

Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) for the 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan

Scoping Report

Caerphilly County Borough Council

February 2022

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Lauren Egan Graduate Environmental Planner	Alastair Peattie Associate Director	Nick Chisholm- Batten Associate Director	Nick Chisholm- Batten Associate Director
Rosie Cox Senior Environmental Planner			

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Prepared for:
Caerphilly County Borough Council

Prepared by:
AECOM Limited
3rd Floor, Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol BS1 6NA
United Kingdom

T: +44 117 901 7000
aecom.com

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM is commissioned to lead on Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) in support of Caerphilly County Borough Council's (CCBC's) 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan (2RLDP). The ISA fulfils the requirements and duties for Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA), Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) and Well-being of Future Generations (WBFGE).
- 1.2 ISA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of ISA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts and maximising positive impacts. Through this approach, the ISA for the replacement LDP (2RLDP) seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.

Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan

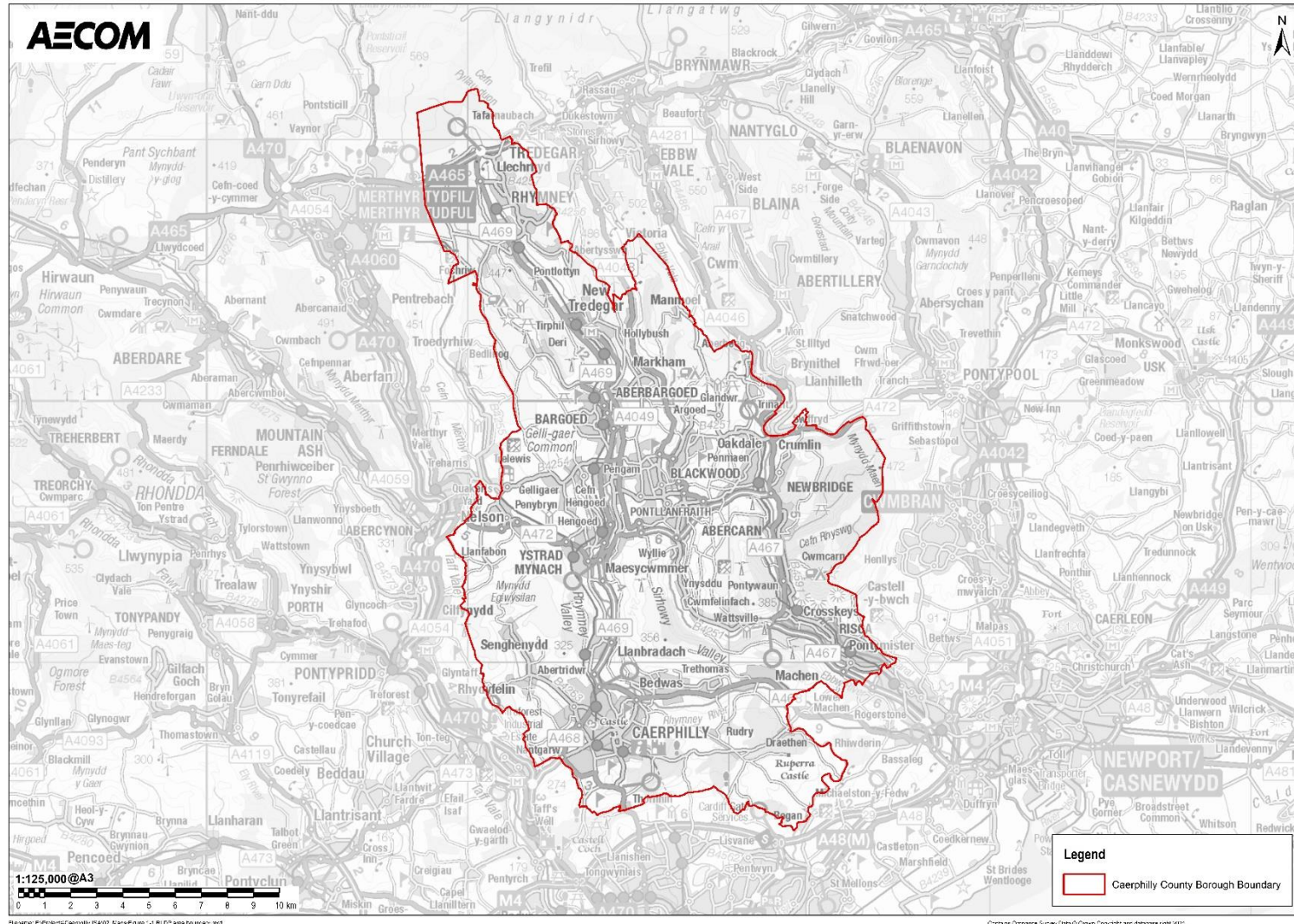
- 1.3 The Caerphilly Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by the Council on the 23rd of November 2010 and sets out the Council's planning framework for the development and use of land in Caerphilly from that date, until superseded. In accordance with statutory requirements the LDP has been monitored on an annual basis with nine Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs)¹ published to date.²
- 1.4 To ensure that Local Development Plans (LDP) are kept up to date, local planning authorities are required to review their LDPs at least once every four years following adoption. Subsequently, the draft review for the adopted LDP indicated that a full revision of the plan should be commenced immediately. CCBC are now in the process of undertaking preparation of the 2nd Replacement LDP (2RDLP).³
- 1.5 The 2RLDP will set out the Council's objectives and priorities for the development and use of land within the county borough for the period 2021 – 2035. The area covered by the 2nd Replacement LDP is shown in **Figure 1.1** overleaf.

¹ Due to Covid-19, there was no requirement to publish an AMR for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The Council have instead published a Housing Delivery Statement which provides a statement on housing delivery and sets out a housing trajectory.

² Caerphilly County Borough Council (2012 - 2019) LDP Annual Monitoring Reports [online] available at: [Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)

³ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2020): 'Local development plan review' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Business/Planning-and-building-control-for-business/Local-Development-Plan/2nd-Replacement-LDP-up-to-2035/Local-Development-Plan-review>

Figure 1.1 Caerphilly County Borough area



ISA explained

- 1.6 ISA is a mechanism for considering and communicating the likely effects of an emerging plan, and alternatives in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of ISA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding and mitigating negative impacts and maximising positive impacts. Through this approach, the ISA for the 2RLDP seeks to maximise the developing plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.7 As identified above, the ISA seeks to fulfil the requirements and duties for SA, SEA, EqIA, HIA, WLIA and WCFG. The approach is to fully integrate these components to provide a single assessment process to inform the development of the 2RLDP. A description of each of the various components and their purposes is provided below.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- 1.8 SA is undertaken to address the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (the SEA Regulations). SA is a legal requirement for Local Development Plans under Section 39 (2) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 1.9 In line with the requirements of the SEA Directive, the two key steps in SA are that:
- When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the SA Report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues; and
 - A report (the 'SA Report') is published for consultation alongside the Draft Plan that presents an assessment of the Draft Plan (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives.
- 1.10 The Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (2020) states that SA, incorporating SEA, plays an important part in demonstrating that the LDP is sound by ensuring that it reflects sustainable development objectives and that it should be an integral element at each stage of plan-making.

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

- 1.11 As a public-sector organisation, CCBC has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 and associated Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to ensure that the objectives and policy options within the 2RLDP avoid unlawful discrimination (direct and indirect), as well as advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between those with protected characteristics and all others.
- 1.12 In March 2021 the Socio-economic Duty Act commenced, which compliments the Equalities Act and PSED by further contributing towards Wales' long term well-being goals, in particular "A more equal Wales" and "A Wales of cohesive communities". Further strengthening social partnership arrangements and advancing fair work ambitions.⁴

⁴ Welsh Government (2020) A more equal Wales: strengthening social partnership white paper'.
<https://gov.wales/more-equal-wales-strengthening-social-partnership-white-paper>

1.13 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is often used by public sector organisations to demonstrate how this duty has been met.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

1.14 The Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 contains a provision to require a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to be carried out to assess the likely effect of the proposed development plan on health and mental well-being and inequality. The HIA process provides a systematic yet flexible and practical framework that can be used to consider the wider effects of LDP policies and how they, in turn, may affect people's health.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA)

1.15 The Welsh Government is committed to supporting the Welsh Language so that it can thrive and grow across Wales. The Welsh Language must be considered from the outset of the development plan process. It is a legislative requirement that the SA must include an assessment of the likely effects of the plan on the use of the Welsh language (The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (Section 11)).

1.16 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (2020) sets the policy requirements for Welsh language. Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language provides guidance on the consideration of Welsh language as part of the development plan process. The TAN provides advice on incorporating the Welsh language in development plans through the SA and the policy approach to anticipated windfall development. In summary, planning authorities must consider the likely effects of their development plans as part of the SA process and include a statement within the Deposit Plan on how this has been considered and/or addressed within the development plan. The SA process is the mechanism for considering how the scale and location of growth, the vision, objectives, policies, and proposals individually and in combination, impact on the Welsh language. Where evidence indicates a detrimental impact on the use of the Welsh language the LPA can assess whether the strategy should be amended, or mitigation measures should be identified.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

1.17 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets out the definition of sustainable development for the planning system in Wales, mirroring the definition in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA).

1.18 *“Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals”.*

1.19 The WBFGA sets seven well-being goals which all public bodies are required to achieve:

- A prosperous Wales.
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales.

- A Wales of cohesive communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.
- A globally responsible Wales.

1.20 The Act also identifies five ways of working which public bodies need to demonstrate they have carried out when undertaking their duty to achieve sustainable development. These are: involvement, collaboration, integration, prevention, and long-term factors. The well-being goals and the five ways of working can be used to inform and structure the ISA framework.

Approach to scoping for the ISA

1.21 Developing the draft scope has involved the following steps:

- Exploring the national, regional, and local policy context for the ISA, i.e., reviewing high level messages (e.g., from government departments and agencies in particular) with a view to gaining an understanding of broadly what the ISA needs to focus on. It is considered that national policy documents sufficiently deal with higher level (international) policy context.
- Establishing the baseline for the ISA, i.e., the current and further situation in the area in the absence of the 2RLDP, to help identify the plan's likely significant effects.
- Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the ISA.
- Developing an ISA Framework comprising objectives and assessment questions based on these issues which can then be used to assess the 2RLDP and consider alternatives.

Structure of this report

1.22 The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps 1 - 4 above have been presented under a series of ISA themes, as follows:

- Economy and employment
- Population and communities
- Health and wellbeing
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion
- Transport & movement
- Natural resources (air, land, minerals, and water)
- Biodiversity and geodiversity
- Historic environment
- Landscape
- Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)

- 1.23 The selected ISA themes incorporate the 'SEA topics' suggested by Schedule 2 of the SEA Regulations⁵ as well as fully integrating EqIA, HIA and Welsh language considerations (including the Council's relevant policies and strategies) and reflecting the seven well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 1.24 It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e., after the current consultation), the suggested scope presented under ten themes will provide a methodological 'framework' for the assessment of the draft 2RLDP and alternatives. The discussion of the scoping information under each ISA theme is presented in **Chapters 2 to 11**.

⁵ The SEA Regulations are 'of a procedural nature' (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and do not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on *'the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors'* [our emphasis]

2. Economy and employment

2.1 This theme focuses on local businesses, access to employment, tourism, education, and skill level.

Policy context

2.2 **Table 2.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the 2RLDP and ISA.

Table 2.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to economy and employment

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Welsh Government Rural Development Programme</u>	2014
<u>Technical advice note (TAN) 4: retail and commercial development</u>	2016
<u>Technical advice note (TAN) 13: tourism</u>	1997
<u>Technical advice note (TAN) 23: economic development</u>	2014
<u>Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal</u>	2016
<u>Our Valleys, Our Future: Delivery Plan 2019-21</u>	
<u>Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan</u>	2017
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>Larger than Local Employment Study</u>	2019
<u>Employment Land Review</u>	2021
<u>Retail Capacity Study</u>	In progress
	2018
<u>CCBC Corporate Plan 2018-23</u>	2018
<u>The Caerphilly We Want - Well-Being Plan 2018-23</u>	2018
<u>Building Better Places</u>	2020

<u>'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' - Regeneration Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough</u>	2018
<u>Caerphilly Basin Masterplan</u>	2018
<u>Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area Masterplan</u>	2020
<u>Ystrad Mynach Masterplan</u>	2019
<u>Communications and Engagement Strategy (2019-2022)</u>	2019
<u>Caerphilly Rural Development Plan</u>	n.d.

2.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The 2RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which forms part of the development plan and sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Caerphilly as part of a distinctive Valleys sub-region with nuanced social and economic needs, which in turn is part of a larger Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys National Growth Area. Under the 'town centre first' approach, significant new commercial, retail, community facilities and public services development must be located within town centres, with good access to the wider region via public transport. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors such as transportation and accessibility to services, housing, and employment. Supporting Caerphilly as an area with essential services and facilities; transport and digital infrastructure will have a beneficial impact on the local and wider economy.
- National planning policy is set out in Planning Policy Wales (PPW), which predominately seeks to ensure planning decisions support economic and employment growth alongside social and environmental considerations within the context of sustainable development.
- PPW is supplemented by TANs and MTANs, which translate Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system, so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability. The 2RLDP should aim to:
 - co-ordinate development with infrastructure provision and support national, regional, and local economic policies and strategies.
 - align jobs and services with housing, wherever possible, to reduce the need for travel, especially by car; and
 - promote the re-use of previously developed vacant and underused land.
- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, 'Powering the Welsh Economy'. The deal aims to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The 2RLDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the area for the benefit of its resident population.

Baseline summary

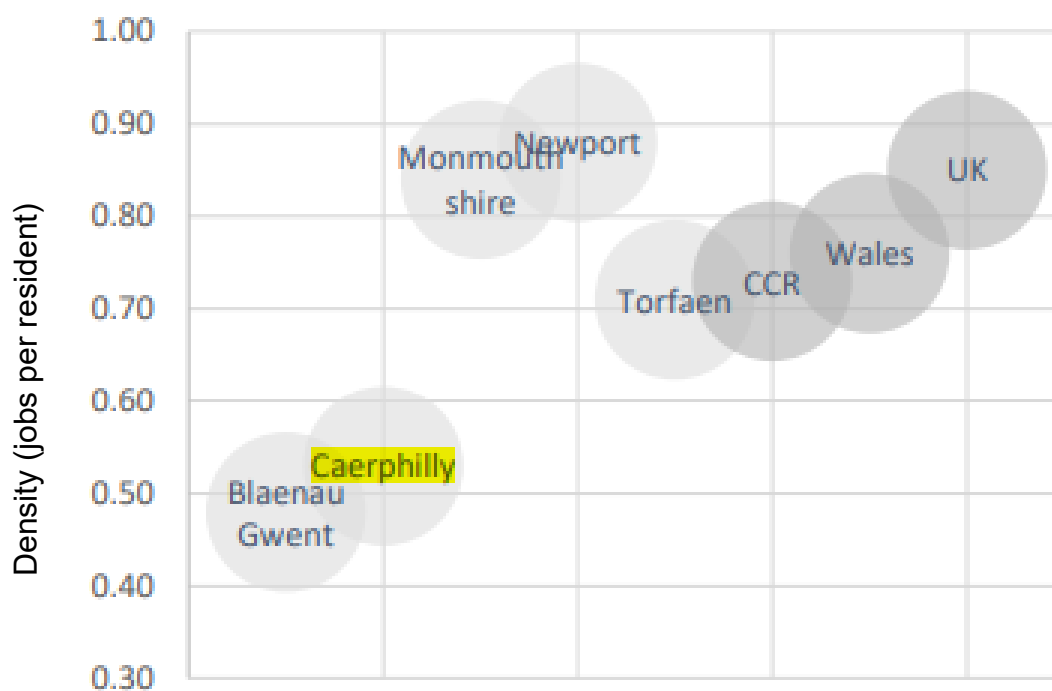
Regional context

2.4 The South East region comprises Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan and is the most populous region of Wales, with over 1.5 million residents. The region is the smallest of the four regions by area and includes the coastal cities of Cardiff and Newport and the former industrial heartlands of the South Wales valleys.

Economic activity

2.5 **Figure 2.1** (below) shows that Caerphilly has one of the lowest concentrations of jobs per working age person in comparison to other areas in the south east of Wales, nationally and in comparison to UK figures.

Figure 2.1: Job density (2017)⁶



2.6 Work commuting patterns in the county borough provide an insight to the economic activity of Caerphilly. As shown in **Table 2.2** (overleaf), a high proportion of residents in Caerphilly commute into Newport, more so than any other area in the Gwent sub-region. Subsequently, Caerphilly has low self-containment with regards to employment; only 48% of Caerphilly residents in employment work within the local authority area. Additionally, there are reasonable commuter flows from Blaenau Gwent and Newport into Caerphilly.

2.7 Industrial restructuring has led to a decline in the traditional heavy industries of coal and iron within the county borough, in addition to a decrease in traditional manufacturing. Whilst unemployment has recently declined, there are areas of

⁶ Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen Councils (2020) 'Regional Employment Study' [online] available at: [CONTENTS \(torfaen.gov.uk\)](https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/contents)

the county borough where many families are seeing a further generation growing up in unemployment and poverty. Although unemployment rates are similar to that of Wales as a whole, as indicated in **Table 2.3** below), Caerphilly has higher levels of economic inactivity due to the permanent sickness and/or disability of residents, discussed further in **Chapter 4** of this report.⁷

Table 2.2: Commuting flows (2011)⁸

Place of residence	Place of work				
	Blaenau Gwent	Caerphilly	Monmouthshire	Newport	Torfaen
Blaenau Gwent	-	2,300	4,200	1,300	2,500
Caerphilly	1,700	-	N/A	9,900	2,500
Monmouthshire	600	N/A	-	3,200	1,300
Newport	N/A	2,000	4,000	-	4,100
Torfaen	N/A	1,000	2,300	6,900	-

Table 2.3: Percentage of adults aged 16- 74 by economic activity (2011)⁹

	Caerphilly		Wales	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Total economically active	70.0%	59.9%	70.3%	61.3%
Working full time	46.9%	20.7%	43.3%	28.1%
Working part time	5.5%	30.0%	6.1%	21.6%
Self Employed	9.2%	2.9%	12.5%	4.9%
Unemployed	6.6%	3.7%	5.5%	3.2%
Full Time Students	1.7%	2.6%	2.9%	3.6%
Total economically inactive	30.0%	40.1%	29.7%	38.7%
Retired	14.1%	18.0%	14.1%	18.0%
Full Time Student	4.4%	4.6%	6.2%	5.7%
Looking After Home/Family	1.2%	7.3%	1.0%	6.7%
Permanently Sick/Disabled	8.6%	7.8%	6.5%	6.0%
Other	1.8%	2.4%	1.9%	2.2%

⁷ CCBC (n.d.): 'SEA Scoping Report'.

⁸ Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen Councils (2020) 'Regional Employment Study' [online] available at: [CONTENTS \(torfaen.gov.uk\)](https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/contents)

⁹ UK Gov (2011): 'Census 2011- Table KS601UK ' [online] available at: https://www.google.com/search?q=Percentage+aged+16+%E2%80%93+74+by+economic+activity+census+2011&rlz=1C1GC_EA_enGB892GB892&oq=Percentage+aged+16+%E2%80%93+74+by+economic+activity+census+2011&ags=chrome..69i57.2164j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

- 2.8 In addition to the above, the county borough has above average levels of employment in the manufacturing sector and below average levels in parts of the service sector. Manufacturing employment is decreasing nationally and this, coupled to below average levels of service sector employment leaves the workforce exposed to negative economic circumstances.¹⁰
- 2.9 Unemployment across many parts of the county borough is characterised by long term generational ‘worklessness’, most notably in those communities which may have been affected by widespread redundancy following past industrial closures. Unemployment rates are also strongly linked to levels of deprivation in Caerphilly wards. For example, the Upper Rhymney Valley community area contains a large proportion of the more deprived areas within the county borough, where unemployment is a major issue. People living within these communities will often experience numerous complex barriers to employment, including transport, childcare, poor physical and mental health, low confidence, low skills, lack of education/qualifications, essential skills, poor motivation, domestic abuse, and substance misuse.¹¹ Deprivation is discussed further in **Chapter 5** of this report.
- 2.10 Employment forecasts from 2018¹² to 2040 project an overall employment decline of 3,850 jobs (-6%) in Caerphilly, with growth in certain sectors expected to underperform Wales and the UK. Notably, the professional services sector is expected to increase by 7% in Caerphilly, a rate approximately four times smaller than the growth forecast for the UK (29%), and almost three times smaller than the growth expected for Wales (19%).
- 2.11 Economic vitality is strongly linked to resident earnings. As per the Local Housing Market Assessment (2017), the average median earnings in 2017 were £502 per week, which would equate to an annual salary of £26,104. In Caerphilly, there has been a steady increase in incomes over the last five years, rising from £450 in 2010.¹³
- 2.12 Alongside this, as of 2019, 31.4% of the county borough residents had no qualifications compared with a figure of 26% for Wales as a whole, indicating a need to upskill current residents.¹⁴

Other financial trends

- 2.13 Other trends¹⁵ that indicate economic fragility in the county borough include:
- The proportion of children entitled to free school meals in the county over the period of 2010- 2011 (often used as an indicator of income) was the third highest in Wales as a whole.
 - Caerphilly County Borough has the highest percentage of residents with no savings when compared to all other boroughs in Wales.

¹⁰ CCBC (n.d.): ‘SEA Scoping Report’.

¹¹ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2019): ‘Corporate Plan 2018- 2023’ [online] available at: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Council-and-democracy/Corporate_Plan_2018-2023.aspx

¹² Caerphilly County Borough Council (2019): ‘Corporate Plan 2018- 2023’ [online] available at: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Council-and-democracy/Corporate_Plan_2018-2023.aspx

¹³ CCBC (2017): ‘Local Housing Market Assessment’ [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Housing/LHMA/LocalHousingMarketAssessment.aspx>

¹⁴ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2019): ‘Corporate Plan 2018- 2023’ [online] available at: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Council-and-democracy/Corporate_Plan_2018-2023.aspx

¹⁵ CCBC (n.d.): ‘SEA Scoping Report’.

2.14 Optimistically, The City Deal initiative, a £1.2 billion programme ‘to regenerate the economic fortunes of the South East Wales region’¹⁶ sets out a transformative approach to how the Cardiff Capital Region will seek to deliver the scale and nature of investment needed to support the area’s growth plans, including Caerphilly.

Future baseline

2.15 Certain sectors are more susceptible to the effects of unemployment in Caerphilly, including the manufacturing and service sectors. Overall predictions for 2040 indicate that employment rates in the county borough will drop by ~6%. This has the potential to be exacerbated by infrastructure that is poorly connected to key service centres and fails to offer increased opportunities for employment overall.

2.16 The regional issues that planning authorities should work together to plan for are set out alongside the Welsh Government’s (WGs) spatial policy areas and will be the focus of WG’s support for the South East region. With 150,792 Welsh speakers across the region, it is important that Strategic and Local Development Plans consider the relationship between strategic housing, transport and economic growth and the Welsh language. The region’s assets are its connections with the Mid Wales and South West Wales regions and the West of England region.

2.17 The City Deal and South Wales Metro development (discussed in **Chapter 6**) has the potential to realise significant changes to the county borough soon and could bring widespread changes to the county borough’s economy that could be realised over a relatively short timeframe.

Key issues

2.18 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):

- Although Caerphilly has similar levels of unemployment as Wales, Caerphilly has higher levels of economic inactivity due to the permanent sickness and/ or disability of residents. Employment has been linked to deprivation levels in the county borough, including low levels of education. Improved access to education and training opportunities could bring levels more in line with that experienced across Wales as a whole.
- Caerphilly has low self-containment with regards to employment; however there are reasonable commuter flows from Blaenau Gwent and Newport into Caerphilly.
- Housing affordability is a prevalent issue in the county borough, with historic data indicating a disparity between earnings and housing prices. Future development could seek to prioritise affordable housing to better support the needs of residents.

¹⁶ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2021): ‘Draft Review Report for the RDLP’ [online] available at: [Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)

ISA objectives

2.19 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment question:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Support a strong, diverse, and resilient economy, with innovative responses to changing conditions and support for a strong future workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sufficient land for businesses to grow and ensure alignment with housing/infrastructure? • Support the creation of accessible new jobs? • Ensure the capacity of educational facilities keep pace with population growth? • Enhance the vitality and resilience of the town centre and retail centres? • Safeguard existing employment areas?

3. Population and communities

- 3.1 This theme focuses on the demographics and households of the population in Caerphilly, as well as deprivation, access to services and facilities.

Policy context

- 3.2 **Table 3.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the 2RLDP and ISA.

Table 3.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to population and communities

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 2: Planning and Affordable Housing</u>	2006
<u>Technical advice Note (TAN) 6: Planning for sustainable rural communities</u>	2010
<u>Technical advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh Language</u>	2017
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>Welsh Language Strategy</u>	2017
<u>Our Valleys, Our Future: Delivery Plan 2019-21</u>	2019
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>Caerphilly Well-being Plan</u>	2018
<u>CCBC Corporate Plan 2018-23</u>	2018
<u>The Caerphilly We Want - Well-Being Plan 2018-23</u>	2018
<u>'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' - Regeneration Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough</u>	2018
<u>Caerphilly Basin Masterplan</u>	2018
<u>Heads of the Valleys Masterplan</u>	2020
<u>Ystrad Mynach Masterplan</u>	2019
<u>A Housing Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough</u>	In progress
<u>Caerphilly Local Housing Market Assessment Update</u>	n.d.

Building Better Places	2020
<u>Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment</u>	2016

3.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The 2RDLP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Caerphilly as part of a distinctive Valleys sub-region with nuanced social and economic needs, which in turn is part of a larger Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys National Growth Area. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors such as transportation and accessibility to services, housing, and employment. Supporting Caerphilly as an area with essential services and facilities alongside digital infrastructure will have a beneficial impact on the local community.
- National planning policy is set out in PPW, which predominately seeks to ensure planning decisions support all aspects of well-being and deliver new development which is sustainable and provides for the needs of all people.
- PPW is supplemented by TANs, which translate Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development within the planning system so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability. The primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development, and contributes positively towards improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. This is as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties such as the Socio-economic Duty.
- The Welsh Language Standards place a requirement on Local authorities in Wales to produce a local Welsh Language Strategy that sets out how they will promote the use of the Welsh language and increase the number of Welsh speakers in their area. Based around the six themes identified nationally in the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy: 'A living language: a language for living' the Welsh Language Strategy (2017) uses established national criteria but localises the information and targets to support the continuing success of the Welsh language in Caerphilly.
- The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - People and community.
 - Movement.
 - Location.
 - Public realm.
 - Mix of uses; and

- Identity.
- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, committing to a partnership approach to housing and regeneration. The deal aims to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The 2RLDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the area for the benefit of its resident population.
- Notably, the 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme is a major, long-term, strategic capital investment programme, funded by the Welsh Government and local authorities.. The programme also contributes to the Council's Wellbeing and Place Shaping Framework of investment across Caerphilly. The adopted Caerphilly LDP and other local policies and plans regarding socio economic issues broadly address the following themes:
 - Improving access to affordable housing.
 - The reuse of previously developed land and empty properties.
 - Improving and protecting local facilities, services, and overall social and environmental equality of existing and future communities; and
 - Creating options to reduce the need to travel and encouraging a shift towards sustainable communities.

Baseline summary

Settlements

3.4 Caerphilly County Borough comprises 50 distinct towns and villages, many of which are linear settlements located on the valley floor. The largest town (as per the 2011 Census) is Caerphilly. Other main settlements include Blackwood, Bargoed, Newbridge, Risca and Ystrad Mynach.

Resident population

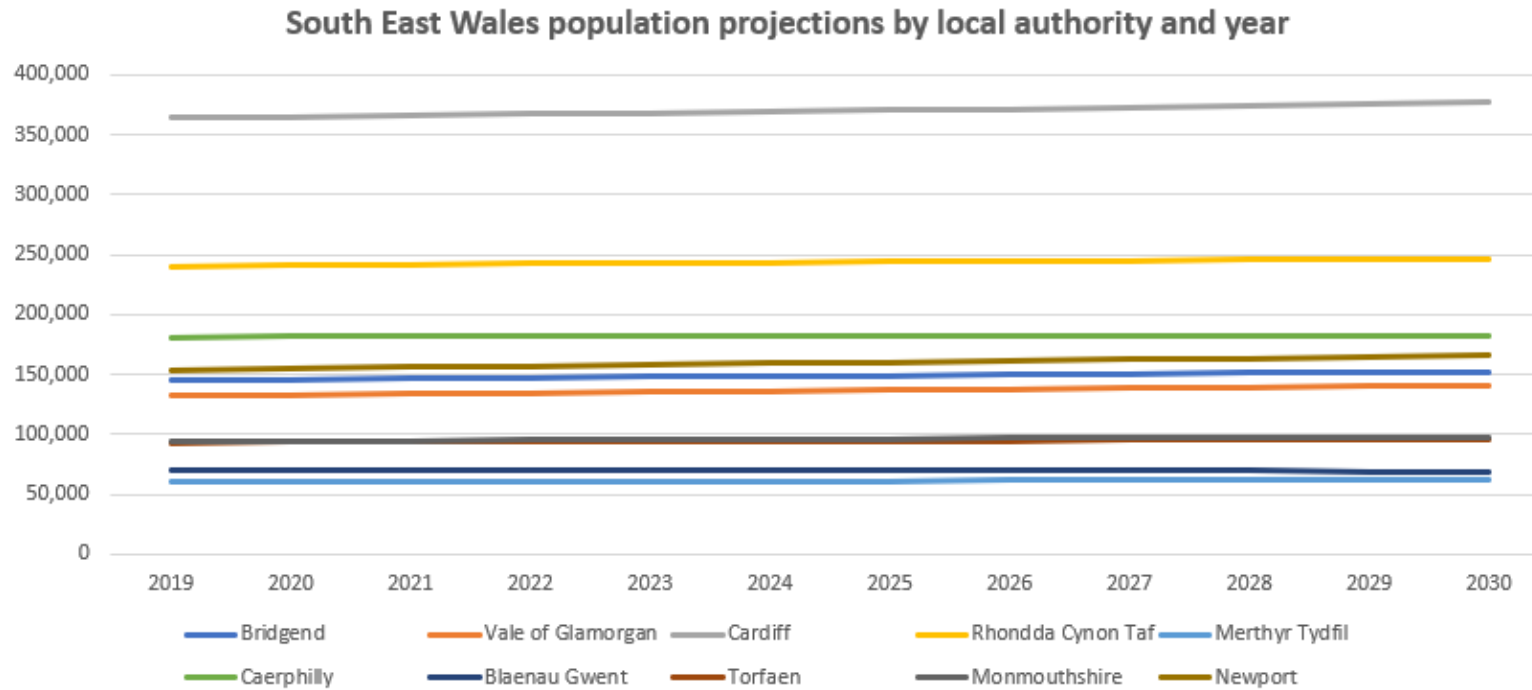
- 3.5 The most recently available population estimates for Caerphilly (2020)¹⁷ indicated that 5.7% of the total population of Wales reside in the county borough. Caerphilly is therefore one of the five most populated counties in Wales, as well as being the 4th most densely populated.
- 3.6 **Figure 3.1** (overleaf) shows South East Wales population projections by local authority and year from 2018 – 2030, based on statistics from 2018.¹⁸ Caerphilly had the third highest usual resident population in 2018, behind Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taf, a trend which is predicted to continue into 2030 based on these statistics. However, as shown in **Table 3.2** overleaf, Caerphilly is predicted to be the second slowest growing population in the South East based on this data, indicating that the population is not growing at a comparatively high rate for its size.

¹⁷ StatsWales (2020): 'Population density' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Density/populationdensity-by-localauthority-year>

¹⁸ StatsWales (2018) Population projections by local authority and year <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/Local-Authority/2018-based/populationprojections-by-localauthority-year>

- 3.7 The 2018-based projections also highlight important differences in age structure. The 0-15 age group is projected to increase until 2025, and 16-64 until 2024, then both are predicted to decrease. Population growth over the plan period will be as a result of an increase in the 65+ age group.

Figure 3.1: Population projections by local authority and year¹⁹



¹⁹ StatsWales (2018) Population projections by local authority and year <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/Local-Authority/2018-based/populationprojections-by-localauthority-year>

Table 3.2: Population projections ²⁰

Area	2021 - 2026	2026- 2031
Bridgend	1.73%	1.73%
Vale of Glamorgan	2.94%	2.26%
Cardiff	1.31%	1.79%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1.22%	1.01%
Merthyr Tydfil	1.22%	0.92%
Caerphilly	0.43%	0.25%
Blaenau Gwent	-0.34%	-0.35%
Torfaen	1.17%	0.94%
Monmouthshire	1.74%	1.44%
Newport	3.52%	2.79%

- 3.8 There are some notable population variances within the county borough. Past trends have seen population decline in the northern parts of Caerphilly, whilst significant development pressure and population growth has occurred in the south near to the border with Cardiff. However, high rates of development in Blackwood have seen large increases in the resident population in this settlement over the last 5-10 years. These overall differences between the north and south of the county borough have been noted by CCBC to be contributing towards increasing pressure on services and facilities for residents in the south.²¹

Age structure

- 3.9 **Table 3.3** overleaf indicates that the proportion of older residents in the area (75+) has increased over the past 4 years, whilst there has been a decrease in the youth population (0- 14), and young adult population (15- 29).

²⁰ StatsWales (2018): 'Population projection components of change by local authority and year' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Projections/Local-Authority/2018-based/populationprojectioncomponentsofchange-by-localauthority-year>

²¹ CCBC (n.d.): 'Scoping Report' [not published].

Table 3.3: Age distribution (%) for Caerphilly (2016- 2020)²²

Age band	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
0-14	17.8	17.8	17.7	17.5	17.3
15-29	18.0	17.8	17.6	17.4	17.6
30-44	18.7	18.6	18.6	18.7	18.9
45-64	26.7	26.8	26.8	26.7	26.5
65-74	11.0	11.0	11.1	11.1	11.0
75+	7.9	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.6

Community satisfaction and service use

3.10 The most recent Household Survey (2017)²³ indicated the following trends:

- Approximately 82% of residents of the county borough report being happy living in their neighbourhoods, although this varied between 60% and 87% across different parts of the county borough.
- The proportion of residents who believe that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in the community have worsened has increased (between 37% and 45%).
- With regards to cultural and recreational activities, sports and leisure centres, libraries, parks and play areas and Country Parks were used widely by respondents whereas 65% of respondents had never used the Winding House, 39% had never used Llancaiach Fawr and 38% had never used Blackwood Miners' Institute.

Education

3.11 Nearly 40% of the residents in the county borough have no formal qualifications. In 2011, around 10% of pupils failed to achieve level 1 (five GCSE passes grades D- G) compared to the Welsh figure of 9.7%. The educational achievements of pupils in the county borough have historically been poor in comparison to the Welsh National figure, however this is slowly improving over time.²⁴

3.12 Schools across Caerphilly are mainly centred around the main settlements of the county borough such as Caerphilly Town and the Mid-Valleys. There are over 60 primary schools, one primary and secondary combined school (ages 3-18), and twelve secondary schools in the county borough.

²² StatsWales (2018): Population projection components of change by local authority and year' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Distributions/agedistributionofpopulation-by-gender-localauthority>

²³ CCBC (2017): 'Household Survey' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Consultations/Household-Survey/HHS2017InitialAnalysisReport.aspx>

²⁴ Nomis (2011): 'Highest level of Qualification' [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/qs501ew>

Housing

- 3.13 There are significant differences in the housing market across the county borough, with regards to house prices, rental values, and housing demand. As identified in the 2014 based household projections, most households in Caerphilly in 2014 were two person households, containing no children (31%), followed by single person households (27.6%).²⁵ Additionally, the 2011 Census identified that most households in Caerphilly own their own homes, though this has declined since 2001 (from 72.3% to 69.3%).
- 3.14 Many properties in the county borough are semi-detached (40%) or terraced (35%), at proportions significantly higher than the Welsh average. There are also a high proportion of pre-1900 terraced houses in the former mining communities.²⁶
- 3.15 Despite this, Caerphilly has one of the highest average household sizes in Wales. This trend has been attributed to a few factors including the affordability of housing due to increased house prices and low incomes, which results in many non-dependent children living with parents due to unemployment, lower paid jobs, and a lack of suitable housing stock to meet household needs.²⁷
- 3.16 With regards to house prices, in line with national trends, overall house prices increased significantly between 2001 and 2008 from £66,803 to £133,345. Following the economic downturn, house prices fell to £113,510 in April 2009 but prices have now risen to just below their 2008 peak £152,750 - as of Jan 2021). Housing sales in the county borough in 2021 indicate that half of properties were sold for between £1,900 and £2,940 per square metre.²⁸ However, house prices in Caerphilly are still lower than averages for Wales, as shown in **Figure 3.2**, overleaf.²⁹
- 3.17 The Welsh Housing Condition Survey (1998)³⁰ found that housing conditions in the county borough were amongst the best in Wales. In this regard, the proportion of houses that are deemed to be 'unfit' in Caerphilly (6%) is comparably lower than conditions for the Welsh average (8.5%).
- 3.18 The level of home ownership in the county borough (73%) is similar to the Welsh average of 71%. 17% of properties are rented from the Local Authority whilst a further 8.6% are rented from either a registered social landlord or a private landlord.³¹
- 3.19 Additionally, homelessness rates within the county borough are average for Wales.³²

²⁵ CCBC (2018): 'Local Housing Market Assessment' [online] available at:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Housing/LHMA/LocalHousingMarketAssessment.aspx>

²⁶ ONS (2011): '2011 Census data' [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011census/2011censusdata>

²⁷ CCBC (2018): 'Local Housing Market Assessment' [online] available at:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Housing/LHMA/LocalHousingMarketAssessment.aspx>

²⁸ House metric (2021): 'House prices in Caerphilly' [online] available at: [Analysis of house prices in Caerphilly \(CF83 1\)](https://www.housemetric.co.uk/analysis-of-house-prices-in-caerphilly-cf83-1) ([housemetric.co.uk](https://www.housemetric.co.uk))

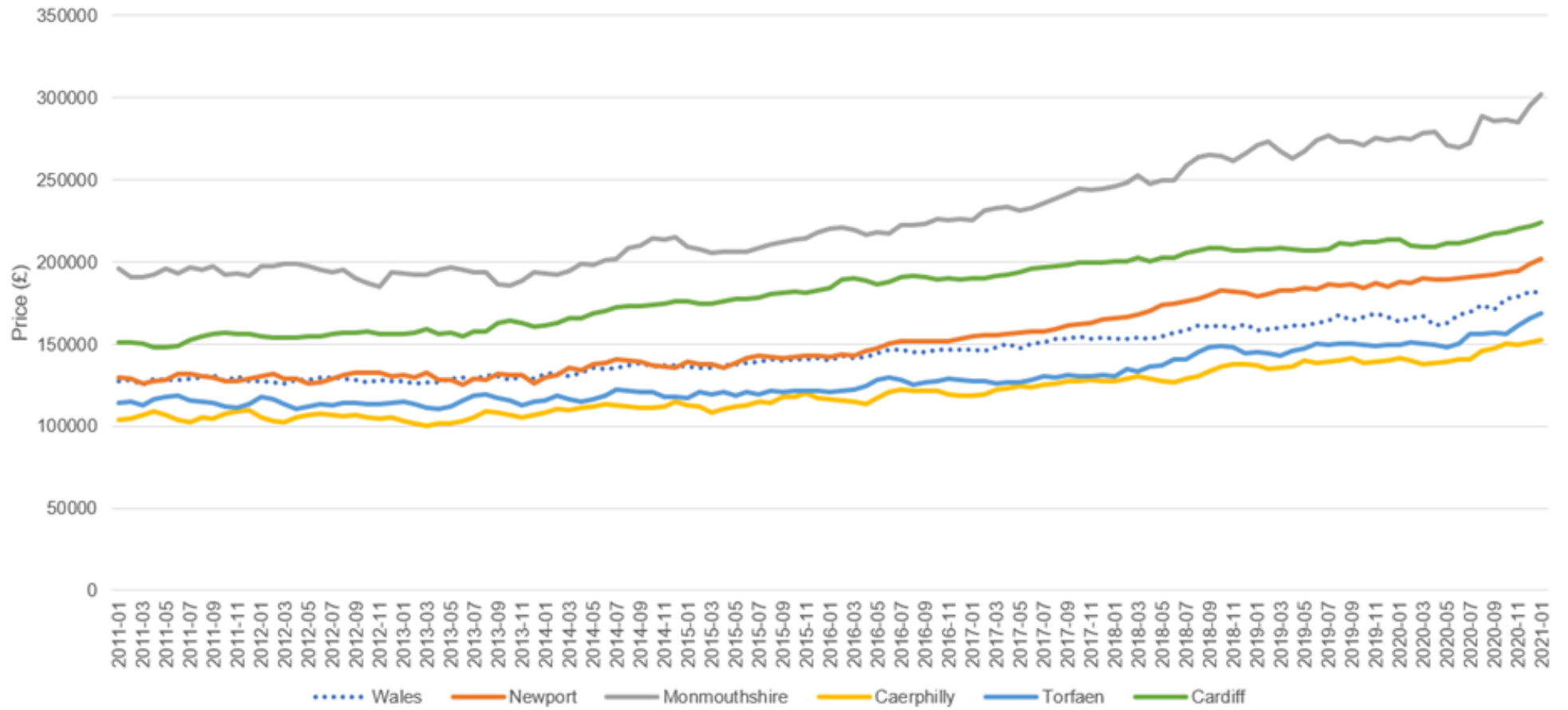
²⁹ Land Registry UK (2018): 'UK House price data'.

³⁰ Gov UK (1998): 'Welsh Housing Condition Survey'.

³¹ CCBC (n.d.): 'SEA Scoping Report'.

³² CCBC (n.d.): 'SEA Scoping Report'.

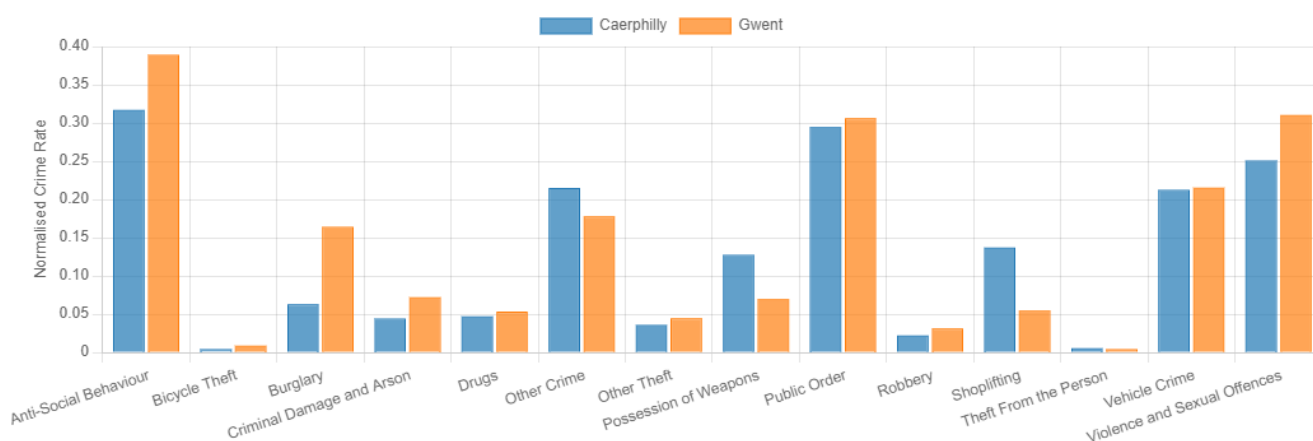
Figure 3.2: Average house prices, 2011-2021



Crime

3.20 Crime rates in Caerphilly compared to Gwent are presented in **Figure 3.3** below. On average, crime rates are lower than rates for Gwent. The most common crimes in Caerphilly are anti-social behaviour followed by violence and sexual offences, with 420 offences during 2020 for violence and sexual offences. This is 22% lower than the previous year (513 offences) and a difference of 5.85 from 2019's crime rate. Caerphilly's least common crime is bicycle theft, with 4 offences recorded in 2020, the same as 2019's figure of 4 crimes.

Figure 3.3: Caerphilly Crime rates, 2020³³



Community facilities

3.21 In terms of community facilities, the County Borough has 18 libraries, eight leisure centres and 38 community centres. In some parts of the county borough, such as the densely populated Caerphilly Basin, pressure on existing facilities is significant.³⁴

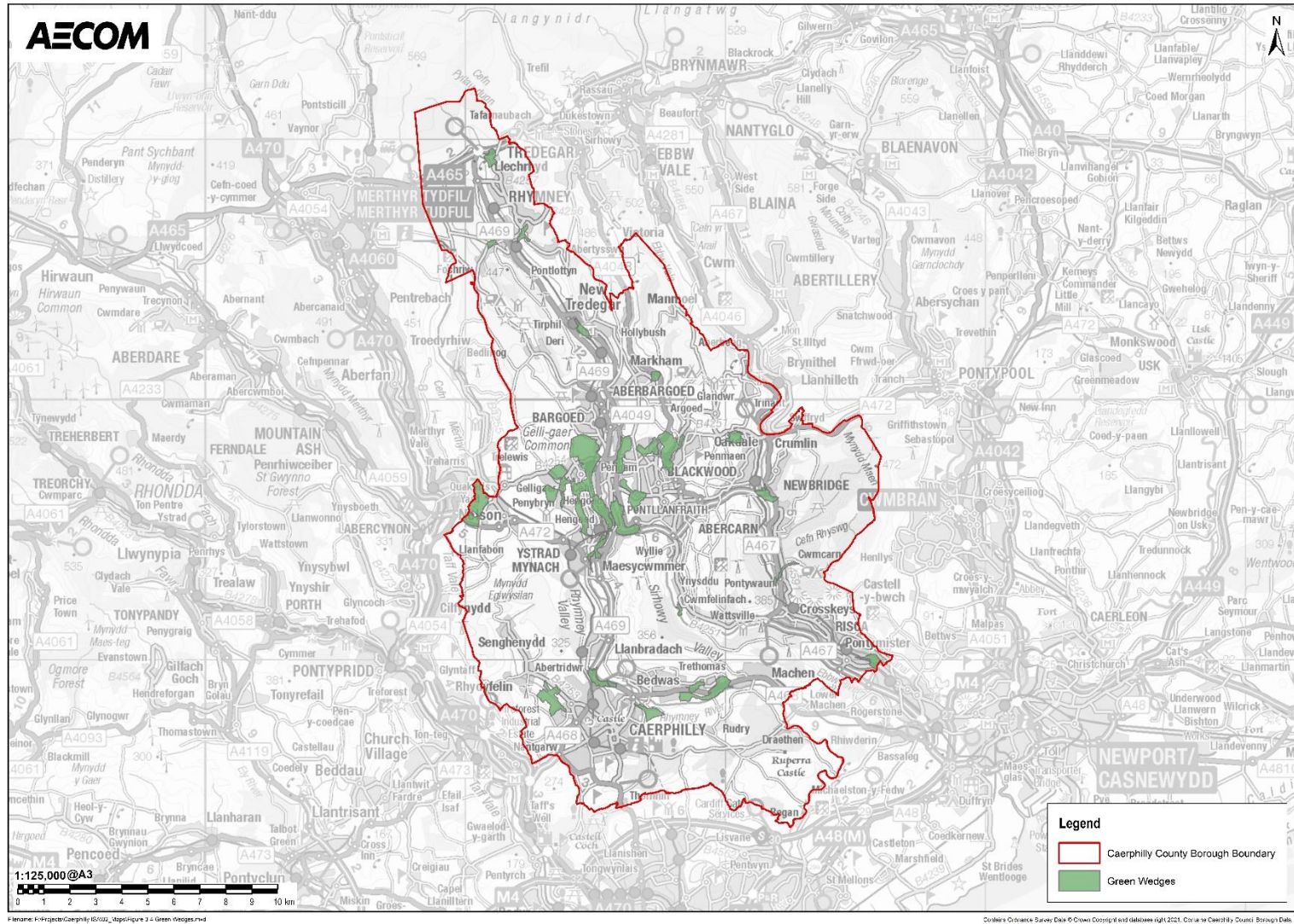
Green Wedges

3.22 Green Wedges are an urban containment mechanism intended to restrict the spread of built development beyond designated settlement boundaries and to retain the integrity of particular settlements. In this regard, CCBC have identified 24 separate green wedges in the area, mostly centred around the Mid-Valleys corridor. These are identified on **Figure 3.4** overleaf.

³³ Crimerates (2020): 'Crime and Safety in Caerphilly' [online] available at: [Caerphilly Crime and Safety Statistics | CrimeRate](#)

³⁴ Caerphilly County Borough (2021): 'Caerphilly County Borough LDP' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/LDP/written-statement.aspx>

Figure 3.4 Green Wedges



Future baseline

- 3.23 Although population growth in Caerphilly is comparatively slower than other boroughs, given the large size of the current population and mentioned discrepancies between services in the northern and southern parts of the county borough, it is anticipated that the predicted increase in the population is likely to put pressure on existing community services, and could disproportionately affect certain parts of Caerphilly due to this. Further, unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of delivering the right mix of housing types, tenures and sizes in suitably connected places, particularly considering the comparatively large younger population present. Continued development of housing types and tenures of market preference may introduce or exacerbate a housing imbalance and fail to meet any local needs for smaller homes to downsize into, or more affordable homes to serve younger residents' needs.
- 3.24 The 2RLDP offers the opportunity to promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other - for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages.
- 3.25 Over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, homeworking has become a more prevalent trend, and this is likely to alter the commuting patterns and access trends of residents into the future. Whilst uncertainty remains, the 2RLDP provides opportunities to guide development which accommodates for changing working patterns and lifestyles, and places greater emphasis on access to local services, facilities and employment options and strategic connectivity.

Key issues

- 3.26 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):
- Housing prices in Caerphilly have increased over the decade of 2008-2018, a trend that is likely to continue into the 2RDLP period. The 2RLDP could seek to enhance policy provisions that deliver the right mix of housing types, tenures, and sizes according to local needs, in suitably connected places, as well as affordable housing for future residents.
 - Community facilities in the county borough are unevenly distributed and are out of reach for many residents. Alongside this, the Household Survey (2017) indicated public perceptions of high crime. Plan making could seek to make Caerphilly safer and more accessible to improve the quality of life and community cohesion of residents, such as through safer pedestrian routes (see **Chapter 6**), high quality green open spaces (see **Chapter 4**) and measures which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.
 - Population growth in Caerphilly is predicted to continue to increase, albeit it at a steadier rate than neighbouring authorities. To adapt to this increase, and encourage sustainable growth, plan making could seek to enhance and promote current community services, in addition to more houses.

ISA objectives

3.27 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

Objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
To provide enough good quality market and affordable homes, and community infrastructure, in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the identified housing needs, including affordable, for the county borough? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types, and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services?
To enhance design quality to create places for people that maintain and enhance community and settlement identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve connectivity between communities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services?

4. Health and wellbeing

4.1 This theme focuses on the demographics and households of the population in Caerphilly, as well as deprivation, access to services and facilities.

Policy context

4.2 **Table 4.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the RLDP and ISA.

Table 4.1: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to health and wellbeing

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Public Health (Wales) Act</u>	2017
<u>Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act</u>	2014
<u>Air Quality Wales Regulations</u>	2002
<u>Building Better Places</u>	2020
<u>Planning and Enabling Healthy Environments: Incorporating a template for planning policy</u>	2021
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>CCBC Corporate Plan 2018-23</u>	2018
<u>The Caerphilly We Want - Well-Being Plan 2018-23</u>	2018
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' - Regeneration Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough</u>	2018
<u>Caerphilly Basin Masterplan</u>	2018
<u>Heads of the Valleys Masterplan</u>	2020
<u>Ystrad Mynach Masterplan</u>	2019
<u>Green Infrastructure Strategy</u>	2021
<u>Green Infrastructure Assessment</u>	ongoing
<u>Wales Active Travel Strategy</u>	2021
<u>The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)</u>	2020
<u>South East Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016

<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16: Sport, recreation, and open space</u>	2009
<u>Annual Report of the Director of Social Services 2020-21</u>	2021
<u>Older Person's Commissioning Strategy</u>	2016
<u>Learning Disability Strategy</u>	2012
<u>Local Carers Strategy</u>	2013
<u>Integrated Mental Health Strategy</u>	2013
<u>Adult Mental Health Commissioning Strategy</u>	2015
<u>Valleys Regional Park Prospectus</u>	2018
<u>Sport and Active Recreation Strategy</u>	2019
<u>Strategic Equality Plan 2020-24</u>	2020

4.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The 2RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Caerphilly as part of a distinctive Valleys sub-region with nuanced social and economic needs, which in turn is part of a larger Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys National Growth Area. As such the 2RLDP should set out policies and proposals reflecting the structural economic and social issues that impact upon residents' prosperity and well-being. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors such as housing, employment, and transport across the region, which will in turn improve the physical and mental health of the population. Supporting Caerphilly as an area with essential services and facilities; transport and digital infrastructure will help to support healthy lifestyles.
- National planning policy is set out in PPW, which predominately seeks to ensure planning decisions support all aspects of well-being. PPW places the concept of placemaking at the centre of national planning policy to deliver new development which is sustainable and provides for the needs of all people.
- PPW is supplemented by TANs, which translate Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system and provide national planning policy in respect of health. Notably the 2RLDP will be required to:
 - Contribute to the protection and, where possible, the improvement of people's health and wellbeing as a core component of achieving the well-being goals and responding to climate change.
 - Consider the possible impacts of developments – positive and/or negative – on people's health at an early stage will help to clarify the relevance of health and the extent to which it needs to be considered.
 - Ensure, as far as is practicable, that noise-sensitive developments, such as hospitals, schools, and housing, that need to be located close to the existing transportation infrastructure to facilitate access, are designed in

such a way as to limit noise levels within and around those developments.

- Consider national air quality objectives, recognising that they represent a pragmatic threshold above which government considers the health risks associated with air pollution are unacceptable.
- World Health Organisation guidelines on the health effects of noise and national indicators set by the Welsh Ministers under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, together with information from the local authority's annual air quality reports, national noise maps and any area statements issued by Natural Resources Wales under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- The Planning and Enabling Healthy Environments: Incorporating a Template for Planning Policy report promotes a better understanding of the broad environmental and social barriers that impact on health, well-being, and inequality, and sets out guidance on how policies and plans can address these issues.
- The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - People and community.
 - Movement.
 - Location.
 - Public realm.
 - Mix of uses; and
 - Identity.
- In March 2021 the Welsh Government announced that active travel schemes will receive a funding boost of more than £53 million as part of the Government's efforts to encourage healthy travel. In addition, pupils will be helped to get to school through the 'Safe Routes in Communities' grant, supporting schemes across Wales. This will contribute towards delivering the priorities identified and agreed through the various health, social care and wellbeing strategies identified in **Table 4.1** above.
- The Valleys Regional Park seeks to provide and sustain the improvement and management of a highly-visible network of uplands, woodlands, nature reserves and country parks, rivers, reservoirs and canals, heritage sites and attractions across the Valleys, linking with the area's towns and villages. A distinct model the UK and Europe, in keeping with recent reviews of designated landscapes in Wales and the opportunities afforded by new Welsh legislation, including the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Environment Act.

Baseline summary

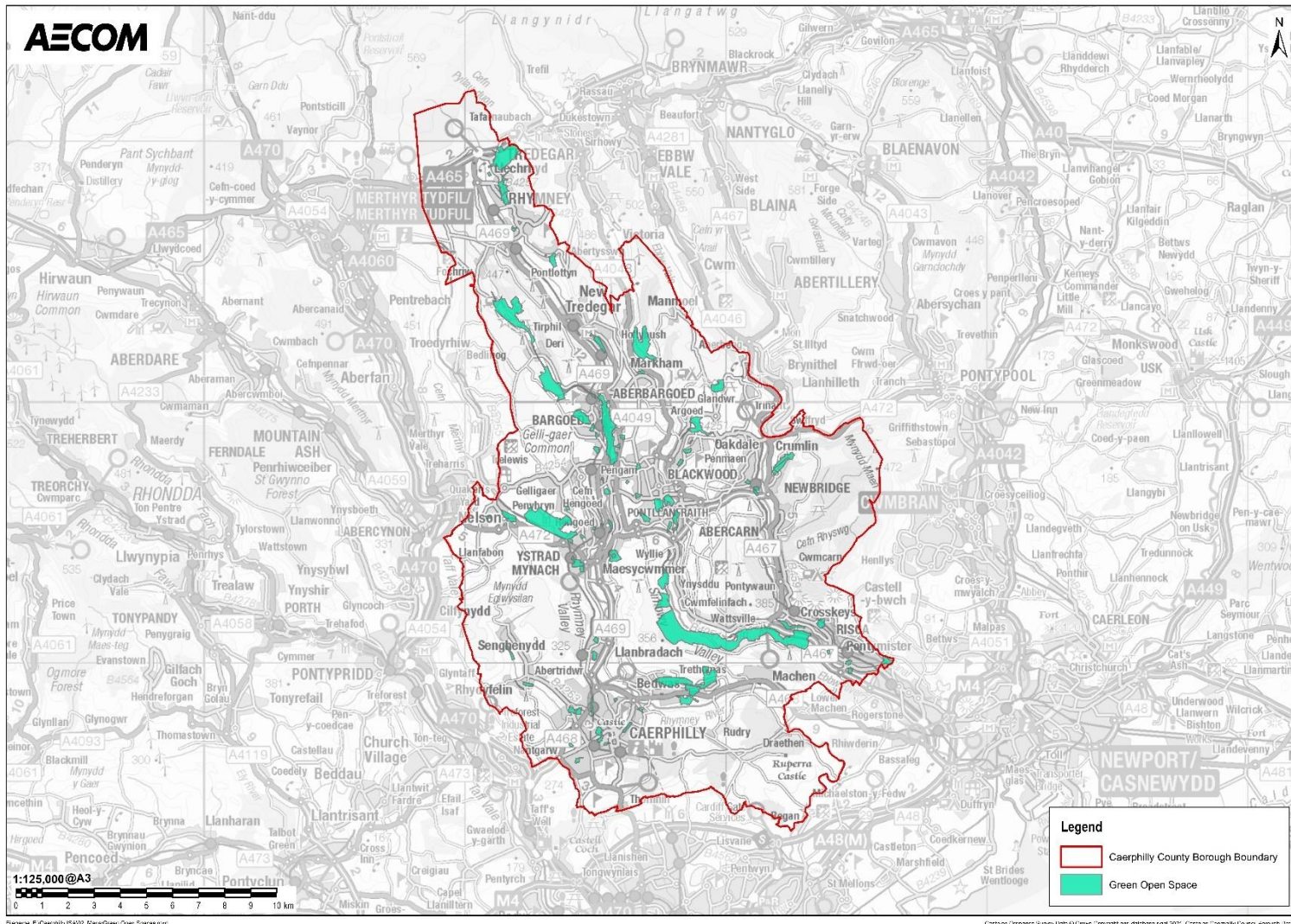
Open space and outdoor facilities

- 4.4 Access to open space can have benefits that are both mental and physical. Areas of deficiency may therefore result in a population that does not participate in informal physical activity, alongside other secondary effects associated with environmental inequality. In this regard, the adopted LDP has noted several formal and informal open spaces which include fields, memorial parks, greens, designated Country Parks, and church fields. These green open spaces are shown in **Figure 4.1**, overleaf.
- 4.5 Figure 4.1 shows that green open spaces extend throughout the County Borough, ranging in size, with small pockets of open space located around Caerphilly town.
- 4.6 In terms of the overall provision by ward, according to Fields in Trust (FIT) standards, there is a County Borough wide shortfall in amenity green space.³⁵ In contrast, the majority of Caerphilly has excess designated pitch and equipped play provision.
- 4.7 The Caerphilly Sport and Active Recreation Strategy (2019- 2029)³⁶ highlights that 74% of adults in the county borough do not meet national physical activity guidelines. Additionally, the percentage of adults who are overweight or obese within the borough is 4% higher than the average for Wales, which directly correlated with areas of high deprivation (discussed in **Chapter 5** of this report).

³⁵ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2015) Deposit Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan (LDP) Background Paper (Leisure)

³⁶ CCBC (2019): 'Sport and Active Recreation Strategy' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Consultations/SportActiveRecreation/DRAFTSportActiveRecreationStrategy.aspx>

Figure 4.1 Caerphilly - Green Open Spaces

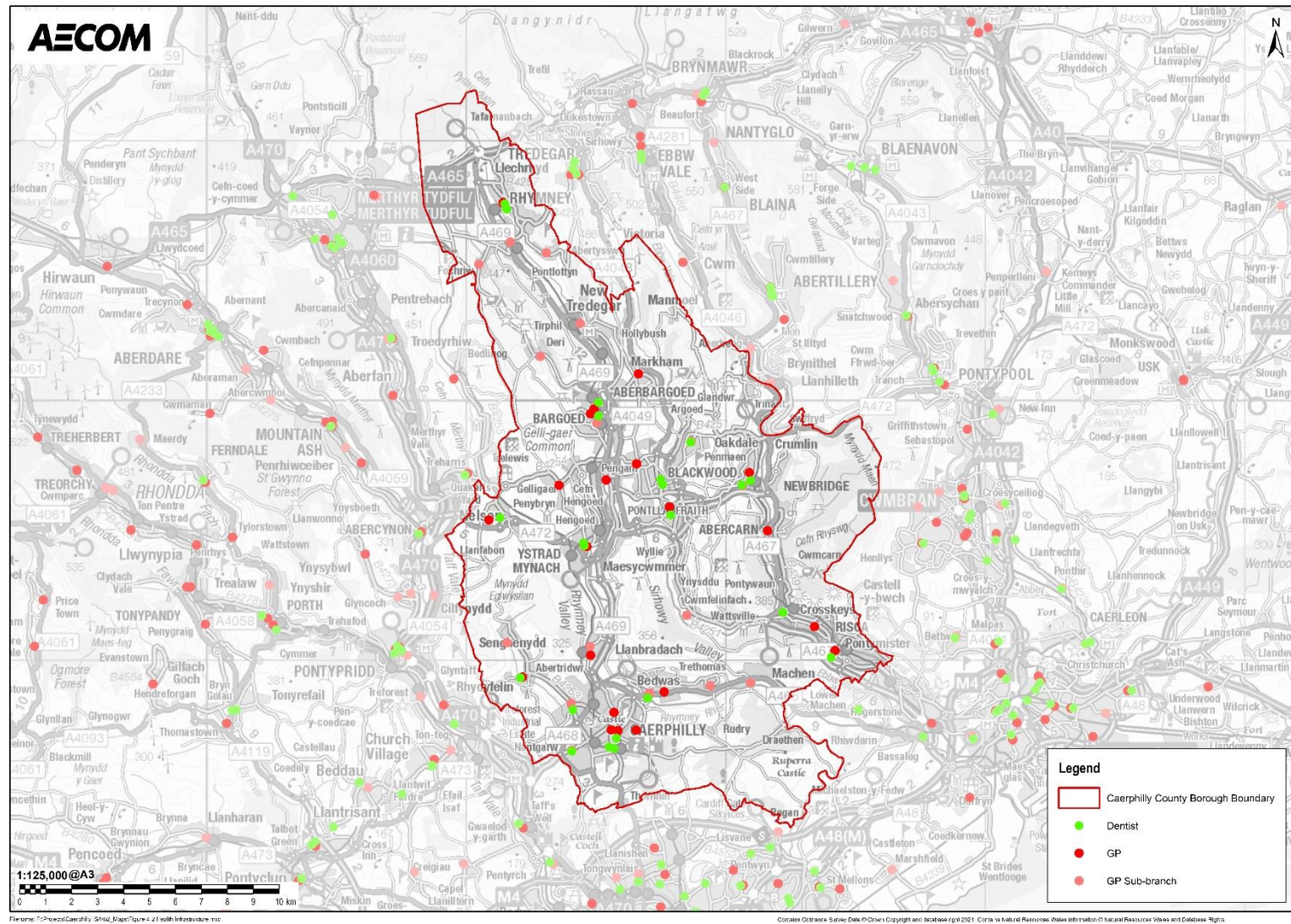


Health facilities

- 4.8 As shown in **Figure 4.2** (overleaf), there are a total of 37 General Practice branches (and sub-branches) within the county borough (shown in red and pink).
- 4.9 Seven Local Health Boards (LHBs) in Wales now plan, secure, and deliver healthcare services in their areas of scope. In this regard, Caerphilly falls within the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. Figures for the number of registered patients per GP (GP partner, practitioner, registrar, retainer, and locum) in the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area (2019) indicate that there are approximately 631 patients per GP, which is the third highest ratio across all the seven health boards surveyed. The average ratio of patients to GP for Wales is approximately 611 per GP (as of 2019).³⁷

³⁷ Stats for Wales, Ibid.

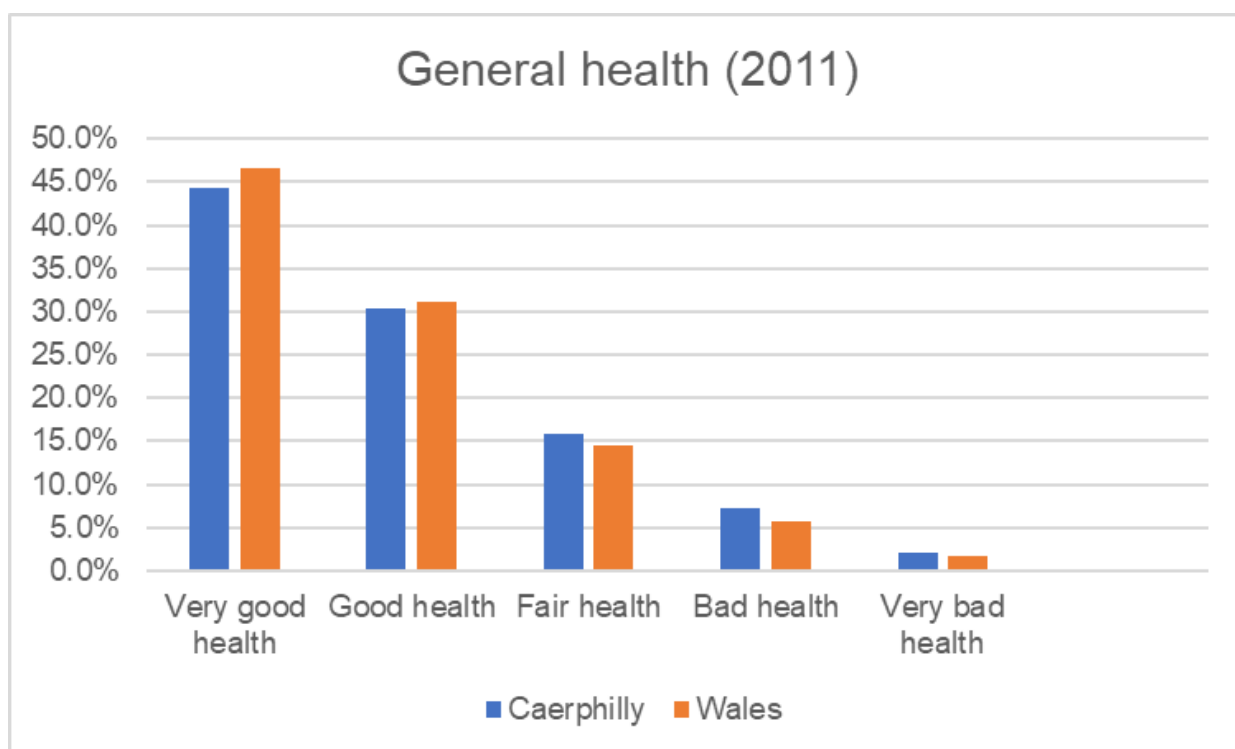
Figure 4.2: Health infrastructure in Caerphilly



General health

- 4.10 Life expectancy within the county borough is the seventh lowest in Wales. It currently stands at 77.6 years for men and 81.5 years for women, 0.6 years less than the Welsh average for males, and 0.7 less than the Welsh average for females. This is also approximately 1.5 years less than the English average which stands at 79.2 for males and 83.0 for females. There is a significant difference between life expectancy in the most deprived communities and affluent areas of Caerphilly. Premature deaths (deaths under the age of 75) are decreasing within the county borough, however the rate has remained consistently higher than in Wales as a whole.³⁸
- 4.11 As well as this, there are high levels of both limiting long-term illness and mental health problems. Regarding specific causes of death, circulatory disease including heart disease caused approximately 30% of deaths in 2011. Cancers were also responsible for one third of all deaths in the county borough. Deaths from circulatory disease have fallen significantly since 2001, whilst deaths from cancer have remained consistent, indicative of the relative economic deprivation discussed in **Chapter 2** of this report.³⁹
- 4.12 General health in Caerphilly is generally below national averages (as shown in **Figure 4.3**, below). Even though most residents have 'very good' or 'good' health (74.8%), a higher proportion of residents in the county borough (9.3%) have bad or very bad health in comparison to national averages (7.6%).

Figure 4.3: General health, Caerphilly and Wales⁴⁰



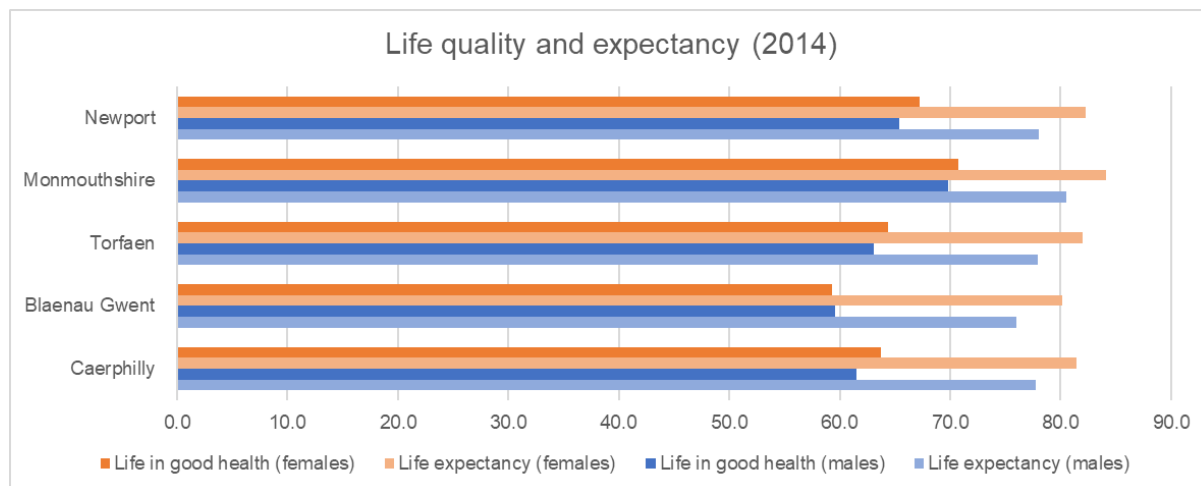
³⁸ CCBC (n.d.): 'SEA Scoping Report'.

³⁹ Nomis (2011): 'General Health' [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/qs302ew>

⁴⁰ Nomis (2011): 'General Health' [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/qs302ew>

4.13 **Figure 4.4** below, shows life expectancy and quality for areas within the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board area. Life in good health for females (63.7) is notably higher than for males (61.5) in the county borough, though both are amongst the lowest out of all counties in the Aneurin Bevan Board area. Life expectancy for females (81.4) is also higher than for males (77.7) in Caerphilly.

Figure 4.4: Life expectancy and quality, Aneurin Bevan area⁴¹



Future baseline

4.14 It is considered that wider health elements such as green infrastructure and active living are gaining more importance in terms of policy focus, particularly given the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent enforced lockdown. The 2RDLP should focus on ensuring the sufficient and equitable distribution of open space throughout the plan area, especially considering the shortage of playing pitches and low activity levels of residents in the county borough.

4.15 Overall, health in the county borough is comparably low, alongside low life expectancy figures. While healthcare assets seem relatively well placed in the plan area, greater accessibility for those most at risk of suffering poor health outcomes should be sought, particularly in the more deprived areas, as discussed in the subsequent chapter.

Key issues

4.16 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of a number of key issues (problems and opportunities):

- There is a large provision of medical services within Caerphilly and the GP to patient ratio is higher than average when compared with the six other health boards in Wales. However, these services are largely disparate and may be less accessible for some residents in the county borough.
- Some of the main challenges for Caerphilly with regards to health include overcoming high levels of both limiting long-term illness and mental health problems and low life expectancy.

⁴¹ Stats for Wales (2014): 'Life Expectancy' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Health-and-Social-Care/Life-Expectancy/lifeexpectancyandhealthylifeexpectancyatbirth-by-localhealthboard-localauthority>

- Overall, there is a low provision of playing pitches in the county borough. Areas of high health deficiency may therefore possess a population that does not participate in informal physical activity, alongside other effects associated with environmental inequality.

ISA objectives

4.17 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
To improve the health and wellbeing of residents within Caerphilly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? • Promote access to health, social, recreational and leisure facilities for all sectors of the community? • Enhance multifunctional green infrastructure networks throughout the plan area? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to open/ green space? • Improve access to the countryside for recreation?

5. Equality, diversity, and inclusion

5.1 This theme focuses on the demographics and households of the population in Caerphilly, as well as deprivation, access to services and facilities.

Policy context

5.2 **Table 5.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the 2RLDP and ISA.

Table 5.1 Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to equality, diversity, and inclusion

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales</u>	2021
<u>South East Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6: Planning for sustainable rural communities</u>	2010
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh language</u>	2017
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>Learning Disability Strategy</u>	2012
<u>Caerphilly Welsh Language Strategy</u>	2017
<u>Strategic Equality Plan</u>	2020
<u>CCBC Corporate Plan 2018-23</u>	2018
<u>The Caerphilly We Want - Well-Being Plan 2018-23</u>	2018

5.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The 2RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Caerphilly as part of a distinctive Valleys sub-region with nuanced social and economic needs, which in turn is part of a larger Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys National Growth Area. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors such as transportation and

accessibility to services, housing, and employment. Supporting Caerphilly as an area with essential services and facilities as a unique Populus, alongside digital infrastructure will have a beneficial impact on the local community.

- The Equality Act legally protects people from discrimination or unfair treatment based on certain personal characteristics. The Act defines ‘protected characteristics’⁴² for which it is unlawful to indirectly or directly discriminate against, harass, or victimise. The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) is set out in Section 149 of the Act, under which public bodies must try to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The Act explains that ‘due regard’ for advancing equality involves; removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristic, taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these differ from the needs of other people, and encouraging protected groups to participate in public life and other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
-
- National planning policy is set out in PPW, a primary objective of which is to ensure that the planning system contributes positively towards improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. This is as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties such as the Socio-economic Duty. PPW places the concept of placemaking at the centre of national planning policy to ensure that planning decisions consider all aspects of well-being and deliver new development which is sustainable and provides for the needs of all people.
- PPW is supplemented by TANs, which further detail the Welsh Government’s commitment to planning for the Welsh Language (TAN20), among other national equality, diversity, and inclusion objectives.
- The Welsh Language Standards place a requirement on Local authorities in Wales to produce a local Welsh Language Strategy that sets out how they will promote the use of the Welsh language and increase the number of Welsh speakers in their area. Based around the six themes identified nationally in the Welsh Government’s Welsh Language Strategy: ‘A living language: a language for living’ the Welsh Language Strategy (2017) uses established national criteria but localises the information and targets to support the continuing success of the Welsh language in Caerphilly.
- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, committing to a partnership approach to housing and regeneration. The deal aims to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The replacement LDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the area for the benefit of its resident population.

⁴² The ‘Protected Characteristics’ under the Act are; disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sexual orientation, sex (gender) and age.

- Under the Equality Act (2010), local authorities in Wales must publish a Strategic Equality Plan that sets out the objectives and priorities it wants to achieve over a four-year period. These priorities are called “Equality Objectives”. The Caerphilly Strategic Equality Plan (2020) outlines Caerphilly’s priorities for furthering and promoting equality across the city. Equality objectives include:
 - Building strong working relationships with the community and partners to maximise the use of collective resources to ensure a resilient county borough for the future.
 - Embed a new operating model that will encourage innovative approaches to service delivery; and
 - Help close the gap between poverty and prosperity through improving educational attainment and stimulating the local economy to create high quality jobs.
- The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on Placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - People and community;
 - Movement;
 - Location;
 - Public realm;
 - Mix of uses; and
 - Identity.
- Briefing on Gender Identity in Wales, produced by the LGBT Excellence Centre, provides clear recommendations for supporting the LGBT community and their access to housing in line with the Equality Act (2020).
- The cross-government LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales seeks to tackle the existing structural inequalities experienced by LGBTQ+ communities, to challenge discrimination and to create a society where LGBTQ+ people are safe to live and love authentically, openly and freely as themselves. The plan focuses on responding to the specific needs, diversity and vulnerabilities of our LGBTQ+ communities.

Baseline summary

Community infrastructure

5.4 The communities within the county borough have changed and are continuing to change through diversity of employment, the need to commute to places of work, the types of settlement they live in, financial status and disposable income.⁴³

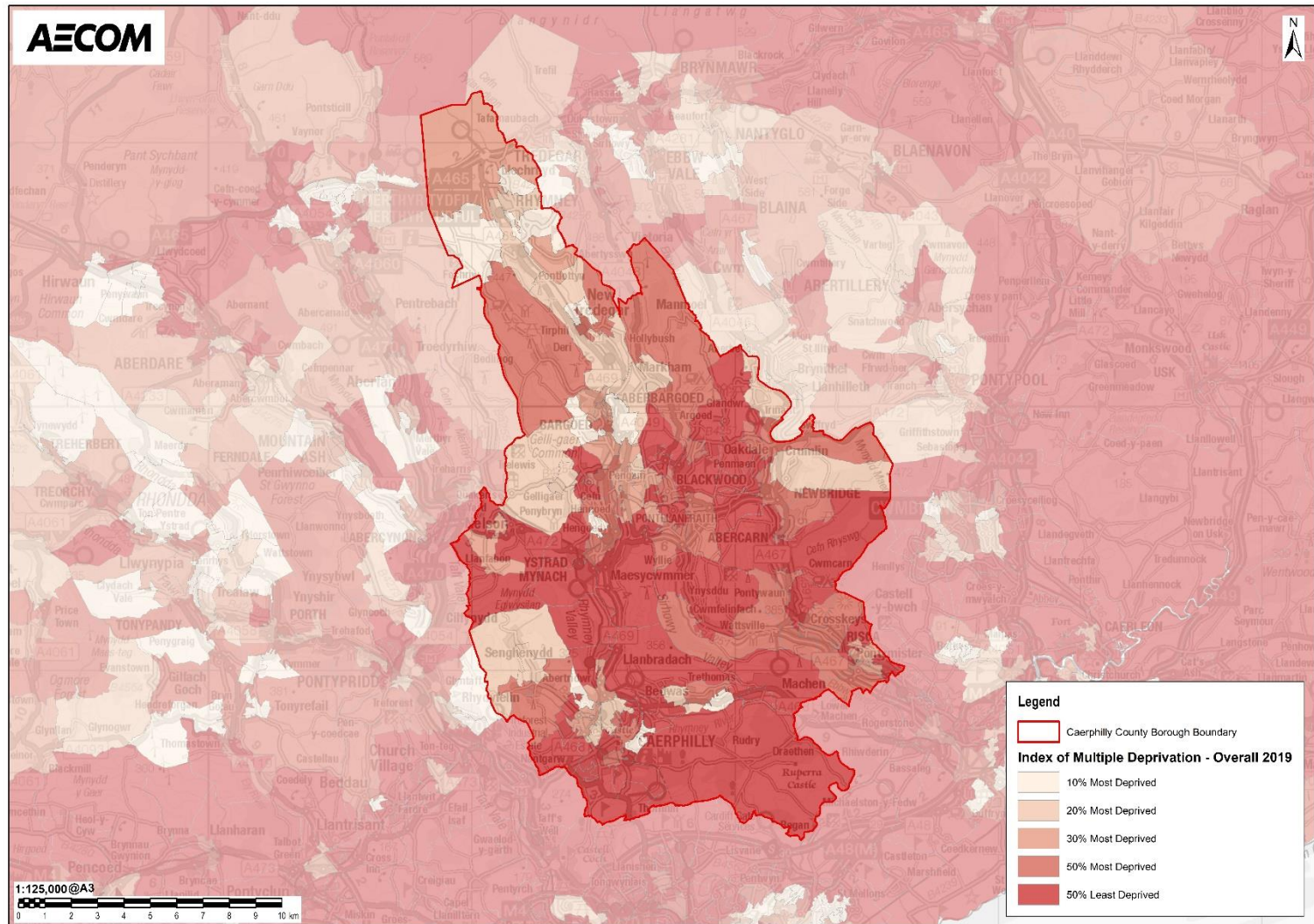
5.5 A Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) is a geographic area which is primarily referred to when collecting statistics in an area. There are 1,909 LSOAs in Wales, and therefore 190 LSOAs fall within the 10% most deprived in Wales. There are 110 LSOAs in Caerphilly County Borough, as shown in **Figure 5.1** overleaf. Figure 5.1 shows that deprivation varies across the County Borough:

- 10% of LSOAs within Caerphilly are in the 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales (ranks 1-191);
- 23.6% of LSOAs within Caerphilly are in the 20% most deprived LSOAs in Wales (ranks 1-382);
- 38.2% of LSOAs within Caerphilly are in the 30% most deprived LSOAs in Wales (ranks 1-573); and
- 62.7% of LSOAs within Caerphilly are in the 40% most deprived LSOAs in Wales (ranks 1-955).

5.6 **Figure 5.1** overleaf shows the most deprived areas are located to the east, west, and north of the County Borough, close to the CB boundaries. Least deprived areas are central and south, around Caerphilly town, although it is noted that areas of Caerphilly (to the north and east) are also suffering from high deprivation levels.

⁴³ CCBC (n.d.): 'SEA Scoping Report'.

Figure 5.1 IMD - LSOAs in Caerphilly County Borough

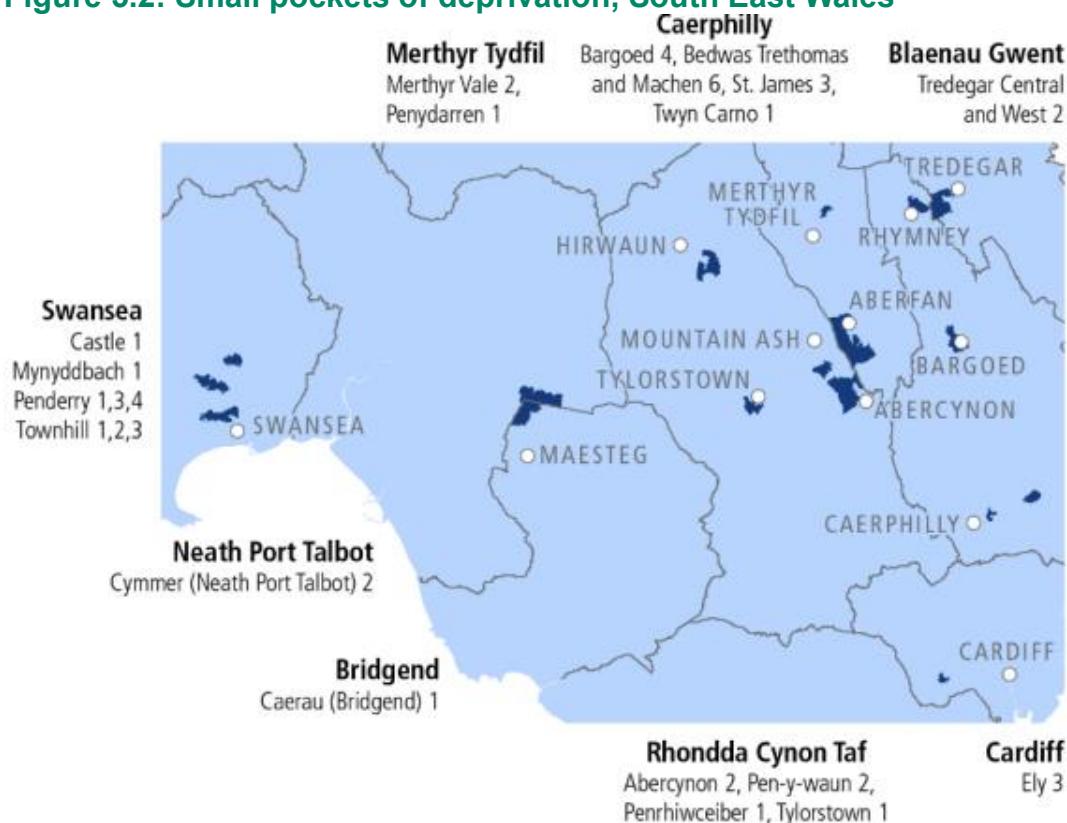


- 5.7 In 2011, the county borough had 16 of the top 10% most deprived Lower Super Output Areas in Wales (190 in the top 10% category in total) according to the Welsh Index.
- 5.8 More recently, two LSOAs in Caerphilly were determined to be within the 10 most deprived areas in Wales as per the 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)⁴⁴. These are:
- **St. James 3 LSOA**, ranked 3rd worst with regards to overall deprivation levels. Additionally, the LSOA is within the 10 most deprived areas for the Income, Employment and Health domains. It also lies within the 10% most deprived (the top 191 areas) in terms of the Education, Community Safety and Physical Environment domains.
 - **Twyn Carno 1 LSOA**, ranked 8th worst with regards to overall deprivation levels. Twyn Carno 1 lies within the 10 most deprived areas for the Employment and Education domains. It also lies within the 10% most deprived (the top 191 areas) in terms of Income, Health, and Community Safety.
- 5.9 It is however noted that while St James 3 was the most deprived area in WIMD 2014(which contains a large part of the Lansbury Park estate in Caerphilly), it is now ranked third most deprived. Similarly Twyn Carno 1 was 7th in 2014 and is now ranked 8th most deprived, showing some, albeit minor, improvement for both LSOAs.⁴⁵
- 5.10 Nonetheless, these areas, alongside others in Caerphilly, are small pockets of 'deep-rooted' deprivation, as they have remained within the top 50 most deprived areas, (roughly equal to the top 2.6% of small areas in Wales) for the last five publications of WIMD rankings, as shown in **Figure 5.2**. Caerphilly also performs particularly poorly with regards to the Community Safety domain, with 77.3% of its areas in the most deprived half of Wales.⁴⁶
- 5.11 However, it should be noted that some LSOAs within Caerphilly have improved with regards to deprivation between the 2014- 2019 monitoring years. These include Health Deprivation (from 10% most deprived to 20% most deprived). Caerphilly also performs relatively well with regards to access to services (containing the fewest LSOAs within the 50% most deprived category).

⁴⁴ Welsh Government 2019 (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation) (2019) Technical Report [online] available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-12/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-2019-technical-report.pdf>

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Welsh Government 2019 (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation) (2019) Technical Report [online] available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-12/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-2019-technical-report.pdf>

Figure 5.2: Small pockets of deprivation, South East Wales⁴⁷

Equalities data

5.12 Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, sex (gender), and age.

Pregnancy

5.13 In relation to pregnancy and maternity, recent national data indicates that of the 29,728 births in Wales (2019), only 4% were to mothers under the age of 20, which is the lowest rate on record. Rates of teenage pregnancy have decreased in Caerphilly from 70 per 1,000 to 19 per 1,000 over the period of 1998- 2016, and are predicted to continue to decrease.⁴⁸

Marriage and civil partnership

5.14 Recent national data highlights that marriage and civil partnership rates for South East Wales (47.3%) are lower than comparative figures for Mid and South West Wales (48.7%) and North Wales (49.8%), including the national average (48.3%) between 2017- 2019. Rates have not changed largely over the period of 2014-2019. Nationally, a marginally higher proportion of men were married (24.3%?) in comparison to women (24%?) over the period of 2017- 2019. However, a higher proportion of women than men were divorced and/or separated (6.3% and 4.1% respectively), as well as widowed (4.8% and 1.9%).⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Welsh Government 2019 (Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation) (2019) Technical Report [online] available at:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2019-12/welsh-index-multiple-deprivation-2019-technical-report.pdf>

⁴⁸ Nomis (2016): 'Birth statistics' [online] available at:

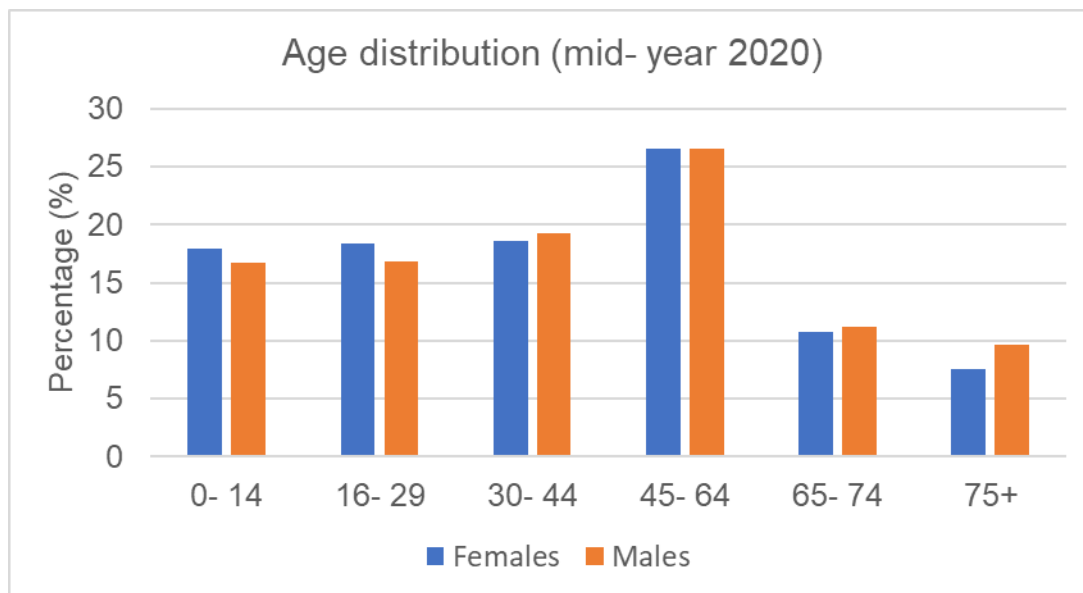
<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/query/construct/components/simpleapicomponent.aspx?menuopt=2027&subcomp=>

⁴⁹ StatsWales (2020): 'Marriage and civil partnership' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Marital-status>

Age distribution

5.15 With regards to age distribution, **Figure 5.3** shows that the dominant age group is the 45- 65 age category (26.5% of total residents), and the proportion of males to females in this age band is approximately equal. Conversely, there are a low proportion of residents over the age of 75 (8.6%) in the Caerphilly population, though this differs by approximately 2% between gender groups.

Figure 5.3: Age distribution, Caerphilly⁵⁰



Sexual orientation and gender identity

5.16 With regards to the gender of residents, mid-year 2020 population data indicates that there is a higher proportion of males (51.0%) than females (49.0%) in Caerphilly. As of 2019, 4% of south east Wales identify with the LGBT⁵¹ community (Gay, lesbian, bisexual or other). This is greater than mid and south west Wales (2.7%), north Wales (1.8%), and Wales overall (3.1%)⁵²

5.17 Since the publication of the Trans Data Position Paper (2009), nuances surrounding gender identity have been recognised at a national level. The 2021 Census is anticipated to include voluntary questions that depict a more nuanced understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity.⁵³

5.18 These groups are more vulnerable to discrimination due to their minority status. Key findings from Stonewall's research into LGBT hate crime and discrimination in Wales⁵⁴ include the following:

- Almost one in four LGBT people have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the last 12 months.
- Half of trans people have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months, and one in five LGB people who

⁵⁰ StatsWales (2020): 'Age distribution' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue>

⁵¹ Not encompassing the full extent of the LGBTAI community.

⁵² StatsWales (2019) 'Sexual Identity' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Sexual-Orientation/sexualidentity-by-year-region-identitystatus>

⁵³ ONS (2021): 'Sex and gender identity question development for Census 2021' [online] available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/sexandgenderidentityquestiondevelopmentforcensus2021>

⁵⁴ Stonewall (2017): 'LGBT in Wales, Hate Crime and Discrimination' [online] available at: https://www.stonewallcymru.org.uk/system/files/lgbt_in_wales_-_hate_crime_stonewall_cymru.pdf

aren't trans have experienced a hate crime or incident due to their sexual orientation in the same period.

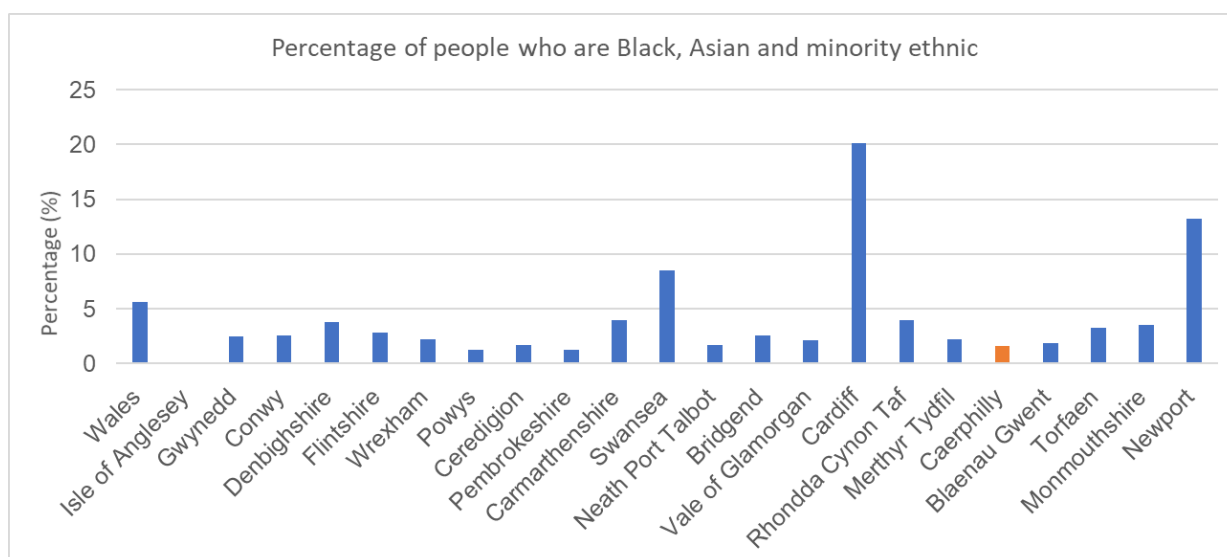
- The number of lesbian, gay and bi people in Wales who have experienced hate crime has increased by 82% in five years, from 11 per cent in 2013 to 20 per cent in 2017.
- Four in five LGBT people who experienced a hate crime or incident didn't report the incident to the police.
- Three in ten LGBT people avoid certain streets because they don't feel safe as an LGBT person there.
- Two in five LGBT people would not feel comfortable walking down the street while holding their partner's hand. For gay men, this rises to three in five (57 per cent).
- One in ten LGBT people have experienced homophobic, biphobic or transphobic abuse or behaviour online directed towards them personally in the last month. This number increases to one in four trans people have experienced transphobic abuse or behaviour.

5.19 Wider research into discrimination in Wales (presented in **Figure 5.4** overleaf) indicates that a large proportion of residents in Wales who have suffered from discrimination cite that the main reason for their discrimination is where they live (15.7%), followed by their nationality (11.4%), age (10.6%) and health problem/disability (9.7%).

Ethnicity and race

5.20 As shown in **Figure 5.4** overleaf, Caerphilly has one of the lowest Black, Asian and minority ethnic populations compared to other Welsh authorities. However it is noted that StatsWales highlight that much of this data is based on between only 10 and 25 survey respondents, and therefore in many cases data is of limited quality. This includes data for Caerphilly.

Figure 5.4: Minority ethnic groups in Caerphilly, principal areas (June 2021) ⁵⁵



⁵⁵ Stats for Wales (2021): 'Ethnic minorities' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Ethnicity/ethnicity-by-area-ethnicgroup>

Religion

5.21 As shown in **Table 5.2** below, many residents in the county borough identify as Christian (50.7%), followed by no religion (40.9%). This broadly aligns with average figures for Wales. However, the Muslim population of Caerphilly is notably smaller than average figures for Wales.⁵⁶

Table 5.2: Religious identification⁵⁷

	Caerphilly	Wales
Christian	50.7%	57.6%
Buddhist	0.2%	0.3%
Hindu	0.1%	0.3%
Jewish	0.0%	0.1%
Muslim	0.2%	1.5%
Sikh	0.1%	0.1%
Other religion	0.4%	0.4%
No religion	40.9%	32.1%
Religion not stated	7.5%	7.6%

Disability

5.22 Statistics indicate that in 2019, in Wales, 21.8% of the population are disabled, and 22.3% of residents in the South East region are disabled.⁵⁸ Of these residents, 51.5% of disabled women and 53.9% of disabled men are economically inactive.⁵⁹ Although unemployment rates are like that of Wales as a whole, Caerphilly County Borough has higher levels of economic inactivity due to permanent sickness/disability.⁶⁰

Welsh language

5.23 For the year ending 30 June 2021, the Annual Population Survey reported that 29.2% of Welsh residents aged three or older were able to speak Welsh. This figure equates to around 884,300 people. **Table 5.3** below shows that 25.4% of Caerphilly residents are Welsh speaking, which is less than the overall figure for Wales, but on par with Cardiff (24.8%) and significantly greater than Blaenau Gwent (16.5%).

⁵⁶ ONS, 2011. Census 2011 (KS209EW) data. This data will be updated when more current data is available.

⁵⁷ ONS, 2011. Census 2011.

⁵⁸ Stats for Wales (2019): 'Disability status by region' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Disability/disabilitystatus-by-region>

⁵⁹ Newport City Council (2016): 'Strategic Equality Plan (2016-20)' [online] available at:

<http://www.newport.gov.uk/documents/Council-and-Democracy/Equalities-and-Welsh-language-Strategic-Equality-Plan-2019-20.pdf>

⁶⁰ CCBC (n.d.): 'SEA Scoping Report'.

Table 5.3 Percentage of people aged 3 or older who can speak Welsh, by Welsh local authority⁶¹

Authority	Percentage (%)	Authority	Percentage (%)
Wales	29.2	Swansea	20.6
Isle of Anglesey	66.3	Neath Port Talbot	22.0
Gwynedd	76.4	Bridgend	18.5
Conwy	37.5	Vale of Glamorgan	18.8
Denbighshire	34.3	Cardiff	24.8
Flintshire	23.2	Rhondda Cynon Taf	21.1
Wrexham	26.2	Merthyr Tydfil	18.0
Powys	25.2	Caerphilly	25.4
Ceredigion	60.9	Blaenau Gwent	16.5
Pembrokeshire	32.1	Torfaen	19.3
Carmarthenshire	52.6	Monmouthshire	16.4
Newport	20.8		

Future baseline

- 5.24 The 2RDLP policy framework is considered likely to promote, strengthen and enhance the cultural identity of the County Borough in line with national objectives. It is also important to note that inequalities overlap and are interrelated at both a personal and structural level. They are also linked to the other issues being considered through the ISA.
- 5.25 Alongside this, many aspects of equalities, diversity and social inclusion do not have a spatial dimension and are unlikely to be directly affected by the spatial distribution of growth proposed through the 2RDLP. For example, promoting community cohesion is likely to be most directly influenced through detailed policies which have the granularity to deliver focused responses at specific locations. In the absence of the replacement LDP, it is possible that opportunities might be missed to address issues both at the local scale, and strategically throughout the Caerphilly County Borough.
- 5.26 Economic regeneration, alongside community regeneration, are key factors that can transform local neighbourhoods and the lives of local people. New development throughout Caerphilly should therefore focus on narrowing the gap between the least and most affluent areas, by addressing areas of activity including employment, health, housing, education, community safety and the environment, particularly in identified areas of 'deep rooted' deprivation.
- 5.27 Compared with the figure for Wales, a slightly lower proportion of the population in Caerphilly are Welsh speakers. In line with higher level policy, the 2RLDP

⁶¹ StatsWales (2021) People aged 3 or older who say they can speak Welsh, by Welsh local authority [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Welsh-Language/Annual-Population-Survey-Welsh-Language/annualpopulationsurveyestimatesofpersonsaged3andoverwhosaytheycanspeakwelsh-by-localauthority-measure>

should seek to provide facilities for the furthering of Welsh language, culture, and identity, as part of a wider strategy to strengthen national identity.

Key issues

5.28 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):

- 62.7% of LSOAs within Caerphilly are in the 40% most deprived LSOAs in Wales (ranks 1-955) as per the 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). Two LSOAs in Caerphilly were determined to be within the 10 most deprived areas in Wales. Additionally, Caerphilly performs particularly poorly with regards to the Community Safety domain.
- Only a small proportion of residents in Caerphilly are within minority ethnic, racial, and religious groups; however the reliability of this data is uncertain.
- Compared with the figure for Wales, a slightly lower proportion of the population in Caerphilly are Welsh speakers. This may indicate a higher level of Anglicisation than other Welsh regions, although this is not atypical for a Valleys authority.

ISA objectives

5.29 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce inequalities and deprivation across Caerphilly? • Improve equality of opportunities amongst all social groups? • Contribute to a reduction in crime and social disorder and the fear of crime, promoting safer neighbourhoods? • Promote, strengthen, and enhance the cultural identity of Caerphilly? • Protect and provide improved local, social, recreational and leisure facilities for all sectors of the community, and improve access to them to maximise opportunities for community development and social welfare? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types, and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services? • Promote Caerphilly’s bilingual public services and increase the development and use of the Welsh language in Caerphilly?

6. Transport and movement

6.1 This theme focuses on transport infrastructure, transport usage, traffic flows and congestion, and accessibility levels in Caerphilly.

Policy context

6.2 **Table 6.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the 2RLDP ISA.

Table 6.1: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to transport and movement

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 18: Transport</u>	2007
<u>Wales Transport Strategy</u>	2021
<u>Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales</u>	2021
<u>South Wales Metro: Rolling Out Our Metro</u>	2016
<u>South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan</u>	2015
<u>South East Wales Transport Commission: emerging conclusions</u>	2020
<u>Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal</u>	2016
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>'A Foundation for Success 2018-2023' - Regeneration Strategy for Caerphilly County Borough</u>	2018
<u>Caerphilly Basin Masterplan</u>	2018
<u>Heads of the Valleys Masterplan</u>	2020
<u>Ystrad Mynach Masterplan</u>	2019
<u>CCBC Highway Maintenance Plan</u>	2018
<u>Caerphilly Rights of Way Improvement Plan</u>	2007
<u>Active Travel Network Map</u>	2022

6.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The 2RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Caerphilly as a distinctive Valleys sub-region with nuanced social

and economic needs, which in turn is part of a larger Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys National Growth Area. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors such as transportation and accessibility to services, housing, and employment. Supporting Caerphilly as an area with essential services and facilities; transport and digital infrastructure will help to support better connections.

- National planning policy is set out in PPW, which puts the concept of placemaking into the centre of national planning policy, to deliver new development which is sustainable. PPW is supplemented by TANs, which translate Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system. A primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes positively towards improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. This is as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties such as the Socio-economic Duty. Notably, TAN18 (Transport) includes advice on:
 - integration of land use and transport planning.
 - location of development.
 - regional transport plans.
 - parking; and
 - design of development.
- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, committing to a partnership approach to 'Powering the Welsh Economy'. This includes investment in the region's infrastructure, and the creation of a Regional Transport Authority as part of CCR governance arrangements to represent the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The 2RLDP should set out policies and proposals for high quality, accessible transport systems that support economic development and regeneration across the region for the benefit of its resident population.
- The South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan, (2015) produced jointly by Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen County Borough Councils sets out the local authorities' priorities for transport schemes in the five-year period 2015 to 2020, and their medium- and longer-term aspirations up to 2030. Core activities and interventions identified in the Plan as being critical to the improvement of the regional transport system include developing innovative walking, cycling and Smarter Choices programmes, continuing investment in the regional rail system, improving the quality of bus services across the region and developing a better public transport integration.
- The development and delivery of the Cardiff Capital Regional Metro is closely linked to the development and delivery of the LTP. The Metro will have a key impact on the combined success of transport interventions delivered at the national and local levels in addressing the issues identified in the LTP. The Metro will provide enhanced connectivity helping to spread economic growth and prosperity across the region. Notable in this respect is

the committed CVL (Core Valley Lines) transformation programme, which us a significant part of the Metro project.⁶²

- While in terms of specific schemes proposed for implementation it concentrates on those that are within the council's remit, because of Caerphilly's commitment to the Cardiff Capital Region, the Council also sets out support for working with Welsh Government and the CCR Cabinet in implementing better regional links to Cardiff and other schemes to grow the local/regional economy such as the M4 relief proposals, electrification, and the Metro proposals. The South East Wales Transport Commission: emerging conclusions (2020) is a key piece of evidence in this respect, setting out future recommendations to the Welsh Government of sustainable measures to tackle congestion on the M4 in South East Wales. Responsibility for the development of transport policy, and regional transport planning will transfer to the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), once it is in place (February 2022). Notably a new Regional Transport Plan is to be prepared for which WG guidance is awaited and expected shortly. .
- Supporting national transport priorities in delivering the Cardiff Capital Region complementary measures will maximise the value of transport investment, which will in turn support:
 - Economic growth.
 - Access to employment.
 - Tackling poverty.
 - Sustainable travel and safety; and
 - Access to services.

Baseline summary

6.4 Based on survey data from 2020, Caerphilly had the second largest number of commuters out of all local authorities in South East Wales (based on predictive travel during the Covid-19 pandemic), the same as patterns witnessed during the previous decade (2001- 2010).⁶³ Increasing commuting levels reflect a continuing rise in traffic and car ownership levels in the county borough. Increasing traffic levels is resulting in greater congestion on the roads. Congestion in urban areas can have significant adverse impacts upon the air quality in those areas, discussed further in **Chapter 7** of this report.

6.5 As indicated in **Figure 6.1**, overleaf, most residents in Caerphilly travel to work by car and/or van (42.4%), slightly higher than figures for Wales as a whole (40.4%). This is in line with a proportionally higher private vehicle ownership in Caerphilly, as demonstrated in **Figure 6.2**. A lower proportion of residents travel to work on foot and choose to work at home in comparison to averages for Wales. Additionally, residents are less likely to use buses, minibuses, or coaches to commute to work in comparison to overall figures for Wales.

⁶² Welsh Government (2022) Transport for Wales – Core Valley Lines [https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/search_CategoryView.aspx?ID=121#:~:text=The%20Core%20Valley%20Lines%20\(CVL,improve%20and%20renew%20existing%20assets.](https://www.sell2wales.gov.wales/search/search_CategoryView.aspx?ID=121#:~:text=The%20Core%20Valley%20Lines%20(CVL,improve%20and%20renew%20existing%20assets.)

⁶³ StatsWales (2020): 'Detailed commuter data for wales' [online] available at: <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/People-and-Work/Employment/Commuting/detailedcommutingpatternsinswales-by-welshlocalauthority>

However, it is recognised that data shown in Figure 6.1 and 6.2 reflects the 2011 baseline situation, and that the impact of Covid-19 and home working will have likely impacted on previous trends. It is therefore difficult to accurately discuss current and future travel patterns using this data.

Figure 6.1: Method of travel to work⁶⁴

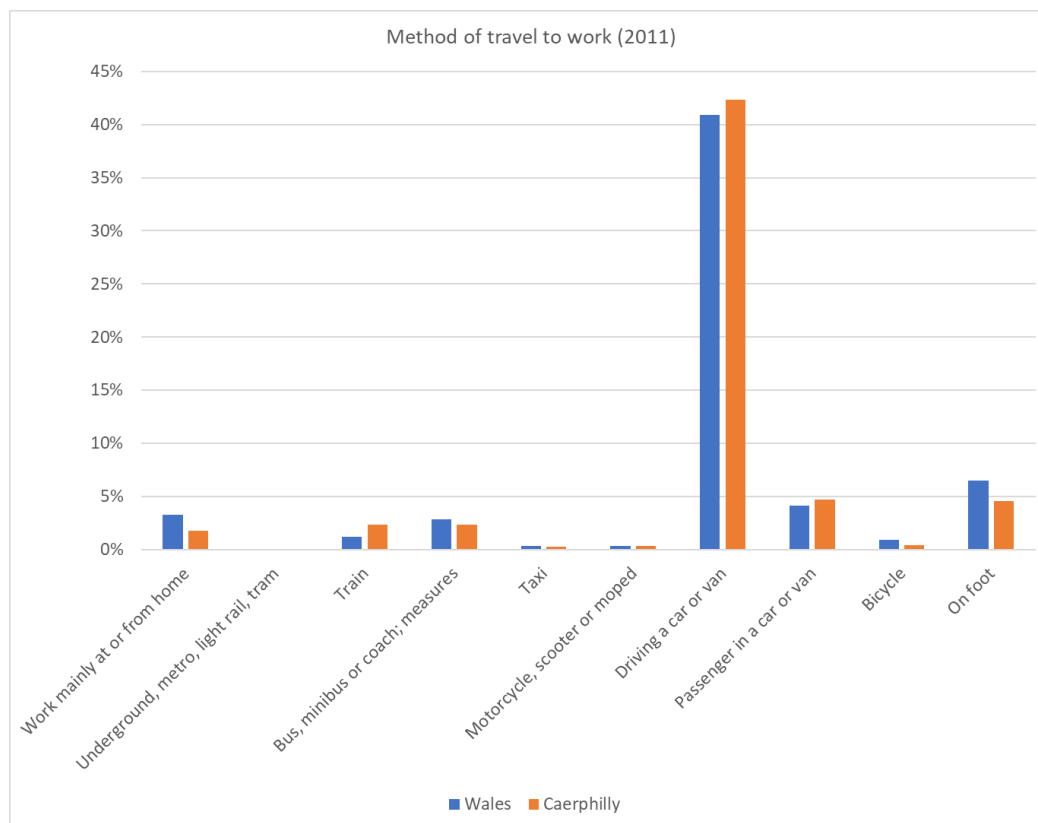
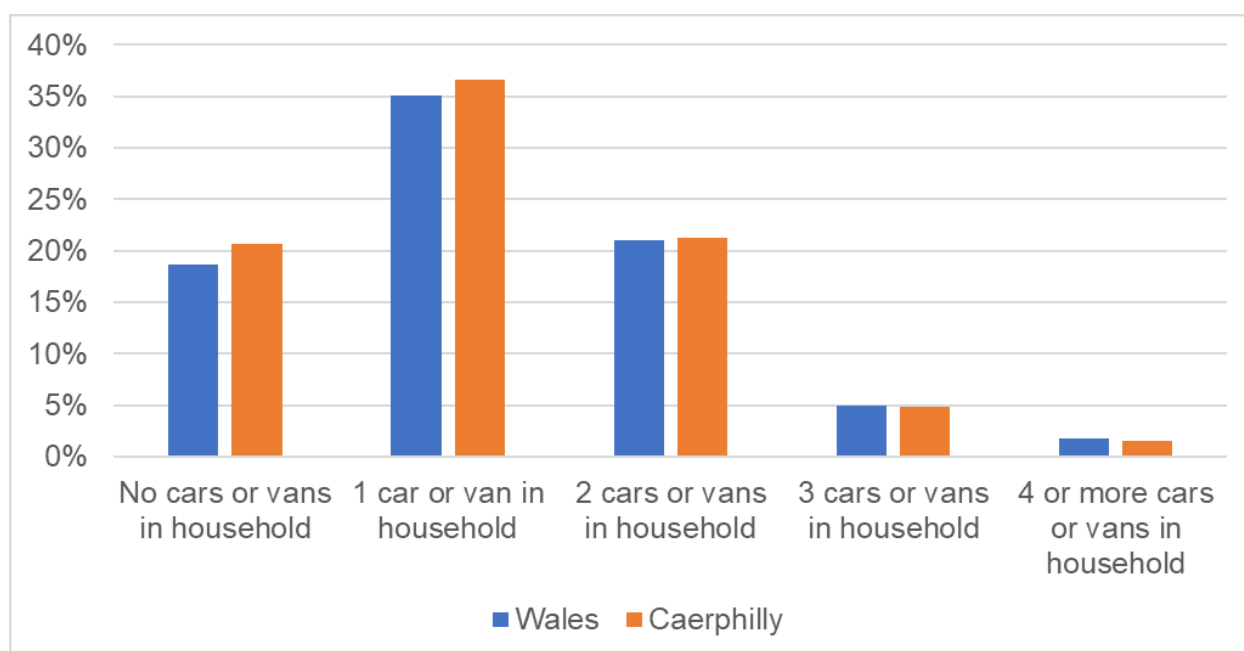


Figure 6.2: Private car ownership⁶⁵



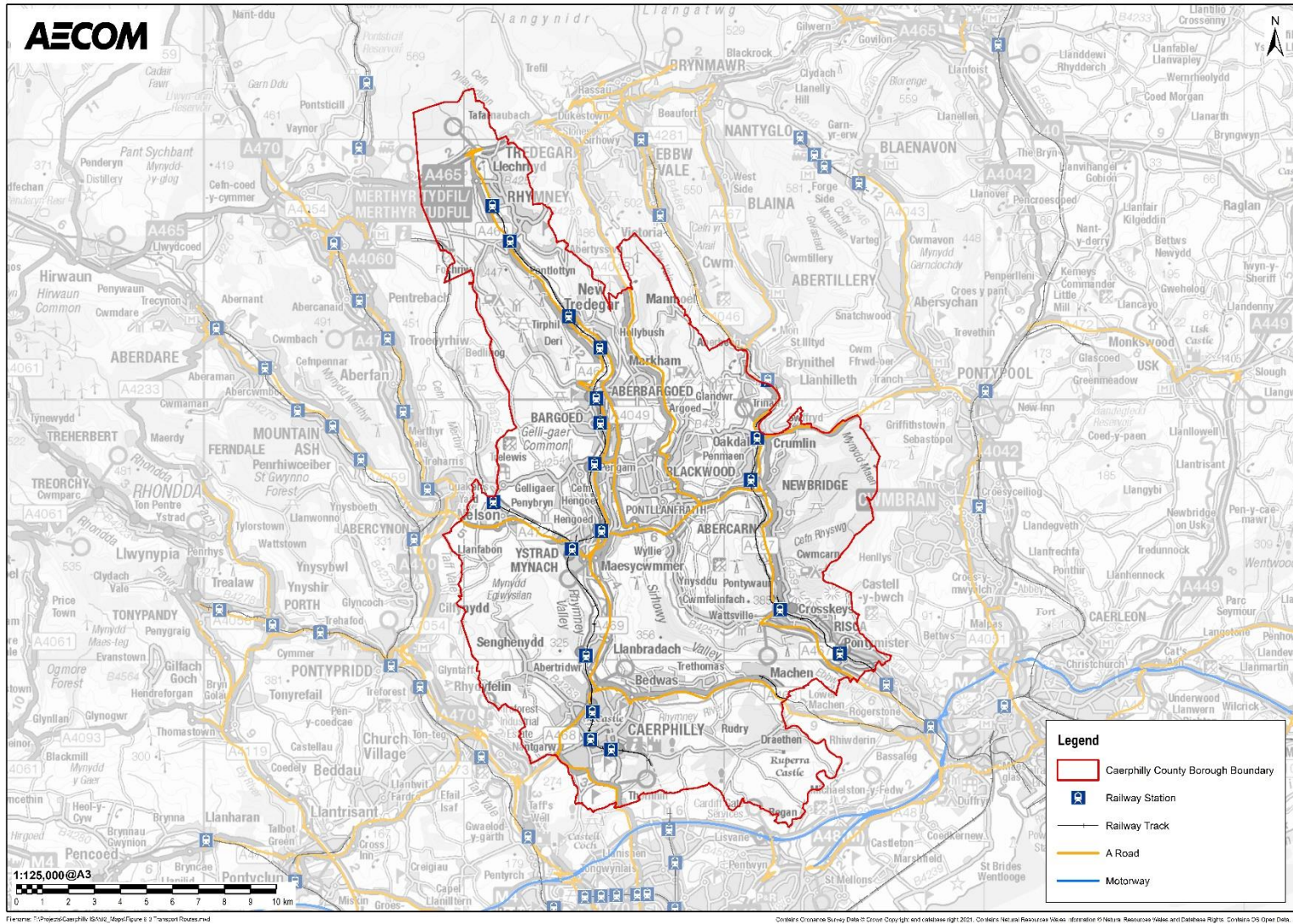
⁶⁴ Nomis (2011): 'Method of travel to work' [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/qs701ew>

⁶⁵ Nomis (2011): 'Car ownership' [online] available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/qs416ew>

Key travel routes

6.6 Caerphilly's key travel routes are shown within **Figure 6.3** overleaf and discussed in the subsequent sections.

Figure 6.3: key travel routes



Road network

6.7 The regional and local road network comprise larger strategic routes and smaller access roads, which pose unique challenges for residents. The strategic highway network includes the following:

- A467 Pontymister (County Borough boundary) to Llanhilleth (County Borough boundary);
- A472 Newbridge (A467) to Nelson (County Borough boundary);
- A472 Crumlin (A467) to Hafodyrynys (County Borough boundary);
- A469 Ystrad Mynach (A472) to Pwllypant (A468);
- A468/A469 Penrhos (County Borough boundary) to Pwllypant (A469); and
- A4048 Sirhowy Enterprise Way at Pentwynmawr (A472) to north of Blackwood (A4048/B4251).

6.8 The Heads of the Valley Road (A465) also runs through the north of the county borough.

County roads

6.9 Key data and monitoring of traffic flows within the County Borough (2018) shows that all 16 monitoring sites throughout the County Borough have experienced growth in traffic flow in 2018.⁶⁶ 16 of the 17 sites are in growth in 2019, while Site 3 (A467 Newbridge to Crosskeys) indicates a reduction in traffic flow.

6.10 Three of the 17 monitoring sites are shown to experience congestion for approximately 250 hours per year in the weekday peaks, in the peak direction. These three sites cover A467 Newbridge to Crumlin, A468 West of Pwllypant, and A469 South of Watford Road. It is noted that two of these sites, in addition to Site 3 discussed above, have an improvement included in the LDP and South East Wales Valleys Local Transport Plan.

6.11 According to the most recent household survey for Caerphilly⁶⁷, satisfaction levels in the area were highest in relation to the maintenance of street lighting (81%), followed by signs and road markings (76%). Respondents were least satisfied with road surfaces; however, this area has shown a significant increase since 2011 with satisfaction levels having increased from 28% (2011) to 51% in 2017. Most notably, residents' satisfaction with highway management has decreased from 59% to 49% between 2011- 2017.

6.12 Considering the above, strategic transport improvements have been identified by the Council⁶⁸ at:

- A6467 (Newbridge to Crosskeys)
- A467 (Newbridge to Crumlin)
- A472 (Ystrad Mynach to Nelson)
- Newbridge Interchange.

⁶⁶ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2019) Congestion monitoring 2009 - 2019

⁶⁷ CCBC (2017): 'Household Survey' [online] available at:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Consultations/Household-Survey/HHS2017InitialAnalysisReport.aspx>

⁶⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2021): 'Lle- Geo portal for Wales' [online] available at: <http://lle.gov.wales/home>

- A472 (Crown Roundabout to Cwm Du Roundabout) – partially delivered
- Pwllpant Junction - delivered.
- Bedwas Bridge Roundabout.
- Trecenydd Roundabout - delivered
- Tafwys Walk;
- Piccadilly Gyrotory.
- Penrhos to Pwllpant
- Pwllpant to Bedwas
- Cwm Du/Maesycwmmmer Junctions – delivered
- Bedwas Colliery Access Road

Sustainable transport

Rail

6.13 As shown in **Figure 6.3** above, there are sixteen railway stations within the county borough, including Caerphilly railway station, located south of Caerphilly Town. The station is part of the Rhymney Line of the Valley Lines network. Timetables indicate regular services south to Penarth via Cardiff Central and Cardiff Queen Street and north to Bargoed and Rhymney. On Sundays, there is a two-hourly service each way with southbound trains running to Barry Island.⁶⁹

6.14 It is noted that the South East Wales Transport Commission illustrates the potential for a new, local, stopping service along the South Wales Main Line, and an emphasis on rapid bus transit for locations not served by existing rail lines. This support's Future Wales; policy's focus on planning development around the public transport network, rather than the motorways and strategic highway network.

Bus

6.15 According to the most recent household survey (2017)⁷⁰, there are high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of the local bus service (>70%), with the exception of a small decline in satisfaction with 'the frequency of the bus service'. 'the statue of bus stops/shelters' and 'the timeliness of buses'. Overall there has been a small reduction in satisfaction with the local bus service from 83% in 2015 to 81% in 2017.

6.16 Park and rides support reduced car use in the borough's centres, which in turn may incentivise active travel uptake for residents and visitors alike. In terms of Caerphilly's offer, Llanbradach Park & Ride is only a proposal at the moment (included in Caerphilly Basin Masterplan, along with Caerphilly Metro interchange proposal).⁷¹ Pengam, Bargoed and Rhymney have some parking, as does Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach and Hengoed. Additionally, Ystrad Mynach Park & Ride is a proposal in the Ystrad Mynach Masterplan.⁷²

⁶⁹ Network Rail (2015): 'Table 130'.

⁷⁰ CCBC (2017): 'Household Survey' [online] available at:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Consultations/Household-Survey/HHS2017InitialAnalysisReport.aspx>

⁷¹ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2018) Caerphilly Basin Masterplan

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Caerphilly-Basin-Masterplan.aspx>

⁷² Caerphilly County Borough Council (2019) Ystrad Mynach Masterplan [online] available at:

<https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/Ystrad-Mynach-Masterplan-May2019.aspx>

Cycling

6.17 The CCBC Household Survey indicated that 68% of respondents were satisfied with walking and cycling routes for travel.⁷³

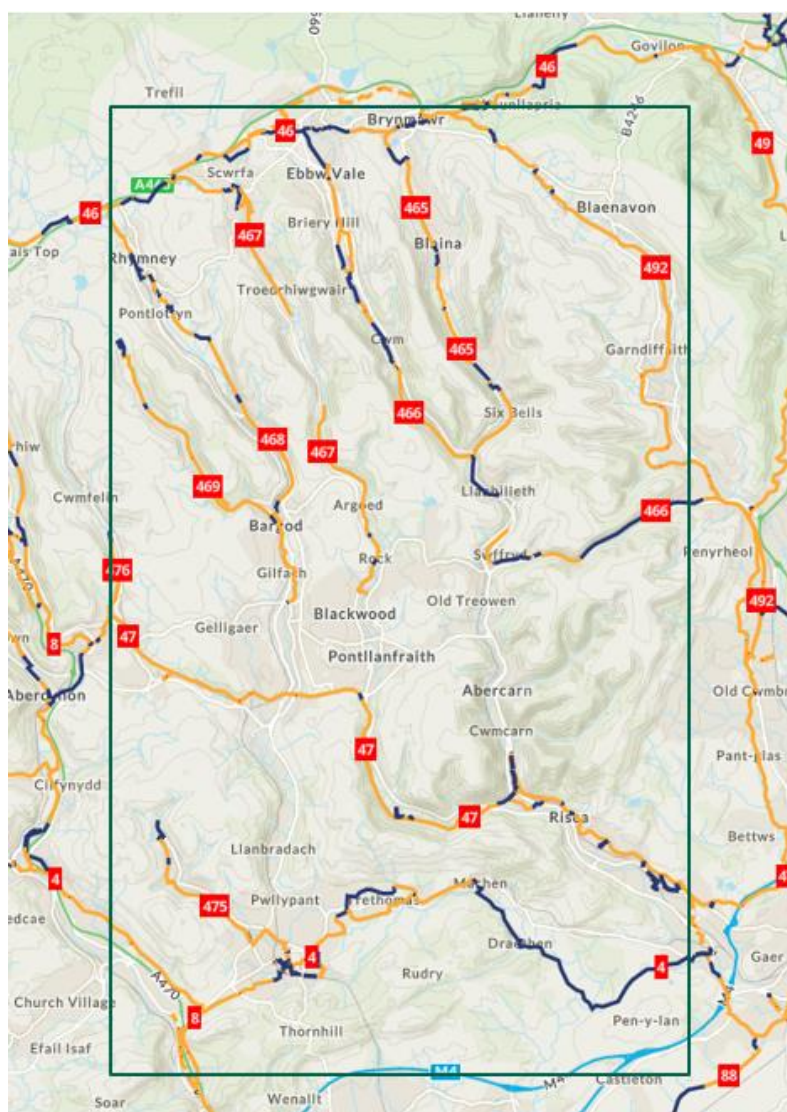
6.18 The cycle network in the county borough is expansive and offers excellent opportunities for residents to travel to services for recreational purposes (shown in **Figure 6.4**, overleaf). CCBC notes several national cycle routes (NCN) in the county borough⁷⁴:

- The Celtic Trail - running through Chepstow to the Pembrokeshire National Park.
- Twrch Trail - located near Cwmcarn.
- Aber Valley Cycle Route - running between two Station Terraces, one in Caerphilly and the other in Senghenydd.
- Darran Valley Cycle Route - running from Bristol Terrace in Bargoed towards Fochriw.
- Aberbargoed to New Tredegar Cycle Route - running from Aberbargoed north towards New Tredegar, forming part of the developing network running the length of the Rhymney Valley.

⁷³ CCBC (2017): 'Household Survey' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Consultations/Household-Survey/HHS2017InitialAnalysisReport.aspx>

⁷⁴ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2021): 'Cycling trails' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Things-To-Do/Activities/Cycle-trails>

Figure 6.4: NCN, approximate Caerphilly area shown in green⁷⁵



Active travel routes

6.19 **Figure 6.5** overlies the spatial data for Active Travel Act (Wales) 2013 'Designated Localities' and subsequent active travel routes. Section 2(1) of the Act provides that for the purposes of the Act a route in a local authority's area is an active travel route if the route is situated in a designated locality in the area.⁷⁶

6.20 Localities are designated by reference to:

- Density of the population
- Size
- Proximity to densely-populated localities above a particular size
- Position between such localities
- Proximity to community services and facilities

⁷⁵ Sustrans (2021): 'National Cycle Network' [online] available at: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network/>

⁷⁶ <https://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/ActiveTravelDesignatedLocalitiesWales/?lang=en>

- Potential for other reasons to be a locality, in which more travel is undertaken by walkers and cyclists by active travel journeys.

6.21 **Figure 6.5** shows in Caerphilly, these routes are extensive across some parts of the settlement, linking the more urban core to the smaller villages of Machen, Abertridwr and Senghenydd.

6.22 Further detail in this respect is provided in **Figure 6.6** (also overleaf), which shows Caerphilly's 'integrated networks' as of 2018. Figure 6.6 distinguishes between active travel routes that are for either cycling, walking, and shared use (walking and cycling), and shows the relationship between these active routes and country parks (supporting sustainable access to amenity and recreation) and industrial estates (supporting sustainable access to employment).

6.23 Councils have undertaken reviews of their Active Travel network and, following public consultation, were required to submit their renewed Active Travel Network Maps to Welsh Government by the end of 2021. In so doing, CCBC wishes to enable more walking and cycling journeys throughout the County Borough.

Figure 6.5: Active travel routes, Caerphilly

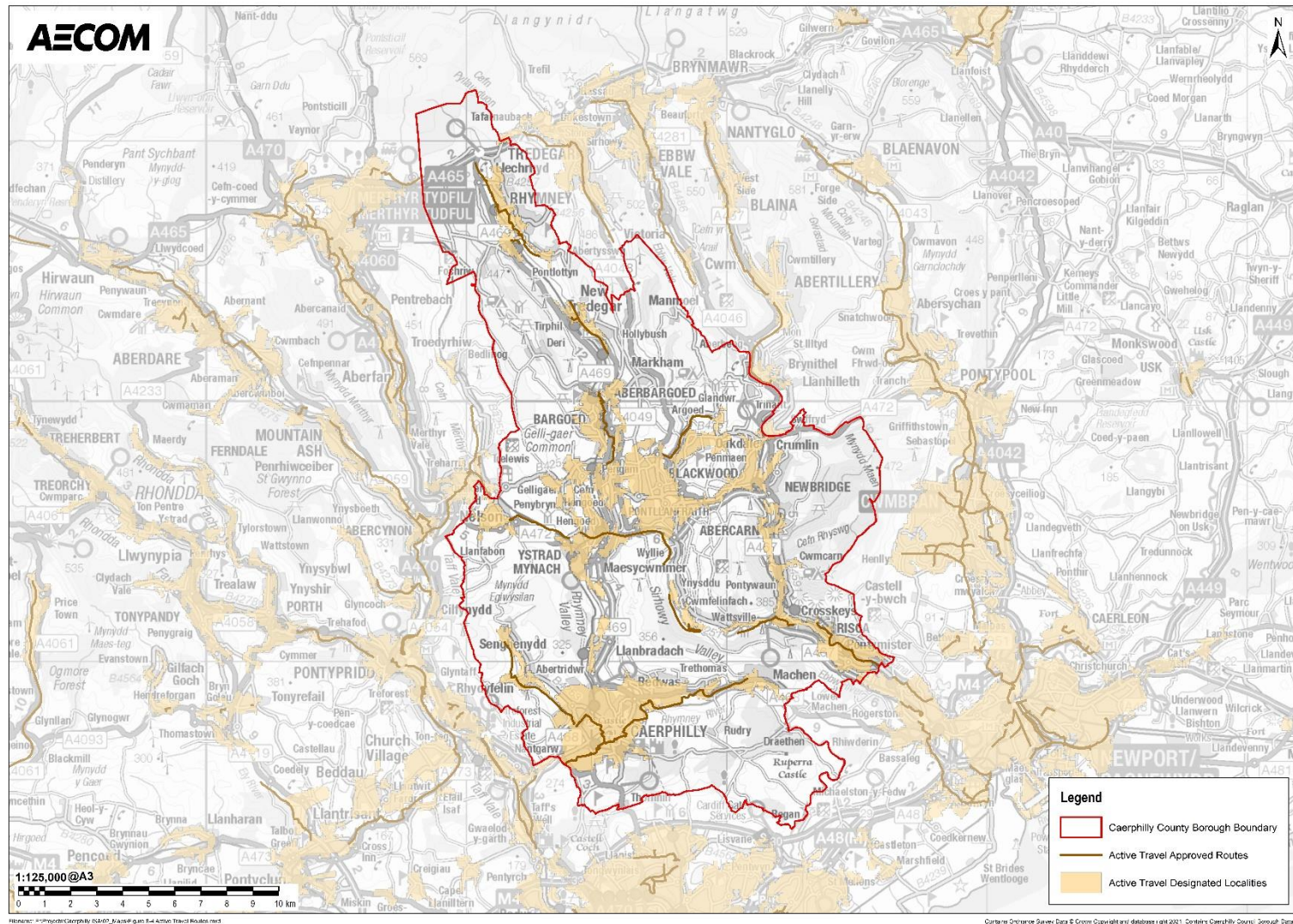
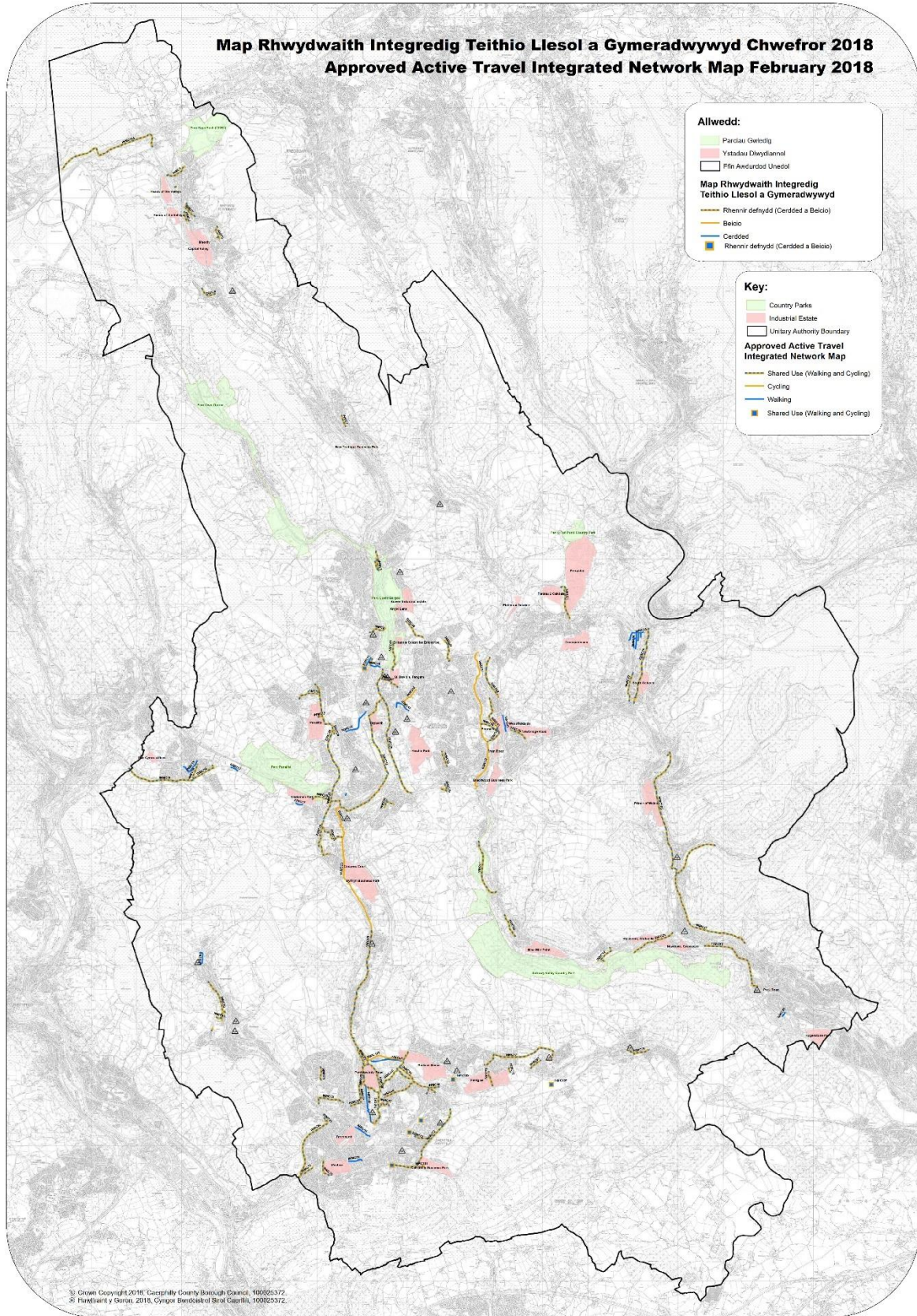


Figure 6.6 Active travel routes integrated network map⁷⁷



Future baseline

- 6.24 The Local Transport Plan (LTP) for South East Wales outlines local schemes that will help to alleviate road traffic issues in Caerphilly which may be exacerbated by future development, including the Caerphilly Basin/Town Centre Radial Routes and The Highway and Bus Corridor Improvement – A468/A469 Pwllpant Roundabout Scheme, led by CCBC. Sustainable transport improvements are anticipated in conjunction with increased peak rail and bus services as outlined in the LTP, and the forthcoming emerging Regional Transport Plan (RTP).
- 6.25 However, the recent pandemic has brought about significant change in many people's working and commuting habits. Moving forward, higher levels of homeworking are considered likely to persist, which will benefit strategic road infrastructure and reduce the effects of congestion. Residents who continue to commute to work may also display more preference for private rather than public transport forms in the short- to medium-term, recognising the constraints of social distancing.

Key issues

- 6.26 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of several key issues (problems and opportunities):
- It is recognised that the emerging RTP, in addition to schemes outlined in the LTP, will help to alleviate road traffic issues associated with future development in the county borough. However it is also recognised that road infrastructure has historically struggled to keep pace with increases in road vehicles, therefore congestion and capacity issues are likely to be exacerbated by future growth.
 - The 2011 Census indicated relatively low levels of active travel in Caerphilly, which may in part be exacerbated by the disparate active travel network in the county borough. Delivering the Active Travel Network Map is therefore important for the County Borough. Strengthening and improving active travel networks and increasing accessibility to these networks will support the shift to more sustainable forms of travel, in line with the WTS modal shift target.
 - Opportunities for modal shift are identified through the South Wales Metro Project, which includes significant expansion and enhancement of the rail network, bus services and cycle and pedestrian networks. Growth should be coordinated with strategic transport infrastructure improvements to maximise opportunities for connected and accessible development.
 - Consideration will also need to be given to the impact of Covid-19 and travel patterns, particularly in relation to public transport usage.
 - Freezing of new road scheme proposals (pending a review by WG) will also be relevant.

ISA objectives

6.27 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy:
Increase sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel? • Enable transport infrastructure improvements? • Extend or improve active travel networks? • Support the uptake of low carbon transport? • Contribute towards the EV charging network? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Provide improvements to and/ or reduce congestion on the existing highway network?

7. Natural resources (air, land, minerals, and waste)

7.1 This theme focuses on local air quality, the quality of soil resources, waste generation, the extent of mineral resources, water supply resources and water quality in Caerphilly.

Policy context

7.2 **Table 7.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the 2RLDP ISA.

Table 7.1: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to natural resources

Document title	Year of publication
<u>UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations</u>	2017
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Air Quality Wales Regulations</u>	2002
<u>The Clean Air Plan for Wales</u>	2018
<u>White Paper on a Clean Air (Wales) Bill</u>	2021
<u>Welsh Water's Water Resource Management Plan</u>	2019
<u>Severn River Basin Management Plan</u>	2015
<u>Towards Zero Waste</u>	2019
<u>Beyond Recycling: A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality</u>	2021
<u>South East Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning</u>	2009
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 21: Waste</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 7: outdoor advertisement control</u>	1996
<u>Minerals technical advice note (MTAN) 1: aggregates</u>	2004
<u>Minerals technical advice note (MTAN) 2: coal</u>	2009

<u>Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review</u>	2020
<u>South East Wales Area Statement</u>	2019
<u>SWRAWP Annual Report for 2019</u>	2019
<u>Natural Resources Policy</u>	2017
<u>Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP)</u>	2020
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales</u>	2020
<u>The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)</u>	2020

7.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The 2RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Caerphilly as part of a distinctive Valleys sub-region with nuanced social and economic needs, which in turn is part of a larger Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys National Growth Area, and as such the 2RLDP should set out policies and proposals reflecting the increased strategic role of the region. The SDP for south east Wales will also seek to address regional factors such as air quality, the water environment, land use, and the soil resource, recognising the wider benefits of natural capital and derived from ecosystem services. Furthermore, Future Wales recognises the need to take account of the long-term implications of climate change and build resilience in this respect, by guiding strategic development over the next 20 years. Future Wales encourages efficient land use, requiring that the relationships between all forms of land use and management be considered more fully if Wales is to address the climate emergency, reverse biodiversity decline and enable communities to benefit from more sustainable forms of managing natural resources. This is especially the case in large parts of the region's rural areas.
- The Environment (Wales) Act sets out the “*sustainable management of natural resources*” (SMNR); using natural resources in a way and at a rate that promotes the achievement of the objective to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. The Act sets out a framework for the delivery of SMNR, which includes practical steps to improve air quality, not just in the most polluted hotspots but across Wales.
- The Welsh Government has committed to taking a cross-government approach to tackling air quality. The ‘Clean Air Wales’ Programme (2018) seeks to reduce the burden of poor air quality on human health and the natural environment. This programme will consider evidence and develop and implement actions required across government departments including environment, health, education, decarbonisation, transport, local government, planning, agriculture, and industry to achieve clean air for

Wales. The Programme will build on existing cross government work to reduce air pollution, including Future Wales and PPW.

- National planning policy is set out in PPW, the primary objective of which is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development, and contributes positively towards improving the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales. This is as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties such as the Socio-economic Duty. In respect of natural resources, PPW requires that the preparation of LDP's takes account of the physical and environmental constraints on development of land, including, for example, the level of contamination and stability. Consideration should also be given to the potential impacts which remediation of land contamination might have upon the natural and historic environments.
- PPW also requires development plans to take water-related issues into account from an early stage in the process of identifying land for development and redevelopment. Allied to this, the Council, as a Sustainable Drainage Approval Body (SAB), has statutory responsibility for determining drainage applications in conjunction with new development.
- Air quality and soundscape are addressed in the PPW as a key component of the natural and built environment, placing the issues on an equal footing with other objectives such as housing, transport, and economic development. PPW recognises the importance of air quality and appropriate soundscapes to the health and well-being of people and the environment and seeks to ensure long-term approaches are taken to prevent creation of new problems or worsening of existing issues.
- PPW is supplemented by TANs and MTANs, which translate Welsh Government's commitment to sustainable development into the planning system so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability. In terms of flood risk, TAN15 (Development and Flood Risk) has been revised and will take effect in 2023, alongside the accompanying Flood Map for Planning. It will recognise different degrees of flood risk and incorporate climate change allowances.
- With specific reference to waste management. TAN21 (Waste) states that land use planning should help to:
 - Drive the management of waste up the waste hierarchy and facilitate the provision of an adequate network of appropriate facilities;
 - Minimise the impact of waste management on the environment (natural and manmade) and human health through the appropriate location and type of facilities; and
 - Recognise and support the economic and social benefits that can be realised from the management of waste as a resource within Wales.
- Regarding minerals, the PPW sets out a requirement for a steady and adequate supply of minerals. MTAN 1 (aggregates) and MTAN 2 (coal) further set a principle for the sustainable provision of resource to meet social needs for construction (aggregates) and energy (coal). The Regional Technical Statement 2nd Review sets the sub-regional and local context for

minerals provision going forward, including local requirements for primary aggregates.

- Welsh Government coal policy – new coal extraction proposals are no longer permitted for energy purposes.
- PPW sets out that development plans are important vehicles for the promotion of environmental protection. They should enable consideration of the effects which proposed developments, and transport demand associated with them, may have on land, air, or water quality and the effects which land, air or water quality may have on proposed developments.
- Welsh Water's Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) (2019) looks out across 30 years from 2020 to 2050 to assess potential risks to supplying sufficient water to meet anticipated demands. Key factors considered include demographic and economic changes that affect water demand, climate change which is recognised by WG's Future Generation's Act as a significant challenge facing Wales, and environmental obligations such as the European Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.
- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, sustainable, and balanced growth throughout the region, committing to a partnership approach to housing and regeneration, which encourages efficient land use, utilising brownfield land opportunities where possible. The deal aims to encourage investment and create an equal opportunity environment within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. The 2RLDP should set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the area that maximises resource efficiency and minimises environmental impacts.

Baseline summary

Air quality

- 7.4 Air quality monitoring has identified two areas in Caerphilly that are exceed the air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). These are: Caerphilly Town Centre AQMA and Hafod-yr-ynys Road AQMA. **Figure 7.1** shows their location in the context of the County Borough, while further details on the AQMAs are provided in **Table 7.2**, overleaf).
- 7.5 Other forms of pollution identified as being and having the potential to be problematic within the county borough include noise, light, and odour.

Figure 7.1 AQMAs within Caerphilly

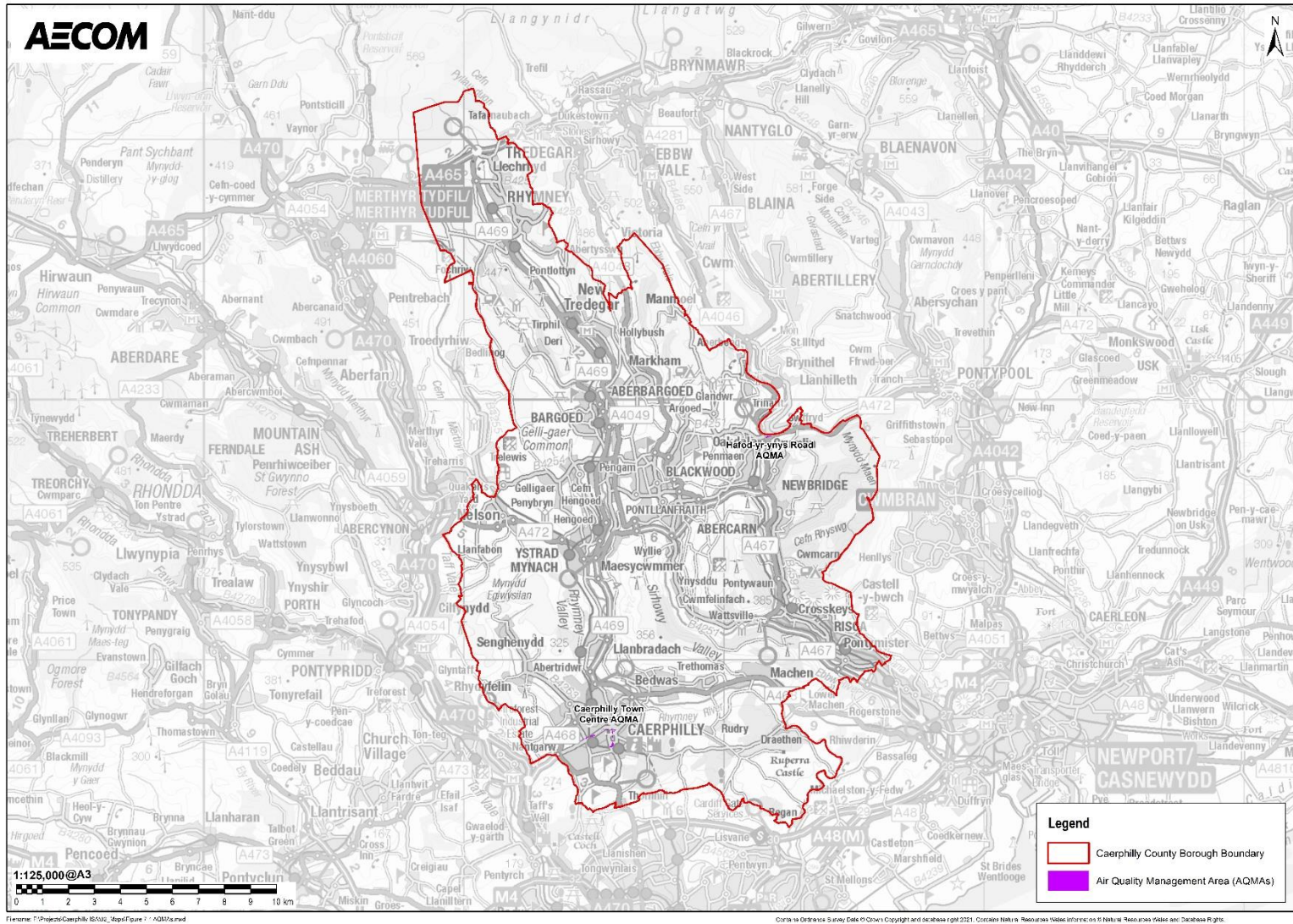
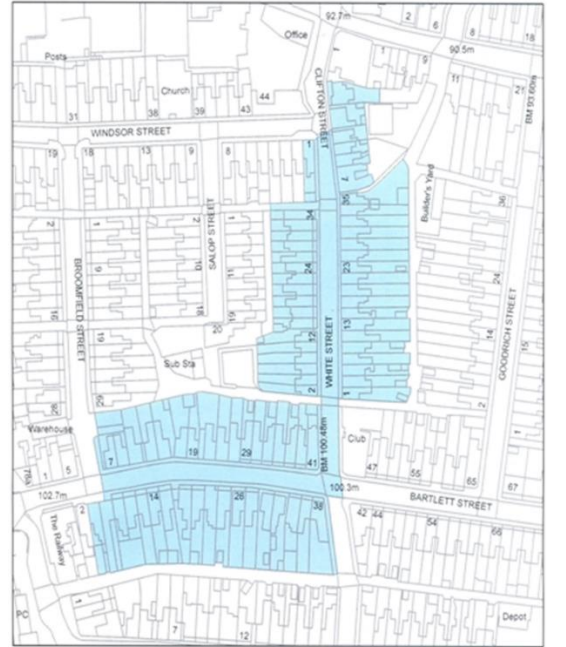


Table 7.2: AQMAs, Caerphilly⁷⁸

AQMA	Declaration date	Description	Trend	Exceedances of NO ₂ annual mean
Caerphilly Town Centre AQMA	2008 (amended 2013)	The area encompasses residential properties along main route through Caerphilly Town Centre, white Street and Bartlett Street, which was extended to include Nantgarw Road and Ton-y-felin Road.	There have been gradual reductions in NO ₂ & PM ₁₀ levels from both continuous analysers and Beta Attenuation Monitors over a five-year period	

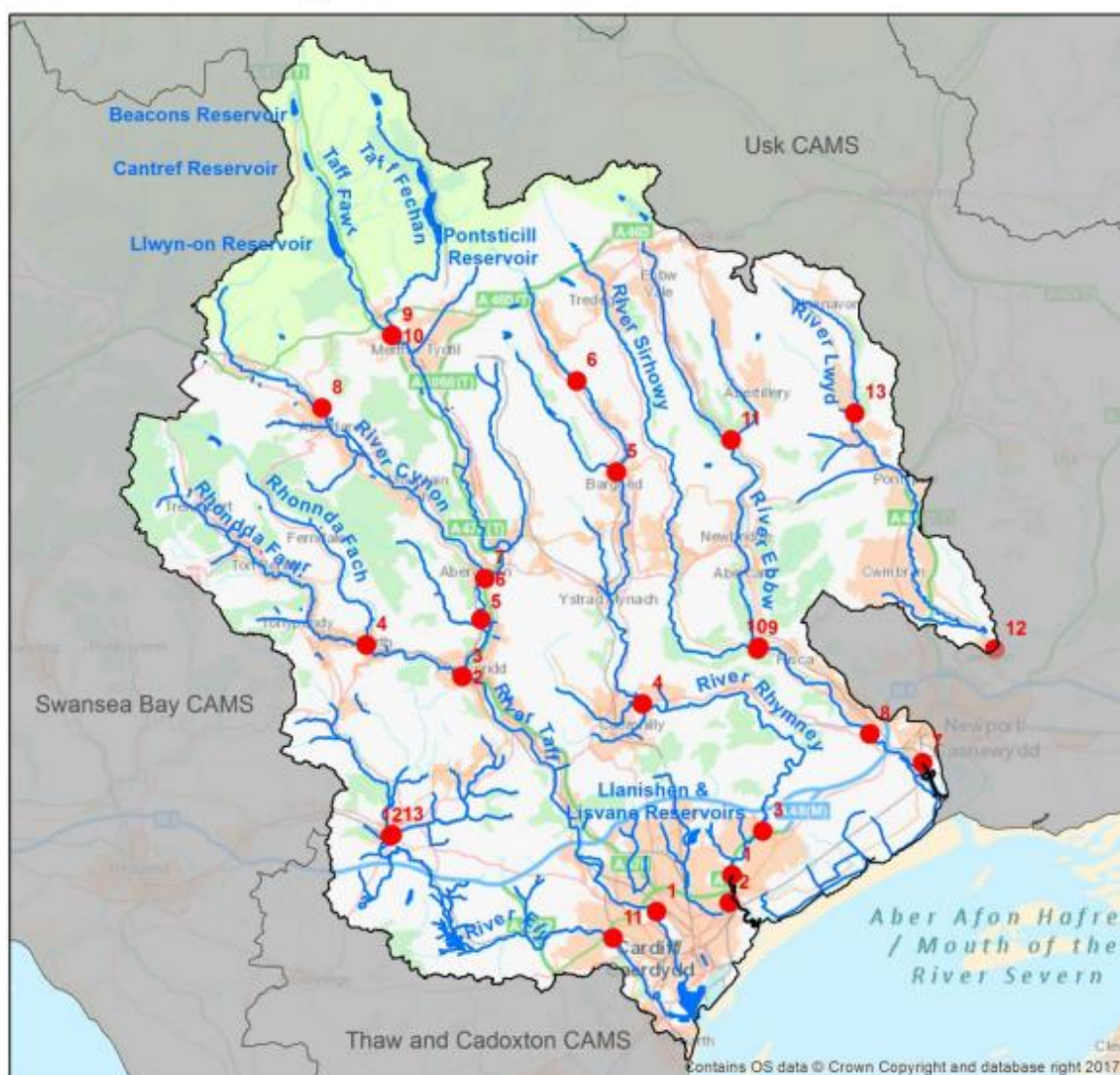
⁷⁸ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2020): 'Air Quality in Caerphilly' [online] available at: [Caerphilly - Caerphilly County Borough](#)

AQMA	Declaration date	Description	Trend	Exceedances of NO ₂ annual mean
Hafod-yr-ynys Road AQMA	2013	The area encompasses residential properties surrounding the A472; a main trunk road connecting Pontypool and the A467.	There has been no discernible difference in levels of NO ₂ over a five-year period. However it is noted that compulsory purchase of land has taken place in Hafodyrnys to help address NO ₂ levels. Demolition of houses is underway.	

Water resources

- 7.6 The majority of water in the county borough currently abstracted comes direct from the rivers and their supporting reservoirs, of which approximately half is fed into the public water supply, with a further 29% going to commercial uses and 20% to industrial use. The majority of public water supply to the county borough does however come from reservoirs beyond the county borough. Industrial abstraction is unlikely to be as significant as previously.
- 7.7 The Catchment Management Abstraction Strategy (CAMs) technical assessment helps to identify where water may be available for future use, but also where water resource demands may be impacting the water balance. In this regard, Caerphilly falls within the South East Valleys CAMs area, shown in **Figure 7.2**, below.

Figure 7.2: South East Valleys CAMs⁷⁹



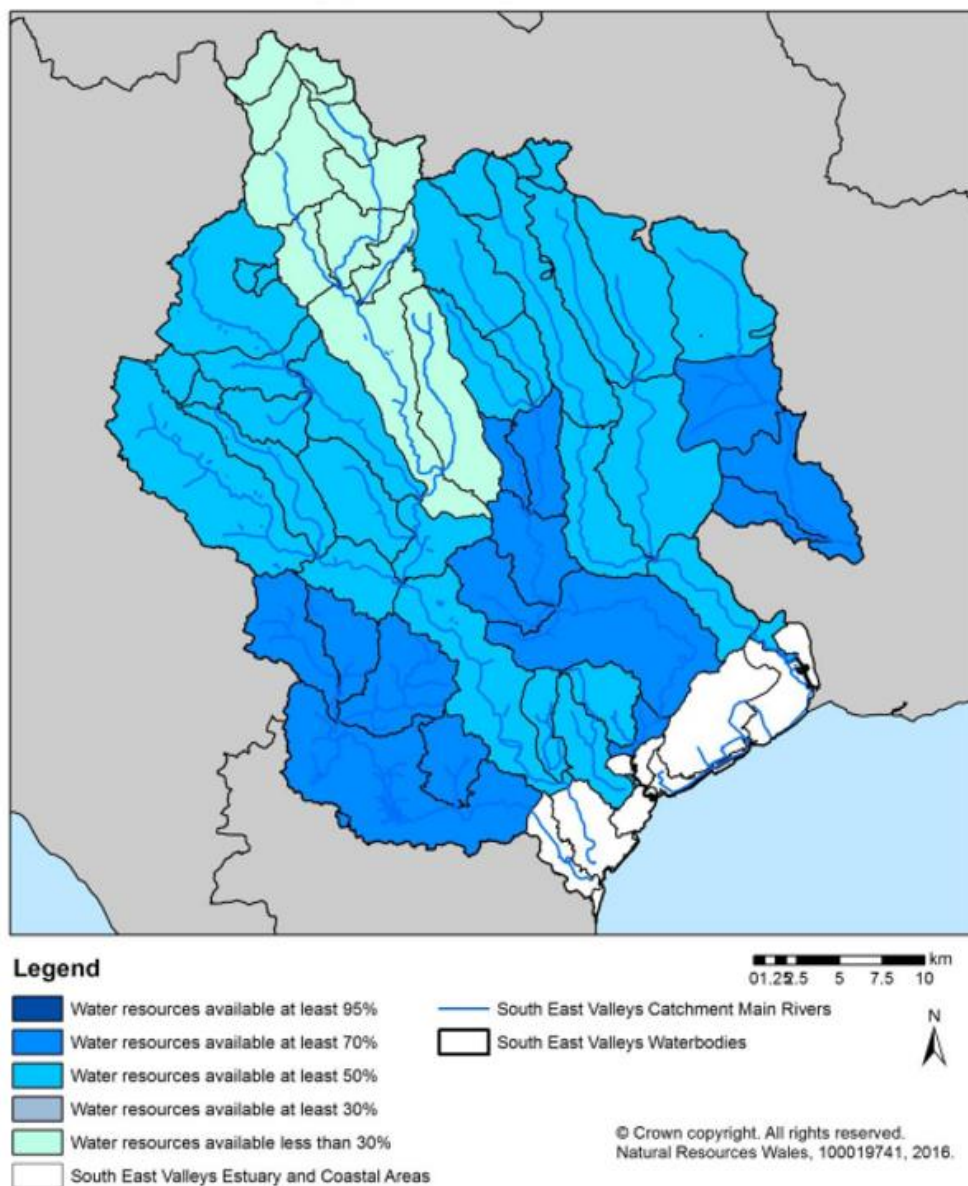
- 7.8 Reliability of water availability in this catchment was assessed in 2016 by Natural Resources Wales⁸⁰ and is presented in **Figure 7.3** below. Areas with

⁷⁹ Natural Resources Wales (2017): 'South East Valleys Licensing Abstraction Strategy' [online] available at: sevl-licensing-strategy-final-nov-17.pdf (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru)

⁸⁰ Natural Resources Wales (2017): 'South East Valleys Licensing Abstraction Strategy' [online] available at: sevl-licensing-strategy-final-nov-17.pdf (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru)

higher availability (at least 50%) are located in the southern areas, supplying settlements such as Caerphilly town and Blackwood.

Figure 7.3: Water availability annually, South East Valleys CAMS⁸¹



⁸¹ Natural Resources Wales (2017): 'South East Valleys Licensing Abstraction Strategy' [online] available at: [sev-licensing-strategy-final-nov-17.pdf \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](https://www.naturalresources.wales/sites/default/files/2017-11/SEV%20LICENSING%20ABSTRACTION%20STRATEGY%20FINAL%20NOV%2017.pdf)

Water recycling

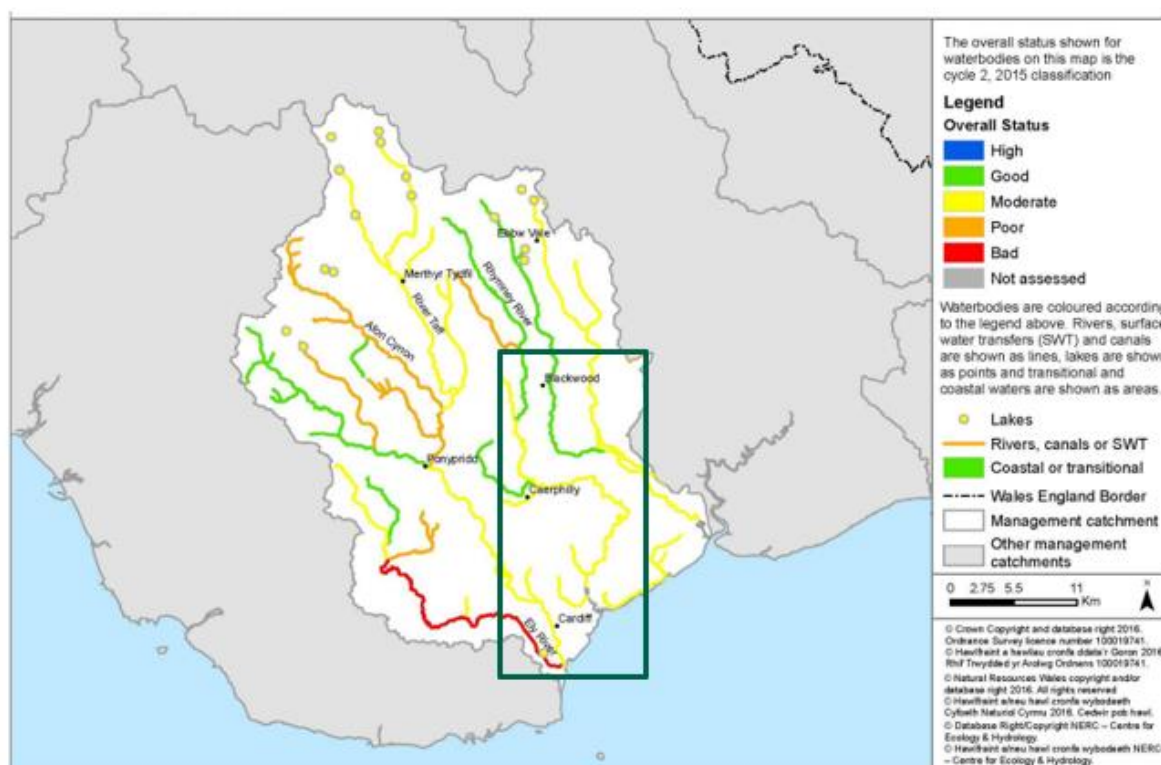
7.9 Levels of water recycling within the county borough are considered to be low, limited mainly to water provision for gardening.. With the likelihood of increased drought there is a need to raise awareness of both the public and commercial users of the need for greater water efficiency, particularly given the general belief that water is readily available in Wales.

Water quality

7.10 The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires the assessment of the whole water environment, and this is undertaken by EAW. This looks at over 30 measures, grouped into ecological status (this includes biology as well as 'elements' like phosphorus and pH) and chemical status ('priority substances'). The South East Valleys Catchment is within the Severn River Basin District. The major urban centres include Aberdare, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Pontypridd and Cardiff, which has an important commercial port.⁸²

7.11 The main rivers in the South East Valleys management catchment are the Ebbw and Sirhowy, which flow into the Usk Estuary and the Rhymney, Taff and Ely, which discharge to the Severn Estuary. As shown in **Figure 7.4**, below, according to the 2015 classification for overall ecological status, rivers that flow through the county borough are of varying quality. The Rhymney river is of good ecological quality, though decreasing further south, and some tributaries in the north are of poor overall quality, and could be worsened by the effects of future development. The Sirhowy appears to be of good quality, although the Ebbw, which it flows into, is moderate.

Figure 7.4: Overall status of rivers in the South East Valleys Catchment⁸³



⁸² Natural Resources Wales (n.d.): 'South East Valleys Management Catchment Summary' [online] available at: https://naturalresources.wales/media/679387/2016_updated-south-east_valleys_catchment_summary_nrw.pdf

⁸³ Natural Resources Wales (n.d.): 'South East Valleys Management Catchment Summary' [online] available at: https://naturalresources.wales/media/679387/2016_updated-south-east_valleys_catchment_summary_nrw.pdf

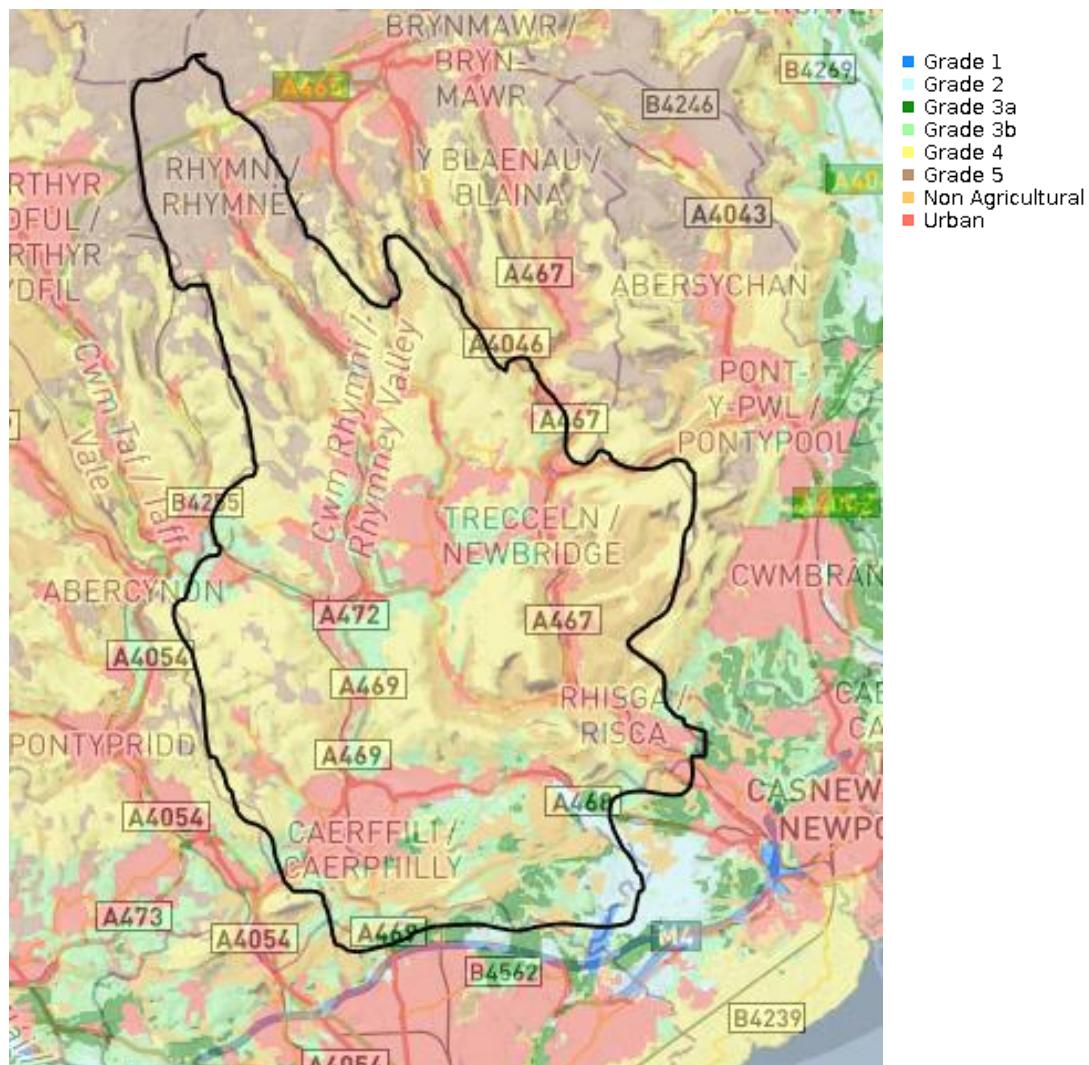
7.12 There is also a need to reduce impact from sewers and urban run-off on water quality of rivers by employing separate drainage systems for new and replacement development (reducing surface water discharged to combined sewers) and source control of industrial/urban drainage using passive treatment methods.

7.13 With regards to water pollution, there are no Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) in the Plan area, however, the northernmost part of Caerphilly along the county borough boundary, straddles a Source Protection Zone (SPZ).

Land and soil

7.14 The urban areas in Caerphilly are unlikely to be underlain by high quality agricultural land (as shown in the predictive Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) assessment, overleaf). Equally, the remaining parts of the County Borough are primarily underlain by Grade 4 (around the central part of the county borough) and Grade 5 ALC land in the north at Rhymney, although there is some grade 3a land in the Caerphilly Basin. Only a small part of the county borough, at Draethen, is underlain by high quality (Grade 2) land, which is susceptible to the effects of development (see **Figure 7.5** below).

Figure 7.5: ALC, Caerphilly County Borough⁸⁴



⁸⁴ Caerphilly County Borough (1988): 'Predictive ALC map' [online] available at: https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/new?layer=inspire-wg:wg_predictive_alc2

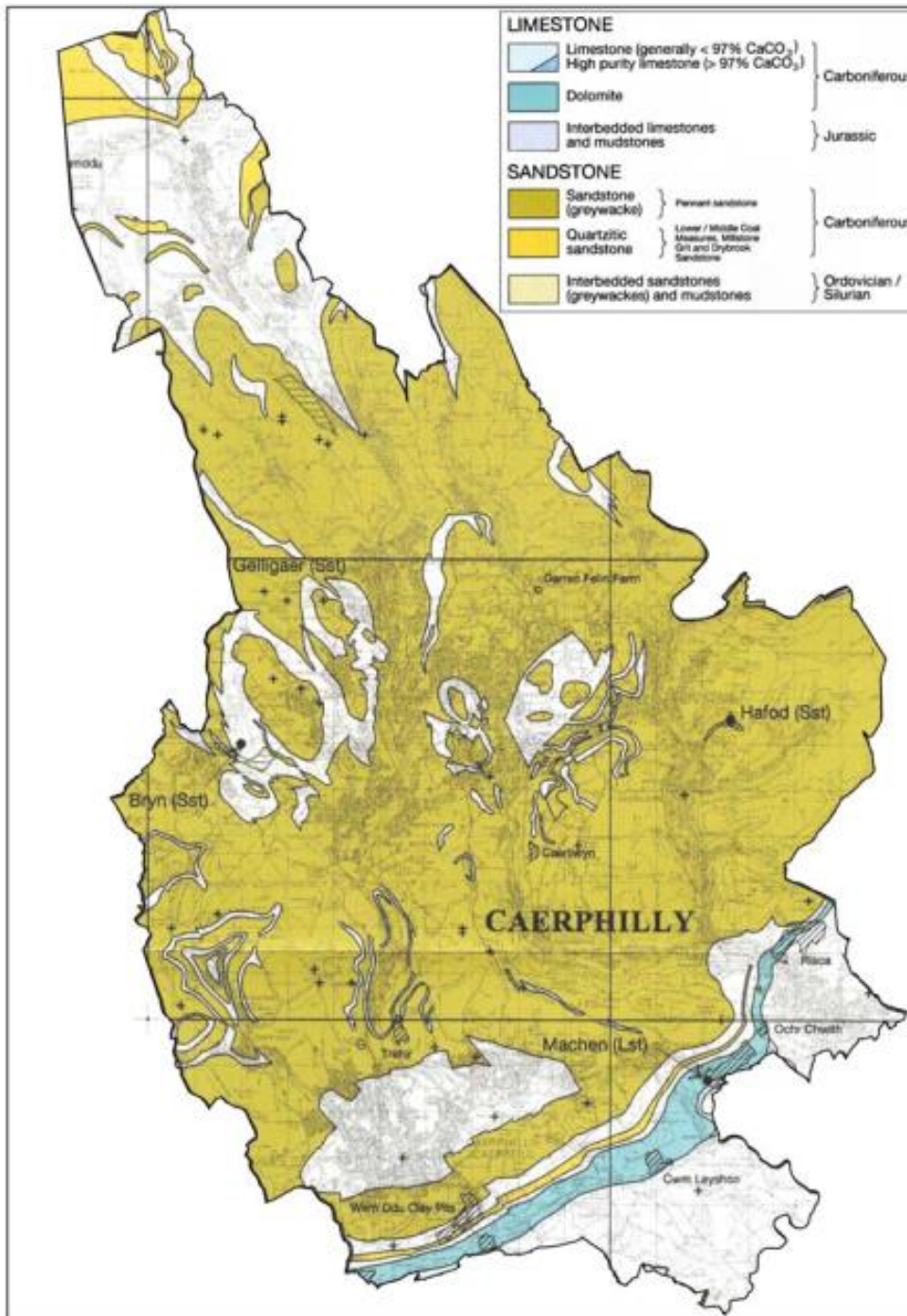
Minerals and geology

7.15 The quality and range of the county borough's geological heritage is an important factor in the character of the county boroughs' mineral offer. Research undertaken by the Department of Earth Science at Cardiff University as part of the development of LandMap indicates that two areas of Caerphilly County Borough have geological interest of regional importance:

- **The Caerphilly ridge in the south of the county borough-** an example of cross-valley glaciation.
- **The Nelson to Tredomen area-** contains a range of linear rock types.

7.16 Most of Caerphilly lies within the South Wales Coalfield comprising carboniferous coal measures underlain by millstone grit and carboniferous limestone. To the south of the main coalfield the area comprises Devonian old red sandstone, Silurian mudstones, and Triassic Mercia mud stone rocks, presented in **Figure 7.6**, overleaf.⁸⁵

Figure 7.6: Mineral geology, Caerphilly⁸⁶



7.17 Alongside these areas, there are several aggregate extraction sites in the county borough, as set out in **Table 7.3** overleaf. As shown in **Table 7.3**, two of these – Bryn (near Gelligaer) and Machen Quarries – are currently active. Large-scale open casting for coal has historically taken place in the north of the county borough where outcrops are near the surface.

⁸⁶ CCBC (2002): 'Biodiversity Action Plan' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Caerphilly-County-Borough.aspx>

Table 7.3 Caerphilly - Sites included in 2019 Aggregates Mineral Survey⁸⁷

Site name	Mineral type	Site owner or operator	Designation
Machen	Limestone	Hanson UK	Active
Hafod Fach	Sandstone	Tarmac	Inactive
Bryn	Sandstone	A Price & Co	Active
Cefn Onn	Limestone	Wyndham Lewis Trust	Dormant
Cwm Leyshon	Limestone	Hanson UK	Inactive
Blaengwynlais (shared with Cardiff)	Limestone	Tarmac	Inactive

Coal Mining Risk Assessment

7.18 The coalfield is divided into two areas, referred to as Development High Risk Area and Development Low Risk Area:⁸⁸

- the High Risk Area (15% of the coalfield area) is where coal mining risks are present at shallow depth which are likely to affect new development
- the Low Risk Area (85% of the coalfield) is where past coal mining activity has taken place at sufficient depth that it poses low risk to new development

7.19 The Coal Authority have recently (2020) published 'Development High Risk Area' data, which shows a significant proportion of Caerphilly falling within High Risk Areas, particularly to the south and east of the County Borough.⁸⁹

Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs)

7.20 In addition to the extraction sites above, there are a number of mineral safeguarding areas in Caerphilly, as set out below:

- **Sandstone Safeguarding Area** – a large part of Caerphilly is safeguarded for its sandstone resources.
- **Limestone Safeguarding Area** – a small part of Caerphilly, in the south east is protected for its limestone resources.
- **Coal Safeguarding Area** – a discrete number of areas across Caerphilly are protected for coal resources. However it is noted that PPW no longer requires coal reserves to be safeguarded.⁹⁰
- **Sand and Gravel Safeguarding Area** – a discrete number of areas are protected for sand and gravel resources.

7.21 These are shown in **Figure 7.8** overleaf.

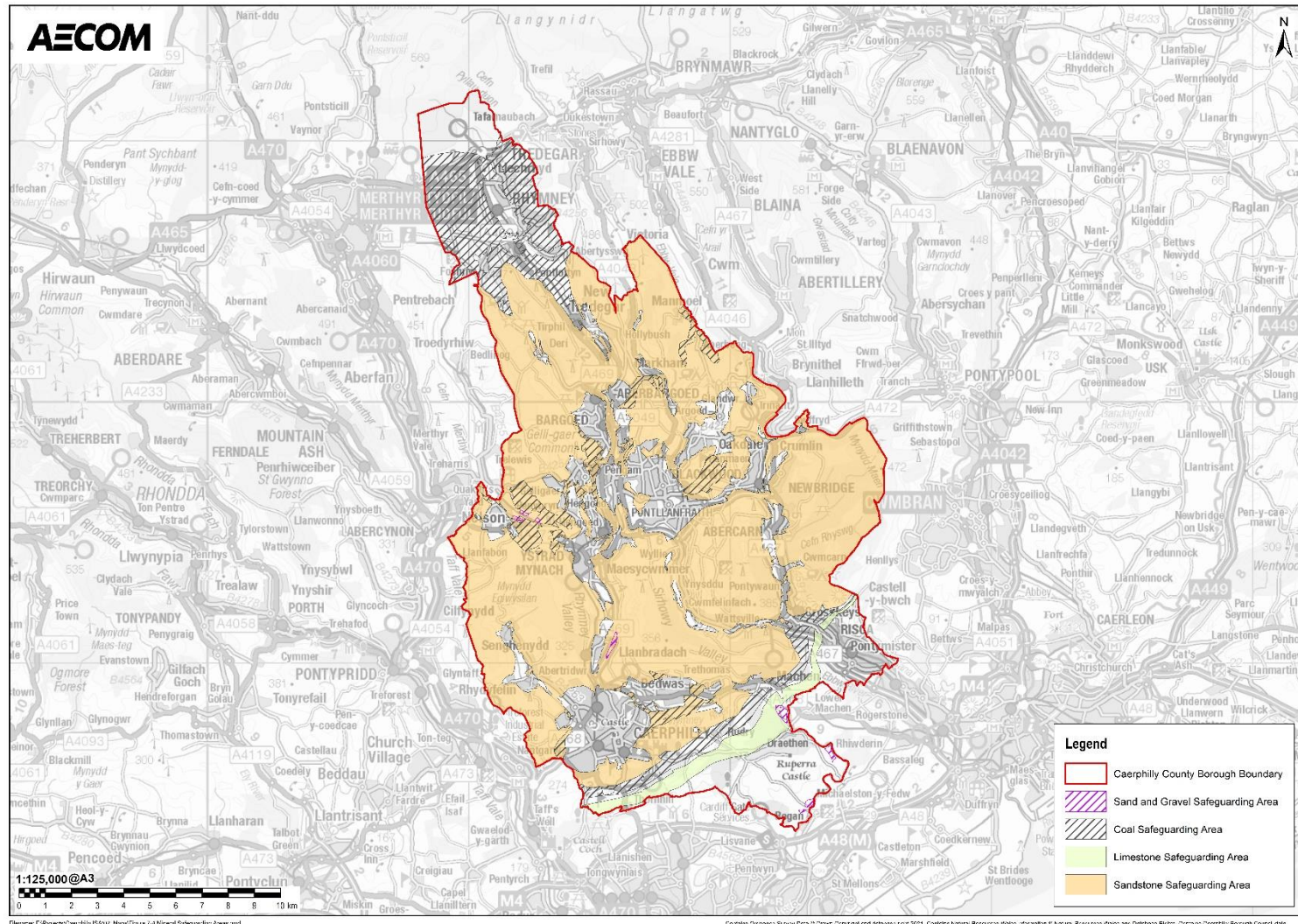
⁸⁷ South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party (2021) Annual Report for 2019 <http://www.swrawp-wales.org.uk/Html/SWRAWP%20Annual%20Report%202019%20FINAL.pdf>

⁸⁸ Earth Environmental & Geotechnical (2019) Coal Mining Risk Assessment <https://www.earthenvironmental.co.uk/coal-mining-risk-assessment/>

⁸⁹ The Coal Authority (2020) Planning Interactive Map <https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/coalauthority/home.html>

⁹⁰ Welsh Government (2021) Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 [online] available at: https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf

Figure 7.8: Mineral Safeguarding Areas



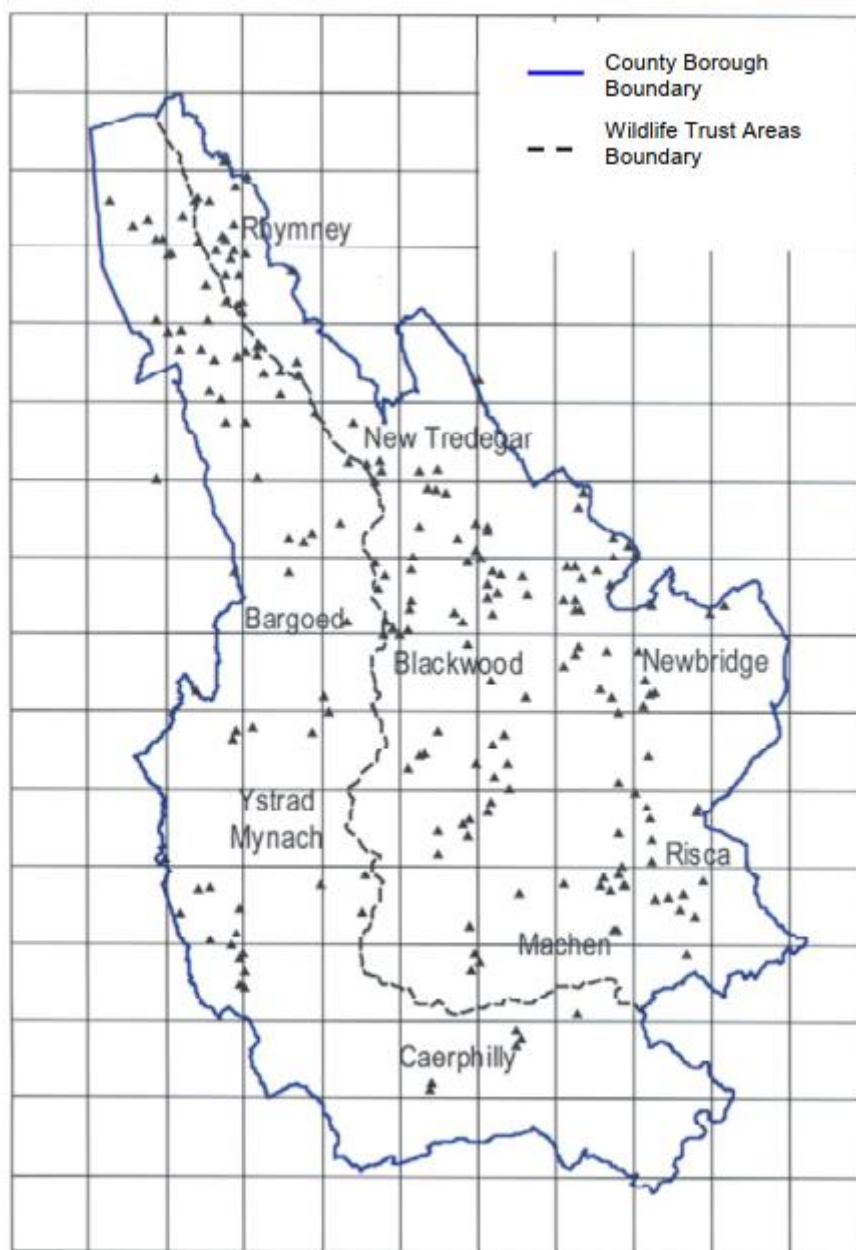
Waste

- 7.22 With regards to waste recycling, there are several private sector recycling facilities within the county borough, including a composting project near Nelson. In the year 2020-21 61.9% of Caerphilly's waste was reused/ recycled/ composted (as defined by the statutory target). This is lower than Wales as a whole (65.4%_, and is the second lowest of the South East Wales authorities. Of the SE Wales Authorities, Cardiff had the lowest (55.8%), and Bridgend the highest (69.2%).⁹¹
- 7.23 The full extent of waste contamination within the county borough is not known however there are more than a thousand potentially contaminated waste sites. These range from former domestic refuse tips (shown in **Figure 7.9**, overleaf) and industrial tips to sites contaminated by virtue of their previous uses. Detailed records are not available for the content of many of these sites as they contaminated prior to registration and licensing requirements.
- 7.24 According to the most recent household survey (2017)⁹², 4% of residents were satisfied with street and environmental cleaning. 78% of those surveyed would prefer no change to the current system with only 8% indicating that they would prefer a smaller refuse bin and 15% preferring the council to introduce requirements for residents to separate and sort recyclable materials prior to collection.
- 7.25 Regards should also be given to historic landfill sites in the borough, which are distributed evenly across the area. Tips are shown in **Figure 7.9**. overleaf.

⁹¹Stats Wales (2021) <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Environment-and-Countryside/Waste-Management/Local-Authority-Municipal-Waste/annualreuserecyclingcompostingrates-by-localauthority-year>

⁹² CCBC (2017): 'Household Survey' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Consultations/Household-Survey/HHS2017InitialAnalysisReport.aspx>

Figure 7.9: Location of tips on the Tip Register, shown as triangles⁹³



Future baseline

- 7.26 Increased home working and the development and use of further green technologies including the ability to communicate electronically all have the ability to reduce air pollution, primarily through a reduction in travelling.
- 7.27 The Flood Risk Management Plan will allow for investigations of the location of mine water flows. If required, measures will be introduced that will remove the iron salts from the mine water and thus improve the quality of the water downstream of the discharge.
- 7.28 Priorities for the South East Valleys Management Catchment are to reduce the impacts of man-made changes to the water environment to allow river life to

⁹³ CCBC (2002): 'Biodiversity Action Plan' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Caerphilly-County-Borough.aspx>

thrive; balance the needs of water supply and river flow and reduce polluting discharges from mine waters and sewage inputs.

7.29 Government guidance advises that mineral and coal deposits should be safeguarded from permanent development that would either sterilise or hinder their extraction by future generations.

Key issues

7.30 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of a number of key issues (problems and opportunities):

- Policy approaches are pushing towards a holistic and sustainable approach to the management, protection and use of natural resources, including through targeted measures to improve environmental outcomes relating to air quality, soil, land, water and waste in order to maximise beneficial outcomes to social, environmental and economic factors.
- Policy reinforces the need to consider the interrelationship between planned developments and the factors mentioned above, with emphasis being placed on the likely effects of climate change, the need for efficient uses of land, resource use efficiency and conserving the natural environment.
- Caerphilly has two AQMAs. The latest monitoring report (2019) has indicated that the Caerphilly Town Centre AQMA has shown a reduction in pollution levels. While the Hafod-yr-ynys Road AQMA has not improved over the previous five years (up to 2019), compulsory purchase of land has since taken place in Hafodyrynys to help address NO₂ levels.
- There are three main rivers within the South East Valleys Management Catchment. Tributaries of the River Rhymney that run through Caerphilly are of poor overall quality.
- There are no Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) in the Plan area, however, the northernmost part of Caerphilly, near Trefil in Blaenau Gwent, falls within a Source Protection Zone (SPZ).
- The majority of land in the county borough is not suitable for agricultural uses due to its lower quality agricultural grading; however, there are some small areas of higher quality land at Draethen.
- A significant proportion of Caerphilly falls within coalfield 'Development High Risk Areas', particularly to the south and east of the County Borough.⁹⁴

⁹⁴ The Coal Authority (2020) Planning Interactive Map <https://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/coalauthority/home.html>

ISA objectives

7.31 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
To identify and pursue any opportunities to reduce, or at least, minimise population exposure to air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel? • Encourage journeys to be made by sustainable means (active travel or public transport)? • Avoid any adverse effects on air quality and for people exposed to poor air quality? • Improve air quality in areas identified as of concern? • Promote and facilitate the use of electric vehicles? • Promote good design to avoid impacts on air quality, such as the canyon effect, and incorporates and enhances green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of NO₂ and other pollutants?
To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development and protecting, where possible, higher grade agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the loss of potentially high-grade agricultural land to developments which will not make use of the soil as an agricultural resource? • Encourage the use of previously developed land? • Encourage development-related remediation works which could reduce the presence of contaminated land in Caerphilly? • Avoid any adverse effects on coalfield 'Development High Risk Areas'?
To support waste management/ reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address waste by reducing and minimising waste as a priority? • Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy and in the context of 'Towards Zero Waste'?
To conserve, protect and enhance the water environment, water quality and water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce water consumption? • Ensure an adequate supply of water can be provided to sustain the development considering current and future projections of water availability and water use? • Reduce the potential for contamination of waterbodies and courses? • Reduce the potential for agricultural practices to contribute towards nitrate-based pollution of waterbodies and courses?

8. Biodiversity and geodiversity

8.1 This theme focuses on biodiversity and geodiversity interests within and surrounding Caerphilly.

Policy context

8.2 **Table 8.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the 2RLDP ISA.

Table 8.1: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to biodiversity and geodiversity

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Nature Recovery Plan for Wales</u>	2015
<u>Welsh National Marine Plan</u>	2019
<u>Covid Reconstruction: Challenges and Priorities, our approach to reconstruction</u>	2020
<u>Greater Gwent State of Nature Report</u>	2021
<u>South East Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5: Nature conservation and planning</u>	2009
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>Green Infrastructure Strategy</u>	2021
<u>Green Infrastructure Assessment</u>	ongoing
<u>The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report</u>	2019
<u>The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)</u>	2020

8.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Environment (Wales) Act introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (Section 6 Duty). This duty applies to public authorities in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales and will help maximize contributions to achieving the well-being goals. The Nature Recovery Plan supports this legislative requirement to reverse the decline

in biodiversity, address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by putting nature at the heart of decision-making and increasing the resilience of ecosystems by taking specific action focused around the six objectives for habitats and species.

- The 2RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors which include planning for biodiversity; in particular the conservation of wildlife and habitats. Promoting Caerphilly as a focus for growth will require careful management, protection, and enhancement of biodiversity, supporting the long-term resilience of ecosystems. Future Wales states that the planning system will ensure wildlife is able to thrive in healthy, diverse habitats, both in urban and rural areas, recognizing and valuing the multiple benefits to people and nature.
- The Welsh Government recently published the Covid Reconstruction: Challenges and Priorities, Our Approach to Reconstruction report. The report sets out that the Covid-19 pandemic presents an opportunity to reset individual and collective values and priorities, realigning them with those required to create a more sustainable and decarbonized future.
- PPW and supplementary TANs provide national planning policy in respect of biodiversity. PPW highlights the role of the planning system in helping to reverse the decline in biodiversity and increasing the resilience of ecosystems, at various scales, by ensuring appropriate mechanisms are in place to both protect against loss and to secure enhancement. Planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity.
- TAN 5 (Nature Conservation and Planning) provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation, notably setting out key principles of positive planning for nature conservation.

Baseline summary

Nature emergency

- 8.4 On 30th June 2021, the Welsh Government declared a nature emergency and committed to tackle this with decisive action.⁹⁵ Whilst the strategies to address the nature emergency are in development, it is likely that LDPs will play an important role in supporting the recovery of nature and biodiversity.
- 8.5 All designated biodiversity sites in the County Borough have been discussed below and are mapped within **Figures 8.1 - 3** at the end of this chapter. Priority habitats are also discussed below and presented in **Figure 8.4**

Internationally designated sites

- 8.6 The county borough contains one internationally designated biodiversity site, detailed below.

Aberbargoed Grasslands SAC, SSSI and Nature Reserve

- 8.7 Aberbargoed Grasslands is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC)⁹⁶, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Nature Reserve and is located 1km from Bargoed, in the centre of the county borough. Key features of the site include habitats such as natural and semi-natural grassland formations (Molinia meadows), broad-leaved deciduous woodland and heath, scrub, marquis and garrigue and phygrana. In addition, the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, currently regarded as endangered and/or vulnerable in Europe, is present in a relatively large number on site in the damp pasture areas, relying on the Molinia meadows.

Nationally designated sites

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

- 8.8 There are 13 SSSIs within the Caerphilly County Borough, and a number of sites located in close proximity to the administrative boundary. These are detailed in **Table 8.2** overleaf. Eight of these sites have been designated for their biological interest and the remaining five for geological interest.

⁹⁵ Cynnal Cymru - Sustain Wales (2021) <https://cynnalcymru.com/wales-declares-nature-emergency/>

⁹⁶ JNCC (n.d.): 'Aberbargoed Grasslands' [online] available at: <https://sac.jncc.gov.uk/site/UK0030071>

Table 8.2: SSSIs, Caerphilly County Borough

Site name	Reason for designation
Lower House Stream Section	The site is designated due to its geological and geomorphological interest. In particular, the presence of fossils in the upper part of the limestone shales (Cancellatum Marine Band), unique to this area of south Wales.
Aberbargoed Grasslands	The site was designated because it contains Marsh Fritillary butterfly and purple moor-grass meadows which are both rare and threatened species within a European context.
Cefn Onn	Present within the Cefn Onn Country Park are species-rich calcareous grassland, and grassland fungi including some scarce species. ⁹⁷
Cefn y Brithdir	The SSSI is a key upland heath site and is designated for its dry heath habitat. ⁹⁸
Coed-y-Darren	The site is designated for its important geological features. The landslip back-scar exposes approximately 30 metres of Middle Westphalian (Carboniferous) strata, providing a unique opportunity to observe the condensed succession in the eastern part of the coalfield.
Dan y Graig Quarry	Also designated as a national nature reserve, the site contains several plant species that are uncommon in Gwent, including scarlet pimpernel, annual pearlwort and the common blue butterfly.
Gwaun Gledyr	The site contains a number of designated species, including small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly.
Llanbradach Quarry	The Quarry is designated as both a SSSI and a RIGS due to having the only upper Westphalian permineralised flora to be found in western or central Europe and provides a valuable insight into the plants of this age. ⁹⁹
Memorial Park Meadows	The meadows are designated as an SSSI due to the wide range of hay meadow plants that are present. ¹⁰⁰
Nelson Bog	Nelson Bog is host to rare plants and wildlife including orchids, bats, badgers and otters.

⁹⁷ Cardiff Council (2009): 'Provisional atlas of Waxcap fungi Hygrocybe' [online] available at: <https://www.aber.ac.uk/waxcap/downloads/Grantham-CardiffWaxcapAtlas2009.pdf>

⁹⁸ Caerphilly County Borough (2002): 'Biodiversity Action Plan' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Caerphilly-County-Borough.aspx>

⁹⁹ CCBC (2021): 'Statutory protected sites for nature conservation' [online] available at: http://caerphilly.opus3.co.uk/ldf/documents/appendices/appendix_5

¹⁰⁰ Greenspaces Caerphilly (2019): 'Memorial Park Meadows' [online] available at: <https://greenspacescaerphilly.co.uk/memorial-park-meadows>

Penllwyn Grasslands	The SSSI contains a mosaic of habitats which support species such as wet acid grassland, woodland, scrub and tall herb vegetation. ¹⁰¹
Ruperra Castle and Woodlands	The SSSI is designated due to its' greater and lesser horseshoe bat populations. ¹⁰²
Wern Ddu Claypits	Wern Ddu Claypits is designated due to the important coal measure rocks exposed there. Due to large Deposits of carboniferous and westphalian geology in the area, they are estimated to be up to 300-million years old. ¹⁰³

Ancient Woodland

8.9 Areas of Ancient Woodland offer habitats that support unique and complex communities of plants, fungi, insects and other microorganisms.¹⁰⁴ Ancient Woodland is rich throughout Caerphilly (see **Figure 8.3**), with significant areas in the south and west of the County Borough.

Locally designated sites

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

8.10 There are 4 LNRs within the county borough, which can make a useful contribution, both to nature conservation and as opportunities for the public to see, learn about and enjoy wildlife. These are detailed further below.¹⁰⁵

- **Cwmllydrew Meadows** - the meadows contain several rare vegetation communities, including wet fen-meadow communities with purple moor-grass, meadow thistle, tormentil and angelica.
- **Memorial Park Meadows** - the hay meadow has retained locally rare notable plant species such as Greater Burnet, Lady's Mantle and Bisort, whilst the wetland area contains a variety of species including orchids.
- **Graig Goch** - the woodland site is important in terms of intrinsic wildlife potential that inhabit the ancient oak, beech and birch trees and some heath-woodland ground flora.
- **Flatwoods Meadows** - the site comprises two meadows, supporting a grass rich sward, with margins dominated by bracken, and elements of heath vegetation in the most easterly field.

Sites for Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

8.11 There are over 190 SINCs within the county borough. The SINC network comprises many separate parcels of land that have been identified as supporting valuable wildlife, such as butterflies and dragonflies, white-clawed

¹⁰¹ CCBC (2016): 'LDP: Appendices to the written statement' [online] available at:

<http://212.219.240.82/documents/s13451/5.%20Appendices%20-%20Deposit%20Replacement%20LDP%20web.pdf>

¹⁰² Wildwood Ecology Limited (2020): 'Ecological Impact Assessment' [online] available at:

<https://docs.planning.org.uk/20210113/178/QMGCPADV06X00/zvdyd6kex3xbjm7h.pdf>

¹⁰³ CCBC (2021): 'Statutory protected sites for nature conservation' [online] available at:

http://caerphilly.opus3.co.uk/ldf/documents/appendices/appendix_5

¹⁰⁴ Woodland Trust (n.d.): 'Ancient woodland' [online] available at: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/habitats/ancient-woodland/>

¹⁰⁵ CCBC (2007): 'Review of sites of important nature conservation' [online] available at:

<https://apps.caerphilly.gov.uk/LDP/pdf/Caerphilly-Review-of-Sites-of-Importance-for-Nature%20Conservation-Dec-2007.pdf>

Crayfish and other aquatic invertebrates. Grassland fungi have been confirmed at several sites.¹⁰⁶

Other designations

8.12 Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), Green Wedges and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are all landscape designations. Although their purpose is for the protection of the whole landscape and to prevent coalescence of urban areas, they also have a beneficial impact on the habitats and species within them. These features are discussed further in **Chapter 10** of this report.

Country parks

8.13 Country parks offer a wide variety of habitats which are accessible to the general public. In this regard, there are five parks within Caerphilly: Parc Cwm Darran, Pen-y-fan Pond Country Park, Sirhowy Valley Country Park, Parc Coetir Bargod and Parc Penallta. These parks contain lakes, coniferous and deciduous woodlands, grasslands and moorland, and accommodate a wide variety of plant, bird and animal life.

Priority habitats

8.14 Caerphilly County Borough contains 18 priority habitats and at least 25 priority species, including five types of deciduous woodland, pasture and parkland. These are shown in **Figure 8.4** overleaf.

¹⁰⁶ CCBC (2007): 'Review of sites of important nature conservation' [online] available at: <https://apps.caerphilly.gov.uk/LDP/pdf/Caerphilly-Review-of-Sites-of-Importance-for-Nature%20Conservation-Dec-2007.pdf>

Figure 8.1: International biodiversity designations

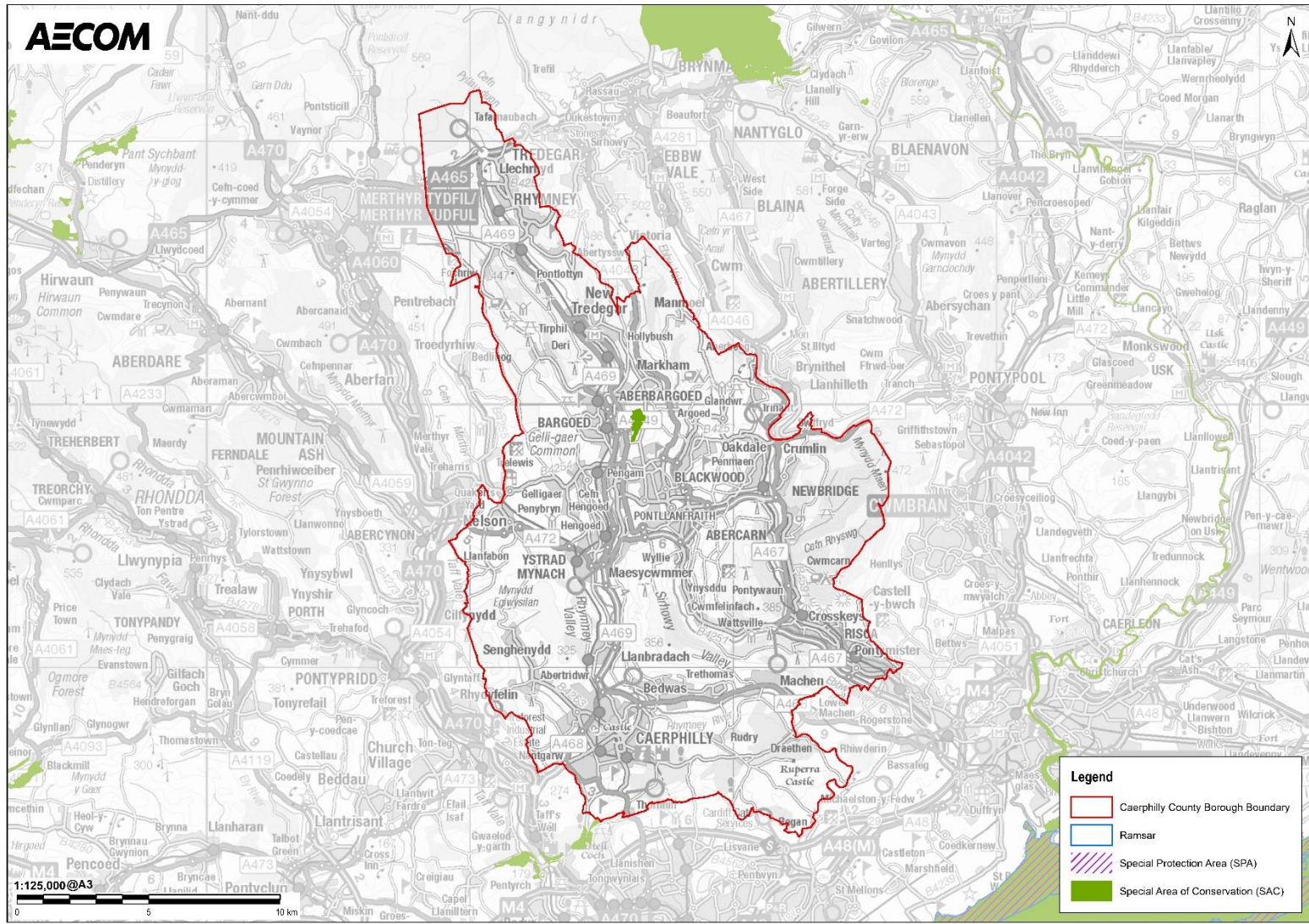


Figure 8.2: National and local biodiversity designations

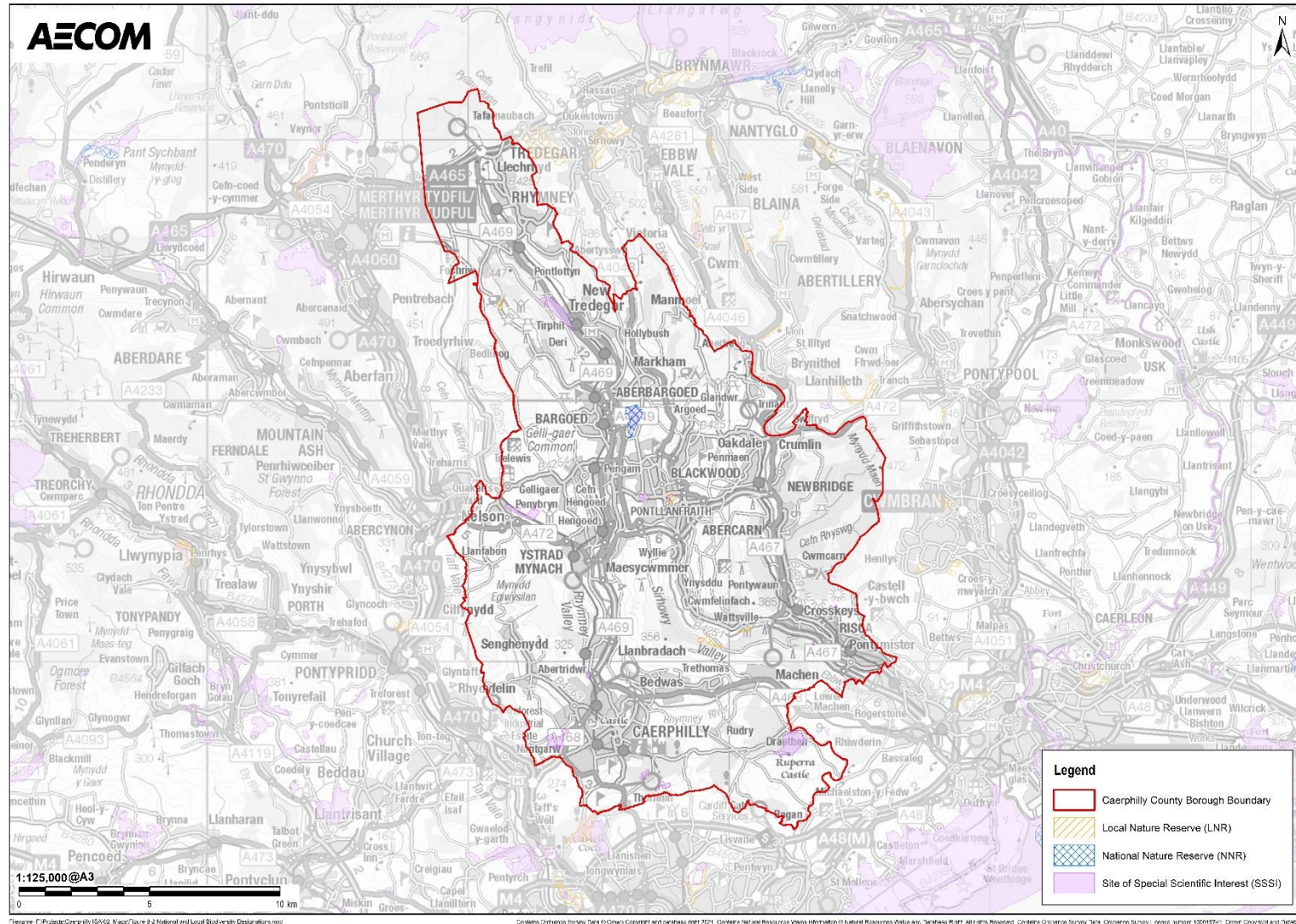


Figure 8.3: Ancient Woodland

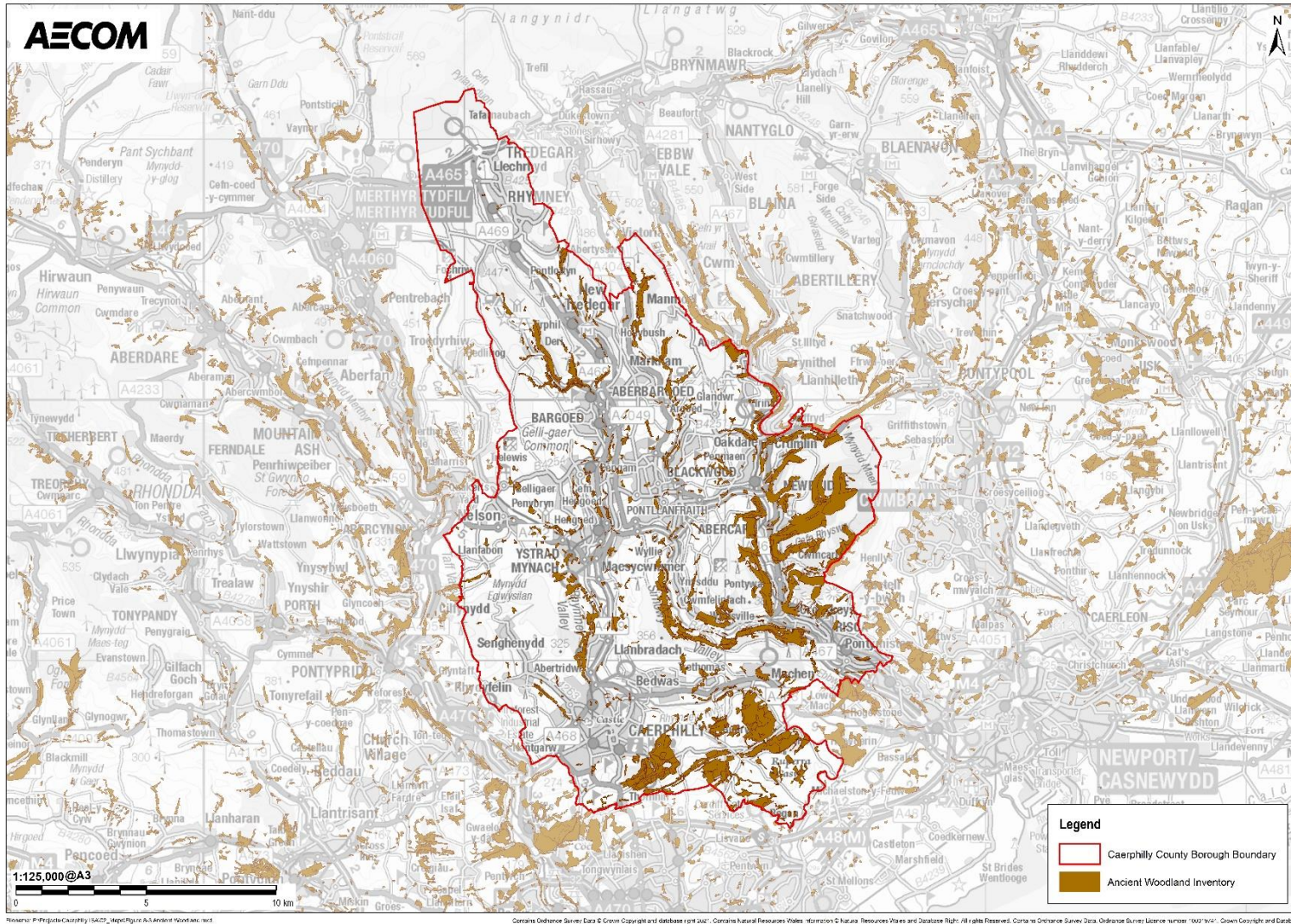
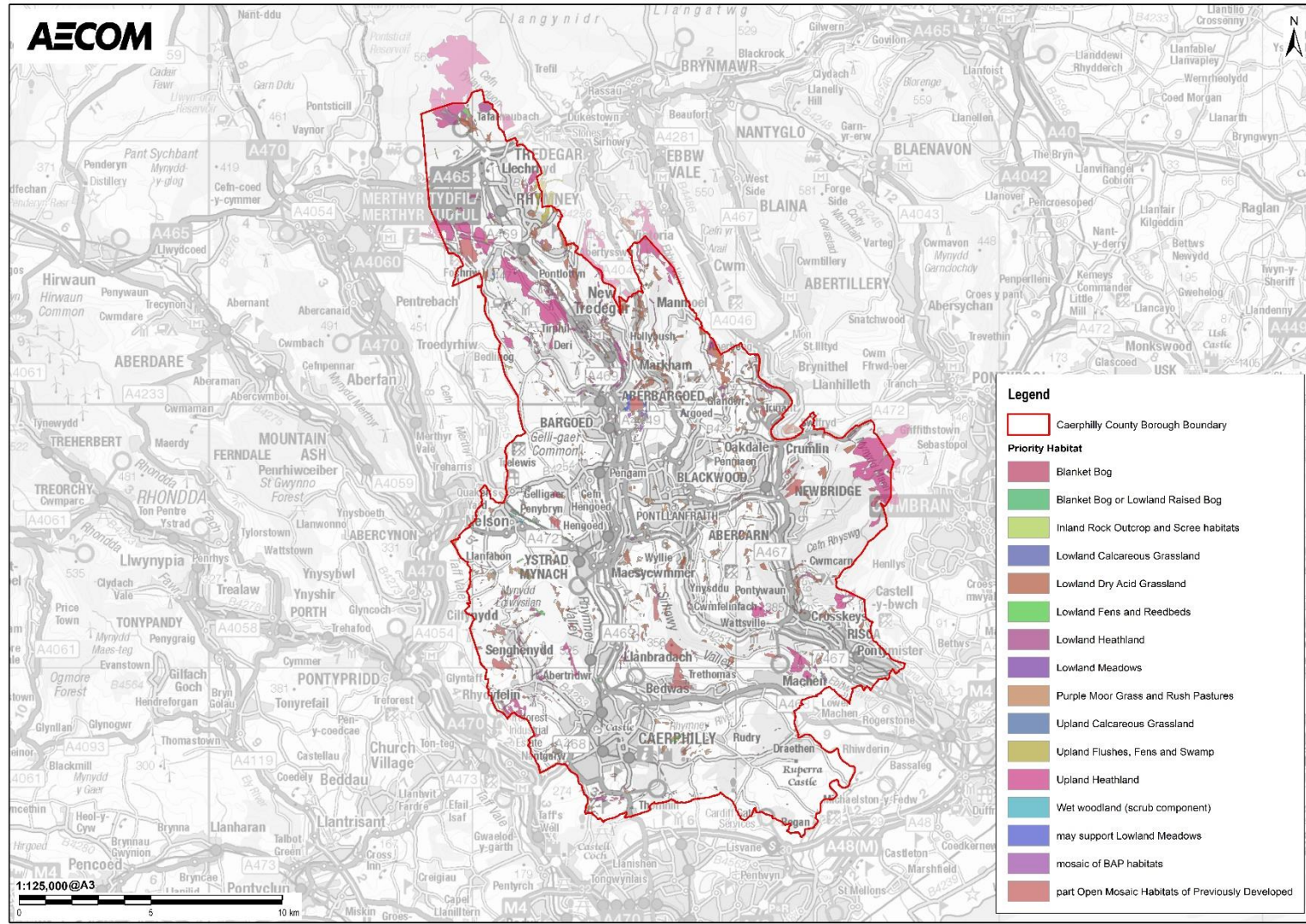


Figure 8.4: Priority habitats



Future baseline

- 8.15 Habitats and species have the potential to come under increasing pressure from the provision of new housing, employment and infrastructure within and surrounding the plan area. This could include increased disturbance (recreational, noise and light) and atmospheric pollution as well as the loss of habitats and fragmentation of biodiversity networks. The loss and fragmentation of habitats will be exacerbated by the effects of climate change, which has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition of habitats.
- 8.16 Benefits for biodiversity have the potential to arise from the increasing integration of biodiversity considerations within forward planning and efforts to improve green infrastructure networks across the plan area, and regionally. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future it will be important to not only protect and enhance important habitats but the connections between them.

Key issues

- The plan area contains many sites designated for biodiversity at the international, national and local level. It will be important that any new development does not undermine the integrity of designated sites.
- There are many priority habitats, urban and green spaces, ancient woodland, and waterbodies that support overall ecological connectivity in the plan area. It will be important for any new development to ensure that this ecological network is supported and enhanced both locally and sub-regionally.
- Future development should seek to maximise opportunities for biodiversity net gain, improving ecological links and minimise harm from atmospheric pollution, where possible.

ISA objectives

- 8.17 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Protect and enhance biodiversity within and surrounding the plan area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise impacts on designated and important biodiversity and provide net gains where possible? • Protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries?

9. Historic environment

9.1 This theme focuses on designated and non-designated heritage assets (including archaeology) and their setting.

Policy context

9.2 **Table 9.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the 2RLDP ISA.

Table 9.1: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to the historic environment

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>Historic Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>Historic Environment Strategy for Wales</u>	2013
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>(TAN) 20: Planning and the Welsh Language</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The historic environment</u>	2017
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales</u>	2011
<u>Cadw: Best-practice guidance</u>	Various
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>Conservation Strategy for the Historic Environment</u>	2014
<u>Caerphilly Welsh Language Strategy</u>	2017

9.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Historic Environment (Wales) Act will form part of a suite of legislation, policy, advice and guidance that will make important improvements to the existing systems for the protection and sustainable management of the Welsh historic environment.
- The Historic Environment Strategy for Wales recognises the contribution of the historic environment to the quality of life in Wales, and therefore sets out measures to enable the protection of local heritage and encourage public access, enjoyment and participation. Proposed measures seek to contribute to quality of life and quality of place, and support the tackling

poverty agenda. They will also create individual and community confidence and a sense of belonging.

- The 2RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales identifies Caerphilly as part of a distinctive Valleys sub-region with nuanced social and economic needs which in turn is part of a larger Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys National Growth Area, and as such the 2RLDP should set out policies and proposals reflecting the structural economic and social issues that impact upon residents' prosperity and well-being. This helps to create healthy, vibrant places, protecting the natural environment and the historic environment.
- PPW and supplementary TANs provide national planning policy in respect of the historic environment. Local Planning Authorities should not repeat national policy but include clear robust policies on design in their development plans which address local issues and should be based on relevant evidence. These should set out the planning authority's design expectations.
- TAN 12 (Design) identifies 'character' as one of the five aspects of good design. Objectives in this respect include 'sustaining and enhancing local character', utilising design to respond to 'recognisable and understood features and landmarks' and 'locally distinctive patterns and forms of development'.
- TAN 24 (Historic Environment) provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making, with specific guidance provided on how the following aspects of the historic environment should be considered:
 - world heritage sites;
 - scheduled monuments;
 - archaeological remains;
 - listed buildings;
 - conservation areas;
 - historic parks and gardens;
 - historic landscapes; and
 - historic assets of special local interest.
- The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - People and community;
 - Movement;
 - Location;
 - Public realm;

- Mix of uses; and
- Identity.
- Cadw is currently producing a series of best-practice guidance publications that complement the legislative framework and associated planning policy and advice and support the sustainable management of the Welsh historic environment. All are informed by Cadw's Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales. Fourteen titles have been released so far, many of which are intended for local planning authorities, to support the development of policies and proposals relating to the protection and enhancement of the historic environment and the promotion of the Welsh language.
- The Caerphilly Borough Welsh Language Strategy sets out the methodology for promoting the Welsh language and facilitating the use of the language in communities within the area, recognising its cultural value.

Baseline summary

9.4 All designated heritage assets in the County Borough have been discussed below and are mapped within **Figure 9.1** and **Figure 9.2** at the end of this chapter.

Nationally designated features

Listed buildings

9.5 There are a total of 411 listed buildings in the Caerphilly County Borough, of which two are designated as grade I, 31 as grade II* and 378 as grade II. The grade I listed buildings are as follows:

- **Caerphilly Castle** – the largest medieval castle in Wales, which was first built between 1268 and 1290 by Gillbert de Clare as a strategically important defence point during Henry II's reign. The site is now famous for its artificial water defences. Caerphilly Castle is an example of a concentric castle with its double ring of fortification walls, each studded with round towers, square towers and four fortified gates.¹⁰⁷
- **Llancaiach-fawr** – a Tudor manor house near the village of Nelson, located just to the north of the site of the former Llancaiach Colliery. The semi-fortified house was built on the site of an earlier medieval structure and is now considered to be one of the most important gentry houses to have survived from the 16th and 17th century period.¹⁰⁸

Scheduled monuments

9.6 There are 47 scheduled ancient monuments within the Plan area, including churchyard crosses, ironworks and the Pen y Fan Canal Reservoir.

Historic parks and gardens

9.7 There are a total of four historic parks and gardens in Caerphilly, these being Maes Manor, The Van, Ruperra Castle and Cefn Mably.

¹⁰⁷ World History Encyclopaedia (2009): 'Caerphilly Castle' [online] available at: https://www.worldhistory.org/Caerphilly_Castle/

¹⁰⁸ British Listed Buildings 'Llancaiach-fawr' [online] available at: <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/300013562-llancaiach-fawr-gelligaer#.YW1TAPIKIU>

Historic landscapes

9.8 Gelligaer Common in the eastern Glamorgan uplands within Caerphilly County Borough has long been recognised as one of the most important landscapes in Wales. It has been included on the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales. Gelligaer Common represents an increasingly rare area of high upland moor, rich in a diverse archaeological resource. The focal point of historic interest within the landscape is the ancient settlement.¹⁰⁹

Locally designated features

Conservation areas

9.9 Conservation area designations cover a wide range of buildings, monuments and archaeological sites ranging from the pre-historic to the modern. In this regard, 16 Conservation areas¹¹⁰ are designated in Caerphilly. Of these areas, three have completed conservation area appraisals/enhancement plans: Bute Town, Draethen and Nelson. These are detailed further below.

Bute Town Conservation area¹¹¹

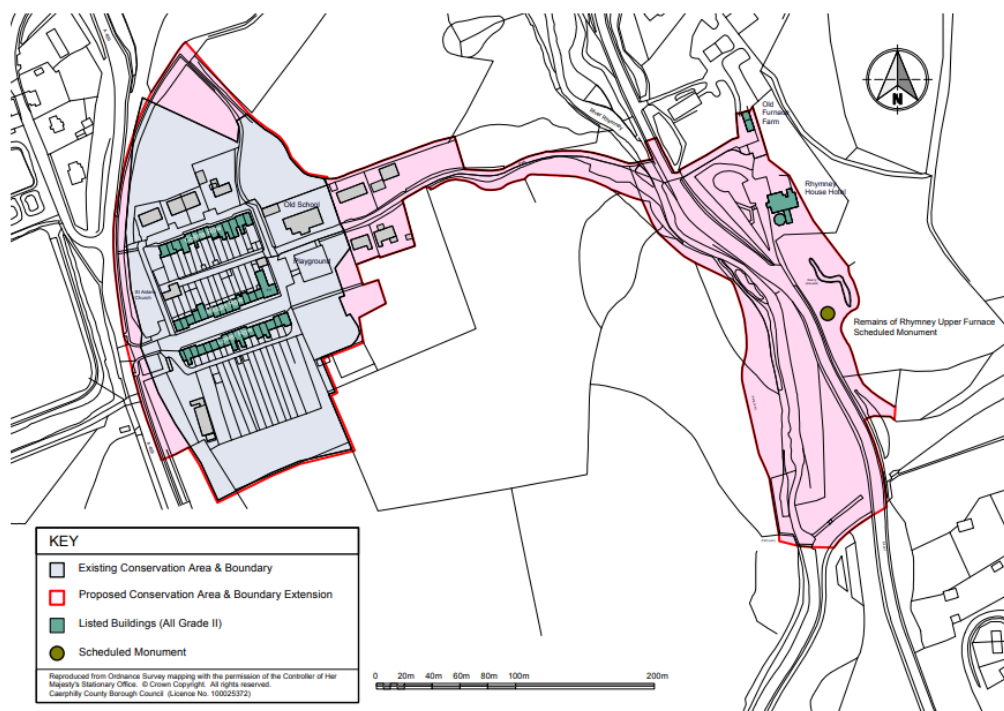
9.10 Bute Town, Rhymney was designated as a Conservation area on the 20th October 1972 due to its unique character as one of the earliest examples of planned industrial housing in the South Wales valleys. The current boundary of the Conservation area has been proposed for extension in order to include the Upper Furnace Scheduled Monument and to preserve the connection between the Rhymney River and footpath linking it the Upper Furnace, to preserve the historic connection between the sites.

9.11 Bute Town, also known locally as 'Drenwydd', was built by The Bute Ironworks Company c.1830 as three rows of terraced workers' housing on an exposed and isolated site at the head of the Rhymney Valley, in the foothills of the Brecon Beacons. The current Conservation area is a compact area limited to the three designed terraces and their close environments. By its very nature, the character of the area is fairly homogeneous, which is one of its principal distinctions. Additionally, due to the limited scale of the Conservation area means that views of the area from within are limited to linear streetscape vistas of the terraced rows. Views of the Conservation area from further afield are essentially modest roofscape views.

¹⁰⁹ CCBC (2014); 'Conservation Strategy' [online] available at: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/conservation_strategy.aspx

¹¹⁰ Caerphilly County Borough (n.d.); 'Conservation areas' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Planning-and-building-control/Conservation-of-the-built-environment/Conservation-areas-and-consent>

¹¹¹ Caerphilly County Borough (2015); 'Bute Town Conservation area' [online] available at: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/CAA-CAMP_Bute_Town_SPG.aspx

Figure 9.3: Bute Town Conservation area¹¹²

9.12 The Conservation Area Appraisal for Bute Town identifies a number of issues and enhancement opportunities associated with the area. These primarily involve:

Issues

- The loss of architectural details such as original doors and windows.
- Poorly located modern equipment such as satellite dishes/ TV aerials, which can detract from the residential buildings' historic influence of the area.
- Unsuitable design such as the previous development of detached bungalows to the east of the terraces.
- Landscaping issues such as the use of land adjacent to the terraced rows for the storage of vehicle trailers.
- Issues associated with the public realm and transportation, such as traffic noise from the area adjacent to the A469 and on street parking between Middle and Lower Rows, which visually detract from the unified street scene.

Enhancement opportunities

- Ensure a holistic approach which takes account of other area finishes and treatments of the threshold between Bute Town and its surroundings.
- Seek to consider parking management methods and increasing pedestrian links between Bute Town and the old ironworks site in order to improve access for residents.

¹¹² Caerphilly County Borough (2015): 'Bute Town Conservation area' [online] available at: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/CAA-CAMP_Bute_Town_SPG.aspx

- Provide localised planting schemes to screen certain key views of the site, particularly those where planning controls may have limited effect.

Draethen Conservation area¹¹³

- 9.13 The setting of Draethen is an important part of the village's overall historic character. There are mature trees within the village, alongside an inner belt of sloping agricultural land comprising small fields divided by hedgerows, the village and woodland.
- 9.14 Other key historic features include the Hollybush Inn and stone bridge across the Nant-y-Draethen and narrow roads leading into Daethen are flanked by mature hedging, adding to the 'historic ambience' of the area.
- 9.15 Despite widespread renovations and improvements that have been carried out on individual properties, much of the original character remains in the historic village area, in the form of the local; gabled' style of architecture with a few cottages also retaining their stone-tied roofs.
- 9.16 The Conservation Area Enhancement Plan for Draethen also details a number of negative features within the designation, including:
- Unsightly features such as overhead telephone and electricity wiring and redundant lighting columns in front of the Hollybush Inn.
 - A lack of interpretative signing regarding the Conservation area, and poor road signage, which can increase traffic speeds on narrow country roads.
- 9.17 In response to these issues, CCBC has suggested a number of proposals, including traffic calming measures, implementing traditional street lighting and underground cables, and landscape improvements to the village green and Hollybush Inn.

¹¹³ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2000); 'Draethen Conservation Area Enhancement Plan' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/Draethen-Conservation-Area-Enhancement-Plan.aspx>

Figure 9.4: Draethen Conservation area¹¹⁴**Nelson Conservation area**¹¹⁵

9.18 The Nelson Conservation area lies at the centre of the village, focused on the original settlement, including The Square. The main part of the area runs to the west along the High Street, as far as St John's Church, and there is still evidence of the original street pattern and cottages along the High Street.

¹¹⁴ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2000); 'Draethen Conservation Area Enhancement Plan' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/Draethen-Conservation-Area-Enhancement-Plan.aspx>

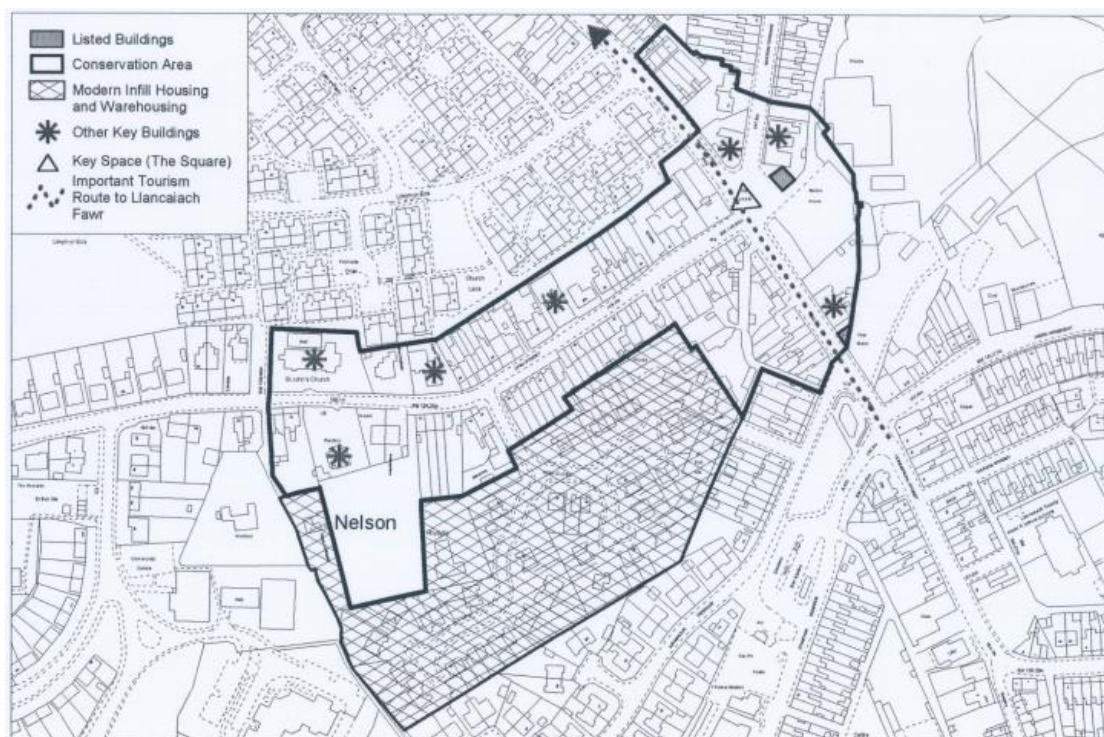
¹¹⁵ CCBC (2003); 'Nelson Conservation Area Enhancement Plan' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/nelson-conservation-area-enhancement-plan.aspx>

9.19 There are several key historic features within the Conservation area. The Handball Court is a historic and unique feature of the village (grade II listed building), and it thought to be the only surviving example in Britain. Additionally, St John's Church has grounds and mature trees that form an important landmark in the village.

9.20 It has been noted in the Conservation area enhancement plan that there are some parts of Nelson which could be improved through future development, including:

- Poor coordination of colour schemes, materials and finishes which detract from the continuity of the street scene.
- Little interpretive signage for the Handball Court and general Conservation area for tourists.
- Certain areas that have been developed and are now not visually aligned to the general street scene, for example, recent retail developments on Commercial Street.

Figure 9.5: Nelson Conservation area¹¹⁶



¹¹⁶ CCBC (2003): 'Nelson Conservation Area Enhancement Plan' [online] available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/nelson-conservation-area-enhancement-plan.aspx>

Archaeology

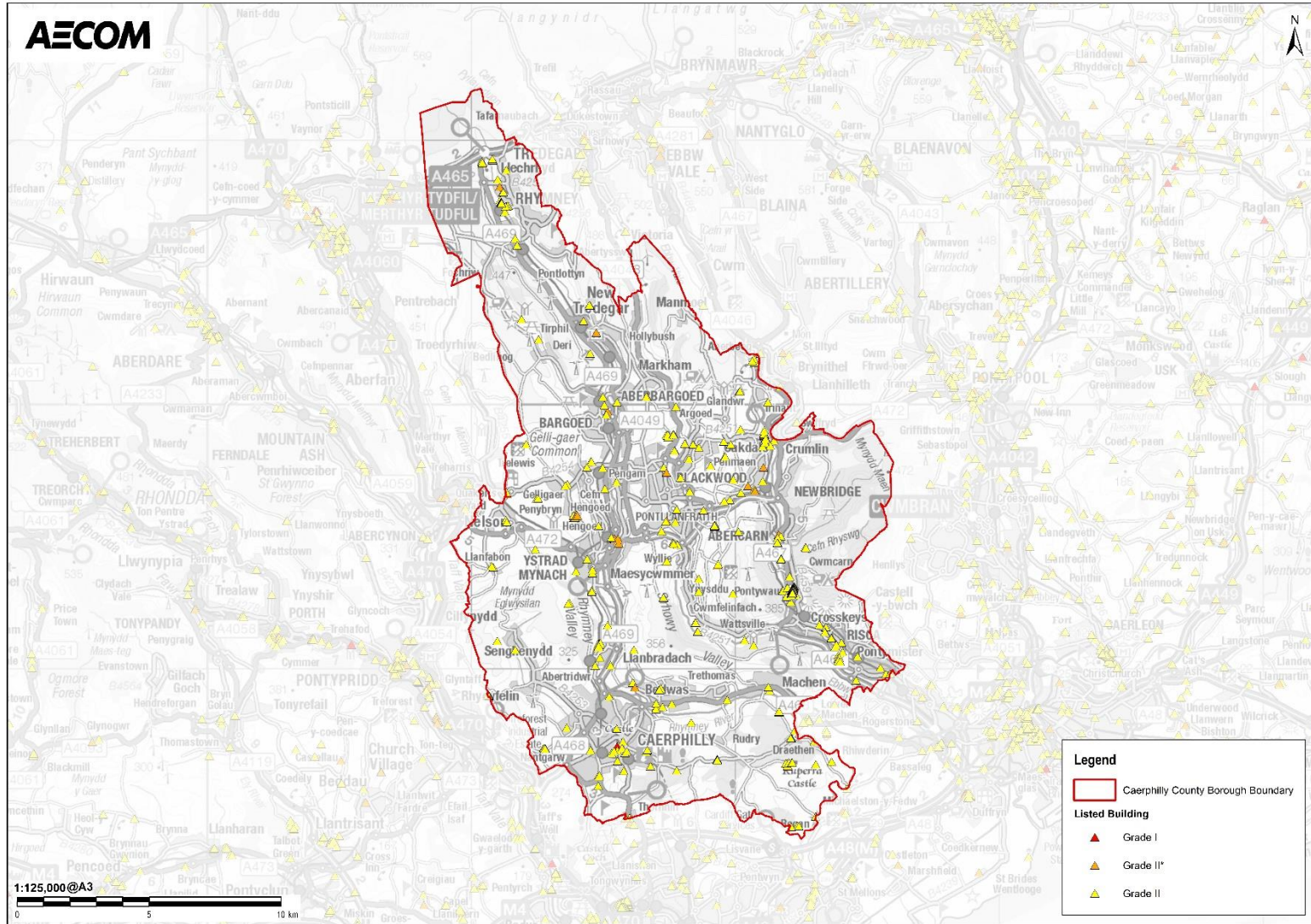
9.21 There is potential for a number of sites across the county borough to possess archaeological remains. Some are adjacent to existing known archaeological sites and others entirely independent. To date, no significant investigations into these unknown archaeological sites and remains have been undertaken due to resource constraints. It is anticipated that CCBC will undertake the drafting of a local list of potentially important archaeological assets for the development of the replacement Local Plan.¹¹⁷

Locally significant heritage assets

9.22 Historic assets of local significance (HALS) identify local heritage assets that have a particularly pertinent role in the local historical or architectural context of an area. HALS play an essential role in building and reinforcing a sense of local character and distinctiveness through the historic environment. CCBC does not currently keep a record of locally significant assets. It is recommended that this is conducted by CCBC in order to consider these assets when future development proposals are brought forward through the 2RLDP.

¹¹⁷ CCBC (2014); 'Conservation Strategy' [online] available at:
https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Planning/conservation_strategy.aspx

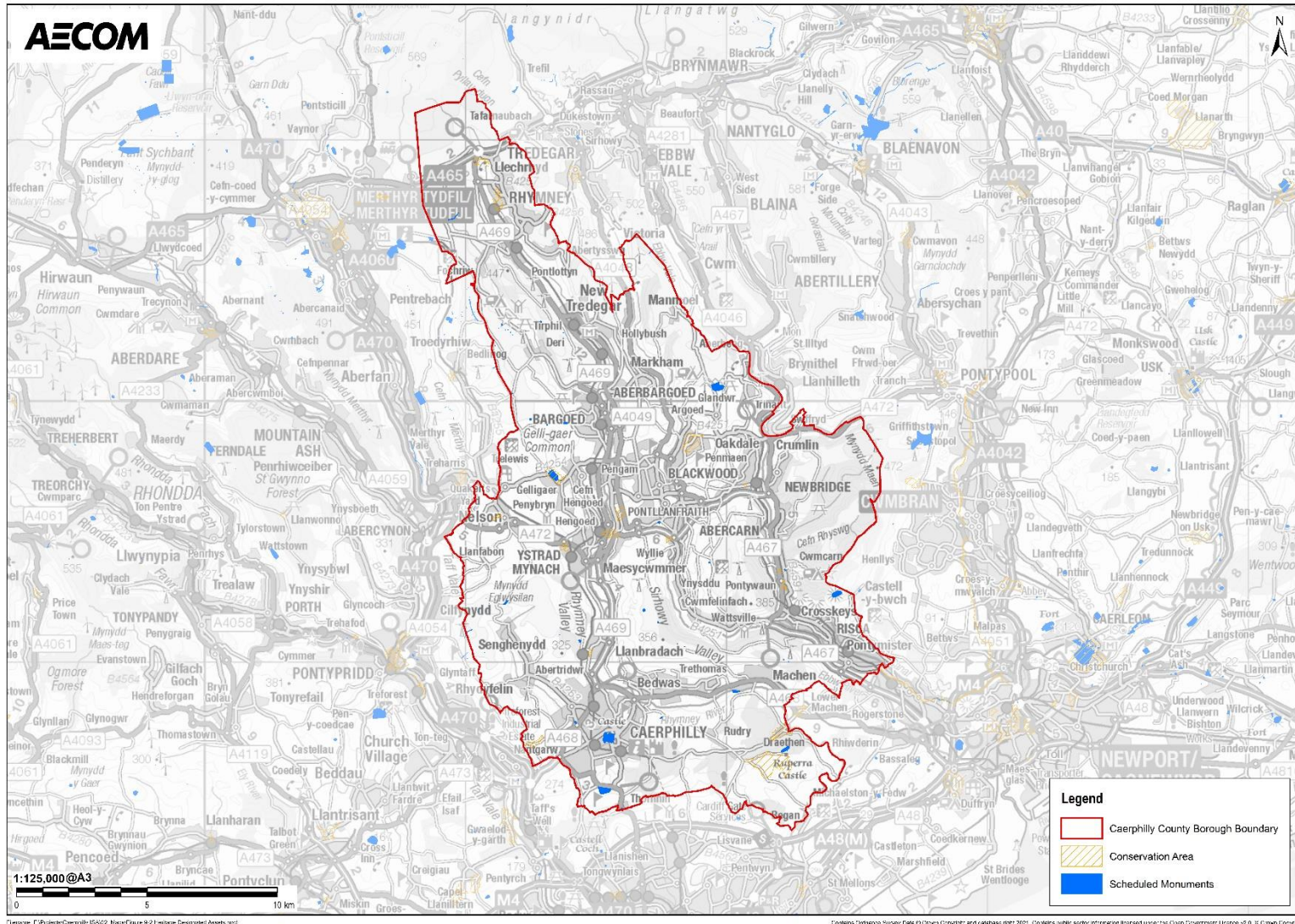
Figure 9.1: Designated heritage assets - Listed Buildings



File name: P:\Projects\Caerphilly ISA\02_AEP\04_gis\01_Heritage Designated Assets - Listed Buildings.aprx

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Figure 9.2: Designated heritage assets- other



Future baseline

9.23 In the absence of the 2RLDP, designated and non-designated heritage assets are likely to continue to be afforded protection through national planning policy as well as currently adopted policies. More widely, the Welsh Government and Caerphilly County Borough Council will continue to promote the Welsh language and increase the number of Welsh speakers, in accordance with the Caerphilly Welsh Language Strategy¹¹⁸.

Key issues

9.24 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of a number of key issues (problems and opportunities):

- There is a rich variety and distribution of designated and non-designated heritage assets present within and surrounding the plan area; the significance and setting of which should be considered in, and positively impacted upon by, new development.
- Development should be sensitively designed to maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit.
- Opportunities to enhance public understanding of heritage assets should be sought.
- The heritage assets at risk in Caerphilly could potentially deteriorate further without intervention or as a result of inappropriate development.
- All development should ensure that any necessary archaeological investigations are undertaken prior to any works.
- Access to key community and educational services to educate residents should be provided, and Welsh heritage should be promoted by preserving and restoring key cultural areas.

¹¹⁸ CCBC (2017): 'Five Year Welsh Language Strategy' [online] available at: [WelsLanguageStrategy2017_22.aspx](https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/WelsLanguageStrategy2017_22.aspx) ([caerphilly.gov.uk](https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk))

ISA objectives

9.25 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the option/proposal help to:
Preserve and enhance Caerphilly's heritage resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting? • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of conservation areas and their settings? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, and archaeologically sensitive areas, and support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?
Promote understanding of Caerphilly's cultural heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic and cultural environment?

10. Landscape

10.1 This theme focuses on designated and protected landscapes within or near to Caerphilly, as well as landscape character, landscape quality and visual amenity.

Policy context

10.2 **Table 10.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the 2RLDP ISA.

Table 10.1: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to the landscape

Document title	Year of publication
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>South East Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities</u>	2010
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 7: Outdoor advertisement control</u>	1996
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 10: Tree preservation orders</u>	1997
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>LANDMAP</u>	various
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>Green Infrastructure Strategy</u>	2021
<u>Green Infrastructure Assessment</u>	ongoing
<u>Valleys Regional Park Prospectus</u>	2018

10.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The 2RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors such as housing, employment and infrastructure delivery, while giving great weight to conserving and enhancing protected landscapes, as well as landscape character, and scenic beauty. Policy 19 within FW states that Strategic

Development Plans should establish for the region “*green corridors and nationally important landscapes*”. *It will also need to delineate the boundaries of the green belt that Future Wales makes provision for (policy 34).*

- PPW and supplementary TANs provide national planning policy in respect of landscape. PPW encourages effective and strategic placemaking, recognising that landscape and green infrastructure considerations are an integral part of the design process. PPW provides national policy on good design, and development plans and SPG should provide a clear context for design requirements in the local area.
- TAN 12 (Design) identifies ‘character’ as one of the five aspects of good design. Objectives in this respect include ‘sustaining and enhancing local character’, utilising design to respond to ‘landscapes and townscapes’ and ‘locally distinctive patterns and forms of development’.
- The Placemaking Wales Charter builds on the strengthening focus on Placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking. The charter outlines the following six placemaking principles that cover the range of considerations that contribute to establishing and maintaining good places:
 - People and community
 - Movement
 - Location
 - Public realm
 - Mix of uses
 - Identity
- PPW and relevant TANs further highlight the importance of designated biodiversity sites, habitats, woodland, historic features, agricultural land and cultural landscapes. The positive contribution that land remediation can make in terms of addressing despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land is also recognised.
- The aim of the Valleys Regional Park (VRP) is to provide and sustain the improvement and management of a highly visible network of uplands, woodlands, nature reserves and country parks, rivers, reservoirs and canals, heritage sites and attractions across the Valleys, linking to towns and villages. Three of the VRP’s ‘discovery gateways’ – Caerphilly Castle, Cwmcarn Forest and Parc Penallta – are located wholly in the County Borough, while Parc Bryn Bach straddles the boundary with Blaenau Gwent.

Baseline summary

National Landscape Character Areas (NCA)

10.4 The south easternmost part of the county borough falls within the Cardiff, Barry and Newport NCA. The area is characterised by a variety of mudstones, sandstones, a few outcrops of limestone and glacial moraine features. Prominent landmark features include rural pastures and woodlands, which

provide a contrasting peaceful?, providing a green setting. Medium sized fields are mainly enclosed by hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees, and the Ebbw River meanders through the south east.¹¹⁹

- 10.5 The remaining part of the county borough falls within the South Wales Valley NCA. Many deep, urbanised valleys dissect an extensive upland area. Combined with industrial heritage and the distinct identity of its people, the South Wales Valleys provide some of Wales' most widely known and iconic national images. The extensive upland plateaux are typically 'wild and windswept', with unenclosed tracts. There are also numerous steep-sided valleys, and ribbon urban and industrial areas in these valleys. There are additional extensive remains of heavy industry, notably for coal mining.¹²⁰

Local landscape character and features¹²¹

- 10.6 The majority of the settlements in the county borough were constructed over a relatively short period of time in response to the changing economy of the area that became dominated by heavy industry.
- 10.7 The county borough's landscape offers a rich variety of forms and character including features such as hedgerows, stone walling, and more recent features such as reservoirs and forestry. Of the land area some 80% can be classified as rural. The density and location of settlements within the valleys has a marked effect upon the character of the county borough. Where the landscape form results in development being concentrated on the valley floor and lower valley sides, it results in the interruption of views to the higher valley slopes and ridgelines that have a consequent effect upon perceived values. These elevated areas do however provide a rural backdrop visible from most streets and settlements. The majority of the County Borough is identified as 'mountain and upland valley' according to the most recent Landmap Assessment, whilst areas in the south are depicted as lowland valley areas.
- 10.8 There are numerous land reclamation schemes and un-reclaimed tips on the valley sides and hilltops of the county borough, which seem incongruous into the wider landscape setting. The majority of the county borough does however remain open. These open areas and agricultural land practices result in a diversity of landscape patterns which alone do not constitute primary landscape elements, but with other elements contribute to the overall landscape character. The forms and types of field boundaries, woodland coppices and open commons reflect a variation in land ownership and management regimes that contribute to the rich landscape tapestry with commons and woodlands in public ownership being accessible by the general public. The urban fringe, where the built form and open countryside meet, is in many ways the defining quality and character of parts of the county borough's landscape when considered in visual and sensory terms.
- 10.9 The landforms in the Caerphilly area are strongly influenced by the underlying rock types and the geomorphological processes affecting them. This high level

¹¹⁹ Natural Resources Wales (2014): "Cardiff Barry and Newport" [online] available at: <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/682621/nlca35-cardiff-and-newport-description.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=131550625300000000>

¹²⁰ Natural Resources Wales (2014): "South Wales Valleys" [online] available at: <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/682625/nlca37-south-wales-valleys-description-1.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=131550626700000000>

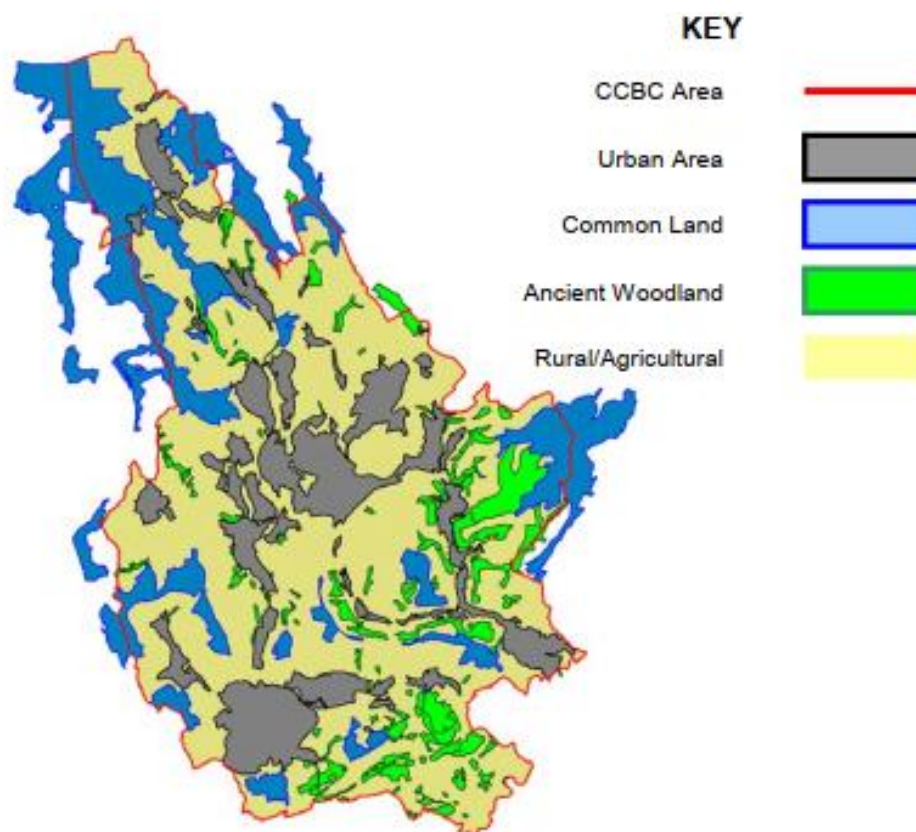
¹²¹ CCBC (n.d.): 'SEA Scoping Report'.

plain reaches a height of approximately 550m in the north of the coalfield and falls to approximately 250m in the south.

Land use

10.10 Land use in Caerphilly is varied, as shown in **Figure 10.1**, overleaf. Areas outside of the main urban settlements are predominantly rural, with some ancient woodland areas in the south east.

Figure 10.1: Land use, Caerphilly¹²²



Special Landscape Areas

10.11 Special Landscape Areas are a non-statutory designation applied by the local planning authority to define areas of high landscape importance within their administrative boundary.¹²³ Areas of high landscape importance may be designated for their intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical value in the contemporary landscape. Landscapes designated as a SLA may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the local authority area.

10.12 Previous landscape studies carried out for Caerphilly County Borough¹²⁴ have resulted in the designation of special landscape areas. These areas are deemed to be of importance on a sub-regional or local level in terms of their

¹²² Caerphilly County Borough (2008): 'Landscape Study' [online] available at: <https://apps.caerphilly.gov.uk/LDP/pdf/Caerphilly-Designation-of-SLAs-Final-report-Jan-2008.pdf>

¹²³ Natural Resource Wales (2017) Landmap guidance note 1 <https://naturalresources.wales/media/680613/landmap-guidance-note-1-landmap-slAs-2017.pdf>

¹²⁴ Caerphilly County Borough (2008): 'Landscape Study' [online] available at: <https://apps.caerphilly.gov.uk/LDP/pdf/Caerphilly-Designation-of-SLAs-Final-report-Jan-2008.pdf>

significant value and by virtue of the contribution the landscape makes to the visual setting of towns and villages. Special landscape areas previously designated within the county borough are predominantly, although not exclusively, the upland areas. There are currently five SLAs in the County Borough, which are shown in **Figure 10.2**, with further detail provided in **Table 10.2**, both overleaf.

Table 10.2 Special Landscape Areas¹²⁵

SLA	Need for designation	Visual and sensory qualities	Key development control issues
NH1.1 Upper Rhymney Valley	<p>The area represents one of the most open upland areas within the County Borough, abutting the Brecon Beacons National Park.</p> <p>The dualling of the A465 Heads of the Valleys has changed part of the character of the area, and will increase development pressures with increased accessibility.</p> <p>Whilst this has certain negative effects upon the quality of the landscape it reinforces the need to ensure the quality of the remainder of the area is maintained.</p> <p>In terms of landscape structure it forms the northern edge of the coalfield and shows evidence of historic mine workings.</p>	<p>Strong visual links with the Brecon Beacons.</p> <p>Views of the upland area are extensive and very open with minimal field boundaries and patterns. Adjacent upland areas dominate views into the landscape.</p> <p>Strong underlying feel of industrial past. Industrial remnants include old railway sidings and earthworks.</p> <p>Overhead pylons are visual detractors, and the A465 has both noise and movement impacts.</p> <p>Area is currently predominantly used as rough grazing and agriculture.</p>	<p>Future development proposals should not see the loss of any historic environment or geological or geomorphological features present within the landscape.</p> <p>Prevent further loss of overall landscape quality and character on the settlement edge as a result of development. The settlement edges are sensitive and due care and consideration needs to be given to the wider landscape setting and character when making these development decisions.</p> <p>Minimise the visual and noise detractors in the landscape, including light pollution from the introduction of road lighting and additional large scale features such as pylons and wind turbines.</p>
NH1.2 Gelligaer Common	<p>The core of the area - Gelligaer Common - represents an important and increasingly rare upland landscape within South East Wales exhibiting continuity of land use</p>	<p>An open, extensive, exposed and an increasingly rare upland landscape in South East Wales. It has distinct visual and sensory characteristics with extensive views over the coalfield</p>	<p>The landscape's cultural attributes are relatively unspoiled - the whole area should be protected from inappropriate development and encroachment. Keep open feel to the area, with the lowland</p>

¹²⁵ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2010) Local Development Plan Appendices to Written Statement <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/LDP/Appendices-to-Written-Statement.aspx>

over many centuries. This is reflected in the archaeological remains from pre Roman times. The area offers extensive opportunities for recreation and access although there are signs of degradation and loss of quality through fly tipping and litter in general. The surrounding, more lowland areas above Penpedairheol, Bargoed and Deri form both physical and visual buffer zones to the core SLA.

plateau and up to the Brecon Beacons. Rock outcrops impart a strong upland character tempered by urban presence to south of area. Dramatic views all around with stonewalls being the predominant boundary treatment. The landscape exhibits numerous examples of continuity of land use from prehistoric times, rough grazing and bracken and scattered rural farms. Sheep and horses grazing present throughout the whole of the area. The eastern flank of the SLA is typified by more rolling landscape pattern interspersed with woodland blocks, spinneys and hedgerows. Wind noise is a dominant factor, which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness. Noise and movement is more noticeable within a generally quiet landscape.

landscape area acting as a buffer zone for the upland common.

Future development proposals should not see the loss of any historic environment or geological or geomorphological features present within the landscape. A wealth of archaeology from all periods, especially the Industrial / Modern period is present and should be protected.

NH1.3 Mynydd Eglwysilian

The area, whilst consisting of two distinct landscape types – open uplands and lowlands – represents an important landscape unit adjacent to the populated Rhymney Valley in the east and the Cynon Valley to the west.

This provides a wider landscape setting and context for the

This is not a remote landscape due to the proximity of the valleys to their associated urban areas. The upland ridge is open with panoramic and sometimes dramatic views over upland and adjoining valleys. A pleasant landscape, with some attractive rolling farmland away from the built form of urban edges.

Future development proposals should not see the loss of any historic environment or geological or geomorphological features present within the landscape.

A wealth of archaeology from all periods, especially the Industrial / Modern period is present and should be protected.

settlements of Nelson, Ystrad Mynach, Llanbradach, north Caerphilly / Bedwas, Abertridwr and Senghenydd

Land cover is predominately rough grazing with bracken. There is a mixture of boundary treatments across the SLA. Rolling farmland hedgerows and stock proof fencing are the predominant boundary treatments, although there are some traditional stonewalls present.

Some visual clutter of pylons slightly detracts from this otherwise wild / exposed typical upland area with a strong sense of place.

Care should be taken not to subsume past cultural attributes beneath pressures for expansion and regeneration - plan and allow expansion compatible with the ability of the area to contain such pressures.

Prevent the area becoming too cluttered with incongruous vertical elements, including pylons and turbines

NH1.4 North Caerphilly

The area represents a substantial area of the middle Rhymney valley landscape, almost totally surrounded by developed valley floors. It is important for public access and recreation, and links into the wider recreational network. Although more lowland in character, it provides an important visual context and setting to the settlement along the valley floor.

It is a relatively gentle, rolling valley side, rising up to Mynydd y Grug. Much of the area looks down on to Caerphilly and across the Rhymney Valley giving it an open feel. Views from the countryside out onto urban areas and carboniferous plantations can detract from the value of the area. Towards the south east of the SLA near Machen the slopes are steeper and more wooded resulting in a more enclosed and upland feel which dominate the landscape.

The lower valley sides are characterised by a mosaic landscape habitats of rough pasture, semi-improved grassland interspersed with hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small spinneys.

Future development proposals should not see the loss of any historic environment or geological or geomorphological features present within the landscape. A wealth of archaeology from all periods, especially the Industrial / Modern period is present and should be protected.

Manage woodlands and plantations and their effect upon the visual characteristics of the landscape by looking at ways of softening edges of coniferous plantations with broadleaved planting and improving ecological value – implement a forestry management plan.

Development proposals should not see the removal of the characteristic

The landform is a mix of pastoral farmland in field enclosures, woodland blocks, both broadleaved and coniferous plantation all exhibiting features typical of the former coalfield valleys. Also present is Bracken, which dominates the steeper / higher slopes in areas such as Mynydd Dimlaith.

A mixture of boundary treatments are present across the SLA, although these are, in general, currently poorly managed and of varying quality.

stonewalls and hedgerows. The continued conservation, maintenance and enhancement of these features are required as part of the development process.

The whole area should be protected from inappropriate development and encroachment into the countryside and SLA area. Restrict the loss of character along settlement edge in response to development pressures.

NH1.5 South Caerphilly

The SLA forms an important buffer zone between Caerphilly and the M4 corridor to the south. It also forms the visual context and setting for the historic town of Caerphilly. Its mixture of upland and lowland character, plantations and rights of way networks provide an important recreational feature in the area. Its topography reflects the underlying geology of being on the southern boundary of the coalfield valleys. It contains a number of important habitats.

A wide valley that gently slopes upwards to the south. The steepness of the slope increases as the land rises up to areas such as Caerphilly and Rudry Common. The dominant views are across the valley and down into the valley with the settlements, predominantly Caerphilly, being the focal points. The land is a mix of pastoral farmland on the lower and gentle slopes with coniferous woodland dominating the higher areas. Scattered rural buildings and farms are the Primary settlement pattern. There is a mixture of boundary treatments, although the hedgerows, which often contain mature species of trees, are the most prominent. There are some

Future development proposals should not see the loss of any historic environment or geological or geomorphological features present within the landscape.

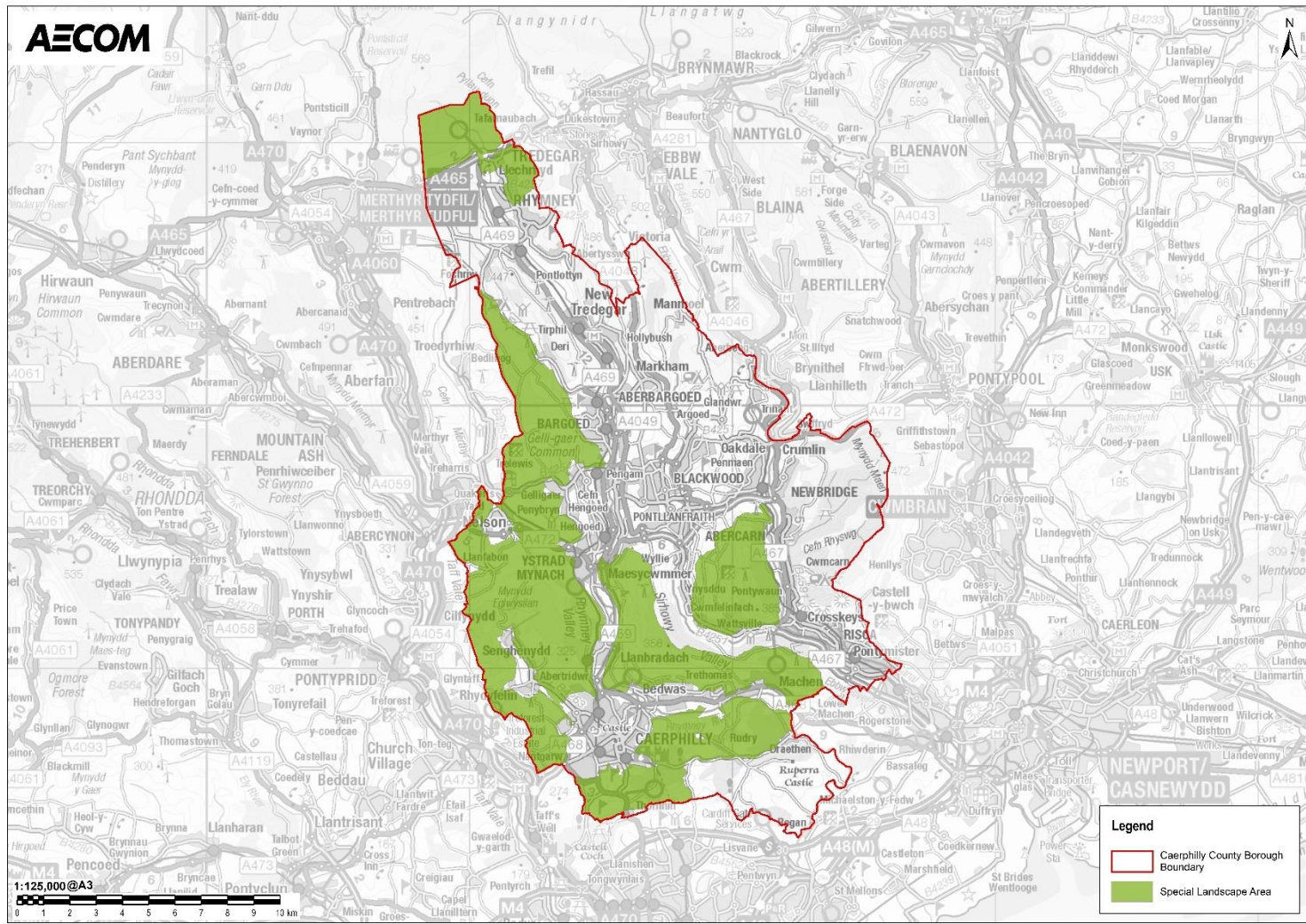
Preserve the openness of higher ground through the development process. Prevent any encroachment into the SLA or the countryside in general.

Reduce and effectively control development pressure along the settlement edge. All new development should be sited sensitively and seek to soften the generally well-defined urban edge.

stonewalls, but these are generally in poor condition. The main visual detractor of this SLA is the coniferous plantations that are out of place in the more lowland areas.

Preserve, maintain and enhance the existing hedgerows, banks and stonewalls as good examples of the typical boundary treatments in the SLA. Development proposals should seek to integrate these features into the overall design and where they are currently present, they should be preserved.

Figure 10.2: Special Landscape Areas in Caerphilly¹²⁶



Visually Important Local Landscapes

10.13 Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILLs) are areas of the county borough that are considered visually important as a backdrop or setting for settlements and need additional protection from inappropriate development.¹²⁷ VILLs are not specifically identified in any current planning policy guidance or legislation. VILLs are a non-statutory local designation, and as such have an equal weighting in policy terms to SLAs. VILLs within the County Borough are detailed in **Table 10.2** overleaf.

¹²⁷ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2008) Natural Heritage – Deposit Local Development Plan up to 2021
<https://apps.caerphilly.gov.uk/LDP/Examination/PDF/SB25.pdf>

Table 10.2: Visually Important Local Landscapes¹²⁸

Name of landscape	Key characteristics	Policy, management and development control issues
Northern Rhymney Valley	Predominantly upland and open area with a distinctive rocky hillside. Views across the Rhymney valley provide a distinctive upland character.	Prevent further loss of overall visual landscape quality and character on the settlement edge as a result of development in the settlement.
Manmoel	Predominantly an upland landscape with a strong sense of openness. The Upland feel of the landscape increases with elevation as views increase in quality. Manmoel is generally a rolling hilly landscape with a distinctive field pattern/ mosaic of grown-out beech hedging and typical stonewalls.	Seek to conserve and enhance the existing field patterns and sense of openness through the development process. Additionally, the sharp urban edges should be softened with additional landscaping and the enhancement of existing landscape features.
Abercarn	Area includes Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd and consists of an upland area of ridges and valleys, much of which consists of a woodland mosaic of conifers (providing winter greenery) and mixed woodland, giving a sense of enclosure.	Preserve and enhance the pastures, hedgerows and woodlands to protect and enhance the visual quality of the local landscape.
Rudry	A wide valley with a rolling rural landscape that gently slopes upwards to the south. The steepness of the slopes increase as the land rises up to areas such as Caerphilly and Rudry Common. The area marks a visual boundary between Caerphilly and Cardiff.	Prevent urbanisation and encroachment into the local landscape area particularly around the settlement edges where there is considerable pressure for development.

¹²⁸ CCBC (n.d.: 'Appendix 2: Visually important Local Landscapes' [online] available at: http://caerphilly.opus3.co.uk/ldf/documents/appendices/appendix_2

Future baseline

10.14 Areas designed by CCBC for their local landscape sensitivity have the potential to be harmed by future development. It is acknowledged that the council are in the process of preparing a Landscape Strategy for the county borough and this will feed into any revision of the 2RLDP.

Key issues

10.15 The context review and baseline information informed the identification of a number of key issues (problems and opportunities):

- Land use in Caerphilly is varied. Areas outside of the main urban settlements are predominantly rural, with some ancient woodland areas in the south east.
- There are currently five Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) in the County Borough, covering a significant proportion of the County Borough, notably the very northern extent of the County Borough, and to the east, south, and central to the RLDP area. The SLAs play an important contribution to the visual context and setting of settlements and have recreational value. NH1.5 South Caerphilly notably forms an important buffer zone between Caerphilly and the M4 corridor.
- There are four Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILLs) within the County Borough, designated predominately for their strong landscape features/ character, including quality views, visual boundaries and distinctive field patterns.

ISA objectives

10.16 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the policy/proposal help to:
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To protect and enhance the quality and character of Caerphilly's landscape and townscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Caerphilly's most valuable landscapes, townscapes and seascapes are conserved and enhanced? • Use natural landscape features to mitigate any potential effects on nearby and distance interpretations of its landscapes?
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11. Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)

11.1 This theme focuses on activities in the 2RLDP area that contribute to climate change and climate change mitigation, as well as the effects of climate change, including flood risk, and climate change adaptation.

Policy context

11.2 **Table 11.1** presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the 2RLDP ISA.

Table 11.1: Plans, policies and strategies reviewed in relation to climate change

Document title	Year of publication
<u>The UK Climate Change Act</u>	2008
<u>UK (second) National Adaptation Programme 2018 to 2023</u>	2018
<u>Planning Wales Act</u>	2015
<u>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act</u>	2015
<u>Environment (Wales) Act</u>	2016
<u>National Development Framework (Future Wales: The National Plan)</u>	2021
<u>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)</u>	2021
<u>South East Wales Area Statement</u>	2017
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design</u>	2016
<u>Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: Development, flooding and coastal erosion</u>	2021
<u>Flood Map for Planning</u>	2021 (effective from 2023)
<u>Planning for Sustainable Buildings</u>	2014
<u>The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales</u>	2020
<u>Placemaking Wales Charter</u>	2020
<u>Caerphilly Local Development Plan</u>	2010
<u>Caerphilly 2nd Replacement Local Development Plan</u>	2020
<u>Caerphilly Flood Risk Management Plan</u>	2015
<u>Caerphilly Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</u>	2013
<u>Caerphilly Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan</u>	2020
<u>Cardiff City Region Energy Strategy</u>	2020
<u>The Second State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR2020)</u>	2020
<u>Towards Zero Waste</u>	2019

Coal Policy Statement

2021

11.3 The key messages emerging from the review are summarised below:

- The Climate Change Act 2008 provides a framework at the UK level regarding the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The Act sets a legally binding target of reducing the UK's GHG emissions by 80% by 2050 compared with 1990 and requires a programme of rolling carbon budgets to be set to achieve this. The 2RLDP should set out policies and proposals to minimise environmental effects from new development and to promote use of renewable and low carbon technologies and minimising emissions of GHG emissions.
- The 2RLDP will be required to be in general conformity with Future Wales, which sets out the 20-year spatial framework for land use, providing a context for the provision of new infrastructure/ growth. Future Wales provides a framework at the Welsh level to respond to the need to mitigate and adapt to the effect of climate change, recognising the role of the planning system in leading the way in promoting and delivering a competitive, sustainable, decarbonised society. The framework therefore focuses on seeking to decarbonise key economic sectors, encouraging renewable and low carbon energy generation and enhancing the resilience of the natural environment. The SDP for South East Wales will also seek to address regional factors; recognising the potential for planning to shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and deliver long-term resilience; including through reuse, regeneration and conversion.
- National planning policy is set out in PPW which recognises that the planning system has a vital role to play in making development resilient to climate change, decarbonising society and developing a circular economy for the benefit of both the built and natural environment. PPW is supplemented by TANs, which together provide detailed planning policy and advice. Notably in relation to flooding, the general approach of PPW, supported by the TAN (TAN15 – Development, flooding and coastal erosion), is to advise caution in respect of new development in areas at high risk of flooding, by setting out a precautionary framework to guide planning decisions. The overarching aim of the precautionary framework is to direct new development away from those areas which are at high risk of flooding.
- The revised TAN15, initially published in 2021, will now take effect in 2023. Each local authority is expected to notify Welsh Government by the end of January 2022 whether it is undertaking a new Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment (SFCA), updating an existing document, or taking no further work (clear justification must be provided in case of the latter). Revised SFCAs must be in place by the end of November, and will be the principal source of evidence to inform development plans' settlement strategies and site allocations in respect of flood risk, as well as locally-specific flood risk policies.
- When preparing the 2RLDP, the Council should consult with adjacent authorities and Natural Resources Wales and ensure that, as well as not

being at risk itself, development does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere.

- The Cardiff Capital Region and City Deal seeks to promote strong, connected and sustainable growth throughout the region, supporting Welsh Government's objectives in relation to infrastructure and climate change. The deal aims to encourage investment, adaptation, and innovation within the ten local authorities and other key partners in its boundaries. Other local policies and plans will positively contribute towards tackling the causes of climate change and the need to deal with the consequences of climate change.
- The Cardiff Capital Region Energy Strategy has been developed with support from regional stakeholders, including local authorities. The overall objective being to develop a pathway identifying key interventions to deliver on the region's ambitions for decarbonising its energy system.
- The Caerphilly Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan takes a holistic approach to carbon/energy management across the Authority, including waste, transport and other areas. The Strategy focuses on interventions that the Council itself can undertake to radically change its own impact on the environment.
- The 2RLDP should therefore set out policies and proposals for the promotion of sustainable growth within the area for the benefit of its resident population. Specifically, the RLDP should contain policies relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including flood risk, green infrastructure development, resource efficiency, air quality, water quality, sustainable transport and accessibility.

Baseline summary

Climate emergency

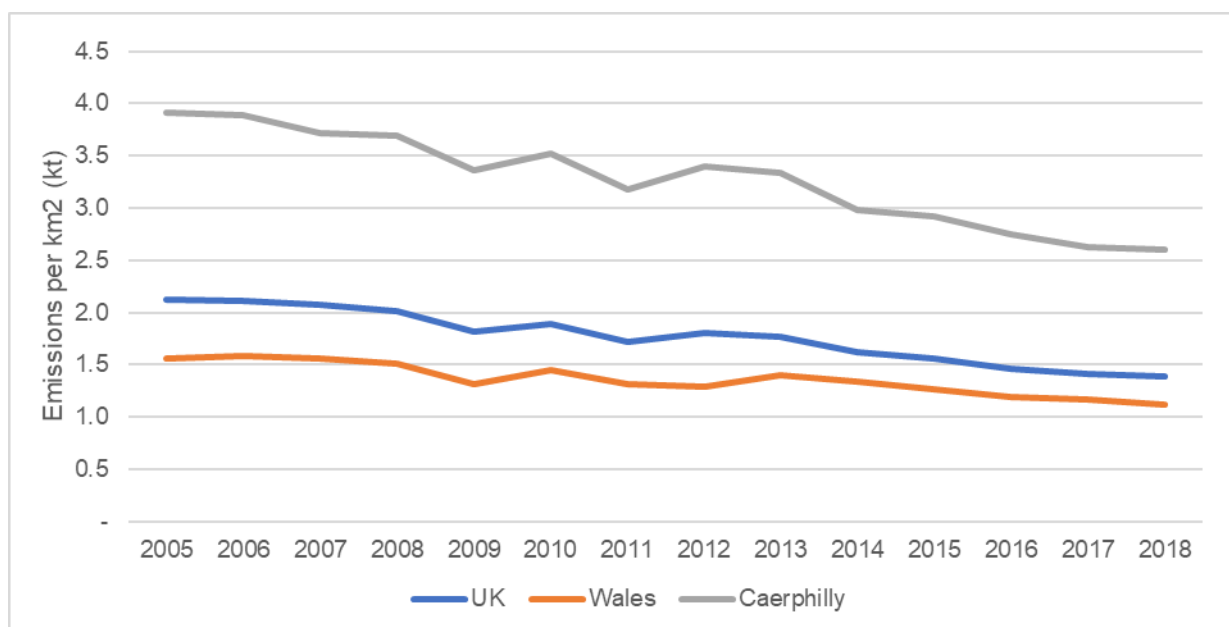
11.4 On the 4th June 2019 Caerphilly County Borough Council formally declared a climate emergency, and in response, the Caerphilly Decarbonisation Strategy - 'Reduce, Produce, Offset, Buy' has been produced, which focuses on reducing the Council's own carbon footprint and sets out the overarching objective of being a net carbon neutral authority by 2030.¹²⁹

Climate change mitigation

11.5 In mitigating climate change and its damaging consequences, it is important to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonise the economy. It is important to focus on different sources of CO₂ in order to better understand how targeted approaches can have the most significant effects.

11.6 CO₂ emissions data from 2018 indicates that Caerphilly has a higher proportion of carbon dioxide emissions (per km²) in comparison to Wales and the UK. In 2018, emissions in the county borough were approximately 33% higher than those for Wales as a whole. This is shown in **Figure 11.1** below.

¹²⁹ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2021) Caerphilly Decarbonisation Strategy <https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s33351/Appendix%201.pdf?LLL=0>

Figure 11.1: CO₂ emissions (per km²)¹³⁰

11.7 Despite high emissions shown in **Figure 11.1** above, it is recognised that CCBC has a good record of implementing projects that benefit the environment and reduce carbon emissions. In 2009 the authority launched its Carbon Reduction Strategy which focussed on reducing carbon emissions from its buildings and street lighting assets. Its target was to reduce emissions by 45% of those recorded in the 2008 baseline year and it achieved a 42% reduction.¹³¹ Examples of what has been achieved is set out below:

- The authority has invested over £2million into energy efficient technologies in its own non domestic buildings through its Invest to Save scheme called LAEF and have saved 35,000 tonnes of carbon and has reduced its energy bills at the same time.
- The Council's Street Lighting service is investing £4.1million to upgrade its lamphoods to LED lighting. This is expected to save approximately 1,900 tonnes of carbon each year at current carbon conversion rates and again will reduce energy bills.
- There have been various Housing and WHQS initiatives aimed at reducing fuel consumption in homes including Arbed; CESP and Cy Cymru.
- ICT Services has introduced measures to reduce energy consumption in IT equipment.
- Caerphilly Solar Schools project was developed in 2009 which resulted in a number of schools having solar panels installed. 45 schools benefitted from small scale PV schemes with a further 8 schools having larger arrays installed.
- A partnership project between CCBC, led by Economic Development, and Partnership for Renewable successfully installed two 2MW wind turbines on Oakdale Business Park. Both the Council and local community benefit from income derived from this project.

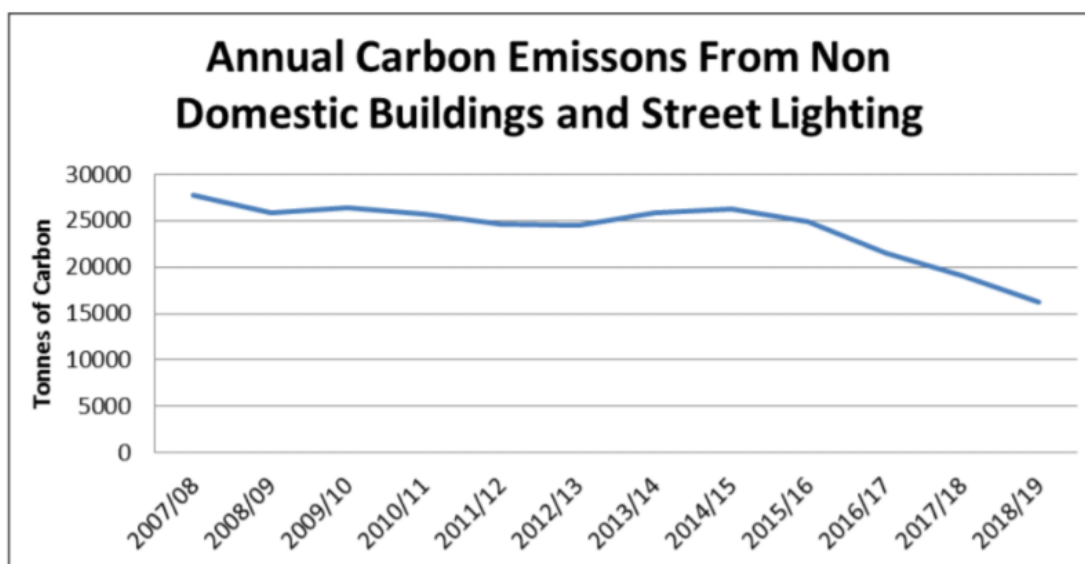
¹³⁰ DBEIS, 2020

¹³¹ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2021) Caerphilly Decarbonisation Strategy <https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s33351/Appendix%201.pdf?LLL=0>

- In September 2018 the Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan was approved by Cabinet and a number of actions are being implemented, including the introduction of charging points throughout the authority.
- Greenhill Primary school was completed in May 2011 and was awarded BREEAM outstanding, with high scores in the pollution category and energy. The school has a rain water harvesting system, small wind turbines and an extensive PV array.

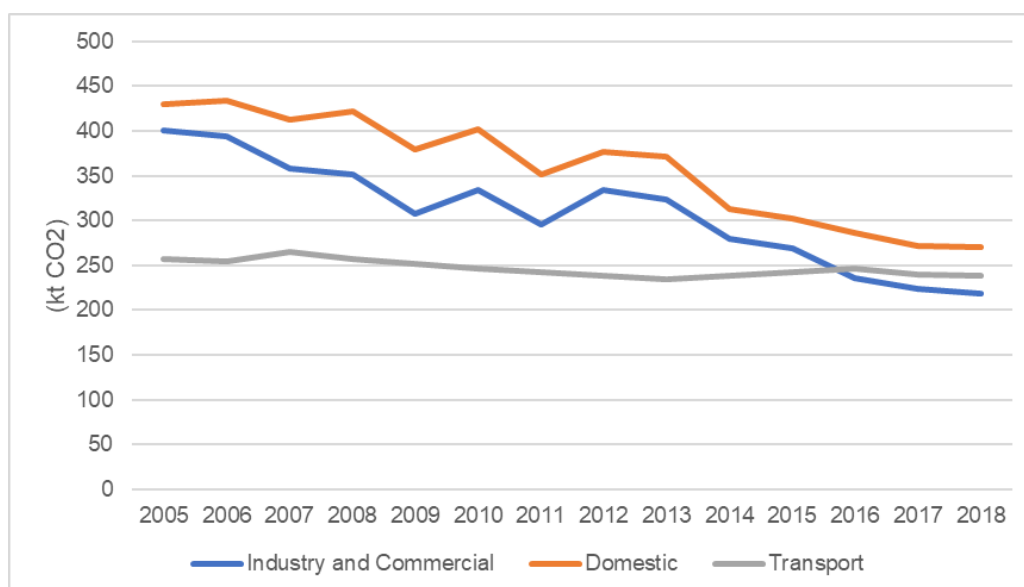
11.8 **Figure 11.2** below gives an indication of the reduction in the Council’s emissions specifically from its non-domestic buildings and street lighting, through the direction of the Carbon Reduction Strategy (2009).

Figure 11.2: CCBC annual carbon emissions from non-domestic building and street lighting¹³²



11.9 **Figure 11.3** overleaf shows emissions by sector in Caerphilly. The domestic sector was the largest contributing sector with regards to carbon dioxide as of 2018 (37.1% of total emissions).

¹³² Caerphilly County Borough Council (2021) Caerphilly Decarbonisation Strategy <https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s33351/Appendix%201.pdf?LLL=0>

Figure 11.3: Emissions by sector (kt CO₂)¹³³

11.10 As shown in **Figure 11.3**, reductions in all emission types since 2014 appear to have steadied somewhat. Industry and Commercial emissions have shown a continual decline since 2013, while Transport emissions have remained relatively constant.

Electric Vehicles

11.11 2016-2017, Electric Vehicles (EV) in Wales rose by 35% (2,500 vehicles), while EV in Caerphilly county borough rose by 28% (64 to 82 vehicles).¹³⁴

11.12 EV charge points in 2017 stood as:

- 439 in Wales
- 4,476 across the UK
- 0 public charge points in Caerphilly county borough

11.13 To target emissions from transport, and address Caerphilly's shortfall in EVs and associated infrastructure, in 2019 CCBC approved an Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan. The Plan sought to "Introduce an electric vehicle infrastructure across Caerphilly county borough, to maximise the economic, social and environmental benefits and opportunities that the electric vehicle agenda will provide, and for electric vehicles to be a fundamental part of our fleet".¹³⁵ Work is underway to dramatically improve the charging infrastructure throughout the county borough to encourage residents to 'go electric' with their vehicles.

Renewable energy

11.14 The Caerphilly Decarbonisation Strategy (2020) acknowledges the focus of the Cardiff Capital Region and its ambition that the region generates the equivalent of approximately 50% of its total energy consumption in 2035 from regional renewable sources.¹³⁶ CCBC is seeking to work towards regional

¹³³ DBEIS, 2020

¹³⁴ CCBC (2017) CCBC Electric Vehicle Strategy

<https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s26596/Appendix%203.pdf?LLL=0>

¹³⁵ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2021) Caerphilly Decarbonisation Strategy

<https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s33351/Appendix%201.pdf?LLL=0>

¹³⁶ Cardiff Capital Region Energy Strategy (2020) <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-11/regional-energy-strategy-cardiff-capital-region.pdf>

decarbonisation goals and to help to meet this target by identifying opportunities for green energy production. Generating “green” electricity and heat at the point of use will reduce carbon emissions and will bring the added benefit of offsetting grid demand and reducing system losses associated with grid supplied electricity.

11.15 The Strategy makes the following assumptions on the baseline:

- Energy prices continue to increase and it is predicted that this rise will continue. Hence it makes economic sense to invest now in reducing energy consumption and consider opportunities for green energy production.
- Fuel poverty exists within the county borough and is particularly focused on areas of deprivation often centred around traditional council housing estates. Clean energy production that tenants can benefit from will help further.
- Covid-19 has had a massive impact on people’s working, commuting and living habits. An opportunity exists to maximise the potential of these changes to help deliver our decarbonisation goals.

11.16 An ‘Energy Prospectus’ supports the Decarbonisation Strategy, setting out the key areas in which CCBC will focus on that could result in major reductions in carbon emissions, highlighting key energy projects that the authority is investigating.¹³⁷ The list of projects is not definitive and will change and develop over time. Key areas discussed through the Energy Prospectus include:

- **Solar and wind** - CCBC has installed Photovoltaic (PV’s) panels on roofs of its buildings. In some instances these are small demonstration arrays on schools but the authority has also installed larger arrays to good effect and is currently investigating its collective non-domestic roof space for medium sized PV arrays.¹³⁸

CCBC is also in the process of reviewing Council owned land assets, in collaboration with the Welsh Government Energy Service, with a view to establishing large scale renewable technology at several of its land holdings. This work includes identifying potential opportunities for solar and on shore wind farms.

CCBC have been instrumental in a partnership project between the Council and the Partnership for Renewables, where two wind turbines have been installed on council owned land on Oakdale Business Park. Each turbine has a generating capacity of 2 Megawatts, capable of powering 2,000 homes.¹³⁹

- **Hydro Electric** - CCBC has undertaken a review of its capacity to generate electricity from hydro. To date there is minimal opportunity to progress projects although Cwmcarn Forest may provide some opportunity to generate electricity for on-site use at the visitor centre.
- **Anaerobic Digester** - the Council has local arrangements in place at Bryn Quarry where Council collected food waste is converted into green energy via an Anaerobic Digester. Opportunities to take electricity directly from this

¹³⁷Caerphilly County Borough Council (2019) Energy Prospectus https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/Council-and-democracy/DecarbonisationStrategy/EnergyProspectus2019_eng.aspx

¹³⁸ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2021) Caerphilly Decarbonisation Strategy <https://democracy.caerphilly.gov.uk/documents/s33351/Appendix%201.pdf?LLL=0>

¹³⁹ Ibid.

site and utilise it at the Tredomen Campus is a real possibility. Anaerobic Digesters (AD) break down feeder fuels such as food waste and maize to generate a biogas which is used to generate electricity. By utilising a locally generated electricity supply it will reduce the transmission system losses (wasted electricity) and free up additional capacity on the local grid.

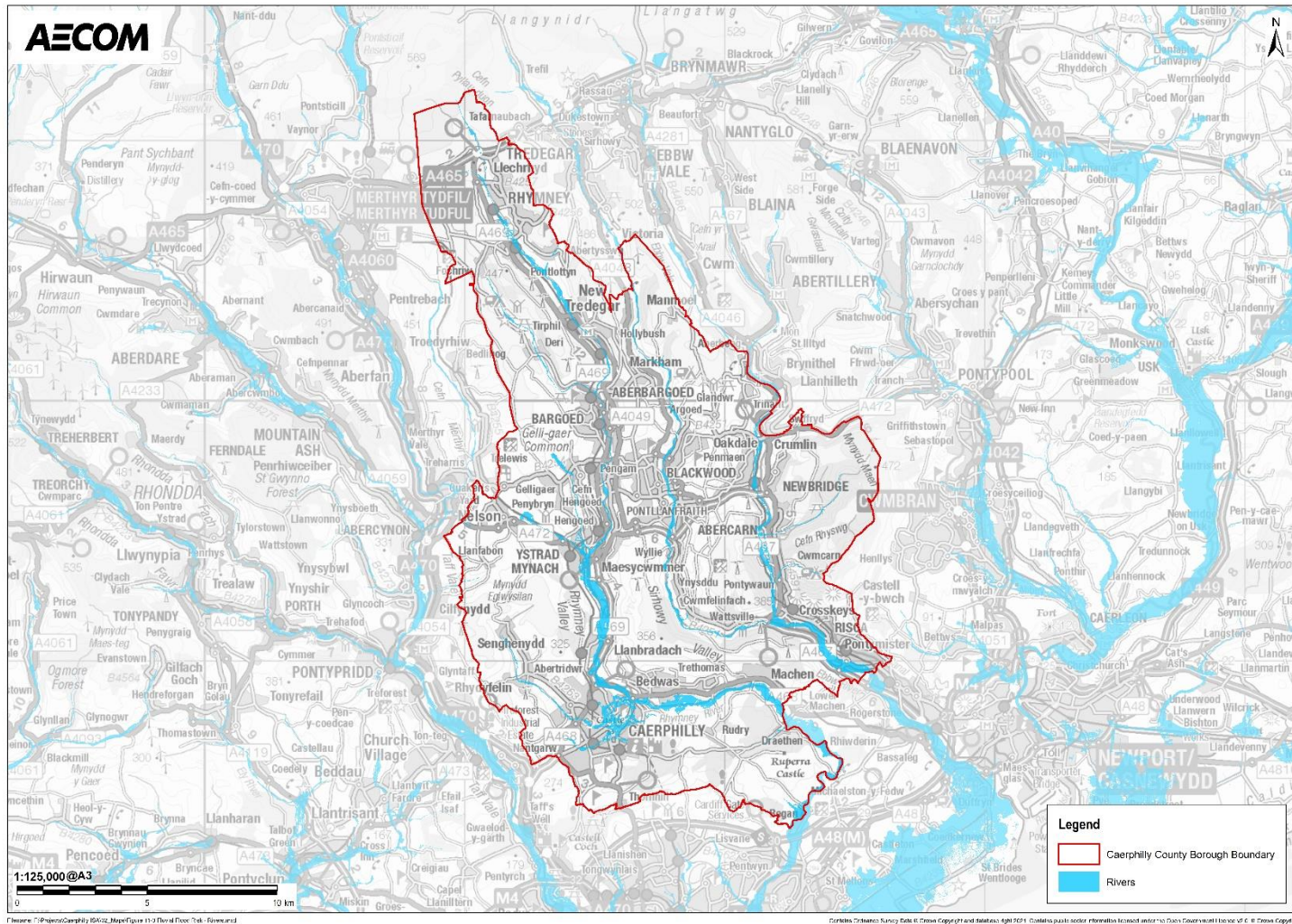
Climate change adaptation

11.17 Climate change is predicted to have effects relating to short-term changes to weather patterns as well as longer-term shifts in climatic trends. Weather patterns are predicted to see an increase in extreme weather events, including intense rainfall, heating, drought and cold snaps. Changes to climate are likely to lead to mean reductions in rainfall alongside mean increases in temperatures. It is also important to consider the seasonality of these shifts, with winters in the UK likely to be warmer and wetter and summers expected to be warmer and drier. Another consequence of climate change is rising sea levels, an issue which is exacerbated by storm surges which can lead to coastal flooding. Climate change adaptation refers to the actions taken to manage impacts of climate change by reducing vulnerability and exposure to its harmful effects, as well as exploiting any potential benefits.

Flood Risk

- 11.18 Due to the county borough's location, the aforementioned water catchments receive a high annual average rainfall. Thin sandy soils, the sandstone and the rocks of the coal measures do not retain large quantities of water in storage and therefore provides little base flow support to the water courses. Consequently, the main rivers and tributaries are 'flashy' in nature, resulting in periodic flooding.
- 11.19 As shown in **Figure 11.3** (overleaf), fluvial flood risk is mostly confined to the river corridors of the River Rhymney in the west and River Sirhowy and River Ebbw in the east. These ribbons of high flood risk overlap with the main settlements.
- 11.20 Surface water flood risk extends across the county borough. It is widespread in the form of many localised high risk areas, particularly at the aforementioned settlements.

Figure 11.3: Fluvial flood risk



Flood risk trends

11.21 Flooding may become more frequent as a result of climate change and many commercial and residential properties within the county borough fall within the area at risk of flooding from a once in 100-year occurrence. The most recently available Flood Risk Management Plan for Caerphilly Borough County Council highlighted the following key trends:

- Sewer Flooding Events in the county borough, reported by Welsh Water, which indicated a total of 306 sewerage flooding events in 2011, which have historically been highest within central Caerphilly, Blackwood and Pengam.
- Natural Resources Wales defines 1km areas of 'high' surface water flood risk where flood risk affects a minimum of 200 people, 20 businesses and 2 or more critical services. A total of 59 1km zones (a flood risk area of 132 km²) were identified within Caerphilly County Borough, which are centralised to the majority of Caerphilly Town centre, Ystrad Mynach, Blackwood, Pontllanfraith, Bargoed, Newbridge and the areas located adjacent to the Ebbw River in the east. Subsequently, an estimated 7238 properties (16,654 people) are potentially at risk from surface water flooding up to 0.3m in a high-risk (1 in 200 year chance) event, 69 critical services and 1,955 non-residential properties. This includes properties within the principal towns of Caerphilly, Risca, Blackwood and Rhymney.

Other watercourses

11.22 In addition to the main water courses identified in Section 11.19 above, there are a range of other water channels and attenuation areas in the county borough. This includes the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal, a number of reservoirs and the sewer and drainage network, all of which are susceptible to flooding. These reservoirs are mainly located in the Heads of the Valleys area and include Blaen Rhymni, Rhas Las, Butetown, Jepsons Pond and Pen y Fan. The canal, which has breached in the past resulting in flooding, is also inspected and for both this and the reservoirs it is considered that there are no significant flood risks associated expressly with these.

Green Infrastructure

11.23 Natural solutions to reducing flood risk can come in the form of green infrastructure, including tree cover. Permeable surfaces provided by greenspace help to reduce surface water runoff, which in turn helps to reduce flood risk. Trees provide interception, reducing the volume of water reaching the ground during rainfall events, helping to reduce flood risk. In this sense, it is important to look at the levels of green infrastructure within urban areas (rural areas are generally open countryside which are less likely to have issues relating to surface water runoff). The Green Infrastructure Strategy for Caerphilly identifies a number of GI areas, detailed in **Table 11.2**, below. 88% of the county borough is covered by these areas, indicating good provision of these facilities. However, this strategy does not include a detailed assessment of existing GI deficiencies and future needs.

Table 11.2: Green Infrastructure¹⁴⁰

Primary typology	Proportion of CCBC	Secondary typology	Proportion of CCBC
Amenity Greenspace	9%	Domestic gardens	4%
		Housing green spaces	4%
		Informal recreation spaces	0.4%
		Other incidental space	0.2%
		Play space	0.01%
Green Corridors	2%	Other	1%
		Rivers and canals including their banks	0.2%
		Road and rail corridors	1%
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Spaces	39%	Bare rock habitats	0.1%
		Beach	0.0004%
		Grassland	15%
		Heath or moor	1%
		Meadow	0.002%
		Nature reserves	0.01%
		Open and running water	0.3%
		Other	5%
		Rural commons	0.002%
		Wetlands	0.3%
		Woodland and scrub	18%
Other	37%	Allotments	0.2%
		Camping/caravan parks	0.003%
		Cemeteries and churchyards	0.1%
		Farms	34%
		Golf course	1%
		Institutional	1%
		Orchard	0.003%
		Other	1%
		Public/civic space	0.1%
Parks and Gardens	2%	Urban parks	2%

¹⁴⁰ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2020): 'GI Strategy'.

Future baseline

- 11.24 New development could have the potential to increase flood risk through factors such as increased risk of overtopping of river flood defences, changing surface and ground water flows, overloading existing inputs to the drainage and wastewater networks or increasing the number of residents exposed to areas of existing flood risk and potential elevated flood risks in the future.
- 11.25 Climatic and weather pattern changes towards higher mean temperatures and extreme heating events are likely to be seen in the future, this can be expected to have more pronounced effects upon urban areas and in particular vulnerable populations within these areas. This is likely to necessitate the pursuit of opportunities to design cooling solutions into development, such as shading, increased green infrastructure and ventilation.
- 11.26 Further to the above heating and potential increase in the prevalence of drought, agricultural practices may be adversely affected, with implications for crop yields potentially affecting supply chains and food prices.
- 11.27 National and international policy and agreements have begun to show a more urgent stance in relation to approaches designed to combat and adapt to the effects of climate change. If this trajectory continues then it may be likely that a greater release of funding will be available for local schemes to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- 11.28 The policy agreements and urgency with which the matter of climate change is being focused upon is likely to increase over time. This will be expected to lead to policies which restrict the use of fossil fuel emitting activities and support energy efficiency measures, helping to drive down CO₂ emissions.
- 11.29 It is likely that renewable energy generation will increase over time across a range of sources, as well as from sources enabled through the development of new technologies. As discussed above, this is currently being explored by CCBC and will likely be taken advantage of, for example through local renewable energy schemes.

Key issues

- 11.30 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:
- There is a need to decarbonise across all sectors of society (including the economy, energy, infrastructure, lifestyles), with further need to take measures to reduce the levels of carbon in the atmosphere. Energy reduction and efficiency measures are imperative if targets are going to be met.
 - Planning must play a key role in ensuring that communities and infrastructure are resilient to the negative effects of climate change, by avoiding risk in the first instance and seeking to mitigate risk if options are unavoidable.
 - There is a fairly significant amount of surface and fluvial flood risk across Caerphilly, with some areas in residential and economic land uses at risk.
 - Although overall emissions have decreased over time, CO₂ emissions data from 2018 indicates that Caerphilly has a higher proportion of carbon dioxide

emissions (per km²) in comparison to Wales and the UK. It is however recognised that the situation may have changed since 2018, particularly given the Council's commitment to net zero by 2030 and strategies, projects, etc. implemented to help address this target.

ISA objectives

11.31 Considering the key issues discussed above, it is proposed that the ISA should include the following objective and assessment questions:

ISA objectives	Assessment questions – will the policy/proposal help to:
Support the resilience of the Caerphilly County Borough Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding from fluvial and surface water sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change? • Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support climate change adaptation? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)? • Minimise flood risk for key infrastructures, such as transport and power?
Reduce Caerphilly's contribution to climate change from activities which result in greenhouse gas emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in high energy use and unsustainable travel?

12. Next steps

Subsequent stages for the ISA process

12.1 Scoping (the current stage) is the first stage in a five-stage ISA process:

1. Scoping;
2. Appraise reasonable alternatives, with a view to informing preparation of the Pre-Deposit plan/ Preferred Strategy, and subsequent assessment of the Pre-Deposit plan/ Preferred Strategy;
3. Prepare the ISA Report with a view to informing consultation;
4. Consultation on the ISA Report; and
5. Publish a 'statement' at the time of plan adoption in order to 'tell the story' of plan-making/ ISA (and present 'measures decided concerning monitoring').

12.2 Accordingly, the next stage after scoping will therefore involve the development and assessment of reasonable alternatives. This includes Candidate Sites and strategic options for the overall level and distribution of growth.

Consultation on this Scoping Report

12.3 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the ISA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public. The statutory consultation bodies are Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Cadw.

12.4 The scoping consultation will run from Wednesday 23rd March to Wednesday 27th April.

Appendix A ISA framework

12.5 This appendix presents the sustainability topics, objectives and assessment questions that form the ISA framework. The ISA framework draws together the ISA objectives identified under each theme through scoping, with the aims of addressing the key issues identified for each theme. Taken together the ISA objectives form a methodological framework guiding the subsequent assessment.

Table A.1: ISA objectives for the RDLP

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
Economy and employment	Support a strong, diverse and resilient economy, with innovative responses to changing conditions and support for a strong future workforce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide sufficient land for businesses to grow and ensure alignment with housing/infrastructure? • Support the creation of accessible new jobs? • Ensure the capacity of educational facilities keep pace with population growth? • Enhance the vitality and resilience of the town centre and retail centres? • Safeguard existing employment areas?
Population and communities	To provide a sufficient quantity of good quality market and affordable homes, and community infrastructure, in sustainable locations to meet identified needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the identified housing needs, including affordable, for the county borough? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible community facilities, including specialist services?
	To enhance design quality to create places for people that maintain and enhance community and settlement identity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve connectivity between communities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
Health and wellbeing	To improve the health and wellbeing of residents within Caerphilly.	<p>community facilities, including specialist services?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage healthy lifestyles and reduce health inequalities? • Promote access to health, social, recreational and leisure facilities for all sectors of the community? • Enhance multifunctional green infrastructure networks throughout the plan area? • Provide and enhance the provision of community access to open/ green space? • Improve access to the countryside for recreation?
Equality, diversity, and inclusion	To reduce poverty and inequality; tackle social exclusion and promote community cohesion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce inequalities and deprivation across Caerphilly? • Improve equality of opportunities amongst all social groups? • Contribute to a reduction in crime and social disorder and the fear of crime, promoting safer neighbourhoods? • Promote, strengthen and enhance the cultural identity of Caerphilly? • Protect and provide improved local, social, recreational and leisure facilities for all sectors of the community, and improve access to them to maximise opportunities for community development and social welfare? • Ensure an appropriate mix of dwelling sizes, types and tenures to meet the needs of all sectors of the community? • Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities? • Promote the development of a range of high quality, accessible

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
Transport and movement	Increase sustainable transport use and reduce the need to travel.	<p>community facilities, including specialist services?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Caerphilly’s bilingual public services and increase the use of the Welsh language in Caerphilly? <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel through sustainable patterns of land use and development? • Encourage modal shift to more sustainable and active forms of travel? • Enable transport infrastructure improvements? • Extend or improve active travel networks? • Support the uptake of low carbon transport? • Contribute towards the EV charging network? • Facilitate working from home and remote working? • Provide improvements to and/ or reduce congestion on the existing highway network?
Natural resources	To identify and pursue any opportunities to reduce, or at least, minimise population exposure to air pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel? • Encourage journeys to be made by sustainable means (active travel or public transport)? • Avoid any adverse effects on air quality and for people exposed to poor air quality? • Improve air quality in areas identified as of concern? • Promote and facilitate the use of electric vehicles? • Promote good design to avoid impacts on air quality, such as the canyon effect, and incorporates and enhances green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
		absorption and dissipation of NO ₂ and other pollutants?
	To make the best use of previously developed land and existing buildings to minimise pressure for greenfield development and protecting, where possible, higher grade agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the loss of potentially high-grade agricultural land to developments which will not make use of the soil as an agricultural resource? • Encourage the use of previously developed land? • Encourage development-related remediation works which could reduce the presence of contaminated land in Caerphilly? • Avoid any adverse effects on coalfield 'Development High Risk Areas'?
	To support waste management/ reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address waste by reducing and minimising waste as a priority? • Manage waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy and in the context of 'Towards Zero Waste'?
	To conserve, protect and enhance the water environment, water quality and water resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce water consumption? • Ensure an adequate supply of water can be provided to sustain the development considering current and future projections of water availability and water use? • Reduce the potential for contamination of waterbodies and courses? • Reduce the potential for agricultural practices to contribute towards nitrate-based pollution of waterbodies and courses?
Biodiversity and geodiversity	Protect and enhance biodiversity within and surrounding the plan area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise impacts on designated and important biodiversity and provide net gains where possible? • Protect and enhance ecological networks, including those that cross administrative boundaries?
Historic environment	Preserve and enhance Caerphilly's heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
	resource, including its historic environment and archaeological assets.	<p>structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of conservation areas and their settings? • Conserve and enhance archaeological remains, and archaeologically sensitive areas, and support the undertaking of archaeological investigations and, where appropriate, recommend mitigation strategies?
	Promote understanding of Caerphilly’s cultural heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support access to, interpretation, and understanding of the historic and cultural environment?
Landscape	To protect and enhance the quality and character of Caerphilly’s landscape and townscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that Caerphilly’s most valuable landscapes, townscapes and seascapes are conserved and enhanced? • Use natural landscape features to mitigate any potential effects on nearby and distance interpretations of its landscapes?
Climate change	Support the resilience of the Caerphilly Area to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding from fluvial, coastal and surface water sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase resilience of the built and natural environment to the effects of climate change? • Ensure that the potential risks associated with climate change are considered in new development in the plan area? • Improve and extend green infrastructure networks in the plan area to support climate change adaptation? • Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff (either within the plan area or downstream)? • Minimise flood risk for key infrastructures, such as transport and power?

Theme	ISA objective	Assessment questions – will the plan/ policy help to:
	Reduce Caerphilly's contribution to climate change from activities which result in greenhouse gas emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change? • Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria? • Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable sources? • Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources? • Reduce the need to travel or the number of journeys made? • Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport? • Ensure rural development does not contribute towards further increases in high energy use and unsustainable travel?

