

# **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **Environment & Highways Cabinet Board**

17<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### **Report Of The Head Of Planning**

- N.Pearce

#### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected:** All Wards

**Active Travel (Wales) Act – Consideration of: The Requirements of The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013; The Existing Route Map for Neath Port Talbot; and Consultation on The Existing Route Map**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To consider the requirements for the delivery of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013; to agree the Existing Route Map for Neath Port Talbot; and to authorise a public consultation exercise on the Existing Route Map.

#### **Executive Summary**

- 2 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 makes it a legal requirement for the Council to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel within the following settlements: Neath, Port Talbot, Pontardawe, Croeserw, Cymmer, Brynamman, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Blaengwrach, Glynneath, Cwmafan, Seven Sisters and Resolven.
- 3 A draft 'Existing Route Map' has been prepared indicating the existing routes that provide for active travel journeys and meet the requirements set by Welsh Government – the map includes a total of 21 cycle routes and 58 pedestrian routes.
- 4 The Council is required to consult on the Existing Route Map to determine whether it is fit for purpose.
- 5 The report seeks endorsement of the Existing Route Map and the approval of the consultation arrangements.

## Background

- 6 In November 2013, the Welsh Government introduced the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 (*the Act*) which makes it a legal requirement for local authorities in Wales to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel within certain settlements specified by Welsh Government in the County Borough.
- 7 Active Travel means walking and cycling for everyday short-distance journeys, such as journeys to school, work, or for access to shops or services. Active travel does not include journeys purely made for recreation or social reasons.
- 8 The Act requires local authorities to prepare and publish the following two maps:
  - **Existing Route Map (ERM)** – primarily intended to inform the public of the existing routes in the County Borough that the Council considers suitable for active travel by the Welsh Government standards. To be submitted to the Welsh Government for approval by 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016; and
  - **Integrated Route Map (IRM)** – required to set out the Council's plans for the next 15 years and is mainly a tool to enhance the forward planning of active travel and to support infrastructure development planning. To be submitted to the Welsh Government for approval by 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Accordingly at this stage, this report only considers the emerging ERM.

## Existing Route Maps

- 9 It should be noted that the purpose of the ERM is not to show all walking and cycling routes across the County Borough. The ERM only indicates the existing routes that provide for active travel journeys and meet the requirements set by Welsh Government. The points below summarise the definition of an active travel route:
  1. A route that is suitable for walking and cycling (including the use of mobility scooters);
  2. A route that is within or links to the settlements across the County Borough as designated in the Welsh Government's Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013. These settlements include **Neath, Port Talbot, Pontardawe, Croeserw, Cymmer, Brynamman, Gwaun Cae**

**Gurwen, Blaengwrach, Glynneath, Cwmafan, Seven Sisters and Resolven;**

3. A route that fits with the definition of what constitutes an active travel journey – i.e. ‘*a journey made to or from a workplace or educational establishment or in order to access other services or facilities*’. The route has to connect to facilities and services and be suitable for utility, everyday journeys. It does not cover routes or sections of routes that are just used for leisure or recreational purposes; and
  4. A route that the Council considers fit for purpose in line with the requirements of the Welsh Government’s ‘Design Guidance Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013’.
- 10 Members should note that the ERM can only include active travel routes that satisfy each of the four points detailed above. However, some routes indicated on the map may form part of a longer distance network used for all journey purposes, including leisure and recreation.

### **Neath Port Talbot Existing Route Map**

- 11 The preparation of the draft ERM for Neath Port Talbot has been carried out in partnership with Sustrans and has followed three stages:
- 12 **Stage 1: Identification of Routes for Auditing** – working with the initial Welsh Government survey data, walking and cycling routes were identified for auditing in the prescribed settlements. This stage included data verification to ensure that the initial survey data is as accurate as possible and fit for purpose.
- 13 **Stage 2: Auditing of Existing Routes** – the route audit work included walking and cycling the selected routes from the first stage and scoring against the design guidance for the Act. This allocated an overall rating to each section and where applicable, captured any information for the associated statements.
- 14 **Stage 3: Preparation of Draft ERM (Cycle & Pedestrian Routes)** – following the audit, the draft ERM has been prepared including where relevant a narrative for the accompanying statements for any routes which do not meet the standards but are still considered suitable for inclusion on the map or why routes have been excluded.
- 15 In terms of an overview, the draft ERM for Neath Port Talbot includes:
  - **10** cycle routes that meet the standard;

- **10** cycle routes (with statements) that although failed to meet the standard, have been considered suitable for inclusion on the map;
- **35** pedestrian routes that meet the standard; and
- **17** pedestrian routes (with statements) that although failed to meet the standard have been considered suitable for inclusion on the map.

16 **Appendix 1** presents a comprehensive schedule of all routes proposed for inclusion in the draft ERM and **Appendix 2** provides maps indicating the geographical distribution of these routes.

## Consultation

17 The preparation of the Active Travel Maps has been included in the Forward Work Programme.

18 The Council is required to consult on the ERM with the purpose of the consultation being to enable the public and all interested parties to be involved in determining if the first ERM for Neath Port Talbot is fit for purpose.

19 The consultation will be held over a period of 12 weeks and will be run in partnership with Sustrans. The aim will be to reach all appropriate audiences required by the delivery guidance including children / young people and those groups with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010.

20 The consultation will be promoted and facilitated through a variety of means:

- A Press Release will be issued;
- A Questionnaire will be provided to gather data on the journeys that people are making on existing routes, feedback on the quality of existing infrastructure and/or any issues or areas for improvement, and feedback on the usefulness of potential routes;
- The Council's website will provide all relevant information and documentation, including direct links to an interactive online questionnaire;
- Information will be made available at each of the Civic Centres and all libraries across the County Borough; and
- Correspondence will be sent to all relevant individuals, stakeholders, organisations and schools (Primary and Secondary) describing the

purpose of the consultation, identifying where more information can be obtained and how representations can be made.

- 21 In accordance with the Authority's Welsh Language Scheme all publicity / communication will be bilingual. Responses will be in the language used by the respondent. The supporting background technical documentation will not be translated.
- 22 The maps will be available for purchase at a reasonable charge. In common with previous practice, it is suggested that the price be based on the cost of printing together with post and package at the prevailing cost. Electronic copies will be made available at no cost.

### **Project Timetable**

23 The projected timetable for proposal implementation is as follows:

- ERM Consultation (12 weeks) – 21<sup>st</sup> Sept to 14<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015;
- Consultation Report – January 2016; and
- ERM Submission to Welsh Government – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016.

### **Financial Impact**

24 Funding to create and consult on these maps has been provided by the Welsh Government as part of the Local Transport Fund. Costs will therefore be accommodated within existing budgets.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

25 In order to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010, an Equality Impact Assessment Screening Exercise has been carried out. The Screening Exercise concluded that there is no requirement to carry out an additional separate exercise.

### **Workforce Impacts**

26 There are no workforce impacts in respect of this report.

### **Legal Impacts**

27 The report addresses the legal requirement for the Council to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel within certain settlements specified by Welsh Government in the County Borough.

## **Risk Management**

28 The Council will be in breach of its legal requirement to prepare and publish Active Travel maps should there be a failure to implement the proposed recommendations.

## **Recommendation**

29 That having considered the report, it is resolved to make the following recommendations for approval:

1. The ERM summarised in the main body of the report and presented in Appendices 1 and 2 be agreed.
2. The engagement, consultation and document preparation arrangements as set out in the report are implemented.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

30 The recommendations are needed to:

1. Ensure compliance with the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.
2. Authorise the public consultation exercise on the ERM and related tasks.

## **Implementation of Decision**

31 The decision is an urgent one for immediate implementation, subject to the consent of the relevant Scrutiny Chair (and is therefore not subject to the call-in procedure).

## **Appendices**

32 Appendix 1 – Schedule of Routes on the Existing Route Map

33 Appendix 2 – Existing Route Maps

## **List of Background Papers**

34 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013.

35 Statutory Guidance for the Delivery of the Active Travel (Wales) Act.

36 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – Design Guidance.

## **Officer Contact**

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## Appendix 1 – Schedule of Routes on The Existing Route Map

Settlement	Reference	Type	Destination	% Audit Score	
Blaengwrach	NPT-BLAE-P002	Pedestrian	Blaengwrach Infants School to High Street via Edwards Street	76	
Blaengwrach	NPT-BLAE-P003	Pedestrian	Blaengwrach Primary School to Residential Area / High Street	71	
Bryncoch	NPT-BRYN-P001	Pedestrian	Wauinceirch Primary School to Blaenhonddan Primary School Inc Residential Areas	82	
Bryncoch	NPT-BRYN-P002	Pedestrian	2 Residential Areas linking in Blaenhonddan Primary School	71	
Bryncoch	NPT-BRYN-P003	Pedestrian	2 Residential Areas Linking In Ysgol Maes Y Coed	65	STATEMENT
Cilfrew	NPT-CIL-P001	Pedestrian	Neath Abbey/ Residential Area to Catwg Primary School	71	
Cilfrew	NPT-CIL-P002	Pedestrian	Catwg Primary School to Llangatwg Community School	74	
Cilfrew	NPT-CIL-P003	Pedestrian	Llangatwg Community School to Cilfrew Primary School	76	
Cilfrew	NPT-CIL-P004	Pedestrian	Cilfrew Primary School to Aberdulais via Swn-Yr-Afon	79	
Croeserw	NPT- CROE-P001	Pedestrian	Croeserw Industrial estate to Croeserw Primary School	76	
Croeserw	NPT- CROE-P002	Pedestrian	Croeserw Primary School to Residential Area	76	
Croeserw	NPT- CROE-C001	Cycle	Croeserw to Cymmer	82	
Croeserw	NPT- CROE-C002	Cycle	Croeserw to Caerau via Menai Avenue	54	STATEMENT
Cwmafan	NPT-CWM-P002	Pedestrian	Residential Area to Cwmafan Infants & Junior School via Ty'r- Owen	65	STATEMENT
Cwmafan	NPT-CWM-P003	Pedestrian	Cwmafan Infants & Junior School to Cwmafan Health Centre (Doctors)	94	
Cwmafan	NPT-CWM-P005	Pedestrian	Cwmafan Health Centre (Doctors) to Residential Area via Salem Road	76	
Cwmafan	NPT-CWM-C001	Cycle	Ty'r-Owen Road (Cwmafan Infants & Junior School) to Cwmafan Road	74	
Cwmafan	NPT-CWM-C002	Cycle	Ty'r-Owen Road (Cwmafan Infants & Junior School) to Tarren Terrace	70	
Cymmer	NPT-CYM-P002	Pedestrian	Cymer Afan Primary School to Residential Area / Station Road	74	
Cymmer	NPT-CYM-C002	Cycle	Route From Duffryn To Cymer Afan Comprehensive School	72	
Cymmer	NPT-CYM-C003	Cycle	NCN linking to Cymer Afan Comprehensive School & Croeserw	46	STATEMENT
Glynneath	NPT- GLYN-P001	Pedestrian	Residential Area to Cwmnedd Primary Schools via Park Avenue	74	
Glynneath	NPT- GLYN-P002	Pedestrian	Cwmnedd Primary School to Doctors Surgery and Pharmacy	82	



Glynneath	NPT-GLYN-P003	Pedestrian	Residential area to Doctors Surgery and Pharmacy via High Street	61	STATEMENT
Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen	NPT-GCG-P001	Pedestrian	Residential Area to Gwaun Cae Gurwen Primary School via Brynamman Road	79	
Cwmgors	NPT-GCG-P003	Pedestrian	Residential Areas linking to Cwmgors Primary School via Heol-Y-Gors	74	
Lower Brynamman	NPT-LBA-C001	Cycle	Lower Brynamman to Twyn Via Amman Valley Cycle route.	75	
Neath	NPT-NEA-P0040	Pedestrian	Neath Train Station to Neath Civic Centre	91	
Neath	NPT-NEA-P0090	Pedestrian	Church Street / Shelone to NPT-PT-P0080	63	STATEMENT
Neath	NPT-NEA-P00120	Pedestrian	Angel Street to Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School	55	STATEMENT
Neath	NPT-NEA-C0080	Cycle	Council Offices The Quays to Baglan Energy Park	70	
Neath	NPT-NEA-C00100	Cycle	NCN47 / NCN4 - Baldwin's Crescent (Bay Campus)	69	STATEMENT
Neath	NPT-NEA-C00110	Cycle	NCN4 Baldwin's Crescent to NCN4 Ffordd Amazon	74	
Neath Abbey	NPT-NAB-P001	Pedestrian	Residential / commercial area to Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School & Neath College	58	STATEMENT
Neath Abbey	NPT-NAB-P002	Pedestrian	Dwr y Felin Comprehensive School & Neath College to Waunceirch Primary School	47	STATEMENT
Neath Abbey	NPT-NAB-P003	Pedestrian	Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School & Neath College To Cadoxton	50	STATEMENT
Pontardawe	NPT-PON-P0010	Pedestrian	Clydach - Cwmtawe School, retail Park & Pontardawe Leisure Centre	85	
Pontardawe	NPT-PON-P0020	Pedestrian	Pontardawe Retail Park to Pontardawe Town Centre	85	
Pontardawe	NPT-PON-P0090	Pedestrian	Ystalyfera to Supermarket	66	STATEMENT
Pontardawe	NPT-PON-P00110	Pedestrian	Godre'r Graig Village Route	73	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P0010	Pedestrian	Port Talbot Steel Works	78	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P0020	Pedestrian	Neath Port Talbot College	83	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P0030	Pedestrian	Port Talbot Steel Works	50	STATEMENT
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P0040	Pedestrian	Taibach Centre (including Central Primary School)	64	STATEMENT
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P0050	Pedestrian	Port Talbot Steel Works	83	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P0060	Pedestrian	NPT Council Offices / Port Talbot Town Centre - Port Talbot Parkway	85	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P0070	Pedestrian	Port Talbot Town Centre - Felindre (Route 887)	84	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P0080	Pedestrian	Port Talbot Parkway	65	STATEMENT

Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P0090	Pedestrian	PDR Pedestrian Route - Port Talbot Steel Works to Port Talbot Station via NCN4	75	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P00140	Pedestrian	Retail Park - Junction Fairway Road / Southdown Road	59	STATEMENT
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P00150	Pedestrian	Sandfields Comprehensive School - Southdown Road Subway	62	STATEMENT
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-P00180	Pedestrian	Magistrates Court	83	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-C0010	Cycle	Port Talbot Parkway to Margam (Port Talbot Parkway / Taibach / Tata Offices)	84	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-C0020	Cycle	NCN4 & Port Talbot Steel Works (Port Talbot Steel Works)	67	STATEMENT
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-C0040	Cycle	Port Talbot Civic Centre to Route 887 (Villiers Street)	79	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-C0080	Cycle	Riverside Road to Scarlet Avenue	52	STATEMENT
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-C0090	Cycle	Afan Way	76	
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-C00110	Cycle	Scarlet Avenue / Purcell Avenue to Youth Centre	60	STATEMENT
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-C00130	Cycle	NCN4 The Quays to Baglan Train Station	69	STATEMENT
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-C00150	Cycle	Bus Station via Courts	64	STATEMENT
Port Talbot	NPT-PT-C00160	Cycle	Hospital link	60	STATEMENT
Resolven	NPT-RES-P002	Pedestrian	Industrial park / works to Commercial Road via John Street	71	
Seven Sisters	NPT-SEV-P003	Pedestrian	Residential Area to Blaendulais Primary School via Heol Hen	71	
Skewen	NPT-SKW-P002	Pedestrian	Pen yr Heol Residential Area to Skewen Train Station	61	STATEMENT
Skewen	NPT-SKW-P003	Pedestrian	Residential Area / Wern Road to Coedffranc Primary School	74	
Skewen	NPT-SKW-P004	Pedestrian	Residential Area / Siding Terrace to Coedffranc Primary School	71	
Skewen	NPT-SKW-P005	Pedestrian	Residential Area / Dynevor Road to Skewen Strain Station	76	
Skewen	NPT-SKW-P006	Pedestrian	Coedffranc Primary School to Neath Abbey Infants school	65	STATEMENT
Tonna	NPT-TON-P001	Pedestrian	Residential Area to Tonnau Primary Community School	71	
Tonna	NPT-TON-P002	Pedestrian	Residential Area to Tonnau Primary Community School	74	
Tonna	NPT-TON-P003	Pedestrian	Tonna Hospital to Residential area in centre of Tonna	64	STATEMENT
Tonna	NPT-TON-C001	Cycle	NCN 47 Neath to Tonna (Henfaes Road) connections to Tonnau Primary Community School	63	STATEMENT

## **Appendix 2 – Existing Route Maps**

Map 1: ERM – Brynamman & Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Map 2: ERM – Blaengwrach, Glynneath, Resolven & Seven Sisters

Map 3: ERM – Cymmer / Croeserw

Map 4: ERM – Cwmafan & Port Talbot

Map 5a: ERM – Neath (South)

Map 5b: ERM – Neath (North)

Map 6: ERM – Pontardawe (including Ystalyfera & Godre'r Graig)





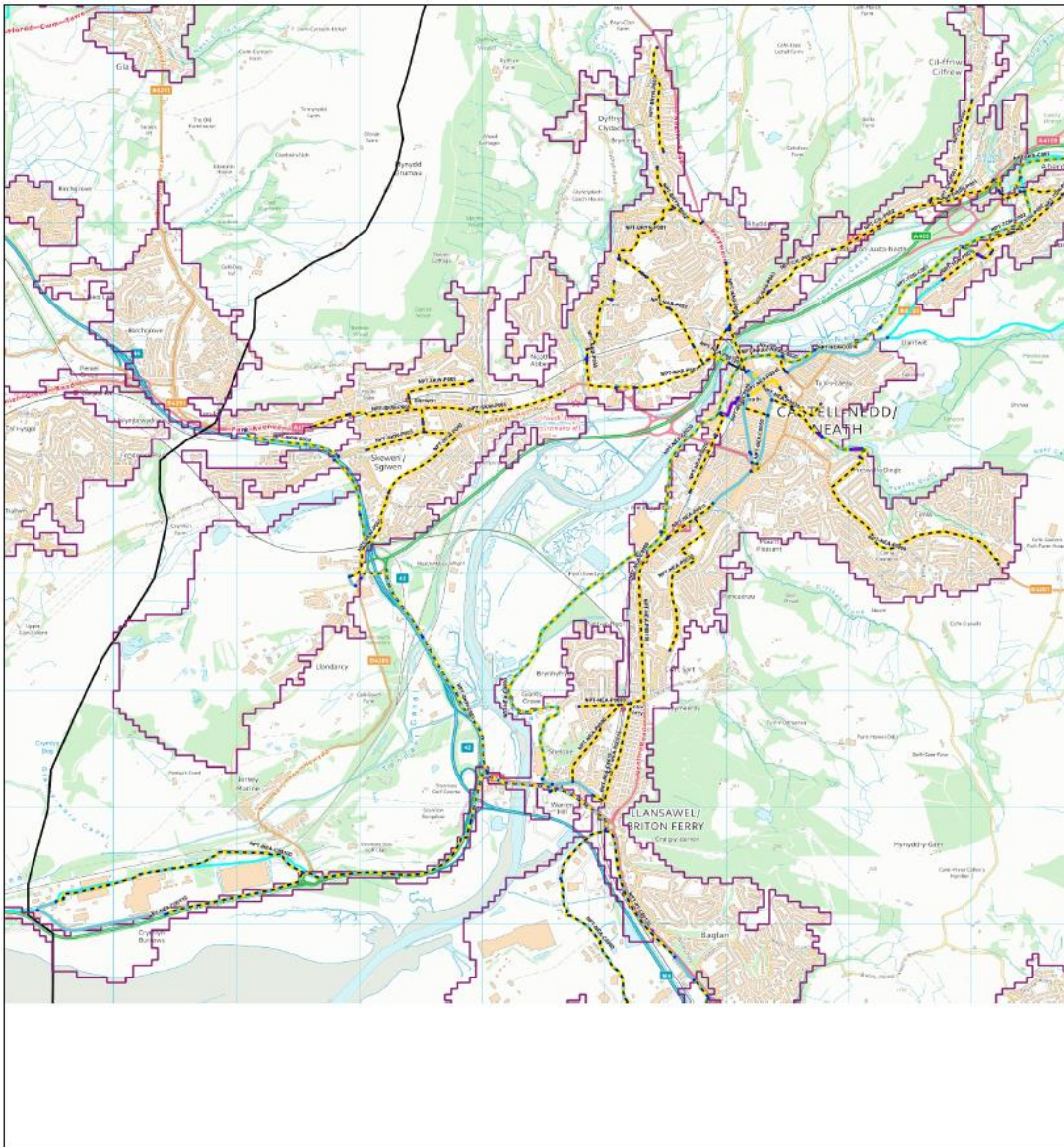




Map 5a: ERM- Neath (South)

Produced by the Active Travel web site. Gynhyrchwyd gan y wefan Teltŷio Llesol.

Neath Port Talbot Council  
The Council Office  
Neath  
SA61 2JH



**Legend / Eglurhad**

- Active Travel Routes / Lwybrau Teltŷio Llesol
- Cycle Network / Rhewyddi Bectol
- Suburban Areas / Wladfaol Ardaloedd
- Admin Areas / Wladfaol Gyrraeddol
- Footpaths / Ffyrddys
- Cycle routes / Rhewyddi Bectol
- Footpaths / Ffyrddys
- Suburban Areas / Wladfaol Ardaloedd
- Admin Areas / Wladfaol Gyrraeddol
- Cycle routes / Rhewyddi Bectol
- Footpaths / Ffyrddys
- Suburban Areas / Wladfaol Ardaloedd
- Admin Areas / Wladfaol Gyrraeddol



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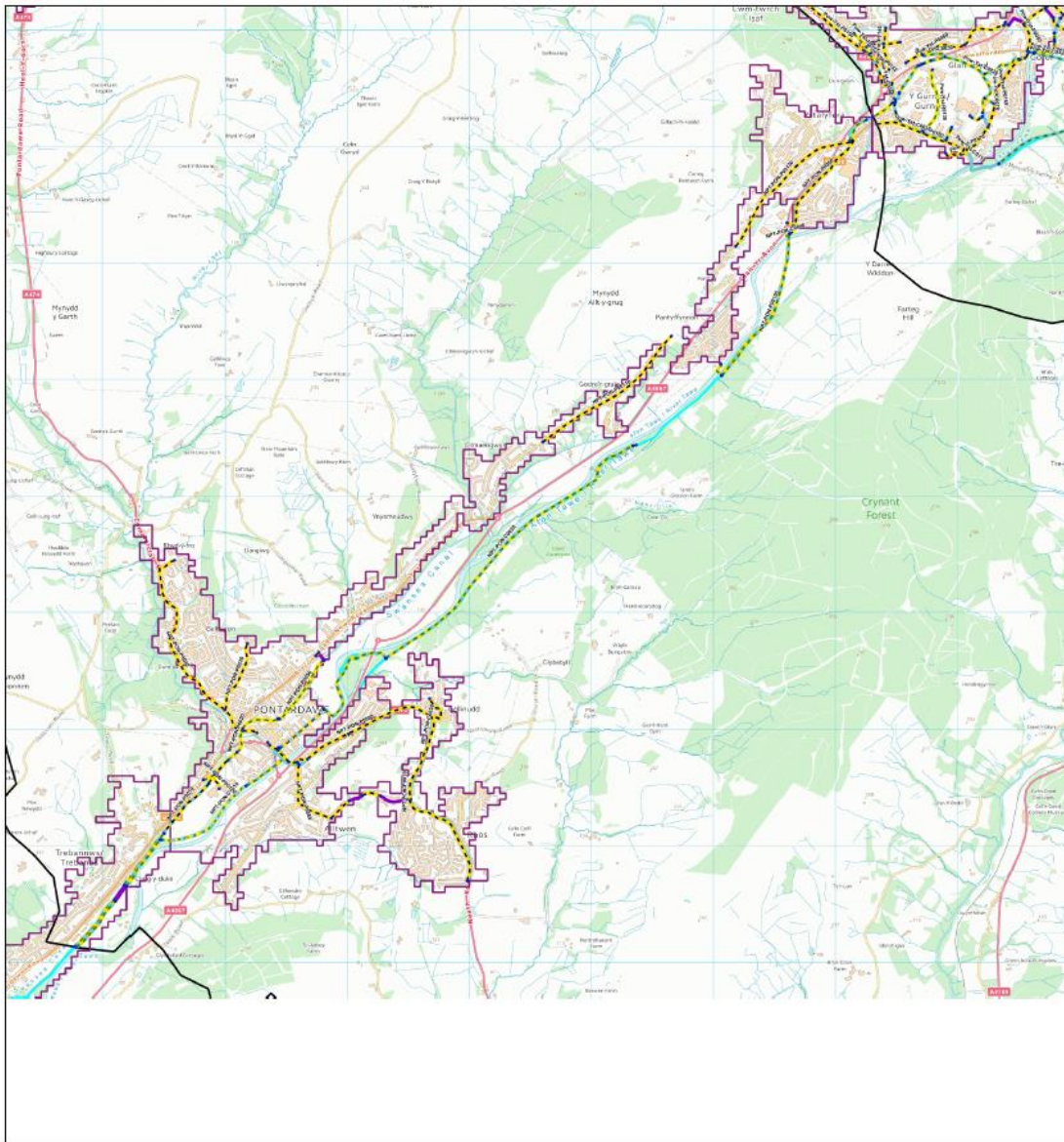






Map 6: ERM- Pontardawe (Including Ystalyfera & Godre'r Graig)

Produced by the Active Travel web site. Gynhyrchwyd gan y wefan Teithio Llesol.



**Legend / Eglurhad**

- Active Travel Routes / Ffyrddau Teithio Llesol
- Routes of local importance / Ffyrddau Lleol o Gyswrt
- Routes of regional importance / Ffyrddau o Gyswrt Reolaidd
- Routes of national importance / Ffyrddau o Gyswrt Gwladol
- Routes of international importance / Ffyrddau o Gyswrt Interneddiol
- Routes of local importance / Ffyrddau Lleol o Gyswrt
- Routes of regional importance / Ffyrddau o Gyswrt Reolaidd
- Routes of national importance / Ffyrddau o Gyswrt Gwladol
- Routes of international importance / Ffyrddau o Gyswrt Interneddiol
- Routes of local importance / Ffyrddau Lleol o Gyswrt
- Routes of regional importance / Ffyrddau o Gyswrt Reolaidd
- Routes of national importance / Ffyrddau o Gyswrt Gwladol
- Routes of international importance / Ffyrddau o Gyswrt Interneddiol

Built-up Areas / Ardal-ddwbl  
 Admin Areas / Ardal-ddwbl

Cycle Network / Rheolyddwr Bectol

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