

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

23rd June 2017

Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection

Nicola Pearce

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: All

Active Travel (Wales) Act – Consideration of: the requirements of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013; the revised Existing Route Map (ERM) for Neath Port Talbot; the Consultation Draft Integrated Network Map (INM) for Neath Port Talbot; and the publication / consultation procedures to be implemented.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider the requirements for the delivery of the Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013; to agree the *revised* Existing Route Map (ERM) for Neath Port Talbot; to agree the *Consultation Draft* Integrated Network Map (INM) for Neath Port Talbot; and to authorise the publication / consultation procedures to be implemented.

Executive Summary

- 2 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 (*the Act*) 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 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.
- 4 The Act requires local authorities to prepare, publish and keep under review an Existing Route Map (ERM) and an Integrated Network Map (INM).

- 5 The Council's ERM (first approved in 2016) has been reviewed and a draft INM has been prepared with sets out the Council's aspirations for the next 15 years, identifying improvements to existing routes or new routes that the Council considers should be developed and added to the active travel network. The Council is required to consult on both maps to determine whether they are fit for purpose.
- 6 This report seeks endorsement of the revisions to the ERM, the *Consultation Draft* INM and the approval of the publication and consultation arrangements to be implemented.

Background

- 7 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 settlements specified by Welsh Government.
- 8 Those settlements in Neath Port Talbot include: **Neath, Port Talbot, Pontardawe, Croeserw, Cymmer, Brynamman, Gwaun Cae Gurwen, Blaengwrach, Glynneath, Cwmafan, Seven Sisters and Resolven.**
- 9 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.
- 10 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 meeting Welsh Government standards; and
 - **Integrated Network Map (INM)** – required to set out the Council's aspirations for the next 15 years, identifying improvements to existing routes or new routes that the Council considers should be developed and added to the network. The INM is therefore mainly a tool to enhance the forward planning of active travel and to support infrastructure development planning.

Existing Route Map (ERM)

- 11 The Council prepared, consulted upon and submitted its ERM to the Welsh Government early in 2016. Following a period of review, the Council subsequently received Ministerial approval on 12th August 2016.
- 12 The ERM does not show all walking and cycling routes across the County Borough, it only indicates those existing routes that provide for active travel journeys meeting the requirements set by Welsh Government.
- 13 In accordance with Welsh Government guidance, and in parallel to the work on the emerging INM, the Council's ERM has been kept under review. This review has identified a limited number of additional routes that have warranted consideration for inclusion and consequently, these routes have been audited and scored against the design guidance in the Act.
- 14 The proposed revised draft ERM for Neath Port Talbot therefore includes the following four additional routes, the details for which are shown in **Appendix 1** – all other routes included on the approved ERM remain unchanged:
 - *NPT-NEA-C00120*: cycle route from Crymlyn Parc to Serecold Avenue, Skewen;
 - *NPT-PON-C0050*: cycle route from Bryn Morgrug to Valley Route;
 - *NPT-PT-C00170*: cycle route from Port Talbot Parkway to Harbour Way; and
 - *NPT-PT-P0200*: pedestrian route from Port Talbot Bus Station to Green Park.

Integrated Network Map (INM) – Methodology

- 15 The methodology applied to the preparation of the draft INM for Neath Port Talbot has been developed in collaboration with neighbouring Local Authorities, in order to ensure that a consistent approach is taken across administrative boundaries.
- 16 To date, the draft INM has been informed and based on the outputs of the following three work stages:
 - Stage 1 – Information Gathering & Journey Mapping;

- Stage 2 – Route Assessment / Feasibility; and
- Stage 3 – 1st Consultation (Jan-Feb'17).

Stage 1 – Information Gathering & Journey Mapping

- 17 Building on the ERM exercise, information has been collected from a variety of sources to establish the active travel journeys that people are already making within Neath Port Talbot. Trip departure (e.g. residential areas) and destination points (e.g. trip attractors, employment, health care, education) were mapped to establish the main 'desire lines' that exist for both pedestrian and cycle routes within each settlement.

Stage 2 – Route Assessment / Feasibility

- 18 To convert the identified 'desire lines' into proposed routes, the 'desire lines' have been assessed / audited to determine their feasibility as active travel routes. Suitability of the routes in terms of comfort, attractiveness, accessibility / coherence and safety were all considered along with potential improvements that could be made.

Stage 3 – 1st Consultation (Jan-Feb'17)

- 19 Earlier this year, an initial opportunity was taken to conduct a short, focussed public / stakeholder consultation to determine what active travel journeys are currently made; what perceived or actual barriers exist that limit the ability to make active travel journeys; and which routes are considered desirable to be included on the INM.
- 20 The public, delivery partners, 'seldom heard groups' and children / young people were specifically targeted with a variety of engagement methods employed, including an online survey, a community event and school 'show of hands' surveys.
- 21 These efforts supplemented work that officers had already carried out in respect of community events and visits to a number of schools across the County Borough, where pupils had been actively engaged in workshop discussion about their journeys to school and other activities.

Neath Port Talbot INM – Consultation Draft

- 22 The *Consultation Draft* INM for Neath Port Talbot is presented in **Appendix 2**. Consisting of a schedule of routes listed by settlement along with a series of location maps, this 15-year forward plan shows

routes where either improvements could be made or where new routes could be developed.

- 23 Members should note that the INM is an aspirational document and not a commitment to deliver. Notwithstanding this point, the INM will be an important document for the Council and should be considered as part of the planning decision making process so that the aspirations are realised as part of ongoing development, either directly or by means of financial contributions from developers.
- 24 In terms of an overview, the draft INM includes the following (these are in addition to the routes included on the ERM):
- Total number of routes – **100**;
 - Number of routes by type – **58 cycling** and **42 pedestrian**;
 - Number of routes identified as having potential for delivery in the short term – **56**; and
 - Number of routes identified as long term / aspirational – **44**.

Consultation

- 25 The Council is required to formally consult on both the proposed additions to the ERM and draft INM with the purpose of the consultation to determine whether they are fit for purpose.
- 26 In accordance with national guidance, the consultation will be held over a period of 12 weeks, commencing in late June. 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.
- 27 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 survey;
 - Information will be made available at the Civic Centres; 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.

28 In accordance with the Council's Welsh Language Scheme all publicity / communication will be bilingual. Responses will be in the language used by the respondent.

29 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.

Timetable

30 The timetable for implementation is as follows:

- Revised ERM and INM Consultation (12 weeks) – Monday 26th June to Monday 18th September 2017;
- Cabinet Board approval of Consultation Report, Final INM & Prioritisation – October 2017; and
- Submission of Revised ERM and INM to Welsh Government – 3rd November 2017.

Financial Impact

31 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.

32 In respect of the delivery of schemes, it should again be emphasised that as the INM is an aspirational document and not a commitment to deliver, there are consequently no financial implications for the Council in the longer term. For those schemes that are delivered, it is expected that they will primarily be funded as part of ongoing development, either directly or by means of financial contributions received from developers.

Equality Impact Assessment

33 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

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

Legal Impacts

35 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.

Risk Management

36 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

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

1. The revised ERM summarised in the main body of the report and presented in **Appendix 1** be agreed as forming the basis of consultation.
2. The INM summarised in the main body of the report and presented in **Appendix 2** be agreed as forming the basis of consultation.
3. The engagement and consultation arrangements as set out in the report are implemented.

Reasons for Proposed Decision

38 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 revised ERM and INM and related tasks.

Implementation of Decision

- 39 The decision is for immediate implementation and the relevant Scrutiny Chair has agreed to this course of action.

Appendices

- 40 Appendix 1 – Revisions to the ERM
41 Appendix 2 – INM Consultation Draft (Schedule & Maps)

List of Background Papers

- 42 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013
43 Statutory Guidance for the Delivery of the Active Travel (Wales) Act
44 The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 – Design Guidance

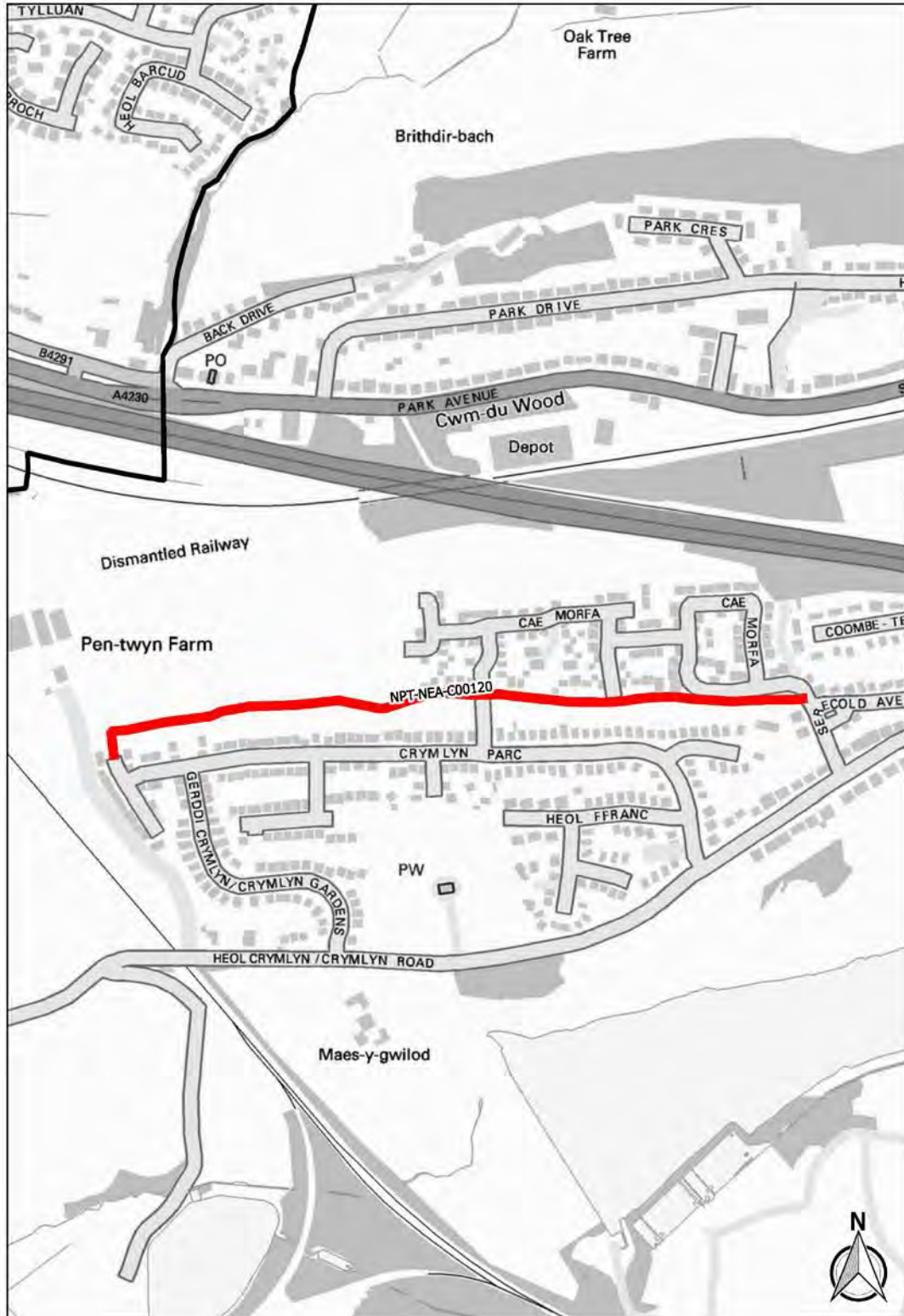
Officer Contact

- 45 Ceri Morris – Planning Policy Manager [Tel: 01639 686320 / E-mail: c.morris1@npt.gov.uk]

Appendix 1 – Revisions to the ERM

Settlement: Neath

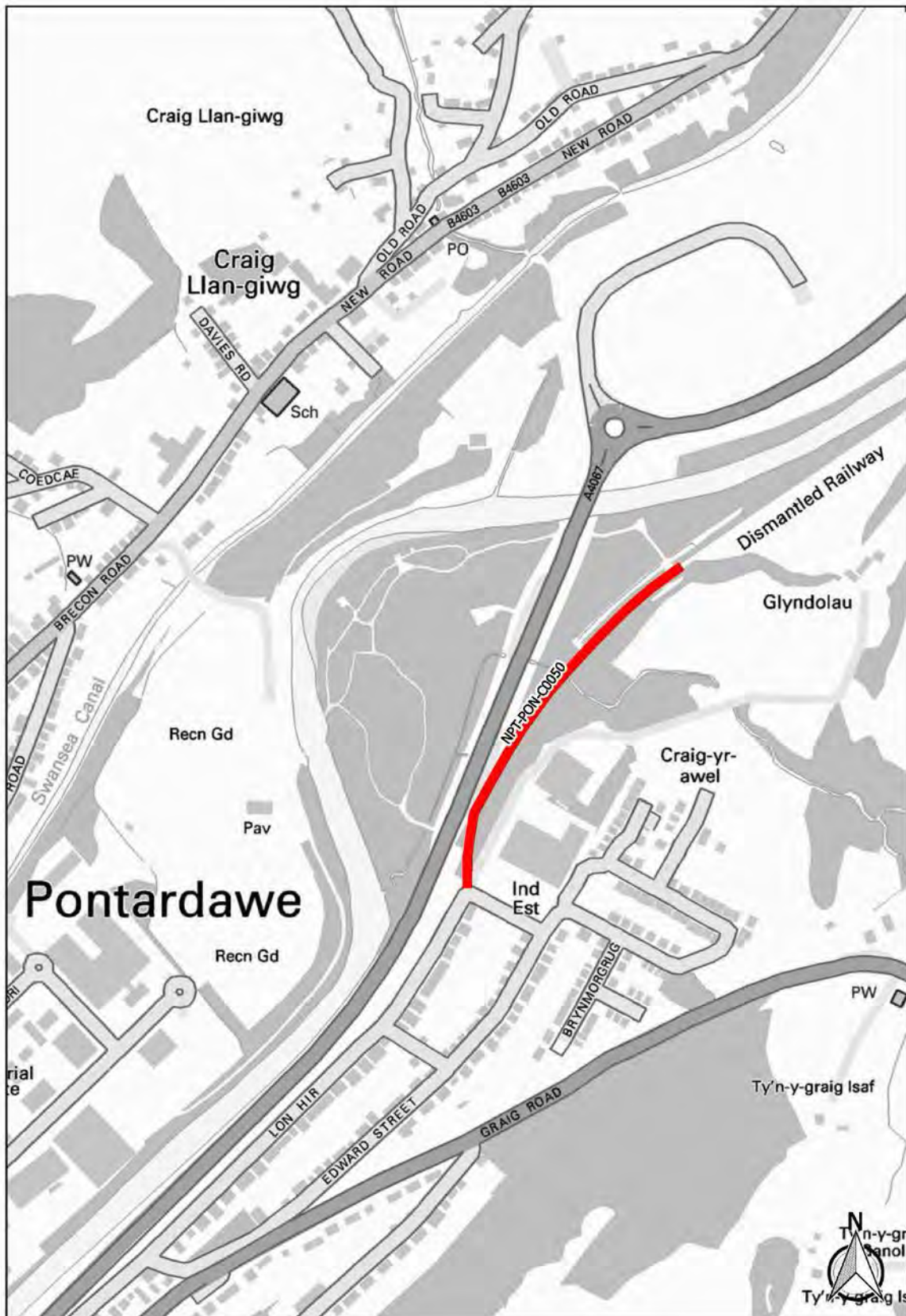
Ref:	NPT-NEA-C00120	Type:	Cycle	% Audit Score ¹ :	82%
Description:	Crymlyn Parc to Serecold Avenue, Skewen				



¹ A 70% Audit Score constitutes a 'Pass' for a route to be included.

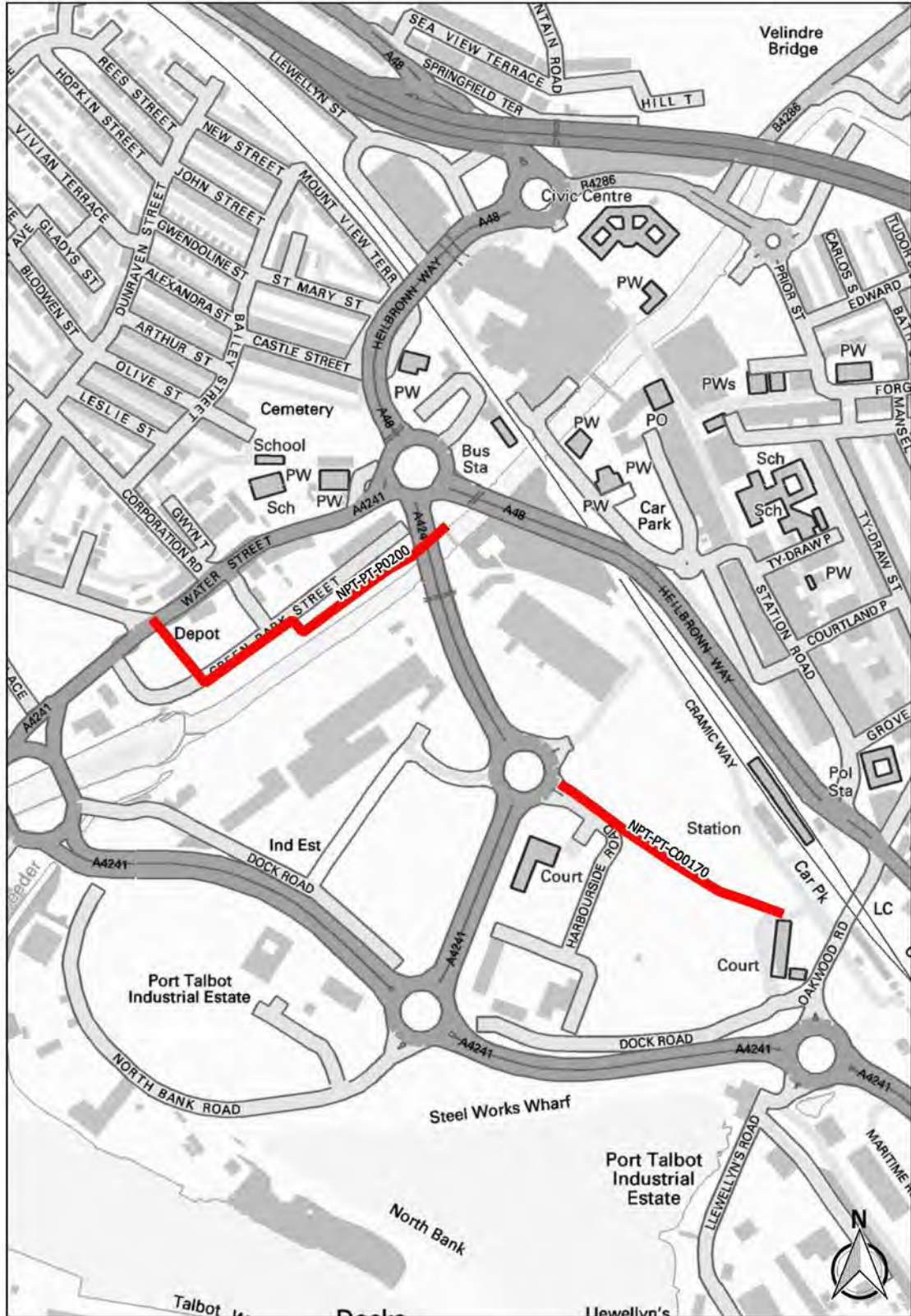
Settlement: Pontardawe

Ref:	NPT-PON-C0050	Type:	Cycle	% Audit Score:	78%
Description:	Bryn Morgrug to Valley Route				



Settlement: Port Talbot

Ref:	NPT-PT-C00170	Type:	Cycle	% Audit Score:	88%
Description:	Port Talbot Parkway to Harbour Way				
Ref:	NPT-PT-P0200	Type:	Pedestrian	% Audit Score:	95%
Description:	Port Talbot Bus Station to Green Park				



Appendix 2 – INM Consultation Draft (Schedule & Maps)

Settlement / BUA	Reference	Type	Description	Term
Blaengwrach	INM-BLAE-P001	Pedestrian	Glynneath to High Street	Short
Brynamman	INM-LBA-C001	Cycling	Forge Washery Amman Valley	Short
Brynamman	INM-LBA-C002	Cycling	Cwmllynfell Amman Valley	Long
Brynamman	INM-LBA-P001	Pedestrian	Residential Area / Connection to GCG & School Street	Short
Croeserw	INM-CROE-C001	Cycling	Croeserw to Caerau via Menai Avenue	Short
Cwmafan	INM-CWM-P001	Pedestrian	Residential Area to Cwmafan Infants & Junior School via Ty'r-Owen	Short
Cwmafan	INM-CWM-P002	Pedestrian	Residential Area to Salem Road via Heol Jiwbilli	Short
Cwmafan	INM-CWM-P003	Pedestrian	Ynysygwas Hill	Long
Cwmafan	INM-CWM-C001	Cycling	Port Talbot to Cwmafan	Long
Cymmer	INM-CYM-C001	Cycling	NCN linking to Cymer Afan Comprehensive School & Croeserw	Short
Cymmer	INM-CYM-C002	Cycling	Cymmer to Routes leading to Glyncorwg	Short
Cymmer	INM-CYM-P001	Pedestrian	Cymmer Bus Depot to Cymer Afan Comprehensive School	Short
Glynneath	INM-GLYN-C001	Cycling	Abergarwed to Glynneath	Long
Glynneath	INM-GLYN-P001	Pedestrian	Residential area to Doctors Surgery and Pharmacy via High Street	Short
Gwaun Cae Gurwen	INM-GCG-C001	Cycling	Gwaun Cae Gurwen to Garnant	Long
Gwaun Cae Gurwen	INM-GCG-C002	Cycling	Gwaun Cae Gurwen to Brynamman	Long
Gwaun Cae Gurwen	INM-GCG-C003	Cycling	Pontardawe to Gwaun Cae Gurwen	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C001	Cycling	Neath to Pontardawe	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C002	Cycling	Neath to Skewen	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C003	Cycling	Bryncoch to Taillwyd Road	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C004	Cycling	Cimla to Afan Valley along B4287	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C005	Cycling	Neath Abbey to Bryncoch	Long

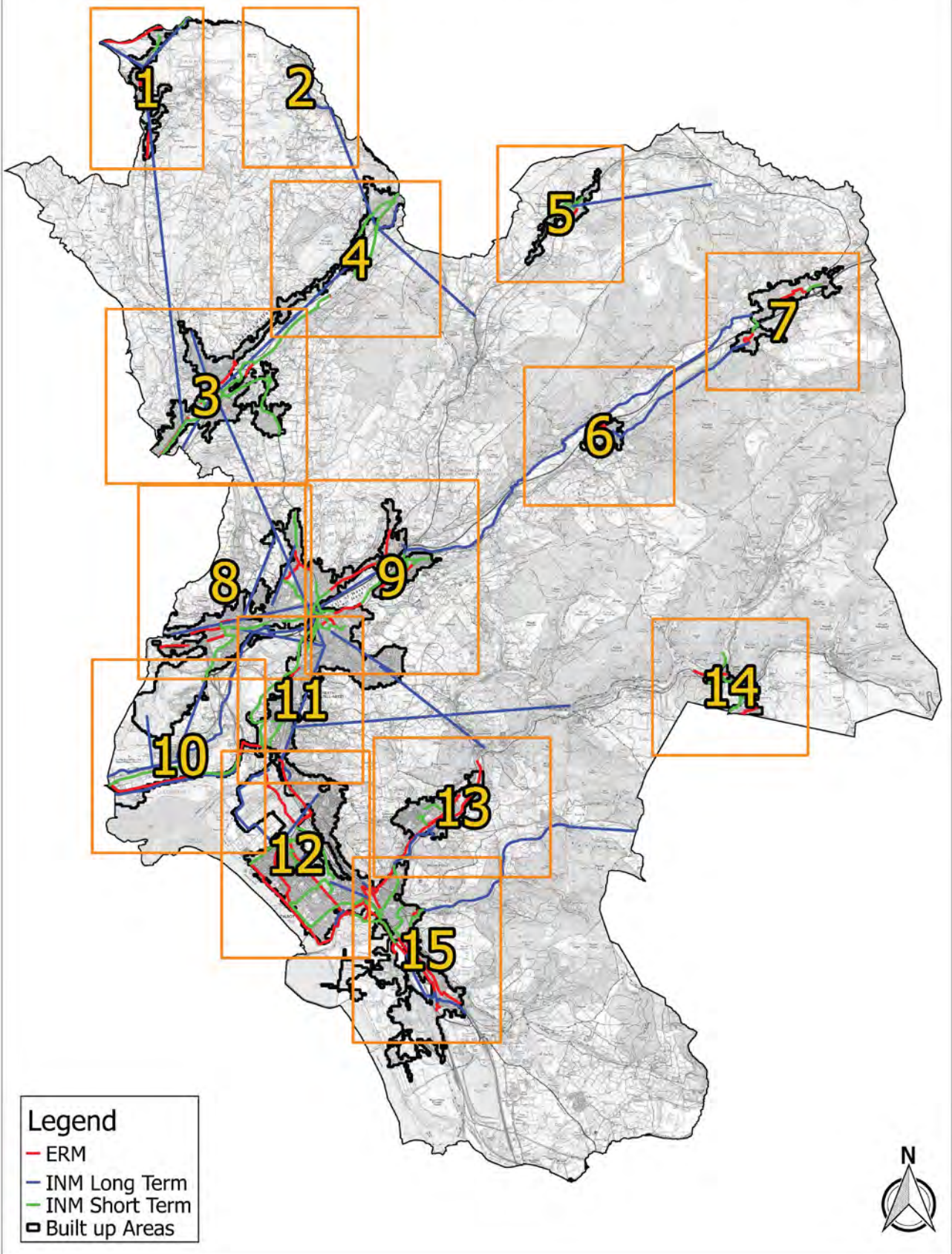
Neath	INM-NEA-C006	Cycling	Neath College to Cadoxton	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C007	Cycling	Skewen	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C008	Cycling	Briton Ferry to Cynonville via Tonmawr	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C009	Cycling	Neath to Cimla	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C010	Cycling	Briton Ferry to Neath	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C011	Cycling	NCN47 Neath to Tonna (Henfaes Road) connections to Tonnau Primary Community School	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-C012	Cycling	NCN47 Bridge near Industrial Estate – Industrial Estate, Melincryddan	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-C013	Cycling	Industrial Estate, Melincryddan – NCN 47 Bridge Street	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-C014	Cycling	Resolven to Aberdulais and Tonna	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C015	Cycling	NCN47 Tonna Henfaes Road (connections to Tonnau Primary Community School) to Aberdulais	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-C016	Cycling	Jersey Marine to Coed Darcy	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C017	Cycling	Jersey Marine to Neath College	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C018	Cycling	Tennant Canal	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C019	Cycling	Swansea University Bay Campus	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C020	Cycling	Coed Darcy	Long
Neath	INM-NEA-C021	Cycling	NCN47/NCN4 – Baldwin's Crescent (Bay Campus)	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P001	Pedestrian	Two residential areas linking in Ysgol Maes Y Coed	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P002	Pedestrian	Tonna Hospital to residential area in centre of Tonna	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P003	Pedestrian	Coedffranc Primary School to Neath Abbey Infants School	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P004	Pedestrian	Pen yr Heol residential area to Skewen Train Station	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P005	Pedestrian	Church Street/Shelone – NPT-PT-P0080	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P006	Pedestrian	Briton Ferry Train Station – Giant's Grave Road	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P007	Pedestrian	Bridge Street to residential area via canal towpath	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P008	Pedestrian	Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive School & Neath College To Cadoxton	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P009	Pedestrian	Neath Train Station to Melincryddan Industrial Estate	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P010	Pedestrian	Residential / commercial area to Dwr y Felin Comprehensive School & Neath College	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P011	Pedestrian	Dwr y Felin Comprehensive School & Neath College to Waunceirch Primary School	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P012	Pedestrian	Llandarcy Business Centre / residential area to Pen yr Heol residential area	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P013	Pedestrian	Neath Train Station – Milland Road Industrial Estate	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P014	Pedestrian	Angel Street to Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive School	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P015	Pedestrian	Residential area to Neath via Pen Y Wern Road	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P016	Pedestrian	Llangatwg Community School to Tonna via Aberdulais	Short
Neath	INM-NEA-P017	Pedestrian	Access to Aberdulais	Long

Pontardawe	INM-PON-C001	Cycling	Crynant to Ystalyfera	Long
Pontardawe	INM-PON-C002	Cycling	Ystalyfera to Cwmllynfell	Long
Pontardawe	INM-PON-C003	Cycling	Glan yr Afon Road – no pavement	Long
Pontardawe	INM-PON-C004	Cycling	Glais to Cwmtawe School	Long
Pontardawe	INM-PON-C005	Cycling	Godre'r Graig to Cwmtawe School	Long
Pontardawe	INM-PON-C006	Cycling	Rhydyfro Primary School to Pontardawe	Long
Pontardawe	INM-PON-C007	Cycling	Clydach to Cwm Tawe School and Pontardawe Leisure Centre	Short
Pontardawe	INM-PON-C008	Cycling	Pontardawe to Godre'r Graig via Route 43	Short
Pontardawe	INM-PON-C009	Cycling	Godre'r Graig to Ystalyfera via Route 43	Short
Pontardawe	INM-PON-C010	Cycling	NCN43 to Pontardawe Town Centre	Long
Pontardawe	INM-PON-P001	Pedestrian	Godre'r Graig to Supermarket	Short
Pontardawe	INM-PON-P002	Pedestrian	Rhos to Gellinudd Hospital	Short
Pontardawe	INM-PON-P003	Pedestrian	Swansea Road to Cwmtawe School and Pontardawe Leisure Centre	Short
Pontardawe	INM-PON-P004	Pedestrian	Ystalyfera Village Route	Short
Pontardawe	INM-PON-P005	Pedestrian	Pontardawe to Gellinudd	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C001	Cycling	Old Road Baglan (bottom of Thorne Hill) – no pavement	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C002	Cycling	Sandfields – possibility of new route along Fairway	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C003	Cycling	Afan Way to Riverside Road	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C004	Cycling	The Quays to Western Avenue playing fields	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C005	Cycling	Port Talbot Steelworks – Alternative NCN4	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C006	Cycling	Taibach to Goytre	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C007	Cycling	Bryn to Maesteg	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C008	Cycling	NCN4 and Port Talbot Steelworks	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C009	Cycling	Scarlett Avenue / Purcell Avenue – Youth Centre	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C010	Cycling	NCN887 River Afan to Port Talbot Parkway	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C011	Cycling	Baglan Way	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C012	Cycling	Neath Port Talbot Hospital Link	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C013	Cycling	Goytre to Bryn	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C014	Cycling	Bus Station to Hospital	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-C015	Cycling	Bae Baglan to Baglan	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P001	Pedestrian	Sandfields Comprehensive School – Southdown Road Subway	Short

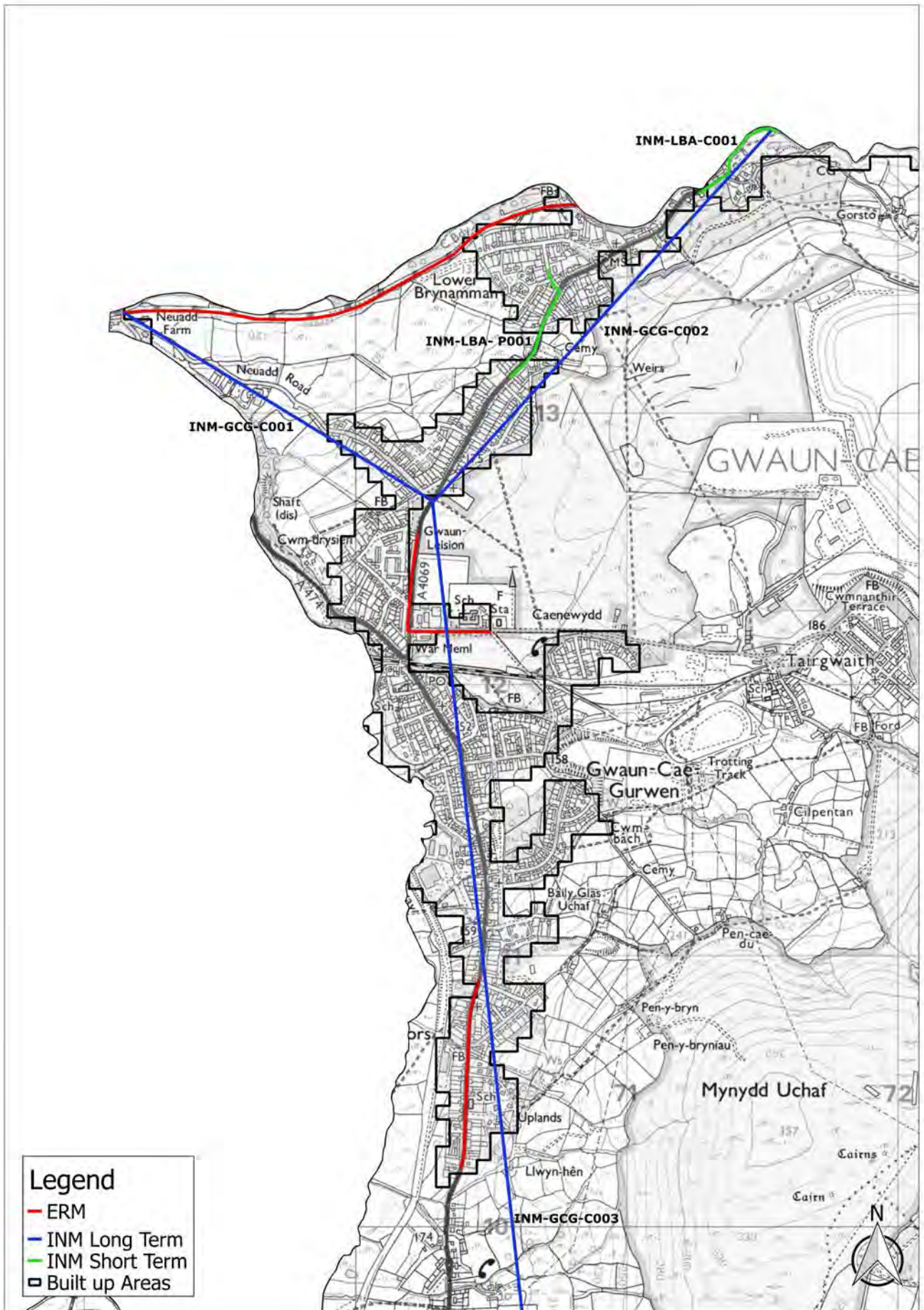
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P002	Pedestrian	Port Talbot Parkway	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P003	Pedestrian	Port Talbot Steelworks	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P004	Pedestrian	Bus Station to Port Talbot Parkway	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P005	Pedestrian	Retail Park – Junction of Fairway Road / Southdown Road	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P006	Pedestrian	Bus Station to Port Talbot Parkway	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P007	Pedestrian	Sports Centre to Port Talbot Bus Station	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P008	Pedestrian	Hospital – Leisure Centre	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P009	Pedestrian	Village Gardens to Seaway Parade Youth Centre	Short
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P010	Pedestrian	Civic Centre to Baglan	Long
Port Talbot	INM-PT-P011	Pedestrian	Christchurch Road to Morrisons	Long
Resolven	INM-RES-C001	Cycling	Blaengwrach to Resolven south of A465	Long
Seven Sisters	INM-SEV-C001	Cycling	Dove Workshops to Seven Sisters	Long
Seven Sisters	INM-SEV-P001	Pedestrian	Residential area to Blaendulais Primary School via Church Street	Short
Seven Sisters	INM-SEV-P002	Pedestrian	Residential area to Blaendulais Primary School via Brynhyfryd Terrace	Short

INM Map: County Borough Overview

Active Travel Proposed Integrated Network Map



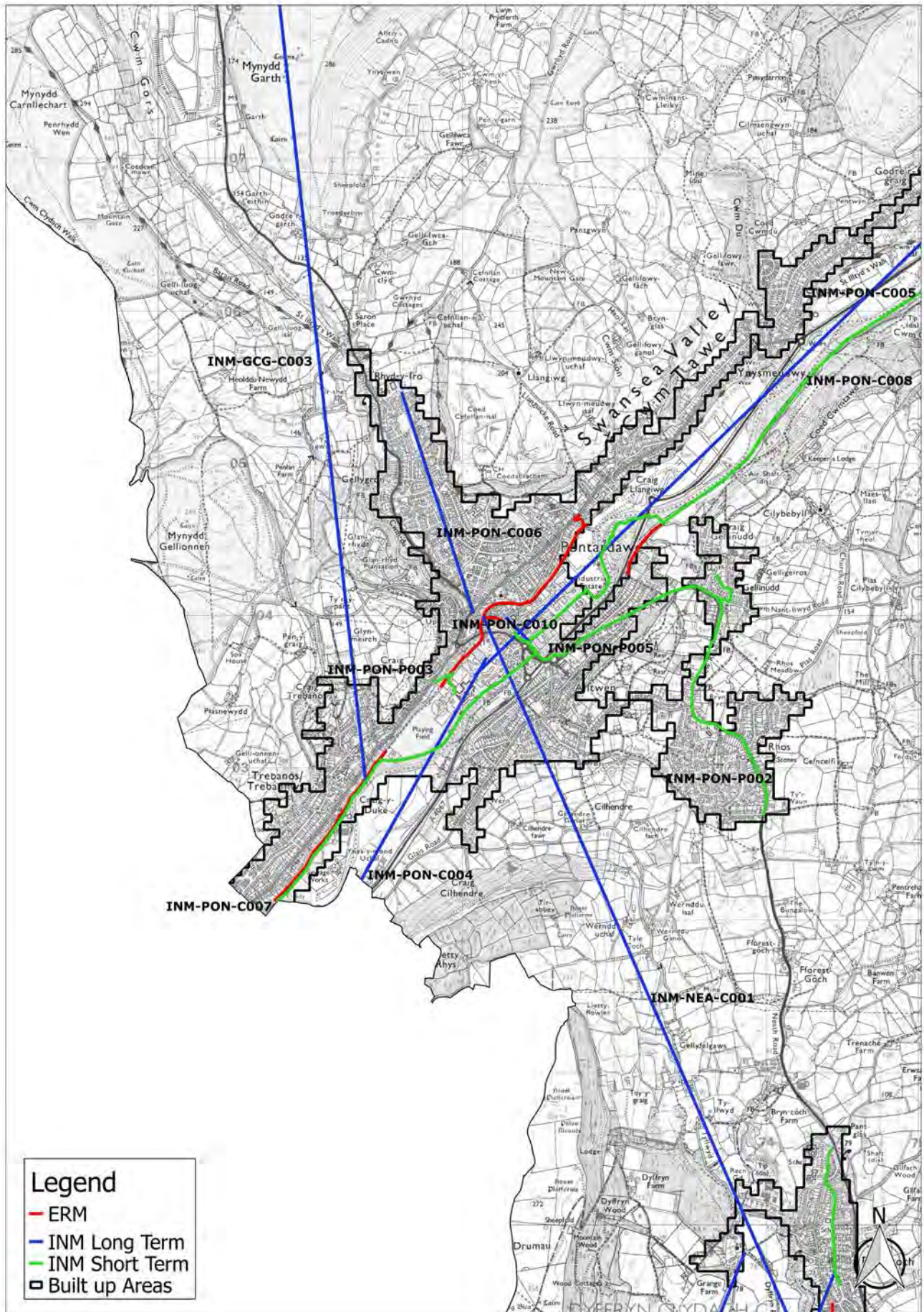
INM Map 1: Lower Brynamman & Gwaun Cae Gurwen



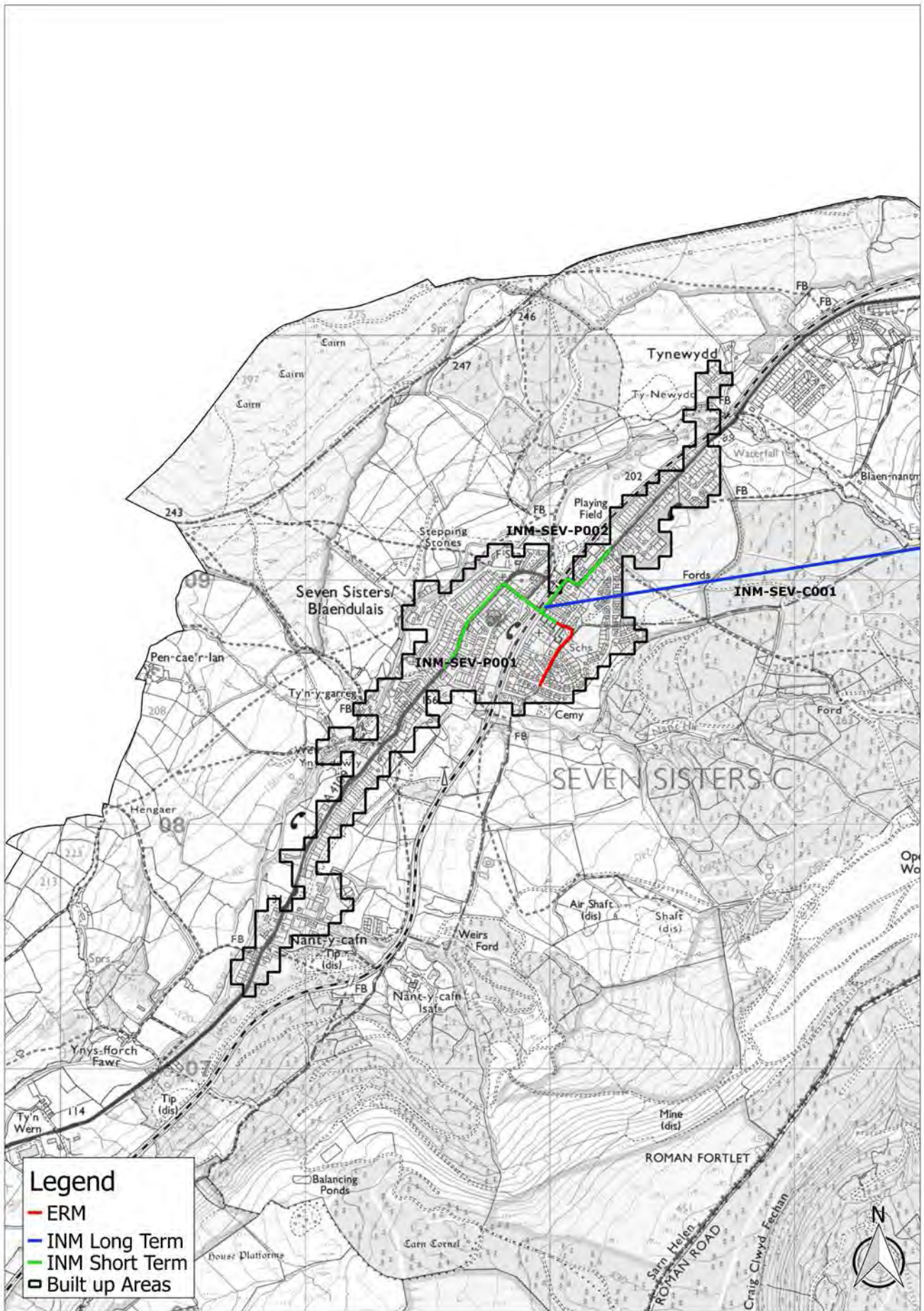
INM Map 2: Cwmllynfell



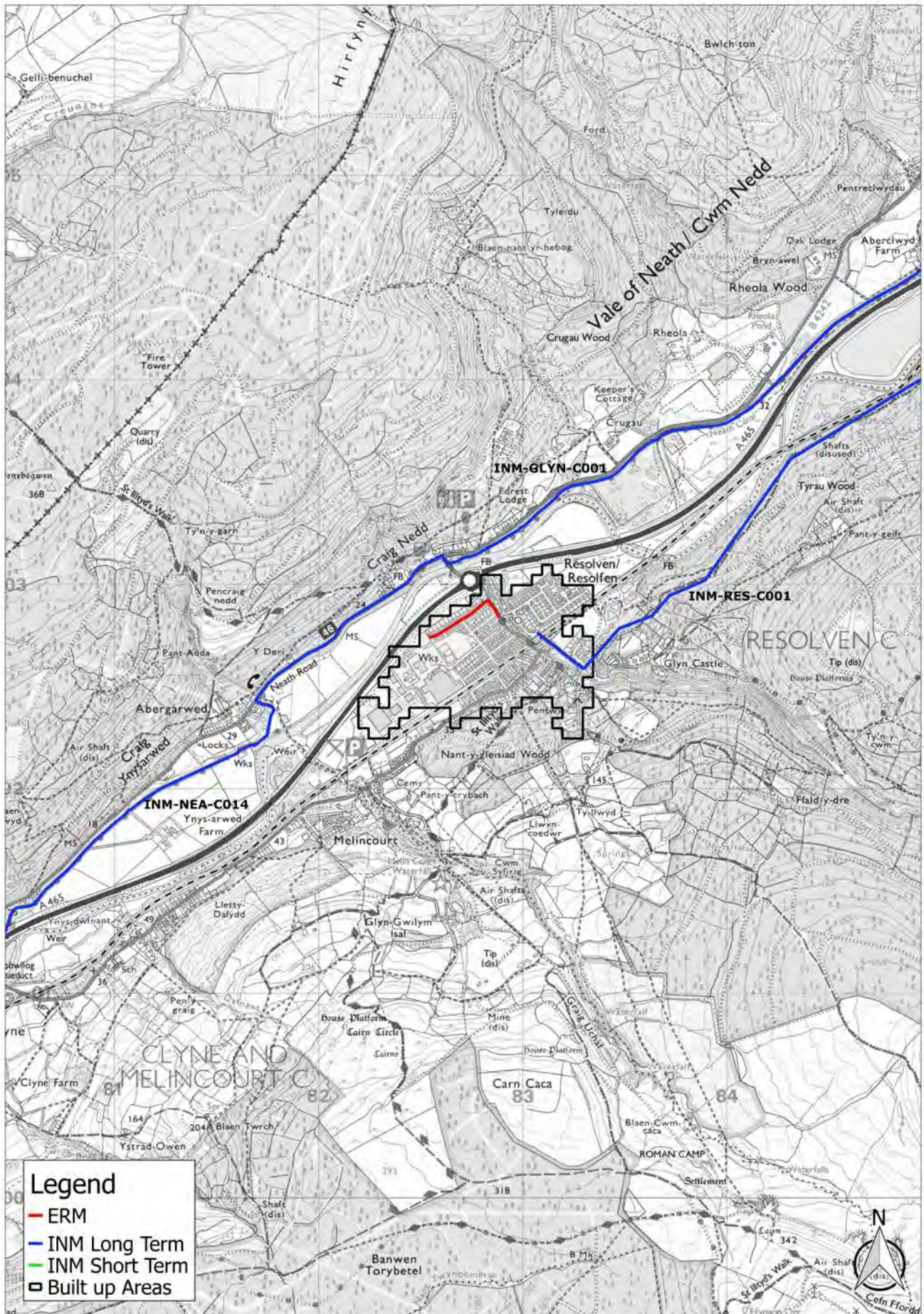
INM Map 3: Pontardawe



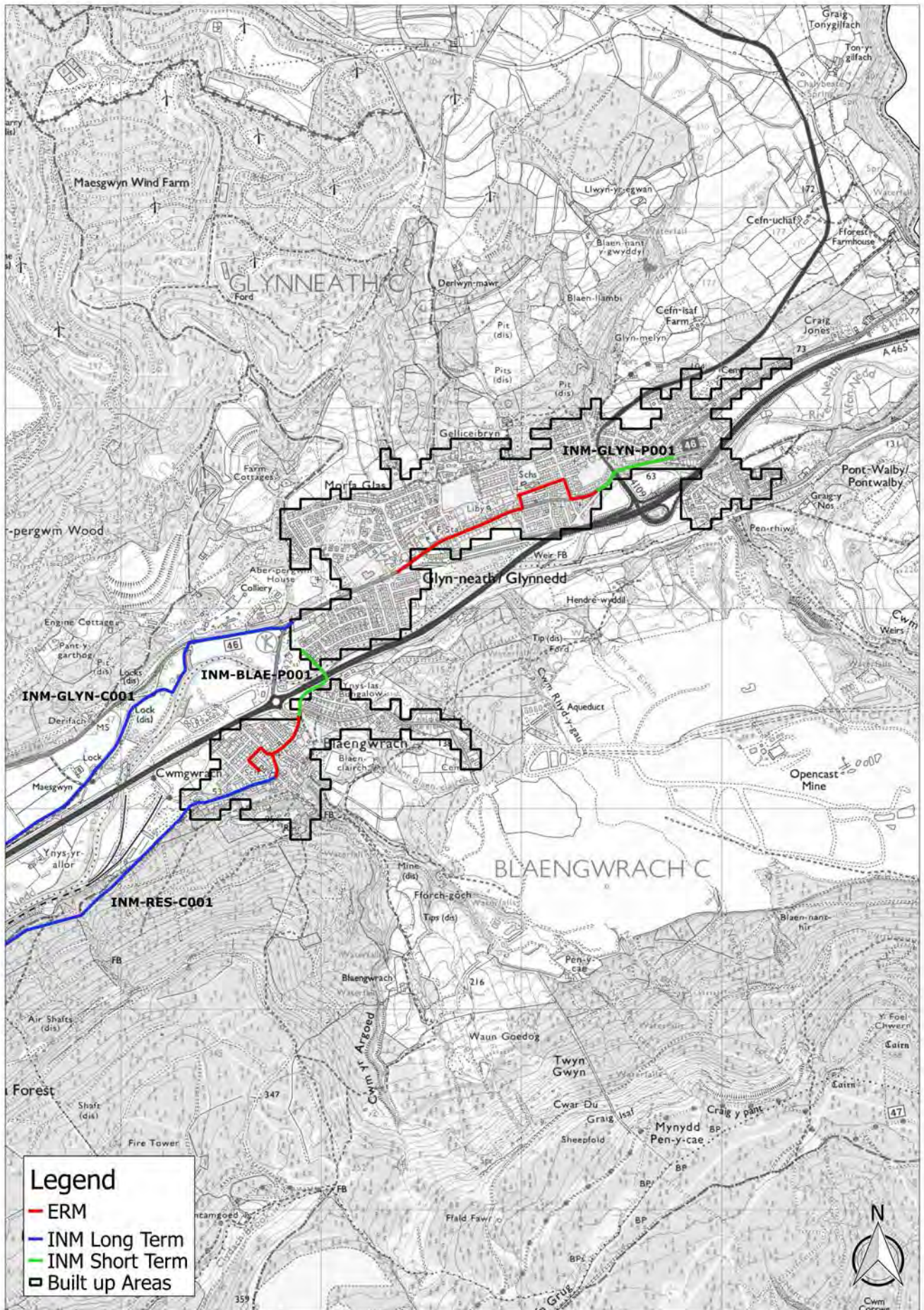
INM Map 5: Seven Sisters



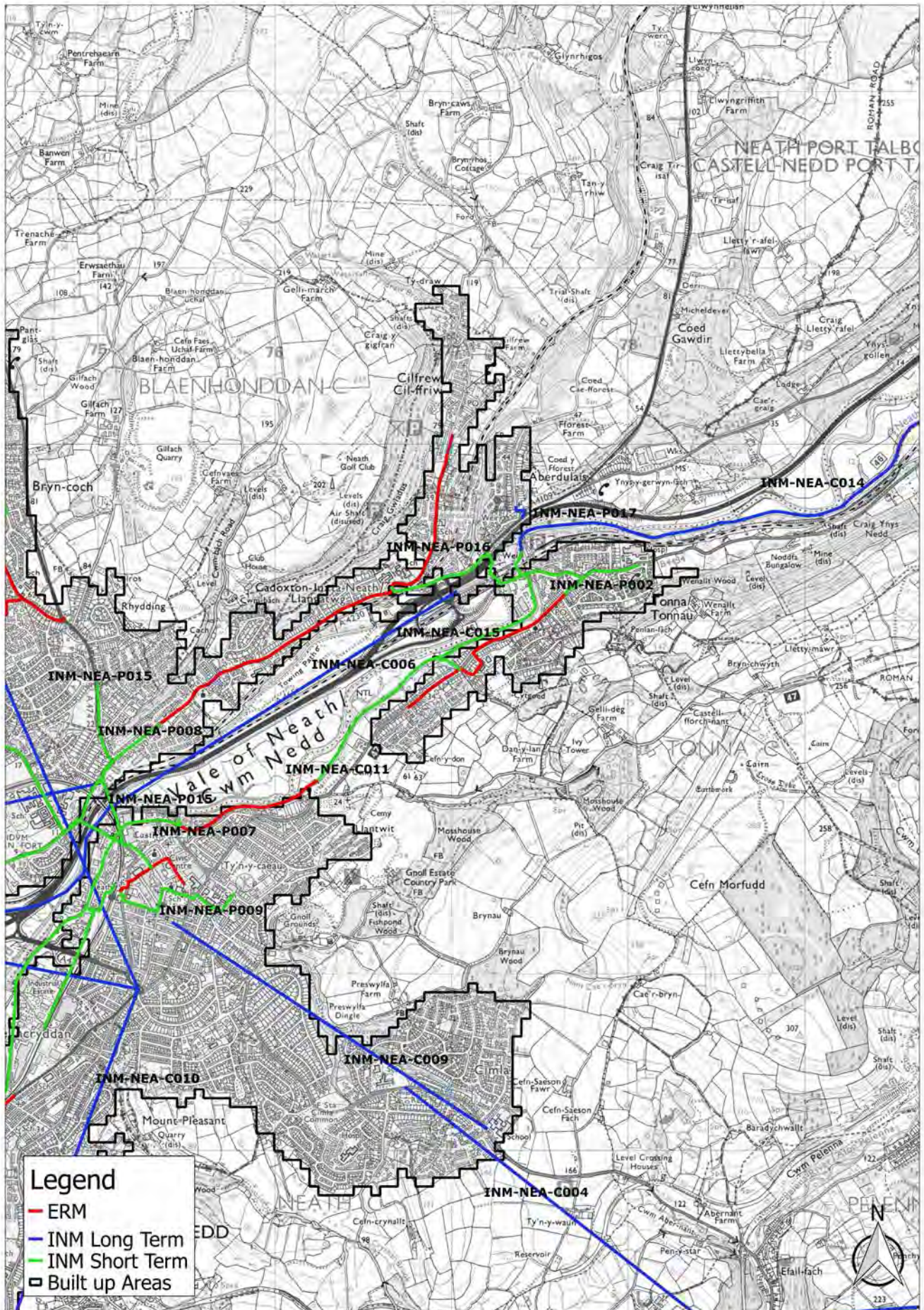
INM Map 6: Resolven



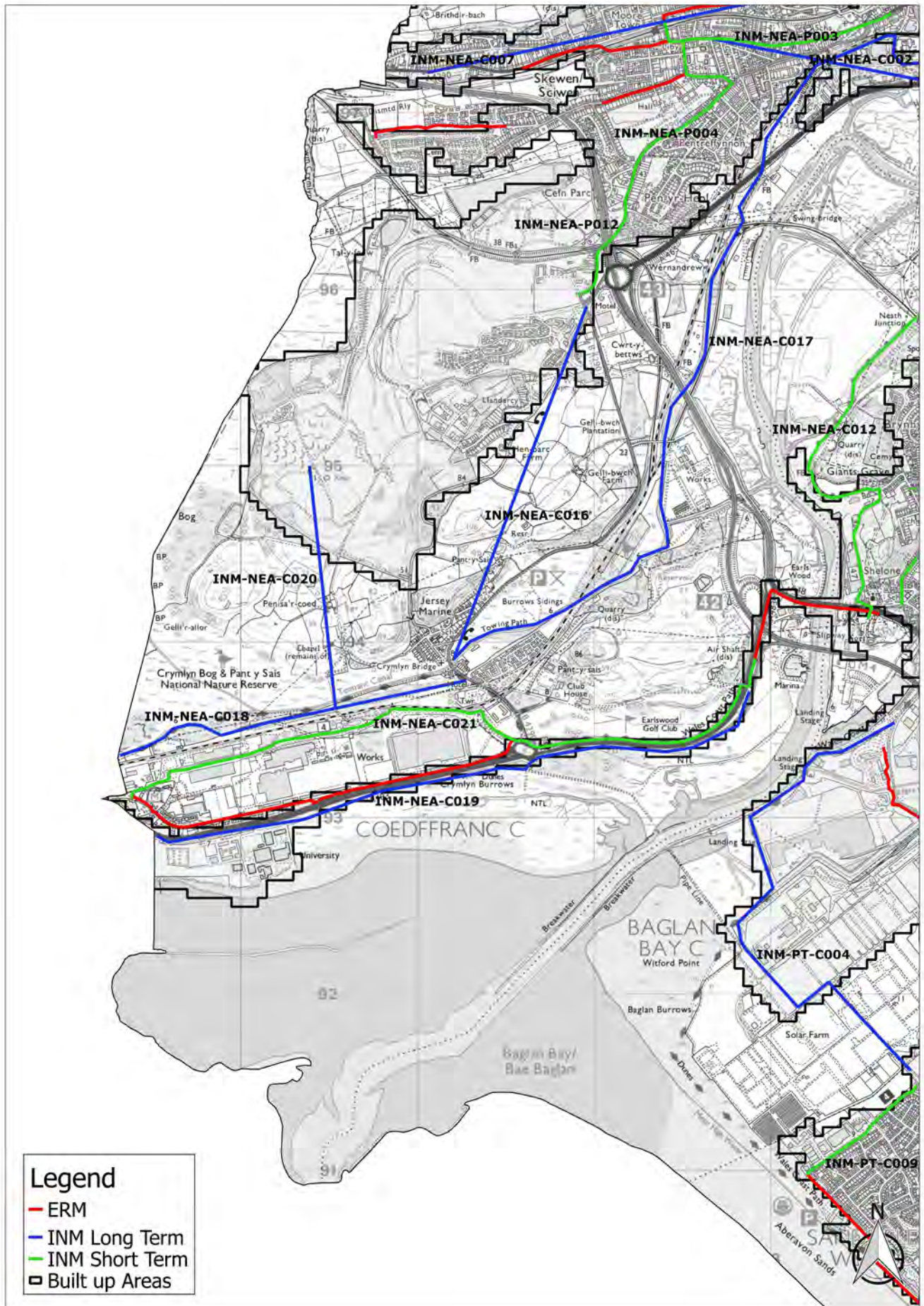
INM Map 7: Glynneath & Blaengwrach



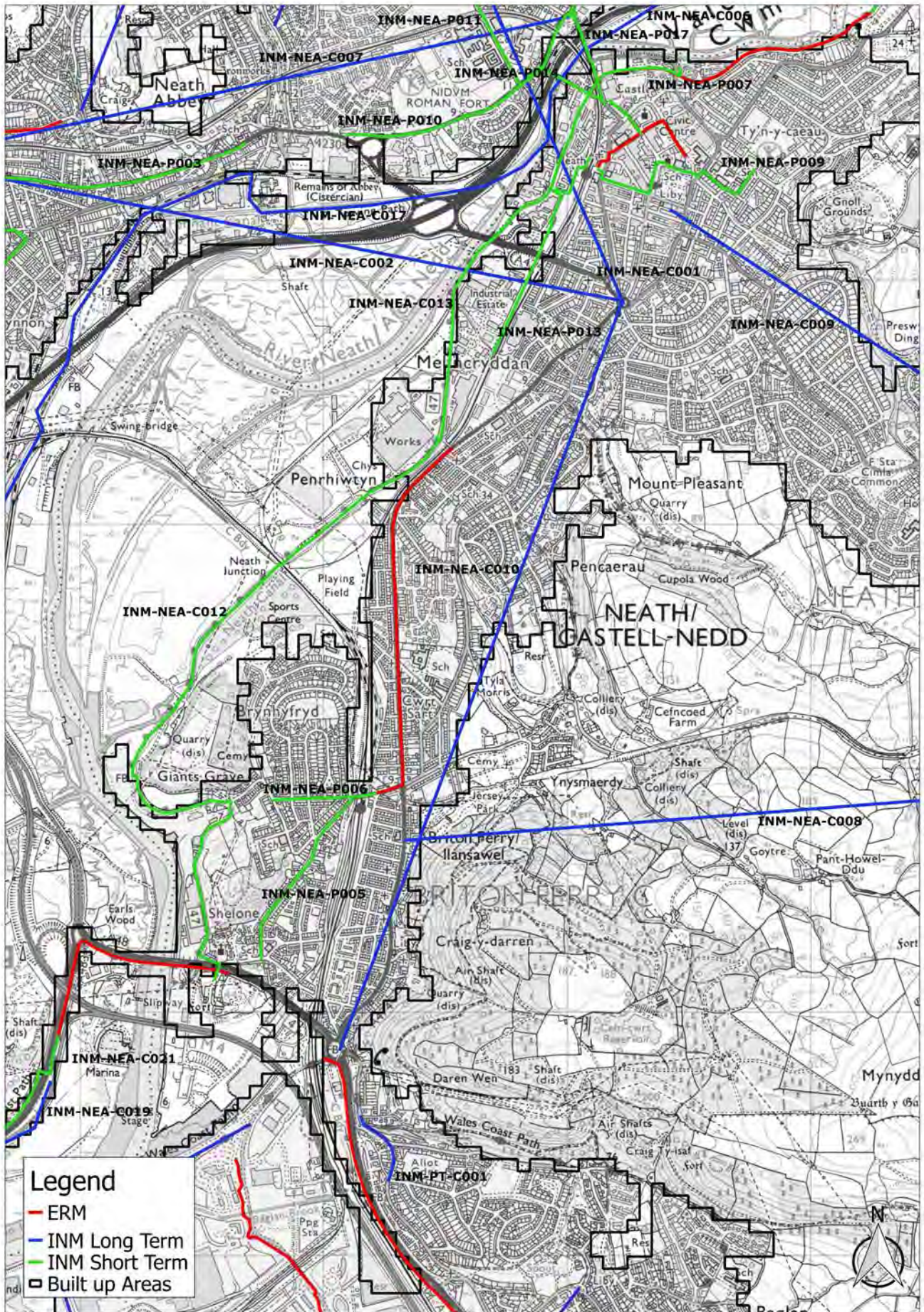
INM Map 9: Tonna & Cimla



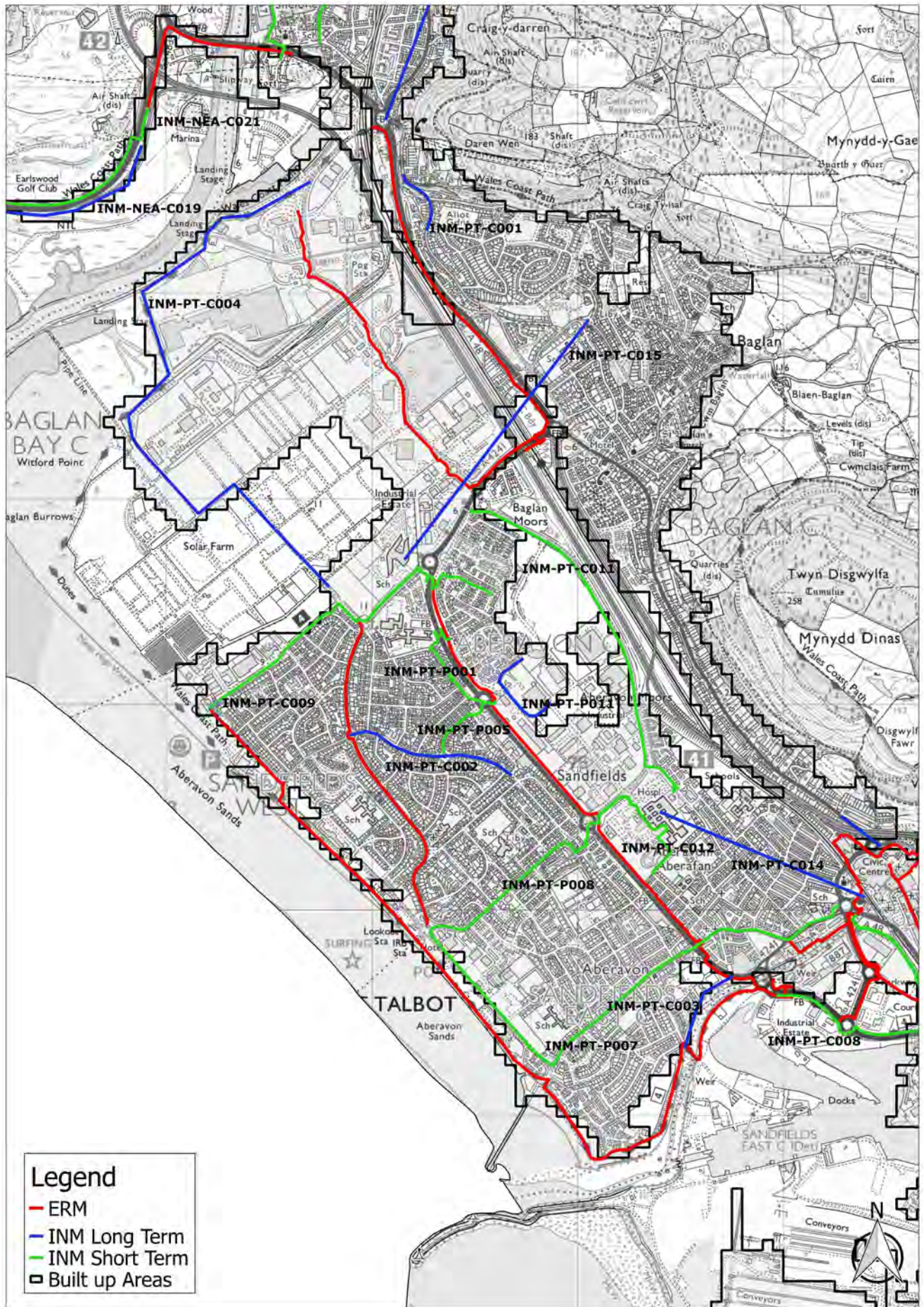
INM Map 10: Jersey Marine



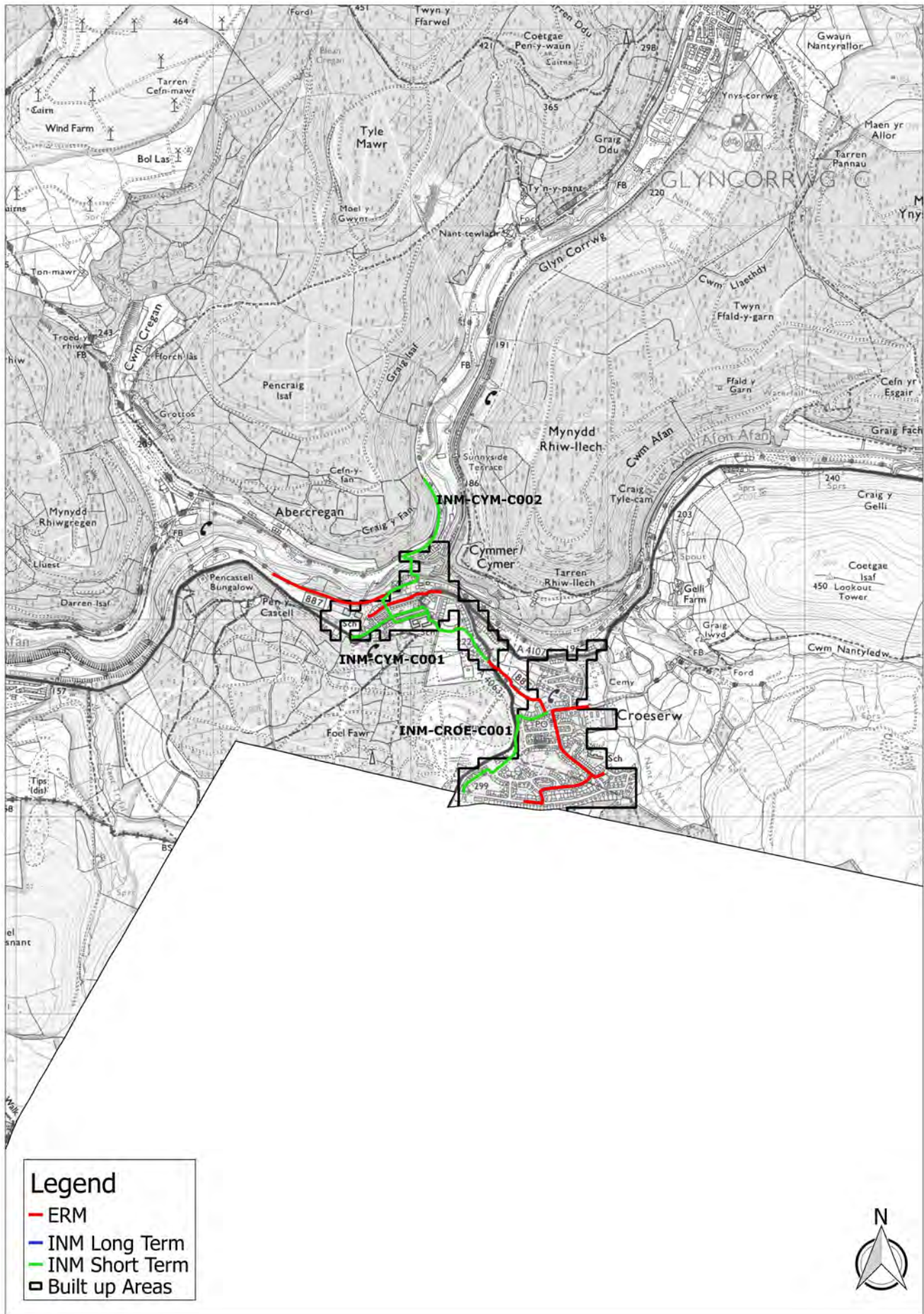
INM Map 11: Briton Ferry



INM Map 12: Baglan, Aberavon & Sandfields



INM Map 14: Croeserw



INM Map 15: Port Talbot & Margam

