



CAE DU & CAE CANOL CAMPSITE

Landscape Appraisal

February 2025

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This document has been produced by Land Studio on behalf of The Roberts Group. The contents of the document are intended for submission with a planning application related to the redevelopment proposals at Cae Du and Cae Canol. Land Studio has prepared this report in accordance with the instructions of the above-named client for their sole and specific use. Any third parties who may use the information contained herein do so at their own risk.

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CAE DU & CAE CANOL: INTRODUCTION

This landscape visual appraisal has been produced in respect of the camp site at Cae Du and the proposed camp site at Cae Canol, Beddgelert.

The document consists of the following parts:

Part 01 : Introduction

Part 02 : Baseline Studies

Part 03 : Context Analysis

Part 04: View point Photography

Part 05: Conclusion and Landscape Proposal

The site lies approximately 500m to the northeast of the village of Beddgelert and lies to the southwest of Plas Gwynant on the A498 and south of Ffridd Uchaf on the A4085. Vehicular access into the site is available from the A498. The site lies within Eryri National Park and key designations located within the study area include listed buildings, scheduled monuments, ancient woodland, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and a SSSI.

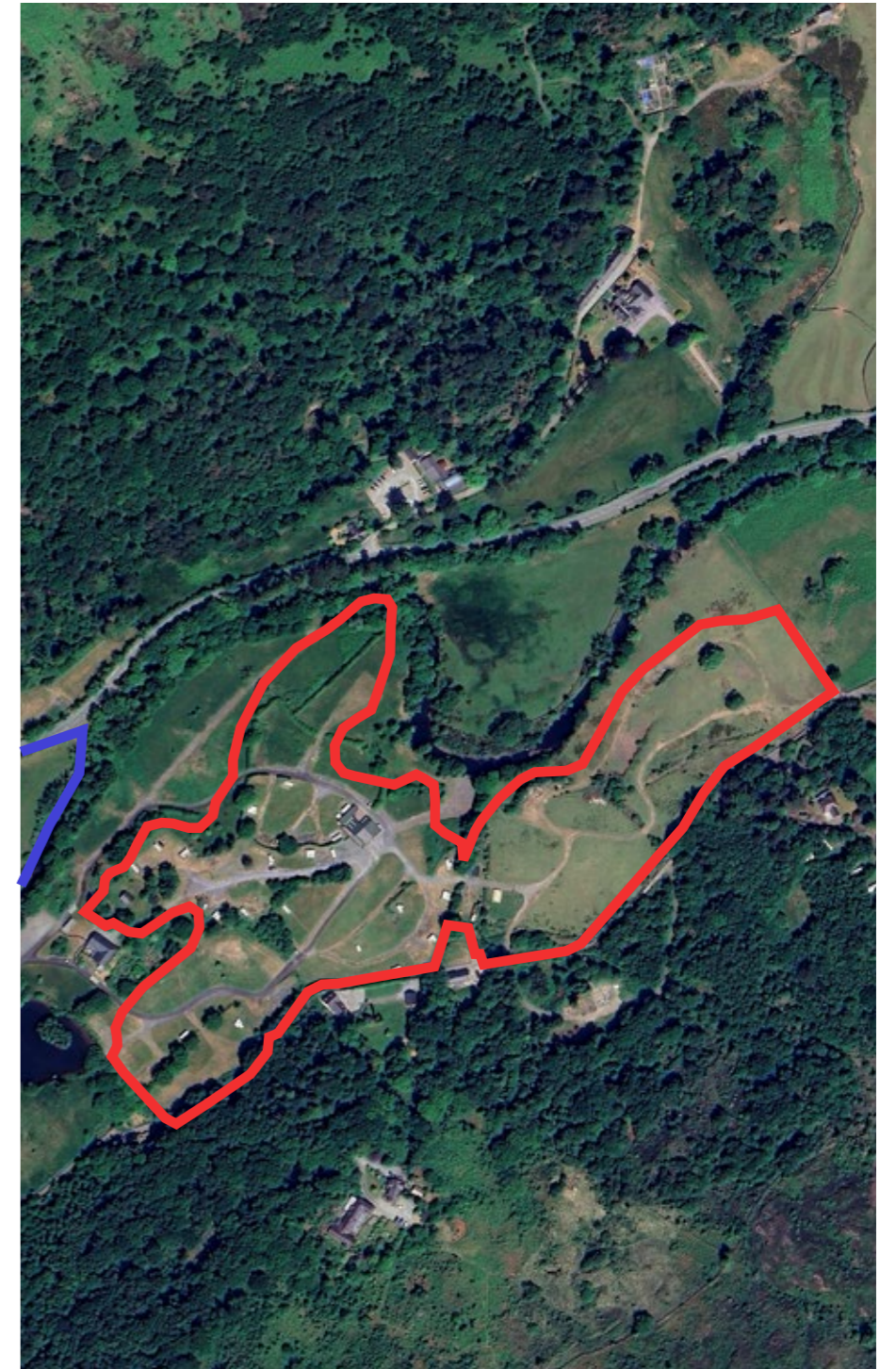
The site lies within a river valley between several peaks. The Afon Glaslyn flows along the north boundary between the site and the A498 before turning to the south and dividing the open area of the site from the developed area. The site is partially visible from most areas along the road through filtered or open views. The site is also visible from the hills to the north and to the south. The site is not visible from the village of Beddgelert and is not likely to be visible from higher elevations to the east. This is explored further in Part 03 of this report.

The proposed scheme includes the development of new camping and motorhome locations with associated access roads and parking at Cae Canol, as well as enhancement of the existing campsite at Cae Du. Two new buildings are also proposed for the sites, each with an area of 40m². They will be a reception block and toilets close to the main entrance, and a main block with information hub and toilet facilities further into the Cae Du site.

The proposed landscape enhancements on both plots will have several aims:

- Enhancing the biodiversity offer and green grid connectivity on the site
- Adding amenity value and access to nature for visitors to the site
- Screening views from the wider area outside of the camping sites, while preserving key views of Snowdonia looking out of the site

This document provides detail on the points raised above, demonstrating the site's landscape context and assessing the potential impact of views from the identified viewpoints. The assessment ends with an overall conclusion that summarises the potential landscape and visual impact of the proposed changes on the surrounding landscape character.



Aerial view of site



CAE DU & CAE CANOL: **SITE CONTEXT**

01

The following chapter sets out an analysis of the surrounding landscape in order to ascertain the impact of the development proposals. This involves detailed mapping of local landscape designations, character areas, access routes and visual receptors

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: SITE CONTEXT



Image 1: Copper Mine to East of Site



Image 2 A498 Road to North of the site

The site lies within a river valley nestled between surrounding hills. The Afon Glaslyn flows along the north boundary between the site and the A498 before turning to the south and dividing the open area of the site from the developed area.

Sygun Copper Mine is located to the east of the site. Several adjacent neighbours along the A498 include the listed Craflwyn Hall National Trust site and some residential houses.

A narrow country lane runs along the southern boundary of the site, with a stone wall separating it along much of its length. This road accesses a mountaineering club as well as Sygun Fawr Hotel, before ending at the entrance road to the copper mine on the east side of the site.

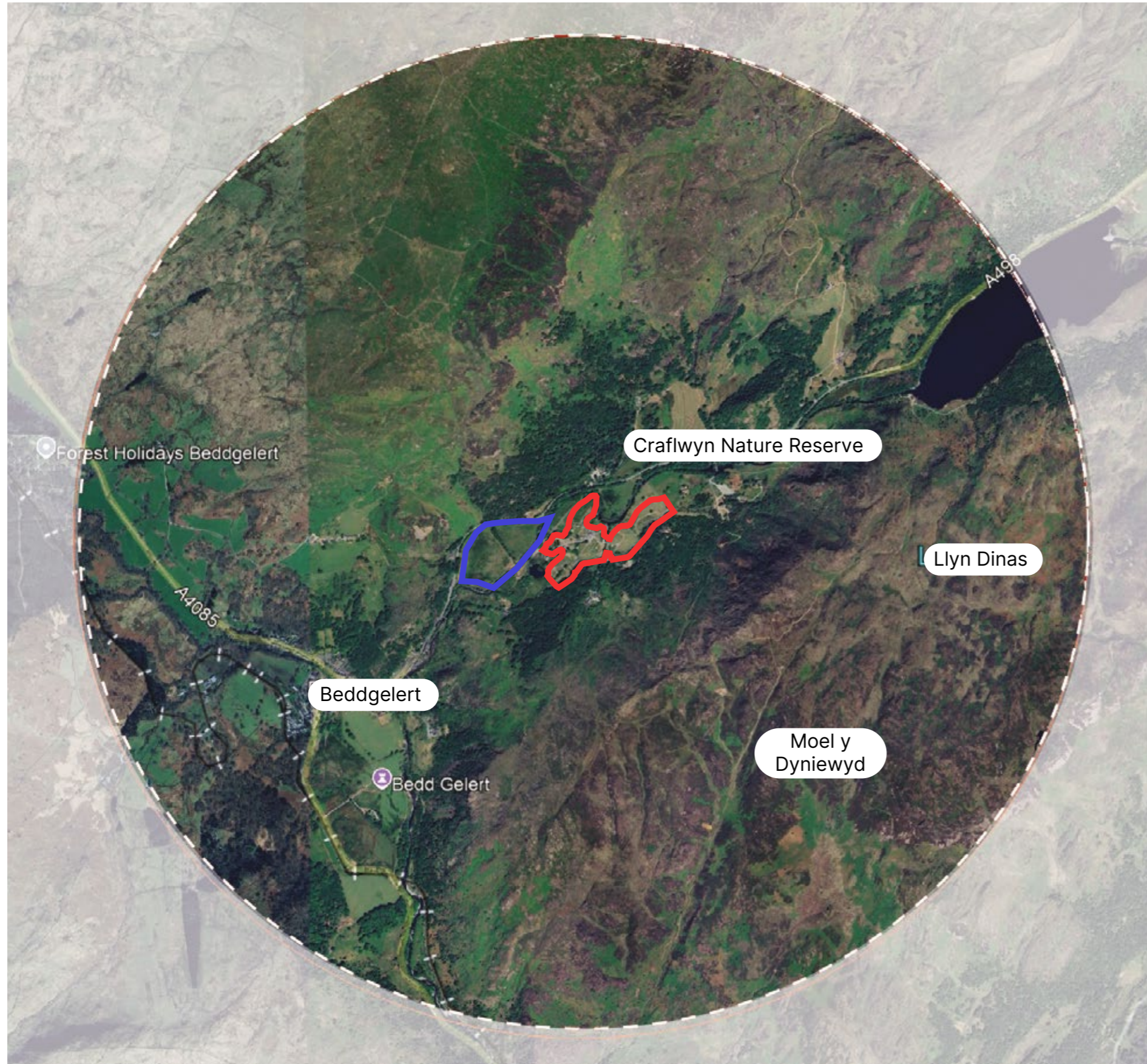


Image 3: Narrow lane to south of site



Image 4: Afon Glaslyn River running through the site

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: SITE CONTEXT



Location Map

The site lies approximately 500m to the northeast of the village of Beddgelert and lies to the southwest of Plas Gwynant on the A498 and south of Ffridd Uchaf on the A4085. Vehicular access into the site is available from the A498. The site lies within Eryri National Park the base camp for Eryri is approximately 7km to the north of Beddgelert.

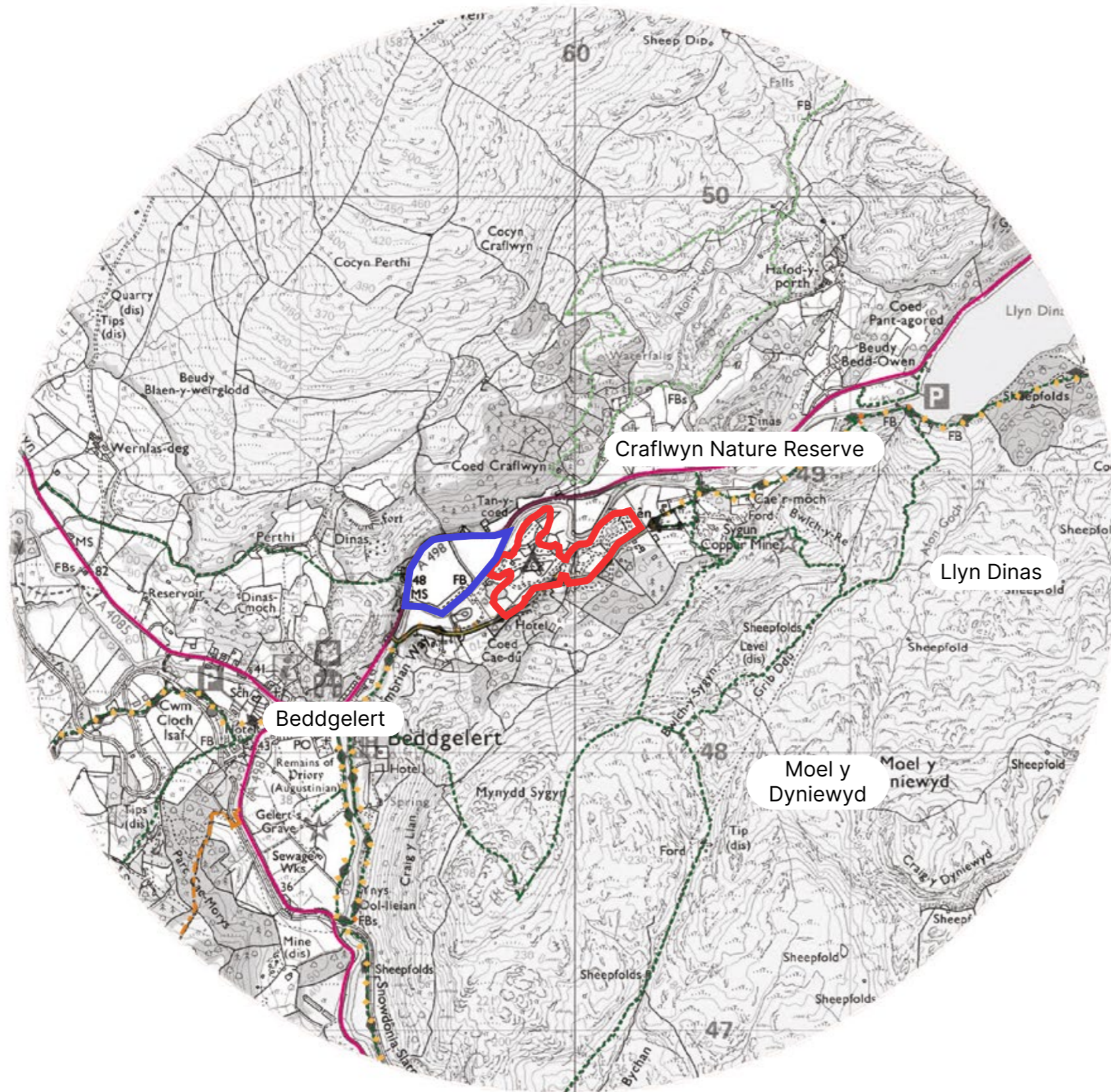
Craflwyn Hall and Nature Reserve, a National Trust site, is located directly northeast of the site on the opposite side of the A498.

Key

 Site Boundary

 Study Area Boundary

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: ACCESS












The plan on the left illustrates key access routes within the study area. The site is accessed directly from the A498.

The site lies approximately 500m to the northeast of the village of Beddgelert and lies to the southwest of Plas Gwynant on the A498 and south of Ffridd Uchaf on the A4085. Vehicular access into the site is available from the A498. The site lies within Eryri National Park the base camp for Eryri is approximately 7km to the north of Beddgelert.

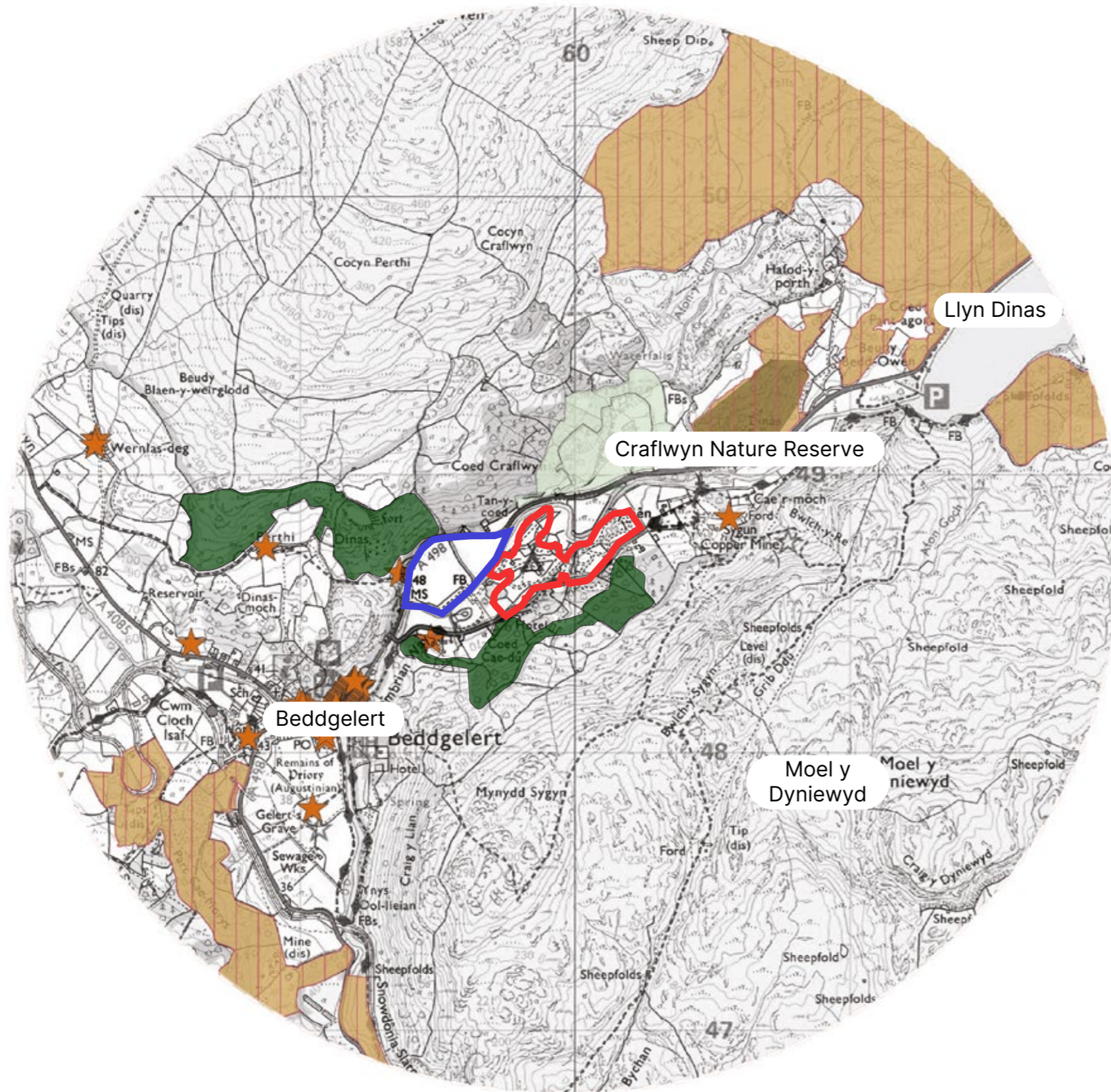
The site lies within a river valley between several peaks. The Afon Glaslyn flows along the north boundary between the site and the A498 before turning to the south and dividing the open area of the site from the developed area.

A lane runs along the southern boundary of the site to access Lancashire Mountaineering Club and Sygun Fawr Hotel, connecting to the Sygun Copper Mine entrance road on the western side of the site. This picturesque lane is frequently used as a footpath by hikers and people exploring the area.

Multiple public footpaths wind through the area as it is a key destination for explorers

- Key**
-  Site Boundary
 -  2km Radius
 -  A Roads
 -  Recreational route
 -  Roads more than 4m wide
 -  Roads less than 4m wide
 -  Public footpaths
 -  Bridleways
 -  Permissive footpaths

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: DESIGNATIONS











The plan on the left illustrates the location of the statutory landscape and heritage designations present within the study area. The entire study area is within Eryri National Park. In addition, there are five other statutory designations within the study area. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), SSSIs, scheduled monuments as well as listed buildings to the east and west.

Craflwyn Hall and Nature Reserve is a registered National Trust Park and Garden to the northeast of the site. The ancient monument of Dinas Emrys (meaning “fortress of Ambrosius”) is a rocky wooded hillock above the Glaslyn river further to the northeast of the site, where a castle once stood that is thought to have been erected by the Welsh Prince Llewelyn the Last.

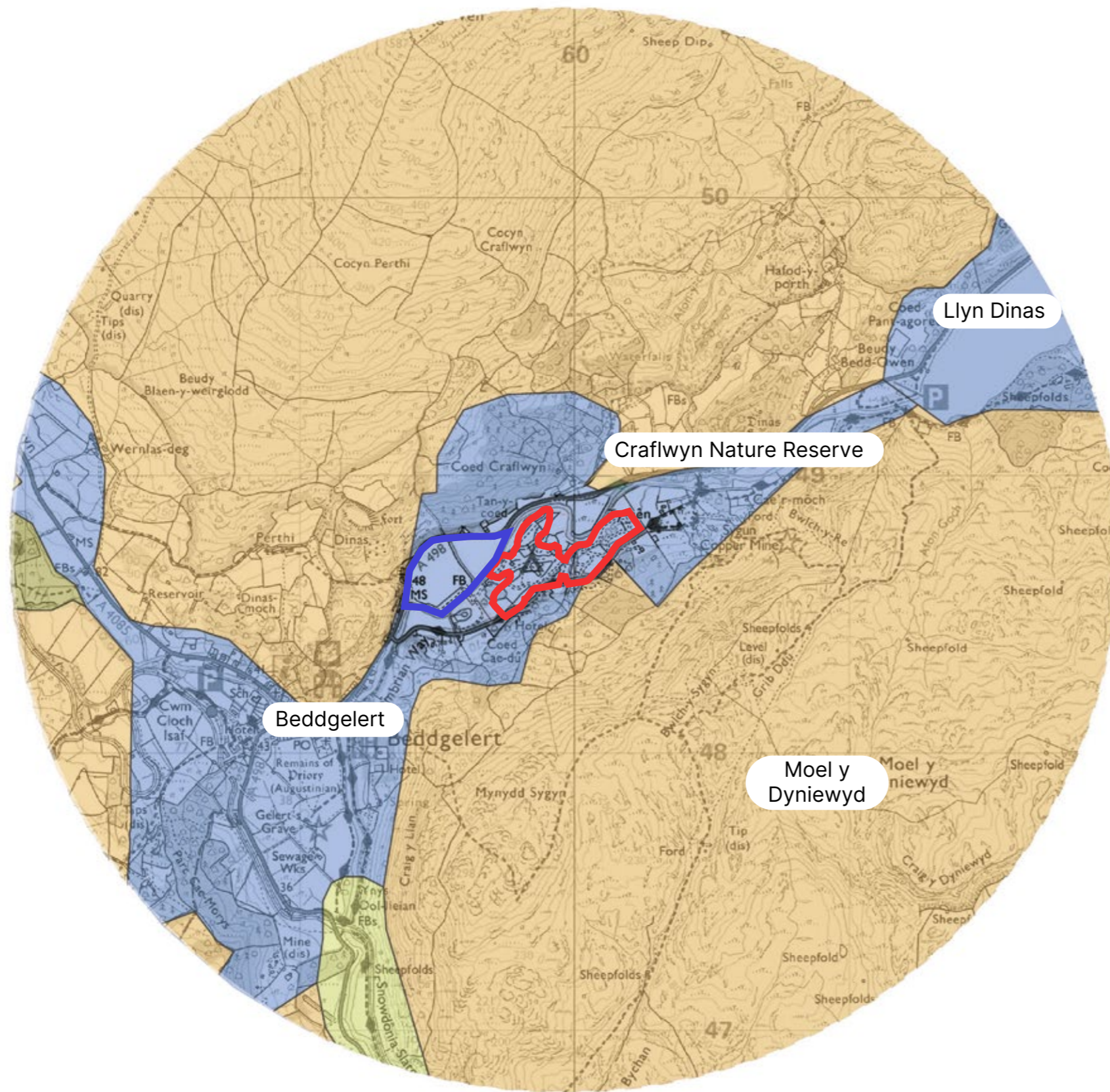
Three SSSI / SAC sites are within the study area: Coedydd Beddgelert a Cheunant Aberglaslyn to the west and Coedydd Nantgwynant and Eryri to the east. Ancient Woodland to the south of the site is unlikely to be impacted by the development.

Beddgelert is also within the NRW Dark Skies designation.

Key

-  Site Boundary
-  Study Area Boundary
-  SSSI and RAMSAR designated site.
-  Registered Parks and Gardens
-  Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
-  Scheduled Monuments
-  Grade II Listed Buildings
-  Ancient Woodland

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: LANDSCAPE CHARACTER



Landscape Character Area

The LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Map 2016 (Natural Resources Wales) further describes the character areas shown previously:

Local Character Areas/Habitats

Mosaic Lowland Valleys

Lowland areas that are predominantly valleyed, with a floor to ridge height of greater than 50m. Patchwork of small woodland (20-50% density) amongst farmland, may also have a high number of hedgerow trees. Pockets of other land uses such as small villages, excavations, leisure-related developments may also form part of the mosaic.

Upland Moorland

This is predominantly exposed upland plateau which does not always equate to a lack of tree cover, but rather is related to the landform and excludes sheltered areas such as valleys. Predominantly moorland (>50%)

Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes






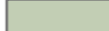
Like the hillside and scarp slopes mosaic, hills, this character area is often the intermediate band between lowland and upland areas, and may have upland-type land use patterns but at lower altitude. They are the intermediate landform between Lowland and Upland, often forming an intermediate band between the two.

Wooded hillside & scarp slopes are significantly sloped (>10% slope) and predominantly wooded (>50%).

Wooded Lowland Valleys

Predominantly wooded rolling lowland. Lowland areas which are predominantly, rhythmically, gently sloped.

Key

-  Site Boundary
-  Study Area Boundary
-  Mosaic Lowland Valley
-  Upland Moorland
-  Wooded Lowland Valleys
-  Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes



CAE DU & CAE CANOL: SITE ANALYSIS

02

The following chapter sets out an analysis of the site and its landscape features

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: SITE ANALYSIS



Image 1 - Entrance to site



Image 2 - Reception

Images taken from site showing many of the existing features. The site is predominantly flat and a mixture of open and wooded or scrub areas, with some changes in level towards the northeast and particularly around the river. Stone walls form much of the southern boundary, and meandering copses of established trees break up the spaces. Several smaller watercourses run through the site in addition to the Afon Glaslyn.

Image 1 - The vehicular entrance is at the northwest corner of the site and first passes through an open area before entering the Cae Du camping site. An established pond on the right greets visitors, and flooding adjacent to the drive is apparent.

Image 2 - An attractive stone reception building next to a car park at Cae Du.

Image 3 - Looking from inside site towards the south, a PRow and lane are out of sight in this view behind stone wall

Image 4 - Much of the existing site is open and flat

Image 5 - Beautiful vista of mountain peaks to the east



Image 3 - Stone wall seen from inside site looking south



Image 4 - Looking southeast towards Cae Canol



Image 5 - Beautiful vista to the east

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: SITE ANALYSIS



Image 6 -Afon Glaslyn



Image 7 - southern bank of Afon Glaslyn

Image 6 - The Afon Glaslyn flowing through site along the northern boundary of Cae Canol.

Image 7 - The southern bank of the river and portion of Cae Canol as well as adjacent woodlands in the distance.

Image 8 - Many copses and stands of existing trees meander through the site, such as these to the north of the car park.

Image 9 - New campsites have already been graded in Cae Du, such as these.

Image 10 - A beautiful old stone building on site is to be retained and protected as bat habitat during redevelopment.



Image 8 - Trees adjacent to car park

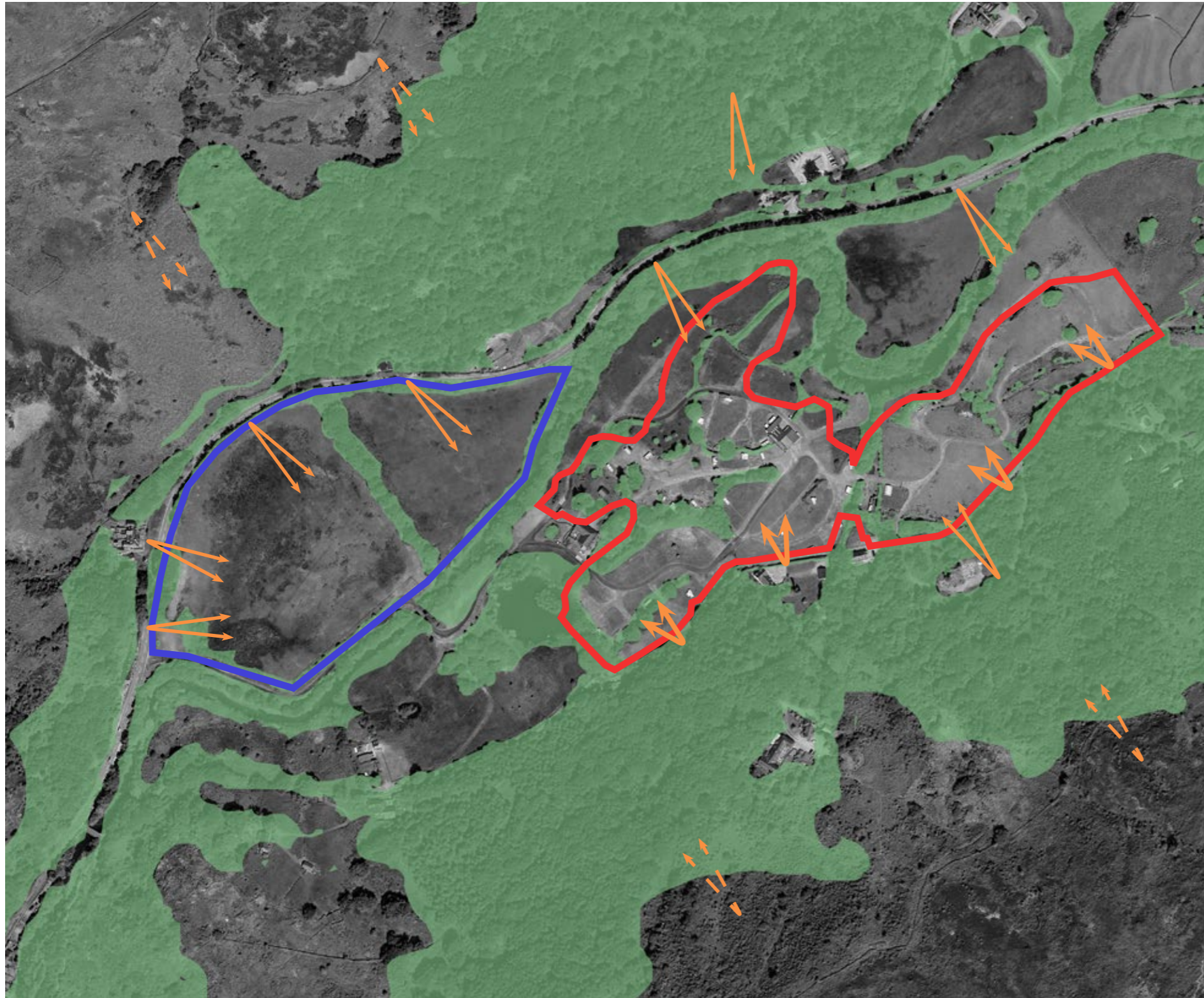


Image 9 - Existing motor home sites



Image 10 -Heritage stone building on site










CAE DU & CAE CANOL: SITE ANALYSIS - OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS



Key access points into the site include the main vehicular entrance from the A498 to Cae Du and a secondary entrance to Cae Canol from the Copper Mine to the east, with pedestrian access points from the lane running along the southern boundary. A public right of way follows the main entrance and connects with the lane.

The site has a mixed character, with an open field at the entrance and a series of enclosed spaces of varying sizes comprising the remainder of the site.

Key

-  A498
-  Site Boundary
-  Access points into site
-  Public right of way
-  Filtered Views
-  Assumed views from hills
-  Open close range views
-  Existing vegetation
-  Watercourses / Ponds



CAE DU & CAE CANOL: **PROJECT PROPOSALS**

03

The following chapter provides an overview of the proposed enhancements at Cae Du and redevelopment of Cae Canol.

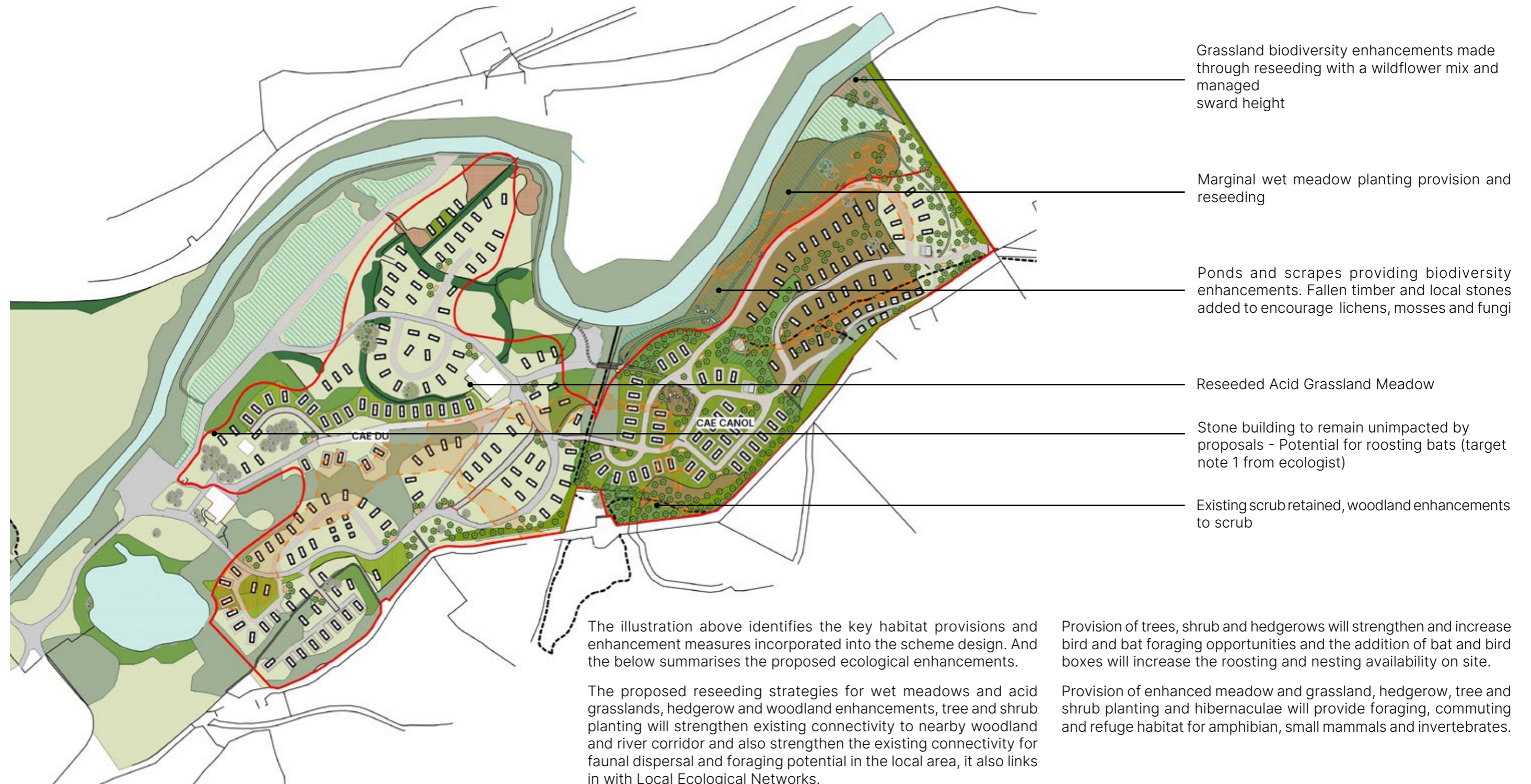
CAE DU & CAE CANOL: PROPOSED LAYOUT

The landscape proposals are for enhancements to the existing campground at Cae Du, including new habitat and plantings to increase the biodiversity offer on the site. Cae Canol is to include a more comprehensive approach to planting and screening that will not only increase biodiversity and climate resilience on the site but

will protect views of the distant mountains whilst screening near and middle ground views of campsites. The strategy is to offer some privacy and intimate spaces for campers and still allow passersby to the north and south to enjoy views of the surrounding hills.



CAE DU & CAE CANOL: ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS



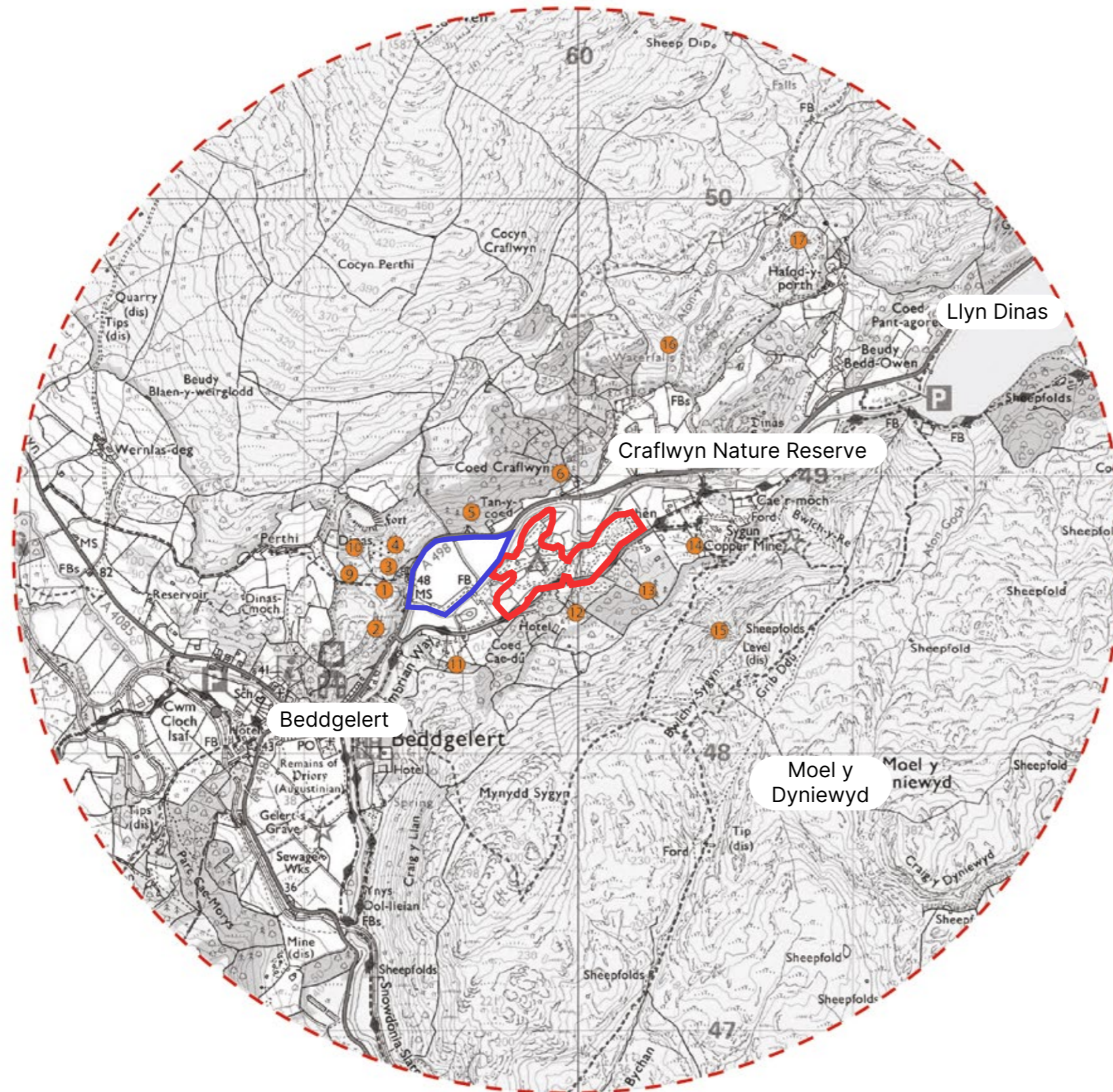


CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT PHOTOGRAPHS

04

This chapter provides an analysis of the selected viewpoints within a 2km radius of the site. The overall visual impact on each viewpoint will be identified following an assessment of the wider context of the view and its susceptibility to change, combined with the receptor sensitivity as identified in Appendix A.

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT LOCATIONS



The plan illustrated on the left shows the areas of land from where the site is likely to be visible. The green area with dashed black line shows the Zone of Theoretical Influence (ZTV) generated by a computer at a height of 2m from ground level at the centre of the site.



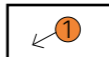
17 viewpoints were originally chosen for assessment. Of these, 14 were included in the final assessment. Views were selected based on a selection of significant places such as surrounding PROW, roads and monuments. Ten views were included in the final assessment.

An analysis of these viewpoints is set out in this part of this document.

The following views were excluded from the final assessment because they were either redundant or the site was not visible:

- View 2 - view from edge of Beddgelert village
- View 3 - view from a listed structure (cowhouse) across from A498
- View 4 - view from a residence across from A498
- View 5 - view from residence on A498
- View 6 - view from the entrance to the Craflwyn Hall site
- View 8 - view from entrance to Sygun Copper Mine
- View 9 - view from the PROW uphill from listed structure in view 3

Key

-  Site Boundary
-  Study Area Boundary
-  Viewpoints

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 01

ENTRANCE TO CAE DU

Approximate location of site



Viewpoint 01 is taken from the road outside the entrance to site from A498, approximately 644m west of Cae Canol. It is representative of pedestrians, cars, cyclists and vehicles travelling east toward Plas Gwynant in a southwest to northeast orientation as well as the neighbouring residences.

The view is of fencing and a single tree in the foreground, open space at front of site in the middle ground with a stand of mature trees in the left portion of this area, and additional woodlands and hills in the distance that screen the view to Cae Canol. The effective screening by mature trees here indicates that the proposed tree plantings in other parts of the site will screen views once the trees are established. Furthermore, views of the distant hills of Eryri are not screened by even taller trees, so the quality landscape views and landscape character of the area will be preserved. Foliage during summertime is likely to obstruct this view further. Cae Canol is not visible in this view.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: Low

Magnitude of Impact: Low

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Negligible (None)***

*Please see visual appraisal methodology

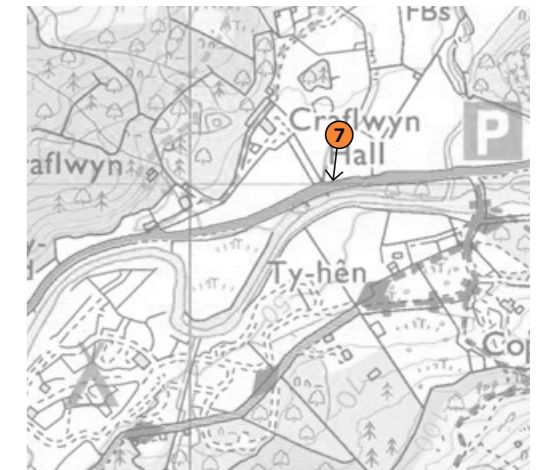
Viewpoint 1 - View southeast from A498

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : southeast
Date Taken : 11th December 2024

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 07

SECONDARY ENTRANCE TO CRAFLWYN HALL

Approximate
location of site



Viewpoint 07 is taken from a secondary entrance drive to the Craflwyn Hall National Trust site, which is also a nature reserve, from A498, approximately 78m northeast of the Cae Canol site.

It is representative of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles travelling between Plas Gwynant and Beddgelert on the A498 in either direction as well as visitors to the Clafwyn Estate. This view is similar to other views from this segment of the A498 in that the river itself is not visible, but the plantings that line the space between road and river form a filtered screen.

The view is of a stone wall with trees behind it in foreground, and the open field with slope rising towards the south that separates the Afon Glaslyn from the site. Cae Canol is not in view in this image. Foliage during summertime is likely to obstruct this view further.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 07:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: High

Magnitude of Impact: Negligible

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Negligible (None)***

*Please see visual appraisal methodology

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : south
Date Taken : 11th December 2024

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 10

PROW ABOVE A498

Approximate
location of site



Viewpoint 10 is taken from the PROW on the slope uphill from the listed 'field cowhouse' located on the A498, approximately 616m from Cae Canol, looking southeast towards site. The path is reached through a gate to the left of the terraced houses that face the main road. It is representative of pedestrians climbing down the hill along the footpath.

The view is of the roofs of the terraced houses, and a large tree in foreground that when in leaf will likely block the entire view, filtered views of open space at front of site in middle ground and the woodlands and hills faintly visible in the distance. Foliage during summertime is likely to obstruct this view further. Cae Canol is not visible in this view.

The footpath is currently blocked by fallen trees and a disturbed slope as a result of a recent storm. This photo was taken from the highest accessible point at the time of the assessment.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 10:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: High

Magnitude of Impact: Low

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Negligible (None)***

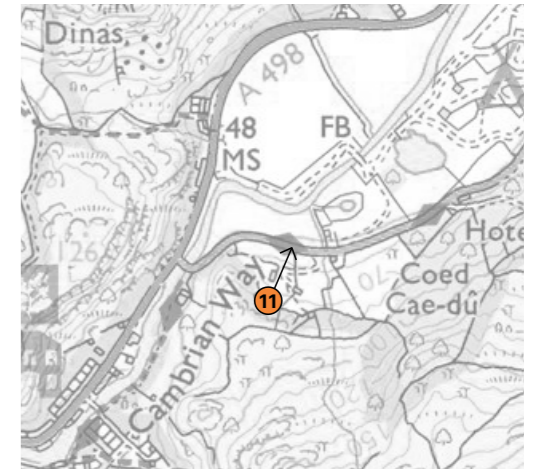
*Please see visual appraisal methodology

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : southeast
Date Taken : 11th December 2024

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 11

LANE SOUTH OF SITE

Approximate
location of site



Viewpoint 11 - View northeast from listed structure on PROW/lane southwest of site

Viewpoint 11 is taken from a small country lane running along the southern boundary of the site, approximately 462m from Cae Canol. The lane is also a PROW and is frequently used by people exploring the area on foot. It leads to several cottages and a hotel as well as a mountaineering club before ultimately joining with the road to Sygum Copper Mine. A stone wall follows much of the lane along the northern side. This view is representative of walkers along the path, residents and visitors to the area.

Fencing, an existing hedgerow and utility infrastructure are visible in the foreground, some of the Cae Du campsite is visible in the middle ground to both the left and the right in the view and the mountain vistas are visible in the distance. Foliage during summertime is likely to obstruct this view further. Cae Canol is not visible in this view.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 11:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: High

Magnitude of Impact: Negligible

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Negligible (None)***

*Please see visual appraisal methodology

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : northeast
Date Taken : 18th December 2024

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 12

LANE SOUTHEAST OF SITE

Approximate location of site



Viewpoint 12 - View northwest from PROW/lane south of site



Viewpoint 12 is taken from the PROW which is a small country lane running along the southern boundary of the site. This is representative of walkers along the path, residents and visitors to the area.

Fencing as well as the beginning of a shorter section of the stone wall, scrub vegetation and a line of small trees are visible in the foreground, glimpsed views of the site of proposed development are partially visible in the middle ground and the hills are faintly visible in the distance. An access gate is also visible in this view.

The proposed camping areas at Cae Canol are partially visible through the boundary vegetation as shown in the image. This screening will change significantly during the summer months and over time during winter due to the development of the woodland cover and the inclusion of additional evergreen species.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 12:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: High

Magnitude of Impact: Low

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Slight****

****Over time the impact of the proposals on this section of the footpath / road will be significantly reduced. The vegetation proposed for the boundary plantings is a mixture of evergreen and deciduous plantings that will assist in screening the campsite to some degree as soon as it is planted, and this screen will increase over time, with an estimated three years until it is fully grown.**

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : northwest
Date Taken : 18th December 2024

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 13

LANE SOUTHEAST OF SITE

Approximate
location of site



Viewpoint 13 is taken from the PROW which is a small country lane running along the southern boundary of the site. This is representative of walkers along the path, residents and visitors to the area. The site is within 5m of this view.

The boundary scrub and tree cover are visible in the foreground, with partial views of the proposed camping ground at Cae Canol.

There are views into the Cae Canol site from the footpath in the existing setting however, this will evolve with time through the management of the existing boundary planting to create more cover and through the introduction of additional tree and scrub planting into the wider site.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 13:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: High

Magnitude of Impact: Low

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Moderate****

**Over time the impact of the proposals on this section of the footpath / road will be significantly reduced. The vegetation proposed for the boundary plantings is a mixture of evergreen and deciduous plantings that will assist in screening the campsite to some degree as soon as it is planted, and this screen will increase over time, with an estimated three years until it is fully grown.

Viewpoint 13 - View northwest from PROW/lane south of site

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : northwest
Date Taken : 18th December 2024

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 14

LANE SOUTHEAST OF SITE

Approximate location of site



Viewpoint 14 - View west from PROW/lane south of site

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : west
Date Taken : 18th December 2024

Viewpoint 14 is taken from the PROW which is a small country lane running along the southern boundary of the site. This is representative of walkers along the path, residents and visitors to the area. A secondary entrance to Cae Canol is at this location. The site is within 5m of this view.

Similar to viewpoint 13, views into the proposed camping fields are possible from this location however they will be enhanced through the proposed planting strategies set out in the associated landscape plans. It is also important to note that the existing summer foliage will provide substantial screening of the campsite when it is used during the spring and summer seasons.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 14:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: High

Magnitude of Impact: Low

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Moderate****

**Over time the impact of the proposals on this section of the footpath / road will be significantly reduced. The vegetation proposed for the boundary plantings is a mixture of evergreen and deciduous plantings that will assist in screening the campsite to some degree as soon as it is planted, and this screen will increase over time, with an estimated three years until it is fully grown.

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 15

PROW ABOVE SYGUN COPPER MINE

Approximate
location of site



Viewpoint 15 - View northwest from PROW/lane south of site

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : northwest
Date Taken : 18th December 2024



Viewpoint 15 is taken from the PROW above/southeast of the Sygun Copper Mine southeast of the site, approximately 300m from the site. This is representative of walkers along the path.

The view from above the Copper Mine provides some glimpse views into Cae Canol as you're climbing up the footpath. It's mostly screened by emergent birch and oak woodland at the lower sections. As you emerge out of the woodland, you start to get views into the site. The park is relatively well screened by the woodland below which provides some screening of the southern edge of the Cae Canol field. The proposed tree and woodland scrub planting going into the Cae Canol site will substantially reduce views over time. Furthermore, the proposed woodland and scrub planting will integrate the development into the overarching landscape character of the valley bottom

The view demonstrates a fairly substantial amount of screening by the surrounding winter foliage with only partial views of Cae Canol. However, in summer the screening will be significantly enhanced and, with the addition of the proposed woodland and scrub planting running through the Cae Canol design, over time views into the site will be substantially screened, integrating the park into the wider valley landscape character area.

It should also be noted that the camping use is already historically approved on this site.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 15:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: High

Magnitude of Impact: Medium

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Major****

**Over time, the proposed planting strategy within Cae Du and Cae Canol will develop to create significant screening of the camping pitches and wider infrastructure. The vegetation proposed for the interior plantings is a mixture of trees and evergreen and deciduous shrub plantings that will assist in screening the campsite to some degree as soon as it is planted, and this screen will increase over time, with an estimated three years until the shrubs are of an adequate size to screen, and 3-5 years until the trees have achieved the height and fullness needed to effectively screen the site from this view.

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 16

CRAFLWYN NATURE RESERVE



Approximate location of site



Viewpoint 16 - View from Craflwyn Estate at higher elevation, looking southwest

Viewpoint 16 is taken from a higher elevation within the Craflwyn Hall National Trust site, also a nature reserve. Distance from this view to the site is approximately 478m. It is representative of visitors to the Craflwyn Estate National Trust site.

The view is of a tree branch in the immediate foreground, meandering stone wall and an open area in foreground and middle ground that slopes gently towards the south. Faint filtered views of the site can be seen in the distance. Some portions of the camping areas may be faintly visible but not prominent in this view. Foliage from trees and other vegetation in the middle and background during summertime is likely to obstruct this view further, notwithstanding the tree directly in front of the viewer.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 16:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: High

Magnitude of Impact: Negligible

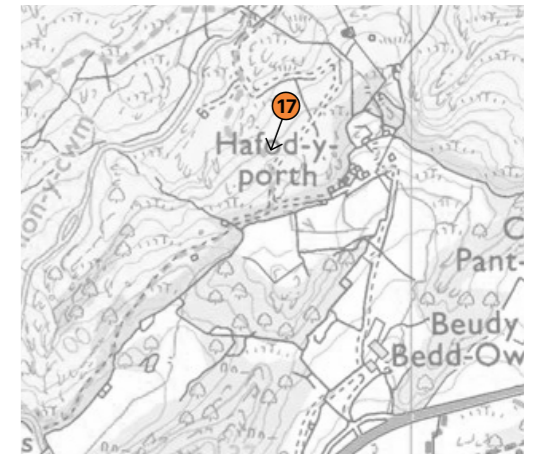
Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Negligible****

**Cae Canol is only faintly visible from this viewpoint and will be fully screened during the summer months.

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : southwest
Date Taken : 18th December 2024

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VIEWPOINT 17

PROW NORTHEAST OF SITE



Approximate
location of site



Viewpoint 17 is taken from a higher elevation at Hafed y Porth, a peak approximately 550m northeast of site. It is representative of visitors to Eryri walking along PROWs in the area.

The hills on either side of the view in the foreground frame distant views of the valley below, but the eye is drawn to the stone walls meandering through the centre of the near and middle ground. The view demonstrates a substantial amount of screening by the surrounding winter foliage with only partial views of Cae Canol. However, in summer the screening will be significantly enhanced and, with the addition of the proposed woodland and scrub planting running through the Cae Canol site, over time views into the site will be substantially screened with the planting integrating the park into the wider valley landscape character area. The new camping areas will blend visually with existing campsites adjacent and will not stand out in this view.

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 17:

Visual Receptor Sensitivity: High

Magnitude of Impact: Negligible

Overall visual impact of Viewpoint 01: **Slight**

Viewpoint 17 - View from PROW at Hafed y Porth,, looking southwest

Lens Focal Length : 50mm
Direction : southwest
Date Taken : 18th December 2024



CAE DU & CAE CANOL: **CONCLUSION**

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CAE DU & CAE CANOL: CONCLUSION

The vast majority of the views from around the site are easily mitigated through new boundary plantings, which is the landscape proposal's offer. Within the interior of the site there are plentiful new plantings of trees, shrubs, scrub and copses to diminish the open character, add biodiversity and soften the landscape impact of the campsites.

The landscape design of the campground at Cae Du includes new habitat and plantings to primarily focus on increasing the biodiversity offer on the site. Cae Canol is to include a more comprehensive approach to planting and screening that will not only increase biodiversity and climate resilience on the site but will protect views of the distant mountains whilst screening near and middle ground views of campsites. The strategy is to offer some privacy and intimate spaces for campers and still allow passersby to the north and south to enjoy views of the surrounding hills.

In conclusion, it is our opinion that the proposals will not impact views or character of the area significantly, with the following points illustrating this in more detail:

- The site is not visible from the majority of the viewpoints assessed, and even the close views were filtered by intervening trees without leaf cover. It is likely that these views will be more negligible during warm summer months with vegetation in leaf
- The proposed landscape strategy will create a layering in the landscape that will relate to the wider wooded character of the valley bottom whilst weaving cover and privacy from views throughout the site
- Views of the site from high ground will be mitigated by the landscape strategy and new planting proposals, which will help to screen those views and which will only increase with time and maturity
- There will be a substantial increase in biodiversity and habitat creation as a result of the proposals, further strengthening the reasoning behind developing the site as proposed.
- Camping sites such as Cae Du and Cae Canol offer affordable access to nature and the spectacular landscape of Eryri so that a broad spectrum of people can enjoy visiting and exploring the area
- Cae Canol will be seen in the context of the existing campsite at Cae Du, and furthermore camping has already occurred on the Cae Canol site in the past, so it is not a change of use.
- The viewpoint photos show the site in the worst case scenario and out of season. The proposed site will only be occupied when the surrounding vegetation is in leaf which will significantly change the amount of visual screening and therefore the perceived visual impact of the development.
- Proposed structures will be composed of materials in keeping with local character and will be placed upon least ecologically sensitive areas of the property, with plantings to surround and soften their visual effects.



CAE DU & CAE CANOL: CONCLUSION

Visual Impact

Viewpoints 12,16 and 17 have been assessed as having either negligible or slight impact and this is due to the site being screened by intervening vegetation (particularly during summer months when trees are in leaf).

Viewpoints 13 and 14 are assessed as having a moderate impact as close up views will be afforded from the country lane/public footpath when looking north and northwest. We acknowledge that there will be some impact on users of the footpath as it passes adjacent to the site in its current form. However, landscape proposals focus on mitigating these short range views by adding in evergreen species of shrubs and trees to quickly screen as well as providing some privacy for campers.

Only one view was considered to have major impact, view 15 from above the Copper Mine. This view does provide visibility of much of the Cae Canol site, however the site is in context with another campsite (Cae Du) immediately adjacent and Cae Canol itself has a history of camping use. Furthermore, the landscape proposals are to weave plantings of trees and shrubs throughout the site, disrupting the openness and softening the views for exactly these long range and distant views from higher elevations.

Views of the proposed development will be considered within the context of the area, particularly distant views that show existing camping sites nearby to the proposed Cae Canol. Additionally, the landscape planting proposals will cause the site to be screened from view over time.

Landscape Character

This LCA is located in the north-central part of Eryri National Park, and is visually dominated by the high northern scarps of the Central Beacons which form a dramatic southern backdrop to the area. Its key characteristics include gently undulating river valleys with isolated hills of harder rock, predominantly pastoral land use with field boundaries typically hedgerows, and a relatively open landscape with a settled, verdant feel. As demonstrated in the analysis sections of this report, the site very much fits with this description as its character is in a predominantly flat valley with the river corridor providing the primary changes in level.

The character of the local landscape is dominated by the high peaks surrounding the site and views to it from various locations. The character of the area will not be changed by the addition of camping sites within an area where this use already exists and the site has a history of this use as well. There is no impact on wider landscape character because the lowland river valley is not the dominant feature, views tend to focus on the more interesting changes in topography. Additionally, any impacts that could occur will be mitigated by the growth of landscape plantings, particularly trees and shrubs that will soften and diminish the camping sites.

Benefits for People

The biodiversity and wildlife offer on this site is extensive, for both the existing Cae Du and the newly renovated Cae Canol. This will not only benefit the ecological connectivity of the area, it will also provide access to nature and all the health and wellbeing benefits that accompany this, for the visitors to the park.

Camping sites provide an opportunity for people of all different financial means to interact with each other and with nature in a meaningful way. Many people from urban areas look to camping (whether in tents or motor homes) as their only chance to experience the rural British landscape.

The stunning beauty of Eryri National Park is particularly attractive to tourists with an estimated 3.89 million visitors to Eryri National Park in 2015. Local destinations to the site include the base camp for Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) only 7km north of Beddgelert, the village of Beddgelert and numerous hiking, cycling and climbing destinations closer to the campsite.

The social and psychological benefits of spending time in such an environment should be considered as an important reason behind providing places for people to visit the area without great expense.

Summary:

The overall conclusion of this assessment is that the site of proposed development is not clearly visible from the majority of the viewpoints assessed, and even the close views were filtered by intervening trees without leaf cover, and it is likely that these views will be more negligible during warm summer months with vegetation in leaf. Views of the site from high ground will be mitigated by the new planting proposals, which will help to screen those views and which will only increase with time and maturity. There will be a substantial increase in biodiversity and habitat creation as a result of the proposals, as well as access to nature and health and well being benefits for people. Furthermore, Cae Canol will be seen in the context of the existing campsite at Cae Du, and Cae Canol has a history of camping, so it is not a change of use. Finally, the viewpoint photos show a worst case scenario with trees barren of leaf cover. The proposed site will only be occupied when the surrounding vegetation is in leaf which will significantly change the amount of visual screening and therefore the perceived visual impact of the proposed campsite.

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VISUAL APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

Visual Receptor Sensitivity Appraisal:

Category	Visual Receptor Criteria
<p>High: Observers whose attention or interest may be focused on the landscape and recognised views in particular.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised / Important Viewpoints, including those identified within and protected by policy. These viewpoints may be tourist destinations and marked on maps. • Residential Properties • Users of Rights of Way, Recreational Trails or land with public access (i.e. Open Access Land and National Trust Land) whose interest is primarily focused on the landscape
<p>Medium: Views of the landscape are part of, but not the sole purpose of the receptors' activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those playing or participating at outdoor sports or undertaking formal outdoor recreation. • Users of local roads where there are clear / open views across the landscape, low speeds and low levels of traffic.
<p>Low: Attention is focused upon the activity of the receptor and not upon the wider views.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Users of main roads travelling at speed, or local roads where the focus is upon the road ahead owing to traffic conditions and the context / composition of views. • Places of Work

Visual Magnitude Criteria:

Category	Scale of Effects
High	The proposed development will be clearly noticeable and the view would be fundamentally altered by its presence.
Medium	The proposed development will form a new and recognisable element within the view which is likely to be recognised by the receptor.
Low	The proposed development will form a minor constituent of the view being partially visible or at sufficient distance to be a small component.
Negligible	Virtually imperceptible change to existing views and visual amenity.

The magnitude of the change to a view has been made by way of consideration of the following factors:

Size or scale; taking into account change with respect to loss or additions of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposals. In addition the degree of contrast or integration with any new features or changes in the landscape in terms of form, scale and mass, line, height, colour and texture are considered. Finally the nature of the view is considered e.g. Full, partial or glimpsed;

Geographical extent will vary in relation to the main activity of the receptor; the **distance** of the viewpoint from the proposed development and the **extent of the area** over which the changes would be visible.

CAE DU & CAE CANOL: VISUAL APPRAISAL METHODOLOGY

Overall Visual Impact Appraisal:

An initial indication of impact significance (which can be either adverse or beneficial) was gained by combining sensitivity and magnitude in accordance with the matrix below. However, it should be noted that this provides an indication of the likely impact arising from the assessment of magnitude and sensitivity. Given that the criteria represent levels of a continuum or continuous gradation, professional judgement and awareness of the relative balance of importance between sensitivity and magnitude is also required.

A* is marked next to a significance rating in the assessment text where the outcome does not follow the significance rating determined by combining sensitivity and magnitude using the below matrix. The matrix is used as a guide, however, professional judgement is also required and in some scenarios this outcome will differ slightly from the matrix.

	MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT				
RECEPTOR SENSITIVITY		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
	High	Major	Major	Moderate	Slight
	Medium	Major	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Slight	Negligible	Negligible
	Negligible	Slight	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible