

Caerphilly County Borough
2nd Replacement Local Development Plan 2020-2035

EB33: Green Wedge Review

October 2026

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL CAERFFILI

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH
2ND REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
(2RLDP) 2020 – 2035

EVIDENCE BASE
EB33
GREEN WEDGE
REVIEW SUMMARY

OCTOBER 2026

LDP@CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK

INTRODUCTION

This assessment summary outlines the review undertaken of Green Wedge designations and presents the Council's conclusions regarding their retention and amendment within the Deposit Plan of the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan (2RLDP) for Caerphilly County Borough.

Our landscapes are fundamental environmental resources that contribute to the identity, character and distinctiveness of the County Borough. Green Wedges are strategically non-statutory designated areas of open land located between settlements or around urban areas that are intended to control the outward expansion of development, prevent the coalescence of neighbouring settlements and maintain the openness and character of the countryside.

In planning terms, they help to preserve the distinct identity of communities, protect important landscape settings and provide opportunities for recreation, biodiversity conservation and wider green and blue infrastructure functions. Green Wedges can also contribute to climate resilience by safeguarding natural drainage, ecological connectivity and areas of open space.

The Council’s Adopted Local Development Plan (2010) designated twenty-four Green Wedges within the County Borough. These areas have prevented the coalescence of settlements and have maintained the openness of many areas. This assessment summary identifies whether these designations should be amended or retained as part of the Deposit Plan for the 2RLDP.

EXISTING DESIGNATIONS

The Adopted LDP (2010) designated twenty-four Green Wedges at the following locations.

These were:

- Llechryd and Rhymney
- Fochriw and Pontlottyn
- Rhymney and Abertysswg
- Brithdir and Tirphil
- Argoed and Markham
- Aberbargoed, Cefn Fforest and Pengam
- Penpedairheol, Gilfach and Tir y Berth
- Blackwood, Cwm Gelli, Cefn Fforest
- Blackwood, Oakdale and Penmaen
- Croespenmaen and Treowen
- West of Nelson
- Gelligaer, Penybryn and Penpedairheol
- Pengam, Blackwood and Pontllanfraith
- Newbridge and Abercarn
- Cefn Hengoed, Hengoed, Ystrad Mynach & Fleur de Lys
- Maesycwmmer, Pontllanfraith and Fleur de Lys
- Maesycwmmer and Ystrad Mynach
- Cwmcarn and Pontywaun
- Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu
- Penyrheol, Hendredenny and Abertridwr
- Llanbradach and Pwllypant
- Bedwas and Caerphilly
- Machen, Graig y Rhacca and Waterloo
- Ty Sign and Pontymister

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Green Wedges

The designation of the twenty-four Green Wedges as part of the Adopted LDP was informed by a study undertaken on behalf of the local authority based on the relevant guidance set out within national planning policy. The fundamental underpinnings of the Green Wedge designation have not changed. They are designated to prevent coalescence between urban settlements and maintain openness.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) makes it clear that Green Wedges are a strategic planning tool intended to control urban form and prevent inappropriate development, rather than a landscape designation based on scenic quality. They should only be designated where there is a demonstrable need to restrain development pressure and where the designation serves a clear planning purpose.

The County Borough has a distinct valleys landscape, with many settlements developing in a linear form along valley corridors. In certain locations, only narrow areas of open land remain between neighbouring settlements. Without the designation of a Green Wedge, these settlements could merge, reducing the clear distinction between neighbouring communities.

The existing twenty-four designations consist of the main pinch points between existing settlements. A review of these areas to identify new Green Wedge areas found no suitable candidate sites for designation. The main sites for potential consideration are already designated. The existing designations continue to protect the most important settlement gaps where development pressure is present.

While these areas were initially designated some time ago within the Adopted LDP (2010), the underlying methodology, evidence base and assessment principles remain robust and relevant. The fundamental characteristics, qualities and functions of each designation have not materially changed and continue to provide a sound basis for understanding and informing planning decisions.

It is therefore the position of the local planning authority to retain the existing Green Wedge designations, which will be included within the Deposit Plan for the 2RLDP. The boundaries of each designation have, however, been assessed and amended where major development has taken place, or the land has been allocated for development within the 2RLDP.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Drawing upon the findings of the sections above, the following policy recommendations have been identified for the Deposit Plan of the 2RLDP. The policy seeks to protect areas of the landscape which prevent the coalescence of urban settlements and maintain the openness of the land.

LS3: Green Wedges

Green Wedges are identified to prevent the coalescence of settlements and to maintain the openness of the land.

Green Wedges are identified at the following locations:

- *LS3.1 Llechryd and Rhymney*
- *LS3.2 Fochriw and Pontlottyn*
- *LS3.3 Rhymney and Abertysswg*
- *LS3.4 Brithdir and Tirphil*
- *LS3.5 Argoed and Markham*
- *LS3.6 Aberbargoed, Cefn Fforest and Pengam*
- *LS3.7 Penpedairheol, Gilfach and Tir y Berth*
- *LS3.8 Blackwood, Cwm Gelli, Cefn Fforest*
- *LS3.9 Blackwood, Oakdale and Penmaen*
- *LS3.10 Croespenmaen and Treowen*
- *LS3.11 West of Nelson*
- *LS3.12 Gelligaer, Penybryn and Penpedairheol*
- *LS3.13 Pengam, Blackwood and Pontllanfraith*
- *LS3.14 Newbridge and Abercarn*
- *LS3.15 Cefn Hengoed, Hengoed, Ystrad Mynach & Fleur de Lys*
- *LS3.16 Maesycwmmer, Pontllanfraith and Fleur de Lys*
- *LS3.17 Maesycwmmer and Ystrad Mynach*
- *LS3.18 Cwmcarn and Pontywaun*
- *LS3.19 Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu*
- *LS3.20 Penyrheol, Hendredenny and Abertridwr*
- *LS3.21 Llanbradach and Pwllypant*
- *LS3.22 Bedwas and Caerphilly*
- *LS3.23 Machen, Graig y Rhacca and Waterloo*
- *LS3.24 Ty Sign and Pontymister*

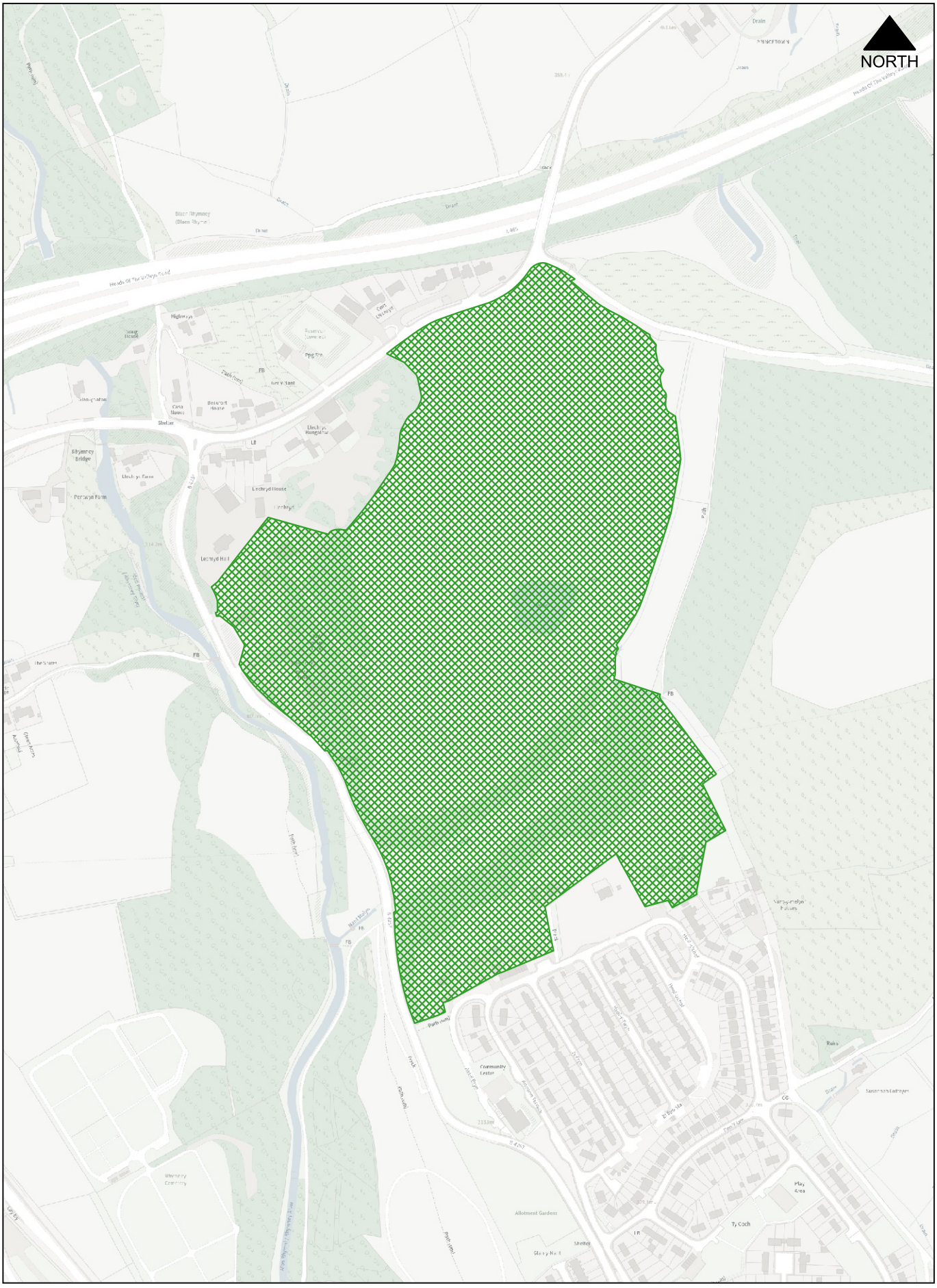
For further information on the policy and the reasoned justification, please consult the Deposit Plan, Written Statement.

Each Green Wedge has had its boundaries mapped and can be found in the appendix of this report. Each designation can also be found on the Deposit Plan Proposals Map.

Appendix 1: Green Wedge Maps

SI 1.1
Site Name: Llechryd and Rhymney
Site Area: 19.84 Ha

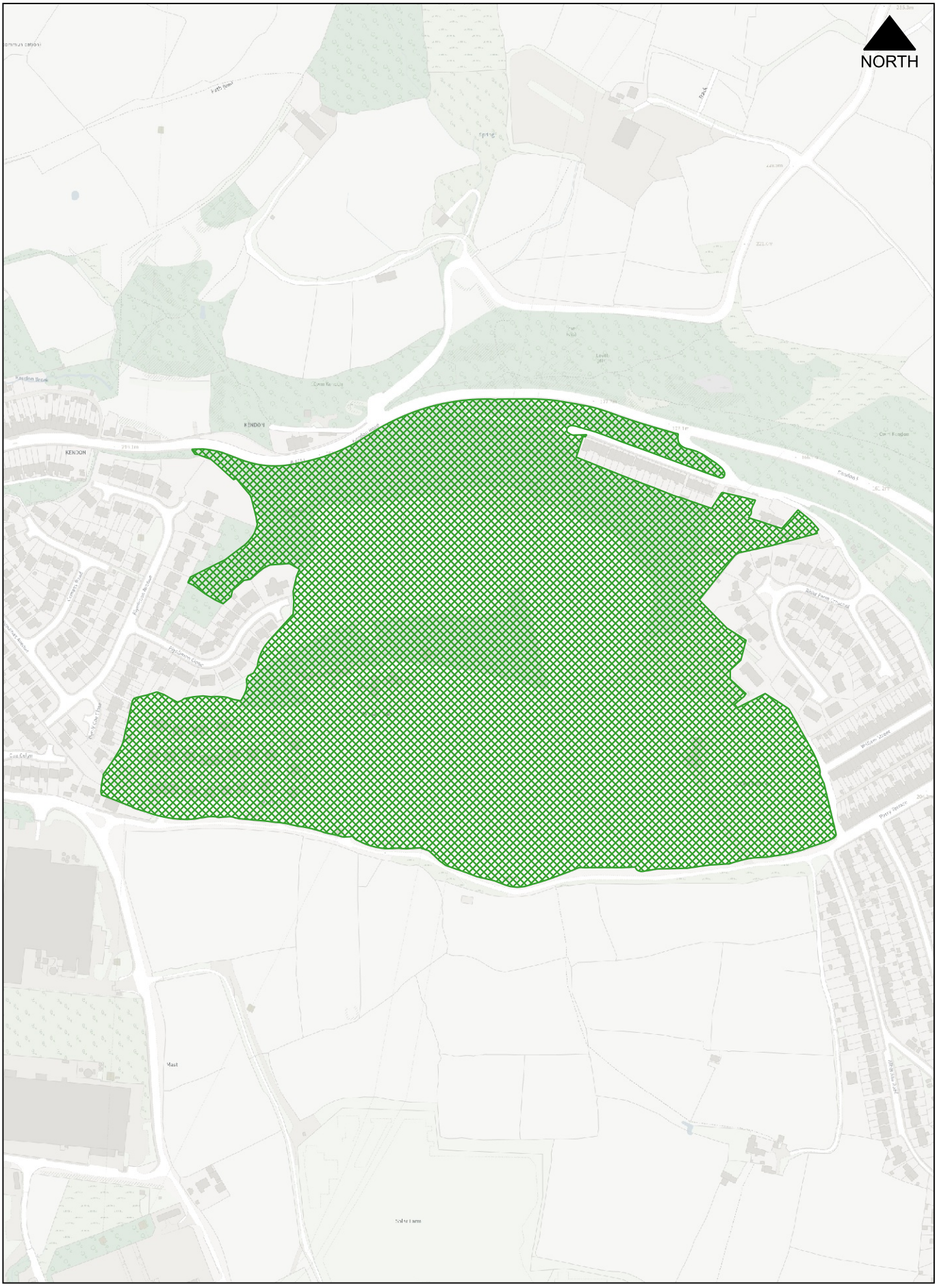
1:5,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.10
Site Name: Croespenmaen and Treowen
Site Area: 21.75 Ha

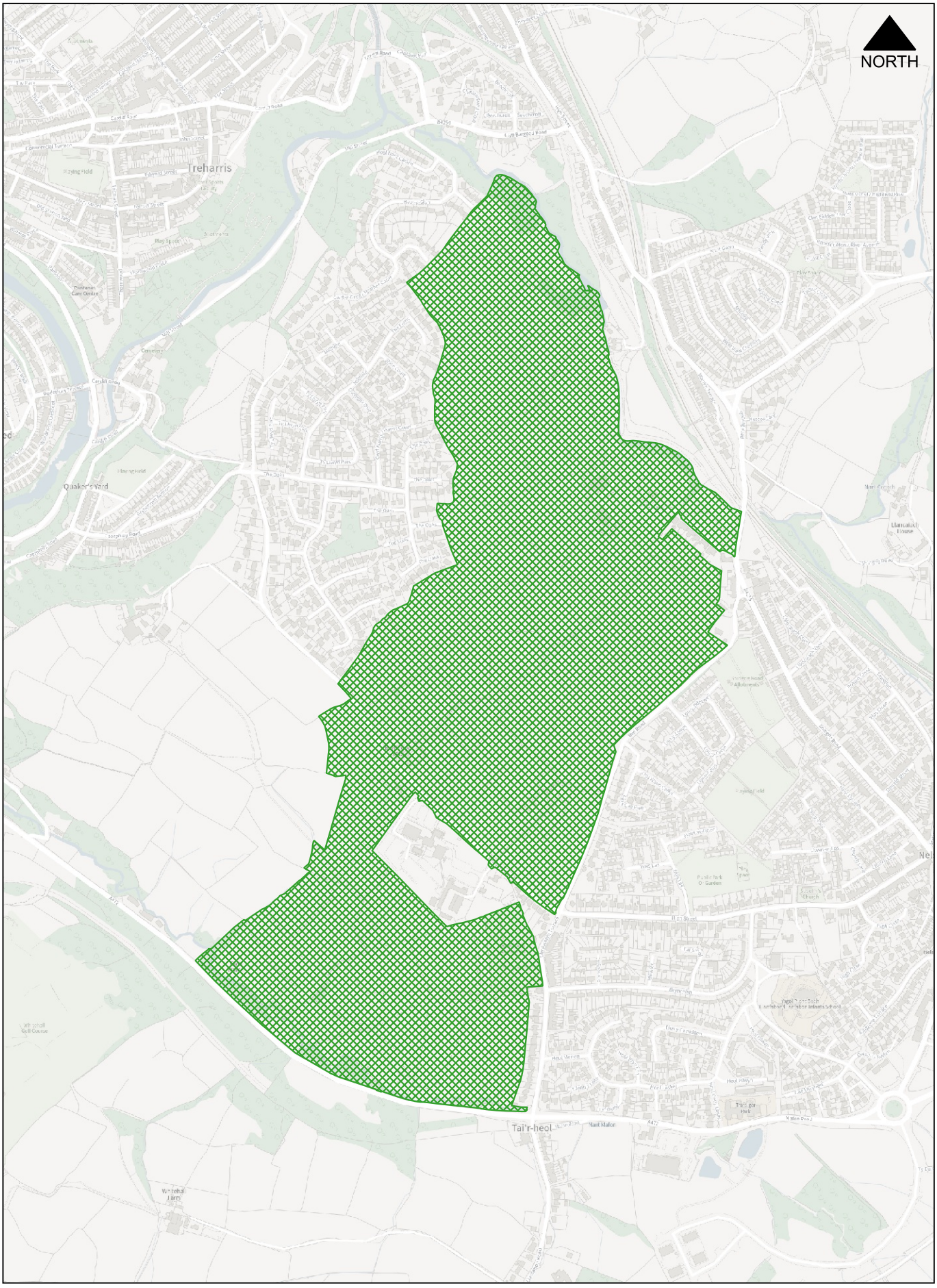
1:5,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.11
Site Name:West of Nelson
Site Area: 79.81 Ha

1:10,000



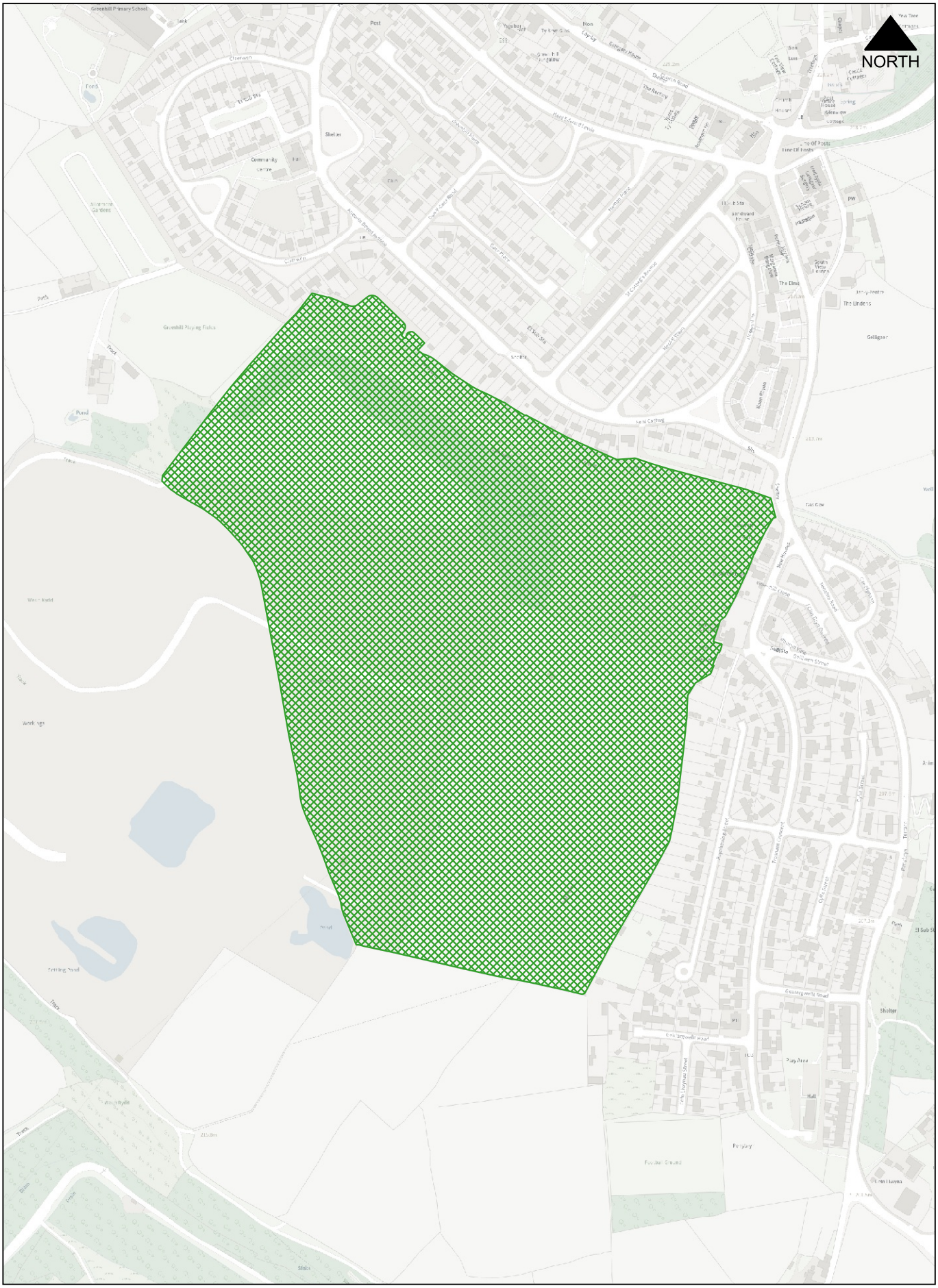
© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.12

1:5,000

Site Name: Gelligaer, Penybryn and Penpedairheol

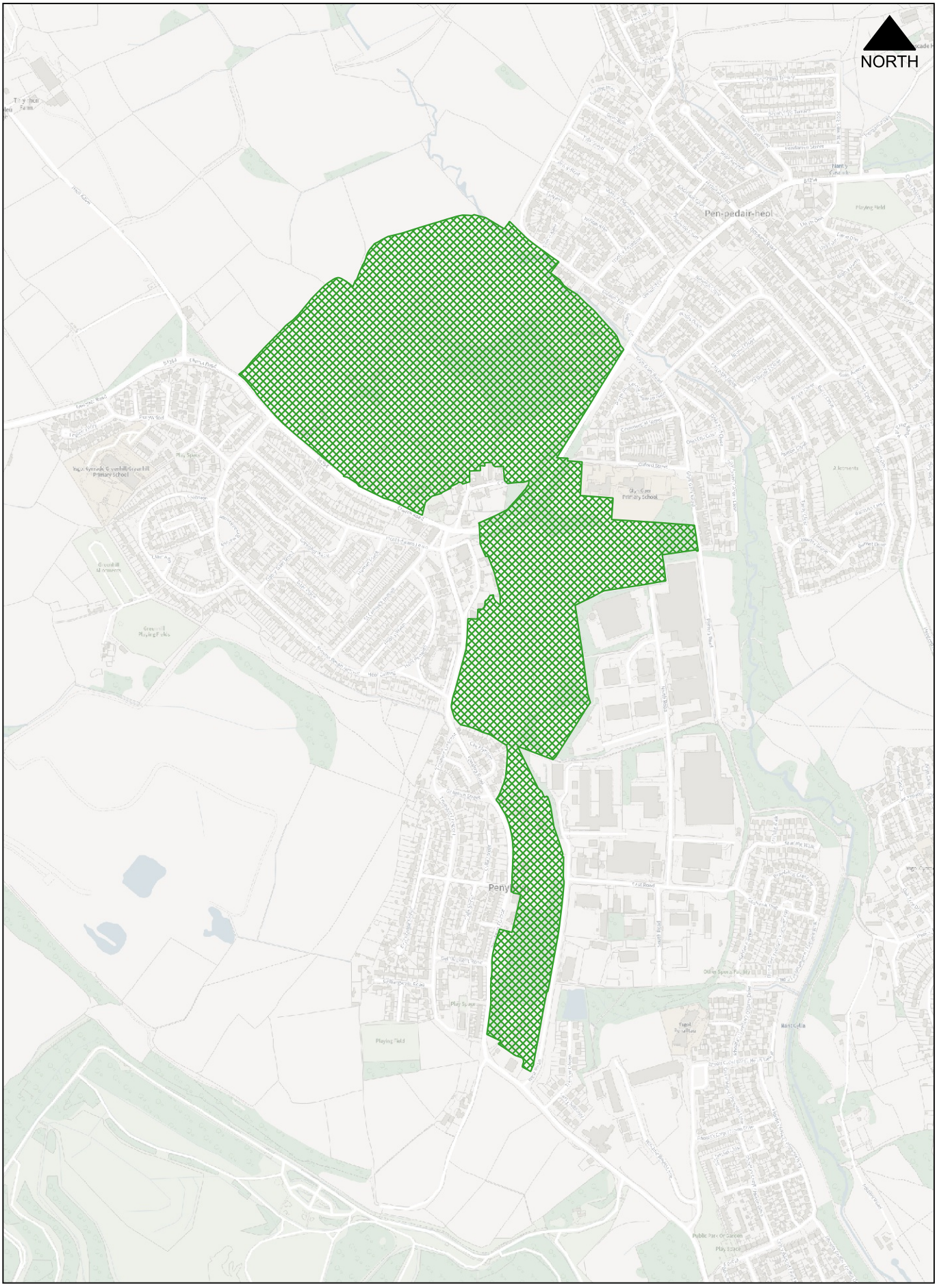
Site Area: 23.08 Ha



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.12
Site Name: Gelligaer, Penybryn and Penpedairheol
Site Area: 44.96 Ha

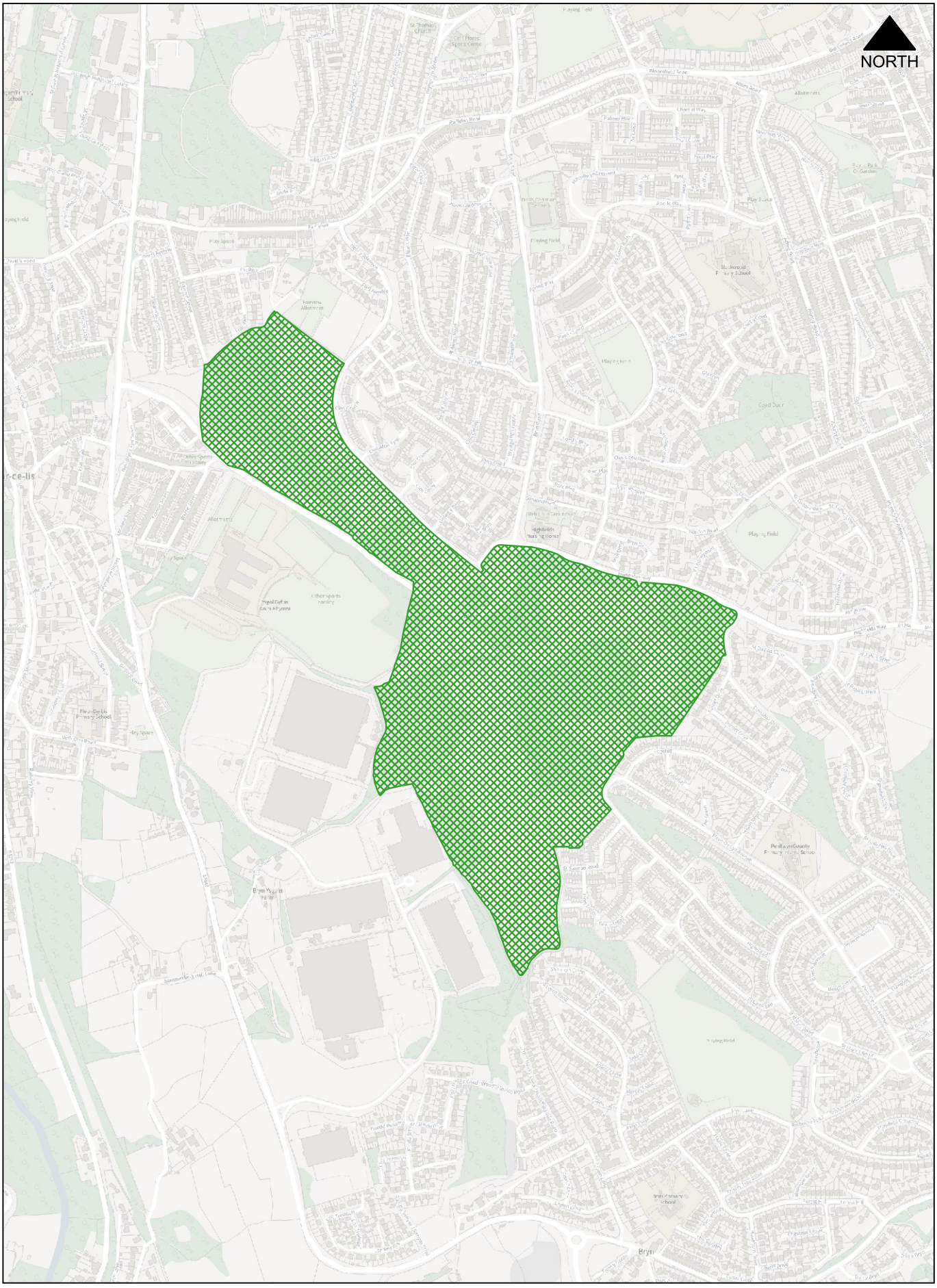
1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.13
Site Name: Pengam, Blackwood and Pontllanfraith
Site Area: Ha

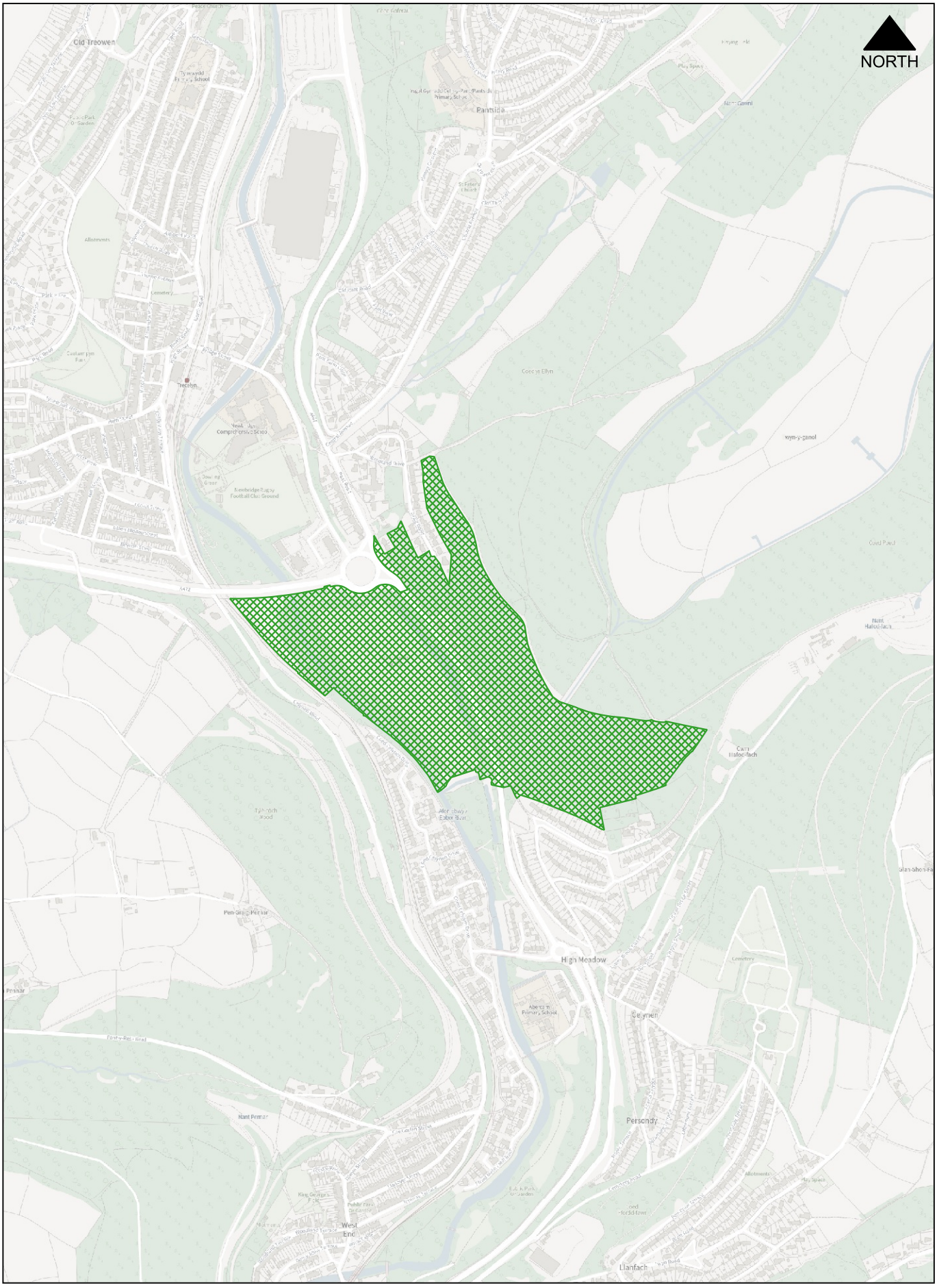
1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.14
Site Name: Newbridge and Abercarn
Site Area: 22.11 Ha

1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.15

1:10,000

Site Name: Cefn Hengoed, Hengoed, Yst. Mynach & Fleur de lys

Site Area: 84.03 Ha



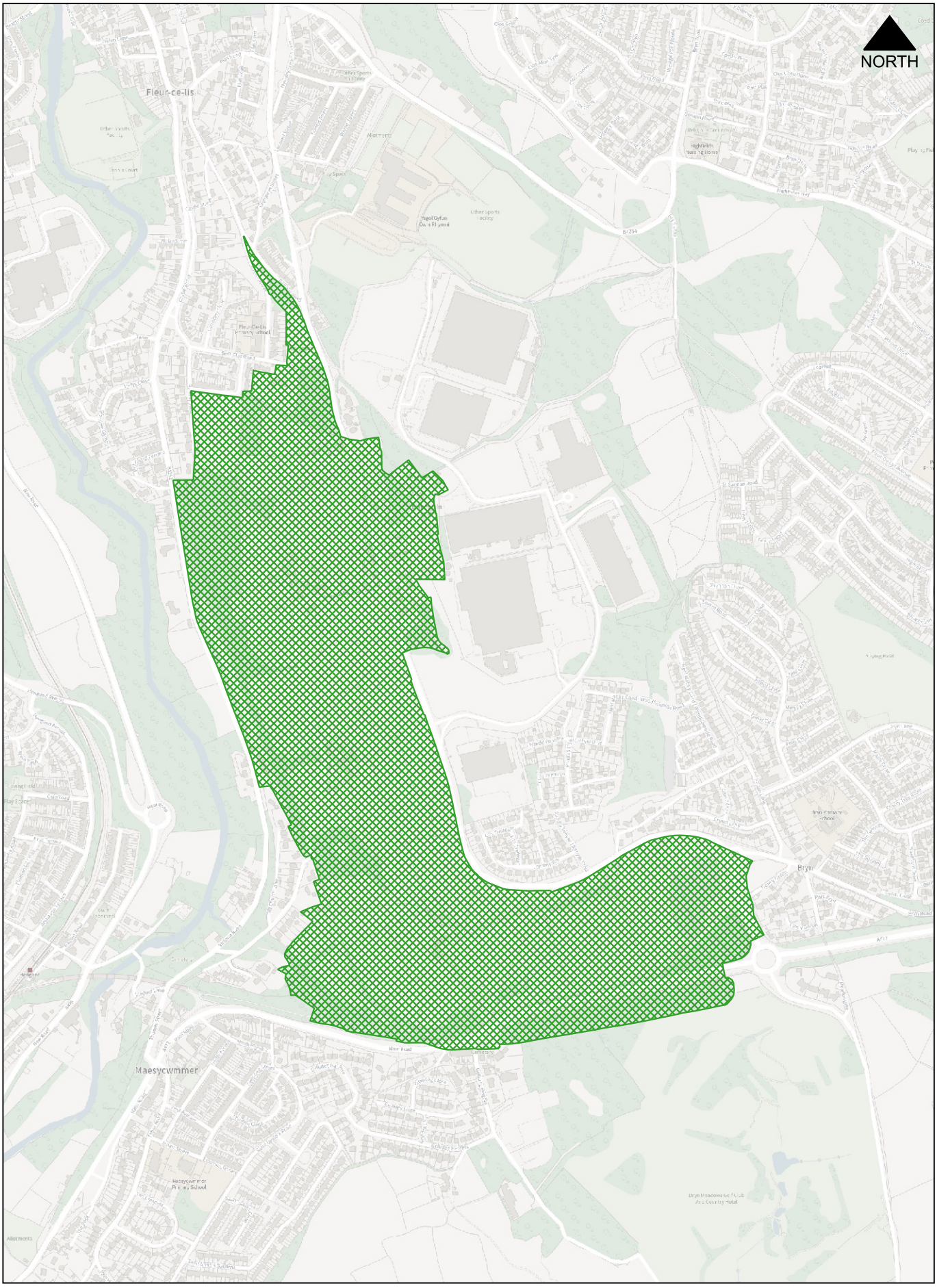
© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.16

1:10,000

Site Name: Maesycwmmer, Pontllanfraith and Fleur de Lys

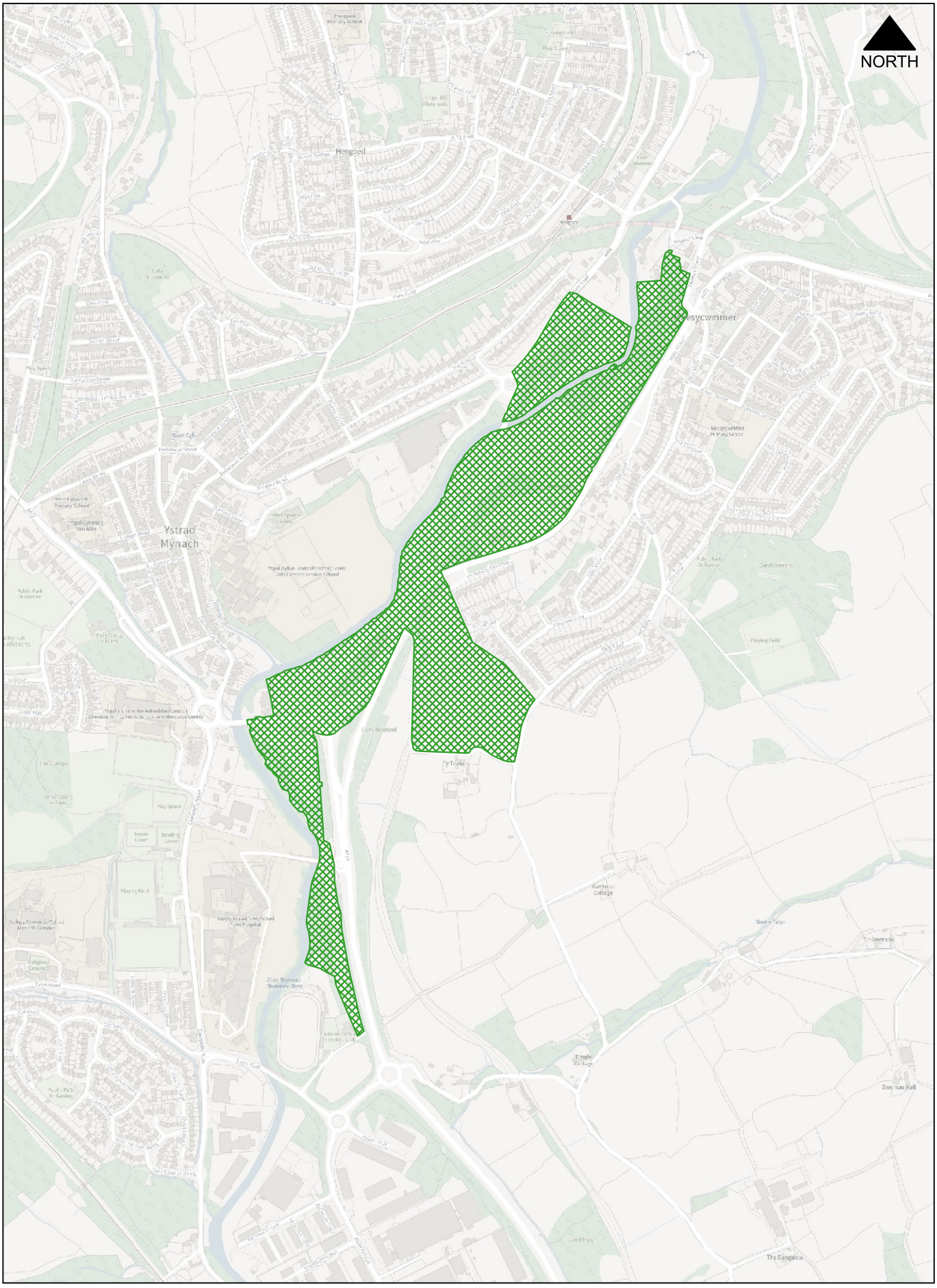
Site Area: 64.85 Ha



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.17
Site Name: Maesycwmmer and Ystrad Mynach
Site Area: 25 Ha

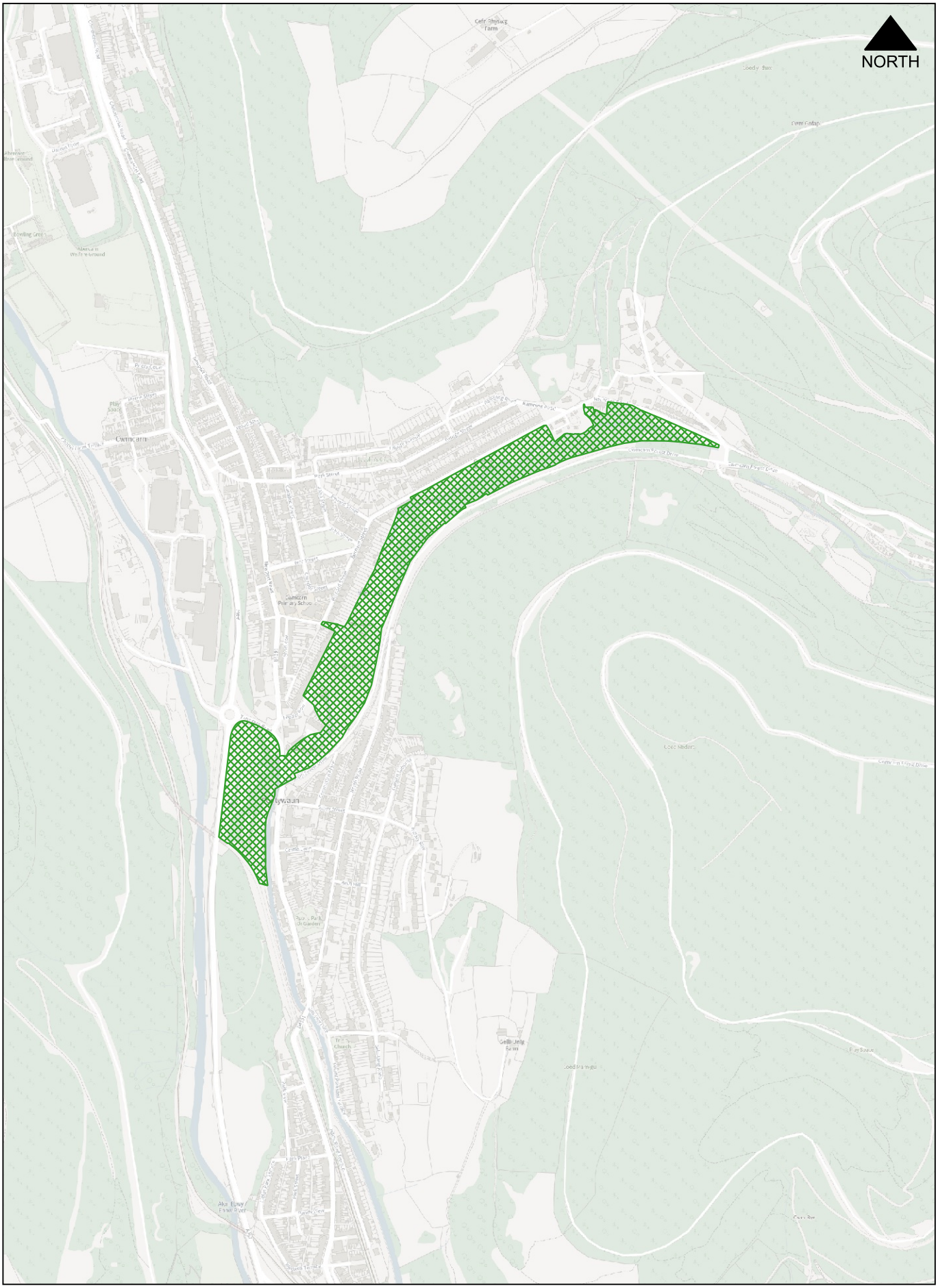
1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.18
Site Name: Cwmcarn and Pontywaun
Site Area: 10.12 Ha

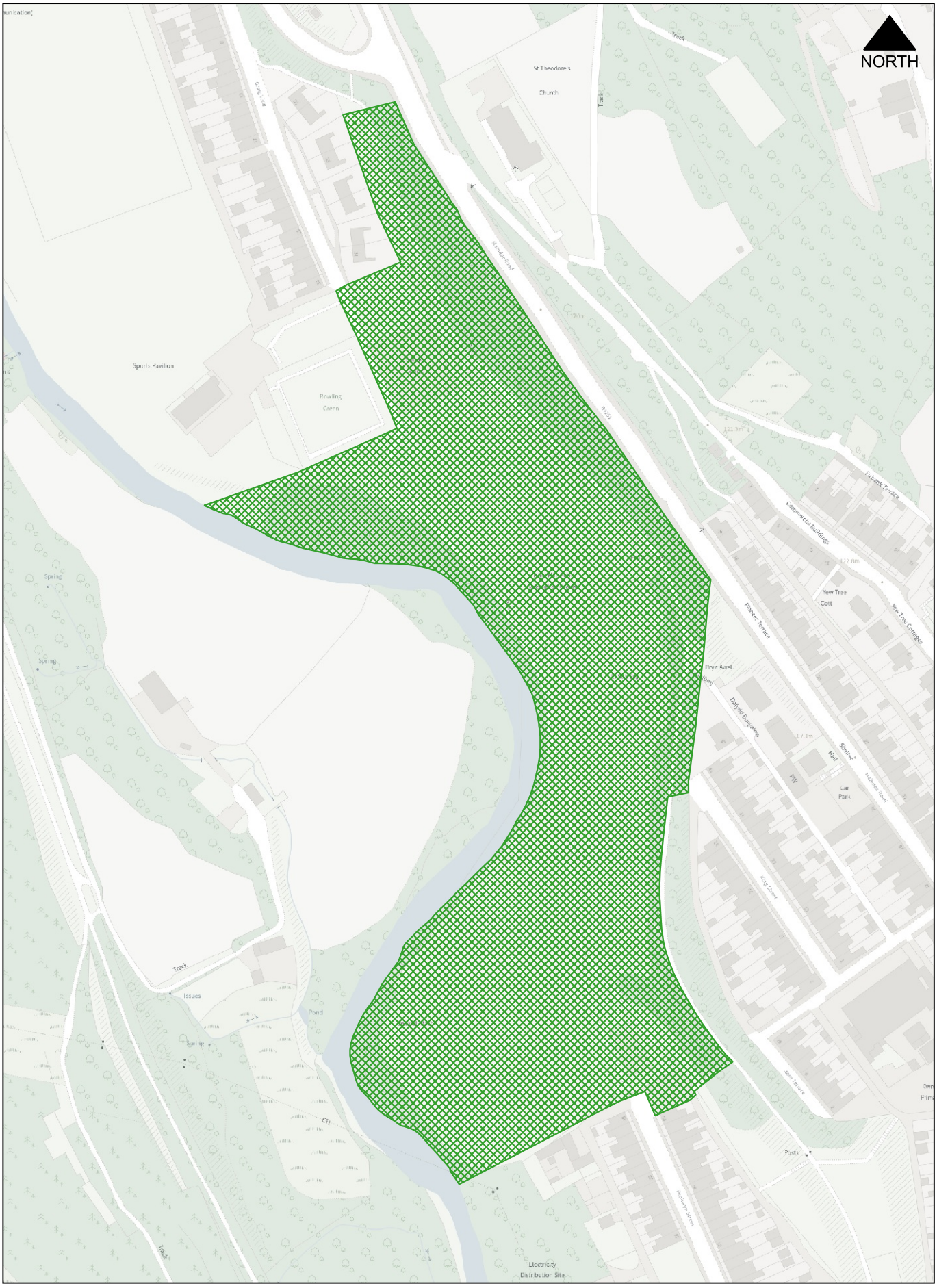
1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.19
Site Name: Cwmfelinfach and Ynysddu
Site Area: 5.21 Ha

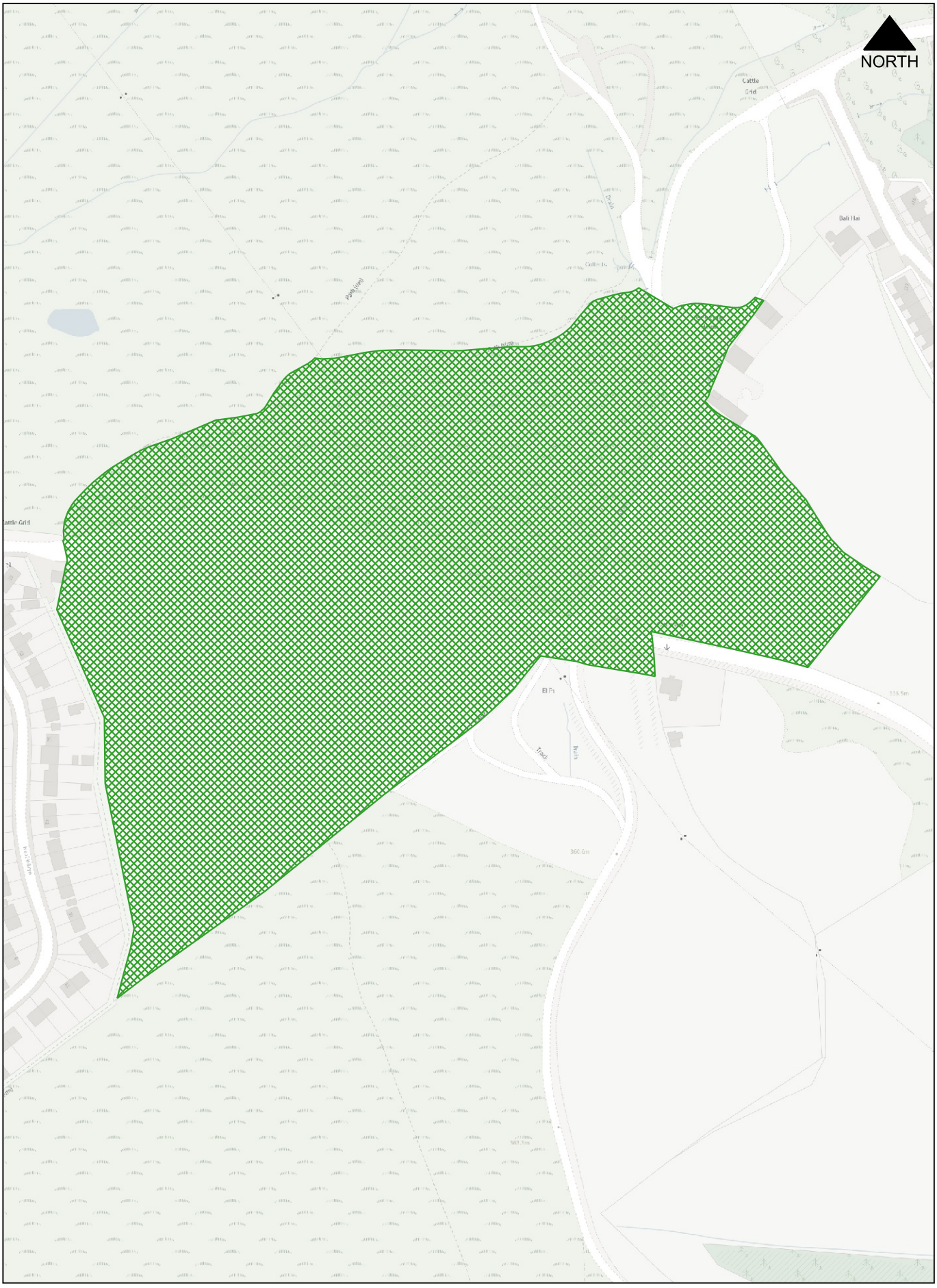
1:2,500



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.2
Site Name: Fochrhiw and Pontlottyn
Site Area: 6.76 Ha

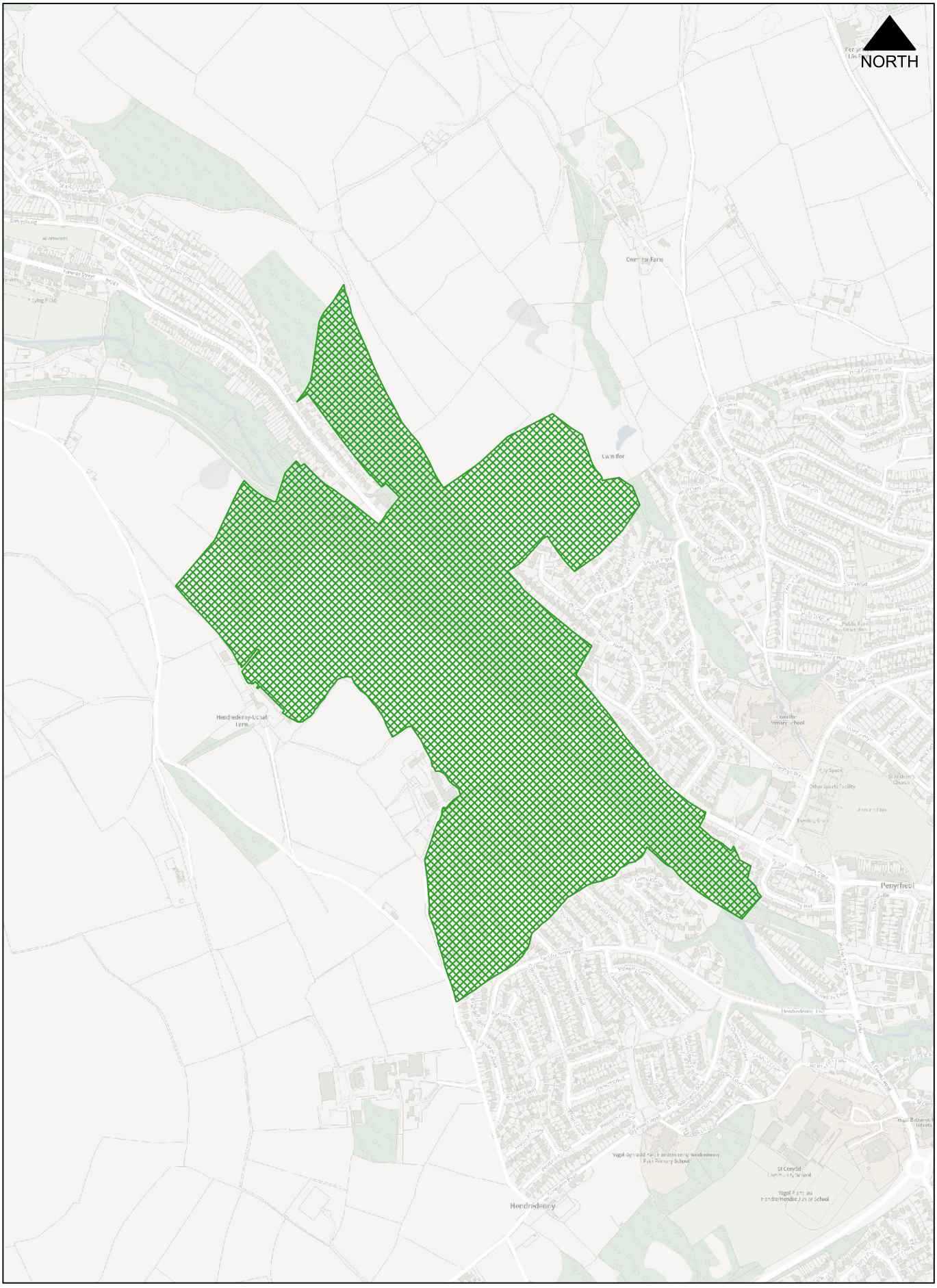
1:2,500



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.20
Site Name: Penyrheol, Hendredenny and Abertridwr
Site Area: 56.22 Ha

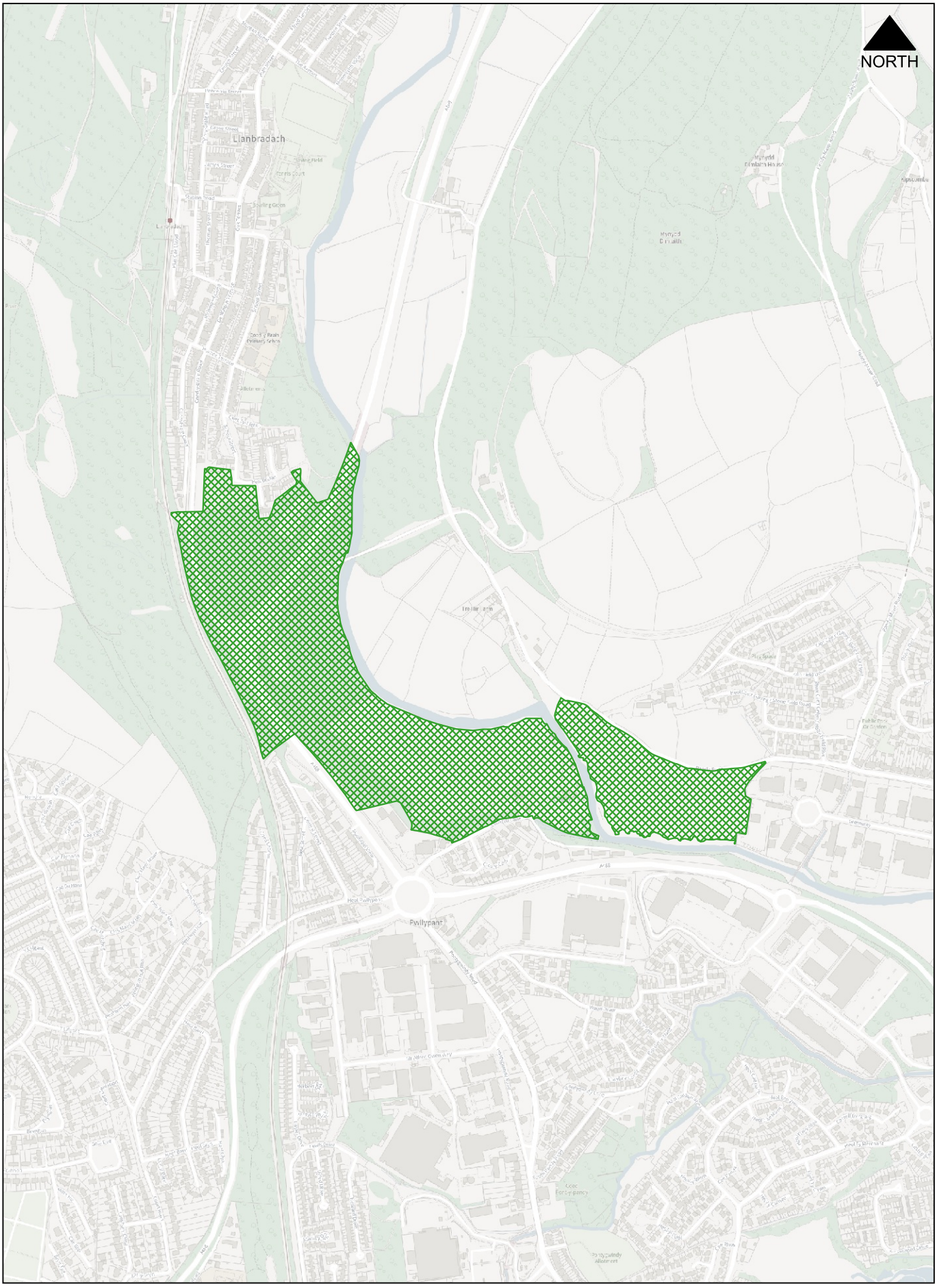
1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.21
Site Name: Llanbradach and Pwllypant
Site Area: 28.15 Ha

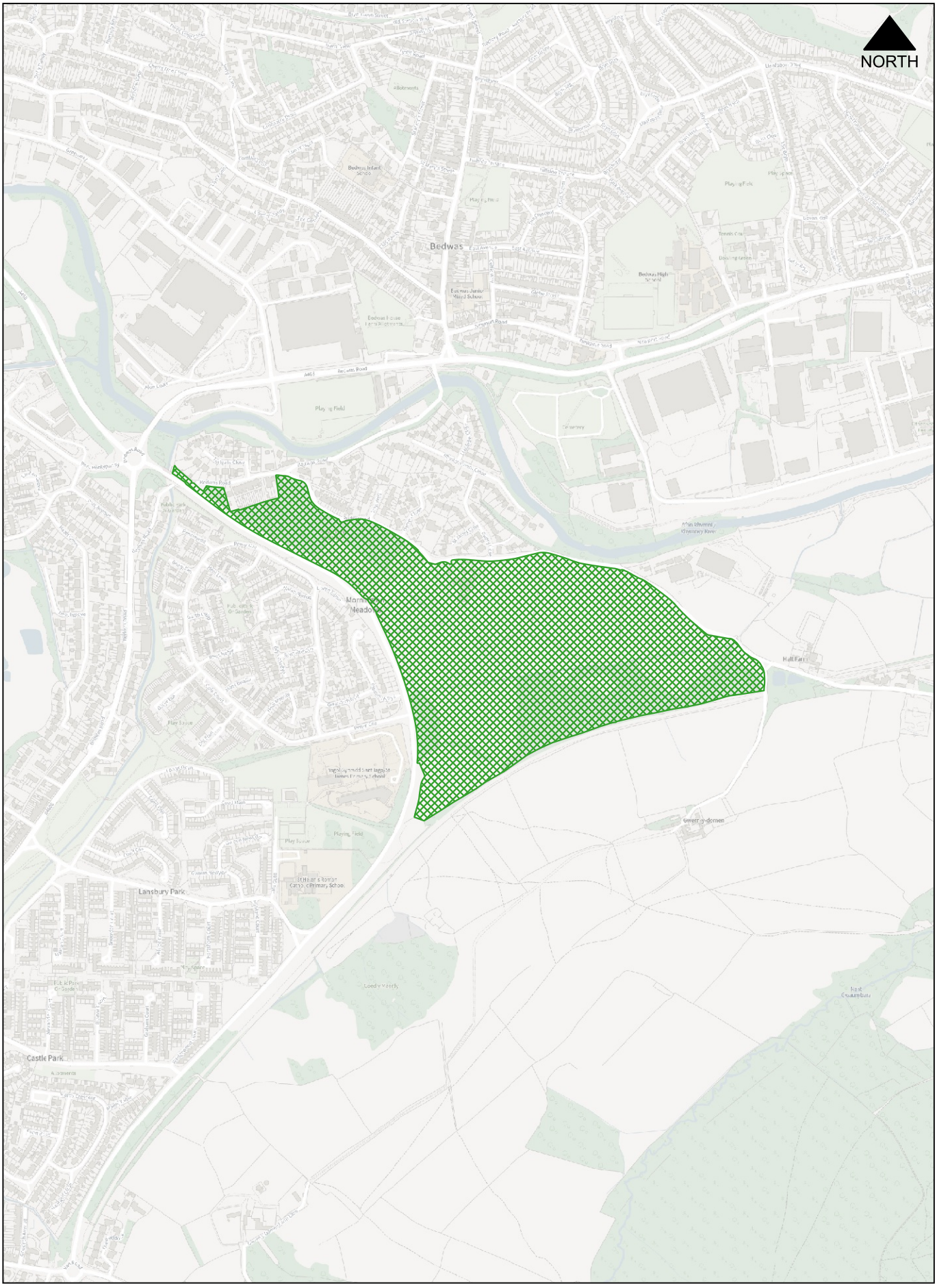
1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.22
Site Name: Bedwas and Caerphilly
Site Area: 25.44 Ha

1:10,000



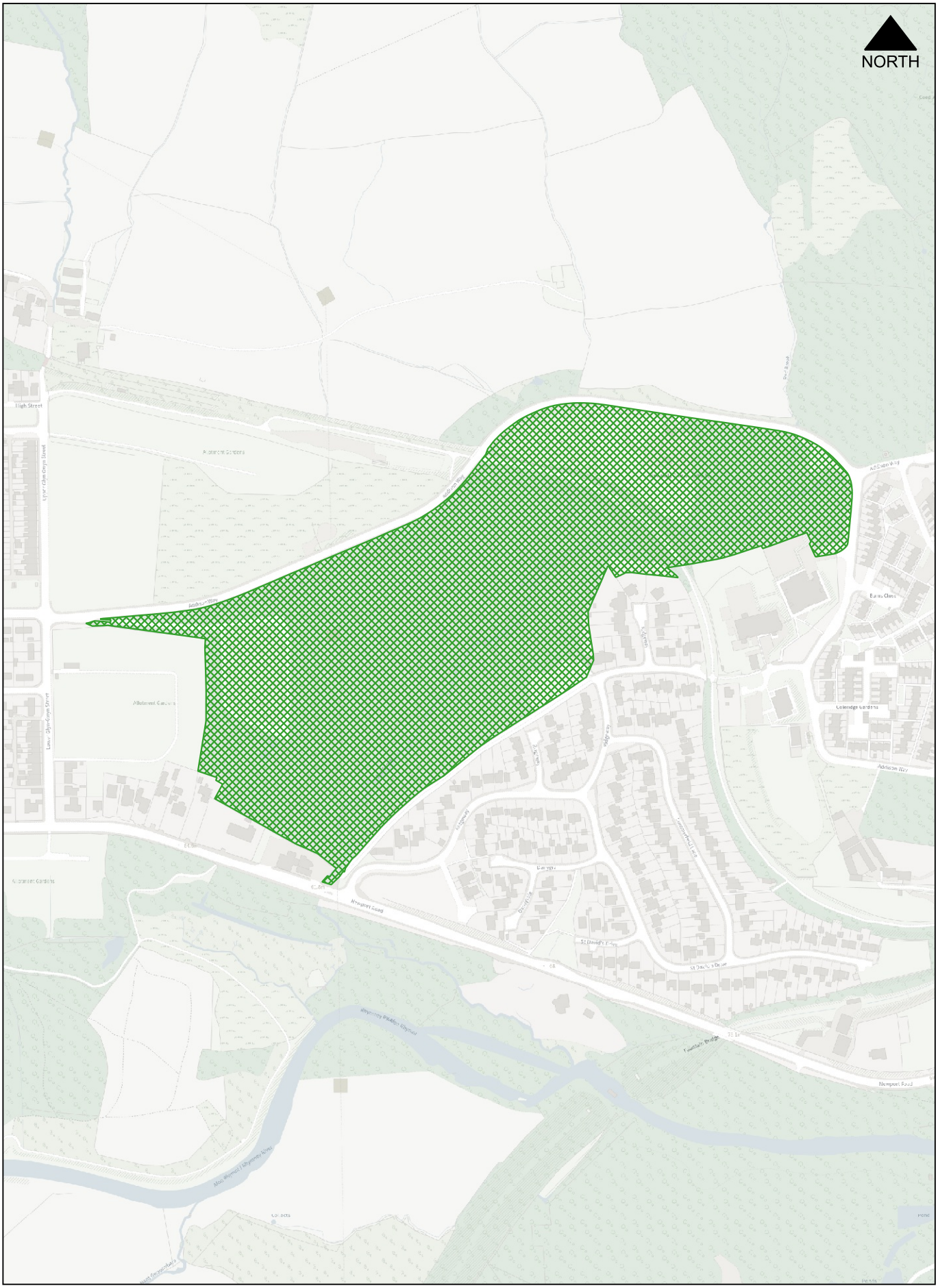
© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.23

1:5,000

Site Name: Machen, Graig y Rhacca and Waterloo

Site Area: 13.32 Ha



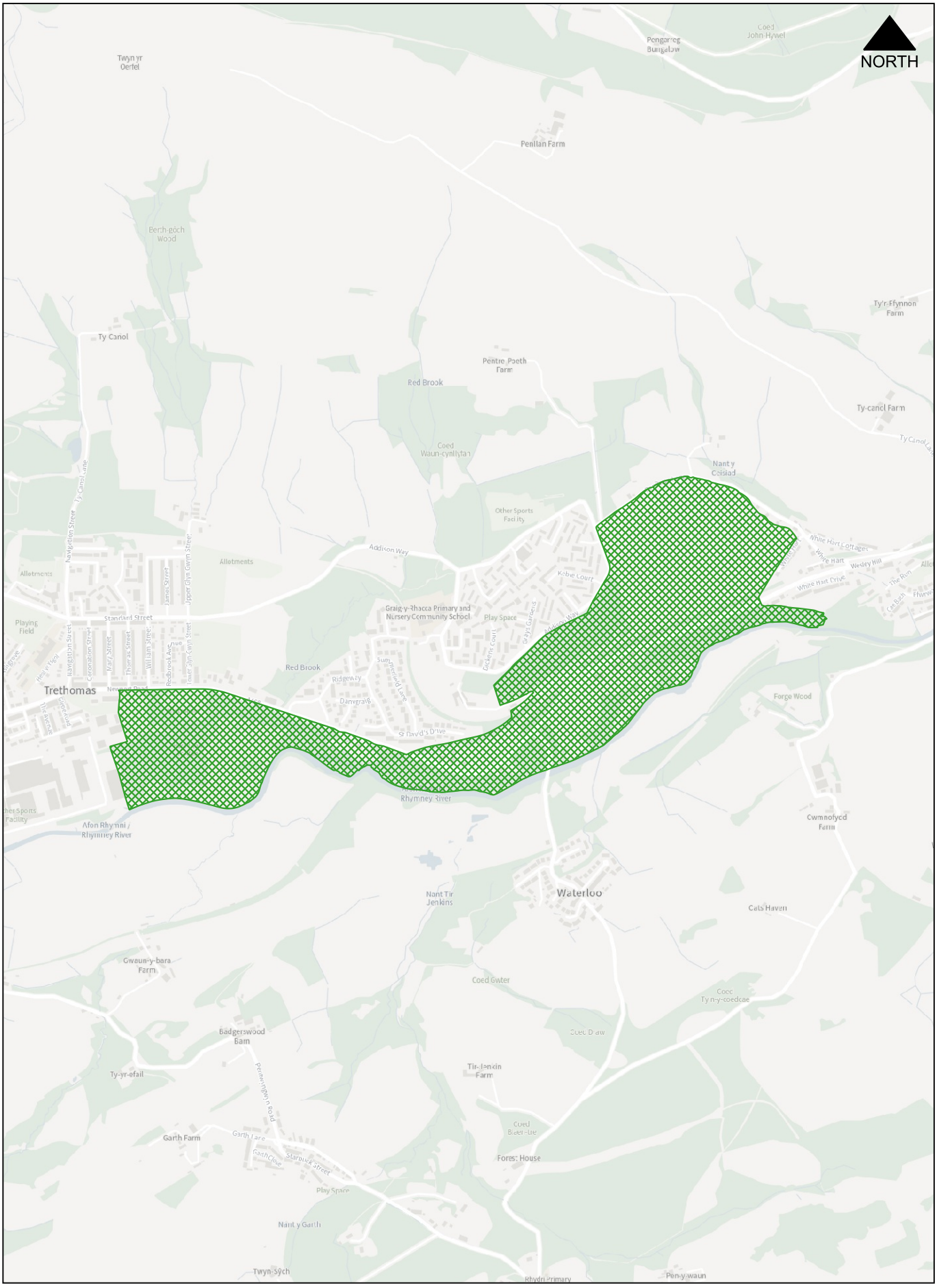
© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.23

1:15,000

Site Name: Machen, Graig y Rhacca and Waterloo

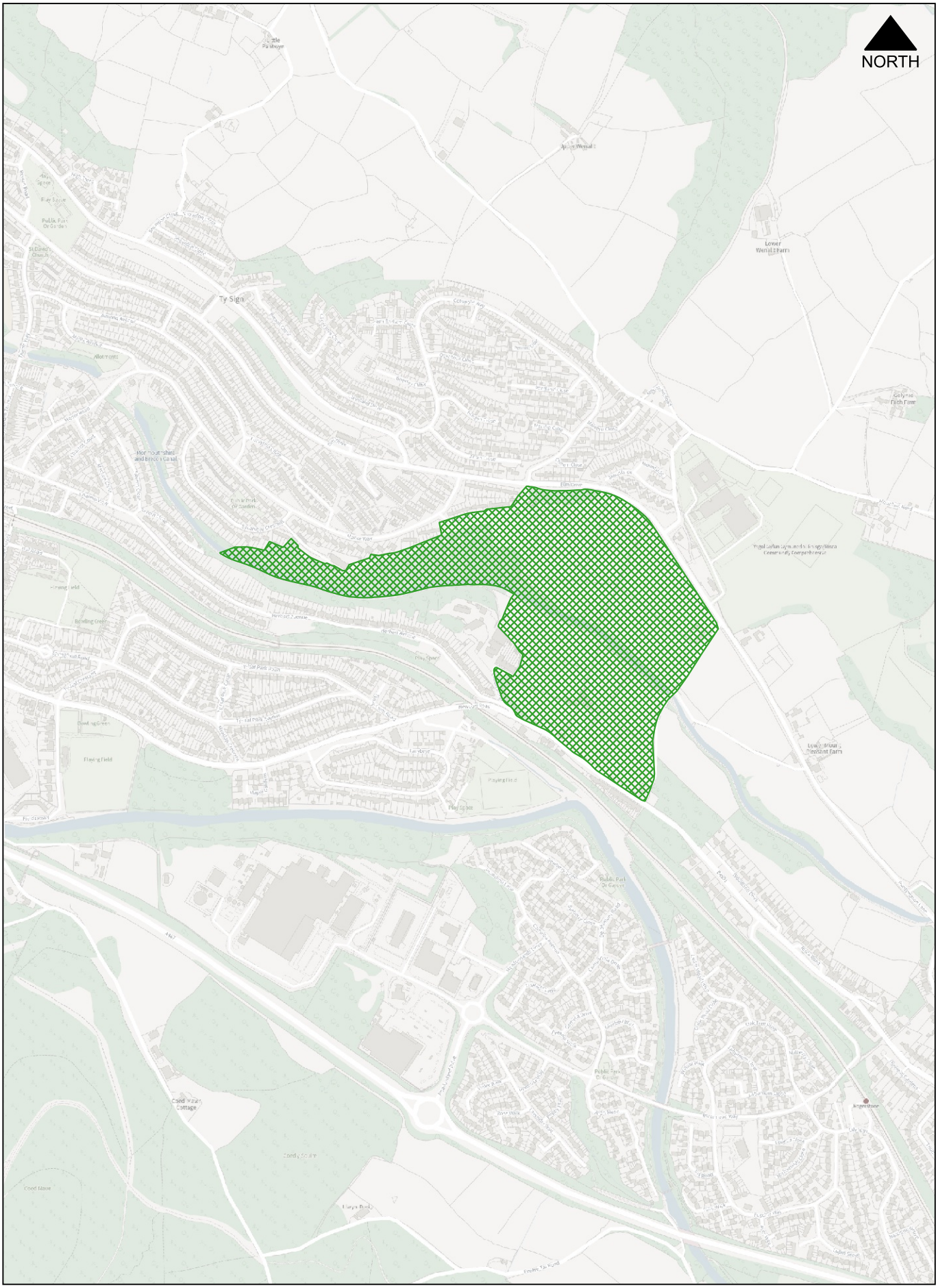
Site Area: 59.71 Ha



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.24
Site Name:Ty-Sign and Pontymister
Site Area: 21.09 Ha

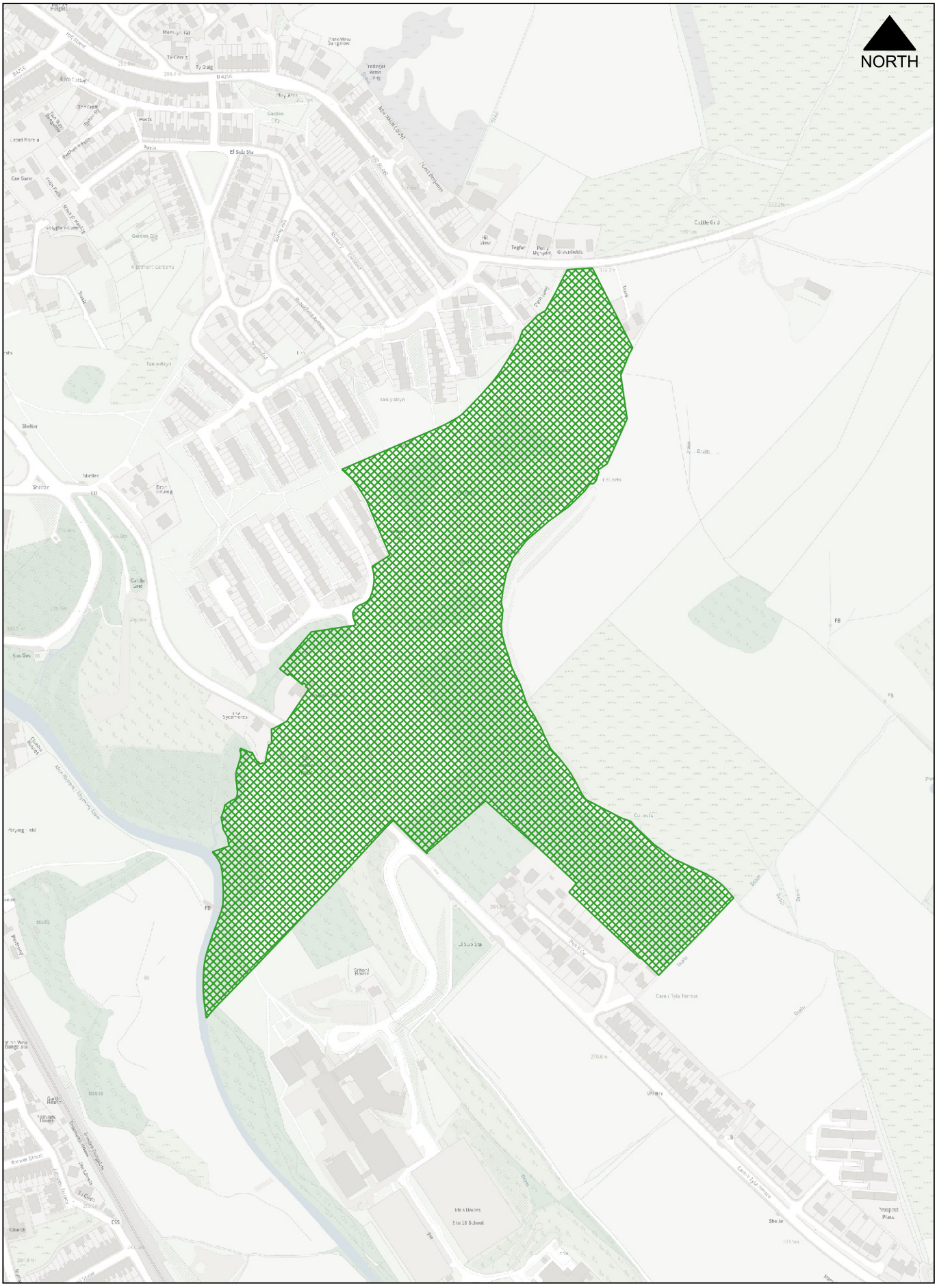
1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.3
Site Name: Rhymney and Abertysswg
Site Area: 12.97 Ha

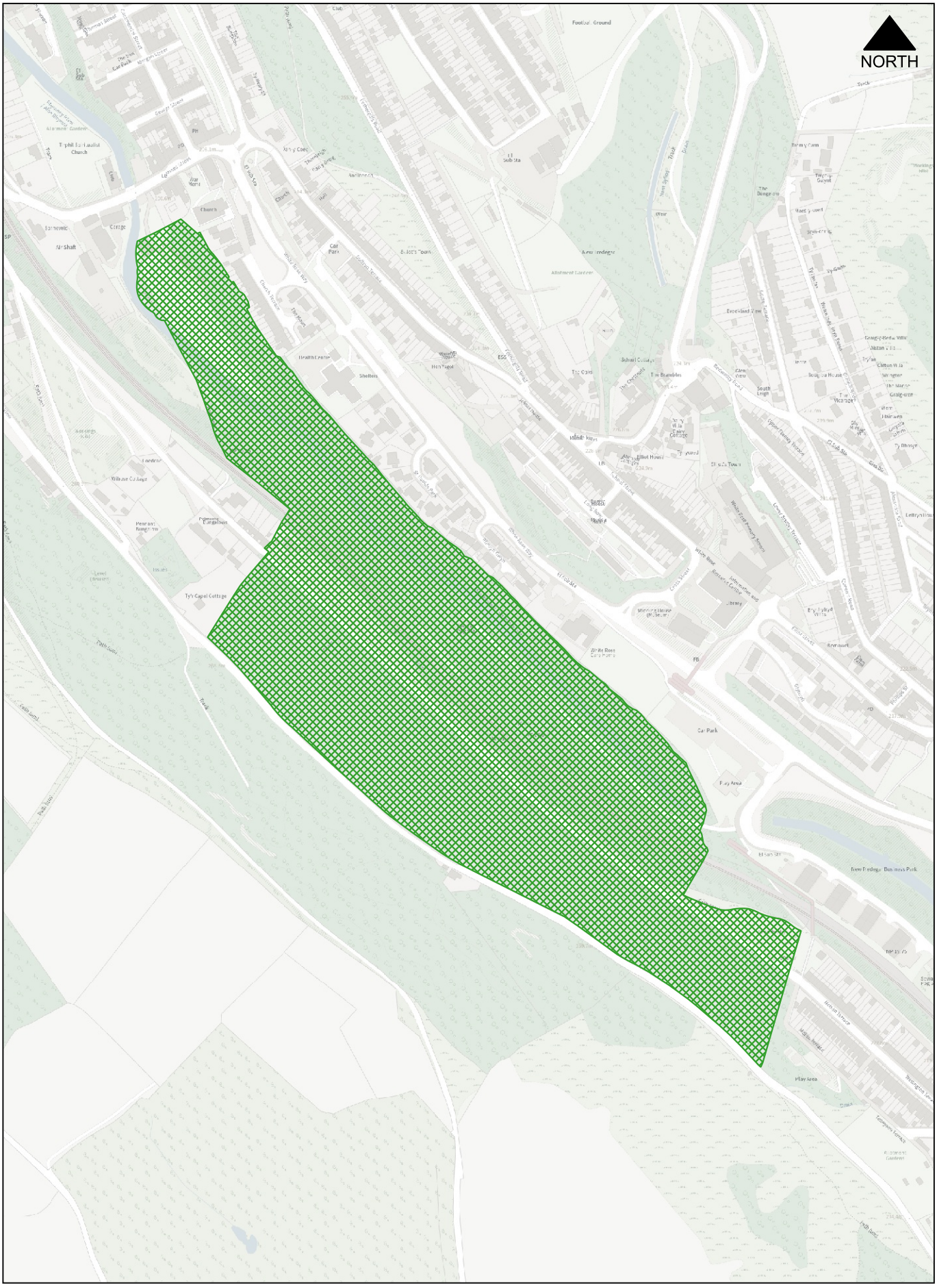
1:5,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.4
Site Name: Brithdir and Tirphil
Site Area: 15.16 Ha

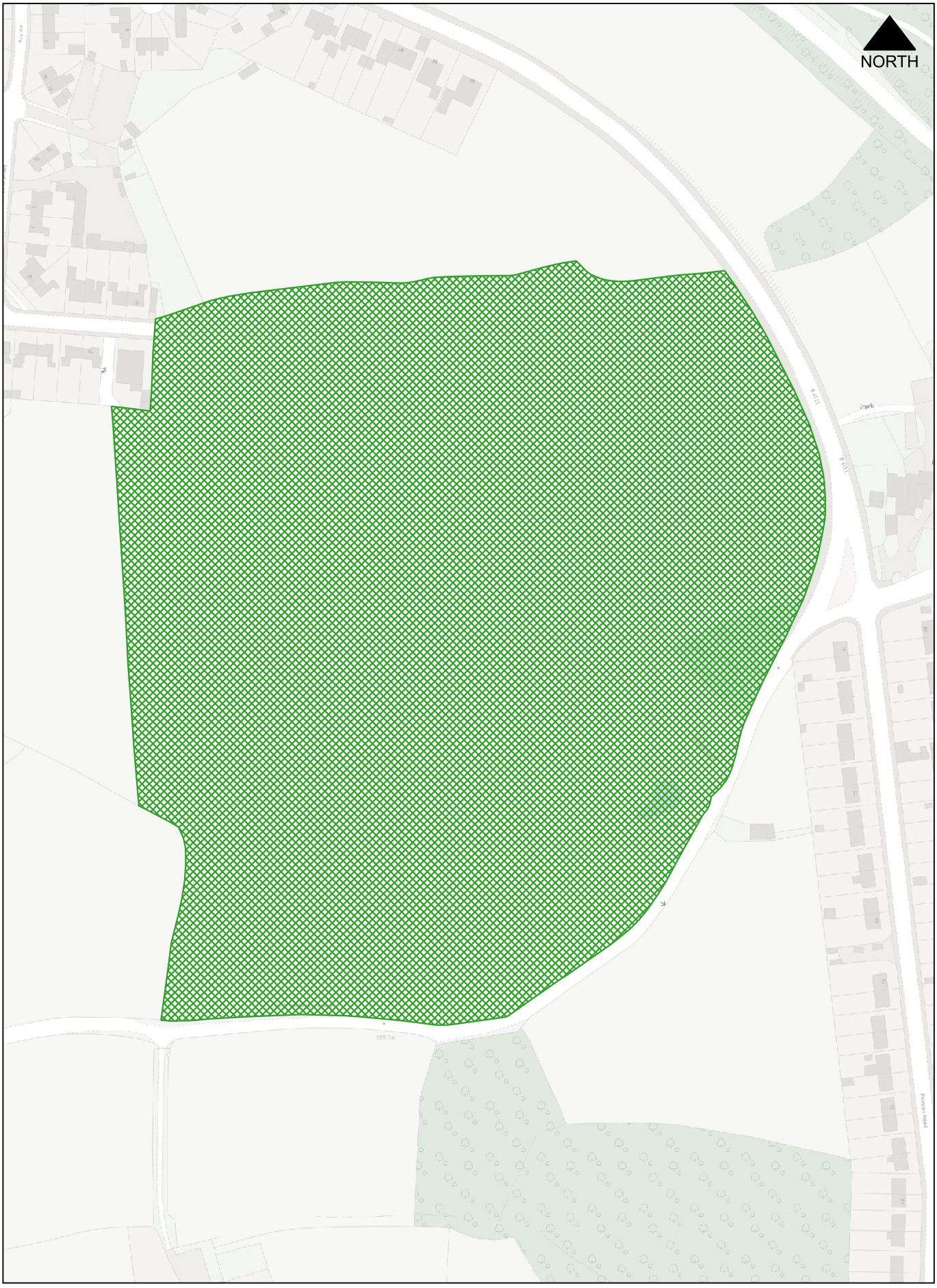
1:5,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.5
Site Name: Argoed and Markham
Site Area: 10.21 Ha

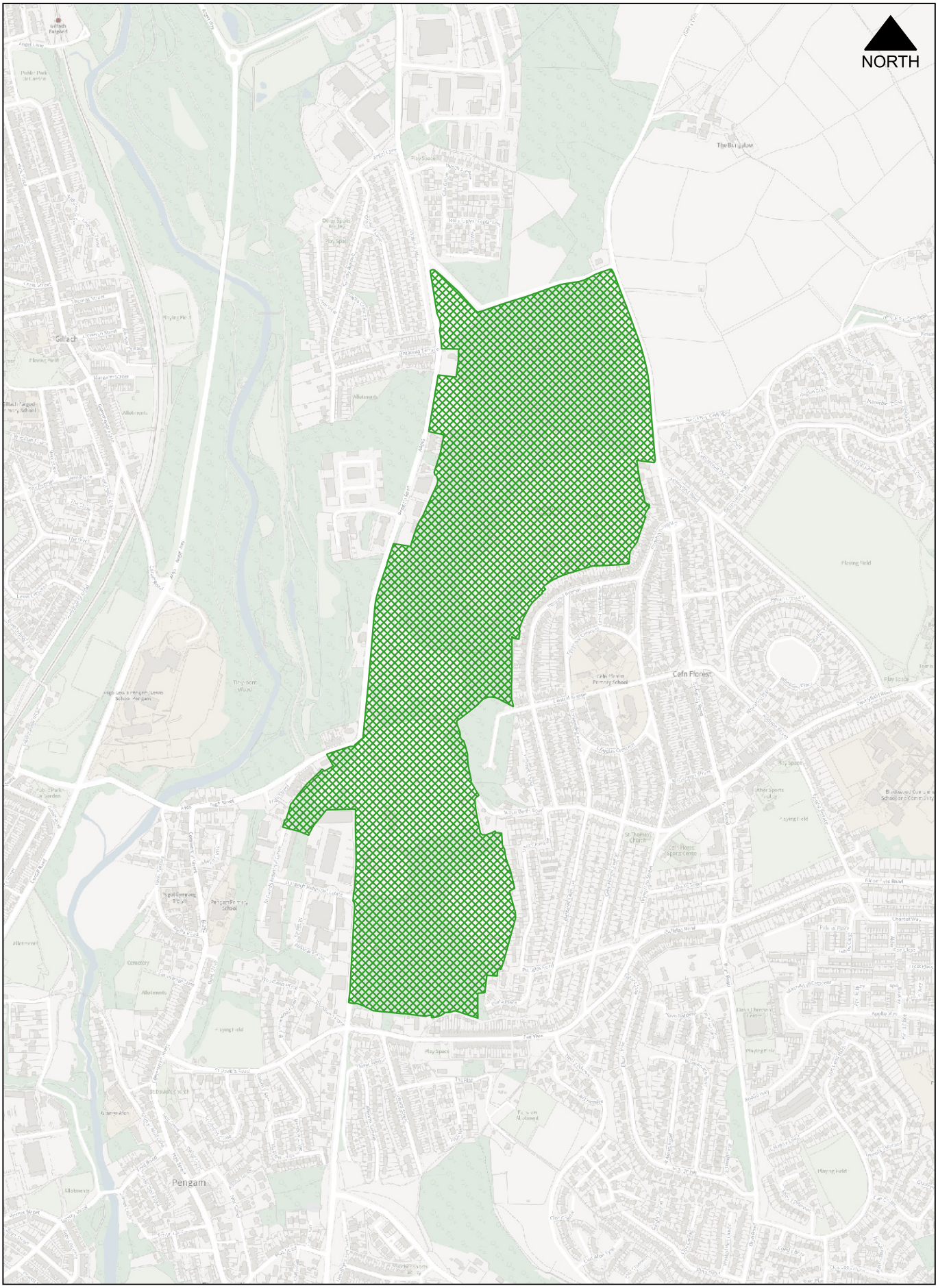
1:2,500



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.6
Site Name: Aberbargoed, Cefn Fforest and Pengam
Site Area: 46.06 Ha

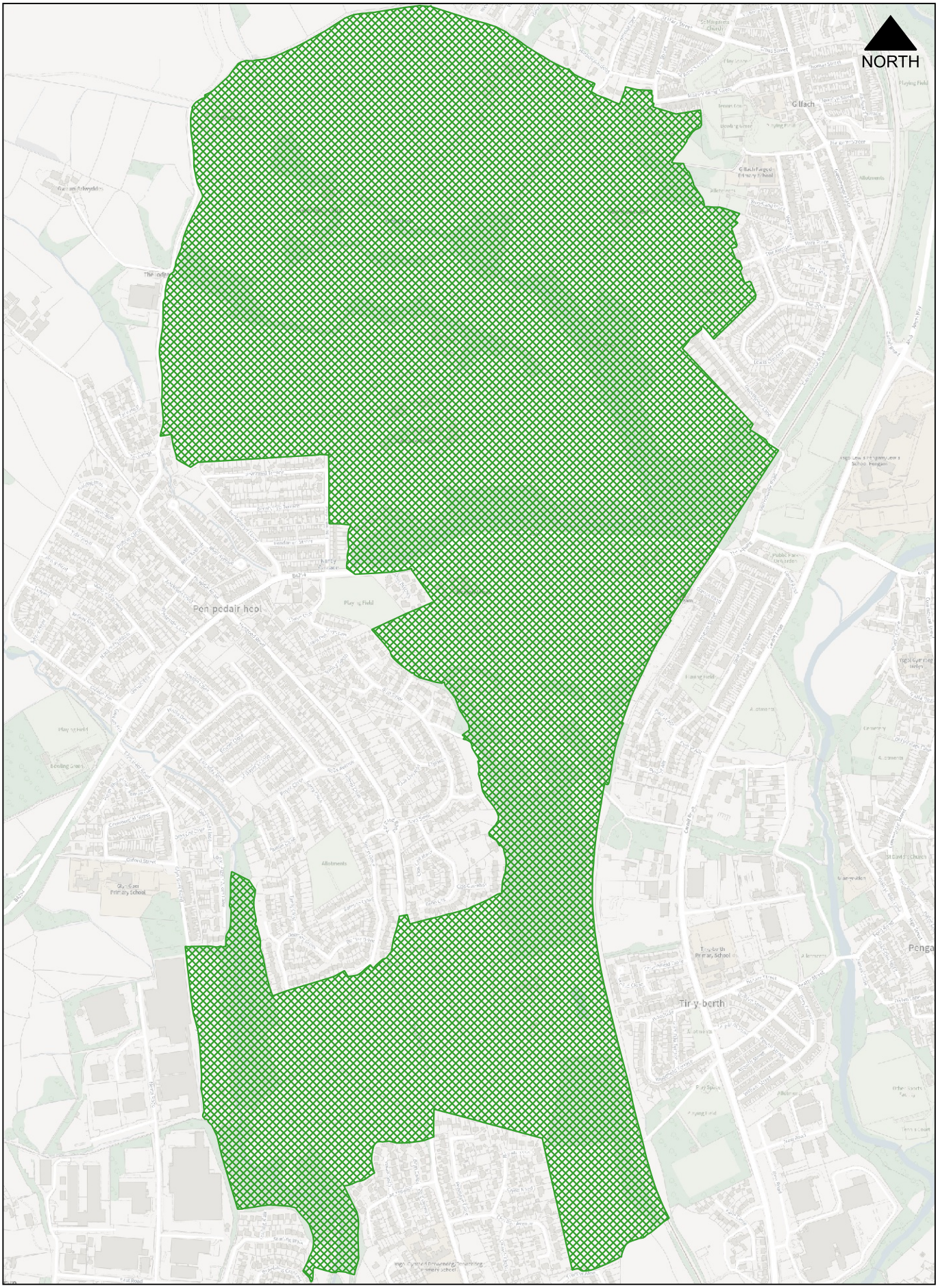
1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.7
Site Name: Penpedairheol, Gilfach and Tir y Berth
Site Area: 160.2 Ha

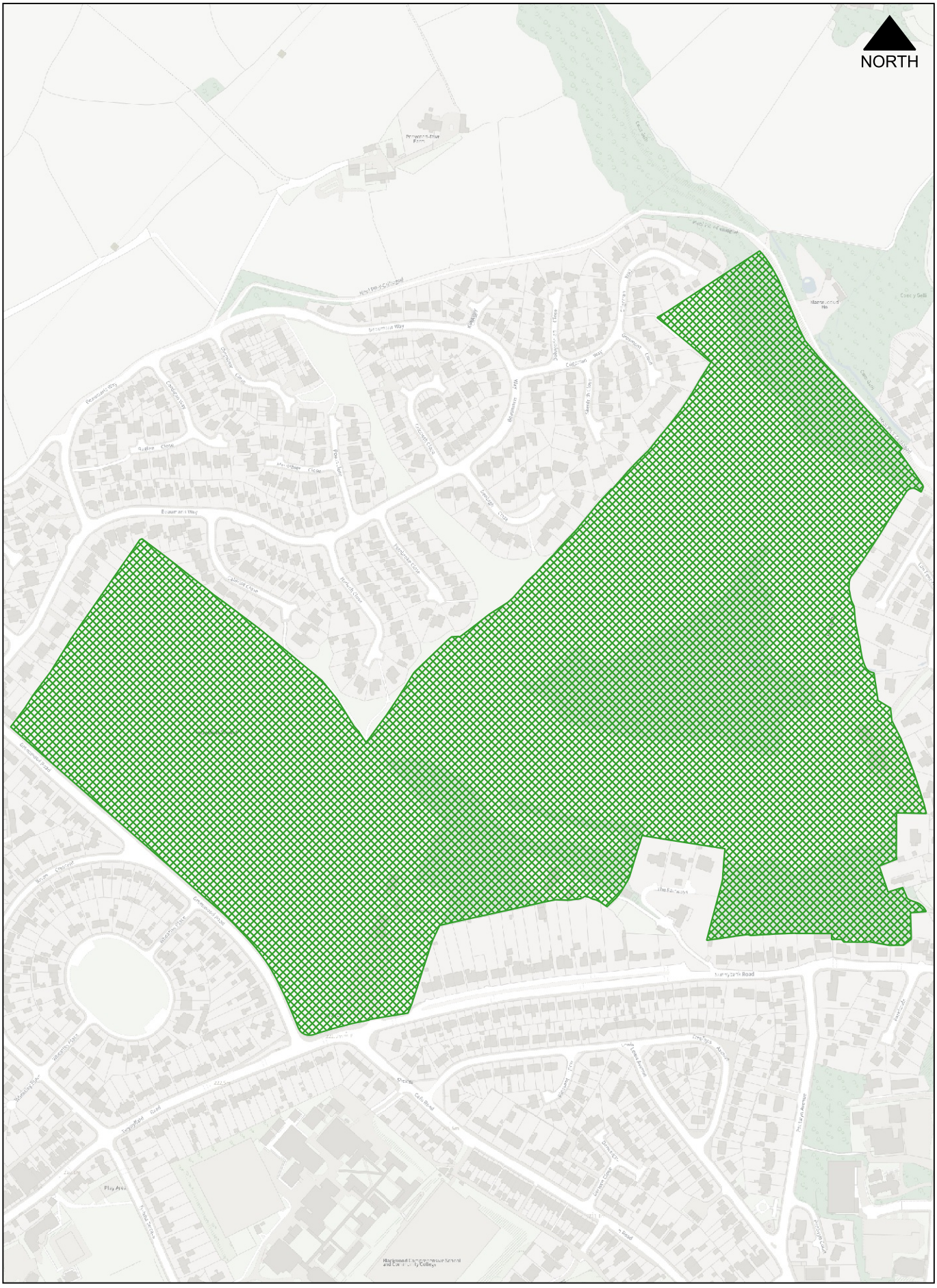
1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.8
Site Name: Blackwood, Cwm Gelli, Cefn Fforest
Site Area: 30.19 Ha

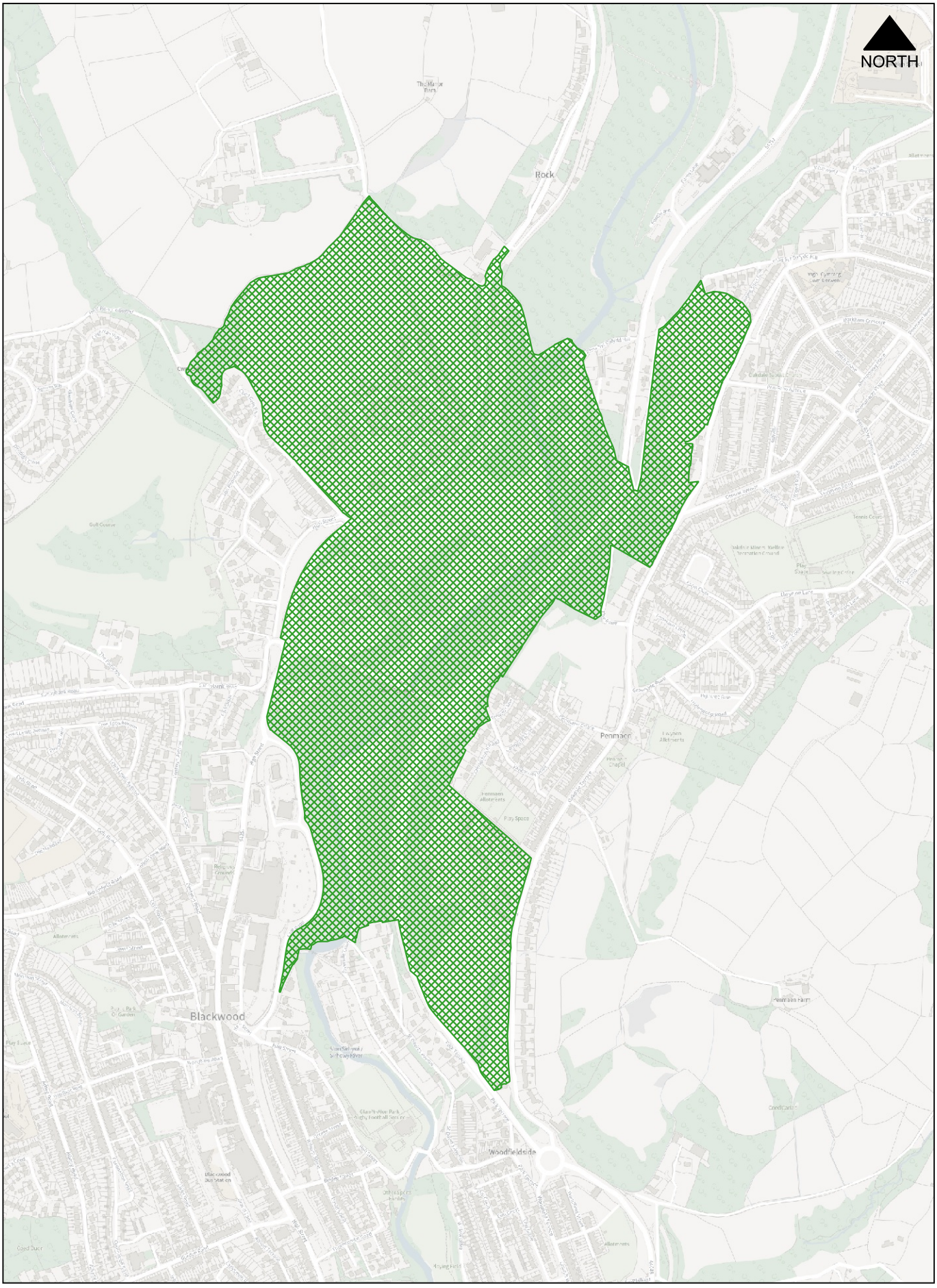
1:5,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.

SI 1.9
Site Name: Blackwood, Oakdale and Penmaen
Site Area: 76.73 Ha

1:10,000



© Crown copyright and database rights 2026, OS 100025372.
© Hawlfraint y Goron a hawliau cronfa ddata 2026, AO 100025372.