

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd

Democratic Services
Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

Decision Notice

STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING - URGENCY ACTION , FRIDAY, 12TH JUNE, 2020

Please see below approval of decision as follows:

1. **Blaengwrach River Bridge, Temporary Pedestrian Diversion -
37TD - Urgency Action (Pages 3 - 18)**

A temporary pedestrian diversion is required whilst a new bridge is designed and constructed, allowing access for the residents of Blaengwrach and Cwmgwrach. The only suitable alternative route is along the currently disused Unity Mine Access Road, which is largely privately owned and has no public rights of way.

That, in consultation with the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member, the Council enters into Public Access Agreements with the owners of the land required for the temporary alternative access route on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Property and Regeneration.

For Immediate Implementation

Yours sincerely

Tammie Davies

p.p Chief Executive

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NEATH PORT-TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL STREETSCENE AND ENGINEERING CABINET BOARD

12 JUNE 2020

Report of Head of Engineering & Transport – D.W.Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards affected: Blaengwrach & Glynneath

Purpose of Report

To seek approval in principle for Public Access Agreements to be entered in respect of the provision of an alternative temporary pedestrian right of way over land in the ownership of Unity Mine and Welsh Government following the closure of Blaengwrach River Bridge on safety grounds.

Executive Summary

The authority has had to close the existing footbridge on safety ground and until a new bridge can to be constructed, an alternative pedestrian access route is sought between Glynneath and the villages of Blaengwarch and Cwmgwarch.

Background

There is a pedestrian footbridge spanning the River Neath linking Chain Road Glynneath with the village of Blaengwarch via an underpass beneath the A465 Trunk Road as approximately shown edged in Black on the attached copy plan under Appendix A

The structure is currently closed to pedestrians for the safety of the general public.

Approval was agreed in UA 29TD on 2 June 2020 to demolish the existing two span structure and replace it with a new single span footbridge.

In the meantime and until the footbridge can be reopened for public use an alternative pedestrian access route is needed between Glynneath and the villages of Blaengwrach and Cwmgwrach.

The proposal is to provide an alternative access route over the existing path and track as shown approximately coloured Black on the plan attached under Appendix C.

The vast majority of this route is over land in the ownership of Unity Mine with the remainder owned by the Welsh Government.

It is considered that the condition of the existing path and track along this route is adequate requiring only minor works to make it suitable for public use.

Initial discussions have taken place with the owners of Unity Mine and the Welsh Government who have indicated their willingness to proceed with the proposal.

This would be by way of formal Public Access Agreements on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Property & Regeneration. It is anticipated this will be on a small/nominal charge basis plus payment of the owner's legal and professional costs.

Financial Impact

All costs of the footbridge scheme and for the provision of the temporary alternative pedestrian access route to be funded by the Councils Capital Programme Steering Group.

Integrated Impact Assessment

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix B, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A full impact assessment is not

required as the proposed new footbridge will provide a benefit for the local communities and provide a safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists, school children and residents.

Valleys Community Impacts

There are '**No implications**' associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts

There are '**No Implications**' associated with this report.

Legal Impacts

There are '**No Implications**' associated with this report.

Risk Management Impacts

There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation

No formal consultation has taken place.

The local members have been consulted and support the scheme.

Recommendations

It is recommended that in consultation with the Leader and relevant Cabinet Member to enter into Public Access Agreements with the owners of the land required for the temporary alternative access route on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Head of Property & Regeneration.

Reason for Proposed Decision

To reconnect pedestrian access and maintain Statutory Undertakers services between Glynneath and the communities of Blaengwrach & Cwmgwrach.

Appendices

Appendix A - Location Plan - Blaengwrach River Bridge Replacement.

~~Appendix B - Blaengwrach River Bridge - Options Report.~~

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment - Blaengwrach River Bridge Replacement.

Appendix C – Alternative pedestrian access route.

Background Papers

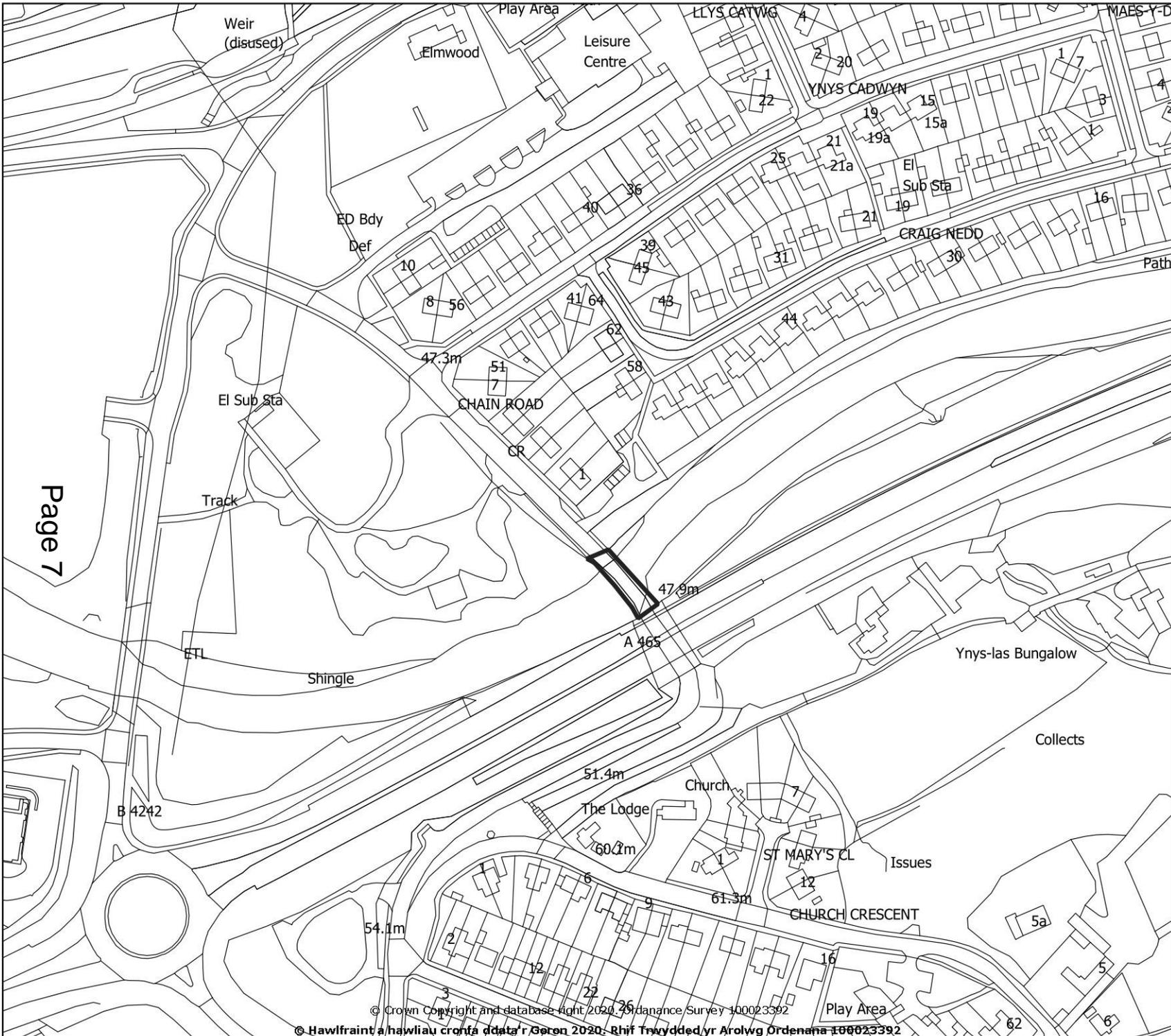
None.

Officer Contact

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NOTES NODIADAU



**Property & Regeneration
Eiddo ac Adfywio**

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Project **Proiect**

Location Plan

Drawing Title **Teitl Lluniadu**

Bridge at Chain Road
Glynneath

Scales Dafol A4 @ 1:2500		Rev. Adolygu
Drawing No. Rhif gan Dynnu 20-0383B		

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Impact Assessment - First Stage

It is essential that all initiatives undergo a first stage impact assessment to identify relevance to equalities and the Welsh language as well as an evaluation of how the proposal has taken into account the sustainable development principle (the five ways of working); an incorrect assessment could ultimately be open to legal challenge.

The first stage is to carry out a short assessment to help determine the need to undertake a more in-depth analysis (the second stage).

Relevance will depend not only on the number of people/service users affected, but also the significance of the effect on them.

When completing the first step you must have regard to the following:

- Does the initiative relate to an area where important equality issues have been, or are likely to be, raised? (For example, funding for services to assist people who are victims of rape/sexual violence or individuals with particular care need; disabled people's access to public transport; the gender pay gap; racist or homophobic bullying in schools)
- Is there a significant potential for reducing inequalities, or improving outcomes? (For example, increasing recruitment opportunities for disabled people).
- Does the initiative relate to instances where opportunities to use the Welsh language are likely to be affected or where the language is likely to be treated less favourably? (For example, increase the number of Welsh speakers moving from/to a certain area; closing specific Welsh language services or put those services at risk services;
- Does the initiative relate to the improvement of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being? To what extent does the initiative prevent things getting worse? (For example, funding for services to assist in cultural well-being; changes in policies that promote independence and/or assist carers)

1. Provide a description and summary of the initiative.

Identify which service area and directorate has responsibility for the initiative.

2. Identify who will be affected by the initiative.

If you answer **Yes** to service users, staff or wider community continue with the first stage of the assessment

If you answer **No** to service users, staff or wider community or **Yes** to 'Internal administrative process only', go to **Question 5 – sustainable development principle**.

3. Using relevant and appropriate information and data that is available to you think about what impact there could be on people who share protected characteristics; whether they are service users, staff or the wider community.

Some things to consider include:

- transport issues
- accessibility
- customer service
- cultural sensitivity
- financial implications
- loss of jobs

Definitions of impacts (either positive or negative):

- High – likely to be highly affected by the initiative
- Medium - likely to be affected in some way
- Low - likely to be affected by the initiative in a small way
- Don't know - the potential impact is unknown

You **must** provide reasons, and indicate what evidence you used, in coming to your decision.

4. Using relevant and appropriate information and data that is available, think about what impact there could be on opportunities to use the Welsh language and in treating the language no less favourably than English.

Definitions of impacts are the same as in **Question 3**.

The classification 'Don't Know' should be categorised as 'High Impact' in both questions 3 & 4.

5. Consider how the initiative has embraced the sustainable development principle in accordance with the Section 7c of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Give details of the initiative in relation to the 5 ways of working:

- **Long term** - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people
- **Integration** - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives
- **Involvement** - how people have been involved in developing the initiative
- **Collaboration** - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions;
- **Prevention** - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse

6. The most appropriate statement must be selected (and the relevant box ticked) based on the first stage of the assessment and an explanation of how you have arrived at this decision must be given.

In addition a summary of the how the initiative has embraced the sustainable development principle must also be included.

Where the first stage of the assessment indicates that a more in-depth analysis is required the second stage of the assessment will need to be completed and this will need to be started immediately.

A first stage assessment must be included as a background paper for all Cabinet/Cabinet Board/ Scrutiny Committee Reports.

Where the first stage assessment is completed by an accountable manager it must be signed off by a Head of Service/Director.

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Creation of Temporary Pedestrian Diversion along the currently disused Unity Mine Access Road, whilst the demolition of the weakened two span Blaengwrach Footbridge and replacement single span steel footbridge are designed and constructed. A large scour pool formed under the upstream end of the central pier during Storm Dennis. The foundation has failed and dropped into the scour pool causing the masonry pier to partially collapse. The structure is closed to pedestrians for the safety of the general public, as there is potential for the pier to further deteriorate which could lead to the collapse of the deck slab.

Service Area: Blaengwrach

Directorate: Environment

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	✓	
Staff		✓
Wider community		✓
Internal administrative process only		✓

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age	✓					At present the footbridge is closed to pedestrian access for safety. There is a long (1.5km) diversion route which is difficult for the very young and older people.

Disability	✓					At present the footbridge is closed to pedestrian access for safety. There is a long (1.5km) diversion route which is difficult for people with mobility difficulties.
Gender Reassignment		✓				
Marriage/Civil Partnership		✓				
Pregnancy/Maternity		✓				
Race		✓				
Religion/Belief		✓				
Sex		✓				
Sexual orientation		✓				

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		✓				
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English		✓				

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		✓				
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.		✓				

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people		✓	Although the new footbridge will have a design life of 120 years and will provide the only pedestrian access from the communities in Blaengwrach and Cwmgwrach to Glynneath. The temporary diversion is only envisaged to last approximately 4 months.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	✓		The temporary diversion will provide pedestrian access from the communities in Blaengwrach and Cwmgwrach to the amenities in Glynneath i.e. Medical Centre, Pharmacy, Leisure Centre & Shops.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	✓		The Bridges section along with the local member and the Management of Unity Mine have worked together on this initiative.

Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	✓		The Bridges section and the Management of Unity Mine have worked together on the temporary diversion.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	✓		The temporary diversion will hopefully prevent pedestrians crossing the A465 Trunk Road at Cwmgwrach.

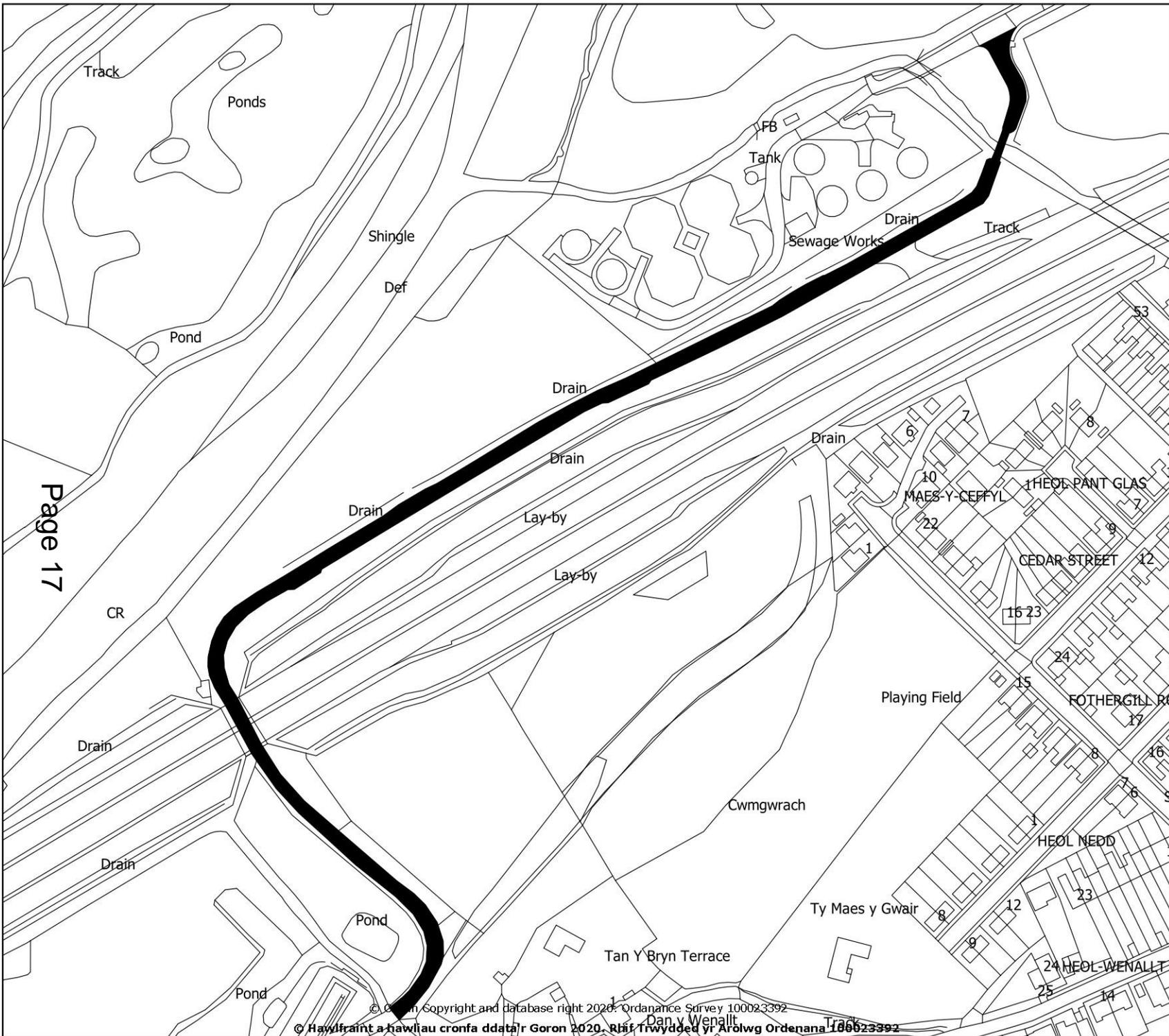
7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	✓
Reasons for this conclusion	
A full impact assessment is not required as the proposals will provide a benefit for the local communities.	

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A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Hasan Hasan	Engineering Manager		12/06/2020
Signed off by	David Griffiths	Head of Service/Director		12/06/2020



NOTES NODIADAU



Property & Regeneration Eiddo ac Adfywio

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Project **Proiect**

Drawing Title **Teitl Lluniadu**

Proposed Pedestrian diversion along Unity Mine access road Cwmgwrrach.

Scales **Dafol**
A4 @ 1:2500

Drawing No. **Rhif gan Dynnu**
20-0383D1

Rev. **Adolygu**

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