

**GELLIARGWELLT UCHAF FARM, GELLIGAER ROAD,
GELLIGAER, HENGOED, CF82 8FY**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ANAEROBIC DIGES-
TION FACILITIES**

Landscape and Visual Statement

September 2023

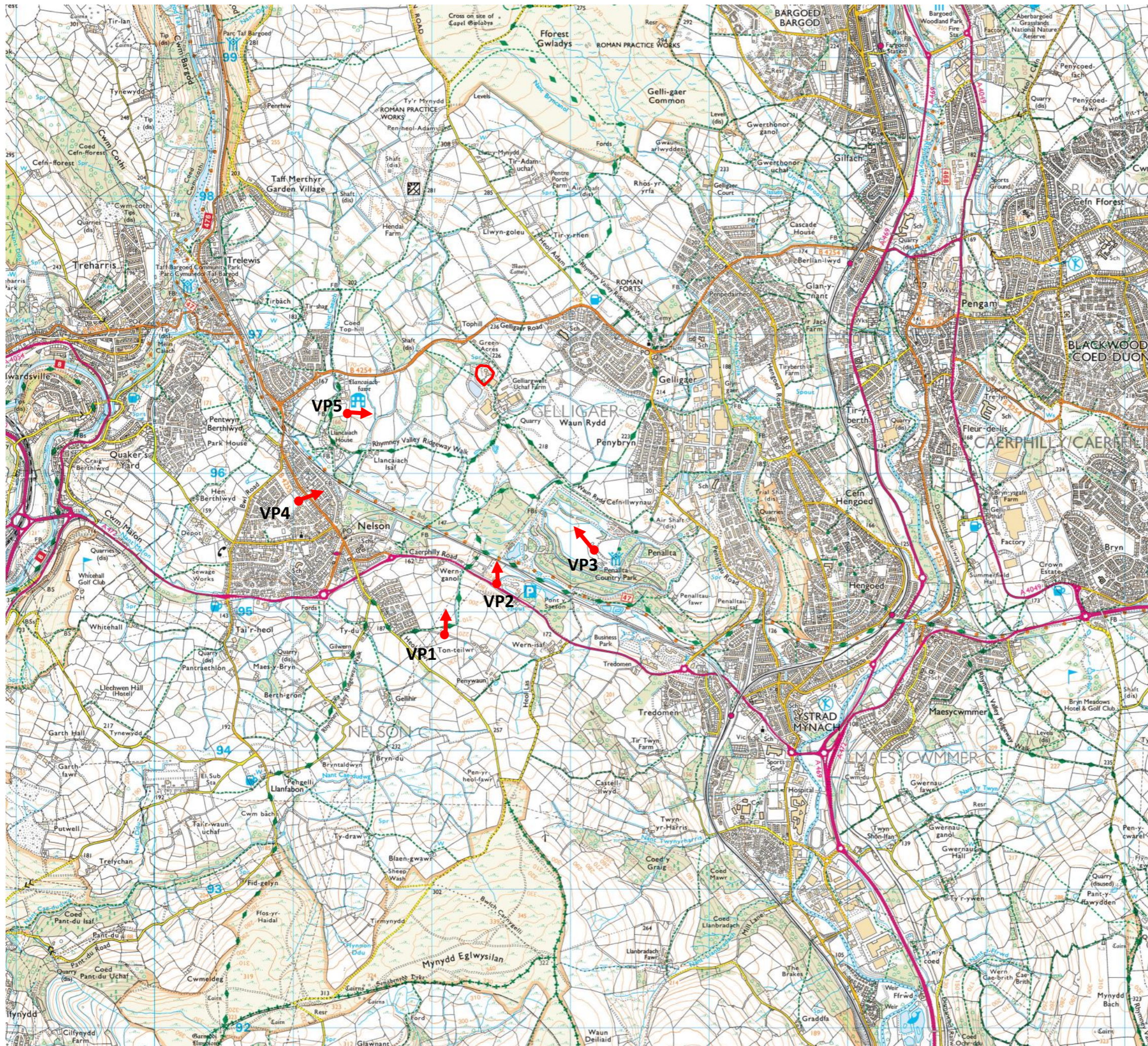
Appendix:

Viewpoint Illustrations

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VIEWPOINT LOCATION PLAN
Fig MLD/01



Viewpoint VP1: From a public right of way footpath located to the south-east of Nelson on the access track to the farmstead of Ton-teilwr, within the SLA. *Note:* the route of the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway promoted footpath here has been diverted onto this farm track; the mapped route nearby is impassable. Steel high-voltage overhead electricity line towers, which can be seen in the viewpoint crossing the valley, are a detracting feature of this part of the SLA, as are the visually raw built edge of settlements such as Gelligaer in the background. Another visual intrusion comes from a number of single wind turbines within the local landscape, three of which can be seen in the background breaking the skyline.

Only the roofs of the light-coloured buildings of the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) are visible, as they are visually well contained by a combination of topography and earthwork bunding where previous mitigation tree and shrub planting has become well established. This same combination of mitigation earthworks and planting also contains the existing Anaerobic Digester (AD) facilities. These facilities include 2 grey green tanks, the upper sections of which can be seen beyond the MRF. These tanks have a backdrop of existing mature tree cover and this backdrop, combined with the muted green colour, results in them being visually recessive and a minor element in this view. The proposed development consists of 2 further tanks (already consented in the existing AD planning approval but proposed in slightly adjusted positions but still very close to the existing) and a new flue. This flue would be 19m compared with a currently consented height of 10m. In this viewpoint the approximately 14m height flue of the In Vessel Composting (IVC) facility can barely be seen in the context of the present context of buildings and landscape and at this separation distance. It is unlikely that the proposed 19m flue would be significantly more visible and would be a negligible element in this view.

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VIEWPOINT VP1

Figure MLD/02



Viewpoint VP2: View from the entrance to a public parking area for Penallta Country Park off Caerphilly Road. Planting in the Country Park is continuing to be strongly established including in the foreground of this publicly accessible viewpoint. This vegetation does much to screen the existing complex of buildings at Bryn in viewpoints from the park. In addition, however, there is the substantial screening provided by earth bunding and well established mitigation planting at the Bryn facilities. Any visual change from the proposed AD expansion will be barely discernible from this location.

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VIEWPOINT VP2

Figure MLD/03



Viewpoint VP3: From the 'Sultan' Pit Pony sculpture in Penallta Country Park - a striking land sculpture within Penallta Country Park, a well-used public facility constructed on a reclaimed colliery spoil tip, within the SLA. The eastern elevations of part of the MRF buildings are visible above the surrounding woodland cover and mitigation planting. The existing AD and IVC facilities are barely discernible including the flue associated with the latter. It is possible that the proposed higher 19m flue might just be visible but set within the same context of existing buildings and with a backdrop of mature vegetation. Therefore any visual effects from the proposed development are anticipated to be negligible.

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VIEWPOINT VP3

Figure MLD/04



Viewpoint VP4: View towards the Bryn recycling facility from the access road to Nelson Rugby Football Club. The photograph also shows some of residential properties in Nelson with views across the valley towards the Site. Landform and tree cover screen significant parts of the complex of existing buildings at Bryn, although the light colours and sharp angles of parts of the recently constructed concrete retaining wall are clearly discernible. (As part of an already submitted application for a MRF storage yard, a new landscape bund would wrap around the western edge of the yard and native tree and shrub planting on the new earthworks would tie in with the existing established planting below the main MRF building as well as the mature woodland on the valley sides. The proposed landscape mitigation would also assist in the visual mitigation of the concrete wall, although it should be noted that this structure has previously received planning consent). The IVC flue can be just seen in this photo as well as a more visible flue on the skyline at the Bryn dairy farm. The new AD 19m flue is likely to be visible but largely seen against a backdrop of mature tree vegetation, this, together with its proposed muted green colour, limiting the degree of visual effect. The slight repositioning of the approved 2 further tanks will have negligible visual effect.

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VIEWPOINT VP4

Figure MLD/05



Viewpoint VP5: A view from the boundary of the southern parking area at Llancaiach Fawr. The Listed Buildings are significant Caerphilly heritage asset with high levels of public use all year round, but there appears to be no view from them to the Bryn site. The viewpoint is a worst-case scenario from the periphery of the visitor parking area. Even from this location on the very edge of the Llancaiach site, the extensive buildings at the Bryn Group waste recycling facility are barely visible above the young woodland and the Gelliargwellt dairy farm is completely screened by intervening tree cover. The 14m high IVC flue can barely be seen and although, the proposed flue is higher, at 19m, the visual change from this viewpoint is likely to be negligible.

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VIEWPOINT VP5

Figure MLD/06