

Margam Substation Extension

**Landscape and Visual Appraisal
(LVA)**

On behalf of **National Grid Electricity Transmission**

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Stantec UK Ltd (Stantec) was commissioned by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) to undertake a landscape and visual appraisal (LVA) of the proposed extension to the existing Margam Substation (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development is located directly east of an existing substation which lies adjacent to TATA steel works, Port Talbot (hereafter referred to as 'The Site', as shown on **Figure L1 within Appendix A: Figures**).
- 1.1.3 This report presents the methodology, baseline context, and results of the LVA, including the approach to mitigation. The methodology used for the appraisal is provided at Section 2. The findings of the desk study and site visit are summarised at Sections 3 and 4. Section 5 sets out the key landscape and visual constraints and opportunities, and mitigation requirements. The principle of development is appraised in terms of landscape and visual effects, at Section 6. Conclusions are set out at Section 7.
- 1.1.4 Photos from a range of view locations which support the visual analysis of the site are represented by stitched panoramic photographs, presented in **Appendix A: Figures, Figure L7: Photosheets** and also within **Appendix C: Visual Effects Table**, for ease of reference.

1.2 Scope of Assessment

- 1.2.1 This LVA report considers:
- Features of the Site and its context;
 - Published landscape / townscape character;
 - The character of the Site, and its relationship to its surroundings;
 - Landscape-related planning designations;
 - Views towards the Site;
 - An approach to mitigation; and
 - Likely effects upon landscape / townscape features, character and views, and the magnitude of those changes which are likely to arise as a result of development on the Site.

1.3 The Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development within the footprint of the Site comprises the extension of the Margam 275kV substation including the erection of a gas insulated switchgear hall (GIS hall) and the demolition of the existing control and amenities buildings to enable the erection of a new amenities building. Works will include earthworks, surface water management and drainage infrastructure, lighting, CCTV, boundary treatment, car parking, ecological improvements including a wildlife tower and gabion baskets, improved internal access roads, diesel generator and hardstanding, storage and building and water storage tank, flood defence wall including flood gates and appropriate landscaping and other associated engineering operations.

- 1.3.2 A detailed overview of the proposed works to the existing Margam 275kV substation compound is provided below:
- Construction of a GIS Hall to house 275kV electrical switchgear and ancillary equipment;
 - The GIS Hall to include 12 bays with the provision of 3 spare bays;
 - Mechanically Switched Capacitor with Damping Network;
 - Realignment of the existing downleads and Super Grid Transformer circuits to new bays within the GIS Hall;
 - New amenities building to include welfare facilities, meeting room and ancillary office space;
 - One diesel generator to be used in a backup situation only and hardstanding for a replacement freestanding diesel generator;
 - Security fencing at a height of 2.4m plus 1m electric fence topper;
 - Surface water management and drainage infrastructure including internal drainage systems;
 - Flood defence wall (1150mm high and depth 1000mm) and flood gates at existing access points into the existing substation;
 - Water storage tank (6m high and 6.1m diameter);
 - CCTV;
 - Lighting to include 6m medium duty, tilt down tubular steel construction (exact location to be agreed), 27no. 'label C', 18no. 'label E' and 13no. 'label EX1'), dark sky approved;
 - Creation of a new designated parking area on hardstanding (four standard bays and two accessible bays);
 - Landscape design elements; and
 - Ecological mitigation to include a wildlife tower and gabion baskets.
- 1.3.3 It should be noted that this LVA considers the potential landscape and visual effects associated with the substation extension and related access within the Site footprint only, and does not consider effects resulting from the proposed cable routes and temporary elements such as working platforms outside of this which is Permitted Development (PD). However, in the interests of clarity, elements associated with PD works will be referred to within the overall descriptions of the Site within the planning boundary.
- 1.3.4 As part of the Proposed Development, following the required PD enabling works which would include vegetation clearance, construction compounds/swathes would be required to facilitate construction. Compounds would be located to the north and east of the proposed substation extension.
- 1.3.5 Following completion of the Proposed Development, site installation facilities would be removed, and where required temporary working areas restored.

- 1.3.6 The proposed substation elements will be approximately 13m high at their highest point (GIS Hall). The Proposed Development layout is illustrated on the Application Drawing: **MARPT-BHK-01-ZZ-DG-A-130023 (Margam GIS Hall – Proposed Site Plan)**.

2 Methodology

2.1 Approach

- 2.1.1 Stantec is a registered practice with the Landscape Institute and corporate member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). This appraisal is based on the principles of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute, IEMA, 2013) and professional experience.
- 2.1.2 The appraisal has been informed by a desktop study, supplemented by a field survey visit to the Site and its surroundings.

2.2 Desktop Study

- 2.2.1 The desktop study comprised collation and review of published background information on the Site and surrounding context. This included a review of landscape planning policy and the published landscape character of the Site, as well as information on statutory and non-statutory landscape designations on the Site or in the surrounding area.

2.3 Consultation

- 2.3.1 Consultation was undertaken via email with Neith Port Talbot Council (NPT) in January 2025 to form agreement on the location of View Locations (VLs) which subsequently inform the visual assessment.
- 2.3.2 Stantec provided information on the VLs via email on 28 January and attached a Site Location Plan with View Locations to support. An email response was subsequently received on 21 February from Chris Davies, Head of Planning at NPT, stating that they could not offer specific guidance as there was no Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) or landscape consultant in place for the project. It was subsequently suggested we look at the previous viewpoints used by Tata in their 2024 application for guidance. Following consultation of Figure 5.1: Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoints (VP) from the TATA Steel Pre-Application Consultation documents dated 05/09/2024, several view locations were broadly used for this application (VP2 within Margam, and VP 7 and 11 on higher ground east of the Site), however given the location of the TATA application on the western side of the steel plant, the remaining VPs were not deemed relevant, and more 'site-specific' additional locations were chosen.

2.4 Sources of Baseline Information

- 2.4.1 The sources of baseline data are summarised in **Table 1** below:

Table 1: Baseline Information Sources

Baseline Topic	Data Source
Country Parks	Margam Country Park. Available at: Margam Country Park [Accessed 24/10/24]
Special Landscape Area	Margam Special Landscape Area. Available at: LDP Interactive Mapping [Accessed 24/10/24]
Landscape of Historic Interest	Margam Mountain. Available at: LDP Interactive Mapping [Accessed 24/10/24]

Baseline Topic	Data Source
Green Wedge	Green Wedge EN3/5: Margam. Available at: LDP Interactive Mapping [Accessed 24/10/24]
Local Landscape Planning Policy	Adopted LDP (2011 – 2026) Neath Port Talbot Council [online]. Available at: Adopted LDP (2011-2026) - Neath Port Talbot Council [Accessed 24/10/24]
Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments	Historic Wales, 2024. 'Historic Wales Portal' [online] Available at: Historic Wales [Accessed 24/10/24]
Conservation Areas	Margam Park [online]. Available at: LDP Interactive Mapping [Accessed 24/10/24]
Ancient Woodland	DataMapWales, Ancient Woodland Inventory 2021 [online]. Available at: Ancient Woodland Inventory 2021 DataMapWales [Accessed 24/10/24]
Public Rights of Way	Neath Port Talbot Council- Public Rights of way map [online] - Available at: NPT Rights of Way [Accessed 24/10/24] Ordnance Survey, 2024. 1:25, 000 Explorer Map (available on Bing maps)
National Cycle Network	Sustrans, 2024. 'National Cycle Network Map' [online] Available at: Home - Sustrans.org.uk [Accessed 24/10/24 2016]
Landscape Character	LANDMAP – the Welsh landscape baseline [online]. Available at: Natural Resources Wales / LANDMAP - the Welsh landscape baseline [Accessed 24/10/24] The Neath Port Talbot Landmap Landscape Assessment (2004) [online]. Available at: spg_landmap_landscape_assessment_2004.pdf [Accessed 01/11/24]

2.5 Field Survey

2.5.1 A site visit was undertaken in February 2025 by a Chartered Landscape Architect. The purpose of the fieldwork was to:

- Gain an understanding of the landscape character of the Site and its context;
- Determine the extent of visibility of the existing Site and Proposed Development - the actual extent of which is determined by existing landform, vegetation, and existing / proposed built form;
- Collect baseline view location photography. In addition, the area surrounding the Site was surveyed and photographed to assess visibility of the Site and the Proposed Development; and
- To support the landscape and visual appraisal.

2.5.2 The site visit was undertaken during winter months, when visual effects of the Proposed Development will be 'worst case' as a result of intervening trees being out of leaf.

2.6 Study Area

- 2.6.1 The spatial scope of this LVA was determined through desktop study combined with a visit to the Site and surrounding area, to determine the Site's existing visual envelope and the extent to which the proposed development is likely to be visible from within the surrounding area.
- 2.6.2 Professional experience of other assessments and site appraisals for this type and height of development has shown that effects on landscape and visual receptors would not be significant beyond a 1km extent from a site. However, given the proximity of Margam Country Park / Conservation Area to the east, and the elevated landform associated with Margam Special Landscape Area / Landscape of Historic Interest, the initial search area was set at 3km.
- 2.6.3 Following baseline analysis and site survey, a 2km extent was defined as an appropriate Study Area for the Proposed Development, as this would include the designated landscapes. A study area for the setting of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings has been set at 1km.
- 2.6.4 The spatial scope, together with a review of potential visual receptors (all visual receptors are people), guided the selection of representative view locations that are included within the visual impact assessment for the LVA.

2.7 Appraisal Methodology

- 2.7.1 A three-stage appraisal process was adopted, in accordance with the Landscape Institute / Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment "Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment" (3rd Edition, 2013) (GLVIA3), combined with our professional experience and judgement.
- 2.7.2 Firstly, the nature of receptors (sensitivity) was assessed. Secondly the nature of effects (magnitude) likely to result from the proposed development was assessed, and lastly the level of significance was calculated by combining sensitivity and magnitude.

Sensitivity of Receptors

- 2.7.3 The assessment of landscape and visual receptor sensitivity combines judgements on the value attributed to the receptor and the 'susceptibility to change' of the receptor to the specific type of development proposed.
- 2.7.4 Landscapes may be valued at community, local, national or international levels. Existing landscape designations have been taken as the starting point for the assessment. The value of undesignated landscapes and individual elements or features which contribute to that landscape character will also be assessed.
- 2.7.5 The value assigned to views will consider popularity and recognition through planning and heritage assets.
- 2.7.6 The sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors is defined in terms of a three point scale and is summarised in **Table 2**:

Table 2: Landscape and Visual Sensitivity to Change

Sensitivity	Landscape Description	Visual Description
High	An area possessing a particularly distinctive sense of place and character, and / or	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residents;

	<p>attributes which make a particular contribution to the landscape or landscape character, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in good condition; • highly valued for its scenic quality; • highly valued for its landscape character; • an area with a low tolerance to change of the type proposed; • cultural heritage features or walks with cultural associations; • valued for contribution to recreational activity; • important cultural or historic associations; • irreplaceable landscape features or character; • part of a long distance footpath. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People engaged in outdoor recreation, including users of public rights of way, whose attention is likely to be focussed on the visual environment of the landscape and on particular views; • Visitors to heritage assets, landmarks or other attractions where views of the surroundings are an important part of the experience; • Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents; and • Travellers on scenic routes.
Medium	<p>An area with a clearly defined sense of place and character, and / or attributes which contribute to the landscape or landscape character, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in moderate condition; • some scenic quality valued at a local or regional level; • landscape character intact and valued at a local or regional level; • an area with partial tolerance to change of the type proposed; • may be undesignated landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes, where the view is moderately important to the quality of the journey (e.g. on a scenic route); and • People using local parks, open spaces, public realm, or walking on streets or local public rights of way, with moderate interest in their visual environment.
Low	<p>An area with a weak sense of place or poorly defined character, and / or attributes which contribute to the landscape or landscape character, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in poor condition; • no particular scenic qualities; • disjointed or weak landscape character; • contains a high level of discordant or detracting features; • no cultural interest; • an area that is tolerant of substantial change of the type proposed; • undesignated landscape; • a degraded landscape; • strongly influenced by detracting land uses and buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation, which does not involve appreciation of, or focus upon, views; • People at their place of work, where the landscape setting is not important to the quality of working life; and • Travellers, where the view is fleeting and incidental to the journey.

Magnitude of Effects

- 2.7.7 The magnitude of a landscape or visual effect will be assessed in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and degree of reversibility.
- 2.7.8 The size or scale of change in the landscape relates to the loss or addition of features in the landscape which are likely to result from the proposed development, and considers:
- The extent/proportion of landscape elements that are lost or added;
 - The contribution of those elements to landscape character and the degree to which aesthetic/perceptual aspects are altered; and
 - Whether the effect is likely to change the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.
- 2.7.9 The size or scale of change in the view relates to the degree of contrast to, or integration with, the visual composition, which is likely to result from the proposed development; and is influenced by the relative time over which a view is experienced and whether it is a full, partial or glimpsed view.
- 2.7.10 The direction of effects may be positive (beneficial) or negative (adverse) and the type of effect, direct or indirect. Direct effects are those which result directly from the proposed development; whereas indirect, or secondary, effects may arise as a consequential change resulting from the development, for example: changes to offsite and downstream vegetation as a result of alterations to a drainage regime. This appraisal considers likely direct effects on landscape features and landscape character. Occasionally a neutral effect is recorded. Where a neutral type of effect is judged to occur for landscape receptors for instance, there would be a change to landscape features and/or characteristics, but the change would be consistent with existing landscape character or features. For visual receptors there would be a change to the composition of the view, but the change would be consistent with existing elements within the baseline view.
- 2.7.11 The effects on landscape and visual receptors are defined on a 10 point scale and is summarised in **Table 3**:

Table 3: Magnitude of Landscape and Visual Effects:

Category	Landscape Description	Visual Description
Major adverse	The proposals will result in a total change in the key characteristics of landscape character; will introduce elements totally uncharacteristic to the attributes of the receiving landscape such as its massing, scale, pattern and features; and/or will destroy or permanently degrade the integrity of landscape character; or is in total conflict with established planning objectives for landscape and visual elements of enhancement of the landscape; and/or result in a substantial or total loss, or alteration of key elements/features/characteristics.	The proposals will cause a dominant or complete change or contrast to the view, resulting from the loss or addition of features in the view and will substantially degrade the appreciation or composition of the view.

Category	Landscape Description	Visual Description
Moderate adverse	The proposals will result in a partial change in the key characteristics of landscape character; will introduce elements uncharacteristic to, out of scale or at odds with the attributes of the receiving landscape, such as its massing, scale, pattern and features; and/or will result in partial loss, or alteration of key elements/features/characteristics; or is in conflict with established planning objectives for landscape and visual elements of enhancement of the landscape.	The proposals will cause a clearly noticeable change or contrast to the view, which would have some effect on the composition, resulting from the loss or addition of features in the view and will noticeably degrade the appreciation of the view.
Slight adverse	The proposals will result in little change in the key characteristics of landscape character and will introduce elements that do not quite fit with the attributes of the receiving landscape such as its massing, scale, pattern and features; and/or will result in a minor loss or alteration of elements/features/characteristics; and/or contribute to degrading the landscape character.	The proposals will cause a perceptible change or contrast to the view, but which would not materially affect the composition or the appreciation of the view.
Negligible adverse	The proposals will result in a just discernible change to landscape character/elements/features/characteristics, which is not quite in keeping with the existing landscape and landscape character.	The proposals will cause a barely perceptible change or contrast to the view, which would not affect the composition or the appreciation of the view.
No change	The proposals will not cause any change to the landscape character/elements/features/characteristics.	The proposals will maintain the existing view and cause no change to the view.
Neutral	As a result of the proposals, there will be a change to the landscape elements/features/characteristics, but the change will be in keeping with, and complement, the existing landscape character such that the existing character is maintained and does not cause degradation or enhancement of the character.	There will be a change to the composition of the view, but the change will be entirely in keeping with the existing elements of the view and maintain the composition of the existing view.
Negligible benefit	The proposals will result in a just discernible improvement to the landscape character/elements/characteristics, such as massing, scale, pattern or features.	The proposals will cause a barely perceptible change or contrast to the view, which would not affect the composition or the appreciation of the view.
Slight benefit	The proposals will achieve a degree of fit with the landscape character/elements/features/characteristics and provides some enhancement to the condition or character of the landscape.	The proposals will cause a perceptible change or contrast to the view, but which would not materially affect the composition or the appreciation of the view.
Moderate benefit	The proposals will achieve a good fit with the landscape character/elements/features/characteristics, such as massing, scale, and pattern; or would noticeably improve the condition or character of the landscape and enhance characteristic features through the use of local materials; and/or support established planning objectives for landscape and visual elements of enhancement of the landscape.	The proposals will cause a clearly noticeable change or contrast to the view, which would have some effect on the composition, resulting from the loss or addition of features in the view and will noticeably enhance the appreciation of the view.

Category	Landscape Description	Visual Description
Major benefit	The proposals will totally accord with the landscape character/elements/features/characteristics, including scale, pattern, massing; or would restore, recreate or permanently enhance the condition or character of the landscape and enhance characteristic features through the use of local materials or planting; and/or delivers established planning objectives for landscape and visual elements of enhancement of the landscape.	The proposals will cause a dominant or complete change or contrast to the view, resulting from the loss or addition of features in the view and will substantially enhance the appreciation or composition of the view.

Assumptions and Limitations

- For the purpose of undertaking this LVA, the appraisal assumes the maximum parameters for the Proposed Development as defined on the Application Drawing: **MARPT-BHK-01-ZZ-DG-A-130023 (Margam GIS Hall – Proposed Site Plan)** which illustrates the proposed layout of elements within the Site.
- Application Drawing: **MARPT-BHK-01-ZZ-DG-A-130016 (Site Plan Margam External Laydowns)** provides an overview of the proposed construction swathe areas, site welfare compound area, HDD area and areas proposed to be retained for potential mitigation.
- Application Drawing: **MARPT-BHK-01-ZZ-DG-A-202001 (Margam GIS Hall – GA Elevations)** includes the maximum proposed height of the GIS Hall (the tallest element) within the proposed substation compound as 13.09m which has informed **Figure L6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) with View Locations**.
- Application Drawing: **MARPT-BHK-01-XX-DG-E-320010 – Margam – Site Plan – Proposed External Lighting – Layout** which provides an overview of the proposed lighting and associated lux levels within and directly adjacent to the substation extension area.
- Although lighting is proposed as part of the Proposed Development (including perimeter fence lighting), it's potential effects on visual receptors are not considered to be significant given that lighting would only be operational during routine maintenance checks (approximately twice per month – no intensification on existing arrangements) or during emergencies.
- The nature of vegetation clearance required to provide access from along Heolcae'r-Bont for construction vehicles is unknown at this time. For the purposes of this LVA therefore it has been assumed that the following measures will be taken:
 - Widening of the field gate entrance to allow access of infrequent very large loads, incurring vegetation loss;
 - Widening of the bridge adjacent to the field gate entrance incurring potential vegetation loss;
 - Vegetation along the course of Heolcae'r-Bont to be trimmed back to allow access for large vehicles over the course of approximately 500m.
- Limitations of this LVIA: in accordance with the EU Directive 2014/52/EU and GLVIA3, this LVA identifies potential landscape and visual impacts arising from the Proposed Development, rather than identifying every conceivable landscape and visual impact.

3 Landscape Context and Analysis

3.1 Site Location and Description

- 3.1.1 The Site is located to the east of the existing TATA steel plant within Port Talbot on the northern coastline of the Bristol Channel, and would comprise an extension to an existing substation in addition to works under Permitted Development such as vegetation clearance and a footpath at the northern access, and cable routing to the south.
- 3.1.2 Land within the Site is relatively flat, lying at approximately 3m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD). Much of the Site is characterised by marshy grassland, with a number of ditches crossing the Site. Scrub vegetation is also prevalent, with some linear growth present amongst more patchy growth, and a number of trees are present, particularly along the course of the ditches. Other features within the Site include patches of bare earth likely associated with compound locations of previous development, the pylons and OHL which serve the existing substation, and the existing substation itself. Upper Mother Ditch is a minor watercourse which courts the eastern boundary of the Site.

3.2 Landscape Planning Policy

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Local Development Plan (2011 – 2026)

- 3.2.1 The Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted in January 2016 and provides a strategic overview of policies which aim to guide the county borough over a ten year period.
- 3.2.2 Policies which are relevant to this LVIA are listed below:
- **Policy TO 4: Walking and Cycling Routes** specifically refers to three strategic routes, which are; TO4/1 Wales Coast Path, TO4/2 Cogitation Mountain Bike Trails, and TO4/3 Great Dragon Ride Route. The plan asserts that *“Any proposals that would prevent or have any adverse impact on their implementation would be resisted.”*
 - **Policy EN2: Special Landscape Areas** refers to the six Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) which have been identified, and includes EN2/4 Margam, which lies to the east of the Site. The plan asserts that *“Development within the designated Special Landscape Areas will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that there will be no significant adverse impacts on the features and characteristics for which the Special Landscape Area has been designated.”*
 - **Policy EN3: Green Wedges** states that *“In order to prevent the coalescence of settlements and to protect the setting of urban areas, Green Wedges have been designated...EN3/5 Margam.”* The policy goes on to state that *“Within these areas there is a presumption against inappropriate development.”*
 - **Policy EN7: Important Natural Features** states that *“Development proposals that would adversely affect ecologically or visually important natural features such as trees, woodlands, hedgerows / field boundaries, watercourses or ponds will only be permitted where:*
 - *Full account has been taken of the relevant features in the design of the development, with measures put in place to ensure that they are retained and protected wherever possible; or*
 - *The biodiversity value and role of the relevant feature has been taken into account and where removal is unavoidable, mitigation measures are agreed.”*

- **Policy SP21: Built Environment and Historic Heritage** states that “The built environment and historic heritage will, where appropriate, be conserved and enhanced through the following measures:
 - Encouraging high quality design standards in all development proposals;
 - Protecting arterial gateways from intrusive and inappropriate development;
 - Safeguarding features of historic and cultural importance; and
 - The identification of the following designated sites to enable their protection and where appropriate enhancement:
 - a. Landscapes of Historic Interest;
 - b. Historic Parks and Gardens;
 - c. Conservation Areas;
 - d. Scheduled Ancient Monuments; and
 - e. Listed Buildings and their curtilage.

3.2.3 Cognisance has also been given to the following documents which support the Local Plan:

- **Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2014)** which aims to secure “*the resources needed to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the County Borough.*”
- **Neath Port Talbot Environment Strategy (2008 – 2026)** the purpose of which is to “*provide the framework within which to achieve an environment that is clean, healthy and thriving, has improving economic prosperity and is valued by residents, businesses and visitors alike.*”

3.3 Landscape / Cultural Designations

3.3.1 Landscapes may be valued at community, local, national or international levels. Existing landscape designations are taken as the starting point for the LVA, and the value of undesignated landscapes is also considered.

3.3.2 Relevant designations for the site and surrounding area are set out in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Relevant Landscape Designations

Typical Designation Type and Importance (Value)	Designation Applicable to the Site and within Surrounding Area 5km radius from the Site
World Heritage Site International (Exceptional / Very High) Unique sites, features or areas of international importance with identified outstanding landscape quality or attributes.	None

Typical Designation Type and Importance (Value)	Designation Applicable to the Site and within Surrounding Area 5km radius from the Site
National Park, National Landscape (formerly AONB) National (High) Sites, features or areas of national landscape importance that have special qualities and intrinsic natural beauty, including their settings.	None
Conservation Areas. Curtilage of Grade I, II* and II Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments (within 1km) National (High) Sites, features or areas of national cultural heritage importance with landscapes and/or settings of high quality.	Margam Park Conservation Area (CA) lies approximately 950m east of the Site. Milepost at Tollgate Park Listed Building (LB) is the closest LB, and lies approximately 650m north of the Site. A cluster of three LBs associated with Beulah Chapel lie approximately 800m north of the Site. There are no Scheduled Monuments (SM) within 1km of the Site
Country Parks, Special Landscape Areas, Green Wedges, Landscapes of Historic Interest, Long distance paths, National Cycle Network Routes Regional or Local (High/ Medium) Sites, features or areas of regional importance with intact character.	Margam Country Park lies approximately 950m east of the Site. Margam Special Landscape Area (SLA) lies approximately 650m east of the Site. Margam Green Wedge lies approximately 650m east of the Site. Margam Mountain Landscape of Historic Interest (LHI) lies approximately 650m east of the Site Wales Coastal Path long-distance path (LDP) lies south, east and north of the Site, being approximately 220m south-east of the Site at its nearest point. National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 4 lies approximately 470m east of the Site at its nearest point.
Areas of Local Landscape Importance, Designated Public Open Space, Local Public Rights of Way: District (Medium or Low) Sites, features or areas of district importance.	No Areas of Local Landscape Importance within the study area. No Designated Public Open Space within the study area. There is a network of local PRoW, particularly to the east of the Site within the Margam SLA / LHI. Heolcae'r-bont PRoW lies approximately 660m south of the Site and terminates there.

Country Parks, Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings

- 3.3.3 Margam Park Conservation Area lies approximately 950m east of the Site and lies largely within the western extents of Margam Country Park.

- 3.3.4 The Milepost at Tollgate Park is a Grade II LB designated in 2000, located against the boundary fence of Tollgate Park along Tollgate Road, some 650m north of the Site.
- 3.3.5 A cluster of 3 LBs; namely the Grade II* Beulah Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, the Grade II Gates, Piers and Railings at Beulah Chapel, and the Grade II Vestry at Beulah Chapel lie within Tollgate Park some 800m north of the Site.

Country Parks, Special Landscape Areas, Landscapes of Historic Interest and Green Wedges

- 3.3.6 Margam Country Park lies approximately 1km east of the Site and encompasses over 400ha of land east of the A48. The Park is publicly accessible and features the Grade I Listed Margam Castle and Gardens.
- 3.3.7 Margam Special Landscape Area (SLA) lies to the east of the Site, and covers an extensive area of high ground from Cwmafan in the north to Pont George Road in the south. The SLA is bounded to the west by the A48 and the M4, and extends beyond the A4063 to the east, and beyond the NPTC borders.
- 3.3.8 Margam Mountain Landscape of Historic Interest (LHI) covers the high ground east of the Site, and lies within the boundaries of the Margam SLA. Coniferous woodland dominates the LHI, and the area is served by a multitude of PRoW, and the Great Dragon Ride Route cycle route passes through its eastern and northern extents.
- 3.3.9 Approximately 650m east of the Site lies a Green Wedge, protected by Policy EN3: Green Wedges within the Local Plan. The policy protects an area of land to the east of the M4 at Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, and the foothills of Margam Mountain.

National Cycle Network Routes, Long Distance Paths

- 3.3.10 National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 4 passes approximately 470m east of the Site at its nearest point, and is a long-distance route of some 698km, from London to Fishguard. It passes the Site broadly north to south following the route of the A48 before turning northwest through Margam.
- 3.3.11 The Wales Coast Path runs broadly south to north in relation to the Site, passing to the west and north of Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir before turning east along Heolcae'r-Bont south of the Site, then north past the BOC plant, east again then north to follow the A48. The route then passes through Margam in a similar route to NCN 4.

Public Rights Of Way, and Public Open Spaces

- 3.3.12 The closest PRoW to the Site lies to the south along Heolcae'r-Bont (PRoW 9/92.PT/1 Footpath), which terminates at an access track which leads north towards the Site. The PRoW originates from the west on the coast before crossing Margam Moors.
- 3.3.13 Other PRoW lie almost exclusively within the designated landscape to the east of the A48 / M4 within Margam Country Park and the wider Margam SLA / LHI, and further south in and around Cynffig.
- 3.3.14 Public open spaces in the vicinity of the Site include a large area adjacent to the Site's northern boundary and north of Harbour Way to facilitate sports including golf, rugby, football and cricket, and playing fields approximately 270m southeast of the Site.

Tree Preservation Orders

3.3.15 There are no Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) associated with trees within the Site.

3.4 Landscape Character

3.4.1 Relevant landscape character areas for the Site include those published in:

- National Landscape Character Area (NCA) (Natural Resources Wales, 2014); and
- The Neath Port Talbot Landmap Landscape Assessment (2004).

National Landscape Character Areas

3.4.2 The Site lies within the **National Landscape Character Area (NLCA) 38: Bae Abertawe / Swansea Bay**, with **NLCA 37: Dyffrynnoedd y De / South Wales Valleys** some 650m east of the Site (Natural Resources Wales, 2014), but with the defined Study Area.

3.4.3 **NLCA 38: Swansea Bay** features a number of key characteristics as identified within its NLCA Profile (Natural Resources Wales, 2014). Those key characteristics relevant to the Proposed Development and surrounding area are:

- ***“Narrow coastal plain – a long lowland area, of limited width in its middle section, between uplands and the sea, and opening out into wider lowlands areas at either end;***
- ***Setting of steeply rising hills – in the central section around Port Talbot, and belonging to the South Wales Valleys to the north;***
- ***Urban areas – dominated by the city of Swansea and the coalescing towns of Llanelli, Neth and Port Talbot;***
- ***Heavy Industry – giant apparatus with large buildings and chimneys with steam issuing focussed at Port Talbot, with dominating visual and audible presence; and***
- ***Major transport corridor – with main road and rail lines linking settlements along the corridor, with associated movement, busyness and noise.”***

3.4.4 **NLCA 37: South Wales Valley** features the following relevant key characteristics:

- ***“Ribbon urban and industrial areas in valleys – in places extending up valley sides and to valley heads. The area is sometimes regarded as being part of a ‘city region’. Middle and eastern valleys tend to be the most heavily and continuously developed, e.g. Rhondda Valley. The uplands by comparison have little or no settlement;***
- ***Contrast of urban valley activity next to quiet uplands – e.g. busy roads, new developments, traffic noise, night lighting, versus the adjacent wilder, remoter, quieter uplands; and***
- ***Transport routes restricted to valleys – the intervening topography makes valley to valley travel difficult, except at heads and bottoms of valleys. Occasionally there are roads that climb steeply over passes with dramatic views and ‘hair pin’ bends.”***

Regional / County Landscape Character Areas

3.4.5 The appraisal of landscape character utilises the Neath and Port Talbot Landscape Assessment undertaken by White Consultants in December 2004. This local landscape

assessment was based on the LANDMAP process and provides an appropriate level of detail in relation to landscape character within the study area. As alluded to within the EIA Screening Report to be submitted by Stantec, for the sake of brevity this LVA will concentrate on the LCAs defined within the Neath Port Talbot Landscape Assessment, with the individual LANDMAP Layers on which it was based identified on **Figures L5a – L5e** within **Appendix A: Figures** for completeness and reference.

3.4.6 Accordingly, the majority of the Site lies within Landscape Character Area (**LCA**) **1: Margam Marsh** (eastern part), with the proposed northern access extending into **LCA 50: Port Talbot Docks and Margam Works**.

3.4.7 Key characteristics associated with LCA 1: Margam Marsh of relevance to this LVIA are:

- *“Flat wetland pasture, veined with drainage ditches and with significant wetland vegetation;*
- *Strong visual influence of surrounding heavy industry;*
- *Significant areas of marsh, eutrophic water and wetland habitats, with SSSI designation; and*
- *Eglwys Nunydd reservoir is a significant leisure facility for sailing.”*

3.4.8 Key characteristics associated with **LCA 50: Port Talbot Docks and Margam Works** of relevance to this LVA include:

- *“Industrial area sited on coastal plain;*
- *Dominance of steel works; and*
- *Development of smaller commercial units”.*

3.4.9 Other LCA within the 2km study area are:

- LCA 2: Margam Burrows;
- LCA 3: Margam Country Park;
- LCA 4: Coedhirwaun;
- LCA 6: Mynydd Bromil, Mynydd Emroch & Mynydd Dinas;
- LCA 7: Mynydd Margam;
- LCA 49: Port Talbot, Sandfields, Baglan & Margam; and
- LCA 52: Margam Sands / Aberavon Sands.

Local Landscape / Townscape Character of the Site

3.4.10 Stantec has undertaken its own appraisal of the Site's local landscape character, to consider landscape character at the more detailed site level. The findings of this assessment are summarised in the following paragraphs.

3.4.11 At the time of the landscape and visual survey, the character of the immediate area was predominantly defined by industry, with the Tata Steel Plant in particular influencing the area, particularly in views from the east looking towards the Bristol Channel. Other industrial

development such as the Margam Green Energy Plant, Western Bio-Energy and BOC hydrogen plant augment this character.

- 3.4.12 The presence of infrastructure is also an influence, in particular the M4, the A48 east of the Site, the A4241 which passes north of the Site, and the Swansea to London mainline railway which passes directly west of the Site. The settlement of Margam also has some influence, but given only its southern extents are visible from the Site, its overall influence is limited.
- 3.4.13 The character of the Site itself is largely patchy, open, marshy grassland, aside from the existing substation which again exerts an industrial influence on the surroundings. Land to the north between the Site and the settlement of Margam presents some open space, although this is largely set aside for recreational sports use.

3.5 Site Topography, Landform, and Watercourses

- 3.5.1 **Figure L3, Appendix A** illustrates the topography of the Site and the wider area.
- 3.5.2 Topography across the study area is markedly different to the west than that to the east, with the western area generally marked by a flat, coastal landscape lying at approximately 3m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), and the east marked by the high Margam mountains which reach up to 344m AOD some 3.8km east of the Site. This change is broadly marked by the M4 as it passes north to south, bisecting the area.
- 3.5.3 Watercourses within the Site comprise a series of ditches which feed to / from Upper Mother Ditch and Middle Mother Ditch which pass east and west of the Site respectively.

3.6 Existing Vegetation within the Site

- 3.6.1 Vegetation is patchy within the Site and is characterised by areas of scrub, woodland, ditches and patches of bare earth along the existing access tracks. There are some isolated trees within the Site, and relatively substantial belts and groups of mature trees in addition to areas of dense scrub and marshy grassland.
- 3.6.2 The tree survey undertaken by Treework Environmental Practice during the week commencing 25th November 2024 identified that none of the trees were considered Category A (trees of high quality), Four trees and two tree groups were identified as Category B (trees of moderate quality), 43 trees and 49 tree groups were identified as Class C (trees of low quality), while two trees were classed as Category U (those in such a condition that they cannot be reasonably retained and should potentially be removed in absence of the Proposed Development).
- 3.6.3 The overwhelming dominant species present at the time of the survey was *Salix caprea* (Goat Willow), with rare occurrences of *Betula pendula* (Silver Birch), *Crataegus monogyna* (Common Hawthorn), *Quercus robur* (English Oak), *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn), and one occurrence of *Buddleja* sp. *Buddleja* identified near the railway line to the south. None of the trees identified within the survey constraints were covered by a TPO.
- 3.6.4 Small areas of semi-improved grassland associated with tracks across the Site are evident, along with areas of standing water and swamp.
- 3.6.5 The Site is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), containing marshy grassland, swamp and dense scrub. The Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) Report produced by Stantec for National Grid which accompanies this Planning Application provides further detail on existing vegetation and habitats across the Site.

3.7 Green Infrastructure Network

- 3.7.1 Aside from the Tata Steel Works immediately west of the Site, the wider green infrastructure network within the Study Area is strong, particularly to the east beyond the A48 / M4 with land covered by multiple designations and local policies for its extensive areas of woodland, historic and recreational areas, and historic value. Land adjacent to the Site is wooded, however it is influenced by industrial development and infrastructure which results in a disconnect with the wider green infrastructure of designated land to the east, which includes an area of Ancient Woodland.
- 3.7.2 Within the footprint of the Site land is generally scrub and woodland with multiple drainage ditches. Although this connects with the adjacent land to the east, north and south, development generally breaks connections.
- 3.7.3 There are a number of sports pitches north of the A4241, with a pitch and putt golf course directly north of the Site and to the north of the A4241. These provide some relief from industrial and residential built form, but their influence on green infrastructure is moderate.
- 3.7.4 There are no PRow and long-distance trails within the Site, but those within the wider area supplement the green infrastructure network for recreational users.

3.8 Other Landscape Features within the Site

- 3.8.1 There are no other landscape features of note within the Site.

3.9 Settlement

- 3.9.1 Settlement within the study area is generally sited within Margam, the southern extents of which lie approximately 350m north of the Site at Abbots Close. Elsewhere there are small pockets of settlement between the A48 and Margam Country Park approximately 800m east of the Site, and approximately 1.8km southeast of the Site at Eglwys Nunydd east of Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir.
- 3.9.2 The area is heavily influenced by industrial development given the mass and scale of Tata Steel Works and the presence of the energy plants directly east of the Site.

3.10 Landscape Analysis and Sensitivity to Change

- 3.10.1 **Table 5** below identifies the relevant landscape receptors which have the potential to experience change as a result of the Proposed Development, and which have subsequently been brought forward for appraisal.

Table 5: Baseline Landscape Receptors and Sensitivity

Landscape Receptor	Reason for Inclusion/Sensitivity
Margam Park Conservation Area/Margam Country Park	The park and its surroundings, including its conserved core are nationally important assets, and as such are of high susceptibility to change. Sensitivity is considered High .
Margam Special Landscape Area (SLA), Margam Mountain Landscape of Historical Interest (LHI)	These designations are of regional importance and are noted for their natural beauty. They are therefore

Landscape Receptor	Reason for Inclusion/Sensitivity
	considered highly susceptible to change of the type proposed, and sensitivity is identified as High .
Landscape Character Area (LCA) 1: Margam Marsh	The Site lies within this LCA, (excluding the proposed access to the north), and would therefore be directly affected. Much of the LCA has high value features such as the reservoir to the south and the existing marshy habitat, however the LCA is heavily influenced by the presence of large-scale industrial development, reducing its overall sensitivity to the type of development proposed to Medium .
Local Landscape / Townscape Character of the Site	This covers an assessment of changes brought about by the Proposed Development on the prevailing character of the Site and its immediate surroundings. Sensitivity is considered to be similar to that of the landscape character within which it sits, consequently sensitivity is identified as Medium overall.
Site Topography, Landform, and Watercourses	Although changes to Site topography and landform are predicted to be relatively minimal, watercourses (ditches) will be diverted in some cases. Sensitivity to this change is considered to be Medium .
Existing vegetation within the Site	Loss to existing vegetation within the Site is predicted as it cleared to accommodate the Proposed Development, including construction swathes. Vegetation from a landscape perspective is not considered particularly valuable (almost entirely Goat Willow), however other habitats are sensitive from a Biodiversity perspective, resulting in Medium sensitivity overall.
Green Infrastructure Network	The green/blue infrastructure network within the Site is fragmented to some degree by development and infrastructure, however woodland planting directly east provides a direct connection with vegetation within the Site, and a series of ditches throughout the Site connect with the reservoir to the south. Although there are no PRoW within the Site, a PRoW/LDT lies south and east. Sensitivity is regarded as Medium overall.

4 Visual Analysis

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 All visual receptors are people. Potential visual receptors include those people who use PROWs, open spaces and outdoor recreational facilities and the road network, who are visiting, living or working within the study area, including the settlement of Margam and visitors to the Country Park.
- 4.1.2 Potential visual receptors include:
- Walkers, cyclists and equestrians using PRoW and Long-Distance Routes.
 - People travelling on roads;
 - People living and working in local settlements; and
 - People using open spaces, parks and green spaces for recreation.
- 4.1.3 Typical views towards the Site were from publicly available view locations are appraised in the section below, and are illustrated on the Photosheets in **Appendix A**. The location of these views is shown on the Photosheets. Other visual analysis which has been included in this LVA relates to transient users of routes deemed relevant to the application. These are: recreational users of the Wales Coast Path / Heolcae'r-Bont PRoW south of the Site, and road users along the A4241 Harbour Way north of the site.

4.2 Visual Analysis and Sensitivity to Change

- 4.2.1 **Table 6** below sets out receptors included from the selected view locations and receptors selected for the sequential assessment, together with the reasoning for selection and the sensitivity of each of the visual receptors.

Table 6: Baseline Visual Receptors and Sensitivity

View Location No. and Location	Reason for Inclusion/Type of Visual Receptor/Sensitivity
1: Abbots Close adjacent to Tata Steel Golf Course Distance: 340m northeast of the Site boundary.	Representative of residents at the southern extents of the settlement of Margam and recreational users of the golf course. Although residential receptors are generally considered to be of high sensitivity given the static nature of their views, in this instance given the nature of the Proposed Development in relation to existing predominantly industrial views, sensitivity is considered to be Medium .
2: Abbots Close at Tata Steel Sports Ground Distance: 330m northeast of the Site boundary.	Representative of recreational users / spectators of the sports facilities. Users of sports facilities tend to be focussed on the activity rather than their surroundings. Sensitivity is considered to be Medium .
3: Wales Coastal Path LDT / Heolcae'r-Bont at Western Wood Energy Plant / BOC Hydrogen Plant	Representative of recreational users of the Wales Coastal Path LDT and users of Heolcae'r-Bont. Users of the LDT which has national importance, are generally aware and have more interest in their surroundings and are therefore

View Location No. and Location	Reason for Inclusion/Type of Visual Receptor/Sensitivity
Distance: 220m southeast of the Site boundary.	highly susceptible to visual change. Sensitivity is considered to be Medium .
4: Wales Coast Path LDT / PRoW 9/WCP.Alt/2 on Graig Fawr opposite Crugwyllt-fawr Farm Distance: 1.1km east of the Site boundary.	Representative of recreational users of the Wales Coastal Path LDT / PRoW within the SLA / LHI. Users of the LDT which has national importance, are generally aware and have more interest in their surroundings and are therefore highly susceptible to visual change. In this instance receptors are also within an SLA and LHI. Sensitivity is considered to be High .
5: The Pulpit Viewpoint within Margam Country Park on the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk Distance: 2.5km east of the Site boundary.	Representative of recreational users of the County Park / Ogwr Ridgeway Walk and visitors to the Pulpit Viewpoint. Users of the PRoW within a Country Park are generally aware and have more interest in their surroundings and are therefore highly susceptible to visual change. Sensitivity is considered to be High .
6: On Old Park Road adjacent to residential properties Distance: 2.3km southeast of the Site boundary.	Representative of residents along Old Park Road and of residents and workers at Old Park Farm. Residential receptors are generally considered to be of high sensitivity given the static nature of their views. Sensitivity is therefore considered to be High .
7: On the grounds of Margam Cemetery Distance: 770m southeast of the Site boundary.	Representative of visitors to the cemetery and crematorium. Visitors to cemeteries are often focussed on the reason for their visit rather than their surroundings. Sensitivity is considered to be Medium .
8: Wales Coast Path / Heolcae'r-Bont PRoW south of the Site Distance: 620m south of the Site boundary.	Representative of recreational users of the PRoW and Wales Coastal Path LDT. Users of the LDT which has national importance, are generally aware and have more interest in their surroundings and are therefore highly susceptible to visual change. Sensitivity is considered to be Medium .
Sequential Receptor and Location	Reason for Inclusion/Type of Visual Receptor/Sensitivity
Recreational users of the Wales Coast Path / Heolcae'r-Bont PRoW Distance: 620m south of the Site boundary.	Representative of recreational users as they pass south of the Site east to west or west to east. Users of the LDT which has national importance, are generally aware and have more interest in their surroundings and are therefore highly susceptible to visual change. Sensitivity is therefore considered to be High .
Road users along the A4241 Harbour Way Distance: 40m north at nearest point.	Representative of road users travelling along the highway north of the Site east to west or north to south. Road users on A roads tend to be focussed on the road ahead given they are often at high speed. Sensitivity is considered to be Low .

5 Approach to Mitigation

On-Site Mitigation

- 5.1.1 Embedded mitigation measures are primary measures of mitigation which have included as measures to reduce potential effects of the Proposed Development. As part of the overall mitigation strategy, offsite mitigation has been proposed and is discussed below.
- 5.1.2 It should be noted that although Planning Policy Wales – Edition 12 (Para 6.4.42) identifies that where trees are lost to development replacement planting should be undertaken at a ratio of at least three trees of a similar type to every one tree lost, it was subsequently agreed with the ecology officer at NPT that in this case these compensatory measures would not be conducive with the nature of the wider site, and therefore other more suitable measures would be required, e.g. management of vegetation along drainage channels. Notwithstanding this, trees are proposed where practicable around the SuDS area within the northern part of the main Site area to provide some compensatory planting, following removal of the car park area.
- 5.1.3 The embedded mitigation measures which are relevant to, and which have been relied upon for this LVA are summarised below:
- Retention of existing vegetation where practicable;
 - The maximum height of Proposed Development approximately **13m** to minimise visual effects;
 - Appropriate finishing of elements within the Proposed Development in order to reduce visual distinctiveness within wider views, in particular the GIS Hall;
 - Cognisance of existing sensitive Site conditions including its SINC designation; and
 - Identification of enabling works to manage and enhance existing ditches within the Site.
- 5.1.4 The Landscape Strategy Plan (**Figure L8 / Drawing MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0001**) and detailed landscape proposals (**Drawings MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0002 - 0004**) identify the proposed mitigation measures in landscape and visual terms, and the rationale for this is identified below:
- Areas of natural regeneration where vegetation has been lost to construction swathes and soil has been compacted by way of sowing of nurse grass to allow natural growth and succession;
 - New marginal planting to the SuDS area following removal of the welfare compound;
 - New marginal planting along the diverted watercourses;
 - Individual and group tree planting along the northern access and within the wider SuDS area;
 - Creation of gabion basket CO² gardens through the re-use of slag from Tata around the SuDS area;
 - Inclusion of a 'wildlife tower' within the Site which would aim to provide a haven for birds, bats and invertebrates, approximately 5mH x 2mW x 2mD (location tbc); and
 - Temporal enhancements along the existing watercourses through removal of encroaching vegetation.

- 5.1.5 In addition, there are standard construction practices for avoiding and reducing environmental effects, such as the use of tree and hedgerow protection fencing to protect retained vegetation. The LVA assumes these standard construction practices will be adopted.

Off-Site Mitigation

- 5.1.6 An off-site area southwest of the Site and partially within the Margam Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) has been put forward for additional off-site mitigation purposes. Given the nature of the proposed off-site mitigation, and resulting limited landscape and visual change, effects as a result, it is not assessed within this LVA. Full details of the off-site area are discussed within the Margam Burrows Habitat Management Plan which accompanies this Planning Application. A summary of the proposed mitigation is provided below:
- Creation of dune slacks / sand dunes in lower value areas currently dominated by red fescue / burnet rose;
 - Enhancement of existing dune slack pond through removal of scrub shading out perimeter;
 - Creation of an open dune habitat by re-using sand from dune slack creation;
 - Open up south facing dunes to create open dune habitat to create habitat diversity and benefit invertebrates; and
 - Creation of a gabion basket CO₂ garden through the re-use of slag from Tata to include multifunctional features including bee bricks, potentially used as a boundary feature to provide shelter for invertebrates, reptiles and Great Crested Newt.
- 5.1.7 These off-site mitigation features would require ongoing management and maintenance (see Landscape and Habitat Management Plan (LHMP) for details), including regular maintenance of vegetation and scrub using rotational flailing or hand trimmers to maintain the balance between dune grassland and scrub habitats.

6 Appraisal

6.1 Assumptions

- 6.1.1 This section appraises the principle of electrical infrastructure development on the Site, in terms of effects upon landscape features, landscape character and views.
- 6.1.2 For the purpose of this appraisal, it has been assumed that the Proposed Development (as shown on Drawing **MARPT-BHK-01-ZZ-DG-A-130023 (Margam GIS Hall – Proposed Site Plan)** at the Site would be based upon the GI approach, Landscape Strategy Plan, Detailed Planting Plans and design principles which have been described in the preceding section and are illustrated on **Figure L8 / Drawing MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0001** and within **Drawings MAREXT-STN-XX-XXX-DR-LA-0002 - 0004**. These assumptions would be secured by NGET via a planning condition.
- 6.1.3 The appraisal period is considered during the construction phase, at Year 1 of operation, and 15yrs after completion of the Proposed Development which is the period once the mitigation measures are considered to have established. This considers the benefits of any proposed planting and natural regeneration as it matures as a core element of the green infrastructure strategy and approach and becomes effective.

6.2 Landscape Appraisal

- 6.2.1 Development on the Site is likely to result in direct effects upon landscape and landscape character. The table below summarise the conclusions of those detailed in **Appendices B (Landscape Effects)**.

Table 7: Landscape Appraisal

LANDSCAPE APPRAISAL						
Landscape Feature, Designation or Character Area	Magnitude & Direction of Effect			Overall Level of Effect		
	Con.	Yr. 1	Yr. 15	Con.	Yr. 1	Yr. 15
Margam Park Conservation Area/Margam Country Park	Negligible Adverse	No change	No change	Minor	No change	No change
Margam Special Landscape Area/Margam Mountain Landscape of Historical Interest	Negligible Adverse	No change	No change	Minor	No change	No change
LCA 1: Margam Marsh	Moderate Adverse	Slight adverse	Negligible Adverse	Moderate	Minor	Negligible
Local Landscape/Townscape Character of the Site	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Slight Adverse	Moderate	Moderate	Minor
Site Topography, Landform, and Watercourses	Moderate Adverse	No change	No change	Moderate	No change	No change

LANDSCAPE APPRAISAL						
Landscape Feature, Designation or Character Area	Magnitude & Direction of Effect			Overall Level of Effect		
	Con.	Yr. 1	Yr. 15	Con.	Yr. 1	Yr. 15
Existing Vegetation within the Site	Moderate Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Slight Beneficial	Moderate	Moderate	Minor
Green Infrastructure Network	Slight Adverse	Slight Adverse	Neutral	Minor	Minor	No change
Settlement	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

6.3 Visual Appraisal

6.3.1 The Proposed Development on the Site is likely to result in visual effects upon views and people's visual amenity, as set out in the **Table 8**. The table below summarise the conclusions of those detailed Appendix C (Visual Effects). An additional section provided below the tables discusses potential sequential visual effects

Table 8: Visual Appraisal

VISUAL APPRAISAL						
Viewpoint No. and Location	Magnitude & Direction of Effect			Overall Level of Effect		
	Con.	Yr. 1	Yr. 15	Con.	Yr. 1	Yr. 15
VL1: Abbots Close adjacent to Tata Steel Golf Course	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VL2: Abbots Close at Tata Steel Sports Ground	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
VL3: Wales Coastal Path LDT / Heolcae'r-Bont at Western Wood Energy Plant / BOC Hydrogen Plant	No change N/A	No change N/A	No change N/A	No change	No change	No change
VL4: Wales Coast Path LDT PRoW 9/WCP.Alt/2 on Graig Fawr opposite Crugwyllt-fawr Farm	Slight Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Moderate	Negligible	Negligible
VL5: The Pulpit Viewpoint within Margam Park Country Park on the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk	Slight Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse	Moderate	Negligible	Negligible

VISUAL APPRAISAL						
Viewpoint No. and Location	Magnitude & Direction of Effect			Overall Level of Effect		
	Con.	Yr. 1	Yr. 15	Con.	Yr. 1	Yr. 15
VL6: On Old Park Road adjacent to residential properties	Negligible Adverse	No change N/A	No change N/A	Negligible	No change	No change
VL7: On the grounds of Margam Cemetery	Indistinct N/A	Indistinct N/A	Indistinct N/A	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
VL8: Wales Coast Path / Heolcae'r-Bont PRow south of the Site	Negligible Adverse	Indistinct N/A	Indistinct N/A	Minor	Neutral	Neutral

Sequential Visual Effects

- 6.3.2 A short appraisal has been undertaken to understand the potential visual effects on receptors who would pass by the Proposed Development and may experience visual change as a result.

Wales Coast Path LDT

- 6.3.3 Recreational users of the Wales Coast Path pass approximately 620m south of the Site either east to west or west to east. Views are considered to be the same for receptors travelling in either direction.
- 6.3.4 The route is lined for its majority by hedgerow to the north, largely screening views towards the Site, however gaps in the existing hedgerow, and a field entrance gate provide potential for views towards the Site, and consequently sensitivity varies along the route as assessed. As a worst-case scenario therefore, users of this combined recreational route are considered to be of **high sensitivity** to the Proposed Development overall.

Construction

- 6.3.5 During construction Heolcae'r-Bont would be utilised as access by construction vehicles for works south of the Site which are being carried out under Permitted Development (PD) rights.
- 6.3.6 This would involve removal of small area of vegetation and a small tree group (identified as G78 within the Arboricultural Assessment which accompanies this application). There is also potential for loss of vegetation approximately 10m east of the field entrance as the current bridge which crosses the watercourse may need widening. It is not thought that the remainder of the route would need widening.
- 6.3.7 It is likely that some of the existing overhanging vegetation along the section of Heolcae'r-Bont utilised by construction vehicles would require to be trimmed to provide safe access for infrequent very large loads. Trimming of existing vegetation would have minimal effects on the recreational experience of receptors, however the increased traffic along the route, including infrequent very large loads would alter their experience to some degree given there are no plans currently to divert the route.

- 6.3.8 Overall, there would be some small-scale disruption for receptors along the recreational route over a small geographical area, with the potential for the opening of views to the north as vegetation is removed to provide for safe vehicular access and increased movements of large vehicles along the narrow route.
- 6.3.9 Disruption caused by the increased movement of large vehicles would be short-term during the construction phase; however, the loss of vegetation to provide access would be medium to long-term, depending on whether access is temporary (track matting which could be removed following construction, allowing vegetation to re-grow), or permanent. The magnitude of change experienced by recreational users of Wales Coast Path is considered to be **slight** given they would cause a perceptible change which would have some effect on its composition, leading to a **medium to long-term, partially reversible / partially permanent, moderate level of significance**.

On Completion

- 6.3.10 Upon completion of the works, the reduction in traffic movement would result in a reduction in disruption for recreational users of the route, however the vegetation loss would incur visual change from baseline conditions as they pass the field entrance. There is predicted to be increased visibility to the north, and consequently the Proposed Development as a result of vegetation loss, however the perception of overall change would be minimal as although the introduction of the Proposed Development would incur an increase in visible built form within the view, it would not appear out of character, and therefore the fleeting, oblique view would result in a barely perceptible change. Visual change would be limited to a very short section of the route overall, resulting in a **negligible** magnitude of change. This would give rise to a **medium to long-term, partially reversible / permanent, minor level of significance**.

15yrs After Completion

- 6.3.11 By year 15 following completion of the works, it is expected that some of the vegetation lost to construction will have re-established, should it be re-implemented, potentially reducing open views towards the Site. In addition, areas of natural regeneration within the Site relating to the footprint of construction works would also have established, potentially filtering views further. This would result in a very limited change within the view, entirely in keeping with existing elements which would maintain the composition of the view and a reduction of magnitude of change to **indistinct**. This would give rise to a **long-term, permanent, and neutral level of significance**.

A4241 Harbour Way

- 6.3.12 Road users along the A4241 Harbour Way pass the Site approximately 50m north at the closest point, with visibility towards the Site travelling either north to south or briefly east to west. This sequential assessment is supported by the Margam substation Extension Addendum – Views from Harbour Way.
- 6.3.13 Users of this highway are considered to be of **low sensitivity** to the Proposed Development given their moderate speed, focus on the highway, and at times oblique views.

Construction

- 6.3.14 During construction the majority of activity within the Site would be screened or heavily filtered by existing vegetation for road users travelling north to south away from Margam towards the M4. Users travelling east to west will experience views screened by landform and vegetation until in close proximity with the Site to the north.
- 6.3.15 Views towards construction would be limited to visibility of tall plant such as piling rigs and cranes initially, however as construction progresses, particularly of the GIS Hall, which is the

tallest element within the Site, the Proposed Development will come into view. This visibility however would be limited to fleeting, oblique views for those travelling east to west, and although road users travelling north to south would experience more direct views, these would also be relatively fleeting, and the change would be seen largely in the context of existing industrial buildings and electrical infrastructure.

- 6.3.16 The magnitude of change in relation to users of the A4241 during construction is therefore considered to be **slight adverse**, giving rise to a **short-term, partially reversible and minor level of significance**.

On Completion

- 6.3.17 Following completion of the Proposed Development the most obvious visual change would come in the form of the GIS Hall above the existing tree line, with the remaining elements largely screened by intervening vegetation. The clearance of some vegetation along the watercourses as per the mitigation strategy may result in additional views, however. Any visibility would be fleeting for road users and would be viewed in the context of existing industrial development, therefore although there would be a reduction in visibility of construction machinery, the potential for visibility of built elements within the Site would increase slightly following vegetation clearance. Consequently, the change would remain as **slight adverse**, resulting in a **long-term, irreversible and minor level of significance** overall.

15yrs After Completion

- 6.3.18 By year 15 after completion, there is predicted to be little change in views for users of the A4241 as they pass the Site given the GIS Hall would remain visible above the tree line, and with the LHMP requiring regular clearance of encroaching vegetation along the watercourses as per the mitigation strategy, visibility towards other elements within the Site, although limited, would likely remain possible.
- 6.3.19 The resulting change would therefore be minimal, giving rise to a **slight adverse** magnitude of effect, and a **long-term, irreversible and minor level of significance**.

7 Summary and Conclusions

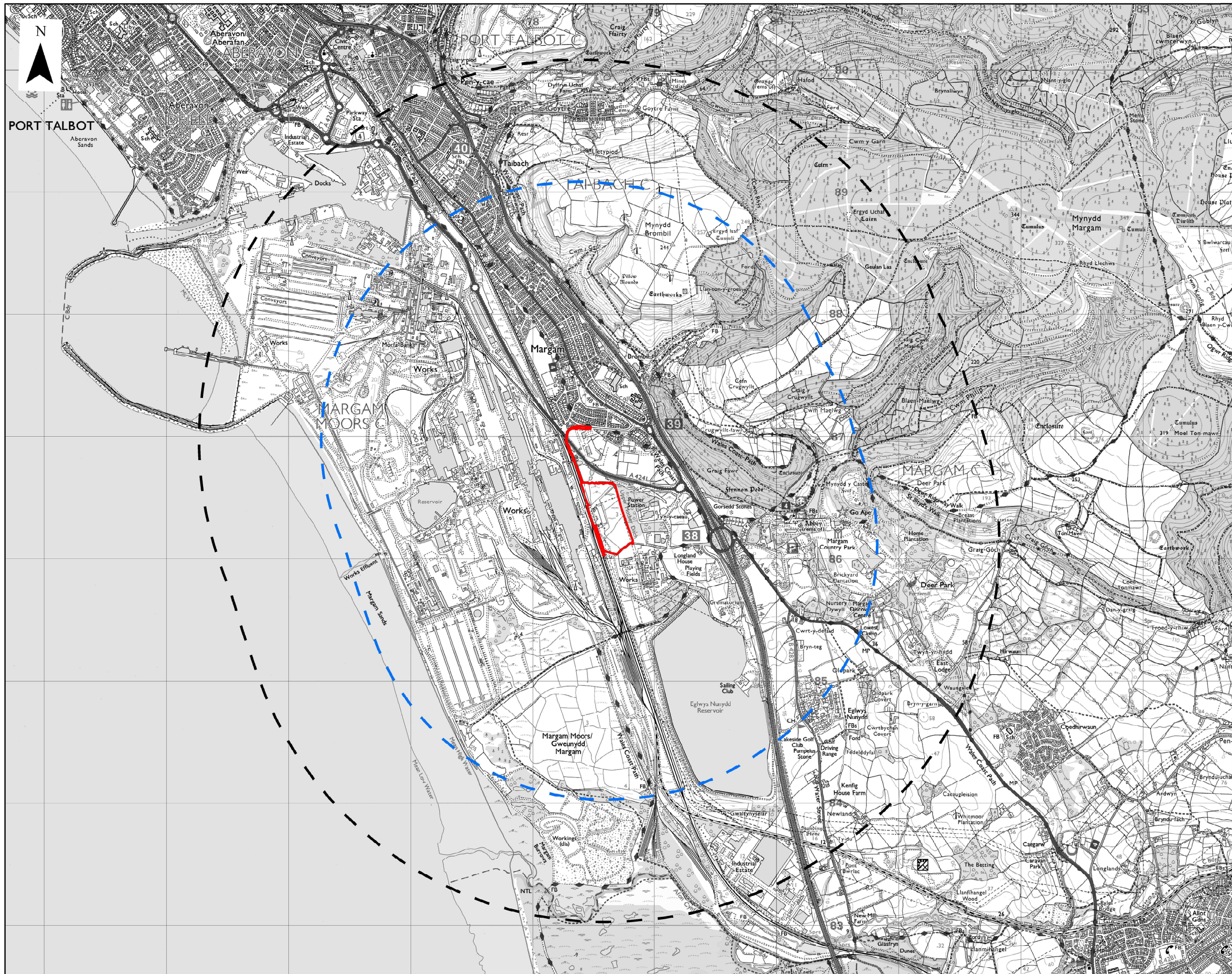
7.1 Summary

- 7.1.1 The Site lies adjacent to industrial development, the most notable of which is the Tata Steel plant, south of the A4241 Harbour Way and the settlement of Margam in South Wales.
- 7.1.2 Although industrial development is dominant in the vicinity of the Site, beyond the M4 east of the Site the landscape has several designations and includes Margam Country Park at the foot of Mynydd Margam.
- 7.1.3 There is visual enclosure of the Site from the surrounding area, provided by landform, built form and vegetation, with clear views towards the Site relatively limited.
- 7.1.4 There would be no direct landscape effects on designations, including the Margam Special Landscape Area (SLA), Margam Country Park, Margam Park Conservation Area, Margam Landscape of Historic Interest, or Kenfig Burrows SLA. Indirect effects (i.e. experiential effects) would be very limited across all phases of the works.
- 7.1.5 The appraisal identified direct landscape effects on: Landscape Character Area (LCA) 1: Margam Marsh; local landscape character of the Site; Site topography, landform, and watercourses; and existing vegetation within the Site. This is largely to be expected given the overall change that would be experienced within the Site as vegetation is cleared, construction takes place, and the Proposed Development introduced. Upon completion the moderate level of effect would remain for local landscape character of the Site and existing vegetation within the Site, but the level of effect would reduce for Site topography, landform and watercourses, and for LCA 1: Margam Marsh. By year 15 it is predicted the effects of these changes would reduce as managed natural regeneration beyond the footprint of the Proposed Development establishes.
- 7.1.6 The appraisal identified that the greatest adverse visual effect (moderate) would be upon the view from View Location (VL) 4 and VL5 during construction only, this as a result of the elevated views afforded at these locations and the high sensitivity associated with visitors to the Country Park and the SLA who generally have a heightened awareness of their surroundings. Following construction however the level of effect would reduce as the Proposed Development would be viewed in the context of other industrial development. The appraisal has also identified there would be no views of the development at VL3.
- 7.1.7 A sequential appraisal, which aims to understand the changes in experience for receptors as they progress on their journeys, was undertaken in relation to road receptors on the A4241 Harbour Way, and recreational receptors along the Wales Coast Path. The appraisal found that recreational users of the Wales Coast Path would experience a moderate level of effect during construction as a result of increased levels of traffic and vegetation removal. This would reduce over time however, with a neutral level of effect predicted by Year 15. For road users on the A4241, the level of effect would remain minor across all phases of the works as a result of limited visibility and the similar industrial character of the Proposed Development which permeates existing views.

7.2 Conclusion

- 7.2.1 The Site has potential to accommodate the Proposed Development, subject to incorporation of the Landscape and Habitat Management Plan (LHMP) and adherence to construction management as laid out in the CEMP.
- 7.2.2 Such an approach to development at the Site would help to assimilate the Proposed Development within its surroundings over time and be in accordance with the adjacent existing

character, without causing undue harm to the key habitats within the Site or views from designated landscapes and the surrounding area.



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km Study Area
- 3km Search Area

The study area is within the counties of Port Talbot and Bridgend.



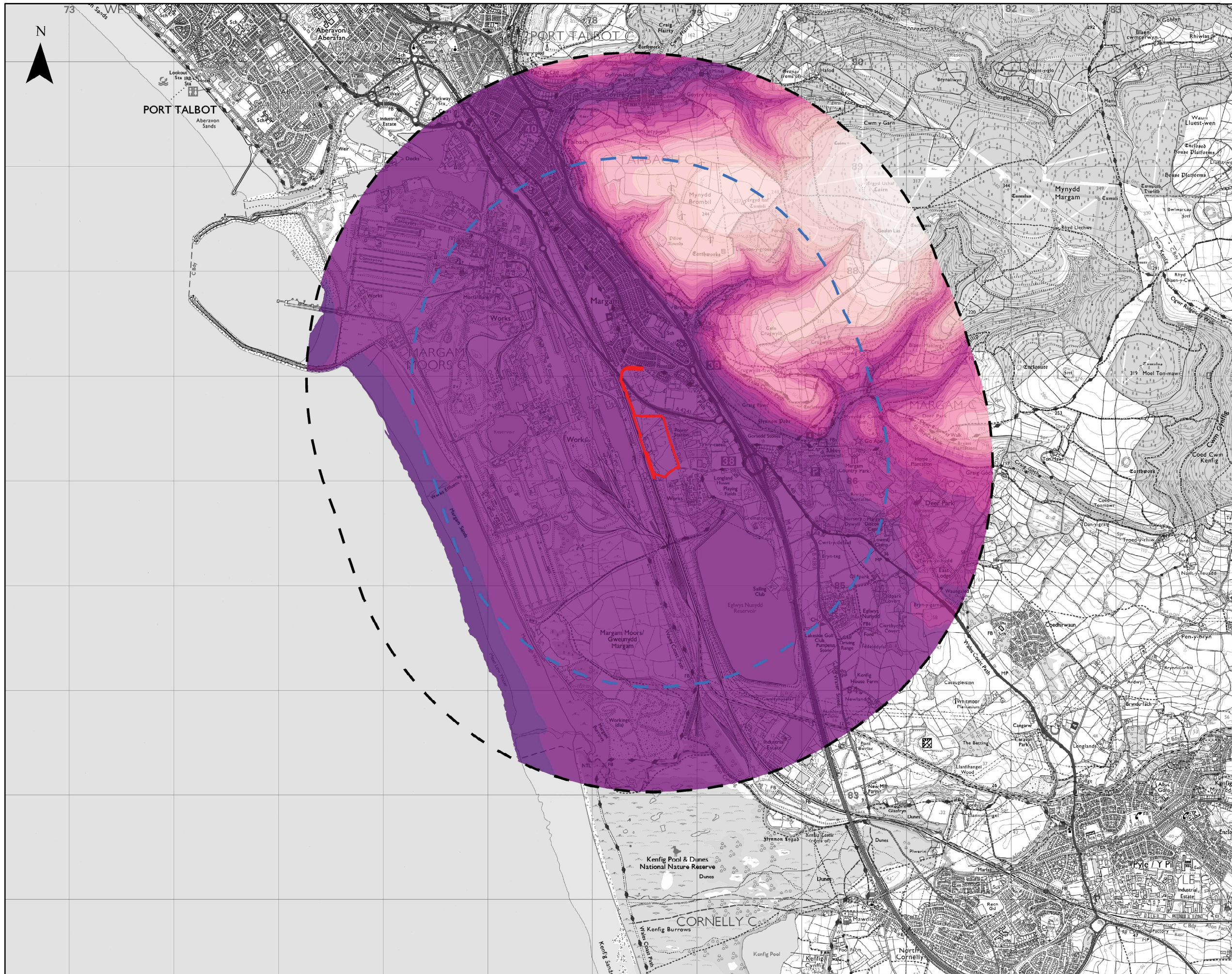


Legend

- Site Boundary
- 1km Study Area (Heritage Designations)
- 2km Study Area
- 3km Search Area
- Listed Buildings¹
- Public Rights of Way²
- Watercourses
- National Cycle Network³: NCN Route 4
- Wales Coast Path⁴
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments¹:
 - A: Half Moon Camp
 - B: Hen Eglwys Chapel and Defended Enclosure
 - C: Mynydd y Castell Camp
 - D: Margam Abbey
- Conservation Area⁵: Margam Park
- Special Landscape Area⁶
 - 1. Margam
 - 2. Kenfig Burrows
- Ancient Woodland⁷
- Country Parks⁵
- Green Wedge (EN3)⁸
- Landscape of Historic Interest (SP21/4[a])⁸

NOTES:

- <https://cadwpublic-ui.azurewebsites.net/> (Accessed: 10.12.24)
- Bing Maps. <https://www.bing.com/maps/?cp=52.433827%7E-1.638336&lvl=11.0> (10.12.24)
- Sustrans. <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network/> (Accessed: 10.12.24)
- <https://www.walescoastpath.gov.uk/working-with-us/about-the-path/?lang=en> (Accessed: 10.12.24)
- <https://www.npt.gov.uk/parks-sport-and-leisure/parks-and-outdoor-spaces/margam-country-park/> (Accessed: 10.12.24)
- Bridgend County Borough Council. Designation of Special Landscape Areas. March 2010 (Accessed: 10.12.24)
- https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:N-RW_ANCIENT_WOODLAND_INVENTORY_2021 (Accessed: 10.12.24)
- Neath Port Talbot, LDP Adopted Plan. https://maps.npt.gov.uk/ldp_final/index.html (Accessed: 06.01.25)



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km Study Area
- 3km Search Area

Topography (m, AOD):

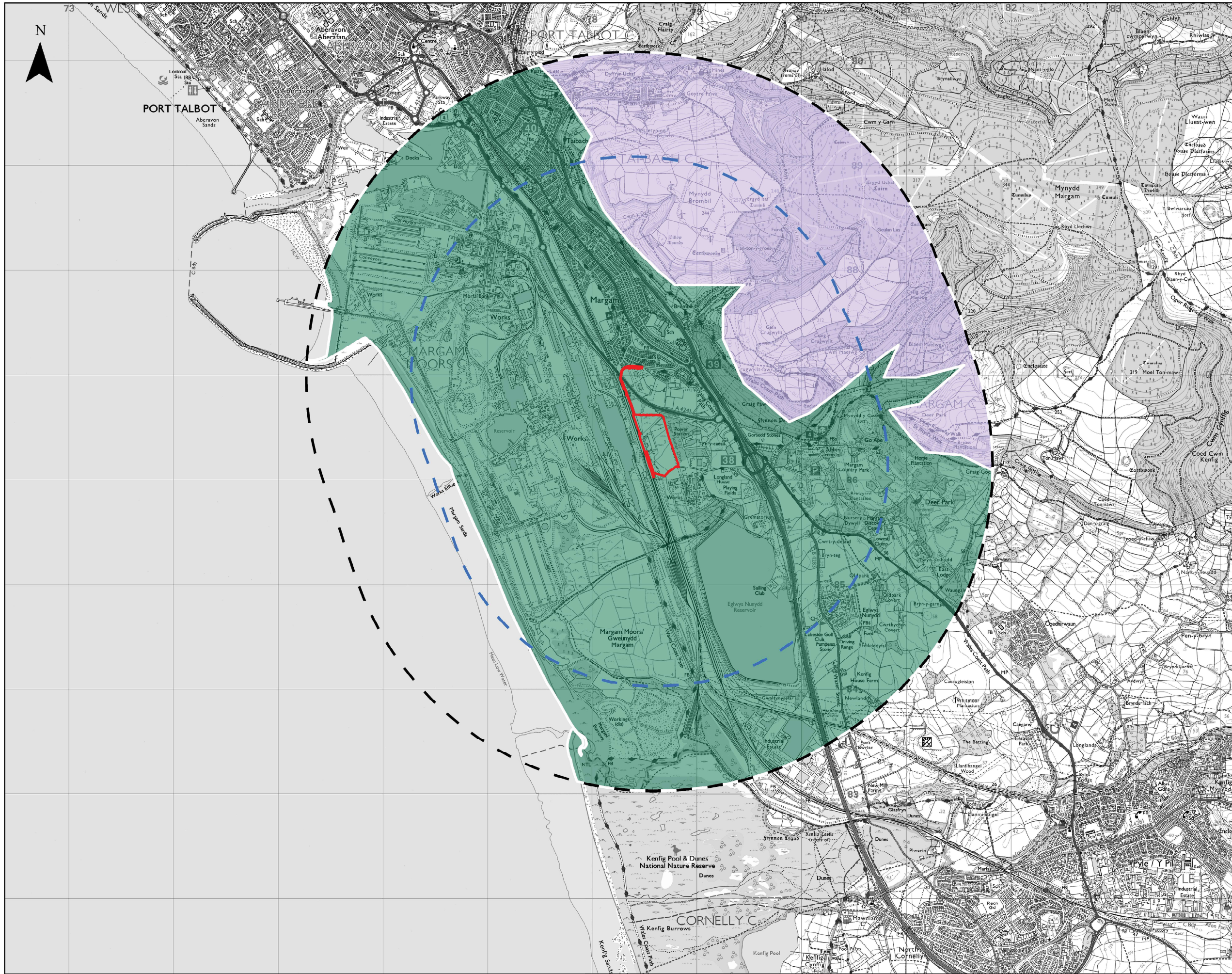
- 5 - 0
- 0 - 49
- 49 - 76
- 76 - 102
- 102 - 129
- 129 - 156
- 156 - 183
- 183 - 209
- 209 - 236
- 236 - 263
- 263 - 289
- 289 - 316

NOTES:

- DataMap Wales. Welsh Government LiDAR tile catalogue 2020-2023. <https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/lidar-data-download/view/#/> (Accessed 29.07.2025)

Port Talbot

Margam



Legend

Site Boundary

2km Study Area

3km Search Area

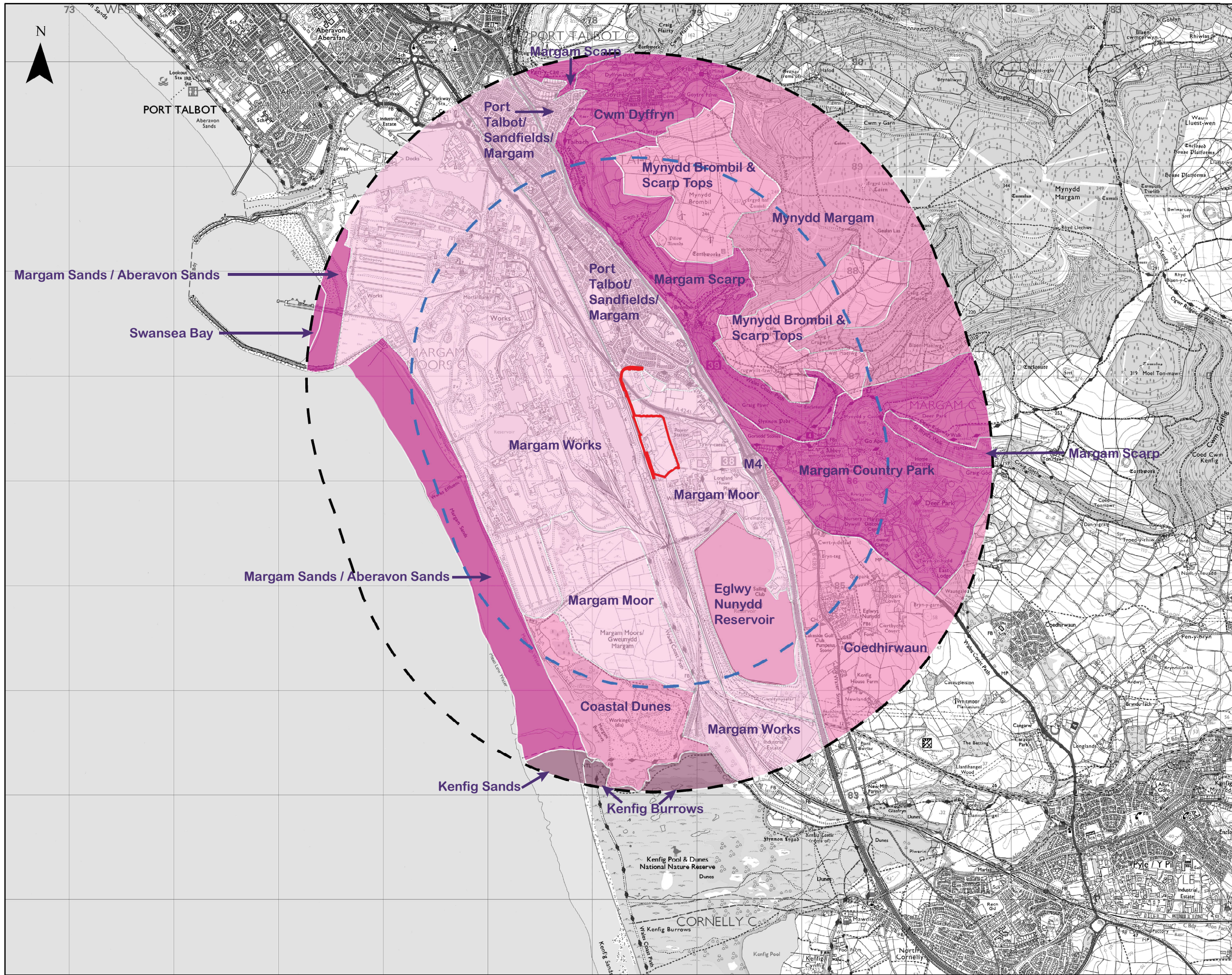
National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA):¹

Bae Abertawe/Swansea Bay

Dyffrynnoedd y De/South Wales Valleys

- NOTES:
- https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw: NRW LANDSCAPE_CHARACTER_AREAS (Accessed 13.12.2024)





Legend

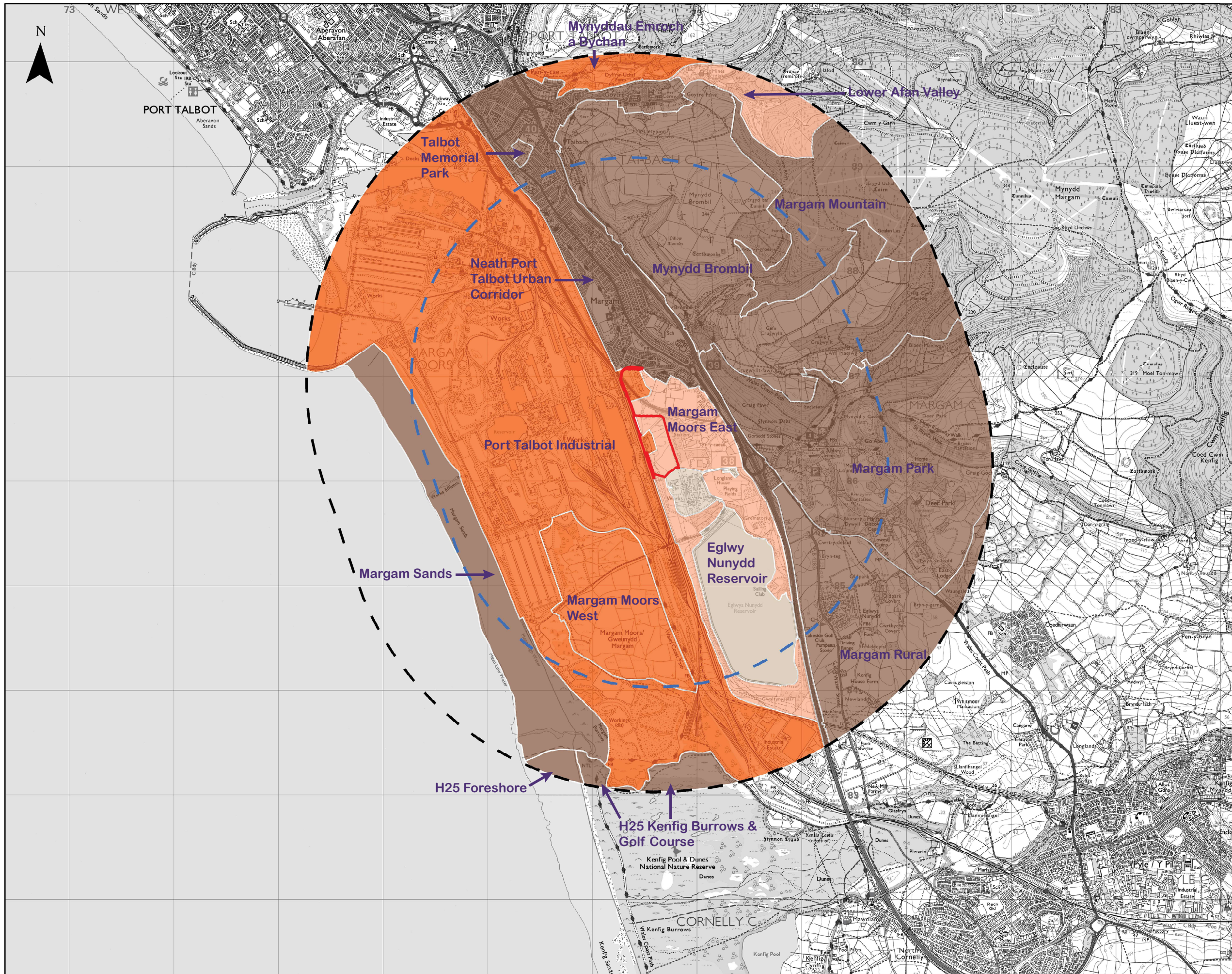
- Site Boundary
- 2km Study Area
- 3km Search Area

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory:

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low

NOTES:

- https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw: NRW LANDSCAPE_CHARACTER_AREAS (Accessed 13.12.2024)



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km Study Area
- 3km Search Area

LANDMAP Historic Landscape:

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low

NOTES:

- https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_LANDMAP_Historic_Landscape (Accessed 18.12.2024)



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km Study Area
- 3km Search Area

LANDMAP Landscape Habitats:

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low

NOTES:

- https://datamap.gov.wales/layers/inspire-nrw:NRW_LANDMAP_Landscape_Habitats (Accessed 18.12.2024)



Client

National Grid

Margam, Port Talbot
Figure L5c - LANDMAP Landscape Habitats

0 0.5 1 2 km

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OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

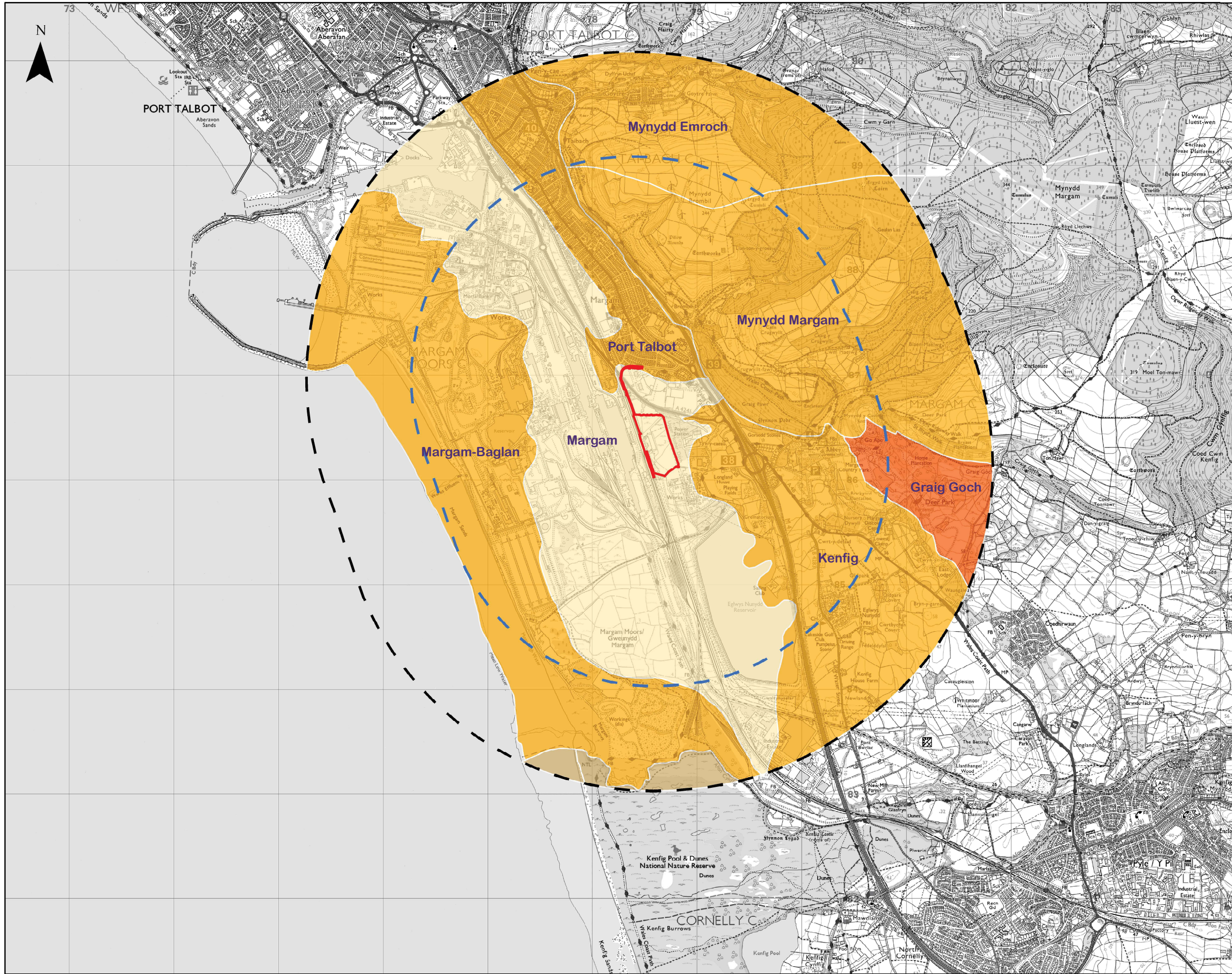
1:35,000@A3 Date: 30.07.2025

Drawn: JRM

Checked: RW

Figure: L5c

Rev: B



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km Study Area
- 3km Search Area

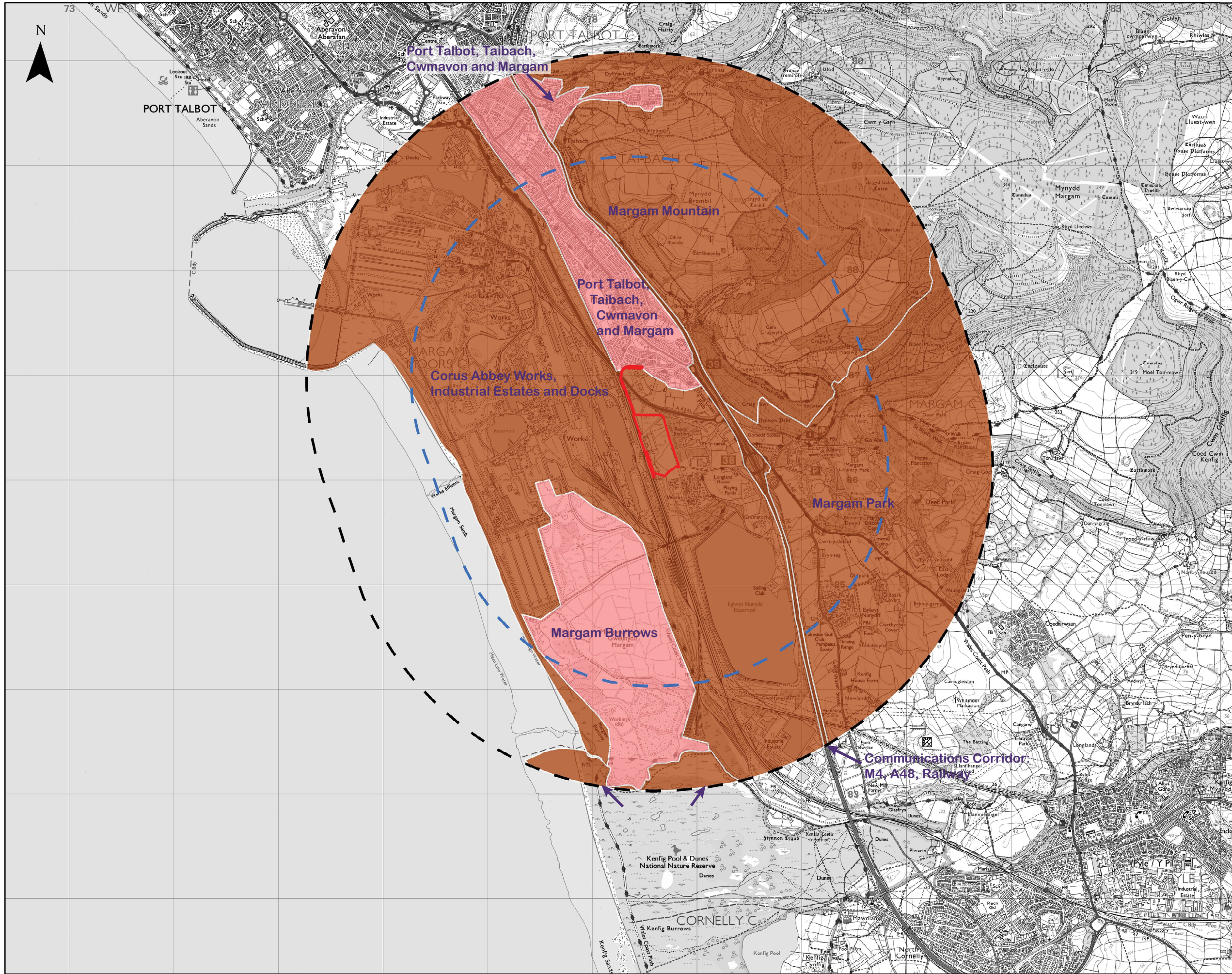
LANDMAP Geological Landscape:

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low

NOTES:

- <https://smnr-nrw.hub.arcgis.com/apps/1b7b831d7aa14b158e40f398d568a8b1/explore> (Accessed 23.01.2025)





Legend

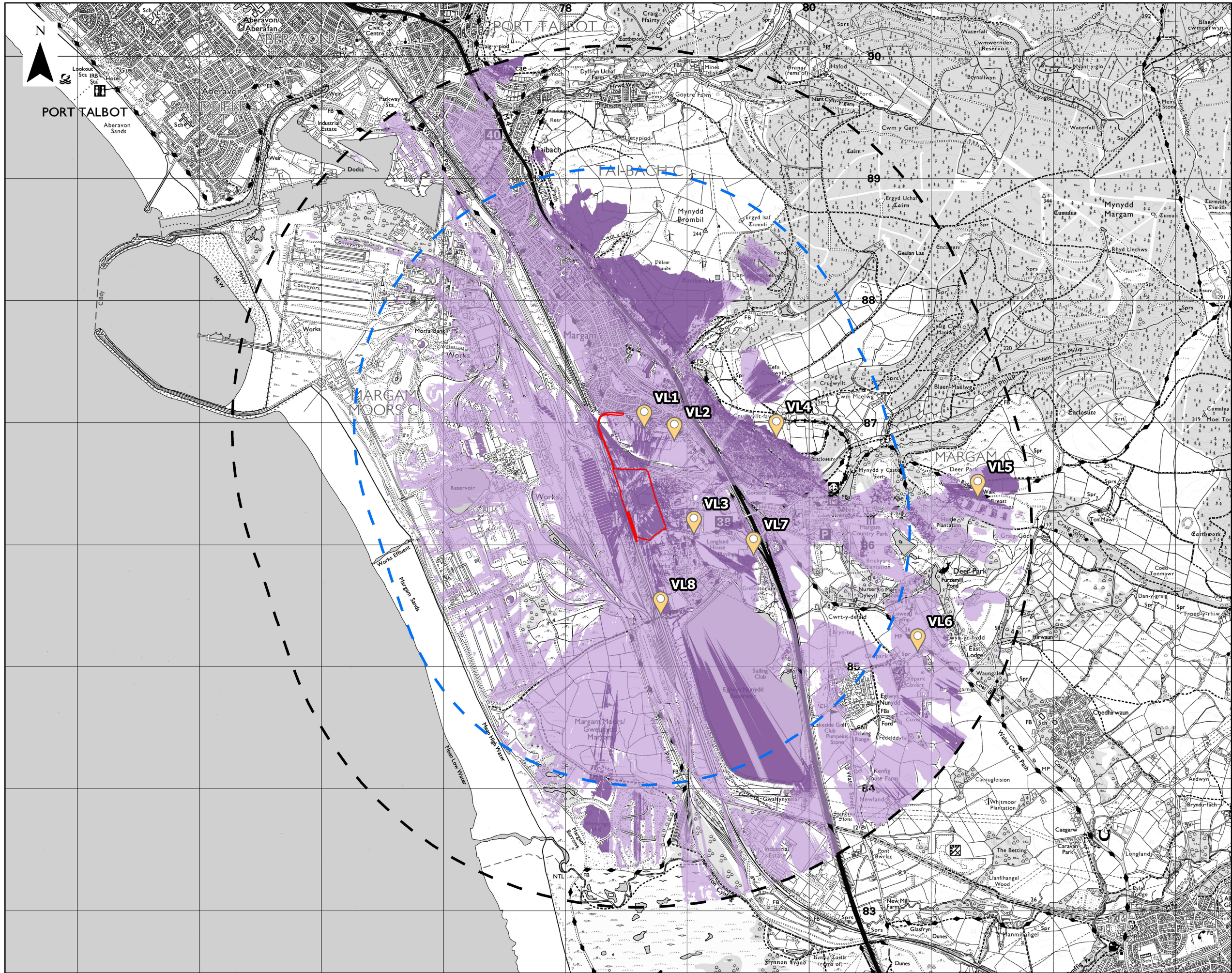
- Site Boundary
- 2km Study Area
- 3km Search Area

LANDMAP Cultural Landscape:

- Outstanding
- High

NOTES:

- <https://smnr-nrw.hub.arcgis.com/apps/1b7b831d7aa14b158e40f398d568a8b1/explore> (Accessed 23.01.2025)



Legend

- Site Boundary
- 2km Study Area
- 3km Search Area
- DSM Viewshed
- DTM Viewshed
- View Locations

NOTES:

- 1) This ZTV was run on a Digital Surface Model (DSM) and Digital Terrain Model (DTM) using DataMap Wales, 1m resolution grid, 2022. (<https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/lidar-viewer/>)
- 2) The ZTV was created using ESRI ArcGIS Pro version 3.0.2 Spatial Analyst tool.
- 3) The ZTV illustrates the area of theoretical visibility of the tallest proposed element of the Site layout, the Margam GIS Hall, created from 11 points set to 13m height.
- 4) Observer height was set to 1.6m.
- 5) Viewsheds have been clipped to a 3km search area.
- 6) The ZTV analysis remains only as a tool in the visual appraisal of the project. It's accuracy is limited to the digital information that it has been based upon and the algorithm used in it's calculation.



View Location Reference: VL1 - Abbots Close adjacent to Tata Steel Golf Course



Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



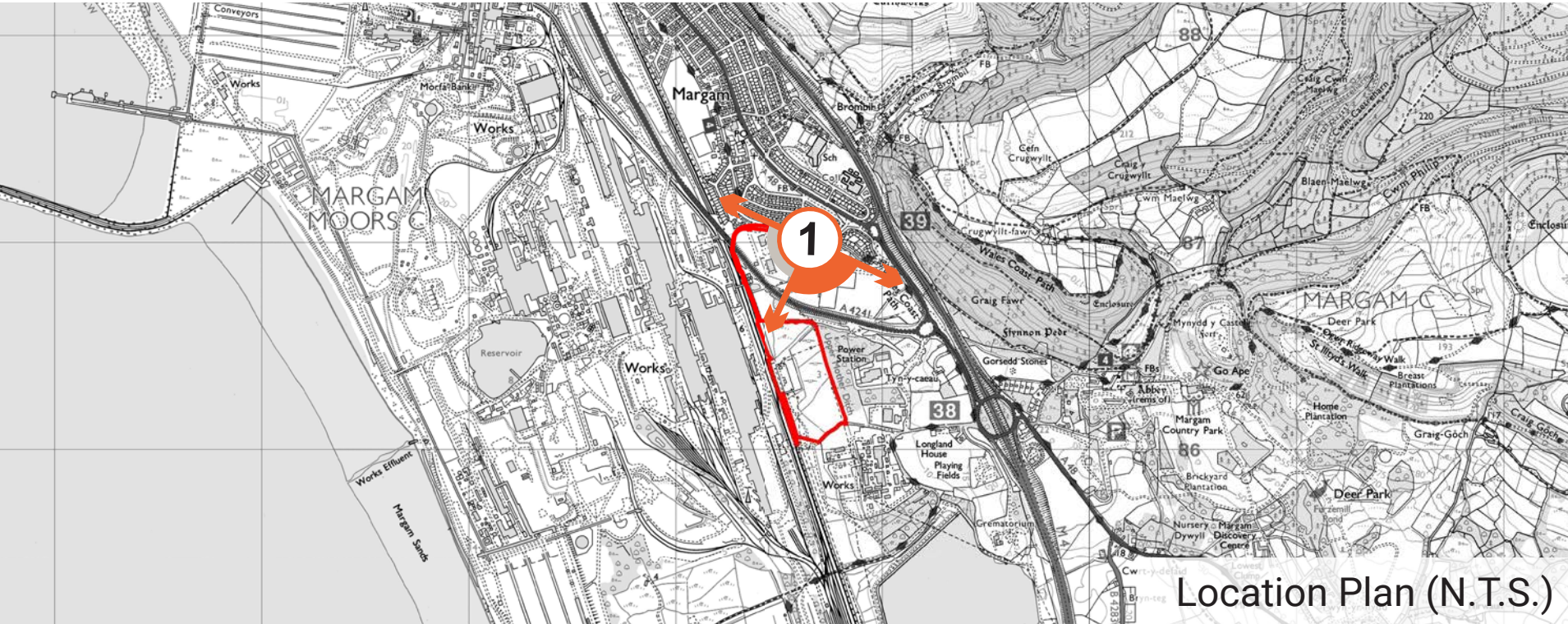
90° Horizontal field of view

Northing/ Easting:	51°34'6.28"/ 3°45'7.90"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	10m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (1 of 2)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC

Project Number: 331201497
Project Name: Margam, Port Talbot

Figure L7: Photo Sheets 1

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Location Plan (N.T.S.)

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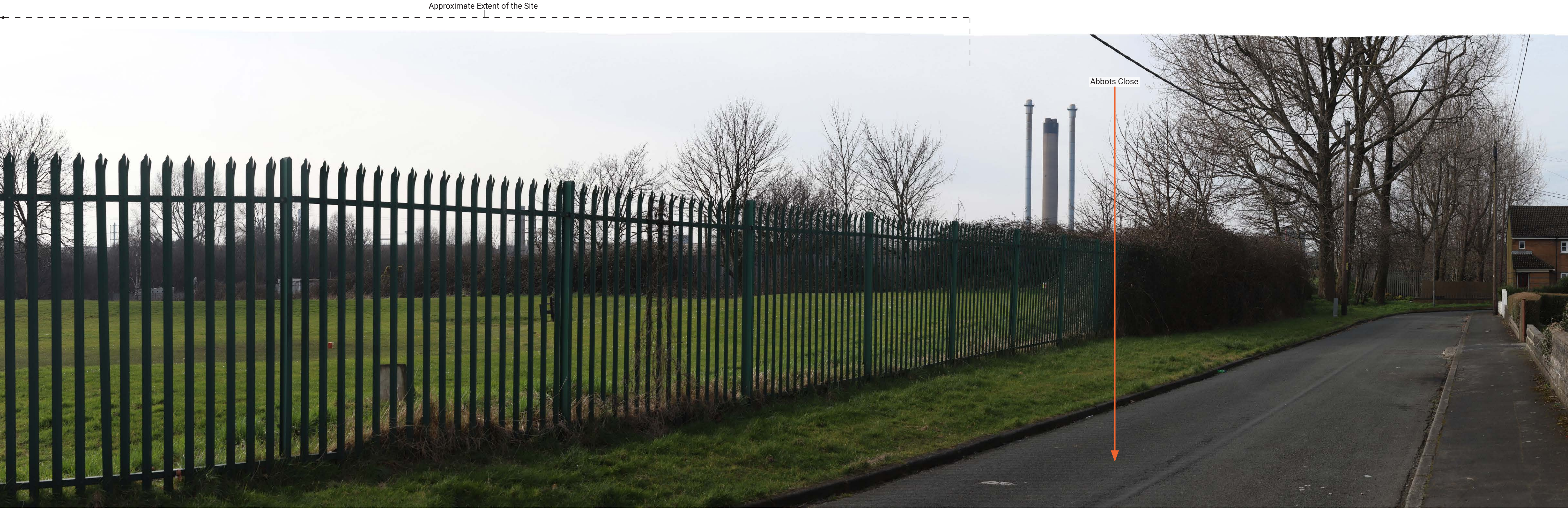


View Location Reference: VL1 - Abbots Close adjacent to Tata Steel Golf Course



Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

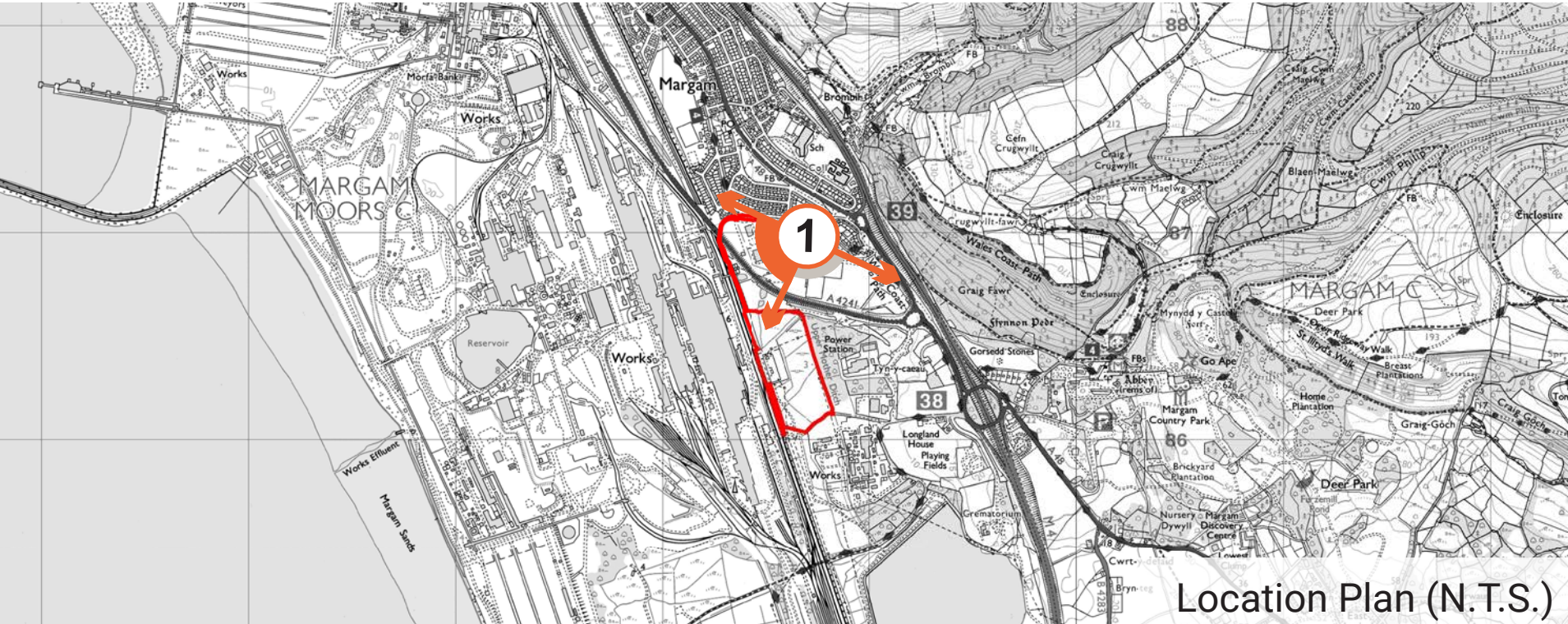
This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



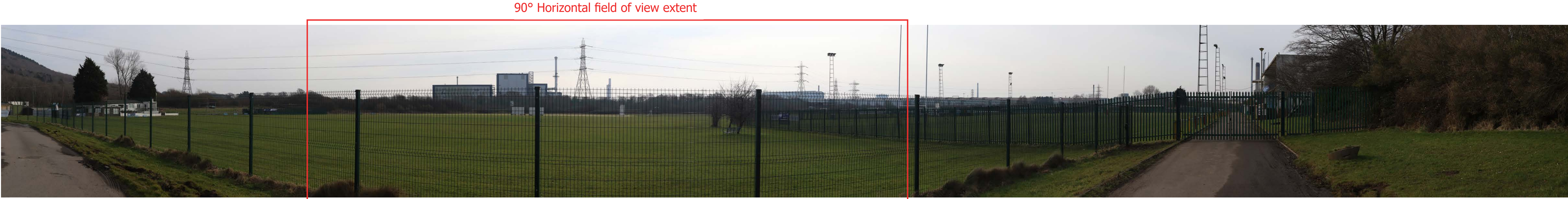
90° Horizontal field of view

Northing/ Easting:	51°34'6.28"/ 3°45'7.90"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	10m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (2 of 2)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC

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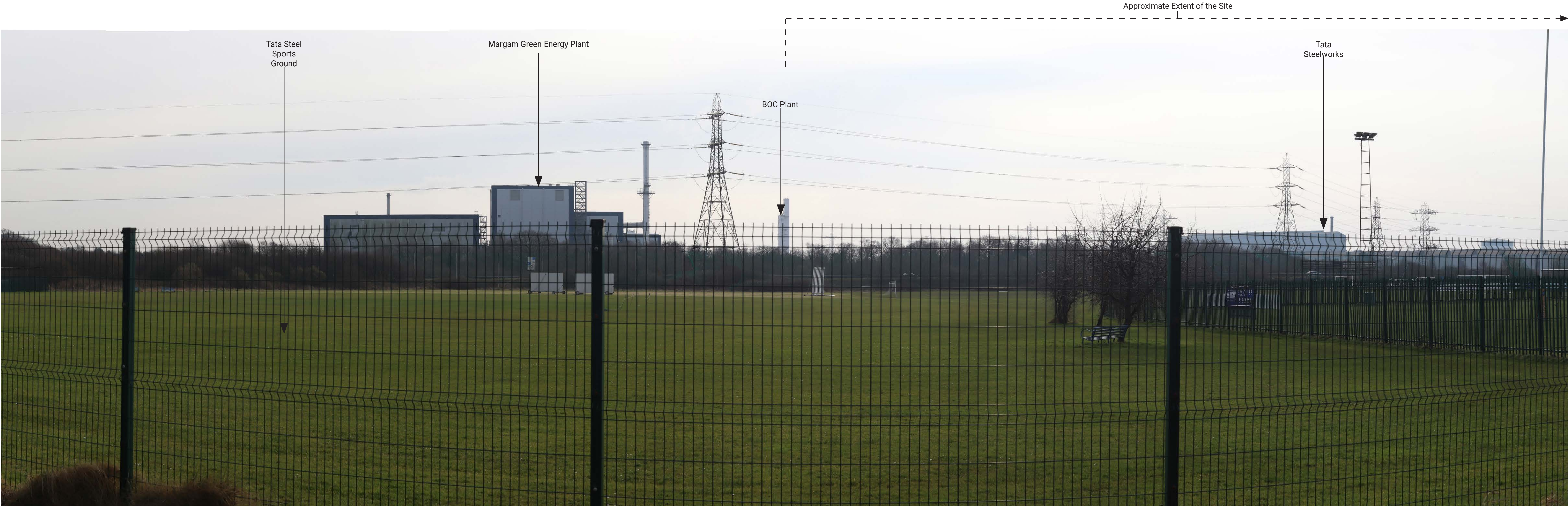


View Location Reference: VL2 - Abbots Close at Tata Steel Sports Ground



Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

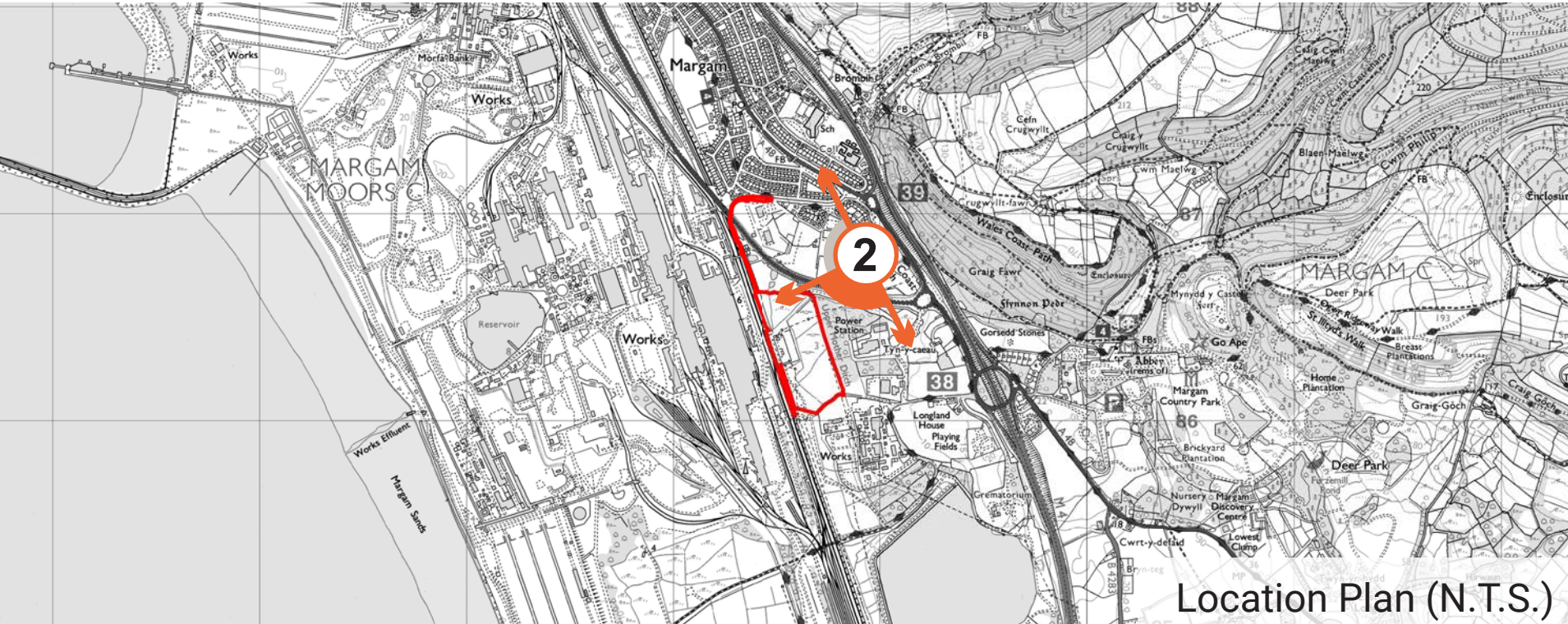
This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



90° Horizontal field of view

Northing/ Easting:	51°34'3.15"/ 3°44'55.56"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	8m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (1 of 2)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC

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View Location Reference: VL2 - Abbots Close at Tata Steel Sports Ground



Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

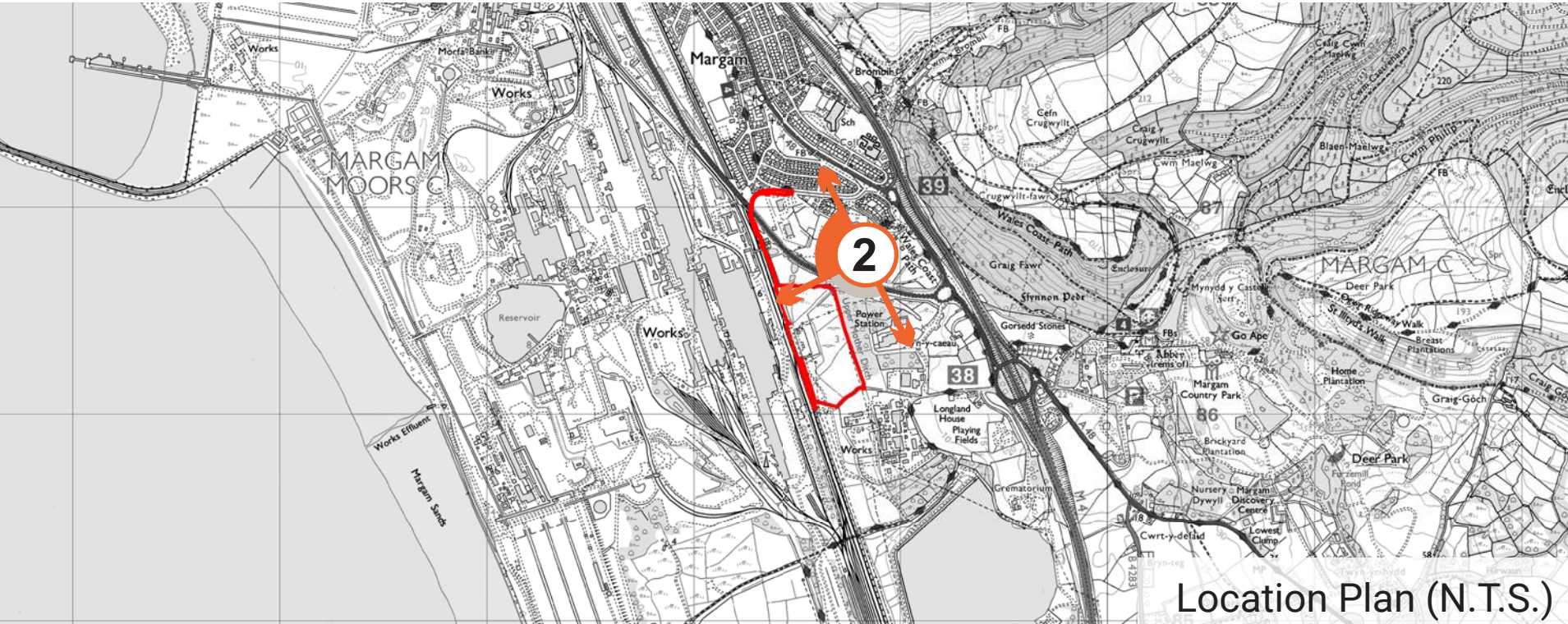
This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



90° Horizontal field of view

Northing/ Easting:	51°34'3.15"/ 3°44'55.56"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	8m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (2 of 2)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC

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View Location Reference: VL3 - Wales Coastal Path LDT / Heolcae’r-bont at Western Wood Energy Plant / BOC Hydrogen Plant



Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

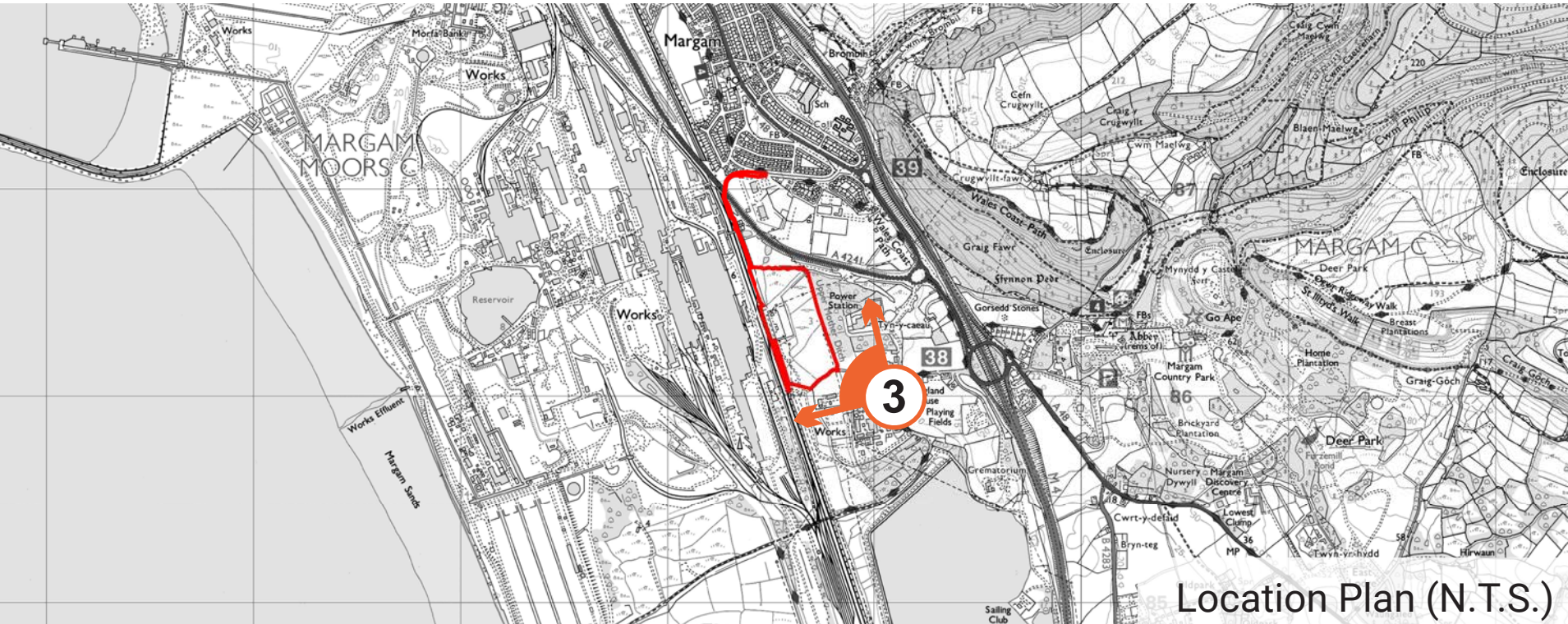
This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



90° Horizontal field of view

Northing/ Easting:	51°33'38.44"/ 3°44'46.35"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	11.5m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (1 of 1)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC

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Project Name: Margam, Port Talbot

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View Location Reference: VL4 - Wales Coast Path LDT / PRoW 9/WCP.Alt/2 on Graig Fawr opposite Crugwyllt-fawr Farm



Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

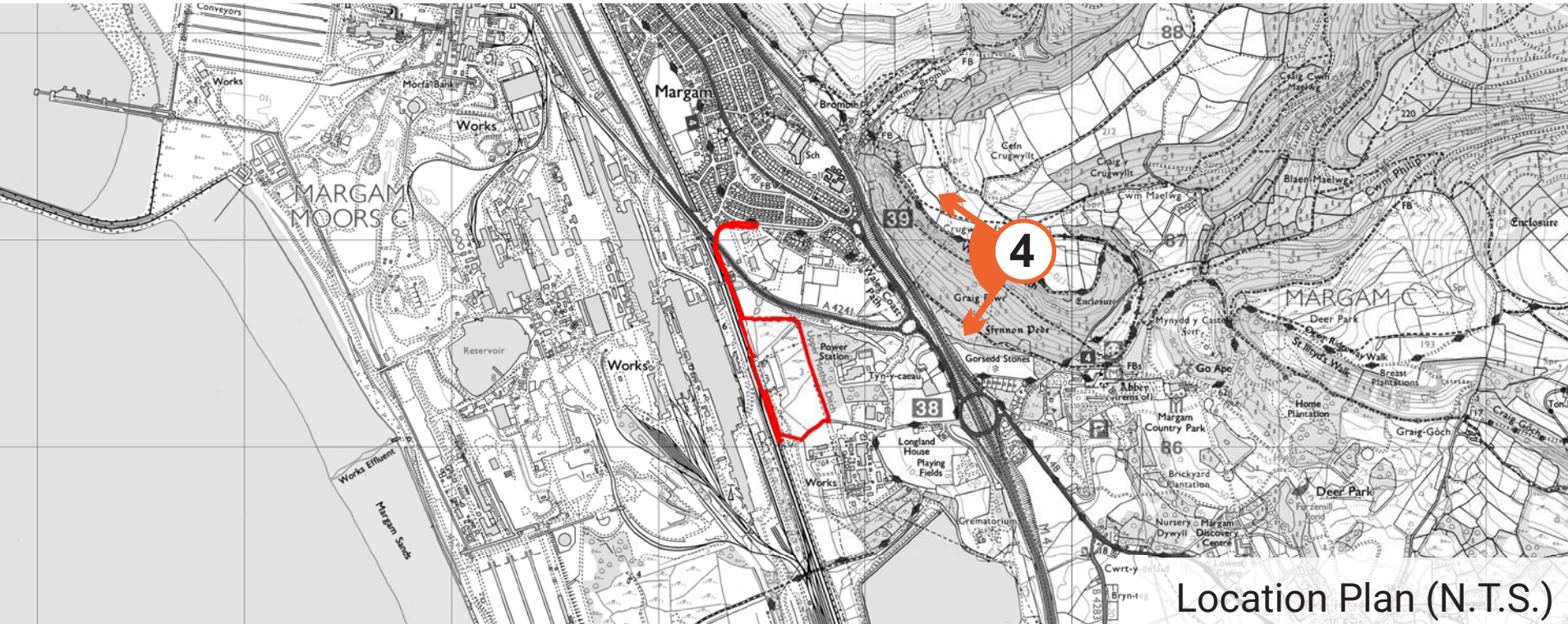
This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



90° Horizontal field of view

Northings/ Eastings:	51°34'2.78"/ 3°44'7.16"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	185m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (1 of 1)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC

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View Location Reference: VL5 - The Pulpit Viewpoint within Margam Country Park on the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk



Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

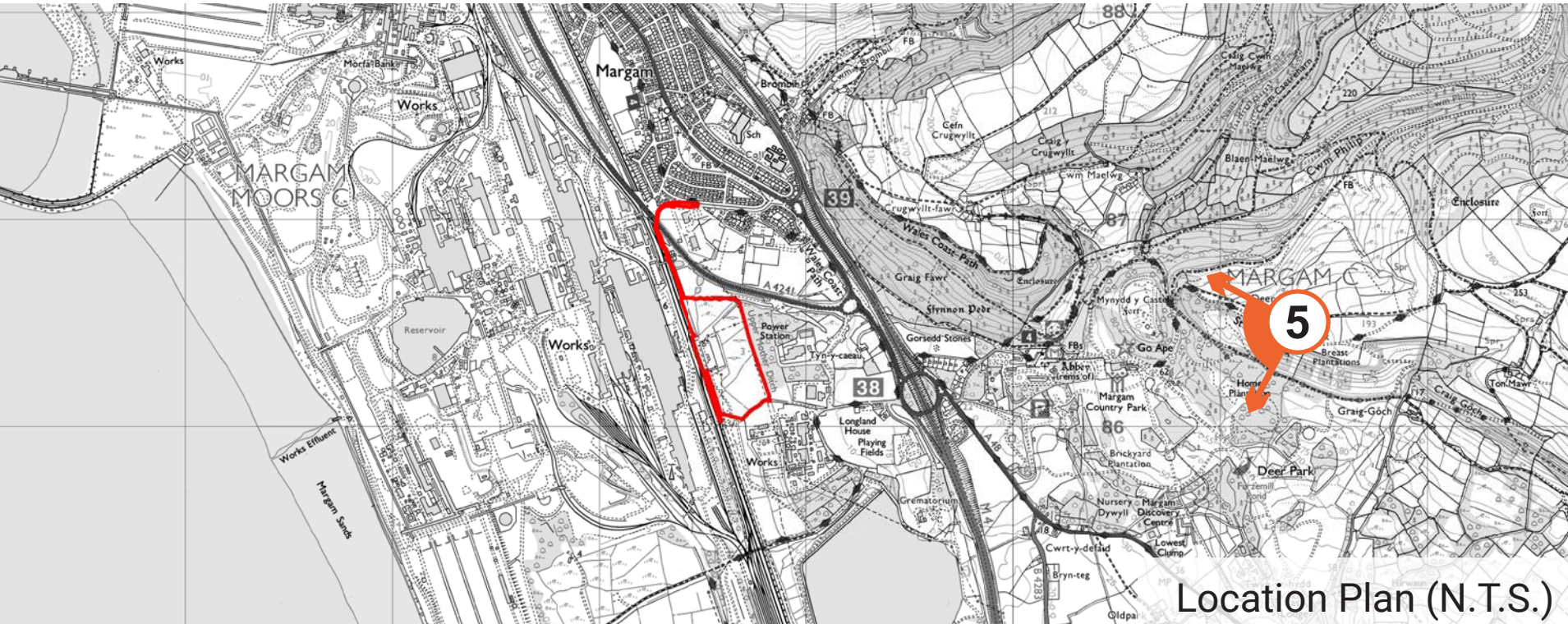
This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



90° Horizontal field of view

Northings/ Eastings:	51°33'49.87"/ 3°42'45.36"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	175.5m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (1 of 1)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC

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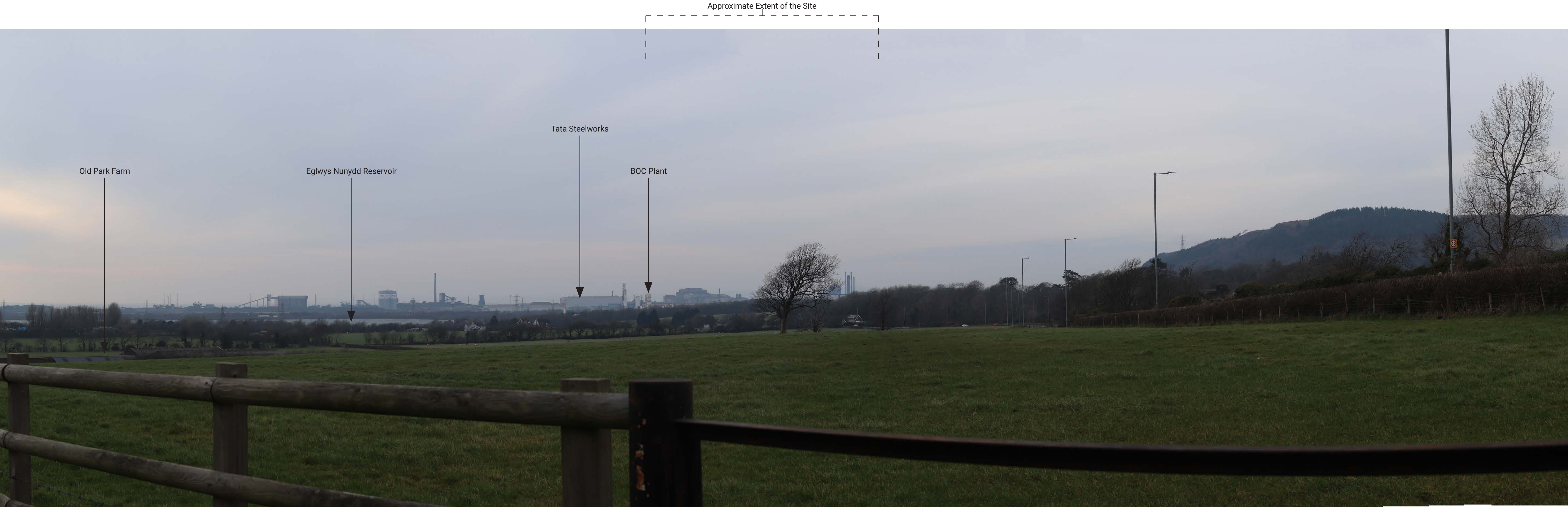
View Location Reference: VL6 - On Old Park Road adjacent to residential properties

90° Horizontal field of view extent



Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

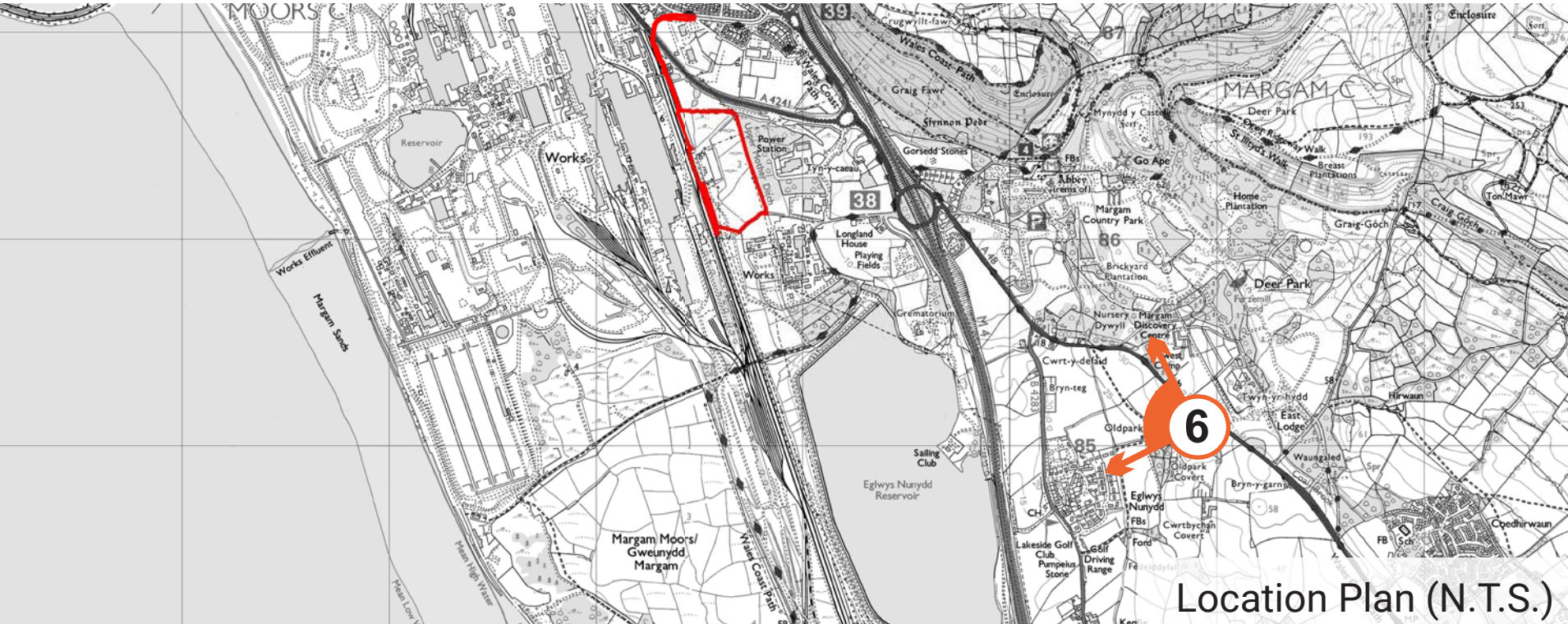
This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



90° Horizontal field of view

Northings/ Eastings:	51°33'9.02"/ 3°43'8.04"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	31m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (1 of 1)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC

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Project Name: Margam, Port Talbot

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View Location Reference: VL7 - On the grounds of Margam Cemetery

90° Horizontal field of view extent



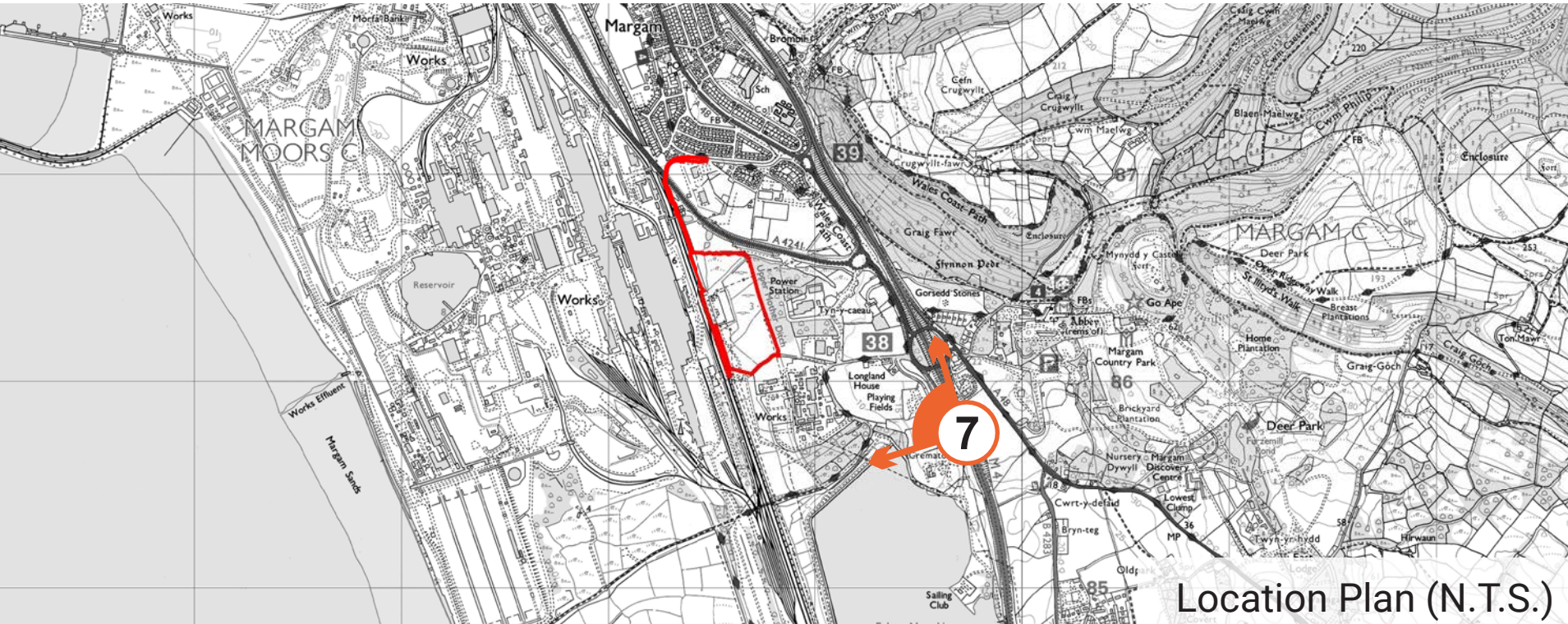
Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



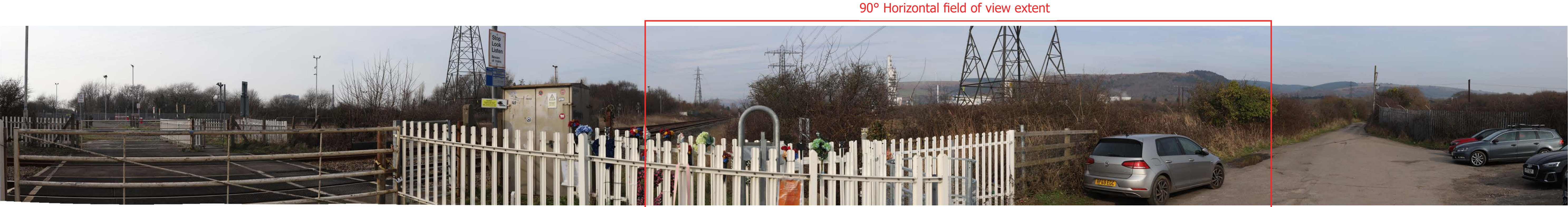
90° Horizontal field of view

Northing/ Easting:	51°33'32.62"/ 3°44'20.22"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	13m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (1 of 1)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC



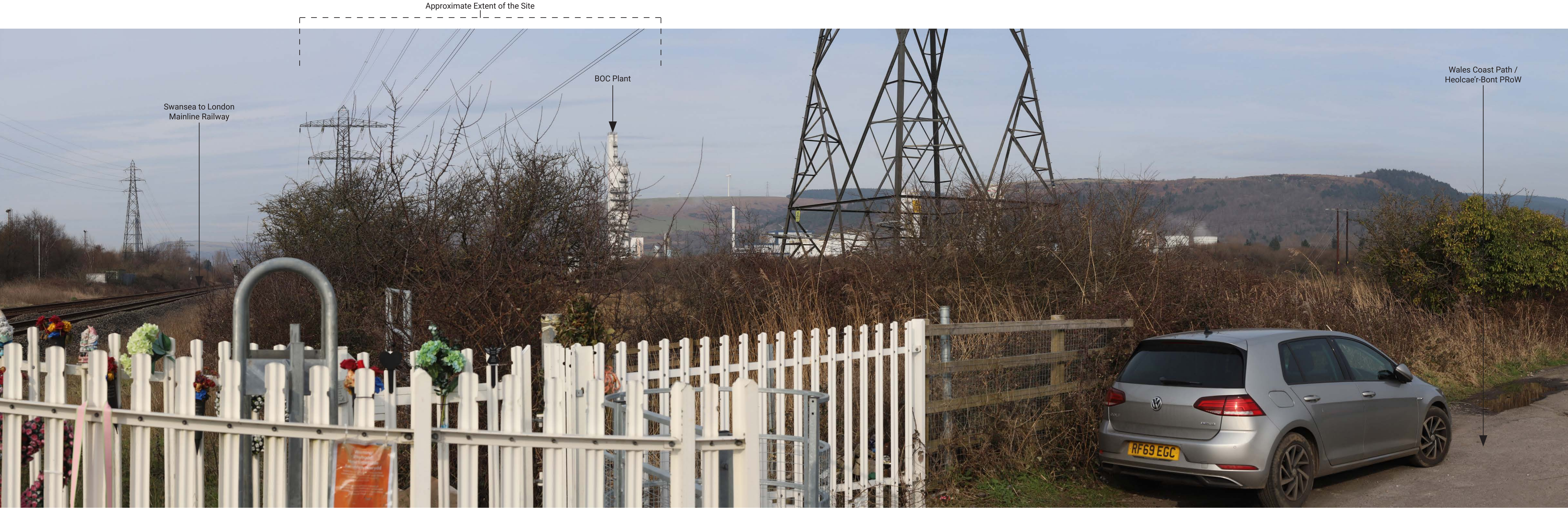
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View Location Reference: VL8 - Wales Coast Path / Heolcae’r-bont PRow south of the Site



Site Context Photograph (1 of 1)

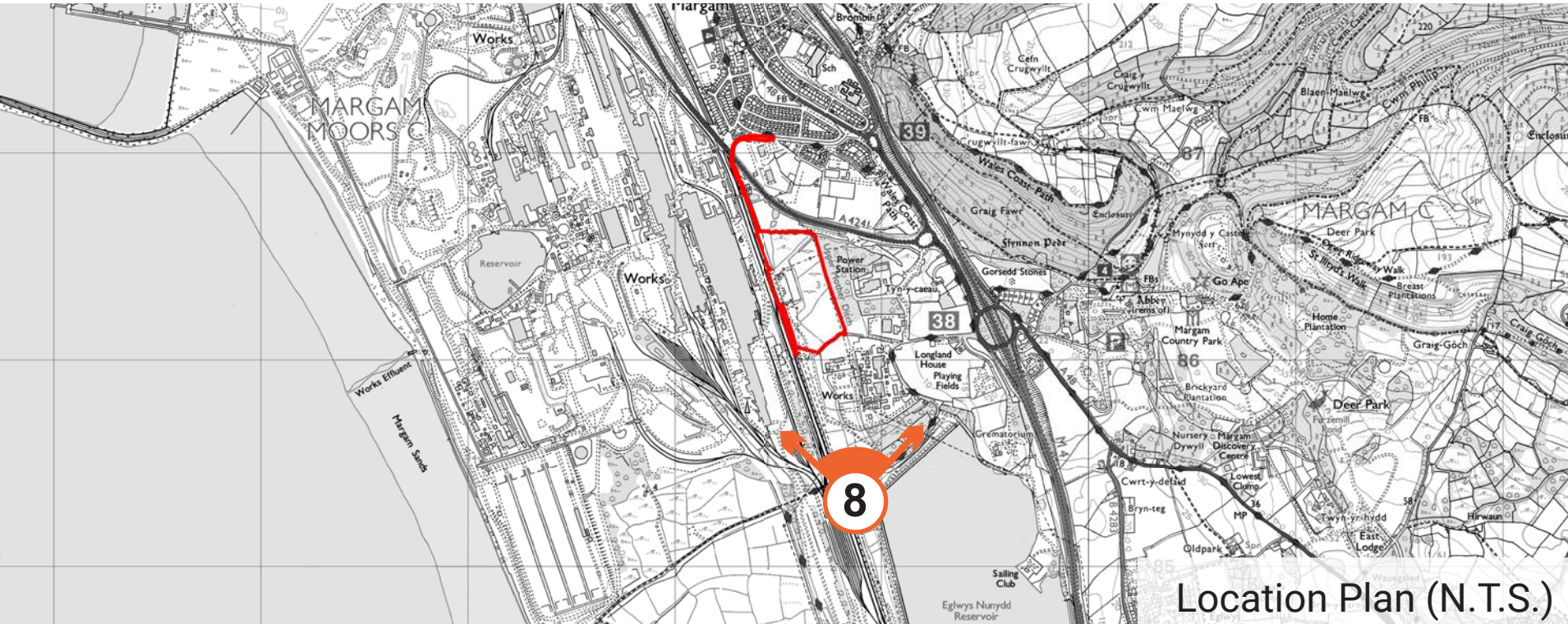
This panorama is not to scale. For contextual information only



90° Horizontal field of view

Northing/ Easting:	51°33'16.31"/ 3°44'59.02"	Date Taken:	18/02/2025
Elevation:	15m AOD	Camera:	Canon 6D (Full Frame Sensor)
Season:	Winter view (1 of 1)	Lens:	50mm fixed lens
Visualisation Type:	Type 1 Annotated Viewpoint Photograph	Drawn By:	MB
Enlargement Factor:	100%	Checked By:	RW
Projection:	Cylindrical	Approved By:	AC

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Project Number: 331201497
Project Name: Margam, Port Talbot

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BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Designation / Character Area, or Landscape Feature	Baseline Description: (Key Defining Characteristics)	Value of Landscape Character or Features, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Direction of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Landscape Designations and Landscape Character Areas (Published Sources)						
Margam Park Conservation Area (CA) / Margam Country Park	<p>Margam Park CA lies approximately 950m east of the Site, and lies entirely within the wider extents of Margam Country Park. These designations have therefore been considered together, as effects are predicted to be of the same or similar nature.</p> <p>Margam Park CA lies within the wider extents of the country park, and is protected by Policy 21: Built Environment and Historic Heritage.</p> <p>Margam Country Park extends over 400ha and includes the Grade I listed gardens and landscape and Grade I Margam Castle which is a 19th Century Tudor Gothic Mansion. The park was officially opened to the public in 1977, and has experienced continuous human habitation and use for over 4,000 years. The country park and CA contain areas of Ancient Woodland.</p> <p>The park and its surroundings lie in stark contrast to the industrial nature of development to the west.</p>	<p>Value of CA: High</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: High</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: HIGH</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>During construction there would be no direct effects on either the country park or the CA as a result of the Proposed Development, and although there would be a temporary uplift in vehicle movements visible from limited areas within the park (none are predicted from within the CA) these would be limited to the higher areas of ground within the eastern extents, and would be seen in context with traffic along the M4/A48 and an industrial backdrop.</p> <p>The resulting largely experiential change would therefore be indirect, barely discernible, and would have no impact on the characteristics or experience associated with either the country park or the CA.</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Limited to the extents of the Site and the immediate surroundings</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Reversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Negligible</p>	Adverse	Minor
			<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Following completion of the works there are no changes predicted on either the country park or the CA given any impacts would be indirect and indiscernible given the existing context of the substation within views.</p>	<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: No change</p> <p>Geographical Extent: N/A</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: N/A</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: No change</p>	N/A	No change
			<p><u>15 Years After Planting:</u></p> <p>By year 15 impacts relating to the Proposed Development on the country park and CA are not predicted to change from those experienced at the opening year.</p>	<p><u>15yrs After Planting:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: No change</p> <p>Geographical Extent: N/A</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: N/A</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: No change</p>	N/A	No change

Terminology for Landscape Effect:

Landscape Value: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low
Size/Scale of Effect: Large, Medium, Small, Very small, No Change
Geographical Extent of Effect: Site Level / Immediate Setting of the Site / Landscape Character or Type Level / Several Types or Areas

Duration: Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term
Reversibility: Irreversible / Partially Reversible / Reversible
Direction of Effect: Adverse, Beneficial
Overall Magnitude of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, No Change, Neutral
Level of Significance: Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No change

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Designation / Character Area, or Landscape Feature	Baseline Description: (Key Defining Characteristics)	Value of Landscape Character or Features, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Direction of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Margam Special Landscape Area (SLA), Margam Mountain Landscape of Historical Interest (LHI)	<p>Margam SLA lies approximately 600m east of the Site, and broadly covers a similar area to that of Margam Mountain LHI, although it extends further north and south. These designations have therefore been considered together, as effects are predicted to be of the same or similar nature.</p> <p>The Margam SLA extends from high ground in the north near Cwmafan to Pont George Road in the south, with its western extents broadly following the course of the M4.</p> <p>The Margam Mountain LHI, although smaller in area than the Margam SLA, still covers an extensive area and has historic links with the Bronze Age, Iron Age, the Roman occupation and Early Christian settlement.</p> <p>The SLA and LHI both include Margam Country Park and Margam CA within their boundaries, and include extensive areas of Ancient Woodland.</p>	<p>Value of LCA: High</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: High</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: HIGH</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>No direct impacts would be experienced by either the SLA or LHI during construction, however the increase in activity around the Site would potentially create indirect experiential change given their 'overlooking' nature in relation to the Site.</p> <p>This would however be barely perceptible overall, and would result in negligible change as worst-case.</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Limited to the extents of the Site and the immediate surroundings</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Partially reversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Negligible</p>	Adverse	Minor
			<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Following completion of the Proposed Development there is not predicted to be any change to the key characteristics or experiential properties of either the SLA or LHI.</p>	<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: No change</p> <p>Geographical Extent: N/A</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: N/A</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: No change</p>	N/A	No change
			<p><u>15 Years After Planting:</u></p> <p>By year 15 impacts relating to the Proposed Development on the SLA and LHI are not predicted to change from those experienced at the opening year.</p>	<p><u>15yrs After Planting:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: No change</p> <p>Geographical Extent: N/A</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: N/A</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: No change</p>	N/A	No change

Terminology for Landscape Effect:

Landscape Value: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low
Size/Scale of Effect: Large, Medium, Small, Very small, No Change
Geographical Extent of Effect: Site Level / Immediate Setting of the Site / Landscape Character or Type Level / Several Types or Areas

Duration: Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term
Reversibility: Irreversible / Partially Reversible / Reversible
Direction of Effect: Adverse, Beneficial
Overall Magnitude of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, No Change, Neutral
Level of Significance: Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No change

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Designation / Character Area, or Landscape Feature	Baseline Description: (Key Defining Characteristics)	Value of Landscape Character or Features, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Direction of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
<p>Landscape Character Area (LCA) 1: Margam Marsh</p> <p>Neath Port Talbot LANDMAP Landscape Assessment (White consultants for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Countryside Council for Wales, 2004).</p>	<p>The Margam Marsh LCA encompasses two discrete areas; one which includes agricultural marshland west of the Swansea to London mainline railway, the majority of which is designated as a SSSI, and one which includes the Site and Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, which itself is a SSSI.</p> <p>The Neath Port Talbot LANDMAP Landscape Assessment describes the LCA in relation to its location, context and physical characteristics in the following way:</p> <p><i>"This character area lies in the south of the coastal plain. The land, crossed by the London to Swansea rail line and including Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir, is situated between Margam Burrows to the south and west, and the heavy industry and M4 motorway to the north and east respectively. It is low-lying and is comprised of reclaimed salt marshes at heights of between 4.5m and 5m AOD, and the reservoir raised at 10m AOD. It sits on part of the northwest to southeast coastal strip of alluvium, which fringes the coast."</i></p> <p>The LANDMAP process of identifying landscape character in layers of Geological Landscape, Visual and Sensory, Landscape Habitat, Historic Landscape, and Cultural Landscape generally provides levels of value, with LCA 1: Margam Marsh (or the Layer which most closely represents it) listed as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geological Landscape (Margam): Low.• Visual and Sensory (Margam Marsh): Low.• Landscape Habitat (Margam Moors): High.• Historic Landscape (Margam Moors East): Moderate.• Cultural Landscape (Corus Abbey Works, Industrial Estates and Docks): Outstanding.	<p>Value of LCA: Medium</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: Medium</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM</p>	<p><u>During Construction</u></p> <p>Construction activity within this LCA would result in direct localised changes as vegetation is cleared and ditches diverted to accommodate the Proposed Development and short-term construction swathes. The majority of the LCA would remain unaffected to the north, east and south, however the change would be noticeable within the locality of the works.</p> <p>Given the predominantly industrial nature of the surrounding area, which includes the existing substation and other commercial works to the east, and the current movement of large vehicles along the A4241 this would not equate to more than a partial change to the existing landscape character.</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Medium</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Immediate setting</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Partially reversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Moderate</p>	Adverse	Moderate
			<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Following completion of the Proposed Development, the LCA would experience some change to its key characteristics, in particular to the baseline habitat conditions. The proposed areas of natural regeneration and planting would not yet be established, and would therefore not provide the function for which it was intended effectively.</p> <p>The substation extension would however not appear out of character given the proximity of the existing substation and other industrial development. Therefore the change would be viewed as partial only, and the majority of the LCA would remain unchanged.</p>	<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Immediate setting</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Medium-term/Irreversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Slight</p>	Adverse	Minor
			<p><u>15 Years After Completion:</u></p> <p>By year 15 of operation, it is expected that the substation extension would have assimilated within its surroundings, and although the footprint of industrial development would have increased as a result of the substation extension, the change would appear as just discernible overall.</p> <p>It is expected that the areas of natural regeneration and proposed planting would be sufficiently established to be effective, thereby reducing the magnitude of effects further.</p>	<p><u>15yrs After Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Site level</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Negligible</p>	Adverse	Negligible

Terminology for Landscape Effect:

Landscape Value:	High, Medium, Low, Negligible	Duration:	Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term
Susceptibility to Change:	High, Medium, Low, Negligible	Reversibility:	Irreversible / Partially Reversible / Reversible
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor:	High, Medium, Low	Direction of Effect:	Adverse, Beneficial
Size/Scale of Effect:	Large, Medium, Small, Very small, No Change	Overall Magnitude of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, No Change, Neutral
Geographical Extent of Effect:	Site Level / Immediate Setting of the Site / Landscape Character or Type Level / Several Types or Areas	Level of Significance:	Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No change

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Designation / Character Area, or Landscape Feature	Baseline Description: (Key Defining Characteristics)	Value of Landscape Character or Features, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Direction of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Local Landscape Character of the Site and Landscape Features Within the Site						
Local Landscape Character of the Site	<p>The character of the Site comprises largely marshy grassland (categorised as swamp/marsh/marshy grassland within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal produced by Stantec in December 20204), areas of scrub, and broadleaved semi-natural woodland comprising predominantly Goat Willow.</p> <p>Other defining features include the existing substation and associated access tracks, and the presence of high-voltage towers and overhead lines (OHL).</p> <p>There are a number of ditches which cross the Site or broadly follow its boundaries – the most prominent of these being Upper Mother Ditch which lies along the Site’s northern boundary, carrying down the eastern boundary to eventually feed into Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir south of Heolcae’r-bont.</p> <p>Given the surroundings; that is sandwiched between what is a largely industrial with areas of woodland and a railway line, the Site retains a discrete character (aside from the existing substation and associated hardstanding/infrastructure) in landscape terms.</p> <p>The presence of existing electrical infrastructure offsets the otherwise rich habitat which makes up the remainder of the Site to some degree, essentially reducing its sensitivity to the type of change proposed.</p>	<p>Value of Local Landscape/Townscape Character of the Site: Medium</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: Medium</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM</p>	<u>During Construction:</u> Short-term, partial change within the Site footprint would be experienced during construction, with areas beyond the construction swathes identified on Figure L8: Landscape and Habitat Strategy Plan as retained unaffected. Introduction of the various elements associated with the Proposed Development would result in the partial loss or alteration of key features, some permanent (i.e. the footprint of the substation extension) and some temporary (i.e. construction swathe areas). The diversion of watercourses that intersect with construction activity would be required to accommodate the substation extension. Activity would include general construction activity, construction plant, lighting, temporary fencing, stockpiling of residue soils from excavation, and signage.	<u>During Construction:</u> Size/Scale: Medium Geographical Extent: Site level Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Partially reversible OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Moderate	Adverse	Moderate
			<u>On Completion:</u> Following completion of the Proposed Development, changes as a result would still be largely evident as land within the temporary construction areas is returned to its previous state where practicable. Changes with regards to the substation extension would be permanent and notable, however it would not appear unusual within the context of the surrounding industrial character.	<u>On Completion:</u> Size/Scale: Medium Geographical Extent: Site level Duration/Reversibility: Medium-term/Permanent OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Moderate	Adverse	Moderate
			<u>15 Years After Completion:</u> By year 15, the areas of natural regeneration identified will have reached a stage where it becomes assimilated within the surrounding areas originally retained during construction, restoring the original character of the Site where possible. Ditches across the Site, including where diverted to accommodate the Proposed Development, would be enhanced through management of encroaching vegetation.	<u>15yrs After Completion:</u> Size/Scale: Small Geographical Extent: Site level Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Permanent OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Slight	Adverse	Minor

Terminology for Landscape Effect:

Landscape Value: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low
Size/Scale of Effect: Large, Medium, Small, Very small, No Change
Geographical Extent of Effect: Site Level / Immediate Setting of the Site / Landscape Character or Type Level / Several Types or Areas

Duration: Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term
Reversibility: Irreversible / Partially Reversible / Reversible
Direction of Effect: Adverse, Beneficial
Overall Magnitude of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, No Change, Neutral
Level of Significance: Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No change

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Designation / Character Area, or Landscape Feature	Baseline Description: (Key Defining Characteristics)	Value of Landscape Character or Features, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Direction of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Site Topography, Landform, and Watercourses	<p>Topography and landform of the Site is largely flat, comprising a complex of wetland habitats typical of its coastal location, at one time considered as coastal floodplain grazing marsh.</p> <p>There are some slight level changes across the Site where vegetation is present, but the overall character is of a flat, marshy landscape lying at approximately 3 - 5m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).</p> <p>As a result of its coastal, flat, and wetland habitat nature, there are a number of interconnected drainage ditches within and adjacent to the Site, including the Mother Ditch system (comprising the Upper, Middle and Lower Mother Ditches).</p>	<p>Value of Topography and Site Landform: Medium</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: Low</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM</p>	<p>During Construction:</p> <p>As part of the construction process, piling will be undertaken (the exact method of which is to be confirmed; displacement piling is under consideration) to provide support to the substation extension, along with trenches to accommodate the proposed cable route within the Site. To accommodate the substation extension, ground within its footprint will be reduced by approximately 150mm by way of topsoil stripping. This will then be filled to around +4.150m AOD, approximately 1.1m above current Site levels.</p> <p>The open cut trench sections of the cable route within the Site would typically be 750mm wide and between 1.5m to 3m deep, dependant on ground conditions and ditch crossings. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) would also take place within the Site, but this would not alter Site topography as any activity is underground. Material from trench cuttings (including topsoil from excavation works to accommodate the substation extension site) will be stockpiled as bunds elsewhere within the Site. Exact locations are not known at this time, but they will be at least 10m away from any watercourses.</p> <p>Towards the end of the construction phase the welfare compound will be removed and a SuDS area (attenuation lagoon) will be created along with a drainage channel connecting from the proposed substation compound.</p> <p>The diversion of existing watercourses will also be required to accommodate the substation extension which will involve the creation of new ditch(es).</p>	<p>During Construction:</p> <p>Size/Scale: Medium</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Site level</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Partially reversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Moderate</p>	Adverse	Moderate
			<p>On Completion:</p> <p>No further changes to landform following completion.</p>	<p>On Completion:</p> <p>Size/Scale: No change</p> <p>Geographical Extent: N/A</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: N/A</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: No change</p>	N/A	None
			<p>15 Years After Planting:</p> <p>No further changes.</p>	<p>15yrs After Planting:</p> <p>Size/Scale: No change</p> <p>Geographical Extent: N/A</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: N/A</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: No change</p>	N/A	None

Terminology for Landscape Effect:

Landscape Value: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low
Size/Scale of Effect: Large, Medium, Small, Very small, No Change
Geographical Extent of Effect: Site Level / Immediate Setting of the Site / Landscape Character or Type Level / Several Types or Areas

Duration: Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term
Reversibility: Irreversible / Partially Reversible / Reversible
Direction of Effect: Adverse, Beneficial
Overall Magnitude of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, No Change, Neutral
Level of Significance: Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No change

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Designation / Character Area, or Landscape Feature	Baseline Description: (Key Defining Characteristics)	Value of Landscape Character or Features, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Direction of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Existing vegetation within the Site	<p>Vegetation within the Site comprises reedbeds, which is the predominant habitat, areas of grassland, and dense willow scrub which is developing into wet woodland.</p> <p>Much of this vegetation has developed over time through relaxed grazing management, resulting in a complex landscape, mainly of wetland character.</p> <p>Vegetation in general is patchy across the Site, with much of the willow scrub following the ditches which cut across and bound the Site.</p> <p>Historical imagery provides an illustration of former field boundaries comprising unmanaged hedgerows which are still broadly visible today, creating areas of linear scrub / woodland.</p> <p>Although this vegetation is not of high value when taken individually, the coastal conditions and natural succession have resulted in a wetland habitat of moderate value from a landscape perspective, much of which is designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC).</p>	<p>Value of Existing vegetation: Low</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: Medium</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM</p>	<p>During Construction:</p> <p>Vegetation within the Site will either be retained and unaffected, retained and enhanced (as part of the enabling works), temporarily / permanently directly affected by the construction works, or permanently lost to accommodate the Proposed Development during construction.</p> <p>Areas to be retained and enhanced comprise the existing ditches / watercourses which will be cleared of encroaching bramble and willow scrub. Areas temporarily affected by construction will comprise those areas within the construction swathe which will be compacted by working platforms including the HDD compound and cleared to accommodate the open trenches, the access road (track matting), and the welfare compound. Areas of vegetation lost permanently will comprise land utilised for the substation extension compound (approximately 160m x 110m).</p> <p>The construction phase could potentially span up to a maximum of eighteen months, which represents a worst-case scenario for assessment.</p>	<p>During Construction:</p> <p>Size/Scale: Medium</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Site level</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term / Partially reversible for compacted vegetation/Partially irreversible for removed vegetation</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Moderate</p>	Adverse	Moderate
			<p>On Completion:</p> <p>Following completion of the Proposed Development, there would be no further removal of vegetation. Where soil has been compacted by the temporary construction works, including temporary crossings of watercourses, it will be subject to subsoil aeration, which aims to loosen the subsoil structure in order to create a more porous soil and enhance drainage. Once the subsoil has been aerated, a nurse grass such as Westerwolds Ryegrass would be sown to enable relatively quick re-growth with a view to future natural regeneration across the affected areas.</p> <p>New planting will also be undertaken around the proposed SuDS pond located within the area formerly used as the welfare compound, and along the realigned watercourses.</p> <p>At this early stage it is considered that vegetation along the watercourses within the Site will have experienced some beneficial change as a result of the clearance of encroaching vegetation, thereby improving conditions for other habitat and wildlife. Other areas within the Site will however not be established, and therefore overall the change would remain moderate.</p>	<p>On Completion:</p> <p>Size/Scale: Medium</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Site level</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Medium-term / Partially reversible / Partially irreversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Moderate</p>	Adverse	Moderate
			<p>15 Years After Planting:</p> <p>By year 15 it is expected that the formerly compacted areas of land would have regenerated naturally in line with local provenance species, and although some vegetation would remain permanently lost through clearance as part of the initial enabling works and construction of the Proposed Development, new planting and natural regeneration along with maintenance of vegetation along the existing watercourses would provide some beneficial change.</p>	<p>15yrs After Planting:</p> <p>Size/Scale: Medium</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Site level</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Permanent</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Slight</p>	Beneficial	Minor

Terminology for Landscape Effect:

Landscape Value: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low
Size/Scale of Effect: Large, Medium, Small, Very small, No Change
Geographical Extent of Effect: Site Level / Immediate Setting of the Site / Landscape Character or Type Level / Several Types or Areas

Duration: Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term
Reversibility: Irreversible / Partially Reversible / Reversible
Direction of Effect: Adverse, Beneficial
Overall Magnitude of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, No Change, Neutral
Level of Significance: Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No change

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY			CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Designation / Character Area, or Landscape Feature	Baseline Description: (Key Defining Characteristics)	Value of Landscape Character or Features, Susceptibility to Change; OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility; OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Direction of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Green Infrastructure (GI) Network	<p>The GI network across the Site and the surrounding area is relatively well connected given the industrial backdrop.</p> <p>Within the Site boundaries, GI is relatively strong from a landscape perspective, with good existing connections formed through legacy field boundaries and the unmanaged nature of the reedbeds and watercourses.</p> <p>Margam Marshes provides a wetland mosaic, connected to woodland areas directly east of the Site and southeast along the Wales Coast Path, north of Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir. The Marshes also connect with coastline vegetation south of the steel works and Kenfig Pool and Dunes National Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Although these connections are severed to a degree by the infrastructure of the M4 and A48, further east the woodlands, pathways and open spaces associated with Margam Country Park and Margam SLA provide excellent linkage across the wider landscape.</p>	<p>Value of Landscape Features: High</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: Medium</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: HIGH</p>	<p>During Construction:</p> <p>The retention of vegetation within the site boundary where practicable would go some way to retaining existing GI conditions, however where construction activity and associated groundworks require the clearance of vegetation, this would negatively impact on existing connections. This change would not be widespread however, and is partially reversible. The majority of existing connections would be retained within the Site, and there would be no loss of the network beyond the Site footprint.</p>	<p>During Construction:</p> <p>Size/Scale: Small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Site level / Immediate setting of the Site</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term / Partially reversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Slight</p>	Adverse	Minor
			<p>On Completion:</p> <p>Following completion of the Proposed Development, the areas of land which suffered compaction and clearance in order to facilitate construction would remain affected. Planting / sowing of nurse grass would not yet be established and therefore would not perform the function for which it was intended at this stage.</p> <p>New planting associated with the diverted watercourses would also not be fully established, and subsequently effects are predicted to be similar to those experienced during construction.</p>	<p>On Completion:</p> <p>Size/Scale: Small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Site level / Immediate setting of the Site</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Medium-term / Partially reversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Slight</p>	Adverse	Minor
			<p>15 Years After Completion:</p> <p>Conditions in relation to GI at year 15 following re-establishment are predicted to be similar to existing conditions, that is, a relatively strong network of vegetation across the Site where development has not been undertaken, with enhancements along the watercourses potentially providing improvements to species movements and habitat value.</p> <p>Overall the change is predicted to be neutral as although there will be a change to features and the introduction of new elements, the change will be in keeping with existing features and character of the surrounding landscape and would not noticeably cause degradation or enhancement to the wider GI.</p>	<p>15yrs After Completion:</p> <p>Size/Scale: No change</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Site level / Immediate setting of the Site</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term / Irreversible</p> <p>OVERALL MAGNITUDE: Neutral</p>	N/A	No change

Terminology for Landscape Effect:

Landscape Value: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low, Negligible
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low
Size/Scale of Effect: Large, Medium, Small, Very small, No Change
Geographical Extent of Effect: Site Level / Immediate Setting of the Site / Landscape Character or Type Level / Several Types or Areas

Duration: Long-term, Medium-term, Short-term
Reversibility: Irreversible / Partially Reversible / Reversible
Direction of Effect: Adverse, Beneficial
Overall Magnitude of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, No Change, Neutral
Level of Significance: Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No change

Representative Views Assessment:


The representative views assessment considers people’s baseline views and visual amenity from selected locations.

Baseline Photos:


To aid the reader’s understanding, baseline photos are included as thumbnails at the foot of each visual receptor assessment sheet, with the full-size images within Appendix A, Figure L.6: Photosheets.

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY				CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Visual Receptor / View Location NORTH	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and number of Visual Receptors	Value of Views, Susceptibility to Change: OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility: OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Overall Magnitude and Type of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
VL1: Abbots Close adjacent to Tata Steel Golf Course	<p>Designation: N/A</p> <p>LANDMAP LCA: 49 – Port Talbot, Sandfields, Baglan & Margam</p> <p>Distance: 340m NE</p>	<p>Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users:</p> <p>This view is partially filtered by intervening palisade fencing, and generally framed by vegetation looking south across the Tata Steel Golf Course towards the A4241 which lies on an embankment. This view is broadly representative of residential properties along Abbots Close, whose primary views face south.</p> <p>Foreground views comprise the manicured fairways of the golf course, punctuated by mature individual trees. Further south, the grassy embankment associated with the A4241 rises slightly, and this in combination with the trees and shrubs which line the railway provide low to mid-level screening of views beyond.</p> <p>Where these features do not screen views, the built form of the Tata Steel works, and high-voltage pylons and OHL dominate and backcloth the view.</p> <p>This view is likely to be experienced by residents only as it is not a through road, and by recreational users of the golf course which would likely see moderate usage in the summer months.</p>	<p>Value of Views: Medium</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: Low</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>At this location, construction activity within the Site would be difficult to discern as a result of intervening features. Movement of tall plant would be just visible, largely back-clothed by the Tata Steel Works. The movement of traffic along the A4241 Harbour Way to the south of the view would make any movement less discernible.</p> <p>Overall, activity would appear barely perceptible for residents along Abbots Close, particularly in ground level views. Visibility would be more likely from first floor views within the properties; however this would not materially alter the assessment outcome.</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Small extent</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/ Reversible</p>	Negligible Adverse	Negligible
				<p><u>On Completion (Winter Year 1):</u></p> <p>Following completion of the Proposed Development, there would be a barely perceptible change in views for residents. There is potential for the upper part of the GIS Hall to be visible within the view, however it would be viewed in the context of the existing Tata Steel Works and other industrial buildings, and would therefore not appear incongruous.</p>	<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Small extent</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Negligible Adverse	Negligible
				<p><u>After 15 Years (Summer Year 15):</u></p> <p>By year 15, the Proposed Development would appear largely as it did on completion, with the upper part of the GIS building likely to remain visible in the context of the steel works. The resulting level of effect is therefore predicted to remain the same as experienced upon completion of the Proposed Development.</p>	<p><u>After 15 Years</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Small extent</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Negligible Adverse	Negligible

Terminology for Visual Effect:					
Type of View:	Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered	Size / Scale of Effect:	Large, Moderate, Small, Very Small, No Change	Abbreviations: WHS: World Heritage Site NL: National Landscape CP: Country Park PRoW: Public Rights of Way	
Value of Views:	High, Medium, Low	Geographical Extent of Effect:	Angle and distance of the view; extent of view composition affected		
Susceptibility to Change:	High, Medium, Low	Reversibility:	Permanent / Partially Reversible / Reversible		
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor:	High, Medium, Low	Overall Magnitude of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No Change		
Number of Receptors:	Few, Moderate, Many	Level of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Indistinct, No change		

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY				CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Visual Receptor / View Location NORTH	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and number of Visual Receptors	Value of Views, Susceptibility to Change: OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility: OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Overall Magnitude and Type of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
VL2: Abbots Close at Tata Steel Sports Ground	<p>Designation: N/A</p> <p>LANDMAP LCA: 49 – Port Talbot, Sandfields, Baglan & Margam</p> <p>Distance: 330m NE</p>	<p>Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users:</p> <p>This view location provides contained views looking south from the Tata Steel Sports & Social Club car park, adjacent to the sports fields. Foreground views, aside from the perimeter fencing, are dominated by the open space afforded by the sports fields, with only fencing associated with other sports areas to break up the view.</p> <p>In the middle-distance however, low to mid-level views are largely screened by intervening vegetation associated with the embankment of the A4241 and the land beyond, much of which screens the Margam Green energy Plant.</p> <p>Beyond this vegetation, the built form of Tata Steel Works skylines, along with multiple high-voltage pylons and OHL.</p> <p>The view would be experienced by a moderate number of recreational users utilising the sports facilities, particularly during the summer months when intervening vegetation would be in full leaf.</p> <p>Overall the quality of the view is mixed, with the open sports fields and middle-distance vegetation providing a relatively pleasant setting, while the remainder of the view is industrial in nature, with a number of detracting features.</p>	<p>Value of Views: Medium</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: Low</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Construction activity at this location would largely be screened by the intervening vegetation which lines the A4241 Harbour Way to the south of the view, and filtered to some extent by the foreground mesh fencing. There is potential for glimpses of tall plant, but receptors at this location are likely to be more focussed on the activity they are undertaking than views towards the Site.</p> <p>Overall any visual change in relation to construction activity would be barely perceptible at this location.</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small extent</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Reversible</p>	Negligible adverse	Negligible
				<p><u>On Completion (Winter Year 1):</u></p> <p>Upon completion of the Proposed Development, visibility of the Proposed Development would be limited to glimpses of the GIS Hall roofline, with the remaining elements screened by the intervening vegetation. This would result in a barely perceptible visual change at this location.</p>	<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small extent</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Negligible adverse	Negligible
				<p><u>After 15 Years (Summer Year 15):</u></p> <p>By year 15, views in the direction of the Proposed Development would remain largely similar to those experienced at Year 1 given that the screening properties of the proposed tree planting around the SuDS area and along the northern entrance to the Site would have no effect at this location.</p>	<p><u>After 15yrs</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small extent</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Negligible adverse	Negligible
							

Terminology for Visual Effect:							
Type of View:	Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered	Size / Scale of Effect:	Large, Moderate, Small, Very Small, No Change	Abbreviations: WHS: World Heritage Site NL: National Landscape CP: Country Park PRoW: Public Rights of Way			
Value of Views:	High, Medium, Low	Geographical Extent of Effect:	Angle and distance of the view; extent of view composition affected				
Susceptibility to Change:	High, Medium, Low	Reversibility:	Permanent / Partially Reversible / Reversible				
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor:	High, Medium, Low	Overall Magnitude of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No Change				
Number of Receptors:	Few, Moderate, Many	Level of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Indistinct, No change				


BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY				CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Visual Receptor / View Location NORTH	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and number of Visual Receptors	Value of Views, Susceptibility to Change: OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility: OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Overall Magnitude and Type of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
VL3: Wales Coastal Path LDT / Heolcae'r-bont at Western Wood Energy Plant / BOC Hydrogen Plant	Designation: N/A	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users:	Value of Views: Low	<u>During Construction:</u> Given the level of intervening vegetation and built form within the view, no change is predicted for recreational users at this location as a result of the Proposed Development.	<u>During Construction:</u> Size/Scale: N/A Geographical Extent: N/A Duration/Reversibility: N/A	No change N/A	No change
	LANDMAP LCA: 1 – Margam Marsh	This view location looks northwest along an informal vegetated lane between the Western Wood Energy Plant and the BOC Hydrogen plant. The view therefore is very focussed and framed along the lane, which is fenced to the left and lined with trees and shrubs in various stages of maturity to the right.	Susceptibility to Change: Medium	<u>On Completion (Winter Year 1):</u> Following completion, no view of the Proposed Development is predicted at this location.	<u>On Completion:</u> Size/Scale: N/A Geographical Extent: N/A Duration/Reversibility: N/A	No change N/A	No change
	Distance: 220m SE	The foreground view therefore comprises an unmanaged grassy area which becomes denser with vegetation as it moves northwest. This view would be glimpsed by road users as they travel along Heolcae'r-bont east to west, and by those visiting or working at the nearby power plants. The view is likely therefore to be experienced by few receptors.	OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM	<u>After 15 Years (Summer Year 15):</u> At year 15, visual effects are predicted to remain the same as those experienced during opening year as a result of no view.	<u>After 15yrs</u> Size/Scale: N/A Geographical Extent: N/A Duration/Reversibility: N/A	No change N/A	No change
							

Terminology for Visual Effect:

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered
Value of Views: High, Medium, Low
Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low
Number of Receptors: Few, Moderate, Many


Size / Scale of Effect: Large, Moderate, Small, Very Small, No Change
Geographical Extent of Effect: Angle and distance of the view; extent of view composition affected
Reversibility: Permanent / Partially Reversible / Reversible
Overall Magnitude of Effect: Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No Change
Level of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Indistinct, No change

Abbreviations:
WHS: World Heritage Site
NL: National Landscape
CP: Country Park
PRoW: Public Rights of Way

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY				CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Visual Receptor / View Location NORTH	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and number of Visual Receptors	Value of Views, Susceptibility to Change: OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility: OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Overall Magnitude and Type of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
VL4: Wales Coast Path LDT PRoW 9/WCP.Alt/2 on Graig Fawr opposite Crugwyllt-fawr Farm	<p>Designation: Special Landscape Area/Landscape of Historic Interest</p> <p>LANDMAP LCA: 6 – Mynydd Bromil, Mynydd Emroch & Mynydd Dinas</p> <p>Distance: 1.1km E</p>	<p>Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users:</p> <p>This view, taken from an elevated location on the Wales Coast Path / PRoW, provides extensive open views to the west across Port Talbot.</p> <p>The foreground drops away sharply towards the M4 some 155m below, and is heavily vegetated by the mixed woodland of Graig Fawr.</p> <p>Views are expansive, and take in Margam Country Park and Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir to the south, the industrial setting of Tata Steel and the Bristol Channel to the west, and the southern extents of Port Talbot to the north.</p> <p>Given that the Wales Coast Path is a long-distance trail, in combination with the views afforded along this section, it is considered that a moderate number of recreational receptors would experience these views.</p>	<p>Value of Views: High</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: High</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: HIGH</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Much of the construction activity within the Site would be visible at distance from this location, given its elevated position. The activity would not however appear entirely out of context given the wider visibility of industrial development and movement of heavy goods vehicles, both within the existing sites and along the M4.</p> <p>There would be a perceptible change within the view which would only partially change its composition over a very small geographical area.</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Reversible</p>	Slight adverse	Moderate
				<p><u>On Completion (Winter Year 1):</u></p> <p>Following completion of the Proposed Development, visual change would be limited to increased visibility of industrial features over distance. The larger elements within the Site, such as the GIS Hall would be visible, however given the industrial context the change would be barely perceptible overall, and it would barely alter the composition or appreciation of the view.</p>	<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Negligible adverse	Negligible
				<p><u>After 15 Years (Summer Year 15):</u></p> <p>By year 15, views are predicted to remain largely similar to those experienced upon completion, resulting in the same level of effect overall.</p>	<p><u>After 15yrs</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Negligible adverse	Negligible
							

Terminology for Visual Effect:							
Type of View:	Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered	Size / Scale of Effect:	Large, Moderate, Small, Very Small, No Change	Abbreviations: WHS: World Heritage Site NL: National Landscape CP: Country Park PRoW: Public Rights of Way			
Value of Views:	High, Medium, Low	Geographical Extent of Effect:	Angle and distance of the view; extent of view composition affected				
Susceptibility to Change:	High, Medium, Low	Reversibility:	Permanent / Partially Reversible / Reversible				
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor:	High, Medium, Low	Overall Magnitude of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No Change				
Number of Receptors:	Few, Moderate, Many	Level of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Indistinct, No change				


BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY				CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Visual Receptor / View Location NORTH	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and number of Visual Receptors	Value of Views, Susceptibility to Change: OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility: OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Overall Magnitude and Type of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
VL5: The Pulpit Viewpoint within Margam Park Country Park on the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk	<p>Designation: Country Park</p> <p>LANDMAP LCA: 3 – Margam Country Park</p> <p>Distance: 2.5km E</p>	<p>Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users:</p> <p>This view location provides similar open, panoramic views to those experienced at VL4, however this view is from within Margam Country Park and is part of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk long-distance trail.</p> <p>The view itself lies some 170m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and provides extensive views west across the managed landscape of the Country Park towards Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir and the Bristol Channel. Views to the northwest (although at distance) are more industrial, with the infrastructure of Tata Steel Works dominating.</p> <p>This view would be experienced by a moderate number of recreational users given its status as a viewpoint and it's as a long-distance trail designation within a Country Park.</p>	<p>Value of Views: High</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: High</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: HIGH</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Much of the construction activity within the Site would be visible at distance from this location, given its elevated position. The activity would not however appear entirely out of context given the wider visibility of industrial development and movement of heavy goods vehicles within the existing sites. Views of wider construction activity within the Site would largely be screened by intervening woodland east of the Site.</p> <p>There would be a perceptible change within the view which would only partially change its composition over a very small geographical area.</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Reversible</p>	Slight adverse	Moderate
				<p><u>On Completion (Winter Year 1):</u></p> <p>Following completion of the Proposed Development, visual change would be limited to increased visibility of industrial features over distance. The larger elements within the Site, such as the GIS Hall would be visible, however given the context the change would be barely perceptible overall, and it would barely alter the composition or appreciation of the view.</p>	<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Negligible adverse	Negligible
				<p><u>After 15 Years (Summer Year 15):</u></p> <p>By year 15, views are predicted to remain largely similar to those experienced upon completion, resulting in the same level of effect overall.</p>	<p><u>After 15yrs</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Negligible adverse	Negligible



Terminology for Visual Effect:

Type of View:	Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered	Size / Scale of Effect:	Large, Moderate, Small, Very Small, No Change	Abbreviations:	
Value of Views:	High, Medium, Low	Geographical Extent of Effect:	Angle and distance of the view; extent of view composition affected	WHS:	World Heritage Site
Susceptibility to Change:	High, Medium, Low	Reversibility:	Permanent / Partially Reversible / Reversible	NL:	National Landscape
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor:	High, Medium, Low	Overall Magnitude of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No Change	CP:	Country Park
Number of Receptors:	Few, Moderate, Many	Level of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Indistinct, No change	PRoW:	Public Rights of Way

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY				CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Visual Receptor / View Location NORTH	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and number of Visual Receptors	Value of Views, Susceptibility to Change: OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility: OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Overall Magnitude and Type of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
VL6: On Old Park Road adjacent to residential properties	<p>Designation: Landscape of Historic Interest</p> <p>LANDMAP LCA: 4 - Coedhirwaun</p> <p>Distance: 2.3km SE</p>	<p>Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users:</p> <p>Foreground views at this location are relatively open across a broadly flat landscape, and comprise a timber fence which bounds a large agricultural field extending northwest to a vegetated, gappy field boundary. Further north, isolated farmsteads are visible through the vegetation, with Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir just beyond in the middle-distance.</p> <p>Distant views are characterised by industrial development, predominantly the Tata steel plant, with its built form skylining views.</p> <p>The view is representative of residential receptors along Old Park Road, and residents gaining access to Oldpark Farm. Given the limited number of residencies, this view is considered to be experienced by a few receptors.</p>	<p>Value of Views: Medium</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: High</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: HIGH</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>There would be very limited, filtered views towards construction activity at this location for residential receptors, with vegetation such as linear woodland to the east of the Site providing extensive filtering of views.</p> <p>Movement of tall plant would be barely perceptible, and would be seen in context within an industrial setting, and therefore not conspicuous.</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Reversible</p>	Negligible adverse	Negligible
				<p><u>On Completion (Winter Year 1):</u></p> <p>On completion of the Proposed Development, views towards the various elements would be screened by intervening vegetation and the built form of the Bio-Energy Plant and the BOC plant. Overall therefore, no change in views are predicted.</p>	<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: No change</p> <p>Geographical Extent: N/A</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: N/A</p>	No change N/A	No change
				<p><u>After 15 Years (Summer Year 15):</u></p> <p>By year 15 the view would be similar or the same as current baseline conditions. Therefore no change is predicted for receptors at this view location.</p>	<p><u>After 15yrs</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: No change</p> <p>Geographical Extent: N/A</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: N/A</p>	No change N/A	None



Terminology for Visual Effect:

Type of View: Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered
Value of Views: High, Medium, Low
Susceptibility to Change: High, Medium, Low
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor: High, Medium, Low
Number of Receptors: Few, Moderate, Many

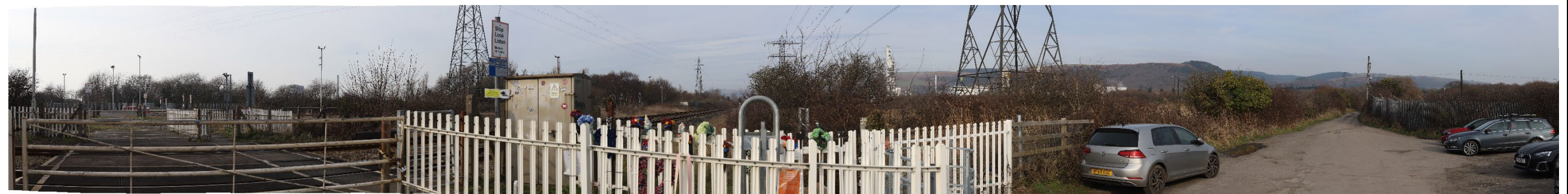
Size / Scale of Effect: Large, Moderate, Small, Very Small, No Change
Geographical Extent of Effect: Angle and distance of the view; extent of view composition affected
Reversibility: Permanent / Partially Reversible / Reversible
Overall Magnitude of Effect: Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No Change
Level of Effect: Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Indistinct, No change

Abbreviations:
WHS: World Heritage Site
NL: National Landscape
CP: Country Park
PRoW: Public Rights of Way

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY				CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Visual Receptor / View Location NORTH	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and number of Visual Receptors	Value of Views, Susceptibility to Change: OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility: OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Overall Magnitude and Type of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
VL7: On the grounds of Margam Cemetery	<p>Designation: N/A</p> <p>LANDMAP LCA: 1 – Margam Marsh</p> <p>Distance: 770m SE</p>	<p>Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users:</p> <p>This view, taken from within the grounds of Margam Cemetery, provides views northwest across the cemetery grounds towards an industrial skyline.</p> <p>Linear tree belts which line Heolcae'r-Bont and woodland directly east of the Site provide some relief, however the influence of industrialisation, including electrical infrastructure, is the dominant factor.</p> <p>The view is representative of visitors to the cemetery, who are likely to be focussed on their immediate surroundings. A relatively open view, expected to be experienced by few receptors overall.</p>	<p>Value of Views: Medium</p> <p>Susceptibility to Change: Medium</p> <p>OVERALL SENSITIVITY: MEDIUM</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Some limited construction activity may be noticeable at this location; however the majority will be screened by the intervening built form of the Bio-Energy plant, or filtered by the existing linear tree belt along Heolcae'r-Bont directly east of the BOC compound.</p> <p>Glimpses of tall plant will be possible, particularly during construction of the larger elements within the proposed substation extension compound which would result in a very limited change to the composition of the view, but the change would not noticeably degrade the view overall given its current industrial nature.</p>	<p><u>During Construction:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Reversible</p>	Indistinct N/A	Neutral
				<p><u>On Completion (Winter Year 1):</u></p> <p>On completion of the works visual change would be barely noticeable at this location, with the existing built form and vegetation visible in baseline views screening and filtering the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Glimpses of the GIS Hall would be attainable, but would be entirely in keeping with the composition and quality of the existing view, and would not enhance or degrade the view overall.</p>	<p><u>On Completion:</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Indistinct N/A	Neutral
				<p><u>After 15 Years (Summer Year 15):</u></p> <p>By year 15 the view would be similar or the same as those experienced upon completion of the Proposed Development. Therefore an indistinct change is predicted for receptors at this view location; i.e. change would occur but would be in keeping with its surrounding and would be neither adverse or beneficial overall.</p>	<p><u>After 15yrs</u></p> <p>Size/Scale: Very small</p> <p>Geographical Extent: Very small</p> <p>Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible</p>	Indistinct N/A	Neutral

Terminology for Visual Effect:							
Type of View:	Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered	Size / Scale of Effect:	Large, Moderate, Small, Very Small, No Change	Abbreviations: WHS: World Heritage Site NL: National Landscape CP: Country Park PRoW: Public Rights of Way			
Value of Views:	High, Medium, Low	Geographical Extent of Effect:	Angle and distance of the view; extent of view composition affected				
Susceptibility to Change:	High, Medium, Low	Reversibility:	Permanent / Partially Reversible / Reversible				
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor:	High, Medium, Low	Overall Magnitude of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No Change				
Number of Receptors:	Few, Moderate, Many	Level of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Indistinct, No change				

BASELINE AND SENSITIVITY				CHANGE, MAGNITUDE AND SIGNIFICANCE			
Visual Receptor / View Location NORTH	Designation, Landscape Character Area and Approx. Distance to Site Boundary	Description of Baseline View, Type of View and number of Visual Receptors	Value of Views, Susceptibility to Change: OVERALL SENSITIVITY	Description of Change	Size / scale, Geographical Extent and Duration / reversibility: OVERALL MAGNITUDE	Overall Magnitude and Type of Effect	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
VL8: Wales Coast Path / Heolcae'r-bont PROW south of the Site*	Designation: N/A LANDMAP LCA: 1 – Margam Marsh Distance: 620m S	Baseline Description, Type of View, Viewer and Number of Users: This view, representative of recreational users of the Wales Coast Path and Heolcae'r-Bont south of the Site, looks north through field boundary vegetation towards industrial development across the middle-ground, and distant views towards the high ground designated as a Special Landscape Area (SLA) north of Margam Country Park. The view is largely contained by foreground vegetation and safety palisade fencing associated with the railway line, with the previously mentioned views framed as a result. The proximity of high-voltage pylons and OHL is also notable. This Wales Coast Path is a popular long-distance trail, and as a result this view is predicted to be experienced by a moderate number of users.	Value of Views: Moderate Susceptibility to Change: High OVERALL SENSITIVITY: HIGH	During Construction: Views towards construction activity would be heavily screened by intervening vegetation which lines the railway to the north and the northern edge of Heolcae'r-Bont / Wales Coast Path. Any visibility would result in a barely perceptible change which would barely alter the appreciation or composition of the overall view. Recreational users at this location are more likely to be focussed on the path ahead and / or on the higher ground to the east around Margam Country Park.	During Construction: Size/Scale: Small Geographical Extent: Very small Duration/Reversibility: Short-term/Reversible	Negligible adverse	Minor
				On Completion (Winter Year 1): On completion of the works visual change would be very limited, and given the industrial backdrop within which the Proposed Development would lie, any change visible would be entirely in keeping with existing elements such as the Tata Steel Works, BOC plant and Bio-Energy plant.	On Completion: Size/Scale: Very small Geographical Extent: Very small Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible	Indistinct N/A	Neutral
				After 15 Years (Summer Year 15): By year 15 the view would be similar or the same as current baseline conditions. Therefore no change is predicted for receptors at this view location.	After 15yrs Size/Scale: Very small Geographical Extent: Very small Duration/Reversibility: Long-term/Irreversible	Indistinct N/A	Neutral



Terminology for Visual Effect:

Type of View:	Glimpsed, Open, Oblique, Framed, Filtered	Size / Scale of Effect:	Large, Moderate, Small, Very Small, No Change	Abbreviations: WHS: World Heritage Site NL: National Landscape CP: Country Park PRoW: Public Rights of Way
Value of Views:	High, Medium, Low	Geographical Extent of Effect:	Angle and distance of the view; extent of view composition affected	
Susceptibility to Change:	High, Medium, Low	Reversibility:	Permanent / Partially Reversible / Reversible	
Overall Sensitivity of Receptor:	High, Medium, Low	Overall Magnitude of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Minor, Negligible, No Change	
Number of Receptors:	Few, Moderate, Many	Level of Effect:	Major, Moderate, Slight, Negligible, Indistinct, No change	