



rhondda cynon taf
local development plan
cynllun datblygu lleol

Supplementary Planning Guidance:

The Historic Built Environment

Adopted March 2011



STRONG HERITAGE | STRONG FUTURE
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
TREFTADAETH GADARN | DYFODOL SICR



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1. Introduction

1.1 The historic built environment can be defined as the man-made aspects of our heritage and environment and the remains of human activity that contribute to the special nature and quality of a place. The historic built environment is generally considered to include:

- Listed Buildings;
- Conservation Areas;
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments;
- Archaeological Remains;
- Historic Parks and Gardens; and
- Historic Landscapes.

However, it can also encompass other aspects of our man-made heritage.

1.2 Many of Rhondda Cynon Taf's historic buildings and neighbourhoods are architecturally important, and many are unique or very good examples of a particular building style. As well as being attractive to look at, these buildings tell the story of how Rhondda Cynon Taf developed from a collection of villages and towns to the busy County Borough it is today.

1.3 People living and working in Rhondda Cynon Taf come into contact with the historic built environment every day. For many people, historic buildings serve as landmarks. The historic built environment through its features and links to the past creates a sense of place, and can be a source of distinctiveness and pride.

1.4 The historic built environment offers many opportunities for education, including learning about architecture, history and historical building methods. The historic built environment can also provide a focus for regenerating a local area, and thus assist in improving the environment, the economy, and community life.

1.5 This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) gives detailed guidance to owners and occupiers of land and buildings within the historic built environment, and anyone wishing to develop within it or make alterations to it.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 This SPG is an accompanying document to the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP, as the statutory Development Plan for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough, contains the policies necessary to guide development in the County Borough until 2021.
- 2.2 This SPG offers guidance in respect of the historic built environment and is a material consideration in the determination of relevant planning applications. The LDP policy that specifically relates to the historic built environment is AW7 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment.
- 2.3 This guidance should be read in conjunction with other SPGs published by the Council.

Policy AW 7 - Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment

Development proposals which impact upon sites of architectural and / or historical merit and sites of archaeological importance will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the site.

Development proposals which affect areas of public open space, allotments, public rights of way, bridleways and cycle tracks will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that :-

1. There is a surplus of such facilities in the locality, or;
2. The loss can be replaced with an equivalent or greater provision in the immediate locality; or
3. The development enhances the existing facility.

3. Summary of Historic Built Environment Issues

3.1 Listed Buildings

- 3.1.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf has 366 listed buildings that have been protected by law due to their special architectural or historic interest. Buildings are listed in three grades, Grade I, Grade II* or Grade II, which reflect their relative importance.
- 3.1.2 The purpose of listing is to ensure that a building's special architectural or historic interest is fully recognised and that any works for demolition, alteration and/or extension, which would affect its character, are brought within statutory control. This statutory control is administered by the Council through having to submit a listed building consent application to the Council for such works.
- 3.1.3 When a building is listed, both the interior and exterior are listed. In addition, any object or structure fixed to the building and any object or structure within the curtilage of the building which, although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1 July 1948 are also considered to be listed along with the building.
- 3.1.4 Any works that affect the character of a listed building require listed building consent. It is a criminal offence to demolish, alter or extend a listed building without obtaining listed building consent. Planning permission may also be required for works to a listed building. Where planning permission is sought for development, the impact of the development on the setting of any listed building is a material consideration.
- 3.1.5 All listed buildings are given a written description to identify the property. List descriptions are available from the Development Control Service on request.
- 3.1.6 In formulating a proposal the list description can be extremely useful as it identifies why the building was listed and those items that contributed to its grading. However, it should not be assumed that because a feature of the building is not mentioned in the list description it is not of value and can therefore be removed or altered without consent. List descriptions can be used as a consideration in deciding a listed building consent application, but they have no statutory force.
- 3.1.7 The Council will not accept applications with inadequate information and will write to ask for further information in these cases before processing the application.
- 3.1.8 It is advisable to appoint an architect or agent who is experienced in the conservation of historic buildings. The brief to this architect should ideally be to carry out an initial appraisal, design the development and oversee the construction to practical completion.
- 3.1.9 It is also useful to ask the Council for advice before submitting an application as approaches to the scheme can be informally discussed. Advice as to whether listed building consent is required and how works or repairs can be carried out sympathetically, can also be obtained.

- 3.1.10 Buildings in ecclesiastical use may be exempt from the Council's listed building consent process and administered through their own arrangements with the individual denomination. To check if "Ecclesiastical Exemption" applies, please contact the relevant Church body directly or speak with the Council's Conservation Officer.
- 3.1.11 It is a criminal offence to demolish, alter or extend a listed building without obtaining listed building consent, and the penalties can be a heavy fine or imprisonment. Therefore, it is important to check with the Council whether consent is required before carrying out works to a listed building. Owners should also be aware that any unauthorised works undertaken by previous owners become the responsibility of the new / current owner. The current owner could therefore be liable for at least the cost of the reversal of the works.
- 3.1.12 Planning permission may also be required for the works. It is preferable that this application is considered concurrently with the listed building consent application. This could not only save time but will allow the Council to gain a fuller understanding of the proposal in order to assess the scheme.
- 3.1.13 Approval under the Building Regulations may be required as well. In some cases the requirements of Building Regulations can have an impact on the character or special interest of the building. While there is some provision for the regulations to be relaxed in these cases, there could be a situation where this is not the case. These matters should be addressed prior to the submission of the listed building consent application.

3.2 Conservation Areas

- 3.2.1 There are 16 conservation areas in Rhondda Cynon Taf, all of which have been designated because of their special architectural or historic interest. Appendix 7.1 identifies these 16 areas.
- 3.2.2 The Council has a duty to designate areas as conservation areas where they are considered to have special architectural or historic interest, and it is desirable to preserve or enhance their character or appearance.
- 3.2.3 Certain development within conservation areas, which may otherwise be exempt from requiring planning permission in other areas, may require either conservation area consent or planning permission. Before any development is undertaken in conservation areas, no matter how minor, it is advised that you contact the Council's Development Control Service for advice on whether consent is required.
- 3.2.4 Conservation area consent applications to demolish whole or substantial parts of buildings or those for planning permission to change the appearance of, or remove parts of buildings or other structures in conservation areas will be considered in relation to the criteria set out in section 4.2.
- 3.2.5 Outline planning applications are not generally acceptable within conservation areas, or on sites abutting conservation areas, as the information required for such applications is not considered to be detailed enough for a proper assessment of the impact of the proposal by the Council.
- 3.2.6 Trees within conservation areas are protected and the Council must be notified of any proposed felling or other works to them, prior to such works being carried out, so the Council can consider whether a Tree Protection Order is necessary in order to protect a tree.

3.3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

3.3.1 Scheduled ancient monuments are a wide range of archaeological sites that have legal protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Scheduled ancient monument consent may be required for the following works:

- Any works resulting in the demolition or destruction of or any damage to a scheduled monument;
- Any works for the purpose of removing or repairing a scheduled monument or any part of it or making any alteration or addition thereto;
- Any flooding or tipping operations on land in, on or under which there is a scheduled monument.

3.3.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf has 86 such sites, which range from the Williams Edwards Bridge to linear earthworks. The Welsh Government, through Cadw, compiles and maintains the Schedule of Ancient Monuments of National Importance. While the Council is aware of these important archaeological sites and holds records on site locations, Cadw is the determining body on scheduled ancient monuments.

3.3.3 Any person wishing to carry out work which requires planning permission at a scheduled ancient monument site will need to obtain both planning permission and scheduled monument consent. Where structures are both scheduled and listed, the ancient monuments legislation takes precedence.

3.3.4 Developments which affect Scheduled Ancient Monuments, or their setting, will need to be referred to Cadw for consultation.

3.4 Archaeology

3.4.1 The presence, or potential presence, of an archaeological site is a material consideration in the planning process. The County Borough has a rich and diverse archaeological record including prehistoric burial cairns on the Twyn Gweryllfa, a Roman fort at Miskin, the medieval town of Llantrisant and the post-medieval coal and iron making sites of the Valleys. However, many places in the County Borough have the potential to contain valuable archaeological resources.

3.4.2 On development sites where there are known archaeological sites, or which have the potential to contain such, additional information will be required in order to ensure the proposal allows for the preservation of the archaeological resource.

3.4.3 The Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT) is the Archaeological Trust for this region and its curatorial staff act as the Council's archaeological advisor in the planning process. The Council works closely with the curatorial staff of GGAT in considering archaeology in the planning process and in respect of submitted planning applications, GGAT provides the Council with the following advice:

- The sites on which GGAT would like to be consulted, to determine if the archaeological resource needs to be considered;
- Identification of the application sites that do contain, or potentially contain, archaeological sites;
- The works that need to be done to investigate the presence of archaeological sites and ensure they are properly recorded and preserved where appropriate;

- Appropriate conditions to be attached to any planning permission in respect of the archaeological resource.

3.4.4 In order to assist developers on sites where archaeology requires consideration, GGAT have produced a guidance note entitled a “Brief Guide to Archaeology and Planning in Southeast Wales” (available at www.ggat.org.uk).

3.5 Historic Parks and Gardens

3.5.1 Rhondda Cynon Taf has 5 historic parks and gardens. This is a designation given to parks and gardens for their historic interest, contents and features, condition, and historical associations. They are graded on a similar system as listed buildings; Grade I, Grade II* Grade II. Cadw is the body in Wales responsible for the designation of historic parks and gardens and maintaining the register of these. Appendix 7.2 lists Rhondda Cynon Taf’s historic parks and gardens, and includes maps.

3.5.2 Historic parks and gardens designations and their setting, are a material consideration when the Council assesses planning applications in or adjacent to them. The Council will consult Cadw on applications affecting grade 1 and II* sites, or where it is considered necessary, and the Garden History Society will be consulted on all parks and gardens on the Register.

3.6 Historic Landscapes

3.6.1 In Wales, the most important and best surviving historic landscapes have been identified on a register. Cadw, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites have worked together to produce a Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales. The Register identifies two types of historic landscape:

1. Outstanding Historic Landscape Areas;
2. Special Historic Landscape Areas.

3.6.2 The Register does not impose any additional statutory controls, and the areas that have been identified are not covered by an official designation. The purpose of the Register is to provide information that will encourage a better understanding of historic landscapes so that they can be managed in a way that retains the key historic features and character while allowing appropriate change in response to modern day needs.

3.6.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf has 2 large areas that have been identified as Special Historic Landscape Areas. These are (see Appendix 7.3 for maps of the Historic Landscape areas):

- The Rhondda Valley comprising of Rhondda Fawr and Rhondda Fach
- East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-glog. Part of this area is within Rhondda Cynon Taf and the northern section is in Powys. The whole area is covered by the Brecon Beacons National Park.

3.6.4 Rhondda Special Historic Landscape Area

The Historic Landscape Area comprises the narrow and steep sided valleys of the Rhondda Fawr and Rhondda Fach.

In the Rhondda, the dramatic landscape of upland plateau incised by the two narrow, steep sided river valleys interacts with the layers of human influences, creating a place that is locally distinctive. It is the relatively sudden influx of development related to the rapid expansion of the coal industry in the 19th Century that has shaped the distinctive character of the built environment on the valley floors as seen today; however, there are remains from a pre-industrial period as well as change introduced from the later half of the 20th Century onwards as the valley communities adjust to a new economic role. It is this more recent phase that places the historic landscape under the most pressure and it is therefore essential that the interaction of the different components defining the character of the area are fully understood to avoid the loss of key historic features and degradation of the landscape.

3.6.5 East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-glog

East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-glog comprises of a remote upland area. The area is rich in archaeological evidence which points to sometimes quite intense occupation and land use including evidence of early agriculture and prehistoric and medieval settlement. More recent remains of quarries and lime workings are also evident. The area covered by East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-glog lies entirely within the Brecon Beacons National Park and it is the National Park Authority who determines planning applications within that area. In some instances though, development proposals outside but close to this Historic Landscape may have an impact on its character.

4. Planning Objectives & Requirements

4.1 Listed Buildings

- 4.1.1 The following guidance applies to development proposals affecting listed buildings, including those for listed building consent and planning applications that affect the setting of a listed building. The following requirements and guidance will be used as a basis for the determining of planning applications.
- 4.1.2 Sufficient information should be submitted to inform an understanding of the building and its special interest. The information should include a justification of the proposed works. A design and access statement is required with every listed building consent application, without such a document the application will not be registered by the Council.
- 4.1.3 Proposed Works should have regard to the desirability to preserve the building, its character and setting and any features of architectural or historic interest which it possesses. This may involve the needing to accept unorthodox layouts. Works should respect the character of the building and should retain the integrity of the building through the preservation of original material.
- 4.1.4 Intervention through repair should be minimal and features should be replaced on a “like for like” basis or only replaced where absolutely necessary.
- 4.1.5 Development should not be detrimental to the setting of the building and the integrity of the building should not be unduly compromised in any other way.

4.1.6 The retention of historical fabric should be verified and consideration will be given to the reversibility of works, i.e. if a proposed alteration could be removed, so that the building could be put back to its original form should it be required at a later date.

What to submit with a Listed Building Consent application;

- Scaled plans, elevations and cross sections of the building as existing and proposed
- Scaled / detailed drawings and associated sections of the proposed works
- A design and access statement which should include a justification statement allowing the applicant to demonstrate why the works, which would affect the character of a listed building, are desirable or necessary. (It is not sufficient to say that the works are required simply to meet the needs of the current occupier of the building)
- Photographs should be included where possible.

4.1.7 **Repairs to a listed building**

At some point a listed building will require repair to restrain the process of decay. Repairs should be carried out sympathetically and in general, the aim should be to repair and maintain the original fabric and intervention through repair must be kept to a minimum. Irreplaceable damage can occur by carrying out unnecessary replacement or poor working practices. This should be avoided.

4.1.8 Complete alteration or total replacement of the building fabric should be seen as a last resort and only be based upon understanding or where the original material has failed in all aspects. Where repair is not feasible, replacement should be on a “like for like” basis using traditional methods and techniques. Only craftsmen who can do justice to the building should undertake any work.

4.1.9 **Costs**

While costs should never be justification to “cut corners” the Council recognises that undertaking work to listed buildings can involve additional cost if the necessary level of craftsmanship and attention to detail is to be achieved. Grants from a variety of sources may be available to assist with the cost of significant repairs to historic buildings. For further advice on grants for historic buildings, contact the Council’s Regeneration and Planning Division or Cadw.

4.1.10 Repairs to all buildings, whether listed or not, are subject to Value Added Tax (VAT). However, Customs and Excise will allow VAT zero rate on certain classes of work to listed buildings, and they should be contacted directly for details regarding this.

4.1.11 It is advisable to ensure that insurance companies are aware of the listed status of a building and that the amount of cover is sufficient to fully reinstate the building in the event of a major incident. It is especially important if significant building works are to be undertaken.

4.2 **Conservation Areas**

4.2.1 Proposals in and adjacent to conservation areas should avoid harming the character and appearance of a conservation area, and where possible, positively enhance it by appropriate standards of design, layout and arrangement. Preservation of character and appearance can be achieved by simply avoiding harmful works and repairs, or by taking appropriate steps to reinforce local character. In some cases upgrading buildings, carrying out repairs, or constructing new buildings of quality can enhance the quality of an area.

- 4.2.2 The following guidance applies to development proposals within conservation areas.
- 4.2.3 Proposals affecting a conservation area should preserve or enhance the appearance, character or setting of the conservation area.
- 4.2.4 The demolition of buildings and structures which make a positive contribution to the character or appearance of the conservation area and which define its identity will be resisted. In applications for consent to demolish, the condition of the current building, the cost of repair in relation to its importance, the value derived from its continued use, the effort made to retain the building's use, its contribution to local character and the alternative proposals for the site will be considered. There is a presumption in favour of retaining buildings that make a positive contribution to the overall character or appearance of its setting or the wider conservation area.
- 4.2.5 All new-build developments in conservation areas, and improvements to existing buildings and structures, should be of high aesthetic design standards and respect, and be sympathetic to, the particular local character and/or appearance of the conservation area in which they are situated. New developments should contribute to the local character and context taking account of the following issues;
- Existing historic property plot sizes;
 - Traditional uses or mixes of uses;
 - Characteristic materials;
 - The scale of buildings and architectural detailing;
 - Local views;
 - The extent to which traffic intrudes or reduces the enjoyment of an area by pedestrians;

- The intensity of development in the locality; and
- The historic interest of buildings, sites and areas.

- 4.2.6 Trees that are of public amenity value and contribute to the character of the area should not be felled.
- 4.2.7 Changes of use should respect and enhance the local history as well as the visual character of the conservation area.
- 4.2.8 Local views, landmarks and topographical features, either within or adjacent to the conservation area, particularly key vehicular or pedestrian approaches and gateways, should be protected, having regard to the policies and local views identified in any local Conservation Area Appraisal.
- 4.2.9 New development, alterations or extensions to buildings in conservation areas will be expected to use traditional or other durable natural materials that preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area.
- 4.2.10 In addition, the Council will consider planning applications in conservation areas against these criteria:
- 4.2.11 **Settlement Pattern**
 The development pattern of the towns and villages is unique and a core component of local distinctiveness. Key features are:
- The relationship between the historic settlement patterns in the area and the landform of the valley;
 - The historic shape and size of plots;
 - The way in which buildings relate to each other and their relationship with the street; and
 - The relationship of buildings to private and public open space.

4.2.12 **Built Form**

The traditional buildings are mostly of a domestic scale although key buildings used for worship, social or cultural purposes are often of a larger scale and form landmarks within the street. Key considerations will be:

- The scale / proportion of traditional buildings;
- The density of surrounding development;
- The form of traditional buildings, for example terraced forms are typical;
- The use of traditional boundaries as a form of enclosure.

4.2.13 **Extensions**

Extensions should generally be confined to the rear or least important visible facades and should respect the existing and neighbouring buildings. Some rear extensions, although not widely visible, adversely affect the architectural integrity of the building to which they are attached, prejudicing the character of the conservation area;

4.2.14 Roof extensions should be confined to the rear and should complement the appearance of the existing building, with telecommunications equipment, roof plant and ductwork being sensitively located and not adversely affecting the character or appearance of the conservation area;

4.2.15 Extensions and alterations should retain traditional features; walls, gardens and urban grain where these form part of a local pattern or add local visual character for neighbouring or adjoining occupiers, or where their retention protects historic character.

4.2.16 **Materials**

New development, alterations or extensions to buildings in conservation areas will be expected to use traditional or other durable natural materials that preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area.

4.2.17 The use of local materials firmly roots a building in its locality and those built from these materials are more likely to blend and sit comfortably in the town. The traditional building materials found in the area are typified by the following:

- Local Pennant stone is used extensively;
- Traditionally, slate is used for the roofs;
- A typical feature of the housing in the Valleys is to have contrasting brick around the windows and doors;
- Render (although this is often a latter addition covering underlying stone);
- Painted softwood timber is used extensively for external and internal joinery.

4.2.18 **Specific Requirements for Minor Developments/ Operations in Conservation Areas (not exhaustive)**

The following forms general advice for operations and development in conservation areas, where a planning application is required the information below will be considered in making a decision.

4.2.19 Satellite dishes should not be placed on front elevations or on other visible elevations. They should not be placed anywhere higher than the eaves of the main roof of the building, and their erection will be resisted if it is considered that they would detract from the visual appearance of the host building and/or its surroundings.

4.2.20 Cladding of buildings finished in stone or traditional brick will be resisted, and the re-cladding of buildings should only be undertaken using traditional local materials and appropriate methods.

- 4.2.21 The application of render should only be undertaken on buildings where a rendered finish already exists. Proposals to remove inappropriate rendered finishes will be supported. The application of render, including the colour, should be in-keeping with the building and its surroundings, and should be of a style appropriate to that of the building or site, such as the Stucco render in Aberdare town centre.
- 4.2.22 Extensions should generally be confined to the rear or least important visible facades and should respect the existing and neighbouring buildings. Some rear extensions, although not widely visible, adversely affect the architectural integrity of the building to which they are attached, prejudicing the character of the conservation area;
- 4.2.23 Roof extensions should be confined to the rear and should complement the appearance of the existing building, with telecommunications equipment, roof plant and ductwork being sensitively located and not adversely affecting the character or appearance of the conservation area.
- 4.2.24 Replacement windows and doors should seek to replicate the scale, material and style of the original.
- 4.2.25 The construction and repair of gates, walls and fences from local and traditional materials will be supported. In many conservation areas, cast iron gates will be the most appropriate form of gates.
- 4.2.26 Hardstandings may require planning permission. Hardstandings proposed that would result in the loss of front gardens, walls and other features and structures considered to add to the character of the conservation area, will be resisted.

4.3 Archaeology

- 4.3.1 The following guidance applies to development proposals affecting archaeological sites or potential archaeological sites.
- 4.3.2 Where an archaeological site is identified as present, consideration will be given to the extent, nature, condition and importance of any such site. Sufficient information should be made available to determine the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.
- 4.3.3 Where appropriate, conditions will be placed on planning permissions to ensure the archaeological resource is appropriately surveyed, preserved and recorded. Mitigation measures should also be put in place where appropriate.

4.4 Historic Parks & Gardens

- 4.4.1 The following guidance applies to development proposals affecting historic parks and gardens.
- 4.4.2 Historic parks and gardens, and their essential settings as defined by Cadw, should be preserved. Proposals which have a materially adverse impact on the character, features and setting of historic parks and gardens will be resisted.
- 4.4.3 Proposals within, adjacent to, or affecting historic parks and gardens that preserve or enhance their character, setting, features and historical associations will be favoured.
- 4.4.4 All new development and improvements to existing structures and buildings should respect the features, historical significance and condition of the relevant historic park or garden, and should be of a high design standard.

4.5 Historic Landscapes

4.5.1 The following guidance applies to development proposals affecting the historic landscape.

4.5.2 Any planning application that has more than a local impact on the historic landscape should be accompanied by an evaluation of its impacts. Proposals should not have an adverse impact on the special historic landscape areas.

4.5.3 When developments that require EIA are proposed within a registered historic landscape area, an assessment is required at the scoping stage to identify the significance of its likely impacts. This should be undertaken using the ASIDOHL (Assessment of the Significance of the Impact of Development on Historic Landscapes) methodology, as set out in the Technical Annex to the Guide to Good Practice on using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process.

4.5.4 In order to ensure that a development does not adversely impact on the special historic landscape areas proposals should reflect the locally distinctive character of the Rhondda Valleys through siting, built form, detailed design and materials. Materials used in proposals within the historic landscape should complement the traditional materials used in the area.

4.5.5 Identifying Local Character

An understanding of the character of the historic landscape as a whole is vital to inform how new development can be appropriately located and designed to fit into its context.

4.5.6 Every landscape has its own character, derived from the pattern of elements in the landscape such as geology, landform, drainage, trees, hedges, settlement

patterns and building form. These elements combine in a particular way to make one landscape different from another, and this local character is often referred to as local distinctiveness.

4.5.7 Before submitting a planning application affecting a historic landscape, a thorough analysis of the area should be carried out in order to establish the elements that contribute to local distinctiveness. It may also be necessary to carry out some historic research to help discover how the area appeared in the past. Historic maps can be particularly helpful to show how the pattern of development has evolved over time. This research can often be useful to inform new development. In particular, developments proposed within or affecting the boundaries of the Rhondda Landscape of Special Historic Interest should take into consideration the 'Historic Landscape Characterisation Study' for this designation.

4.5.8 The key components that should be considered when assessing an area's character are set out below:

4.5.9 Settlement Pattern. The development pattern of the towns and villages in the Rhondda Valleys is unique and a core component of local distinctiveness. Key features are:

- The relationship between the historic settlement pattern and the landform of the valleys;
- The historic shape and size of plots;
- The alignment of streets and footpaths in relation to the topography of the area;
- The way in which buildings relate to each other and their relationship with the street; and
- The relationship of buildings to private and public open space.

4.5.10 Built Form. The traditional buildings in the Rhondda are mostly of a domestic scale although key buildings used for worship, social or cultural purposes are often of a larger scale and form landmarks within the street. Key considerations will be:

- The scale of traditional buildings;
- The density of surrounding development;
- The form of traditional buildings, for example terraced forms are typical; and
- The use of boundaries as a form of enclosure.

4.5.11 Materials. The use of local materials firmly roots a building in its locality. Although the bulk of the building boom in the Rhondda Valleys occurred at a time when railways and canals enabled other materials to be imported from outside of the area, there is extensive use of Pennant stone. The Pennant stone and slate has the natural qualities that allows the buildings and structures built from these materials to blend and sit comfortably into the landscape. The traditional building materials found in the area are:

- Local Pennant stone, which is used extensively;
- Slate, which is traditionally used for the roofs;
- Contrasting brick around the windows and doors;
- Render, although this is often a latter addition covering underlying stone; and
- Painted softwood timber, which is used extensively for external joinery.

4.5.12 Open Countryside. In the open countryside on the upper slopes and plateau, key features include:

- A sparse development pattern;
- Small, simple agricultural buildings;
- The networks of old transport routes.
- Field patterns;
- Stone boundary walls and hedges;
- Prominent views across and along the valley; and
- Native trees and shrubs that thrive in an upland environment.

4.5.13 While new development can have a significant impact on the historic landscape area, there are other impacts that should be taken into account although they are beyond the scope of this document. For example, changes in agricultural practices and pressure from some recreational activities can cause damage to fragile historic features and drastically alter the landscape character.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 To determine a planning application, the Council will require sufficient information to assess the implications of the proposals in respect of the historic built environment.
- 5.2 It is recommended that the historic building environment issues are considered as early as possible within the scoping and design of a development proposal, in order to avoid delays and a possible re-design of the scheme.

6. Useful Contacts

The Ancient Monuments Society

Campaigns for historic buildings and ancient monuments, and furthers the study of them. They are a statutory consultee on listed building consent applications.

St Ann's Vestry Hall 2 Church Entry, London, EC4V 5HB.

Tel: 020 7236 3934

office@ancientmonumentsociety.org.uk

www.ancientmonumentsociety.org.uk

Architectural Heritage Fund

The Architectural Heritage Fund is a registered charity and promotes the conservation of historic buildings in the UK.

Alhambra House, 27-31 Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0AU.

Tel: 020 7925 0199 • Fax: 020 7930 0295

ahf@ahfund.org.uk

www.ahfund.org.uk

Cadw

Cadw is the historic environment agency within the Welsh Government with responsibility for protecting, conserving, and promoting an appreciation of the historic environment of Wales.

Plas Carew, Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff, CF15 7QQ.

Tel: 01443 336000 • Fax: 01443 336001

Cadw@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

www.cadw.wales.gov.uk

Cathedral Communications Ltd

Publishes the Building Conservation Directory

High Street, Tisbury, SP3 6HA.

Tel: 01747 871717 • Fax: 01747 871718

info@buildingconservation.com

www.buildingconservation.com

The Civic Trust

The Civic Trust for Wales promotes civic pride as a means to improving the quality of life for all in the places where they live and work, and encourages community action, good design, sustainable development and respect for the built environment amongst people of all ages

14-16 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6DG.

Tel: 020 7539 7900 • Fax: 020 7539 7901

www.civictrust.org.uk

Council for British Archaeology (CBA)

The CBA is an educational charity working throughout the UK to involve people in archaeology and to promote the appreciation and care of the historic environment.

St Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ.

Tel: 01904 671417 • Fax: 01904 671384

www.britarch.ac.uk

Friends of Friendless Churches

Campaigns for ancient, beautiful, but redundant churches.

St Ann's Vestry Hall, 2 Church Entry, London, EC4V 5HB.

Tel: 020 7236 3934

office@friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Garden History Society

The Garden History Society (GHS) is the oldest society in the world dedicated to the conservation and study of historic designed gardens and landscapes.

70 Cowcross Street, London. EC1M 6EJ.

Tel: 020 7608 2409 • Fax: 020 7490 2974

enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org

www.gardenhistorysociety.org

The Georgian Group

The Georgian Group is the national charity dedicated to preserving Georgian buildings and gardens

6 Fitzroy Square, London, W1T 5DX.

Tel: 087 1750 2936

info@georgiangroup.org.uk

www.georgiangroup.org.uk



Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd (GGAT)

A statutory consultee on listed building consent applications.

Heath House, Heathfield, Swansea, SA1 6EL.

Tel: 01792 655208 • Fax: 01792 474469

enquiries@ggat.org.uk

www.ggat.org.uk

Heritage Lottery Fund Wales

The Heritage Lottery Fund Wales uses National Lottery money to invest in heritage projects

Suite 5A, Hodge House, Guildhall Place, Cardiff. CF10 1DY.

Tel: 029 2034 3413 • Fax: 029 2034 3427

wales@hlf.org.uk

www.hlf.org.uk

Institute of Historic Building Conservation

The IHBC is the principal professional body for the building conservation practitioners and historic environment specialists.

IHBC Business Office, Jubilee House, High Street, Tisbury, SP3 6HA.

Tel: 01747 873133 • Fax: 01747 871718

admin@ihbc.org.uk

www.ihbc.org.uk

International Council on Monuments and Sites UK (ICOMOS UK)

70 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ.

Tel: 020 7566 0031 • Fax: 020 7566 0045

admin@icomos-uk.org

www.icomos-uk.org

National Heritage Memorial Fund

The National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) is the fund of last resort for the nation's heritage, coming to the rescue by funding emergency acquisitions.

7 Holbein Place, London, SW1W 8NR.

Tel: 020 7591 6042

enquire@hlf.org.uk

www.nhmf.org.uk

Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historic Monuments of Wales

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales is the national body of research and record for the historic environment of Wales. It is statutory consultee on listed building consent applications.

Library and Reader Services.

National Monuments Record of Wales. Plas Crug, Aberystwyth, SY23 1NJ.

Tel: 01970 621200 • Fax: 01970 627701

nmrwales@rcahmw.gov.uk

www.rcahmw.gov.uk

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), Conservation Group

The Royal Institute of British Architects is the UK body for architecture and the architectural profession.

66 Portland Place, London, W1B 1AD.

Tel: 020 7580 5333 • Fax: 020 7255 1541

info@inst.riba.org

www.architecture.com

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Building Conservation Group

12 Great George Street, Parliament Square, London, SW1P 3AD.

Tel: 0870 333 1600 • Fax: 020 7334 3811

contact@rcis.org

www.rics.org

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) is involved in all aspects of the survival of buildings which are old and interesting. SPAB is a statutory consultee on listed building applications.

37 Spital Square, London, E1 6DY.

Tel: 020 7377 1644 • Fax: 020 7377 1644

info@spab.org.uk

www.spab.org.uk

The 20th Century Society

The Twentieth Century Society exists to safeguard the heritage of architecture and design in Britain from 1914 onwards. It is a statutory consultee on listed building applications.

70 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ.

Tel: 020 7250 3857 • Fax: 020 7251 8985

co-ordination@c20society.org.uk

www.c20society.org.uk

UK Association of Preservation Trusts

UK APT is the voice of Building Preservation Trusts across the UK

APT Co-ordinator.

UK Association of Preservation Trusts. 9th Floor, Alhambra House, 27-31 Charing Cross Road, London, WC2H 0AU.

Tel: 020 7925 0199 • Fax: 020 7930 0295

apt@ahfund.org.uk

www.ukapt.org.uk

The Victorian Society

The Victorian Society is the champion for Victorian and Edwardian buildings in the UK. It is a statutory consultee on listed building applications.

1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, London, W4 1TT.

Tel: 020 8994 1019 • Fax: 020 8747 5899

admin@victoriansociety.org.uk

www.victorian-society.org.uk

Welsh Historic Gardens Trust

Campaigns for historic parks and gardens in Wales.

Coed y Ffynnon, Lampeter Velfrey, Narbeth, SA67 8UJ.

Tel: 01690 750366

administrator@whgt.org

www.gardensofwales.org.uk

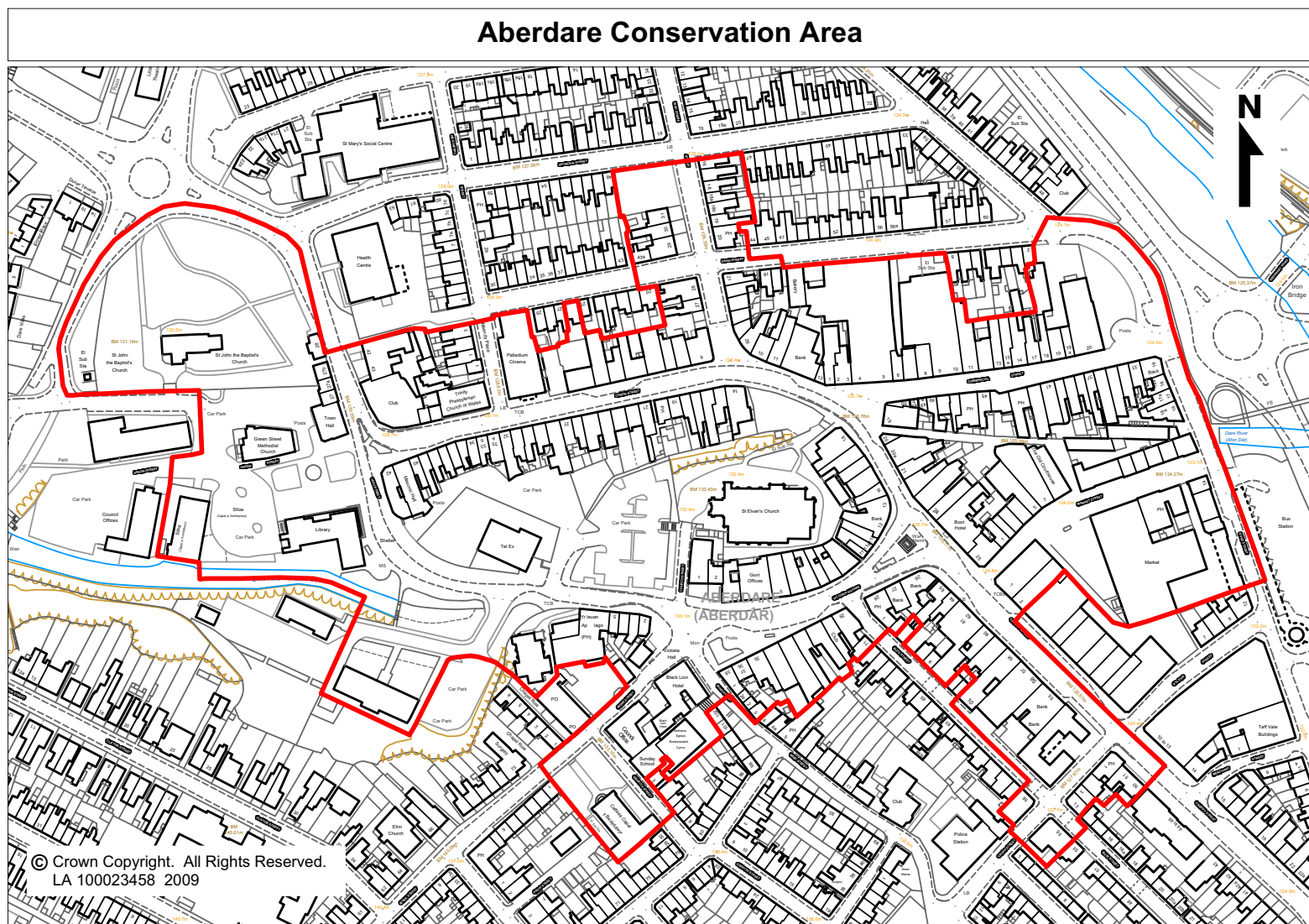
7. Appendices

Appendix 7.1 Conservation Area Descriptions & Maps

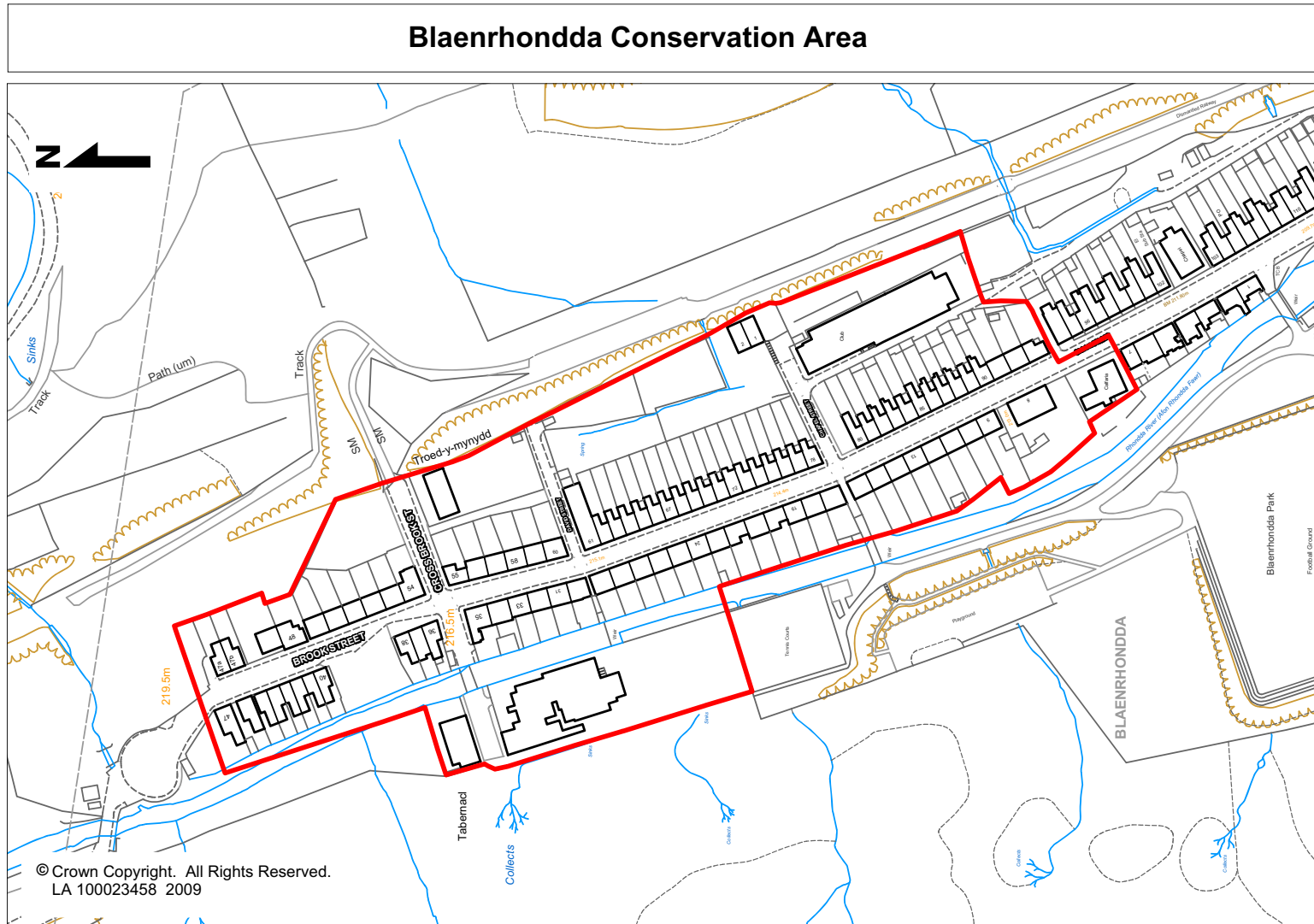
Name of Conservation Area	Year of Designation	Key Features
Aberdare Centre, Aberdare	1989	Situated across the commercial centre of Aberdare, this conservation area contains buildings from the C19th and a handful from the C18th. The conservation area contains 33 listed buildings, including a large church and chapels, municipal buildings, pubs, shops and houses.
Blaenrhondda	1975	A linear conservation area at the northern tip of the built up area of Rhondda Fawr straddling both sides of Brook Street. It contains early mining community houses built in the 1870s.
Broadway, Treforest	1979	A small linear conservation area including houses on the western side of Broadway only. It is notable for containing 13 listed buildings and good examples of 2 up 2 down houses supplied to tin mine owners in 1841. It is an important gateway into Treforest from Pontypridd.
Castle Square, Treforest	1979	Representing much of the remaining traditional town of Treforest, this conservation area follows the river and contains shops, pubs and houses. It presents a good example of many elements of the traditional Victorian town, has historic links with the Crawshay family and contains 4 listed buildings.
Glan-Y-Llyn, Taffs Well	1992	A small residential conservation area comprising of short terraces and semi-detached houses.
Graigwen, Pontypridd	1996	A residential area overlooking Pontypridd town centre containing many medium size to large houses, mostly dating from the C19th.
Llanharan	1976	Focused on The Square in the traditional centre of Llanharan, the conservation area contains a church, detached and terraced houses, a cluster of shops and a pub.
Llanharry	1994	A small conservation area centred on the oldest part of Llanharry. Contains a church (listed) two pubs and five houses.

Name of Conservation Area	Year of Designation	Key Features
Llantrisant	1971	A distinctive and unique ancient hilltop town, this conservation area covers the entire town of Llantrisant, large parts of the surrounding countryside and parts of Penygawsi to the south of the original town. This conservation area contains a wide variety of buildings reflecting the topographical setting of the town and the size of the conservation area. Although the location of the church and castle remain from pre-Norman times, the majority of the built form in the centre of the town dates from the C18th and C19th. Building types from the C19th to the present day are represented.
Llanwonno	1974	A small and isolated conservation area situated entirely in the countryside far from any built up areas. This conservation area contains 2 listed buildings- a church and pub dating from the C19th.
Miskin	1973	A small conservation area centred on the traditional centre of Miskin Village. The historic buildings and townscape are mainly domestic scale houses built of stone and slate.
Old Park Terrace, Treforest	1979	A small conservation area separated from Castle Square Conservation Area by the railway. This area contains notable examples of C18th architecture and townscape illustrating the local social history.
Pontypridd Town Centre, Pontypridd	1980	This conservation area is split into a northern and southern section and incorporates much of the commercial centre of the town. It contains many distinctive listed C19th buildings, including a large church, chapels, an important railway station and municipal buildings.
Taff, Pontypridd	1975	Straddling the River Taff and stretching north from Pontypridd town centre, this conservation area has an important gateway function into the town with a variety of housing types, mostly from the C19th. Attractive views of the river Taff are to be had and the conservation area contains 7 listed buildings and the Edwards' Bridge which is listed and a scheduled ancient monument.
Talgarn House & Grounds	1990	Centred on a large country house designed in a free gothic style. The conservation area contains a large area of grounds, and is entirely in the countryside.
Troedrhiwtrwyn	1979	This conservation area in Hopkinstown on the edge of Pontypridd includes some countryside and attractive period housing based around a vicarage and farm.

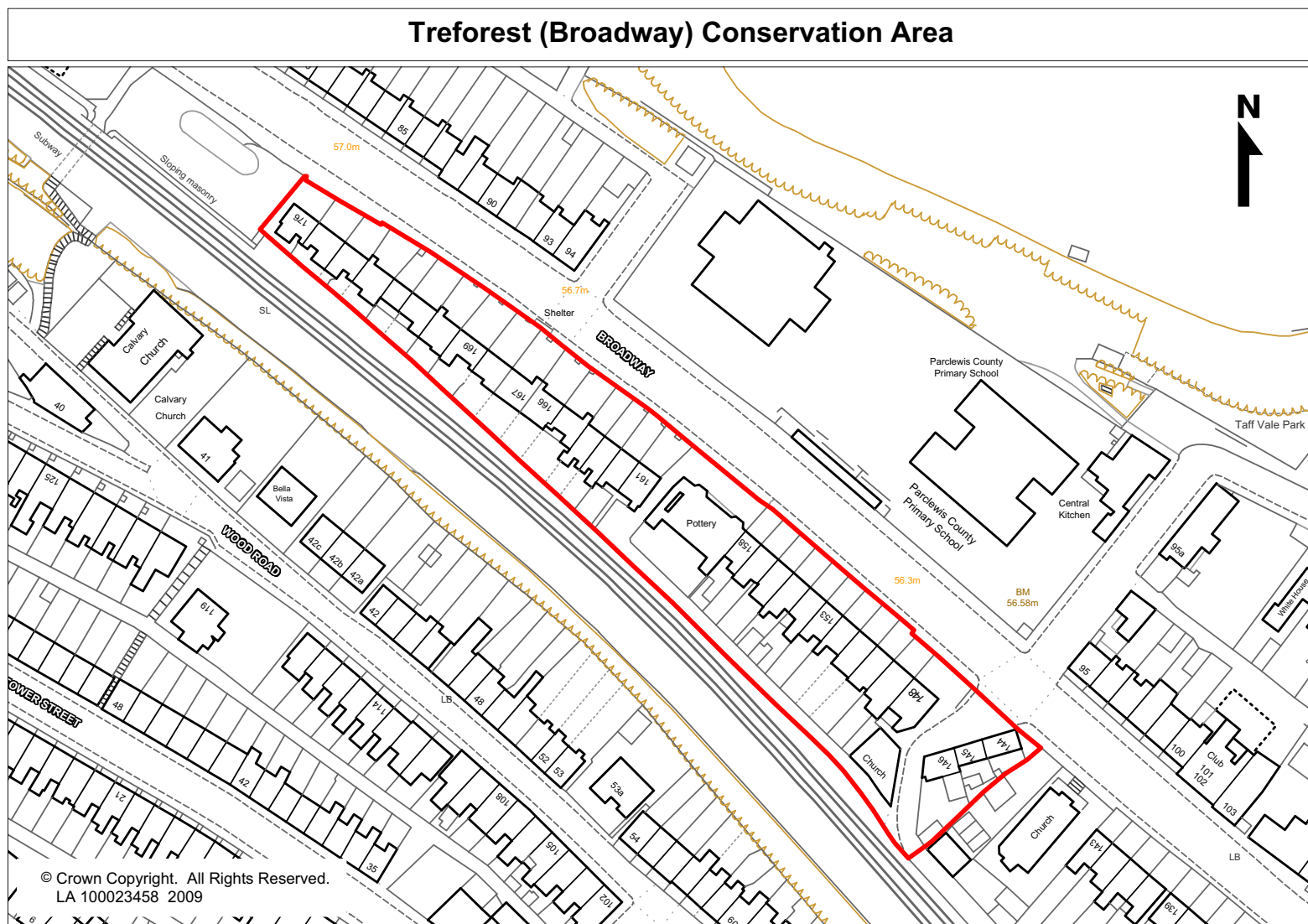
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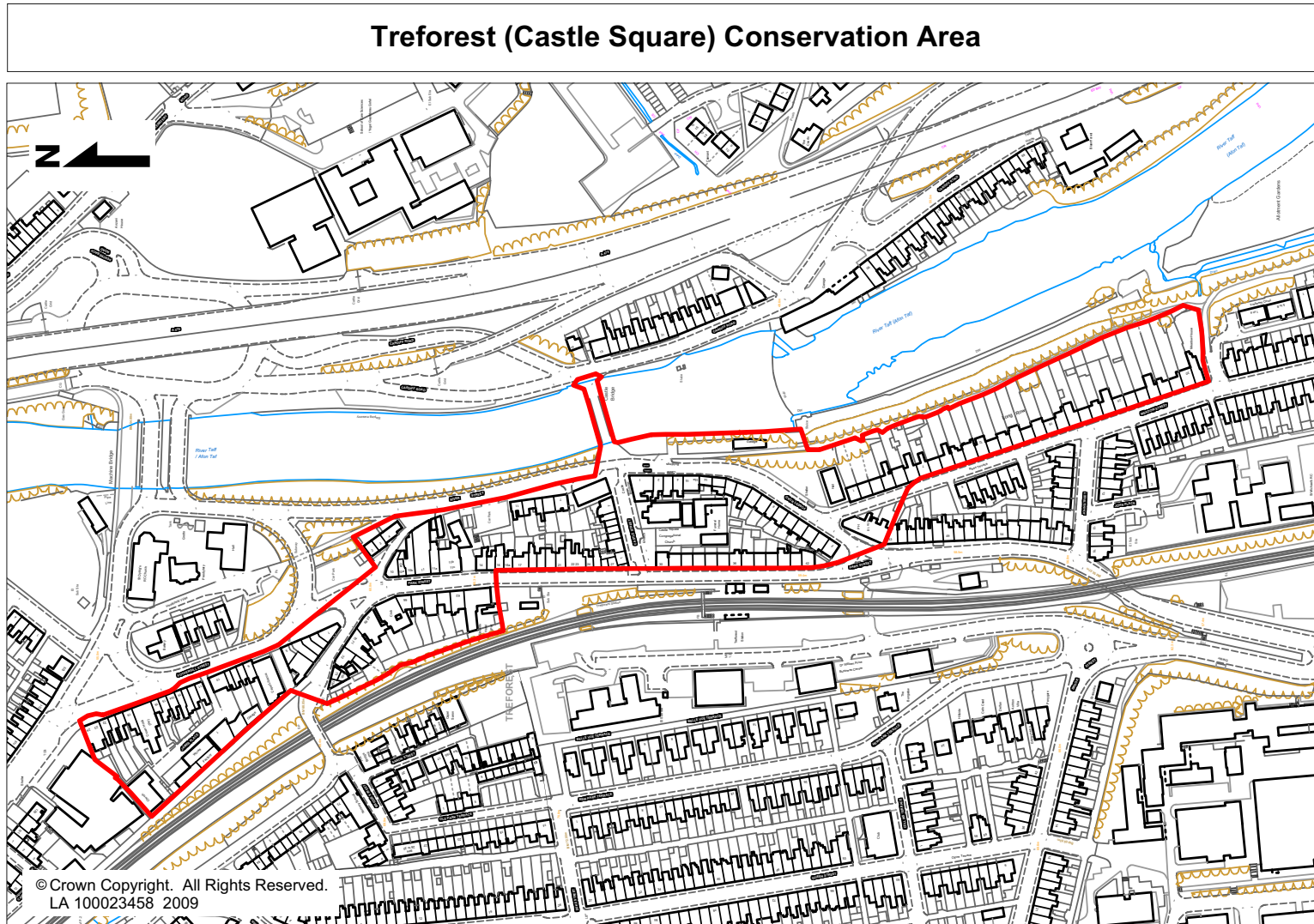
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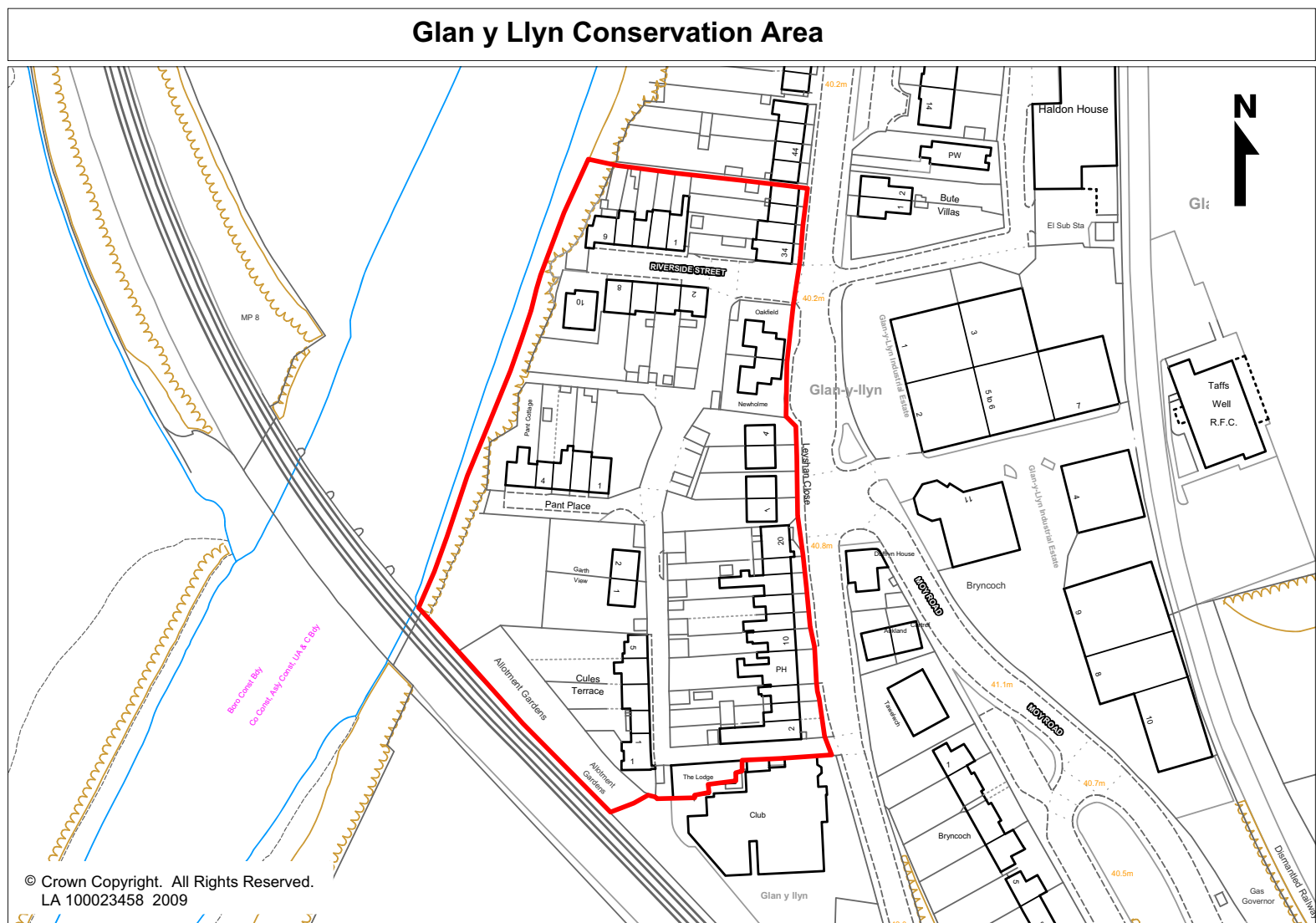
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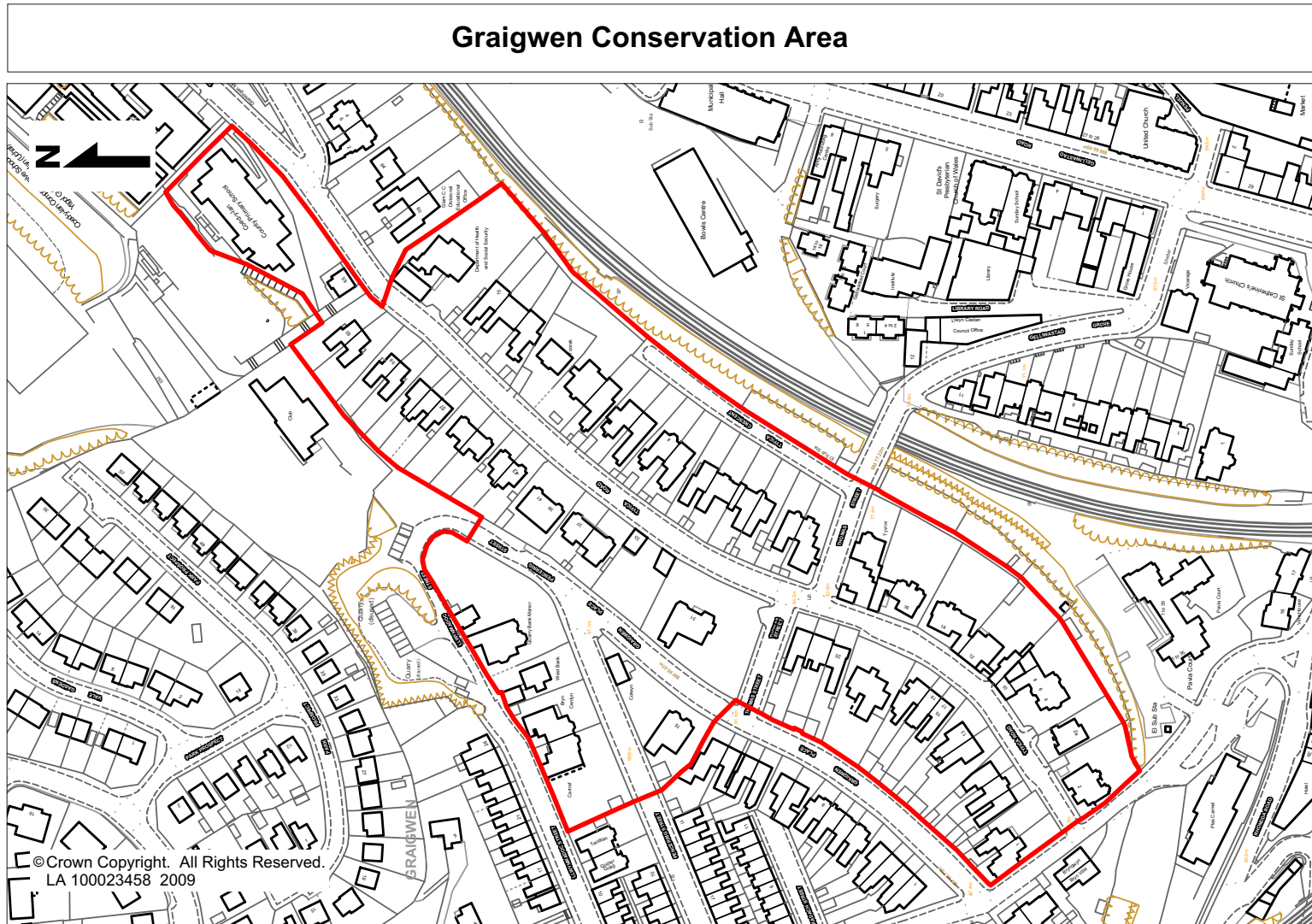
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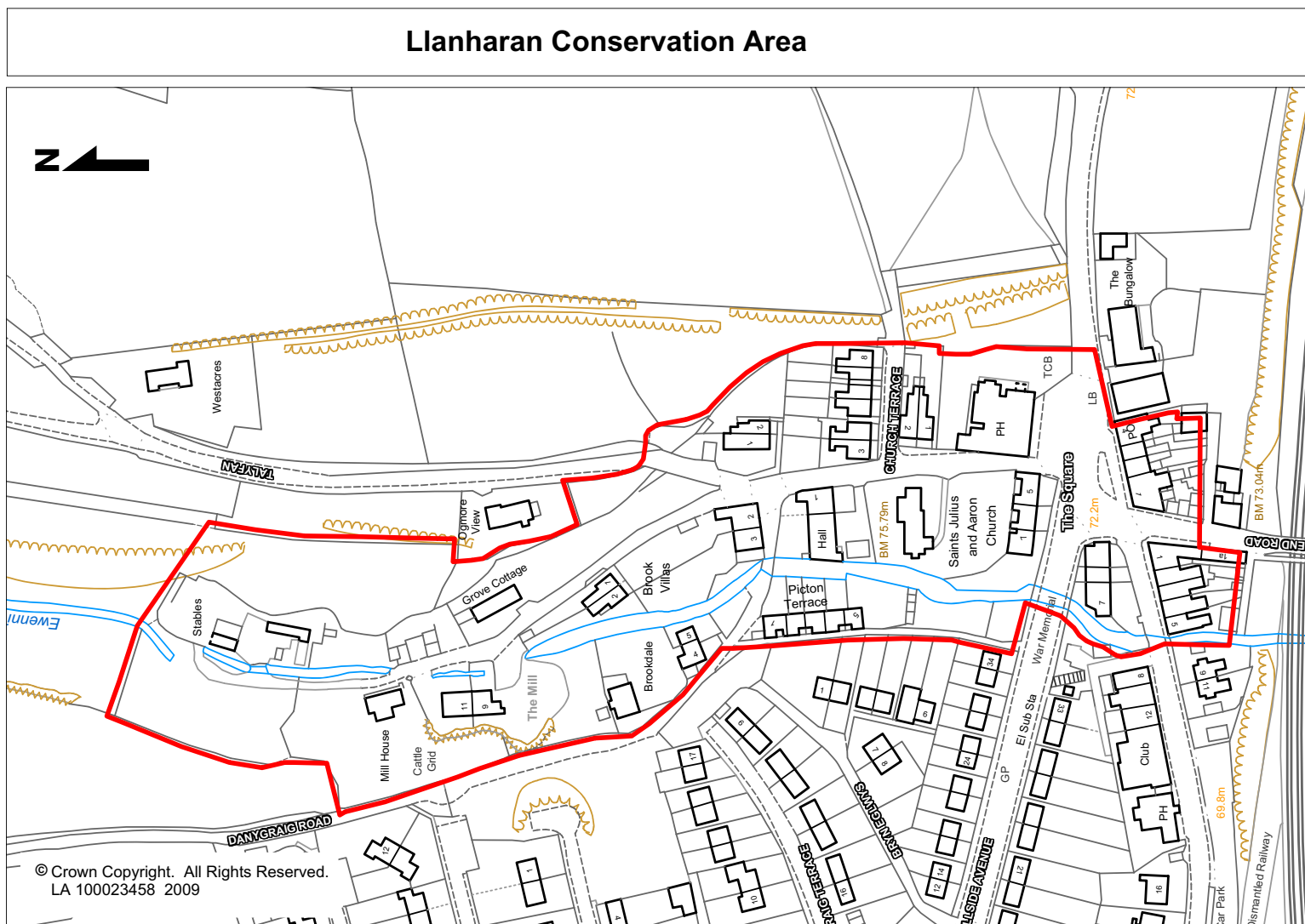
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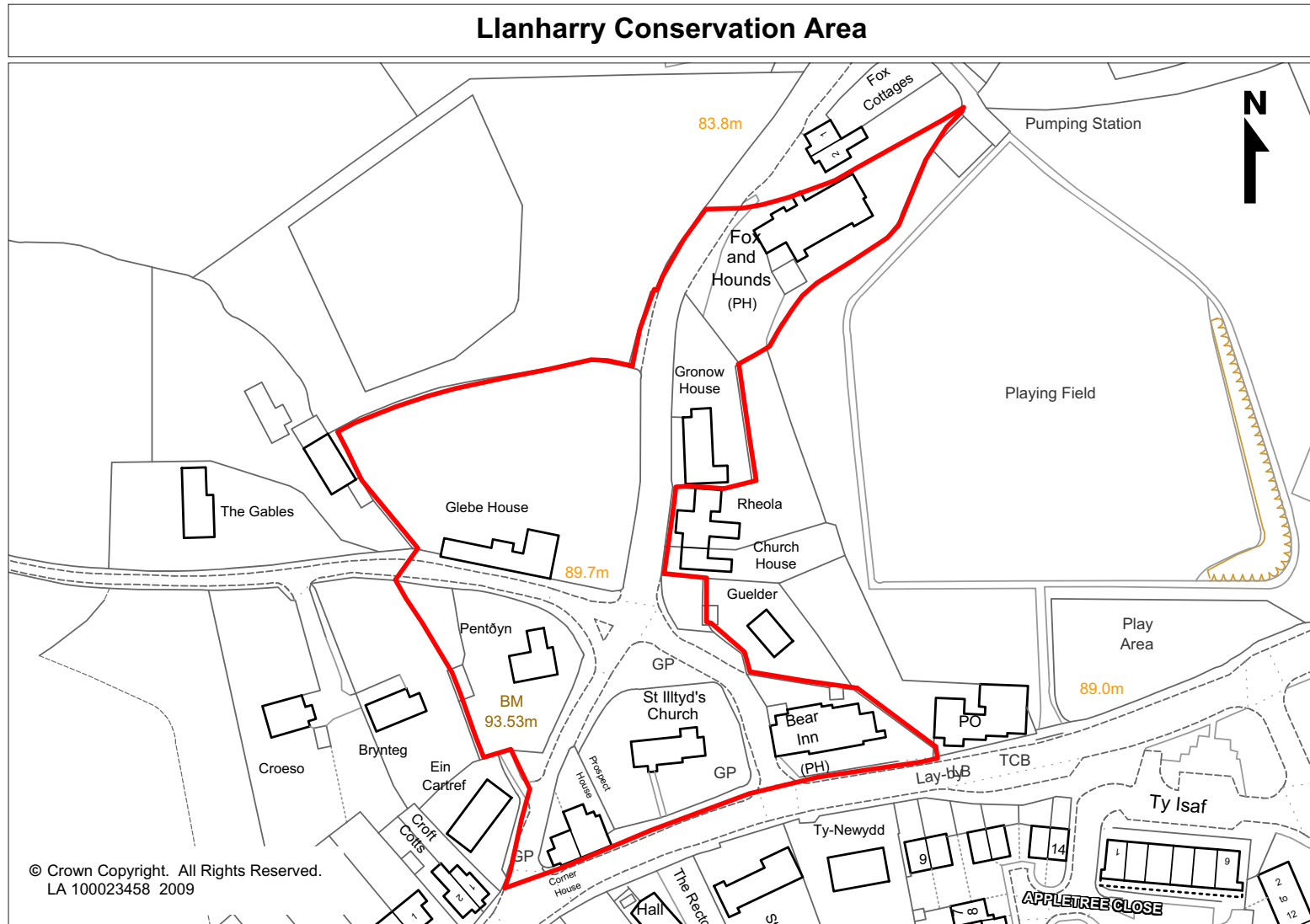


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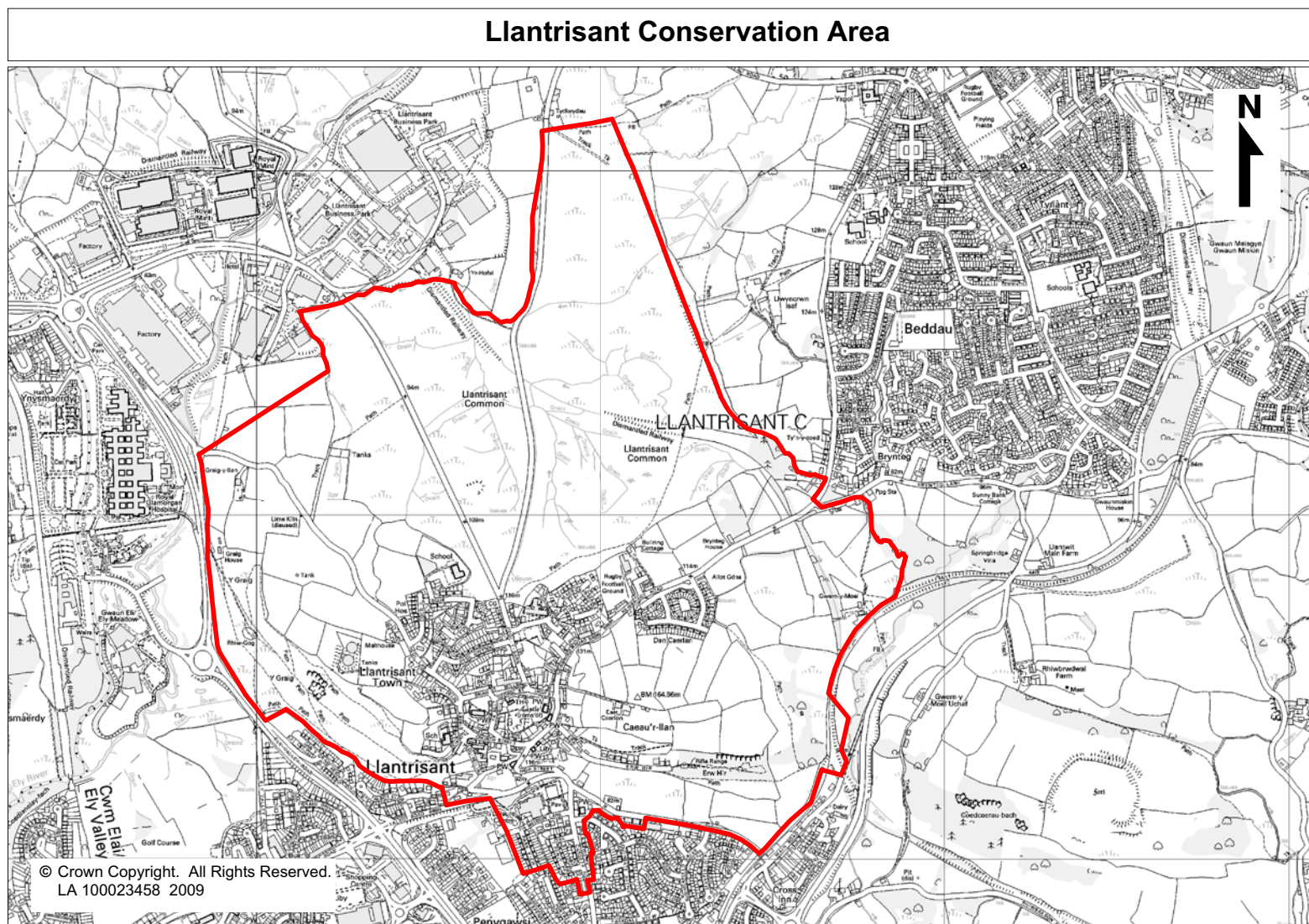


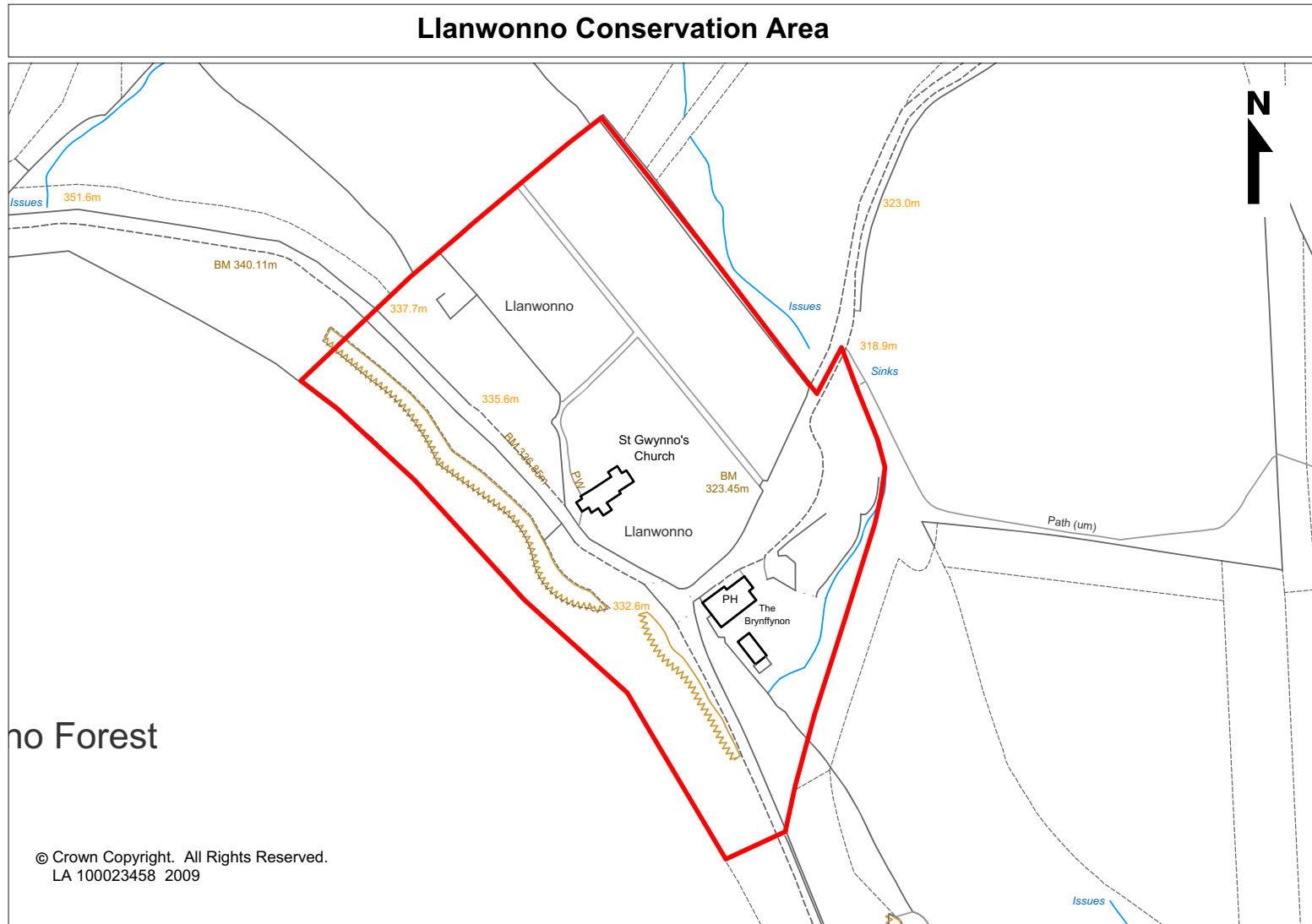
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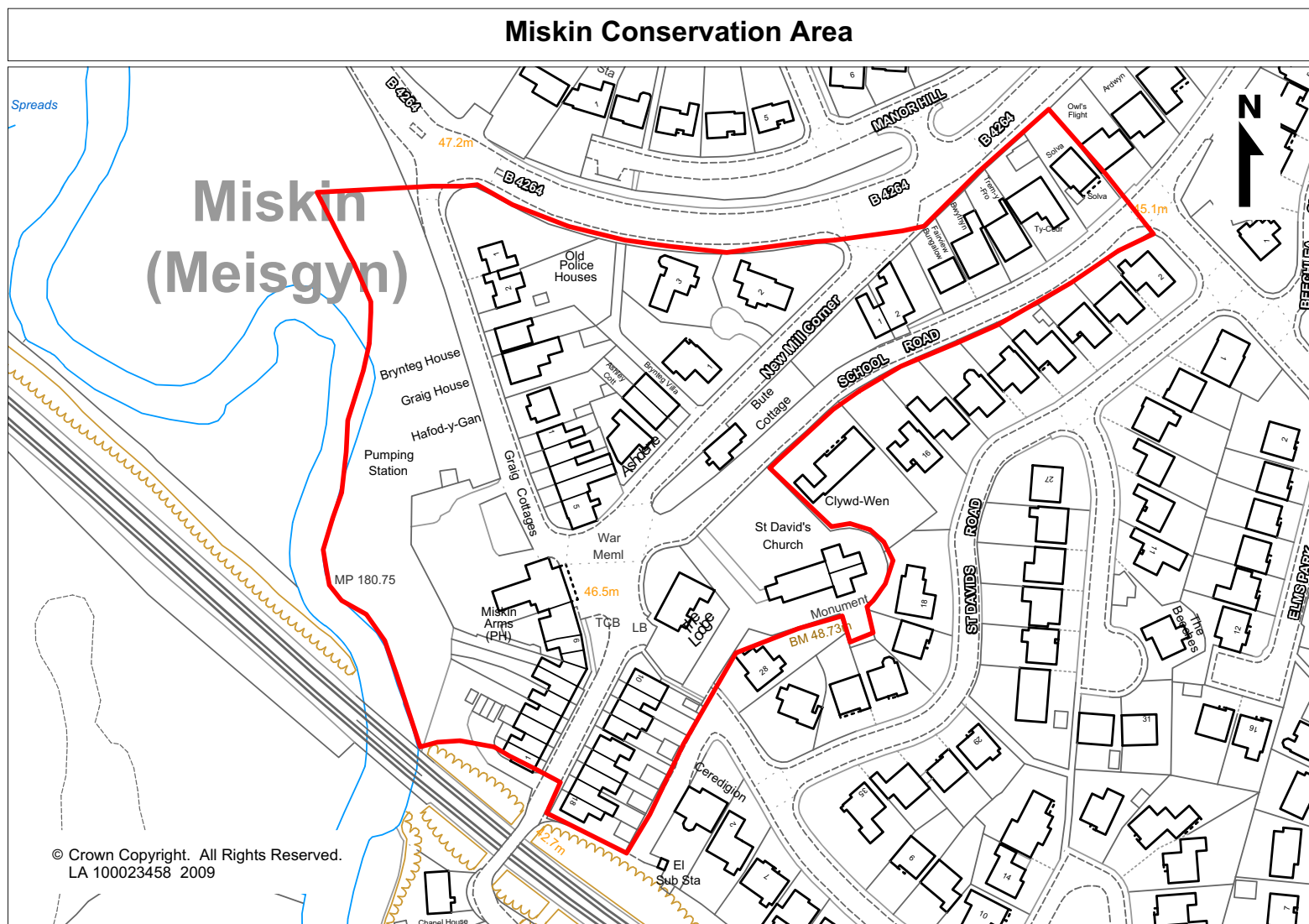


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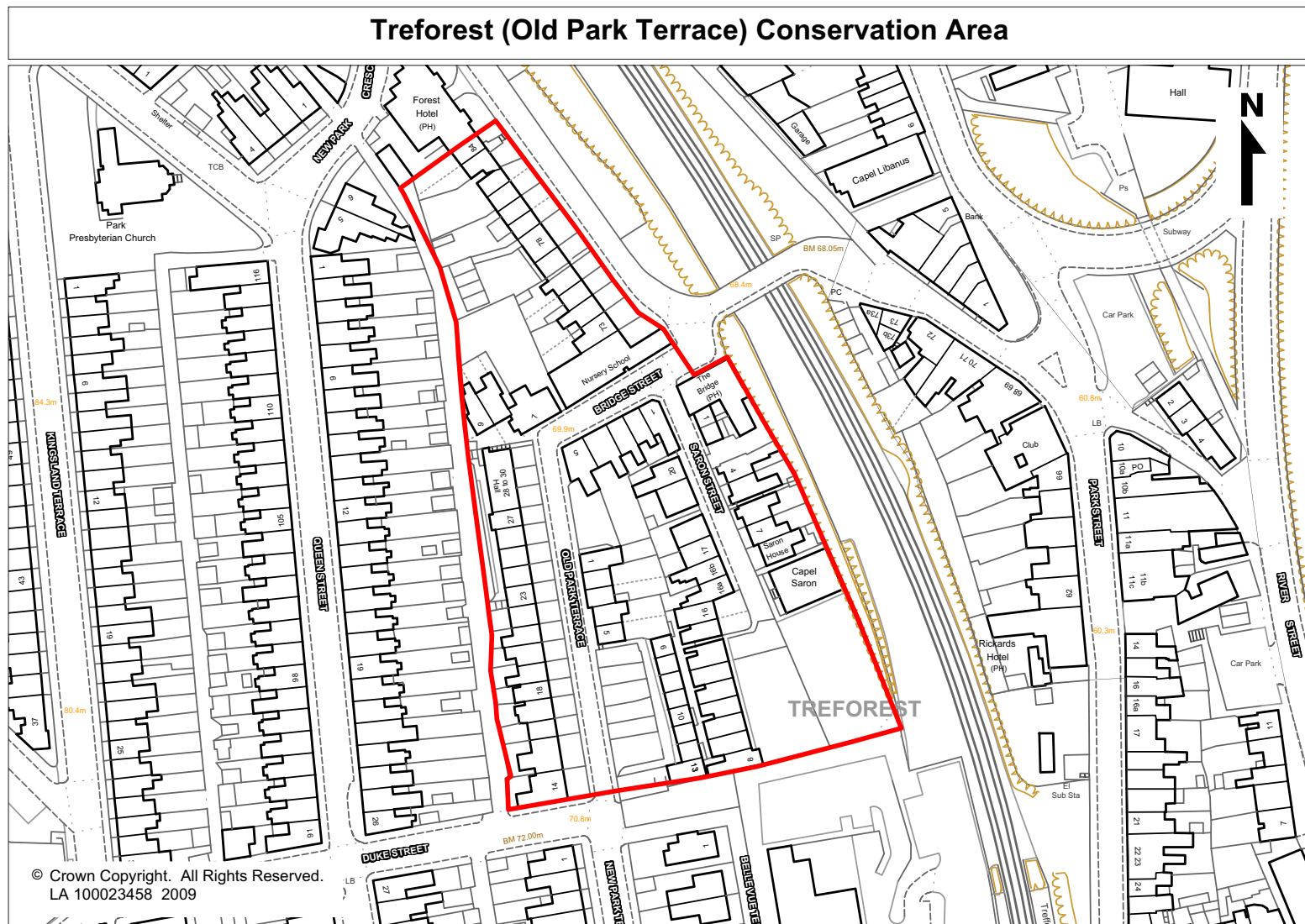




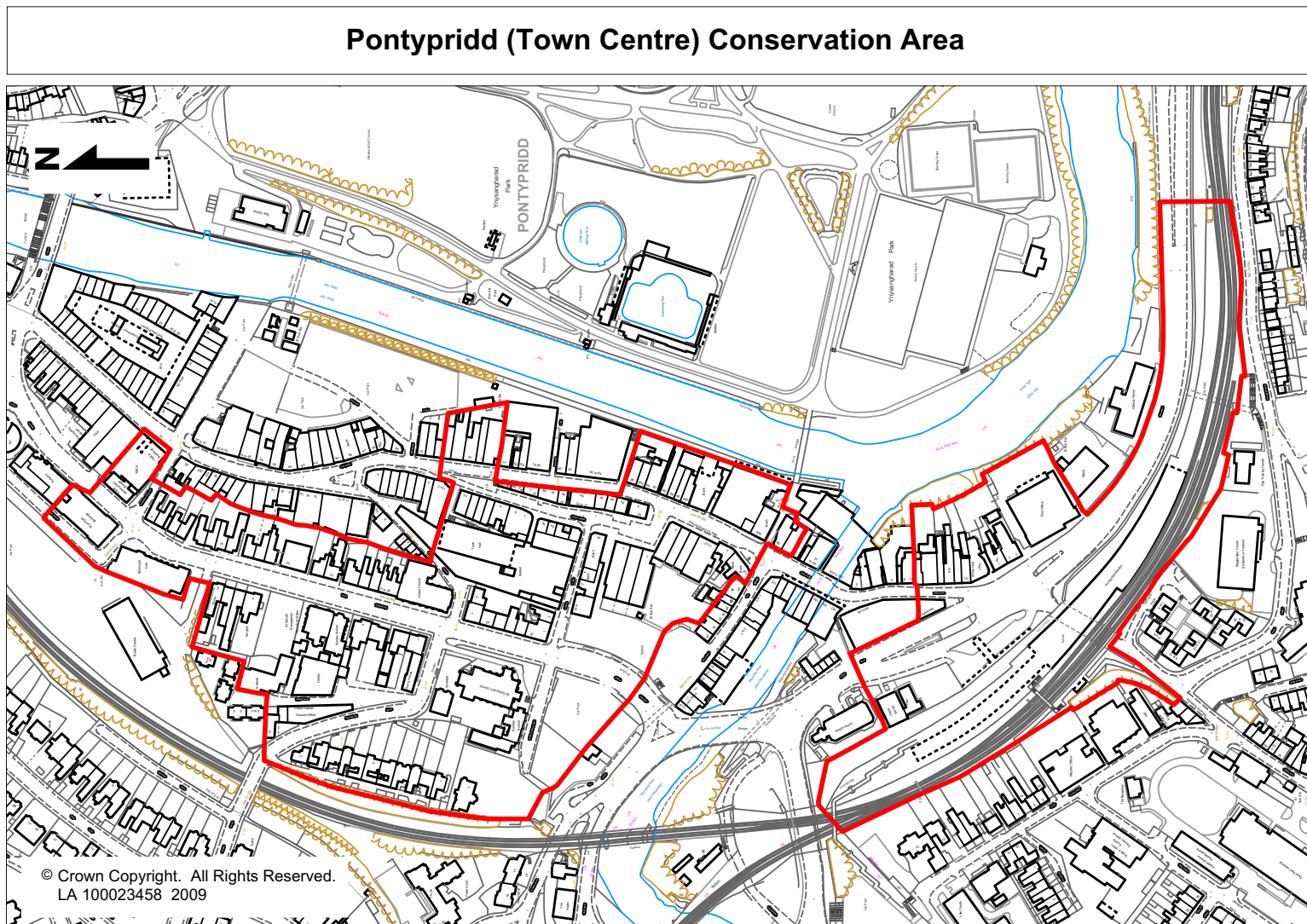
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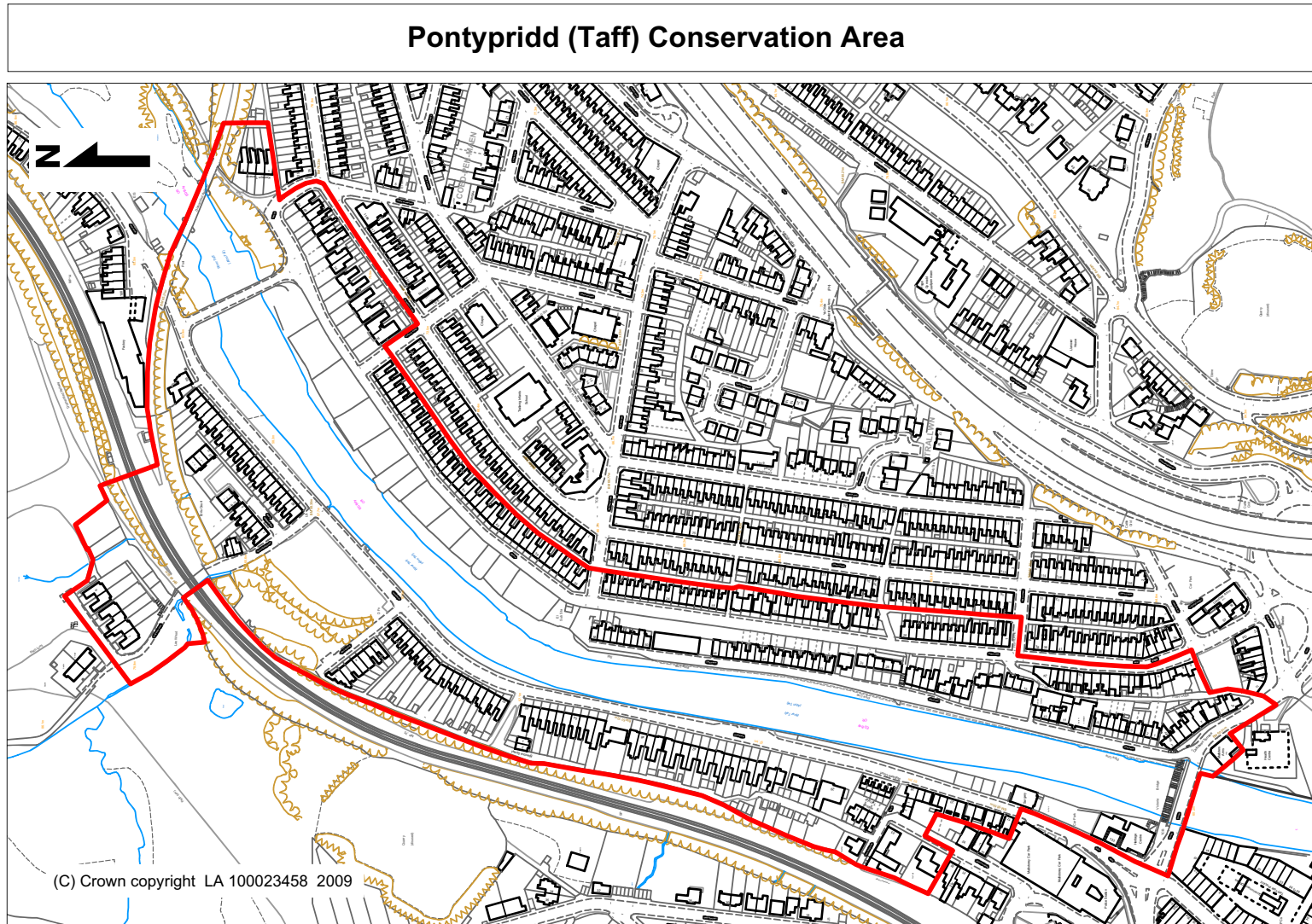
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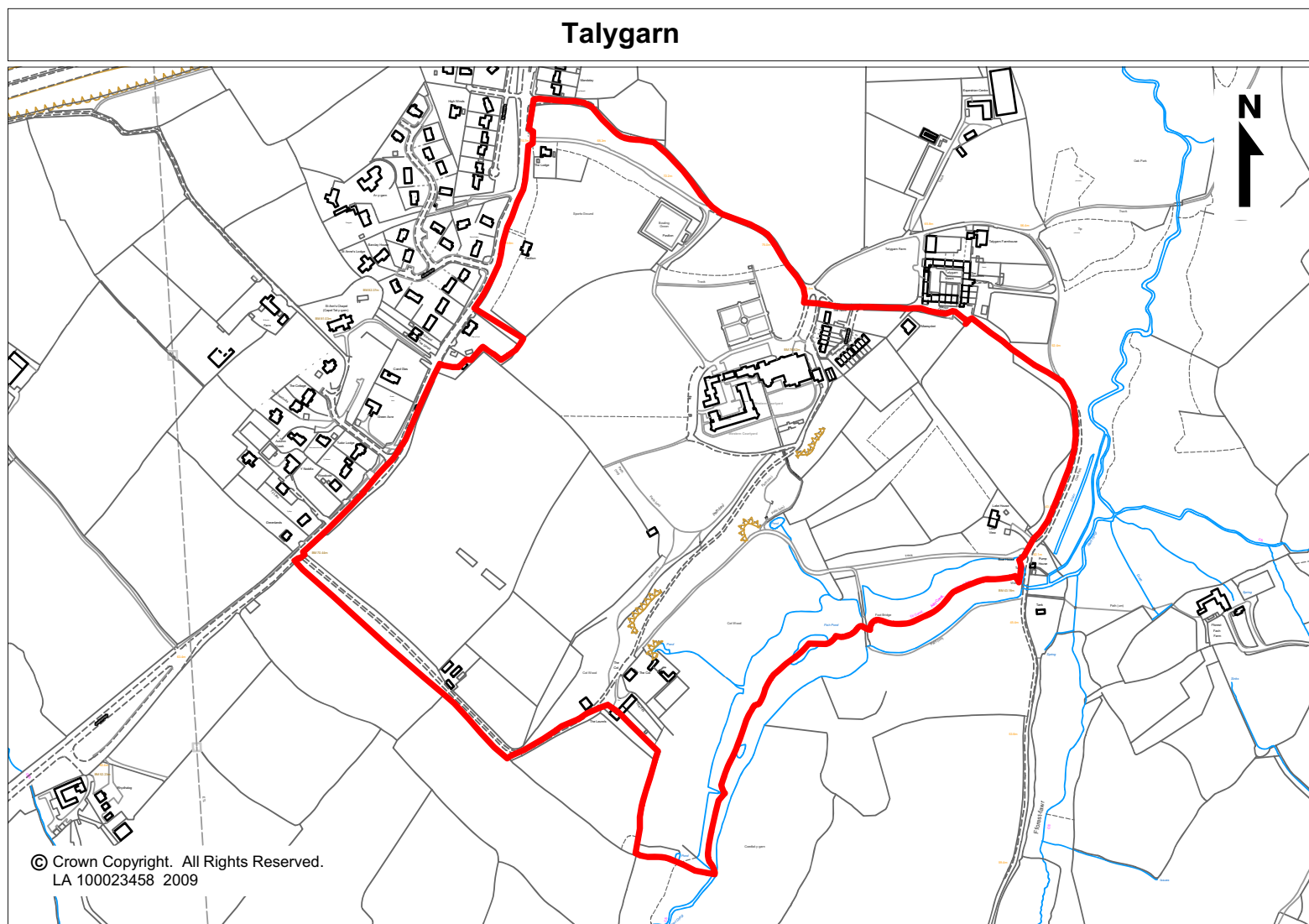
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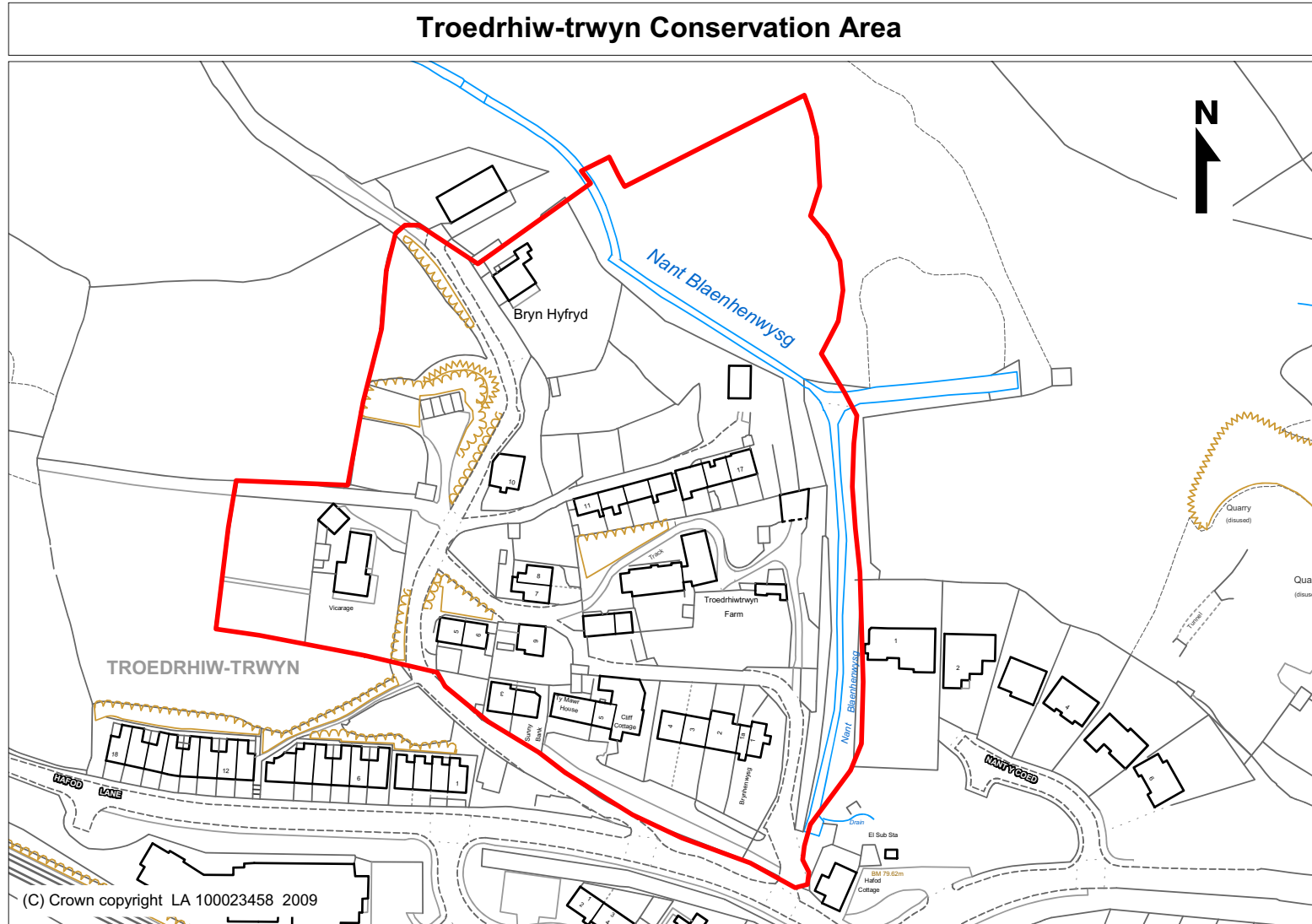


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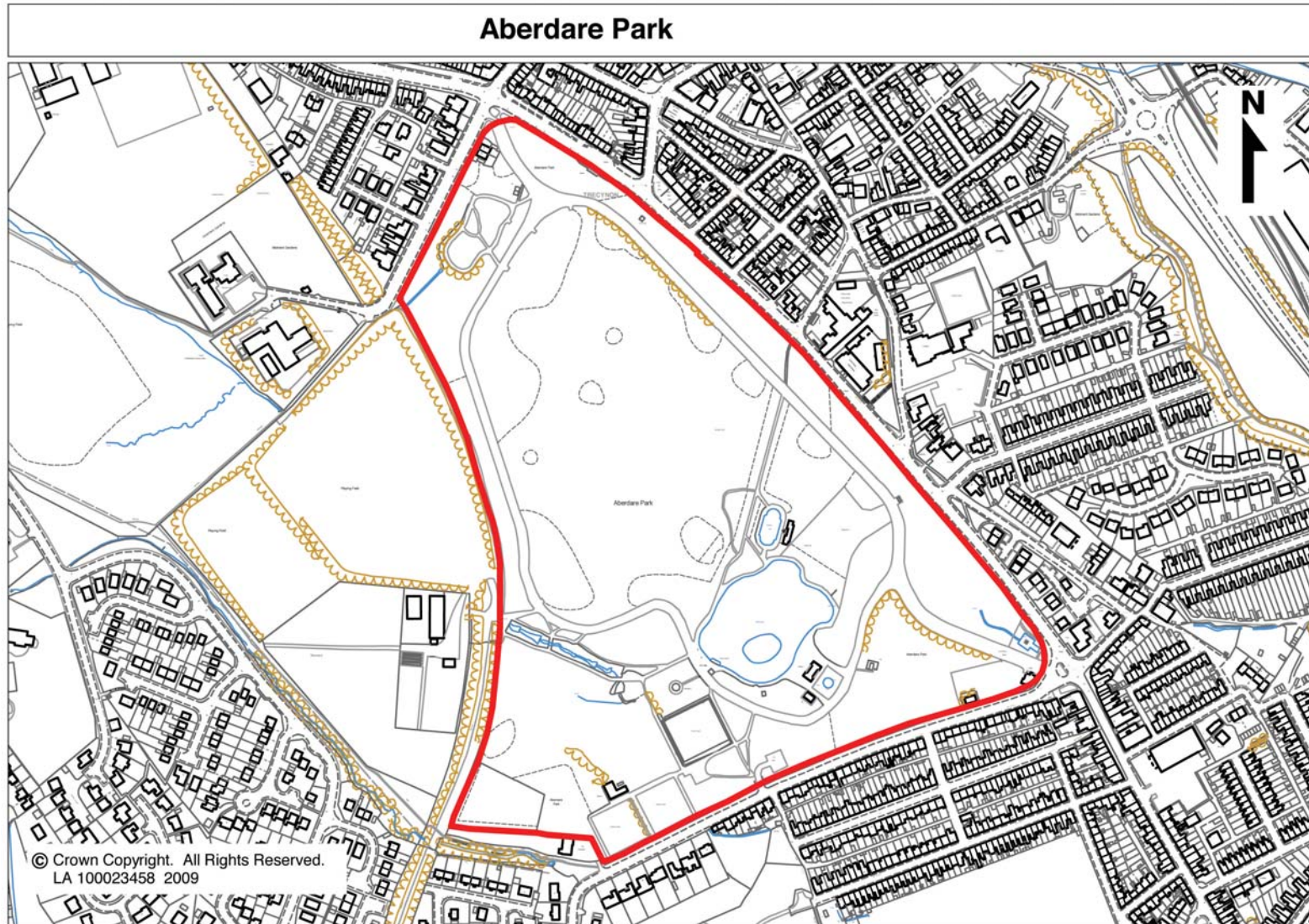




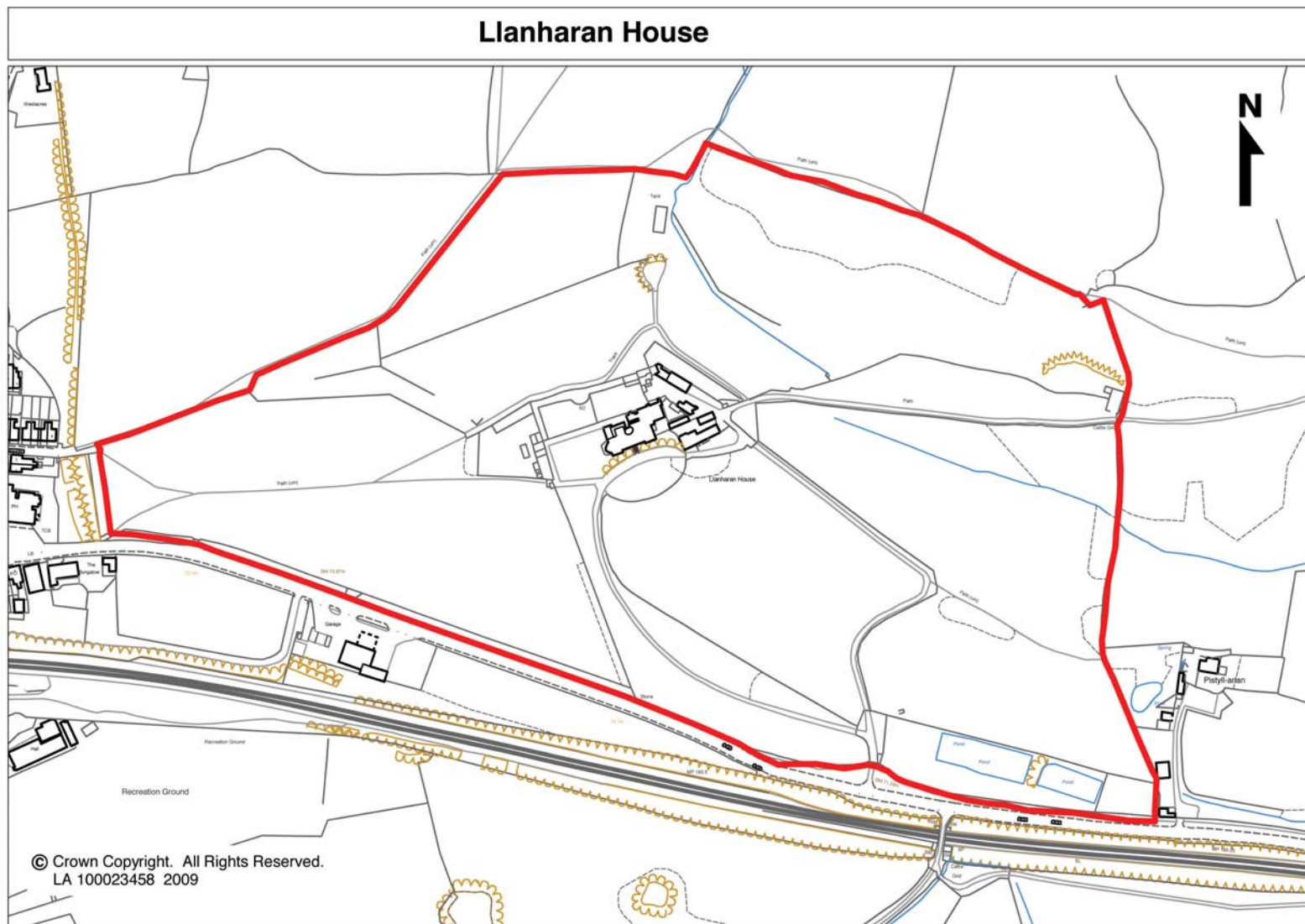
Appendix 7.2 Historic Parks and Gardens Descriptions & Maps

Name of Park or Garden	Location	Grade	Features (Cadw primary reasons for grading)
Aberdare Park	Trecynon, Aberdare	II*	Well-preserved Victorian public park partly laid out by the eminent park and garden designer William Barron. As well as retaining most of its Victorian built features, such as bandstand and fountain, it has an attractive lake and many of the original trees are now fine mature specimens.
Llanharan House	Llanharan	II	A well-preserved, small eighteenth century landscape park provides a beautiful setting for the fine house.
Miskin Manor	Miskin, Pontyclun	II	Well-preserved Edwardian terraced garden with yew topiary and 'king's beasts', in Tudor style to complement the house, and some fine specimen trees. Unusually ornamental walled kitchen garden with remains of canal, pool and flanking yew hedges.
Talygarn	Talygarn, Pontyclun	II*	Extensive remains of the late Victorian gardens and woodland grounds of the well-known industrialist and antiquary George Thomas Clark. The woodland immediately around the formal garden contains some very fine specimen trees, some of them of considerable rarity, planted by Clark.
Ynysangharad Park	Pontypridd	II	Well-preserved 1920s public park, with numerous sports facilities and ornamental features, including bandstand and sunken rockwork garden. Contains some good mature trees, and retains its traditional flowerbeds.
NOTE THAT SOME OF THE ABOVE ARE IN PRIVATE OWNERSHIP, SO PLEASE CHECK BEFORE ACCESSING.			

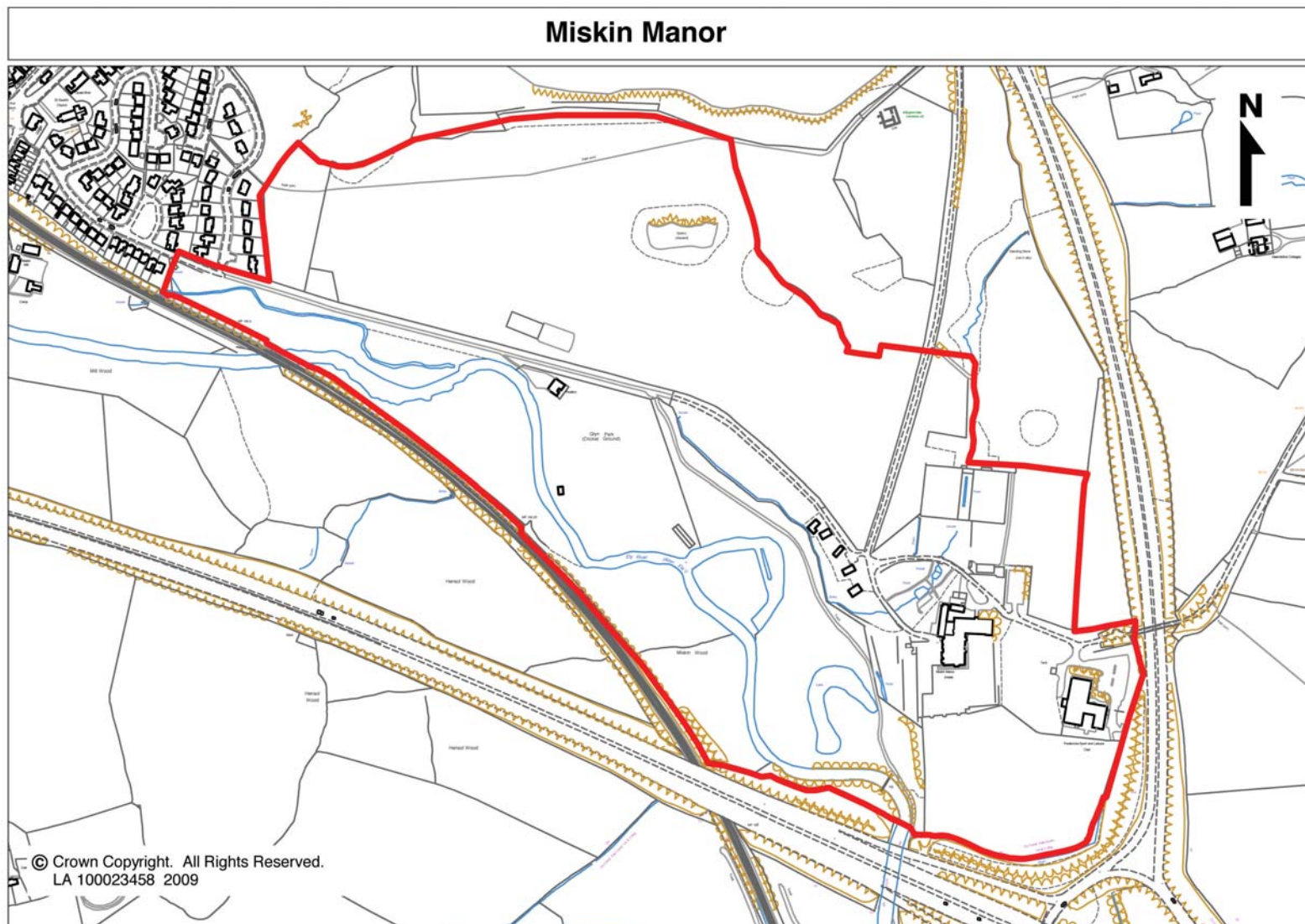
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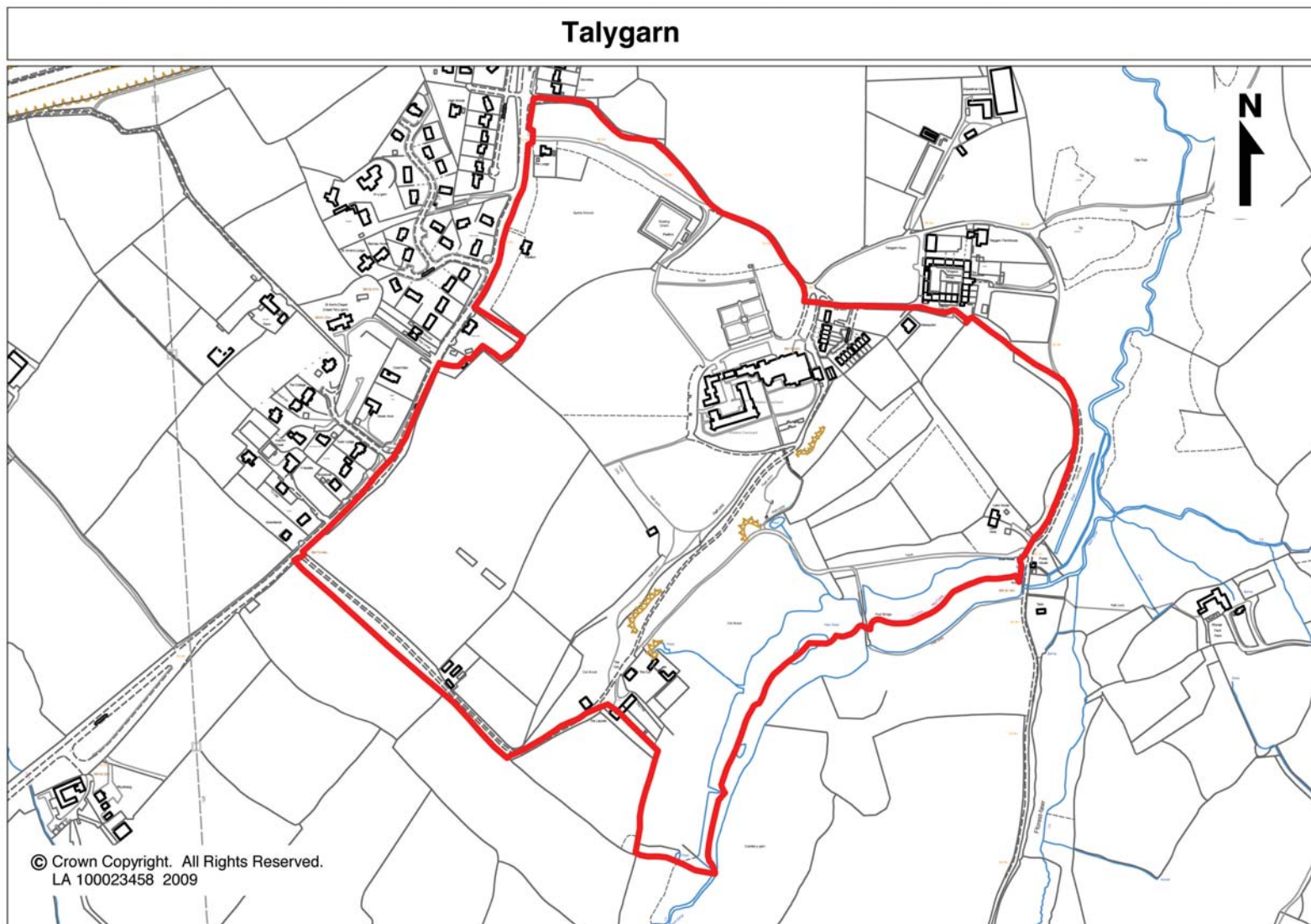
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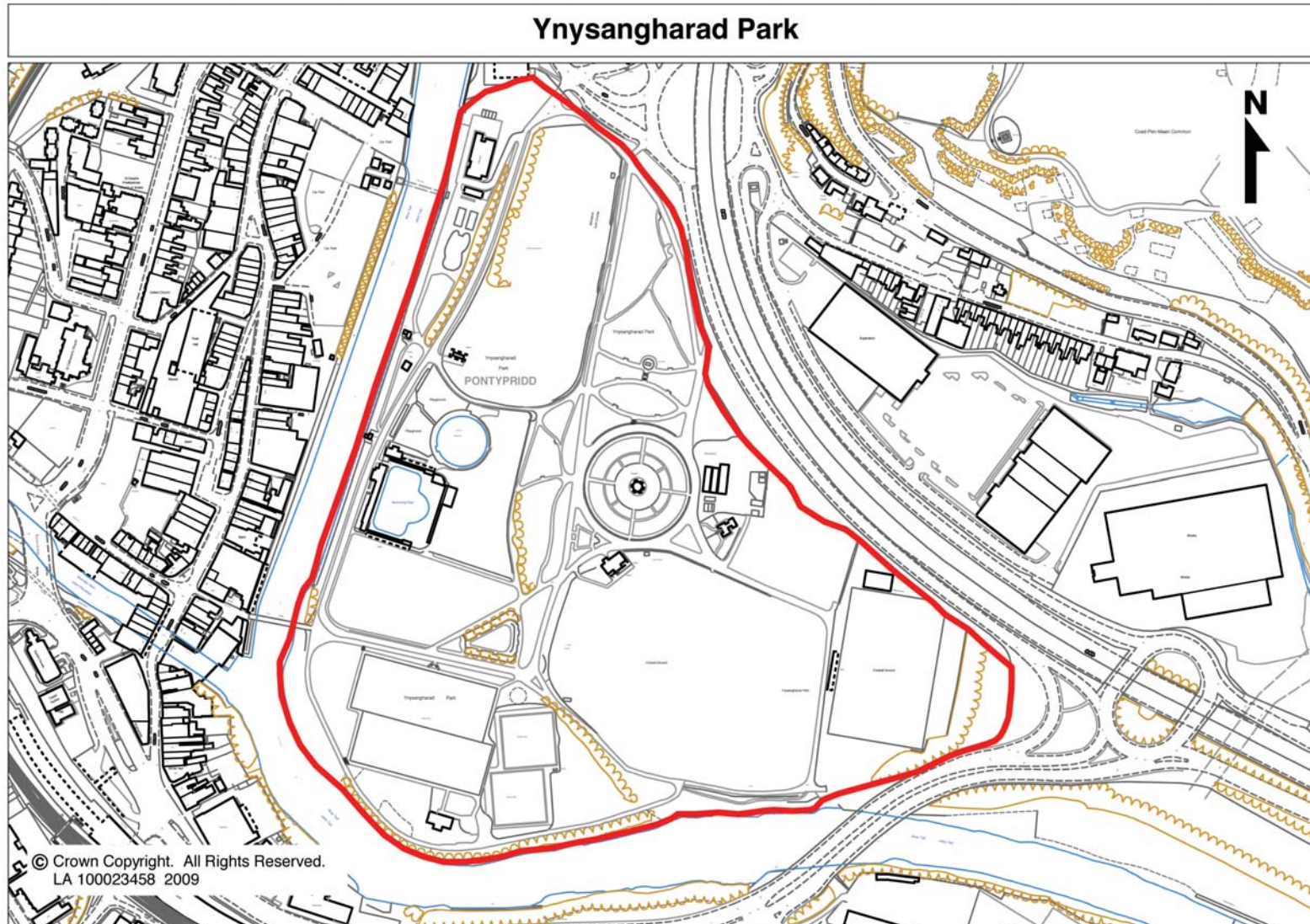
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Key: Red line - Historic Park and Garden Boundary.

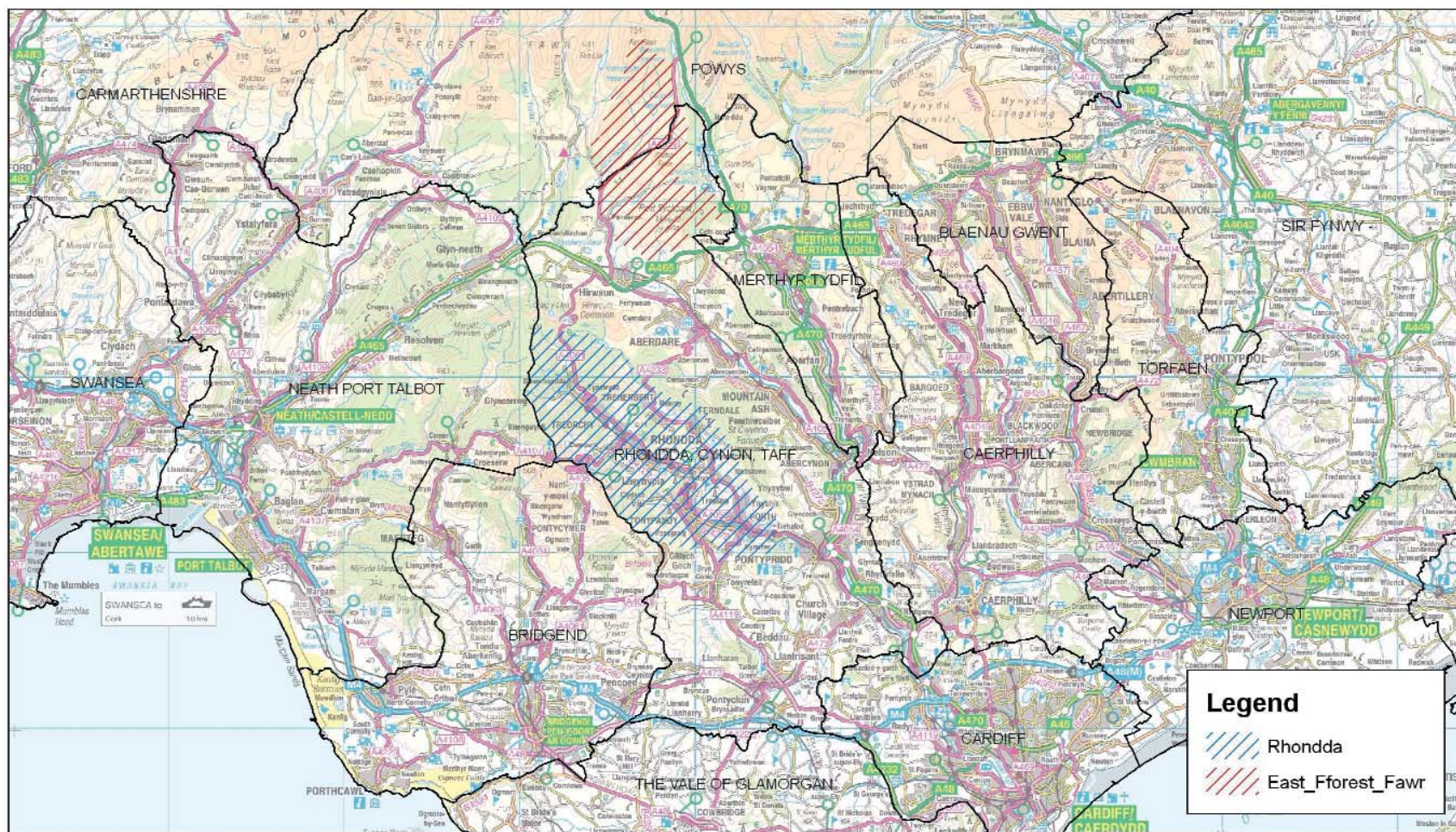


Key: Red line - Historic Park and Garden Boundary.



Appendix 7.3 Historic Landscapes Map

Location Map of Rhondda and East Fforest Fawr Historic Landscape Areas



0 20,000 Meters

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



