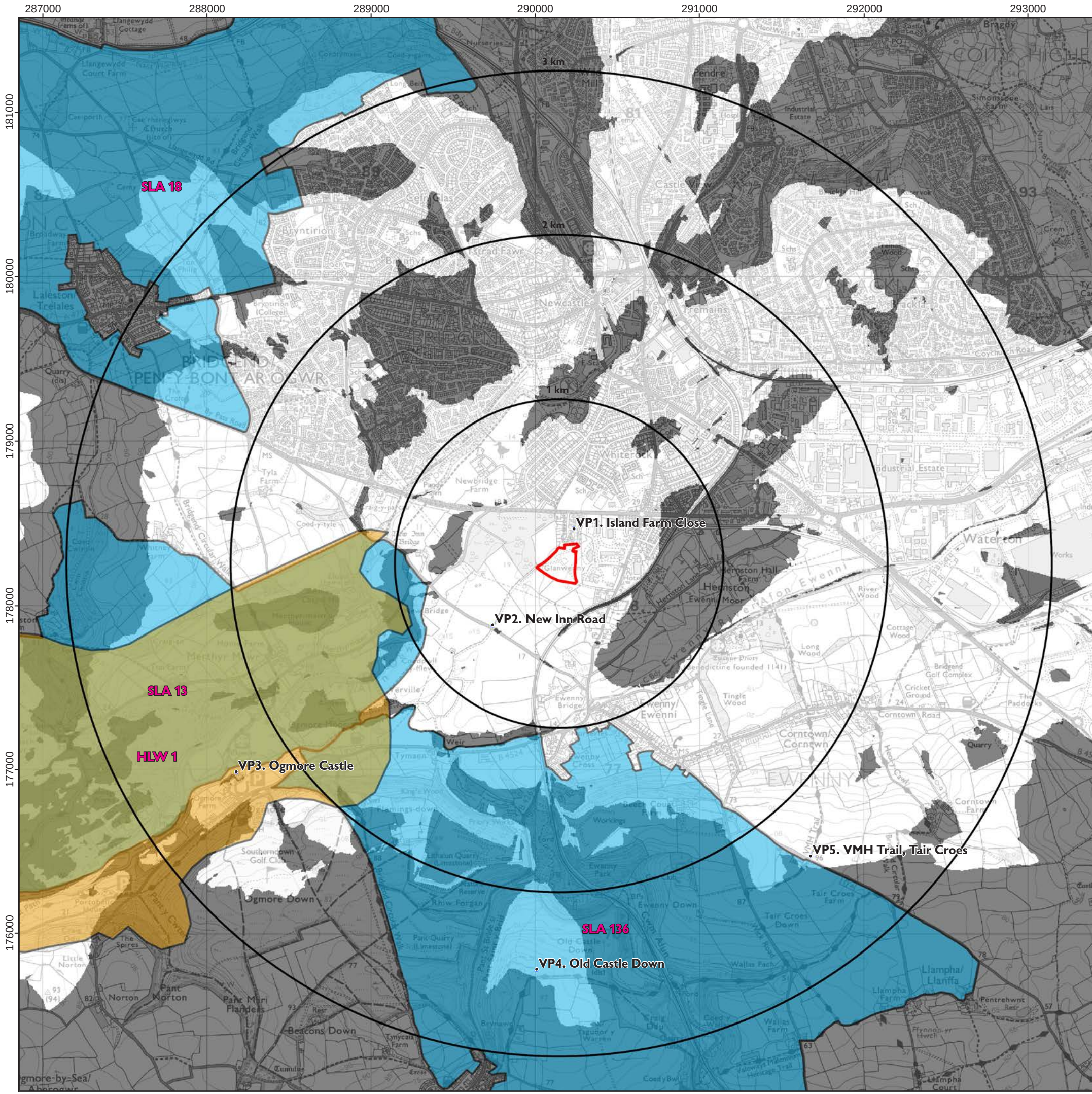
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Vale of Glamorgan

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KIER



Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.3: Non Statutory Landscape Designations

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Landscapes of Outstanding / Special Historic Interest in Wales

Special Landscape Areas

HLW 1

Name

Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig & Margam Burrows (Outstanding)

SLA 13

Name

Merthyr Mawr Warren

SLA 18

Name

Laleston

SLA 136

Name

Castle upon Alun

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

0

1

2 km

N

Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.3

Drawing by:

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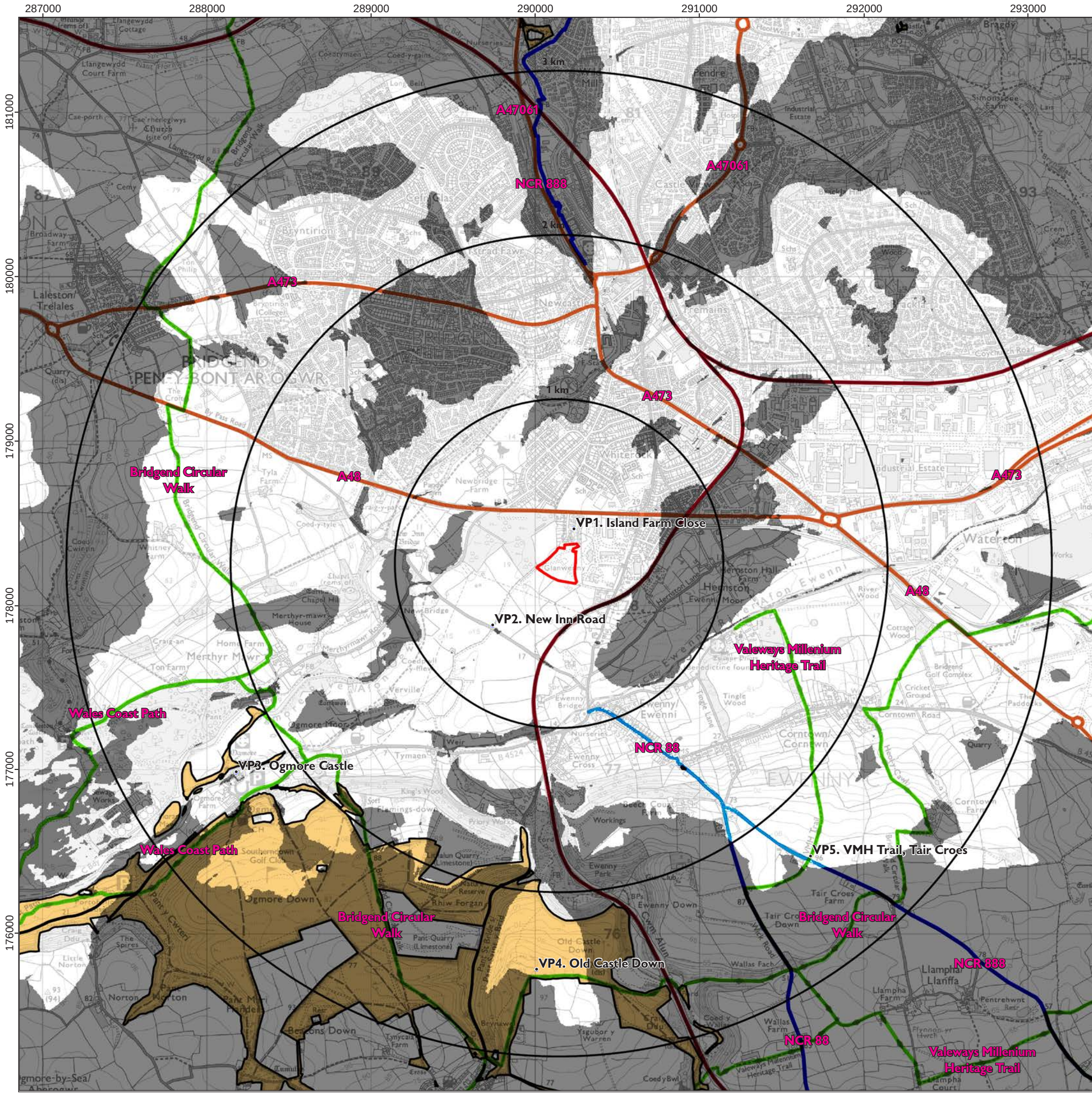
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Project:
Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:
Figure 1.4: Transport, Movement & Access

Key

 Site Boundary

 Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

 No Theoretical Visibility

 Viewpoint Location

 CRoW Act Open Access Land

 National Trails / Long Distance Paths

 National Cycle Routes (NCR)

 Primary Routes

 Rail

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Scale @ A3
Coordinate System: British National Grid

0

1

2 km

N



Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

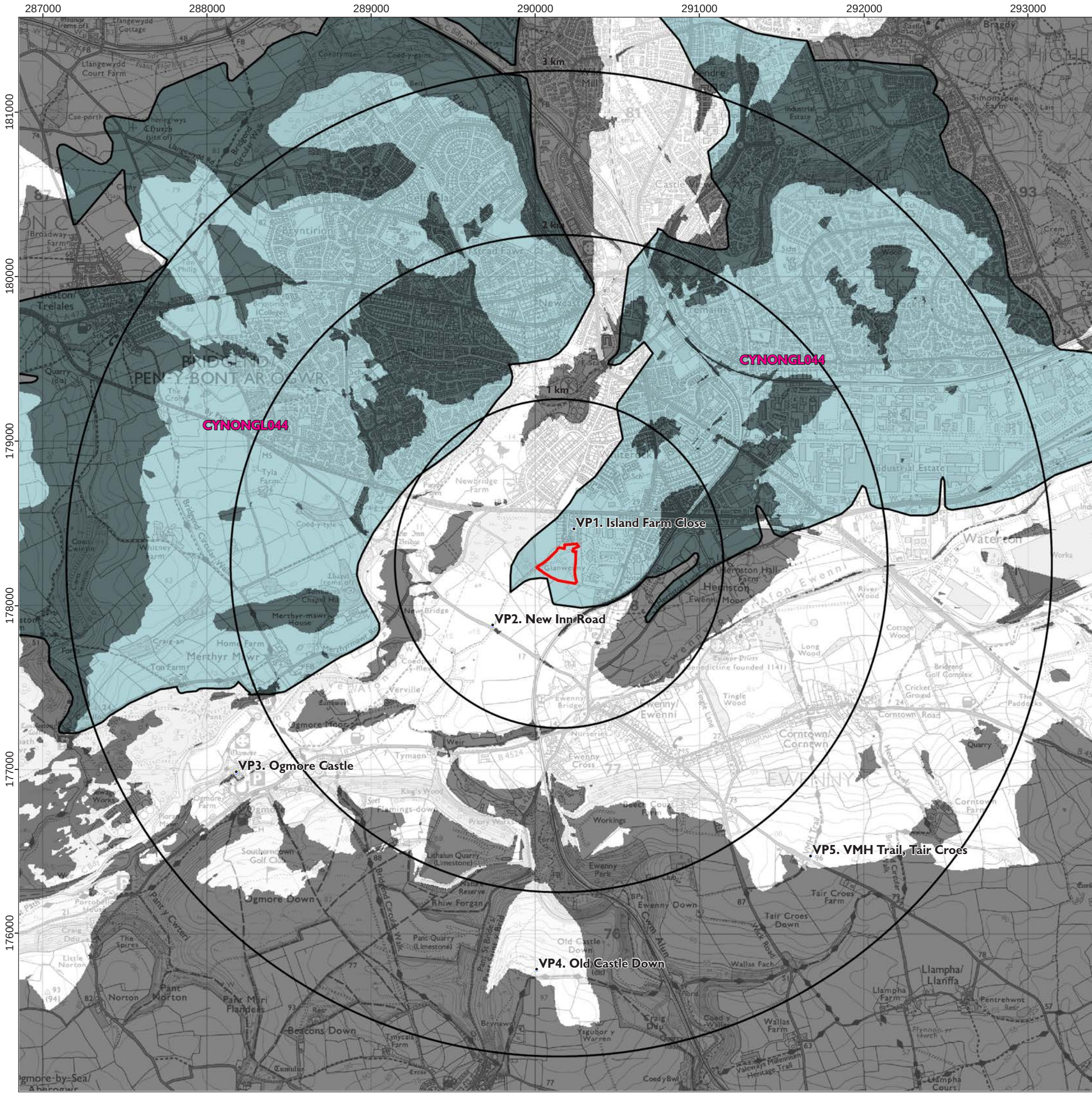
Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.4

Drawing by:

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Vale of Glamorgan
CF64 2AA







Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.5: LANDMAP GN46 Aspect Areas
Geological Landscape Classification

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Lowland Plateau

CYNONGL044

Bridgend Plain

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

012 km

Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.5

Drawing by:

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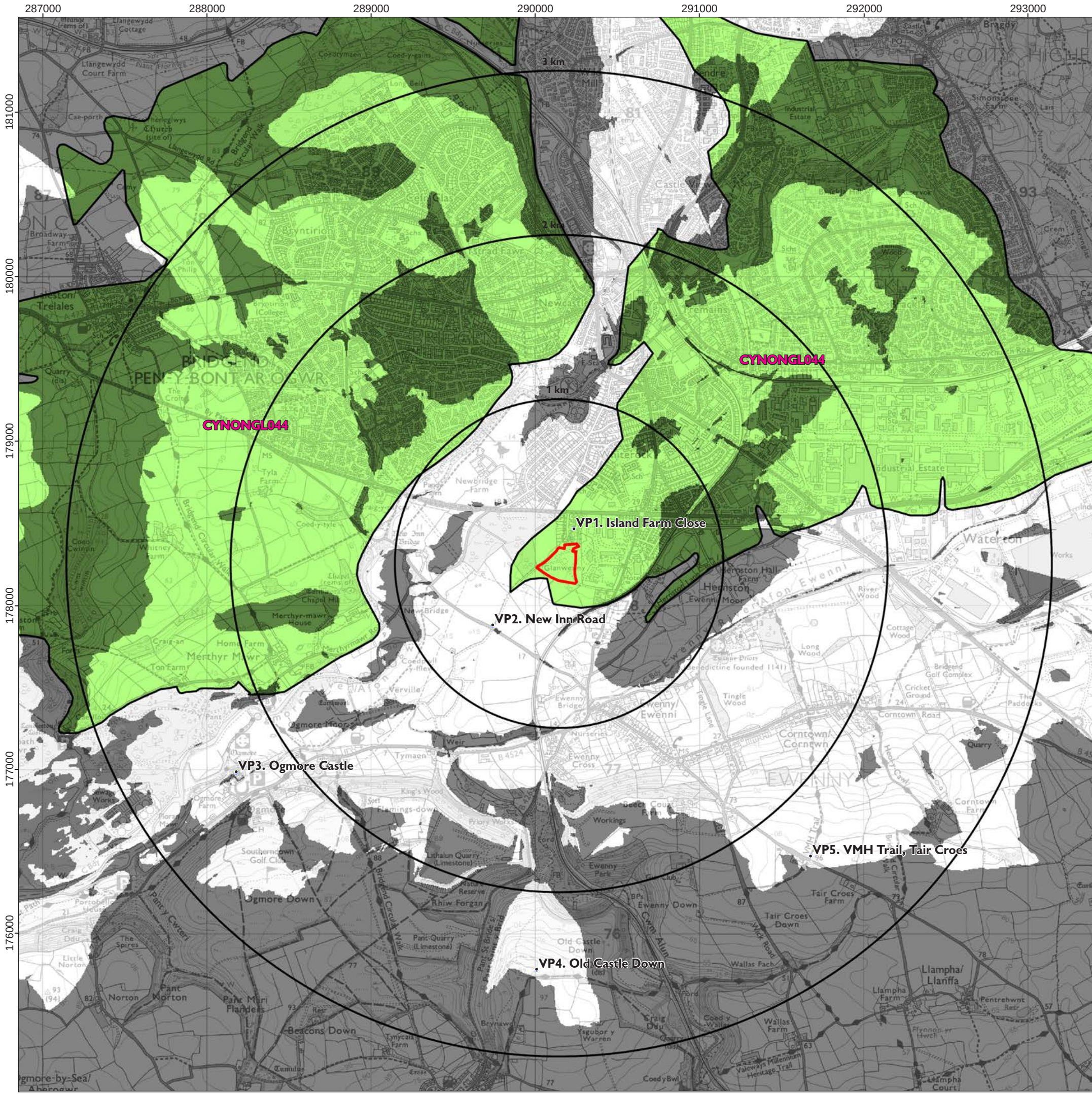
4 Slangate House

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Penarth

Vale of Glamorgan

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Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.6: LANDMAP GN46 Aspect Areas
Geological Landscape Evaluation

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

High Overall Evaluation, Moderate Rarity

CYNONGL044 Bridgend Plain

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

012 km

Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.6

Drawing by:

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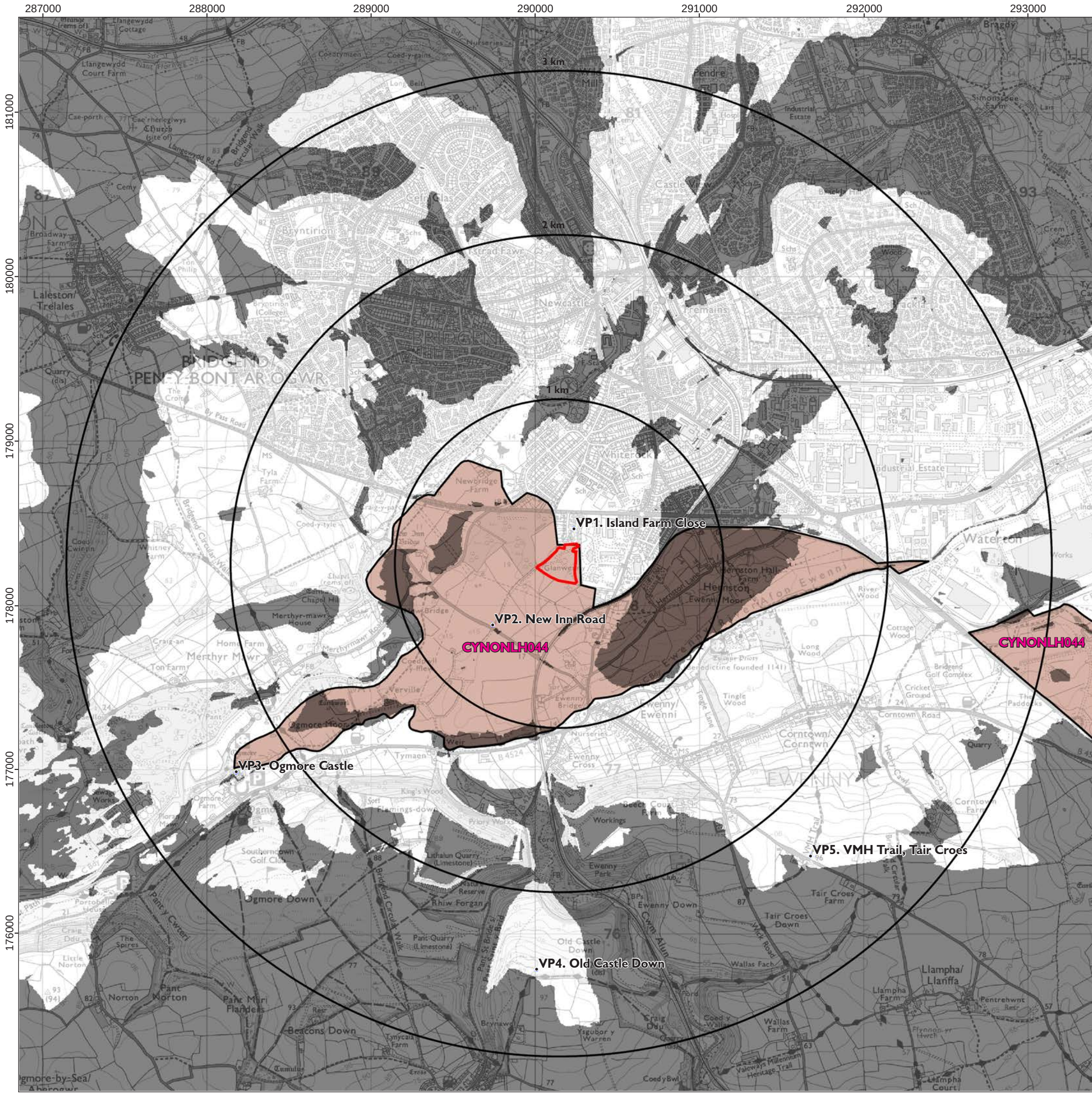
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Vale of Glamorgan

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Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.7: LANDMAP GN46 Aspect Areas
Landscape Habitats Classification

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Improved Grassland

CYNONLH044

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

012 km

Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.7

Drawing by:

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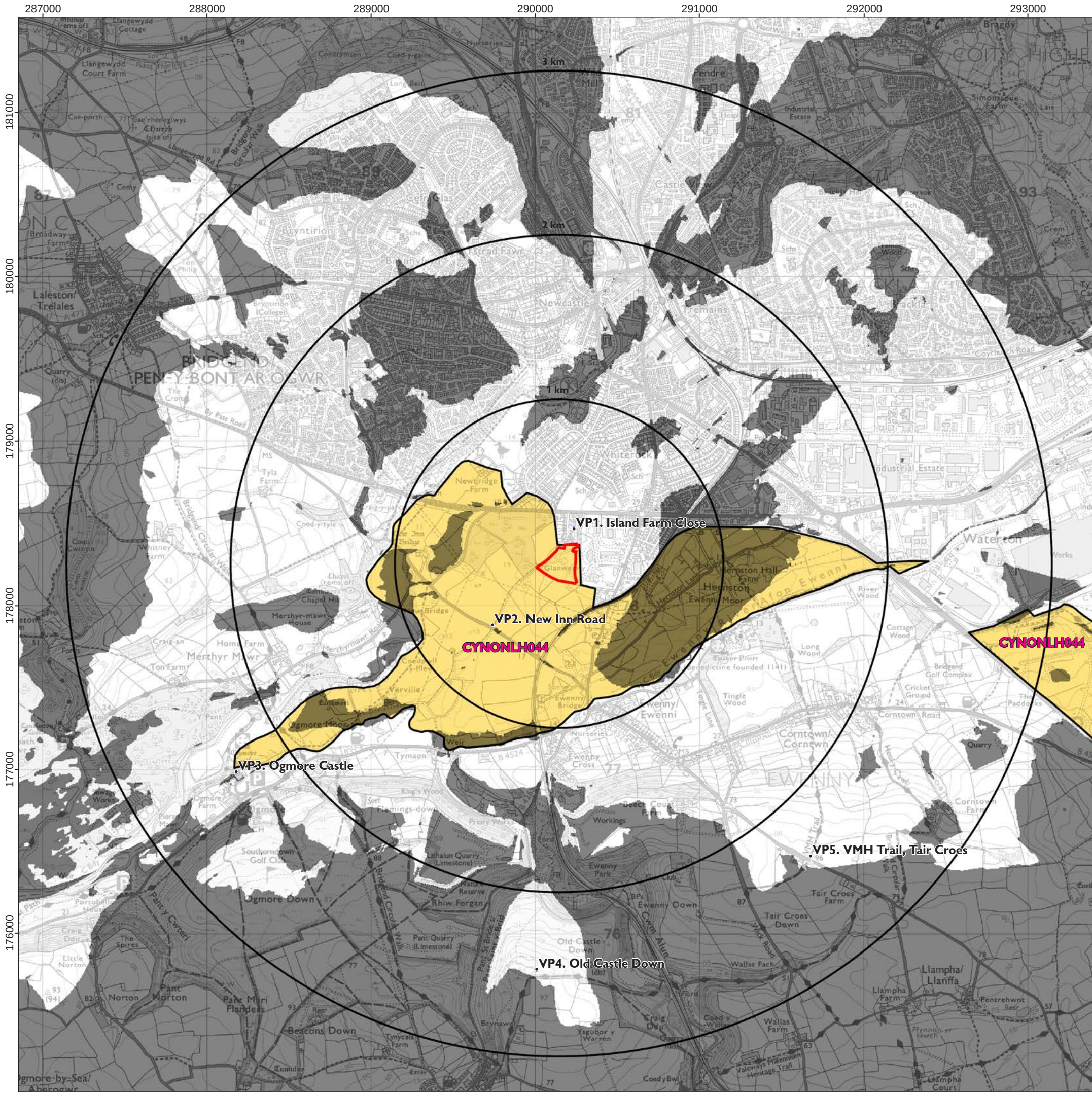
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Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.8: LANDMAP GN46 Aspect Areas
Landscape Habitats Evaluation

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Moderate Overall Evaluation, Moderate Connectivity
CYNONLH044

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

012 km

Date: April 2026

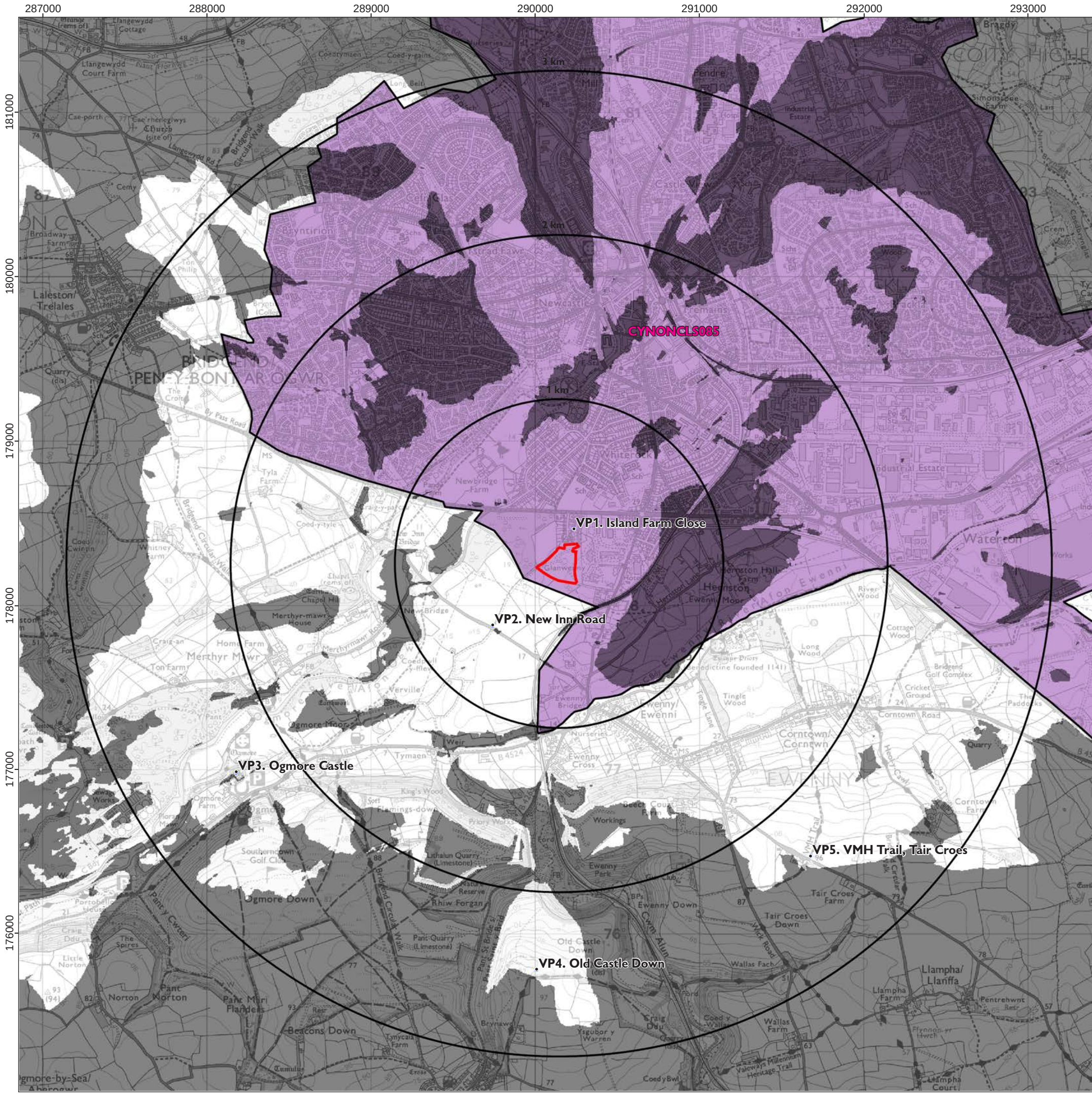
Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.8

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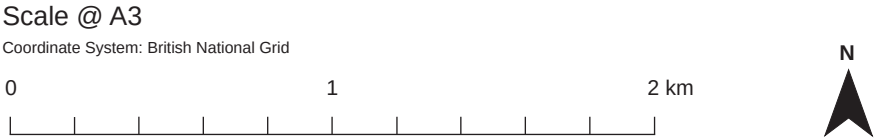


Project:
Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:
Figure 1.9: LANDMAP GN46 Aspect Areas
Cultural Landscape Services Classification

- Key**
- Site Boundary
 - Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site
 - No Theoretical Visibility
 - Viewpoint Location
 - Urban
 - CYNONCLS085
 - Bridgend

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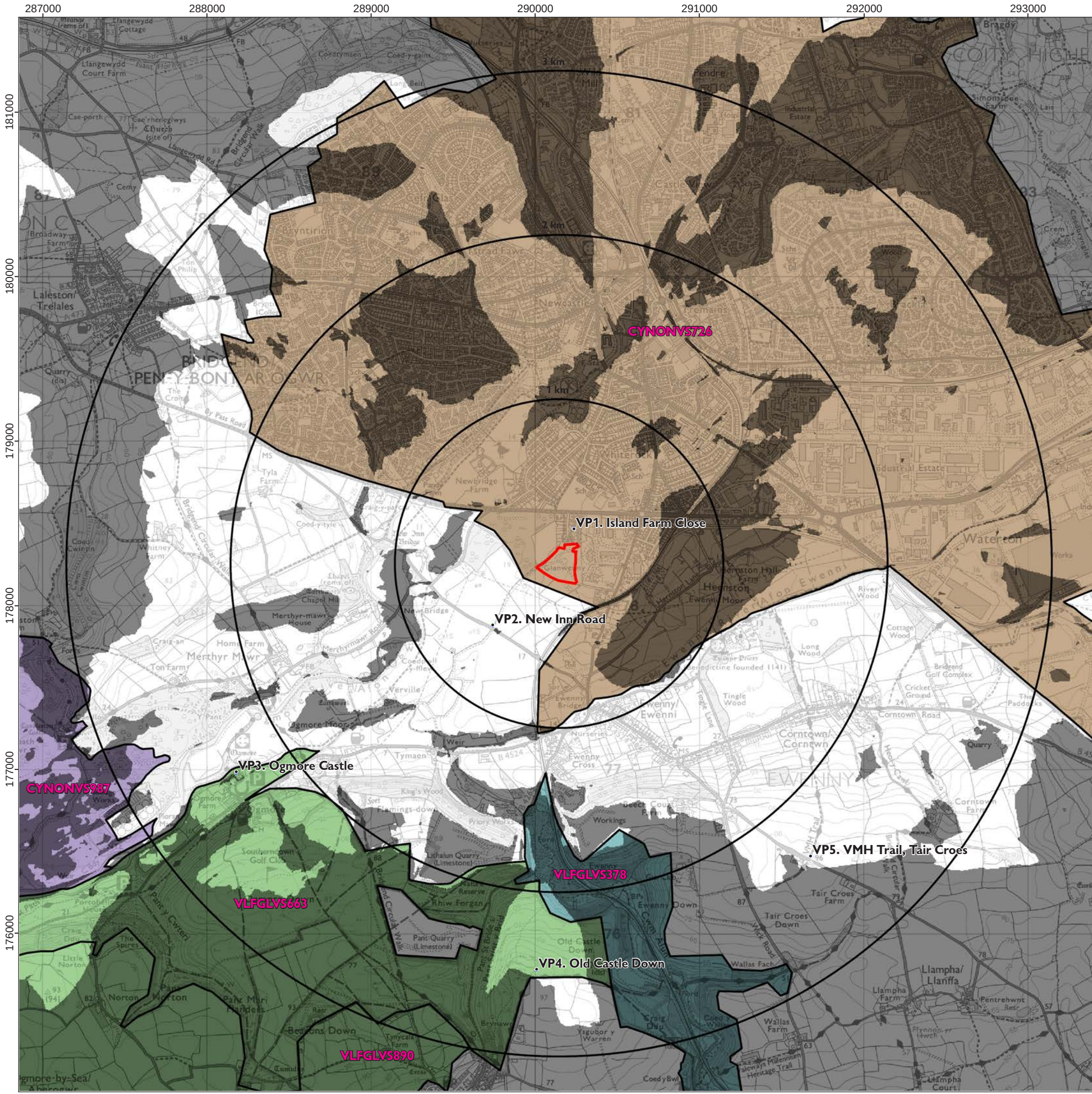


Date: April 2026	Prepared by: SM	Checked by: RC
Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.9		

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Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.10: LANDMAP GN46 Aspect Areas
Visual & Sensory Classification

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Urban

CYNONVS726

Bridgend

Dunes & Dune Slack

CYNONVS987

Merthyr Mawr Warren

Open Rolling Lowland

VLFLGLVS663

Ogmore & Old Castle Downs

VLFLGLVS890

Heritage Coast Hinterlands

Wooded Lowland Valleys

VLFLGLVS378

Alun Valley

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

0

1

2 km

Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.10

Drawing by:

Soltys Brewster Consulting

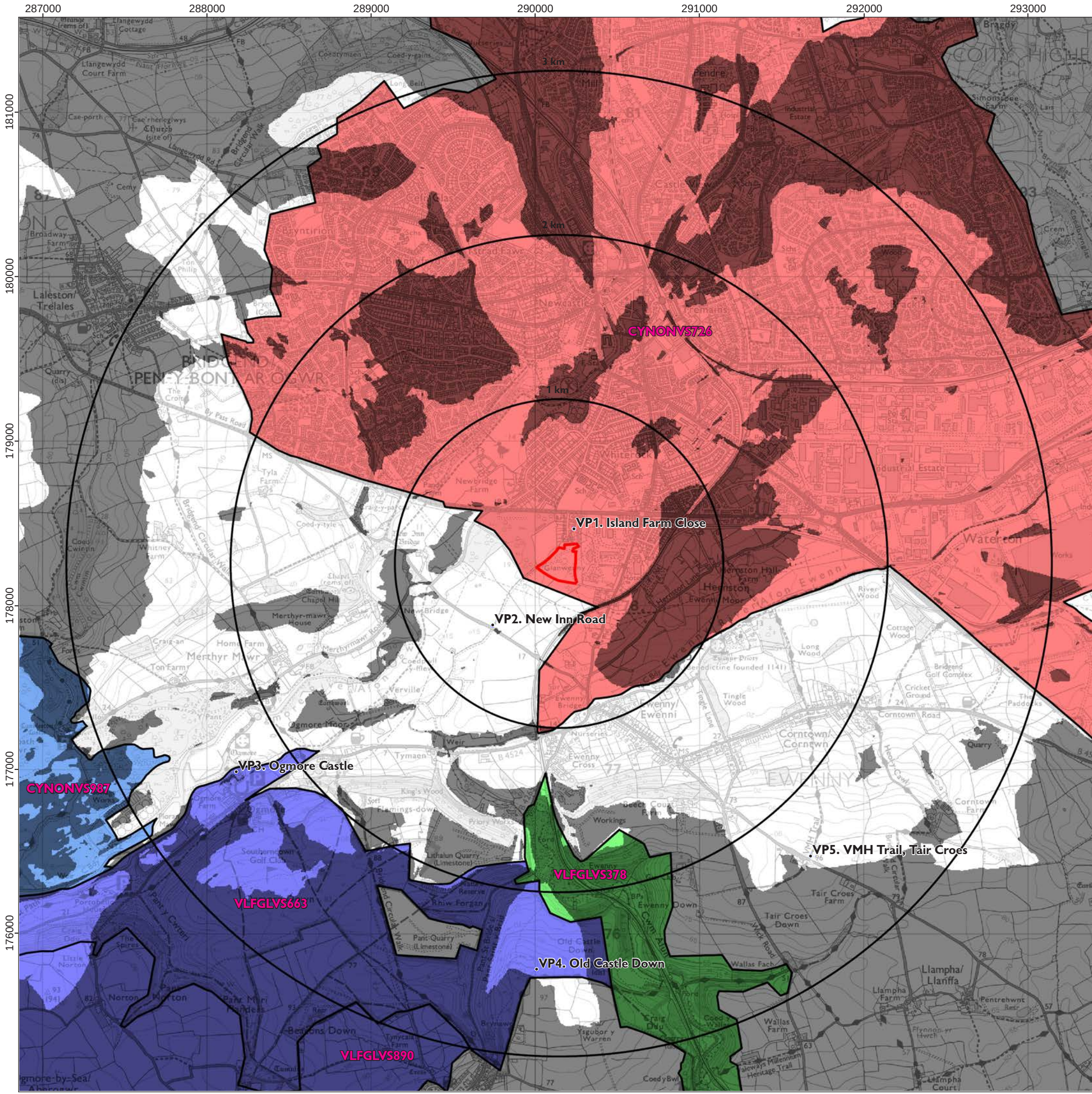
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Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.11: LANDMAP GN46 Aspect Areas
Visual & Sensory Evaluation

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Outstanding Overall Evaluation, Outstanding Scenic Quality

VLFLGLVS663

Ogmore & Old Castle Downs

VLFLGLVS890

Heritage Coast Hinterlands

Outstanding Overall Evaluation, High Scenic Quality

CYNONVS987

Merthyr Mawr Warren

High Overall Evaluation, High Scenic Quality

VLFLGLVS378

Alun Valley

Low Overall Evaluation, Low Scenic Quality

CYNONVS726

Bridgend

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

0

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2 km

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Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.11

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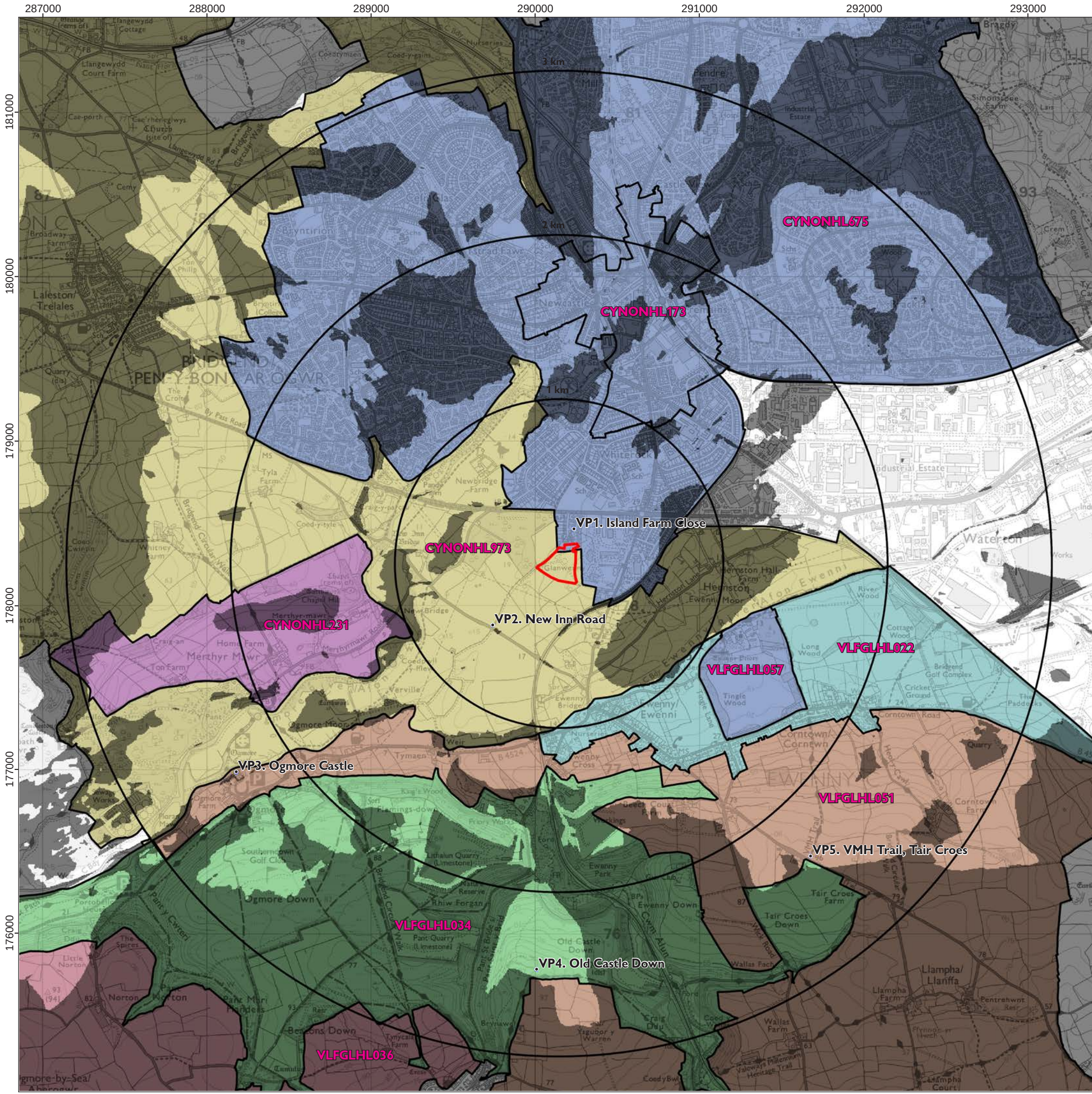
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Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.12: LANDMAP GN46 Aspect Areas
Historic Landscape Classification

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Nucleated Settlement

CYNONHL173

H17 Bridgend Historic Core

CYNONHL675

H18 Bridgend Urban Sprawl

VLFLHL057

Ewenny Priory

Other Fieldsapes

CYNONHL973

H19 Cornelly to Laleston 1

Designed

CYNONHL231

H29 Merthyr Mawr

Communications

VLFLHL022

A48 Lougher to Chepstow Communication Corridor

Irregular Fieldsapes

VLFLHL051

Llandow Rural

Marginal Land

VLFLHL034

Ogmore Down

Regular Fieldsapes

VLFLHL036

St Donat's, Monkash and St Brides Major

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

0

1

2 km

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Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.12

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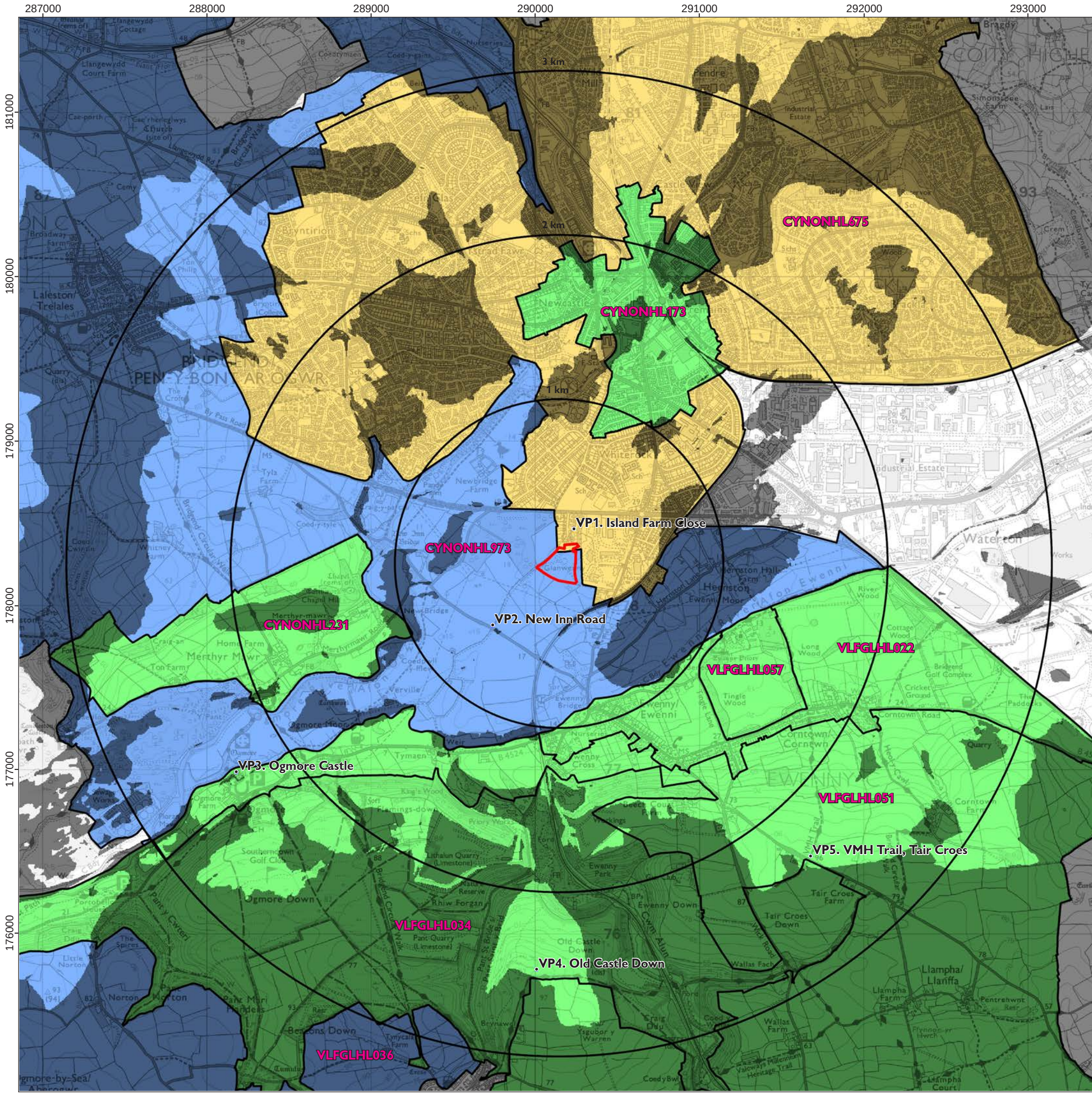
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Project:
Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:
Figure 1.13: LANDMAP GN46 Aspect Areas
Historic Landscape Evaluation

Key

 Site Boundary

 Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

 No Theoretical Visibility

 Viewpoint Location

 Outstanding Overall Evaluation

CYNONHL973 H19 Cornelly to Laleston 1

VLFGHL036 St Donat's, Monknash and St Brides Major

 High Overall Evaluation

CYNONHL173 H17 Bridgend Historic Core

CYNONHL231 H26 Merthyr Mawr

VLFGHL022 A48 Lougher to Chepstow Communication Corridor

VLFGHL034 Ogmores Down

VLFGHL051 Llanden Road

VLFGHL057 Ewenny Priory

 Moderate Overall Evaluation

CYNONHL675 H18 Bridgend Urban Sprawl

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Scale @ A3

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012 km



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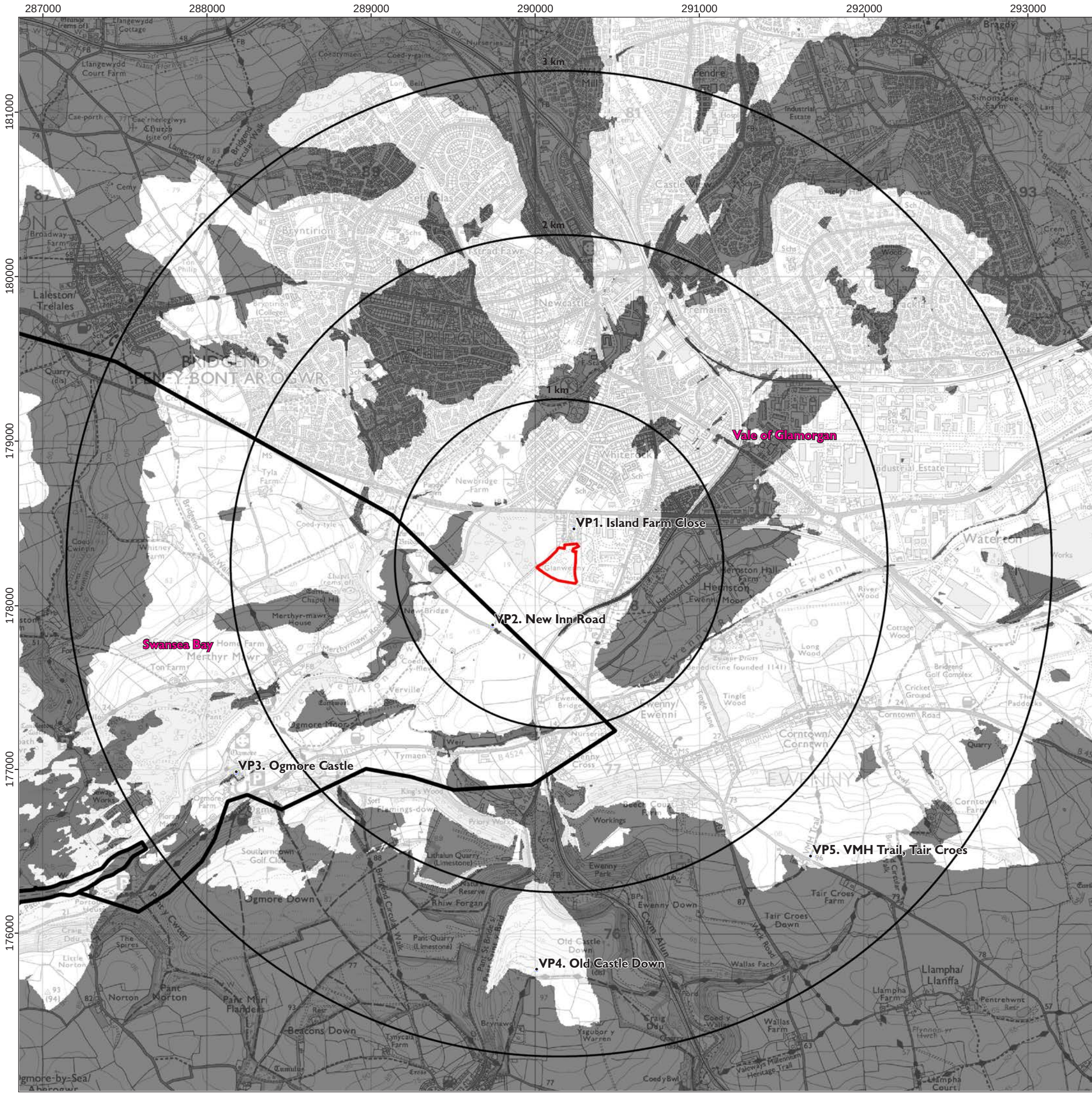
Penarth

Vale of Glamorgan

CF64 2AA







Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.14: National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs)

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Natuional Landscape Character Area (NLCA)

Name

1 Vale of Glamorgan

2 Swansea Bay

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

012 km

Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.14

Drawing by:

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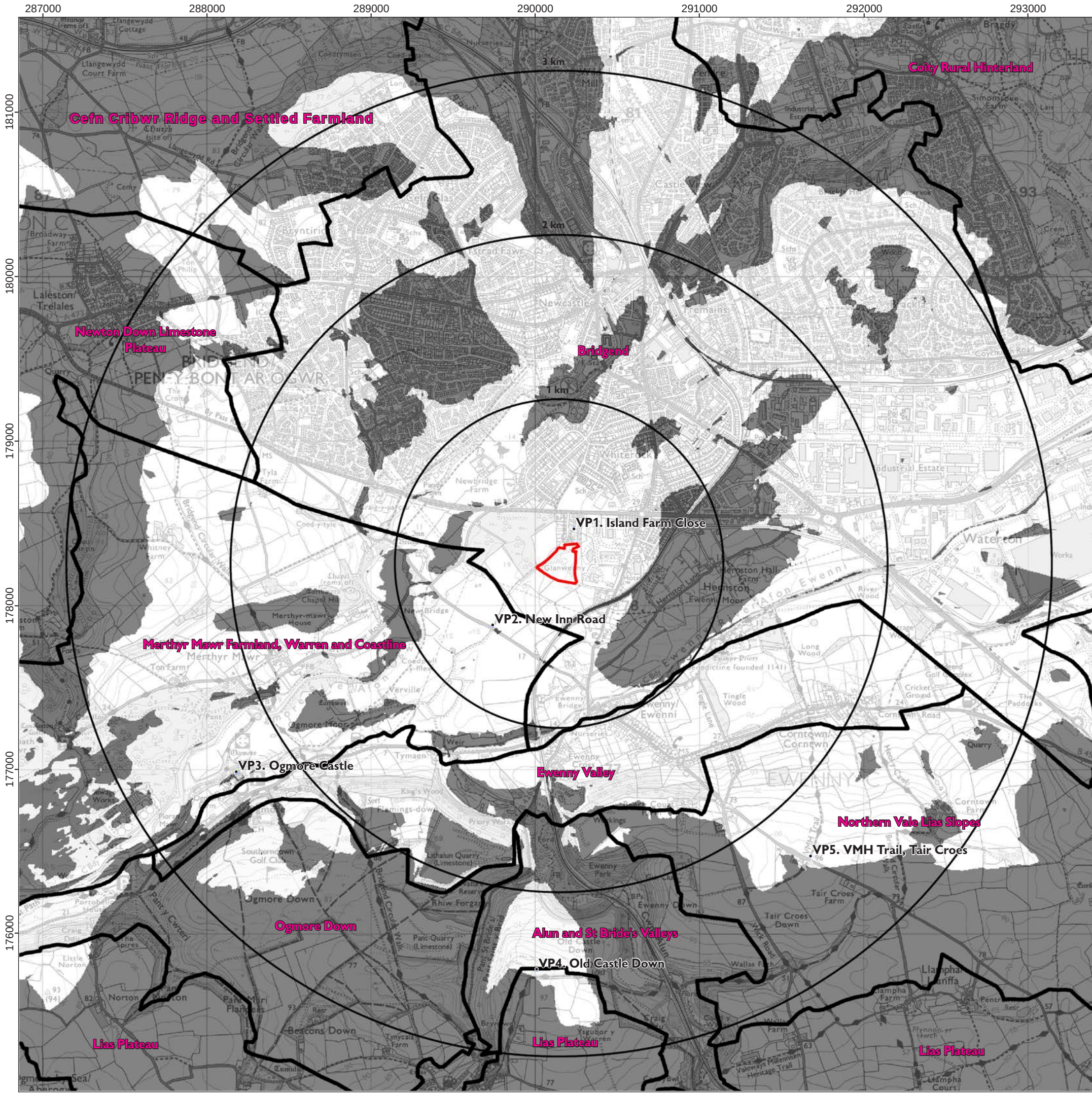
4 Slangate House

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Penarth

Vale of Glamorgan

CF64 2AA



Project:

Heronsbridge School, Bridgend

Title:

Figure 1.15: Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

Key

Site Boundary

Study Area, Distance Set from Centre of Site

No Theoretical Visibility

Viewpoint Location

Landscape Character Area (LCA)

Name

1 Bridgend

2 Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline

3 Ewenny Valley

4 Alun and St Bride's Valleys

5 Northern Vale Lias Slopes

6 Ogmore Down

7 Lias Plateau

8 Newton Down Limestone Plateau

9 Cefn Cribwr Ridge and Settled Farmland

10 Coity Rural Hinterland

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Scale @ A3

Coordinate System: British National Grid

012 km

Date: April 2026

Prepared by: SM

Checked by: RC

Ref: 2693501_SBC_Figure-1.15

Drawing by:

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4 Stangate House

Stanwell Road

Penarth

Vale of Glamorgan

CF64 2AA



Baseline Photograph

This image provides landscape and visual context only



Baseline Photograph

This image provides landscape and visual context only

Heronbridge School, Bridgend
Figure 17: Viewpoint 2 - New Inn Road



OS Reference: 289740, 177879
Height: 18 m AOD
Direction to center of photograph: 50 °
Principle Distance: 522 mm

Horizontal field of view: 90 ° (cylindrical projection)
Vertical field of view: 28.4 °
Paper size: 841 mm x 297 mm
Correct printed image size: 820 mm x 260 mm

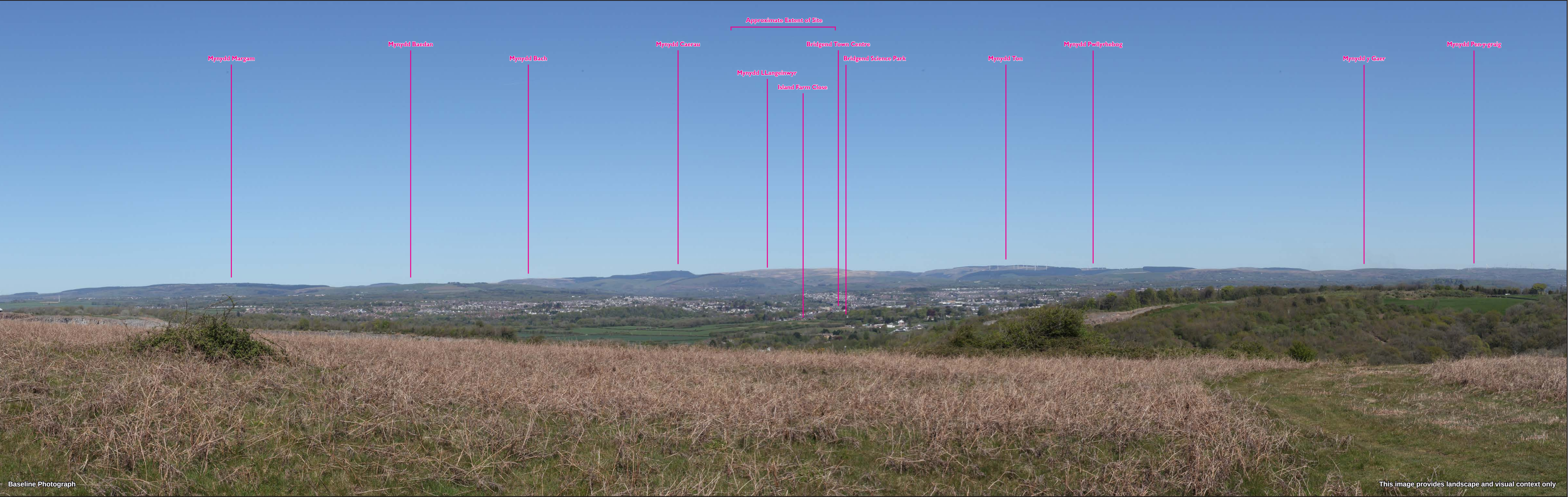
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Lens: 50 mm f1.4
Camera height: 1.6 m AGL
Date and Time: 31/03/2026 09.30

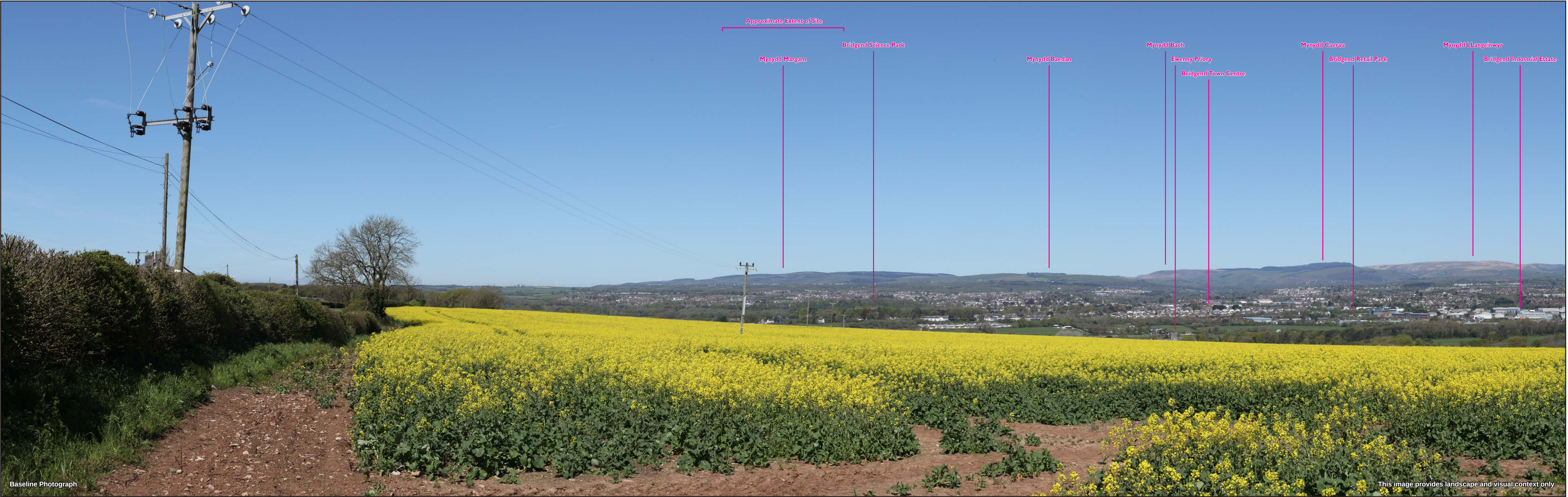
Distance to Site Boundary: 0.442 km



Baseline Photograph

This image provides landscape and visual context only





Baseline Photograph

This image provides landscape and visual context only

Heronbridge School, Bridgend
Figure 20: Viewpoint 5 - Vale Millennium Heritage Trail, Tair Croes



OS Reference: 291677, 176474
Height: 95 m AOD
Direction to center of photograph: 320 °
Principle Distance: 522 mm

Horizontal field of view: 90 ° (cylindrical projection)
Vertical field of view: 28.4 °
Paper size: 841 mm x 297 mm
Correct printed image size: 820 mm x 260 mm

Camera: Canon EOS 5D Mark II
Lens: 50 mm f1.4
Camera height: 1.6 m AGL
Date and Time: 24/04/2026 10.50

Distance to Site Boundary: 2.193 km