



Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site A Development Management Perspective

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Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site

A Development Management Perspective

- Brief introduction to BILWHS
- Planning Policy Framework
- Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)
- Case Studies



- Cultural Landscape created by industry and man during late 18th and early 19th Centuries
- 33 Square Kilometres
- Inscribed as a World Heritage Site in December 2000



Outstanding Universal Value

“The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape is one of the prime areas in the world where the full social, economic and technological process of industrialisation through iron and coal production can be studied and understood”.

Extract from UK Tentative List, June 1999

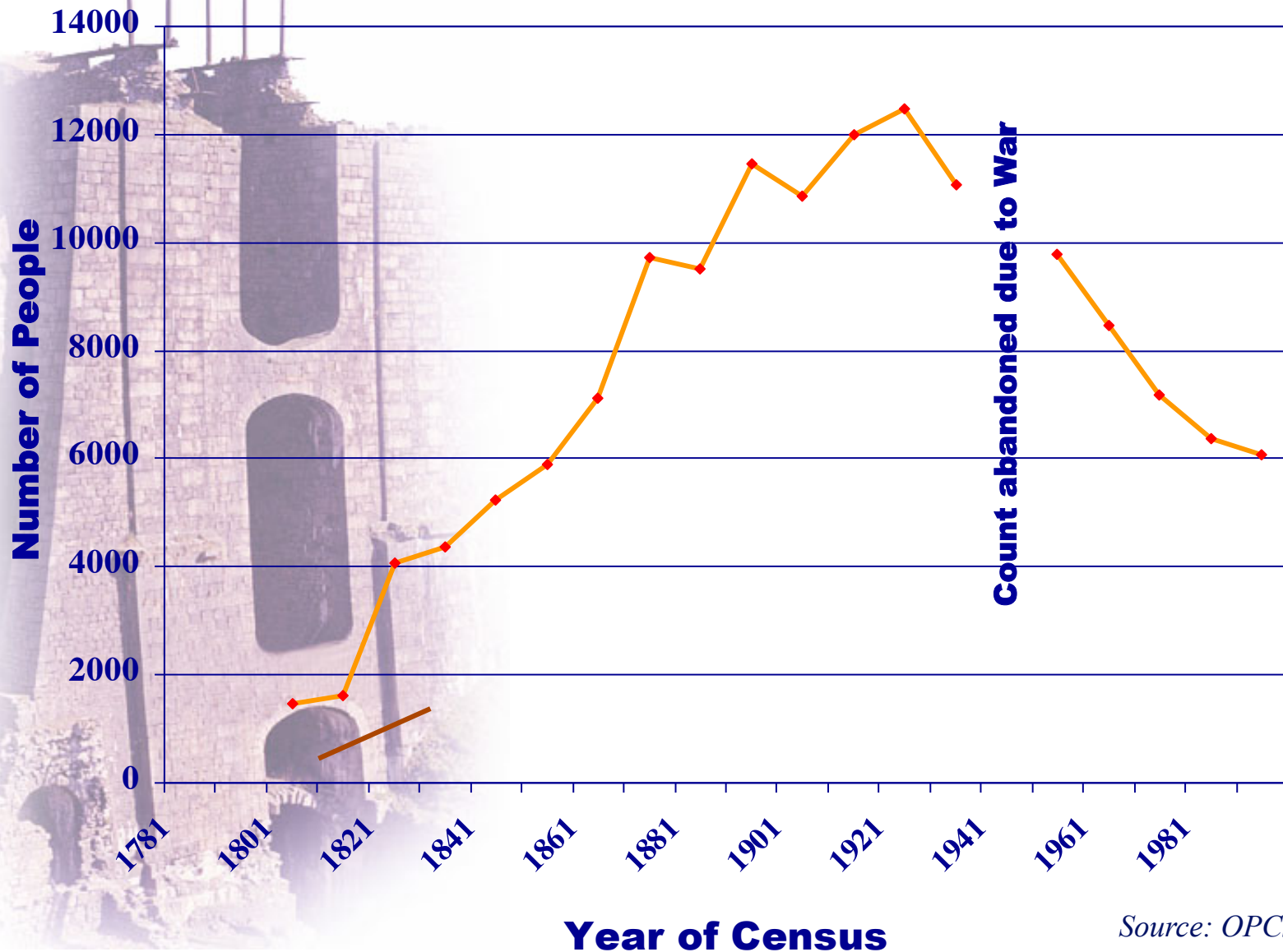


Justification for Inscription



- **Criterion (iii):** *The Blaenavon Landscape constitutes an exceptional illustration in material form of the social and economic structure of 19th century industry.*
- **Criterion (iv):** *The components of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape together make up an outstanding and remarkably complete example of a 19th century industrial landscape.*

Population Growth & Decline

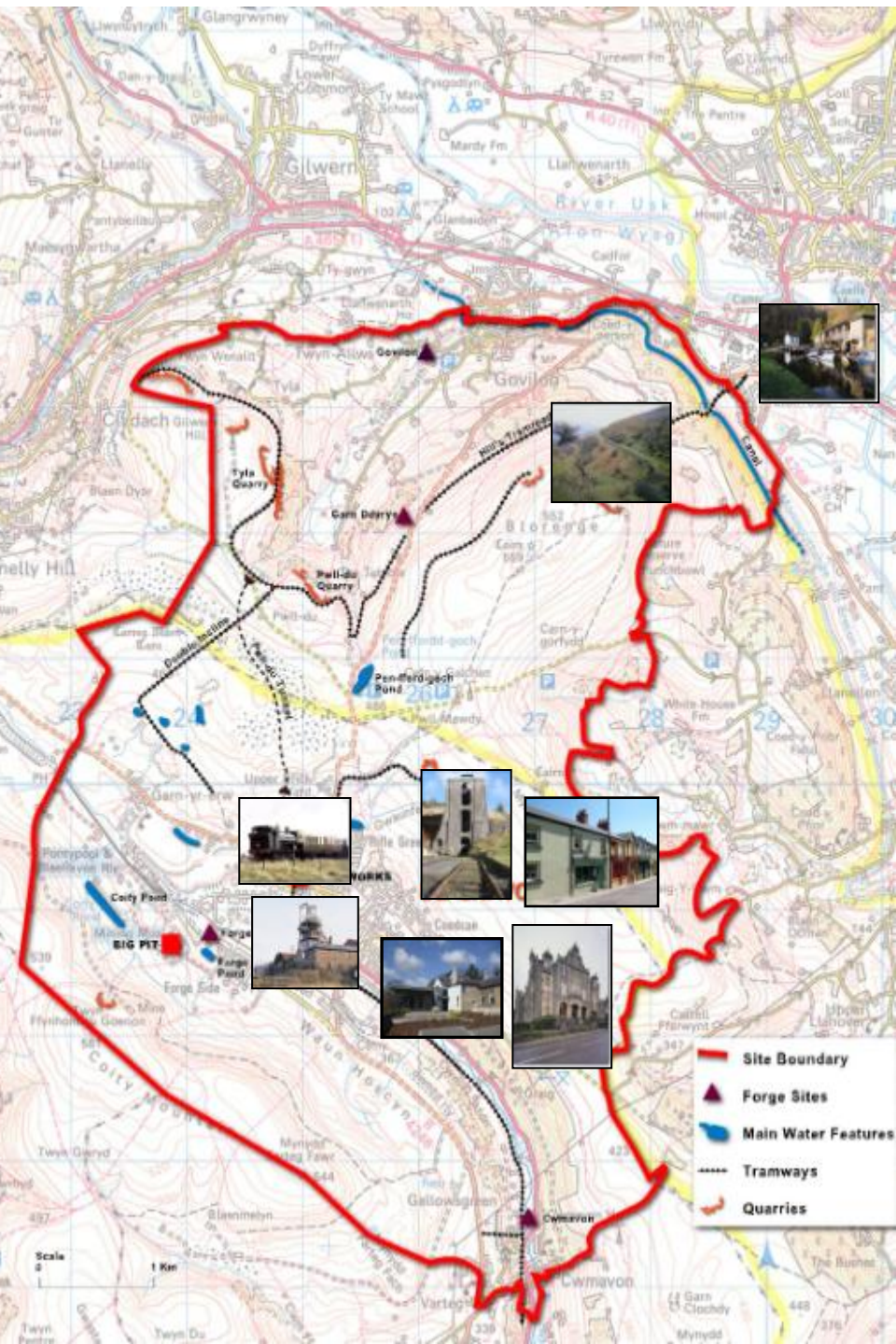


Source: OPCS



Key Features of the Site

- ❖ Blaenavon Ironworks
- ❖ Big Pit National Coal Museum
- ❖ Sources of Coal, Iron Ore and Limestone
- ❖ Transport Systems
- ❖ Management of Water Resources
- ❖ The Forging Side of the Iron Industry
- ❖ Workers' Housing
- ❖ The Town of Blaenavon
- ❖ Llanfoist Wharf



Planning Policy Framework

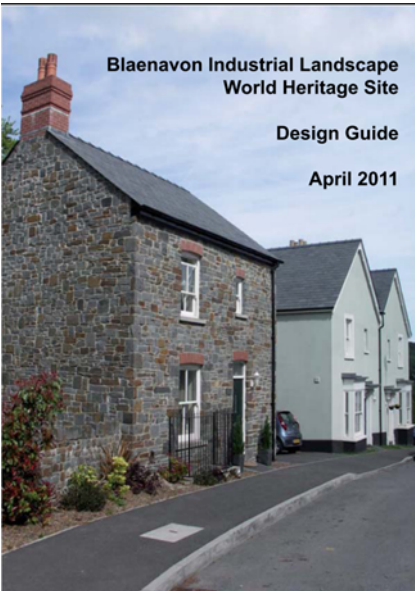
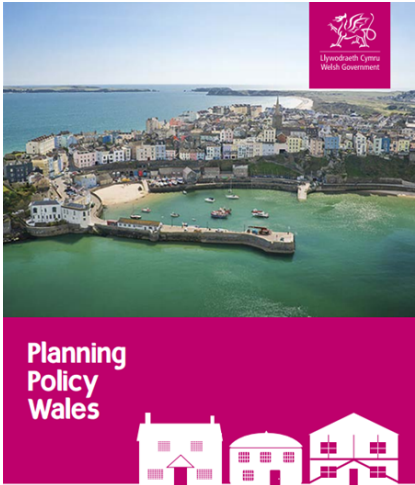
Planning Policy Wales
Edition 6, 2016



Local Development Plan



Blaenavon Industrial
Landscape WHS SPG



Planning Policy Wales Edition 6, 2016

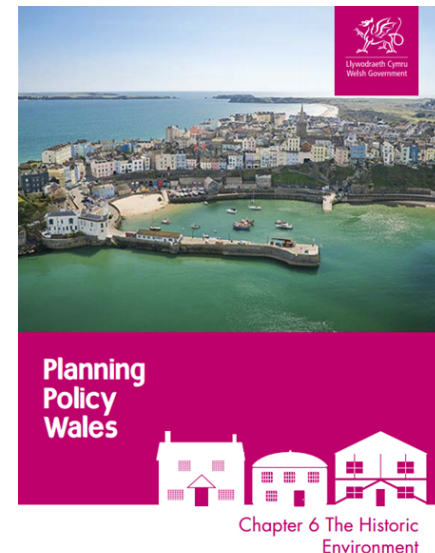
Development plans must reflect that World Heritage Sites have been inscribed by UNESCO because of their Outstanding Universal Value. These sites can also contribute to a national and local sense of community and to sustainable economic development and regeneration.

The adoption of supplementary planning guidance ... is considered to be the most effective way of implementing the conservation of World Heritage Sites.

The impacts of proposed developments on a World Heritage Site and its setting and, where it exists, the World Heritage Site buffer zone, is a material consideration in the determination of any planning application.

Certain permitted development rights are restricted on land in a World Heritage Site.

Cadw is a statutory consultee on planning applications likely to have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site.



Local Development Plan Policy HE2

HE2 Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site (BILWHS)

Development proposals within, and adjacent to the BILWHS will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that: -

- a) The proposal promotes a standard of design in terms of siting, scale, massing and materials, which is sympathetic to and preserves or enhances the character of the local area and settlement form; and
- b) Important views into and within the BILWHS are not adversely affected by the proposals; and
- c) The proposal contributes to ensuring the preservation of the 'Outstanding Universal Value' of the BILWHS designation; and
- d) The proposal would not adversely affect the overall integrity of the BILWHS and its landscape or historic setting.

All development proposals within and adjacent to the World Heritage Site should be informed by the BILWHS Design Guidance and should identify how the proposals are consistent with the principles in this document.



Blaenavon Industrial Landscape WHS SPG

Provides guidance on,

- Design principles for new buildings and sites
- Repair, reinstatement and improvement to buildings of heritage value and extensions to buildings pre 1914
- Alterations, extensions and repair to buildings post 1914

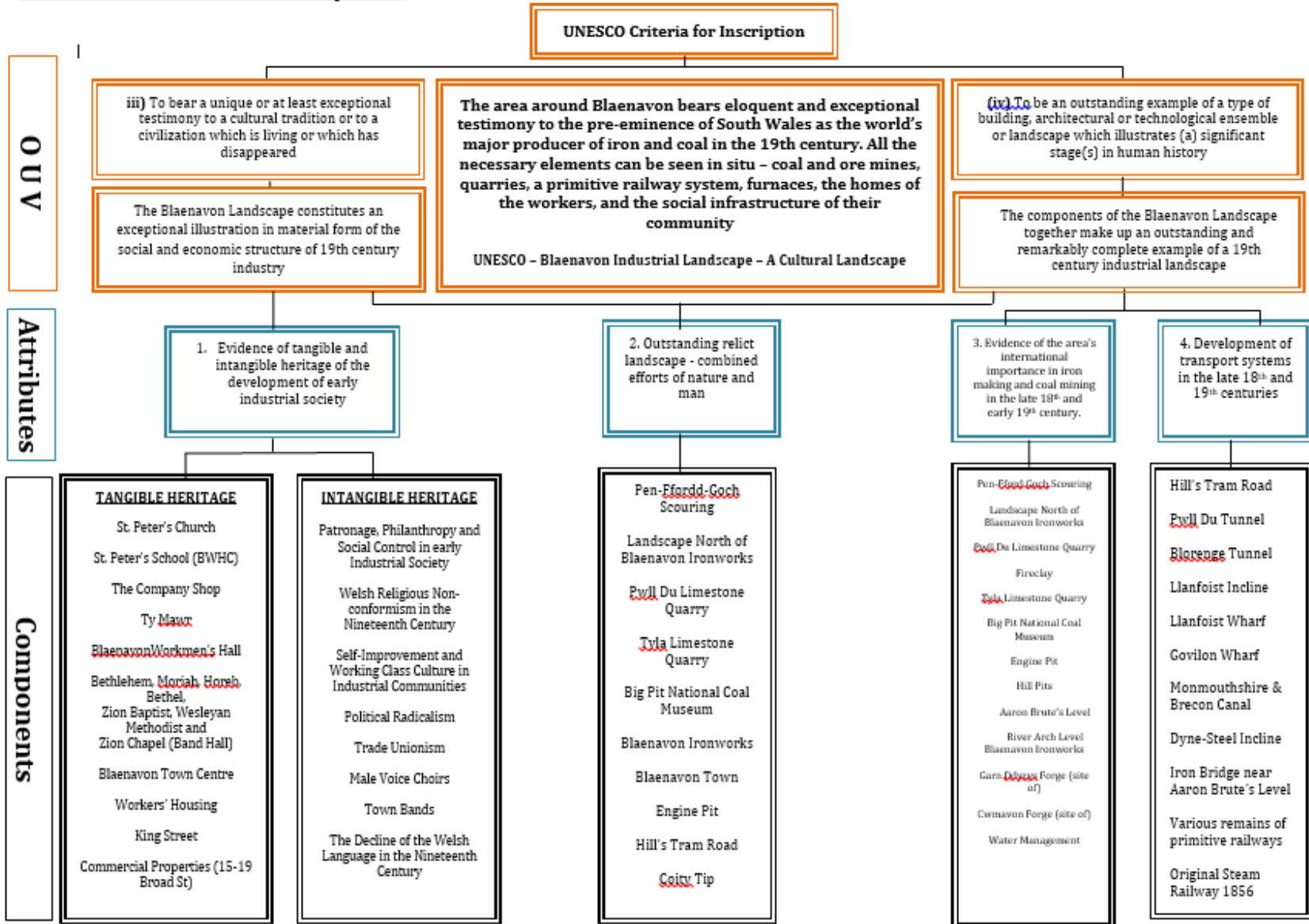
Covers issues such as,

- Roof designs and materials
- Window & door designs
- Signage
- Boundary treatments



Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)

Blaenavon WHS Attributes and Components



Single Dwelling

Key Issue: Recognising the significance of industrial relic which contributes to OUV



Residential Development

Key issues:

- Design
- Views
- Viability



Residential Development - New Road Farm





Residential Development – Hillside School



Residential Development – King Street



Industrial Development

Historic industrial town

Key Issues:

- Securing economic benefits/jobs
- Promoting good design



Abergavenny Fine Foods







In distant views, from higher ground, it is the roof which is the most prominent element of the building. The colour and reflective qualities should be considered carefully to minimise the visual impact on the landscape setting of the area as a whole.



Varteg Opencast Mining

Proposal for the extraction of coal through open cast mining and a subsequent land reclamation scheme.

Application site 62 ha, of which around 20 ha were within the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site, and the remaining within the proposed Buffer Zone for the BILWHS.

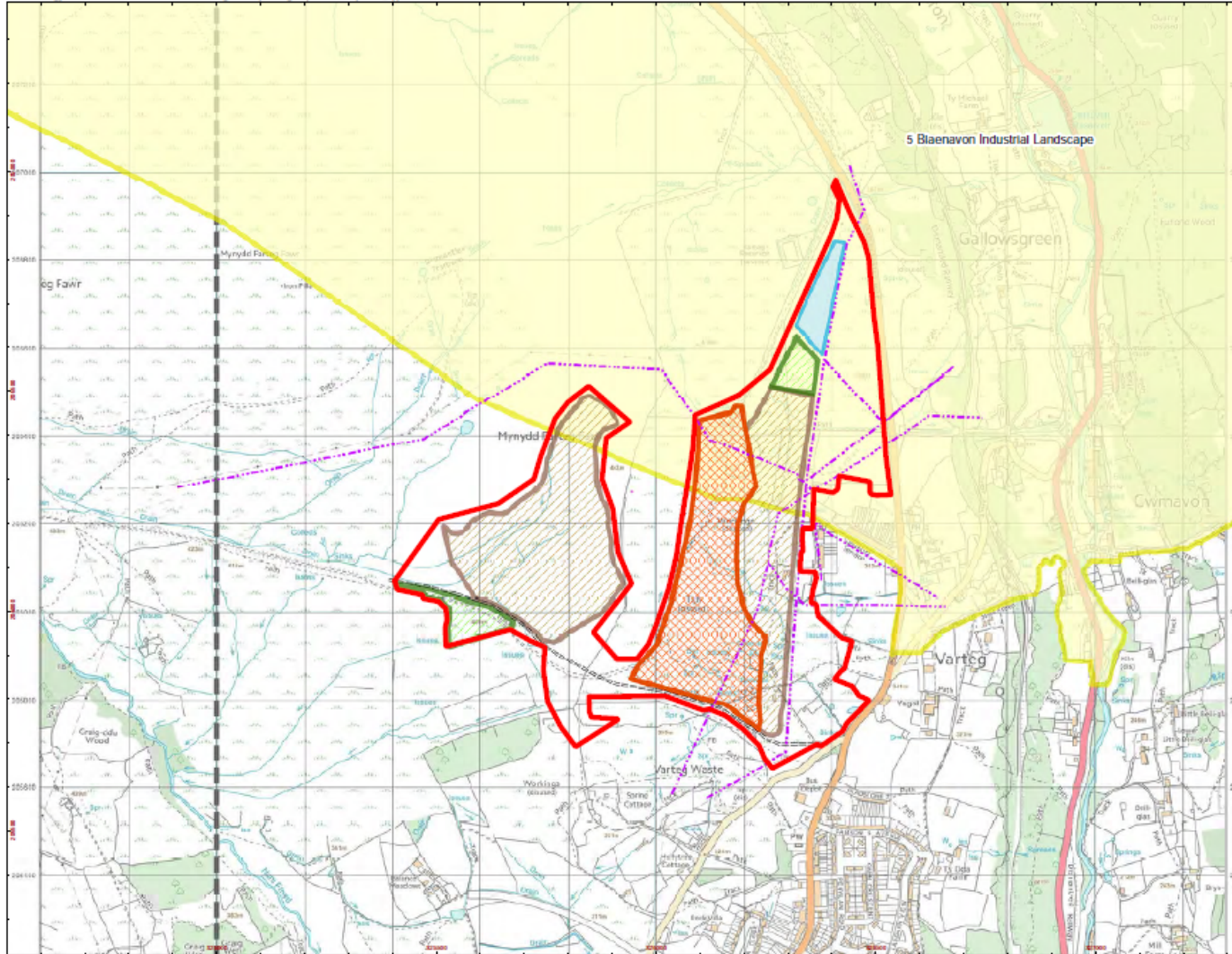
This proposal was originally submitted in 2006 and refused by Torfaen Council in 2011 and also dismissed at appeal. A revised scheme received in 2014 but subsequently withdrawn.

Accompanied by an ASIDHOL

Objection from Cadw & concerns expressed by ICOMOS

Direct impact upon OUV of BILWHS





Cgms
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- Site Boundary
- - - Power lines
- track to farm
- Limit of excavation
- Site compound
- Soil Dumps
- Overburden Dumps
- World Heritage Site



Land Reclamation/Coal Recovery Scheme, Varteg Hill, Torfaen
Appendix 13.3b:
Proposed development plan in relation to World Heritage Site

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Conclusion

Development Management within Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site

Main challenge is the juxtaposition between Blaenavon as a living town and safeguarding the historic environment and Outstanding Universal Value of the WHS. Managing appropriate change.