

# **PEN-Y-DRE SOLAR FARM**

## **LANDSCAPE & VISUAL APPRAISAL (LVA)**

May 2024

**soltysbrewster**

The logo for Soltysbrewster features the company name in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the text is a horizontal line composed of five distinct colored segments: red, blue, yellow, green, and purple.

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Morgan Sindall

**PEN Y DRE SOLAR FARM**

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# Pen y Dre Solar Farm – Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA)

## 1.0 Introduction and Approach.

- 1.1 Soltys Brewster Consulting were commissioned in April 2024 by Morgan Sindall to produce a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) relating to a proposal for a solar farm on land adjacent to Pen y Dre Comprehensive School, Merthyr Tydfil.
- 1.2 The following tasks were undertaken by a Chartered Landscape Architect (CMLA) in May 2024.
  - a) A desk-based appraisal of the baseline landscape context, including the physical landscape, landscape-related designations and landscape character (LANDMAP).
  - b) A site-based assessment to establish contextual views and site visibility.
  - c) Report compilation, providing a summary of the baseline landscape and visual context and an overview of likely impacts of the Proposed Development on character and visual amenity.
  - d) A brief summary of cumulative impacts.
- 1.3 A study area extending to 3km from the centre of the site was adopted. This is considered to be appropriate to the scale of the proposed development and the nature of the receiving landscape.

## 2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 The methodology for this LVA broadly follows the ‘*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA 3 – Third Edition, LI & IEMA April 2013)*.’ Evaluation criteria adopted by the LVA are outlined in *Appendix 1*. A desktop and site-based appraisal was carried out by a Chartered Landscape Architect (CMLA) in May 2024.

## 3.0 Overview of Proposed Development.

- 3.1 Outline proposals for the site have been produced, illustrated on *Figure 01105-CSG-XX-00-GA-E-703-001*. The following elements, indicated on this plan, have the potential to impact on landscape and visual receptors and are considered within this appraisal:

- Solar panels. The site plan indicates that 2722 no. panels will be arranged in regular parallel rows across the site from east to west. Each panel will be 2278 x 1134 x 35mm in dimension.
- Site compound. This is located to the east of the site and will be approximately 25 x 20m in dimension.
- A new 4m width access road extending from Sixth Road, Galon Uchaf. A metallic secure gate will be included to restrict access.
- Perimeter weldmesh fencing to the site, likely to be around 3m in height.

#### **4.0 Landscape and Visual Context.**

##### ***The Study Area (3km)***

- 4.1 The site is located on sloping land, comprising scrub and unmanaged grass, to the north of the settlement of Merthyr Tydfil. Semi-detached residential development at Galon Uchaf encloses the site boundary to the east. To the north, beyond school playing fields, is the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, currently under construction works as part of the Section 5 and 6 dualling scheme. Further north, the land rises through mixed land uses, including recreational areas and agricultural fields, to open upland moorland forming the southern edge of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. To the west of the site is Pen-y-Dre High School and set amongst residential development at Gurnos are the larger-scale buildings of Prince Charles Hospital.
- 4.2 The site has a strong southerly aspect, sloping from a high point of around 305m AOD to a low point of around 290m AOD. Open, lower-lying areas below the site boundary to the south form the construction site for the proposed development of the new Goetre Primary School. Some initial construction work relating to this is evident, including temporary fencing and earthworks. The urban area of Merthyr Tydfil extends broadly beyond this. The settlement is largely contained within a bowl focussed on the confluence of the Taff Fechan, Fawr and Nant Morlais Valleys, but rising up the valley sides in places, notably at Heolgerrig and Gellideg within the west of the study area. Merthyr Tydfil is densely developed with traditional terraces set amongst newer infill development and occasional open spaces. Cyfarthfa Park and Castle, (a Grade II Registered Historic Park and Garden) is a valued central feature within the urban area.

##### ***Landscape Designations***

- 4.3 A summary schedule of landscape related designations that extend into the study area is provided in *Appendix 2* and the extents of these are illustrated on *Figure 2 Landscape Designations*.
- 4.4 There are no landscape-related designations extending into the Proposed Development site.

- 4.5 The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, a Statutory Designation, extends across parts of the study area to the north and to the west and is around 1.5 km from the site at its closest point. Key characteristics that contribute to the special qualities of the BBNP will include long views from the summits. These views will be influenced by land-use changes that fall outside the National Park but contribute to the setting. There will be a statutory duty to ensure indirect effects on views are well considered through appropriate design and landscape integration.
- 4.6 The Grade II\* Registered Historic Park and Garden of Cyfarthfa Park and Castle is located around 0.8 km to the south-west of the site. Key views out from this designation are acknowledged to the south-west from the frontage of the Castle. More elevated areas above the castle with potential for visibility towards the site have developed as mixed woodland and views out are limited.
- 4.7 Non-statutory designations will include Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). To the north, *Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan SLA* extends across land between the edge of the settlement boundary and the BBNP. This is a complex area with a variety of land-uses ranging from an exposed upland character to bleak and open areas remote from development. To the west of the study area is *Winchfawr SLA*, an agricultural landscape of traditional drystone and hedged boundaries and sheep pens; post-medieval farms with farm buildings; ancient woodland and historic associations. To the southwest of the study is *Merthyr West Flank SLA*, a landscape of mixed land-uses that forms an attractive green flank to the town and is distinctly rural in character. It contains a complex mosaic of tips, transport features and mine sites intermingled with an upland pasture field pattern. There are areas of woodland and substantial natural regeneration, which have the appearance of natural habitats.
- 4.8 The study area contains the Taff Trail, a promoted long-distance footpath and cycleway linking Brecon with Cardiff. A network of public footpaths also extend throughout the study area together with areas of Open Access Land (CRoW Act).

### ***Landscape Character/LANDMAP***

- 4.9 *Figure 1 Landscape Character Areas* illustrates Landscape Character Areas (LCA's) that extend within the study area. *Appendix 3* provides a summary of the key LANDMAP characteristics and overall evaluations for each LCA. LANDMAP Aspect Areas that fall within the LCAs are also scheduled.
- 4.10 The site falls entirely with *LCA 01 Merthyr Tydfil*, evaluated as low in value. This LCA extends across a large proportion of the study area and comprises a complex urban area sitting within a broad basin set around the confluence of the Taf Fawr, Taf Fechan and Nant Morlais

watercourses. The settlement pattern reflects the historical development through the exploitation of local minerals and industry and this imparts a strong sense of visual discordance and incoherence. The susceptibility of this LCA will be low and the sensitivity will be low.

- 4.11 LCAs within the study area considered to have high overall values will extend across upland areas of the study area to the north of the site within *LCA 02 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys* and *LCA 03 Merthyr North Flank* and also across the valley sides to the south-west, within *LCA 04 Abernant, Cefnpennar & Merthyr West Flank*. These upland landscapes provide a valued green backcloth to the settlement of Merthyr Tydfil and are popular recreational areas easily accessed from the settlement. They also possess valued characteristics relating the rich industrial heritage that extends throughout the study area. Panoramic views across the study area from these upland landscapes are also noted characteristics that contribute to their higher scenic values. The susceptibility of these LCA's will be medium and the sensitivity will be medium to high.
- 4.12 Elsewhere to the south-east of the study area, low values for landscape character are recorded within *LCA 05 Mid Taff Vale & Merthyr East Flank* and in *LCA 06 Ffos-y-fran Merthyr Upper East Flank*. The former is a disturbed landscape with many traces of former industrial land-uses amongst degraded semi-rural farmland and rough grassland. The latter extends across an existing operational open cast coal mine. It is a '*large scale industrial landscape that forms a discordant back drop to eastern parts of Merthyr Tydfil.*' The susceptibility of these LCA's will be low and the sensitivity will be low.

### **Visual Appraisal/Analysis**

- 4.13 A site visit was carried out in May 2024. Conditions were dry, sunny and visibility was clear.
- 4.14 Photographs recording the existing views of the site from five viewpoints within the study area are illustrated on *Figures 4 Viewpoint Photography* and descriptions of the existing and predicted views and an assessment of likely impacts from these viewpoints are provided in *Appendix 4*.
- 4.15 A Zone of Theoretical Visual Influence (ZTVI) plan has been prepared using both site and desk-based methods. This illustrates broad areas of intervisibility that the Proposed Development site is likely to share with other landscapes within the 3 km study area. It does not, however, take account of buildings, structures and vegetation, so that the visual envelope shown on *Figure 3 Viewpoints and Zone of Visual Influence* represents visibility of the site within a scenario of 'bare-earth' topography only.
- 4.16 The ZTVI, however, provides a useful tool to establish a likely worst-case visual envelope for any proposed development and helps to identify areas where any visibility can be excluded or scoped out at an early stage as well as a starting point to locate viewpoints for assessment.



4.17 It is clear from *Figure 3 Viewpoints and Zone of Visual Influence* that lower-lying areas of the study area that fall broadly within the Taff Fechan, Taff Fawr and Nant Morlais Valleys will experience no visibility of the proposed development site and visual receptors that fall within these areas can be excluded from any further consideration. This will include:

- Residents in built up areas of Merthyr Tydfil, including the communities of Cefn-coed-y-cymmer, Gurnos, Pen-y-Darren, Dowlais and Pant as well as Merthyr Tydfil town centre.
- Visitors to Cyfarthfa Castle and Park, (RHPG).
- Travellers using the key valley routes including the A470 and Taff Trail.

4.18 The visual envelope shown on *Figure 3 Viewpoints and Zone of Visual Influence* was examined during the site visit and the following conclusions were reached:

- Theoretical visibility extends across the site and north beyond the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road into open land rising to Morlais Hill. However, in reality visibility is locally contained within the site by landform, buildings and vegetation so that there are no views beyond the northern site boundary. To the east, buildings at Galon Uchaf also contain visibility within the site. *Viewpoints 1 Pen-y-Dre (East), 2 Pen-y-Dre (West) and 3 Goitre Lane/Plane Grove* illustrate typical views in and around the Proposed Development site.
- To the south-west the visual envelope will extend widely and distantly across elevated sections of the west flank of the Taff Valley, including the settlements at Heolgerrig and Gellideg. From open areas distant views of the Proposed Development site will be widely available, where viewers can obtain access. Views from the settlements in this location will, however, be variable and contained to glimpses where building orientation and alignment allows. *Viewpoint 4 York Close, Heolgerrig* illustrates a typical view to the north-east from this area.
- To the west and north-west, the visual envelope will extend across open, upland areas forming the southern extents of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. From open elevated areas, distant views of the Proposed Development will be widely available, where viewers can obtain access. *Viewpoint 5 Trefechan, BBNP* illustrates a typical view from the west.
- To the East and to the south-east, there will be no visibility available of the Proposed Development site.

## 5.0 Landscape and Visual Impacts

### ***Direct Landscape Impacts***

- 5.1 The direct impact will comprise the imposition of rows of solar panels and associated infrastructure within areas of unmanaged grassland. It is likely that some grassland may be retained and managed or replaced between the rows of panels and outside the footprint of the Proposed Development footprint, scrub planting will be retained. The loss of a limited sections of grassland will have a very minor direct impact within the extent of the Proposed Development site. The sensitivity to change is assessed as low due to the limited value of the grassland/scrub. The magnitude of impact will also be low due to the limited extent of any change.
- 5.2 The Proposed Development site falls entirely with *LCA 01 Merthyr Tydfil*, evaluated as low in value. The LCA has a low susceptibility to change and the sensitivity will be low. The direct loss of amenity/open space and the replacement of this with a solar farm will strengthen the key overriding characteristics relating to its complex urban character. The extent of this change within the overall LCA will, however, be barely perceptible and of local consequence only. The magnitude will be low to negligible.

### ***Indirect Landscape Impacts***

- 5.3 The ZTVI indicates that there will be no intervisibility and therefore no change to the character within *LCA 05 Mid Taff Vale & Merthyr East Flank*. Furthermore, site visits indicate that due to the influence of buildings and vegetation around the Proposed Development site and also due to local conditions, there will also be no intervisibility or change to the character within *LCA 06 Ffos-y-fran Merthyr Upper East Flank*.
- 5.4 Within *LCA 02 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys*, *LCA 03 Merthyr North Flank* and *LCA 04 Abernant, Cefnpennar & Merthyr West Flank*, the Proposed Development will have some partial influence on key characteristics relating to panoramic or long views out from these elevated LCAs. However, due to the intervening distance, any influence within available views will be very minor in scale and the nature of the Proposed Development will not overtly contrast with any characteristics of the view, most notably the extensive areas of urban development around

the Proposed Development site. Post-development, the existing view will be largely unchanged despite discernible differences and the magnitude will be negligible.

### **Impacts on Landscape Designations**

- 5.5 There are no landscape-related designations extending into the Proposed Development site.
- 5.6 The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, a Statutory Designation, extends across parts of the study area to the north and to the west and is around 1.5 km from the site at its closest point. However, the appraisal of impacts on character identified that any influence of the Proposed Development within available views will be very minor in scale and the nature of the Proposed Development will not overtly contrast with any characteristics of the view, most notably the extensive areas of urban development around the Proposed Development site. Post development the existing view will be largely unchanged despite discernible differences and the magnitude will be negligible. There will, therefore, be no indirect impacts of significance on this statutory designation.
- 5.7 There were no views identified from the Grade II\* Registered Historic Park and Garden of Cyfarthfa Park and Castle and there will, therefore, be no impacts on this designation.
- 5.8 Non-statutory designations will include Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) at *Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan* to the north, at *Winchfawr* to the west and at *Merthyr West Flank* to the south-west. Within these designations, the Proposed Development will be very minor in scale within available views. Furthermore, the nature of the Proposed Development will not overtly contrast with any characteristics of the view, most notably the extensive areas of urban development around the Proposed Development site. Post-development, the magnitude will be negligible and the integrity of the designation will remain unchanged.

### **Visual Impacts**

- 5.9 *Appendix 4* provides a description of the existing and predicted views from Viewpoints 1 to 5. An assessment of the likely impacts is also provided. From Viewpoint 4 and 5, the Proposed Development will be partially discernible in wide open panoramic views. Due to the intervening distances between the Proposed Development site and the viewpoints, the alteration to views will be minor and the nature of the Proposed Development will not contrast with any characteristics of the view. Post-development, there will be no discernible change to the views and the magnitude will be negligible.
- 5.10 Viewpoints 1, 2 and 3 are located immediately adjacent or near to the Proposed Development and consequently a high magnitude of change has been recorded. This would not be unusual for

a development of this size and nature. For residents at Galon Uchaf and users of the footway, there will be a loss of some features in the view including the sense of openness and contribution of amenity space within the foreground of views and interruption of the distant views across the valley particularly from the footway. However, existing scrub planting in and around the site will assist with minimising any loss of visual amenity.

### **Cumulative impacts**

- 5.11 The Proposed Development will be experienced or viewed in combination with existing baseline urban development contiguous with the site boundary. Cumulative impacts in combination with existing baseline development will, therefore, be as assessed individually.
- 5.12 Consented development of note likely to be influential within the wider context will include the dualling works to the *A465 Heads of the Valleys Section 5 and 6*, extending east to west to the north of the Proposed Development site. To the south and south west the proposed development of the new Goetre Primary School will also be cumulatively influential. Due to the larger-scale of these developments, particularly the consented dualling works to the A465 corridor, there will be negligible cumulative impacts from the addition of the smaller-scale Proposed Development to a scenario including the presence of the A465 and Goetre Primary School proposed developments within the wider study area. *Viewpoint 5 BBNP, Trefechan* illustrates the predicted stronger influence of the consented A465 works (currently visible as construction works) within the middle range of the view, to which the addition of the Proposed Development will have a negligible cumulative impact. From this viewpoint, the proposed development of the new Goetre Primary School will be a noticeable feature, more comparable in scale to surrounding existing development. The addition of the Proposed Development to this will marginally increase the awareness and density of urban development in the view, although the cumulative impact will, again, be negligible.
- 5.13 From viewpoints 1, 2 and 3, short range views will be available of the Proposed Development in combination with the proposed development of the new Goetre Primary School. The school development will be a notable change, particularly for residents along Goitre Lane to the south where it will be seen at close distance in the foreground of views north. The Proposed Development will extend and /or add to the influence of the proposed Goetre Primary School development. However, the Proposed Development, in all cases, is likely to be perceived as subservient to it, due to the smaller vertical scale and extent. Cumulative impacts are

considered more likely to be as a result of the proposed development of the new Goetre Primary School rather than the Proposed Development and the magnitude is evaluated as medium to low. From viewpoints 1,2, and 3 there will be no cumulative interaction between the *A465 Heads of the Valleys Section 5 and 6* and therefore, no cumulative impacts.

## **6.0 Conclusion and Suggested Mitigation**

6.1 The LVA has reviewed the baseline landscape and visual context and provided an overview of likely impacts of the Proposed Development on character and visual amenity, both individually and cumulatively. Within the wider context, there will be no significant changes likely to landscape or visual receptors. Locally, changes to views likely to be experienced by receptors overlooking the site have been recorded as likely to be of high magnitude. Cumulative impacts have also been identified locally for the Proposed Development in combination with the proposed development of the new Goetre Primary School, although these are considered to be of medium to low magnitude. Whilst these impacts would not be unusual for a development of this size and nature, some mitigation in the form of Green Infrastructure management and planting is recommended. This could include:

- Management of the existing retained areas of scrub and grassland.
- Reinforcing areas of scrub and scrub woodland with additional native planting to increase the screening value, particularly along the eastern edge of the site and areas off-site to the north and to the west.
- Planting a native mixed-species hedgerow along the edge of the site and perhaps around the site compound to visual integrate the development and provide screening from the footway to the north and elsewhere.

## PEN Y DRE SOLAR FARM - LVA

### APPENDIX 1: METHODOLOGY AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

## **Methodology**

The methodology used to assess the effects on Landscape character and visual amenity is outlined below.

### ***Landscape Sensitivity***

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

### ***Landscape value***

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

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

National Resources Wales (NRW) LANDMAP Information System is an important information resource to inform baseline landscape character assessment within Wales. This is a complete all-Wales GIS based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set. It offers a mapped, contextual baseline of landscape information about landscape character, qualities and values, in which the greater detail of a LVIA can be set.

Value will be evaluated in the categories of Low, Medium, High or Outstanding.

### ***Landscape Susceptibility***

Susceptibility to change refers to the degree to which a particular landscape feature or character area is able to accommodate change without changing its overall character. It usually follows that highly valued landscapes have higher susceptibility to change, but this must also be assessed in conjunction with landscape value to give an overall assessment of sensitivity.

Susceptibility will be evaluated in the categories of Low, Medium or High.

## **Landscape Sensitivity**

The criteria used to define each sensitivity rating are given below at Table 1.1 below.

<b>Landscape Sensitivity</b>	<b>Typical Criteria</b>
<b>Very high</b>	Landscapes covered by a national or international designation for landscape value such as World Heritage Sites. Key characteristics of landscape are very vulnerable to change and are unable to accommodate development without significant character change; thresholds for significant change are very low. Development conflicts directly with and would dominate landscape character.
<b>High</b>	Landscapes covered by a national designation such as those within National Parks/AONBs or a highly valued local landscape designations such as Special Landscape Areas. Key characteristics of landscape are vulnerable to change and development can be absorbed, but only in limited situations without significant character change; thresholds for significant change are low.
<b>Medium</b>	Landscapes covered by a local designation for landscape value or with many locally valued landscape features. Key characteristics of landscape are susceptible to change but with some ability to absorb development in some situations without significant character change; thresholds for significant change are intermediate.
<b>Low</b>	An undesignated and relatively robust landscape, possibly with some locally valued features. Key characteristics of landscape are resilient to change and are able to absorb development in many situations without significant character change; thresholds for significant change are high.
<b>Negligible/None</b>	Significantly eroded Landscapes with no discernible landscape pattern or landscape characteristics that would be affected by change.

## **Magnitude of Change**

The LVA compares the constituent parts and overall character of the existing landscape with that which would result from the construction of the scheme. It verbally quantifies the degree of change in terms of size or scale, geographical extent of the change and its duration and reversibility.

The magnitude of change to the current (baseline) environment depends on a combination of factors:



- The extent to which the constituent characteristics of the Landscape will be lost, gained or changed and the importance of each characteristic to the overall character of the landscape;
- The degree of contrast or integration of proposed elements with the existing or remaining features or characteristics of the receiving Landscape that may detract from or add to its character;
- The geographical area over which the changes will take place; site specific, immediate site setting, Landscape character area wide, or spanning several distinct character areas; and
- The duration and reversibility of effect.

The magnitude of the change to existing Landscape character and features is assessed in accordance with the criteria set out in Table 1.2 below. These criteria can be applied to both positive and negative impacts.

<b><i>Landscape Impact Magnitude</i></b>	<b><i>Typical Criteria</i></b>
<b><i>Very high</i></b>	The proposed development will either cause a large improvement or complete loss of or major alteration to key elements/characteristics over a large area, possibly spanning several character areas. Introducing elements considered entirely uncharacteristic. Effects are likely to be long term and irreversible
<b><i>High (dominant)</i></b>	The proposed development will cause either a significant improvement or deterioration of one or more key elements/features/characteristics of the landscape, typically over much of a character area. Introducing elements that may be considered to be substantially uncharacteristic or which substantially strengthen the landscape character. Effects are likely to be long or medium term and irreversible or only partly reversible.
<b><i>Medium (prominent)</i></b>	A noticeable deterioration or improvement to the characteristic elements of a landscape, with the development causing a partial change to the perception Landscape character. Change would typically be to the site and its immediate setting, or may influence a small part of the Character area. Change will normally be short to medium term and at least partly reversible.
<b><i>Low (present)</i></b>	The proposed development will cause a minor improvement or deterioration to one or more characteristics of the landscape causing a minor change to the character of the Landscape. Change will be localised and often reversible.

<b>Negligible (No discernible Change)</b>	The development fits with the existing Landscape character or does not change the character or perception of an area. Any slight effects are short term very localised and often reversible.
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**Effects on visual amenity**

**Sensitivity of Visual Receptors**

The purpose of describing the baseline visual environment is to identify the most important sensitive visual receptors around the site which have views to or across the proposed development. A visual receptor is essentially any person whose visual amenity may be affected as a result of the proposed development. The sensitivity of visual receptors to change is assessed by combining judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value of the views in question.

**Value**

Value is derived from of a receptor’s location and context; the relationship of a receptor to planning designations; the existence of documentation and interpretation relating to particular views; and of the receptor’s popularity or frequency of use.

**Susceptibility**

The susceptibility of the receptor to changes in views is derived from evaluation of the expectations and occupation or activity of the viewer and the extent to which their attention may be focused on visual amenity.

**Sensitivity**

The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed using the criteria given below in Table 1.3 below.

<b>Visual Receptor Sensitivity</b>	<b>Typical Criteria</b>
<b>Very high</b>	Views from within internationally and nationally designated high quality Landscapes such as National Parks, World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments or Grade 1 listed buildings and their setting, and from, or near to public rights of way, where the attractive nature of the environment is the principal factor in the enjoyment of the experience, such as National Trails or Long Distance Routes through designated sites. Viewers have a high susceptibility to changes in views.
<b>High</b>	Views from within high or medium high quality regionally designated Landscapes such as Registered Historic Parks and Gardens. Views from well used public rights of way often known to and used by people from beyond the local area where the attractive nature of the countryside is a significant factor in the enjoyment of the experience, such as Long Distance Routes or National Cycle Routes). Views from lower floors and gardens of and from some residential properties (typically groups of 10 or more dwellings representing a community of receptors).

<b>Medium</b>	Views from within medium quality non-designated but locally important Landscapes, outdoor sports or recreation (where the view is not a significant factor in the enjoyment of the sport). Views from locally valued public rights of way. Views from passenger trains, or people within cars on local roads. Views from lower floors and gardens of some residential properties (typically single or smaller groups of dwellings representing individual receptors). Viewers have a low to moderate susceptibility to change in views.
<b>Low</b>	Views from within medium-low quality non-designated but potentially locally valued Landscapes. Views from less well used public rights of way which pass through less attractive Landscapes and are not used specifically for enjoyment of the scenery. Views from or near to motorways, main roads, or business premises. Viewers have a low susceptibility to changes in their views.
<b>Negligible</b>	Views from within unattractive non-designated Landscapes.

### **Magnitude of Visual Change**

The visual assessment compares the quality of the existing view with that which would result from the construction of the scheme and then verbally quantifies the degree of change. The magnitude of change to the current (baseline) visual environment depends on a combination of factors:

- The size and scale of change in the view;
- The proximity of the viewpoint to visible elements of the development;
- The extent and composition of the view (e.g. degree of existing screening, partial, glimpsed or unobstructed views, fleeting or constant nature of view);
- The degree of contrast or integration of proposed elements with the existing or remaining features or characteristics of the receiving Landscape that may detract from or add to its amenity;
- The relative direct or oblique angle of the view in relation to the receptor; and
- The duration and reversibility of effect.

The magnitude of change to visual amenity is assessed using the criteria given below at Table 1.4.

#### **Visual Impact Magnitude    Typical Criteria**

<b>Very high</b>	Total alteration to key features or characteristics of the existing views Such that post development, an open and direct existing view will be permanently, irreversibly and completely or almost completely changed by starkly contrasting elements that will occupy a large or very large proportion of the view
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<b>High (dominant)</b>	The proposed development will contrast with and visually dominate or intrude upon the view resulting in a considerable improvement or deterioration of the view. These changes may be medium or long term and are likely to be irreversible or only partly reversible. New elements will occupy a large proportion of the view.
<b>Medium (prominent)</b>	The proposed development will be visually prominent within the view and will result in either a noticeable improvement or deterioration of the view. The change will be moderate in scale, contrast with the view and be medium term permanent and sometimes irreversible or often partly reversible.
<b>Low (present)</b>	Minor, often temporary and reversible alterations to the view that are small in scale or do not overtly contrast with the key features or characteristics of the view such that post development the existing view will be largely unchanged despite discernible differences.
<b>Negligible (No discernible change)</b>	Minimal alteration to the key features or characteristics of the existing view such that post development there will be barely discernible changes or no change to the view.

## PEN Y DRE SOLAR FARM – LVA

### APPENDIX 2: LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS

## Statutory Designations

### Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP)

This designation extends across areas to the north and to the west of the study area within 1.5 km the site boundary at its closest point. Special Qualities of the BBNP are:

- *Sweeping grandeur & outstanding natural beauty.*
- *Peace, tranquillity & darkness.*
- *Contrasting patterns, colours and textures.*
- *A sense of place & cultural identity.*
- *Sounds, sights, smells & tastes.*
- *Sense of discovery.*
- *Mosaic of diversity.*
- *Living landscape.*
- *Enjoyable & accessible.*
- *An intimate sense of community.*

### Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

Cyfarthfa Park Historic Gardens and Parkland is located approximately 0.7 km to the south west. This Grade II\* Registered Historic Park and Garden comprises a mature designed landscape that is a central feature forming the largest open space in the Merthyr Tydfil. It also acts as an important setting to Cyfarthfa Castle and is prominent in views from the A470 and other parts of Merthyr. The impressive castellated house (a Grade I Listed Building) overlooks grounds dropping to the southwest and the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, on the far side of the River Taf. The areas behind the house, to the east and north, have developed as mixed woodland.

Cefn Coed Cemetery & Jewish Burial Ground. This Grade II listed site is the one of the largest Jewish burial grounds in Wales outside Cardiff. It was established and consecrated in the 1860s by the then thriving Merthyr Hebrew Congregation.

## Non Statutory Designations

### Special Landscape Areas

#### **SLA 1 Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan**

This is a large complex area to the north of the study area and situated on the fringes of the BBNP with a variety of land uses ranging from an exposed upland character to bleak and open areas remote from development in the north-east with long views to BBNP to incised valleys and upland farmland in the south west. The area is influenced by its proximity to the town on its southern edge. Former industries are evident by the presence of the disused quarries of Morlais, Bryniau and Twynau Gwynion and the water management of the Dowlais Free Drainage System and Pitwellt Pond. Morlais Hill and Castle form an important landmark within the area while further west south of Taf Fechan larger fields, with a mosaic of woodlands and rough ground

dominate. Within the Taf Fechan gorge the mature woodland is deciduous and there are many attractive intimate spaces. The watercourse is small scale with many large boulders and rock platforms which add to the sights and sounds of the river. Recreational attractions include walking, cycling and climbing the Taff Trail cycle route and the Brecon Mountain Railway.

### **SLA 2 Winchfawr**

The area extends to the west of the study area and lies between the ridgeline and the limit of western settlement and consists chiefly of open access land. It forms a continuous landscape character and boundaries consisting of stream bed (BBNP) to the north, settlement limits to the south and east and adjacent LPA boundary to the southwest. The area is an agricultural landscape of traditional drystone and hedged bank boundaries and sheep pens; post-medieval farms with farm buildings; ancient woodland; historic association, an important industrial extractive landscape associated with the Cyfarthfa Ironworks and other minor industrial incursion. It is a complex mosaic of now rare conical tips and mine sites intermingled with an upland pasture extractive landscape with several homogenous features consisting of open access land comprised of acid grassland. It is somewhat akin to a massive area of urban fringe in that the influence of the town is evident throughout yet it is still distinctly rural in overall character. Land to the far north of the areas is consistent with the BBNP landscape character at this point.

### **SLA 3 Merthyr West Flank**

This area extends to the south west of the study area. It lies between the town and the ridgeline and reaches right down to the A470 trunk road which cuts through the landscape and revealing at close hand the mix of industrial heritage, field pattern and woodland on this edge of Merthyr. The area forms a strongly dominant green flank to the town and is distinctly rural in character. It contains a complex mosaic of tips, transport features and mine sites intermingled with an upland pasture field pattern. There are areas of woodland and substantial natural regeneration, which have the appearance of natural habitats. The large numbers of disused sites are becoming well integrated within the mosaic. Further south the balance is in favour of the remnant field pattern and small blocks of woodland. The diversity and pattern of this landscape are distinctive and of high value. The naturally regenerated habitat mosaics are a particular feature of the Merthyr landscape and compare favourably visually with some of the sterile reclamation projects designed purely for industrial development or grazing. The character of the upland landscape is dominated by expansive coniferous woodland much of which has been felled more recently on the lower edges. As well as the main colliery sites, minor industrial features are also characteristic of the area, and include a number of quarries, airshafts, coal shafts, levels and coal tips.

## PEN-Y-DRE SOLAR FARM – LVA

### APPENDIX 3: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS



## **LCA/LANDMAP Aspect Area**

## **Description and Overall Evaluation**

### **LCA 01 Merthyr Tydfil**

#### LANDMAP VISUAL AND SENSORY

##### ASPECT AREAS:

MNMTHVS122 - L.

#### LANDMAP HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

##### ASPECT AREAS:

MRTHRHL005 – O

#### LANDMAP GEOLOGICAL

##### LANDSCAPE ASPECT AREAS:

MRTHRGL010 - H

MRTHRGL009 – M

#### LANDMAP LANDSCAPE HABITATS

##### ASPECT AREAS:

MRTHRCLS006 -

This area extends across the urban area of Merthyr Tydfil extending throughout the Taff Valley to the south of the study area. It is evaluated as **low** value overall. Key LANDMAP characteristics are described as:

- *Urban area sitting within a broad basin set around the confluence of the Taf Fawr, Taf Fechan and Nant Morlais watercourses.*
- *Complex urban form with no discernible pattern and coherence, reflects historical development controlled by the exploitation of local minerals and related industrial development.*
- *Older settlement cores and newer infill housing developments, industrial and commercial sites, open spaces and apparently unused and reclaimed land.*
- *Strong visual contrasts between the stone-built terraced housing with more random development of more recent housing. Outlying housing estates are often in elevated positions with few facilities and little to integrate them visually with the surrounding landscape.*
- *Cyfarthfa Park Grade II\* registered Historic Park and Garden is a central feature and is the largest open space in the Merthyr Tydfil. It acts as an important setting to Cyfarthfa Castle and is prominent in views from the A470 and other parts of Merthyr.*

### **LCA 02 Talybont and Taff**

#### **Reservoir Valleys**

#### LANDMAP VISUAL AND SENSORY

##### ASPECT AREAS:

BRCKNVS738 – H

BRCKNVS982 – H

BRCKNVS838 – H

BRCKNVS833 – O

BRCKNVS797 – H

MRTHRVS393 – H

MRTHRVS387 – H

#### LANDMAP HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

##### ASPECT AREAS:

CYNONHL006 – H

CYNONHL635 – H

MRTHRHL002 – O

MRTHRHL003 – H

This area extends across upland areas to the north and northwest of the study area. It is evaluated as **high** value overall. Key LANDMAP characteristics are described as:

- *High scenic values and sense of place focussed on reservoirs, surrounded by steep sided, dark green forested valleys.*
- *Open ridges of upland moorland which have long views across the reservoirs and their surrounding forests.*
- *Pockets of fields, farms and woodland.*
- *Strong links with the towns to the south; providing natural resources such as limestone and water, and also acting as a transport corridor.*
- *Historic transport routes including Roman roads, turnpike roads (now the A470), industrial tramways, and the Brecon and Merthyr Railway (now forming part of the Taff Trail) .*
- *Popular recreation destination and is easily accessed from Merthyr Tydfil and from the A470.*
- *Key views include the attractive compositions of water, trees and distant hills which can be seen from many lakeside viewpoints. Higher*

BRCKNHL864 – O  
BRCKNHL829 – O  
BRCKNHL270 – H

ridges have views across the reservoir valleys, into the surrounding LCAs, and also encompass land beyond the National Park boundary.

**LCA 03 Merthyr North Flank**

LANDMAP VISUAL AND SENSORY ASPECT AREAS:

MRTHRVS288 - H

LANDMAP HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASPECT AREAS:

MRTHRHL009 – H

MRTHRHL019 – H

MRTHRHL003 – H

MRTHRHL021 – H

MRTHRHL005 – O

MRTHRHL004 – O

This area extends across upland extending to the north and north-east of the study area. It is evaluated as **high** value overall. Key LANDMAP characteristics are:

- *Comprises exposed upland moorland.*
- *Bleak and open with long views.*
- *Complex, fragmented, diverse character reflecting extensive historical development/land-uses.*
- *Enclosed wooded gorge provides an important green corridor between Vaynor to the north with Merthyr Tydfil, includes Taff Trail and Brecon Mountain Railway.*
- *The LCA has high and outstanding values for historic landscape, through associations with industrial heritage. More widely, the LCA provides a relict, multi-period landscape with extensive evidence of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval field patterns and settlement features*

**LCA 04 Abernant, Cefnpennar & Merthyr West Flank**

LANDMAP VISUAL AND SENSORY ASPECT AREAS:

MRTHVS917 – M

MRTHVS393 – H

LANDMAP HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASPECT AREAS:

CYNONHL006 – H

CYNONHL409 – H

CYNONHL117 – O

CYNONHL856 – H

CYNONHL515 – O

MRTHRHL006 – O

MRTHRHL005 – O

MRTHRHL011 – H

MRTHRHL007 – H

MRTHRHL012 – H

MRTHRHL024 – H

MRTHRHL017 – H

This area extends across areas to the south-west of the study area. It is evaluated as **high** overall. Key LANDMAP characteristics are:

- *Series of valley sides rising to a distinctive ridge that separates the Taff and Cynon Valleys.*
- *Strong upland feel with a pattern of field boundaries/woodland and more open upland rough grassland and moorland areas.*
- *Urban fringe influences near to Merthyr/Heol Gerrig.*
- *Complex mosaic of tips, transport features and mine sites intermingled with an upland pasture field pattern.*
- *Distinctive sense of place with a mix of vegetation and industrial heritage features and patterns.*
- *Provides a positive backcloth to Merthyr*
- *The exposed and dominant ridge forms part of the coalfield plateau with long views.*

**LCA 05 Mid Taff Vale & Merthyr East Flank**

LANDMAP VISUAL AND SENSORY ASPECT AREAS:

-

LANDMAP HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASPECT AREAS:

-

This area extends across a small part of the study area to the southeast. It is evaluated as **low** overall. Key LANDMAP characteristics include:

- *Comprises a valley with distinct valley floor and steep sides.*
- *Open and rugged character with dramatic crags in places.*
- *The valley sides are largely unenclosed although remnant field patterns can be distinguished in places.*
- *The settlement is confined to the valley floor due to the steepness of the slopes.*
- *Industrial heritage evident throughout throughout, with interesting remnants of the coal mining age including reclaimed tips small disused quarries, tramroads and levels are also in evidence on the valley sides and it is clearly a disturbed landscape.*
- *Area forms a very important semi-rural break between the valley floor settlements preventing coalescence.*

**LCA 06 Ffos-y-fran Merthyr Upper East Flank**

LANDMAP VISUAL AND SENSORY ASPECT AREAS:

-

LANDMAP HISTORIC LANDSCAPE ASPECT AREAS:

-

This area extends across land to the southeast of the study area. It is evaluated as **low** overall. Key LANDMAP characteristics include:

- *This is a rapidly changing and distinctive industrial landscape of open cast mining, with black coal, movement, noise and dust.*
- *Highly visible from Merthyr and main roads.*
- *Large scale plateaux, exposed, simple and discordant.*
- *There are detractive views in and attractive views out.*

# PEN Y DRE SOLAR FARM – LVA

## APPENDIX 4: VIEWPOINT DESCRIPTIONS

VP	Location	Description of Existing/Predicted View	Co-ordinates	
			Northing	Easting
1	Pen-y-Dre (East)	<p><b>Existing View</b></p> <p>Open view south and south-west across the Taff Valley from the eastern edge of the Proposed Development site, adjacent to the entrance from Sixth Avenue. The viewpoint is representative of views that some adjacent residents along the western edge of Galon Uchaf may experience as well as users of the footway across the site. Residential receptors will have a higher sensitivity to change due to the static/fixed nature of views from properties while users of the footway are likely to be less sensitive to changes at this urban location, (i.e. views of the surrounding landscape will not make a strong contribution to the experience). The middle ground of the view is largely composed of mixed residential development forming the upper settled edges of Merthyr Tydfil. Tree planting at Cyfarthfa Park is visible to the rear of housing at Penydarren. More distantly, the communities of Heolgerrig and Gellideg are visible rising up the valley side that forms the west flank to the settlement. Also notable are the larger-scale buildings of Prince Charles Hospital and Pen-y-Dre High School more to the west. The foreground of the view is open and comprises unmanaged grassland with some sporadic scrub and gappy hedges to the boundary of the site with Galon Uchaf. To the north of the viewpoint, taller and denser scrub provides visual enclosure along the site boundary. Distant views extend to the south-west and to the west to the upland ridge of Mynydd Aberdar and the plateau of Mynydd y Glog. Views to the east are contained by the housing along the edge of the site.</p> <p><b>Predicted View</b></p> <p>This viewpoint is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development. The solar panels will be located in the foreground of the view south and south-west, with a tall weldmesh security fence aligned to the edge of the footway. The site compound will also be visible although this will be partially obscured by the landform that falls away from the viewpoint as well as the intervening security fence and solar panels. The access road from Sixth Road including the gate will also be visible.</p> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <p>Adjacent residents will likely perceive the Proposed Development site as contributing to the visual amenity value within available static views from properties and the value is considered to be medium to high. Footway users will be less focussed on the contribution of views and views will be more transitory in nature and will be medium in value. Susceptibility will range</p>	05218	08296

from medium to high. Residential receptors will have a medium to high sensitivity to change, footway users will have a medium sensitivity. The Proposed Development will be large in scale across the foreground of views and will likely obscure and/or interrupt views out from the viewpoint location. The Proposed Development will be prominent in scale due to proximity to viewpoint. Consequently, there will be a loss of some features in the view including the sense of openness and contribution of amenity space within the foreground of views and interruption of the distant views across the valley particularly from the footway. The magnitude will be high.

2 Pen-y-Dre  
(West)

**Existing View**

05131 08399

Open view south and south-west across the Taff Valley from the western edge of the proposed development site, adjacent to Pen-y-Dre High School. The viewpoint is representative of views that some users of the footway across the site may experience. However, receptors are not considered likely to be sensitive to changes at this urban location, (i.e. views of the surrounding landscape will not make a strong contribution to the experience). The middle ground of the view is largely composed of mixed residential development forming the upper settled edges of Merthyr Tydfil. Tree planting at Cyfarthfa Park is visible to the rear of housing at Penydarren. More distantly, the community's of Heolgerrig and Gellideg are visible rising up the valley side that forms the west flank to the settlement. Also notable are the larger scale buildings of Prince Charles Hospital to the south-west. The foreground of the view is open and comprises unmanaged grassland with some sporadic scrub more notably along the boundary with the school. To the north of the viewpoint, taller and denser scrub provides visual enclosure along the site boundary. Distant views extend to the south-west and to the west to the upland ridge of Mynydd Aberdar and the plateau of Mynydd y Glog. Views to the east are contained by landform and the housing along the edge of the site.

**Predicted View**

This viewpoint is located immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development. The solar panels will be located in the foreground of the view south and south-west to the rear of a security fence aligned to the edge of the footway. The site compound may also be visible although this will be partially obscured by the solar panels and security fence.

**Assessment**

Footway users will be less focussed on the contribution of views and will be transitory in nature and will be medium in value and susceptibility. They will have a medium sensitivity. The Proposed Development will be large in scale

across the foreground of views due to proximity and will likely obscure and dominate views out from the viewpoint location. There will be a loss of some features in the view including sense of openness and views across the valley from the footway. The magnitude will be high.

3 Goitre Lane/Plane Grove

**Existing View**

04914 08204

This viewpoint is located to the south of the proposed development site and illustrates views north that residents in housing along Goitre Lane will experience. Residential receptors will likely have a high sensitivity to change due to the static/fixed nature of views from properties. Although there is some limited and intermittent tree and scrub planting in the foreground, open views across the site are widely available. Although there are some detractors in the foreground, including fencing, carriageway, lighting and signage, the site forms an attractive green back cloth to the view with the land rising to a wooded skyline. The larger scale buildings of Pen y Dre High School interrupts and detracts from this open vista, more to the north-west, and to the northeast, the open view is also interrupted by housing at Galan Uchaf.

**Predicted View**

This viewpoint is located to the south of the Proposed Development. The solar panels will be located in the middle distance of the view north. Within the existing open view, the security fence aligned to the edge of the Proposed Development, the solar panels and site compound will be visible in the middle distance of the view, extending across the steeper facing slopes that enclose views north.

**Assessment**

Residents and other receptors, such as pedestrians and drivers using the highway, will likely perceive the views from this location as contributing to the visual amenity value as an attractive green backcloth. Within available static views from properties, the value of the view is considered to be medium to high. Travellers will be less focussed on the contribution of views and views will be more transitory in nature and will be medium in value. Susceptibility will range from medium to high. Residential receptors will have a medium to high sensitivity to change, travellers will have a medium sensitivity. The Proposed Development will be noticeable in the middle distance of views and will replace the green backcloth that is an attractive element within the views north. Following construction of Goetre Primary School, the extent of any visibility in this direction will be reduced or eliminated. The magnitude will be medium reducing to low following construction of the Primary School.

4 York Close,  
Heolgerrig

### **Existing View**

02995 06389

This viewpoint is located within the Heolgerrig, a residential area rising up the west facing valley side around 2.7 km to the south-west of the Proposed Development site. Residential receptors will have a high sensitivity to change due to the static/fixed nature of views from properties. The viewpoint illustrates views north-east and east across the Taff Valley that some residents will experience, depending on orientation and intervening vegetation and buildings. The view from York Close extends along the highway and over the roofline of houses and vegetation. It is framed by housing along the Close on both sides. The view extends to the distant skyline formed by uplands rising beyond Merthyr Tydfil to the north. The skyline is simple although more to the east, wind turbines and some development rising over the ridge are discernible. The proposed development site is partially visible amongst development forming the upper northern reaches of Merthyr Tydfil. Within the urban area, the larger-scale buildings of Prince Charles Hospital is a notable feature together with the Heads of the Valleys Road corridor that forms a distinct edge to the settlement. Tree planting at Cyfarthfa Park is also visible on the lower facing slopes of the valley.

### **Predicted View**

The solar panels will be partially visible. It is unlikely that detailed elements of the scheme including boundary security fencing or the site compound will be discernible.

### **Assessment**

Residents and other receptors, such as travellers, will likely perceive the distant view west from this location as contributing to the visual amenity value. Within available static views from properties, the value of the view is considered to be medium to high. Travellers will be less focussed on the contribution of views and views will be more transitory in nature and will be medium in value. Susceptibility will range from medium to high. Residential receptors will have a medium to high sensitivity to change, travellers will have a medium sensitivity. The Proposed Development will be discernible within distant views west amongst development forming rising north to the Heads of the Valleys Road. Some parts of the Proposed Development will be obscured. At this distance the alteration to views will be small in scale and the nature of the Proposed Development will not overtly contrast with any characteristics of the view. Post development the existing view will be largely unchanged with no discernible differences and therefore the magnitude will be low.



5	Trefechan, BBNP	<b>Existing View</b>	03211	09172
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This viewpoint is located on a Bridleway and area of Open Access Land (CRoW Act) on the southern edge of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. Adjacent areas also include the Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club. The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the surrounding area where the landscape is a strong contributor to the experience. The viewpoint offers panoramic views south over the Taff Valley and enclosing ridges of open land. Merthyr Tydfil is visible within a distinct bowl centred on the Taff Valley. The enclosing undeveloped uplands and valley sides are an attractive enclosing element to the town. Notable features within the view include the Heads of the Valleys Trunk Road, Prince Charles Hospital and more in the distance to the south, larger scale retail areas at Trago Mills and at Cyfarthfa Retail Park. The wooded parkland of Cyfarthfa Park is also visible within the views, including a glimpse of the boating lake and areas of woodland providing a wooded backdrop to the settlement. The proposed development site is visible in the middle distance of the view to the south-east amongst areas of housing.

**Predicted View**

The Proposed Development particularly areas to the north, including the site compound will be obscured by intervening site-based scrub and buildings of Pen y Dre High School. Solar panels to the south of the site will be visible, although at this distance detailed elements, such as the security fence, will not be discernible.

**Assessment**

The value of the view is high and viewers at this location will have a high susceptibility to change. Sensitivity will, therefore, be high. The Proposed Development will be partially discernible within middle distance views southeast, amongst development forming the northern extents of Merthyr Tydfil. At this distance the alteration to views will be small in scale and the nature of the Proposed Development will not overtly contrast with the surrounding developed characteristics of the view. Post development the existing view will be largely unchanged despite the discernible differences and the magnitude will be low.

# PEN Y DRE SOLAR FARM – LVA

## APPENDIX 5: FIGURES

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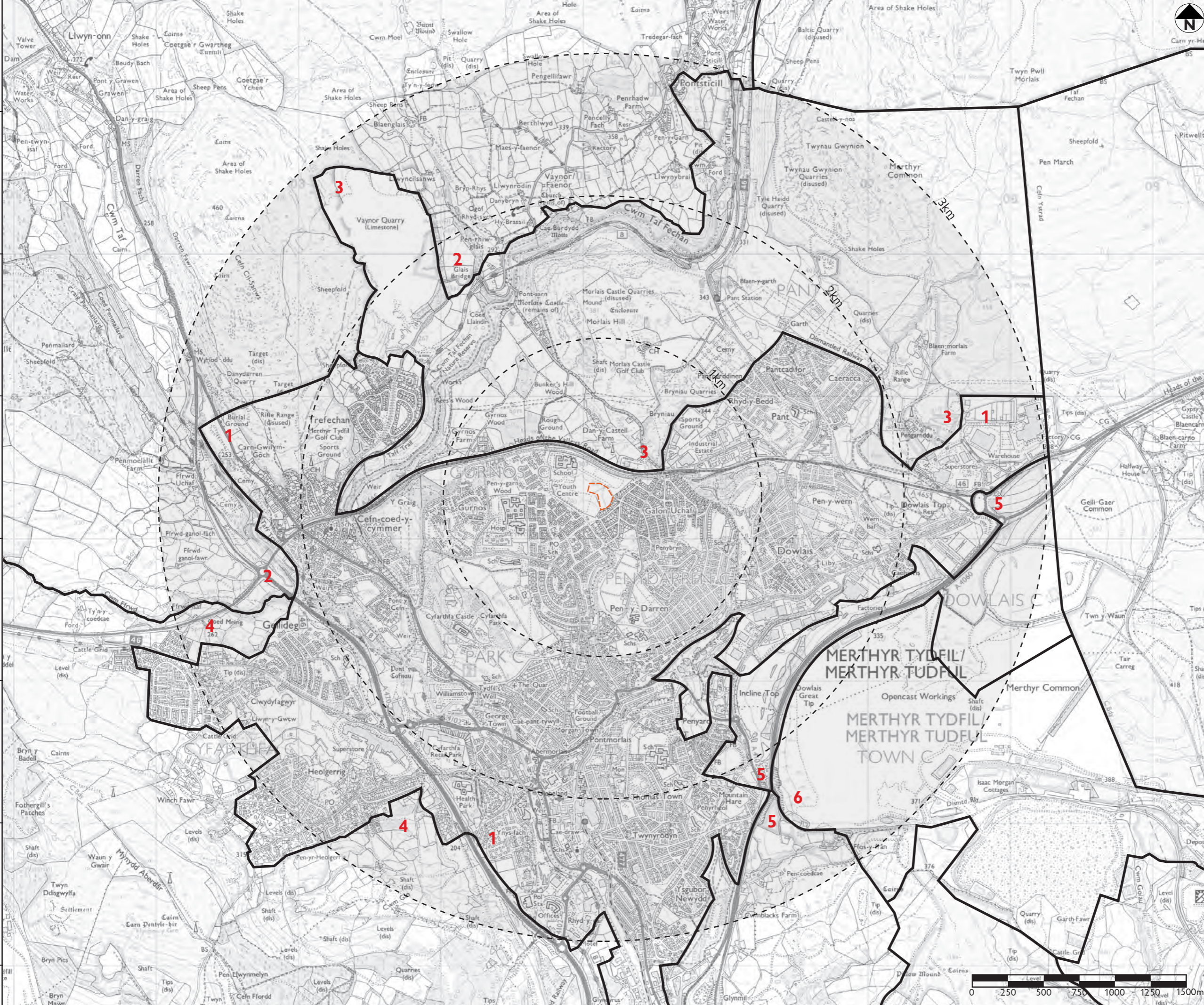
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**Key**

- Proposed Solar Array Area
- Incremental 1km buffer from site boundary
- Landscape Character Areas
- 1** Merthyr Tydfil
- 2** Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys
- 3** Merthyr North Flank
- 4** Abernant, Cefnpennar & Merthyr West Flank
- 5** Mid Taff Vale & Merthyr East Flank
- 6** Ffos-y-fran Merthyr Upper East Flank

P02	19.11.24	Update to site boundary	JM	GV
P01	12.03.24	First Issue	JM	GV
Rev.	Date	Comment	Drawn	Approved

PRELIMINARY	PLANNING	DESIGN	TENDER	CONSTRUCTION
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o client

Morgan Sindall

---

o project

**Pen Y Dre Solar Farm**

---

o figure title

Figure 1: Landscape Character Areas

---

o scale

o drawn

o approved

o date

NTS@A3 JM GV Nov 2024

---

o figure number

2488501-SBC-XX-XX-DR-L-101

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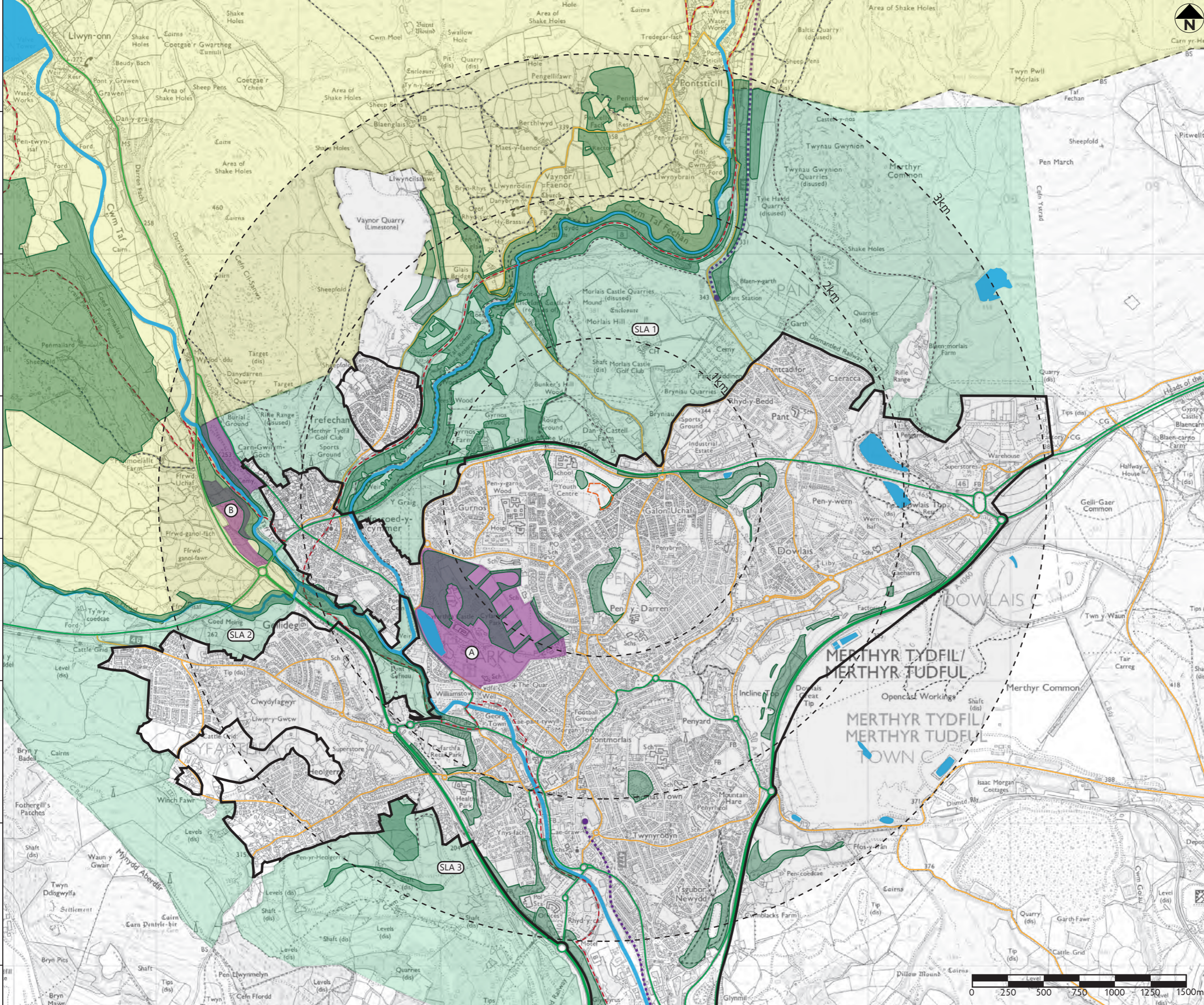
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**Key**

- Proposed Solar Array Area
- Incremental 1km buffer from site boundary
- A Roads
- B Roads
- Railway Line
- Taff Trail
- PRoW
- Settlement Boundaries
- Significant Green Infrastructure  
*Existing structural vegetation including woodland, trees and hedgerows*
- Rivers/Waterbodies

**Statutory & Non-Statutory Designations**

- SLA
  1. Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan
  2. Winchfawr
  3. Merthyr West Flank
- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
- Historic Parks
  - A. Cyfarthfa Park
  - B. Cefn Coed Cemetery & Jewish Burial Ground

P02	19.11.24	Update to site boundary	JM	GV
P01	29.04.24	First issue	JM	GV
Rev.	Date	Comment	Drawn	Approved

PRELIMINARY	PLANNING	DESIGN	TENDER	CONSTRUCTION
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o client	Morgan Sindall		
o project	<b>Pen Y Dre Solar Farm</b>		
o figure title	<b>Figure 2: Landscape Designations &amp; Significant Vegetation</b>		
o scale	o drawn	o approved	o date
NTS@A3	JM	GV	Nov 2024
o figure number	2488501-SBC-XX-XX-DR-L-102		

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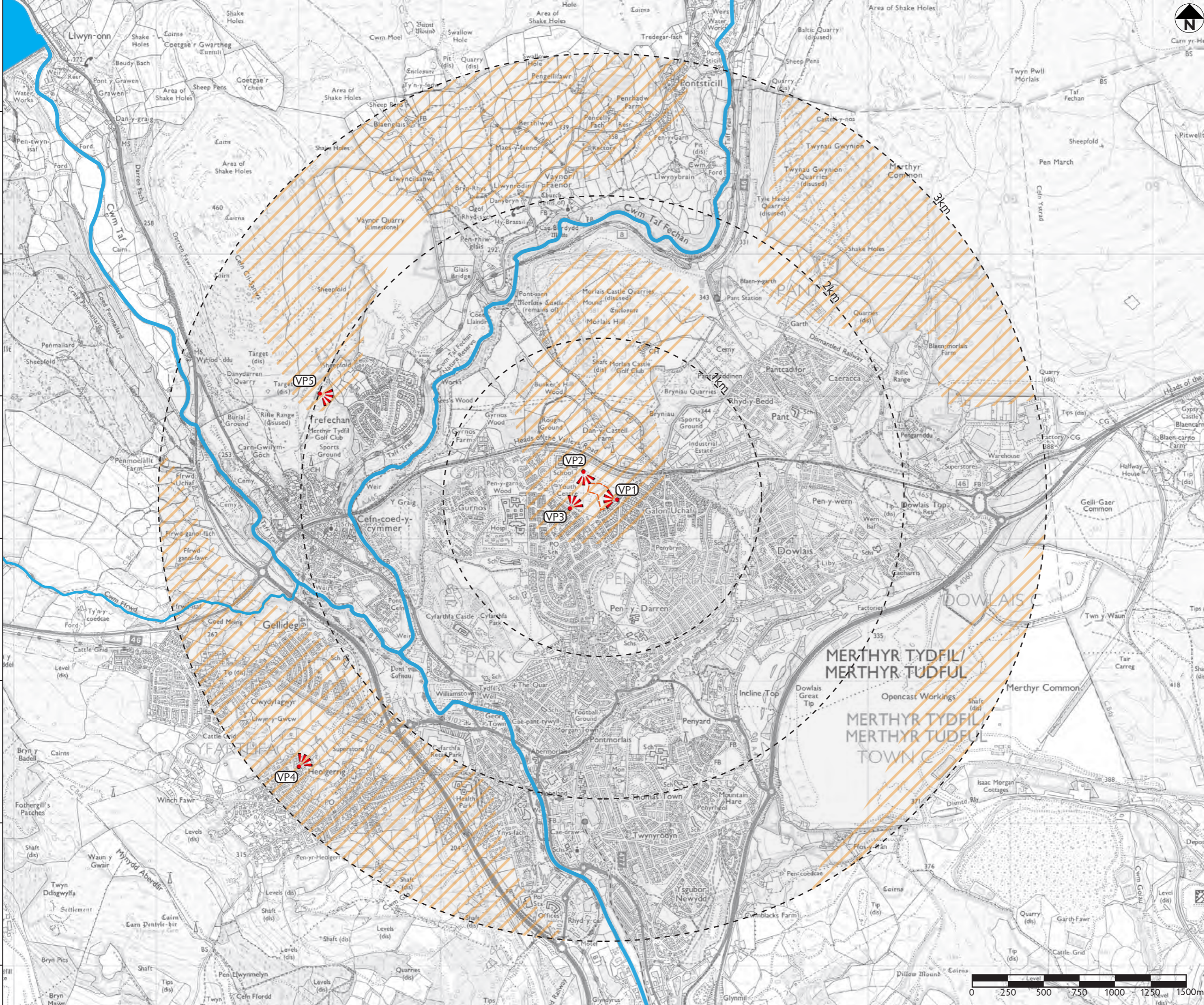
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**Key**

-  Proposed Solar Array Area
-  Incremental 1km buffer from site boundary
-  Viewpoints
  1. Footpath within site (east) – N05218, E08296
  2. Footpath within site (west) – N05131, E08399
  3. Goitre Lane/Plane Grove – N04914, E08204
  4. York Close, Heolgerrig – N02995, E06389
  5. BBNP, Trefechan – N03211, E09172
-  Approximate Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) (Bare earth only)
-  Rivers/Waterbodies

P02	19.11.24	Update to site boundary	JM	GV
P01	12.03.24	First Issue	JM	GV
Rev.	Date	Comment	Drawn	Approved

PRELIMINARY	PLANNING	DESIGN	TENDER	CONSTRUCTION
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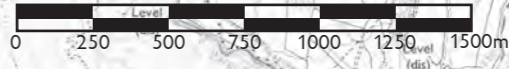
Client: Morgan Sindall

Project: Pen Y Dre Solar Farm

Figure title: Figure 3: Viewpoints and Zone of Visual Influence

Scale: NTS@A3	Drawn: JM	Approved: GV	Date: Nov 2024
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Figure number: 2488501-SBC-XX-XX-DR-L-103



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## PEN Y DRE SOLAR FARM- LVA

### APPENDIX 6: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS

Proposed Site Extents

Prince Charles Hospital

Pen Y Dre High School



VP 1 Footpath within site (east) – N05218, E08296

Cyfarthfa Park

Prince Charles Hospital

Proposed Site Extents



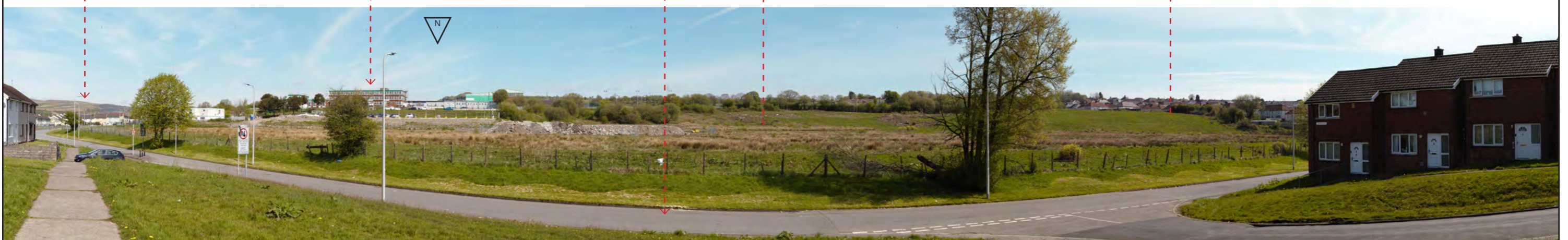
VP 2 Footpath within site (west) – N05131, E08399

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Pen Y Dre High School

Goitre Lane

Proposed Site Extents



VP 3 Goitre Lane/Plane Grove – N04914, E08204

° project  
**Pen Y Dre Solar Farm**

° figure  
Figure 4: Viewpoint  
Photography

° client  
Morgan Sindall

° doc  
2488501-SBC-XX-XX-DR-L-104

° scale  
NTS@A3

° drawn  
JM

° date  
May 2024



Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Proposed Site



VP 4 York Close. Heolgerrig - N02995, E06389

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Proposed Site

Cyfarthfa Park



VP 5 BBNP, Trefechan - N03211, E09172

° project  
**Pen Y Dre Solar Farm**

° figure  
Figure 4: Viewpoint  
Photography

° client  
Morgan Sindall

° doc  
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° scale  
NTS@A3

° drawn  
JM

° date  
May 2024

