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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 4 March 2020

Notice of meeting

Strong Communities Select Committee

Thursday, 12th March, 2020 at 10.00 am,

Please note that a pre meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting for members of the committee.

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
PART A: SCRUTINY AND CRIME DISORDER MATTERS		
No matters to discuss.		
PART B STRONG COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE		
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	View declarations of interest	
3.	Open Public Forum	
4.	Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Controls To scrutinise proposals to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order for dog controls in Monmouthshire in relation to dog fouling, designating exclusion areas and specifying 'dogs on leads areas'.	1 - 48
5.	To confirm minutes of the previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 23rd January 2020• 24th February 2020 (Special)	49 - 60
6.	Strong Communities Forward Work Programme	61 - 62
7.	Cabinet and Council Forward Work programme	63 - 74
8.	To agree date and time of next meeting as 23rd April 2020 at 10.00am.	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

P. Clarke
L.Dymock
D. Dovey
A. Easson
L. Guppy
R. Harris
V. Smith
J.Treharne
A. Webb

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny Committee Guide

Role of the Pre-meeting

1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues)
2. What is the Committee's role?
3. What outcome do Members want to achieve?
4. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this?
5. Discuss the committee's approach:
 - Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead
 - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member

Questions for the Meeting

Scrutinising Performance

1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why?
2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why?
3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why?
4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic?
5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service?
6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings?
7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives?
8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?

Scrutinising Policy

1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?
2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? Do they believe it will achieve the desired outcome?
3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective?
4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?
5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works?
6. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications been taken into consideration? For example, what are the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?
7. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?
8. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated.

Questions for the Committee to conclude...

Do we have the necessary information to form conclusions/make recommendations to the executive, council, other partners? If not, do we need to:

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...

(iii) Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...

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SUBJECT: PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER FOR DOG CONTROLS

MEETING: Strong Communities Select Committee

DATE: 12th March 2020

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To seek endorsement from Members to commence public consultation on the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order for dog controls in Monmouthshire under the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 Members consider the proposed approach, comment accordingly and endorse the proposal for public consultation on the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for dog controls, potentially relating to fouling, exclusion areas and dogs on leads areas.
- 2.2 The findings of the public consultation and appraisal of the options are reported back to Stronger Communities Select Committee, together with recommendations on the merits of making a Public Spaces Protection Order and the detail of controls to be included in such an Order.
- 2.3 Following the second report to Stronger Communities Select Committee a further public consultation is commenced on a draft Public Spaces Protection Order if one is considered to be needed.
- 2.4 In the context of public consultation feedback a third report is then provided to Stronger Communities Select Committee for pre-decision scrutiny before the Order goes to Cabinet or Individual Cabinet Member, (Cabinet Member for Social Justice & Community Development), for decision.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Despite the efforts of responsible dog owners and many partners, dog fouling continues to be a problem nationwide. As provided in Keep Wales Tidy 'Litter in Wales Understanding Littering and Litterers Executive Summary Report 2010', the Welsh public considers dog fouling the environmental problem which has the greatest impact on the look and feel of a

neighbourhood. This position is reflected in Monmouthshire with a significant number of complaints to Members and Officers.

- 3.2 A working group has been established in Monmouthshire since early 2015 comprised of a number of Town and Community Councils, (currently 22 involved), working in partnership with Environmental Health and Waste and Street Services. The primary focus of the Group is to raise awareness of the anti-social nature of dog fouling, and help develop a social conscience that dog owners should 'pick up' under the brand **Give Dog Fouling the Red Card**. This collaborative working has helped target 'hot spot' areas, fund signage with consistent messaging, and deliver awareness raising days several times a year in locations where fouling has been highlighted as a problem.
- 3.3 The legislative backdrop to this ongoing work is the **Monmouthshire County Council (Fouling of Land by Dogs) (Monmouthshire) Designation Order (No 1) 1998** which is provided in Appendix 1. The Order which came into force on the 29th June 1998 designates the areas of land in Monmouthshire, Part 1 by description, Part 2 specifically, to which the provisions of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 apply. Currently if a dog defecates at any time on designated land in Monmouthshire and a person who is in charge of the dog fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person is guilty of an offence unless there is a reasonable excuse for failing to do so.
- 3.4 However as with many issues relating to the quality of our local environment, dog fouling continues to prove a complex issue to tackle. Many factors influence whether persons 'pick up' after their dogs such as time of day, weather, footfall, the location, facilities (bags, bins) etc. While there has been a generally improving picture in Monmouthshire, complaint levels to Environmental Health remain substantial:
- 2015 – 120 complaints
2016 – 100 complaints
2017 – 122 complaints
2018 – 90 complaints
2019 – 89 complaints
- 3.5 In addition Keep Wales Tidy carry out an annual All Wales Local Environmental Audit to provide a 'snap shot' of litter, which includes dog fouling, across local authority areas. The 2019 – 20 survey encountered dog fouling on 16.7% of streets across Monmouthshire, (48 streets surveyed), and while no streets were found to have a significant or a severe presence, it is the highest recorded in the county since 2013 – 14 and significantly higher than the national average of 8.8%.
- 3.6 It is clear from research that a holistic approach is needed to help bring about behavioural change and long lasting impact. It is important therefore that collaborative working on a local level continues through initiatives such as the Give Dog Fouling the Red Card group.
- 3.7 It is important as well for the Authority to make full use of the tools provided by legislation. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced new powers for use by councils to address anti-social behaviour including Public Spaces Protection

Orders (PSPOs). Under the provisions of the Act local authorities must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that the activity subject to an Order:

- has, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality.
- is, or is likely to be, persistent or continuing in nature.
- is, or is likely to be, unreasonable.
- justifies the restrictions being imposed.

3.8 When assessing what is 'unreasonable' activity, there is a need to balance the rights of the community to enjoy public spaces, with the civil liberties of individuals and groups who may be affected by any restrictions imposed. Early engagement with our communities is therefore essential in order to fully understand the many views that are likely, consider the evidence of need for a PSPO and what it needs to contain.

3.9 **A 3 month** wide ranging open public consultation is therefore proposed which will include, but not limited to, the Chief of Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, elected Members, Council Officers, the general public and external agencies, especially those with a vested interest such as Keep Wales Tidy, Dogs Trust and the Kennel Club. The consultation will explain that the aim is to help ensure there is a balance so that dog owners can enjoy their dogs and ensure their welfare, whilst at the same time others can still enjoy public spaces without interference or impact from dogs and irresponsible dog ownership.

3.10 The consultation will seek views on the need for dog controls such as, but not limited to, the following areas:

Dog Fouling

- To make it an offence to fail to remove dog faeces from any land to which the public have access across the county.

Dog Exclusion Areas

- Such as school grounds, children's play areas and marked sports pitches.

Dogs on Leads Areas

- Specified areas such as cemeteries.
- On any land to which the public have access when directed to do so by an Authorised Officer where a dog is considered to be out of control or causing alarm and distress.

3.11 As is the case with the existing Order, breach of a PSPO is a criminal offence with a fine liable on prosecution in court of up to £1000. Authorised Officers can issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to offer the recipient the opportunity to discharge liability for the offence. FPN levels for breach of a PSPO were agreed by Cabinet on the 7 September 2016 and are £100 payable within 14 days, reduced to £75 if paid within 10 days. This reflects a slight increase for breach of the existing Order of £75 discounted to £50 for early payment.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION, (includes social justice, safeguarding and corporate parenting):

4.1 The completed 'Equalities & Future Generations Evaluation' form is provided as Appendix Two, attached.

4.2 There is a clear need to consider carefully the potential impact of a PSPO on different sections of our communities. For example exemptions for particular groups may be appropriate such as those using assistance dogs, emergency services etc. The public consultation is proposed to ensure the varied needs of our communities are considered fully with any resultant PSPO positively impacting the wellbeing goal of a healthier Wales.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL:

5.1 To continue using the Monmouthshire County Council (Fouling of Land by Dogs) (Monmouthshire) Designation Order (No 1) 1998 or, as proposed, to fully consider the legislative tools available in dealing with dog control issues in the county. The findings of the public consultation will help properly inform the next steps with an appraisal of the options presented in a second report to Stronger Communities Select.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

6.1 A progress report to Stronger Communities Select one year after implementation of a PSPO.

6.2 A PSPO can be made for a maximum duration of up to three years, after which it may be extended if certain criteria under the Act are met. This includes that an extension is necessary to prevent activity recurring. Extensions can be repeated, with each lasting for a maximum of three years. A further consultation process is required if a PSPO time period is to be extended.

7. REASONS:

7.1 To ensure fair, transparent, efficient and effective discharge of powers available to the Council under the Act.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 Costs of consultation to be absorbed by existing budgets. If a PSPO for dog controls is introduced there will be cost implications including for signage and enforcement, to be considered when appropriate in later reports.

9. CONSULTEES:

Social Care & Health DMT
Strategic Leadership Team

Head of Public Protection
Head of Waste & Street Services
Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services
Chief Operating Officer for Mon Life
Environment & Culture Manager
Head of Governance, Engagement and Improvement
Youth Offending Team Service Manager

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Anti-social behaviour powers
Statutory guidance for frontline professionals. Updated August 2019.

11. AUTHOR:

Huw Owen, Principal Environmental Health Officer

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

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E-mail: huwowen@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix One: Monmouthshire County Council (Fouling of Land by Dogs) (Monmouthshire)
Designation Order (No 1) 1998
Appendix Two: Equality & Future Generations Evaluation

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DATED

1st June

1998

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (FOULING OF LAND BY DOGS)
(MONMOUTHSHIRE) DESIGNATION ORDER (NO.1) 1998

S.M.W.Andrews
Deputy Chief Executive and Solicitor
Monmouthshire County Council
County Hall
Cwmbran
NP44 2XH

NW/A10.0006

THE DOGS (FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (FOULING OF LAND BY DOGS) (MONMOUTHSHIRE) DESIGNATION ORDER (NO.1) 1998

Monmouthshire County Council (in this Order called "the Council") hereby make the following Order:

1. The land described in Part I and II of the Schedule below and in respect of the land described in Part II of the Schedule also shown coloured red on the maps attached to this Order being land in the area of the Council which is land to which the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 applies, is hereby designated for the purposes of that Act.
2. The Order may be cited as the Monmouthshire County Council (Fouling of Land by Dogs)(Monmouthshire) Designation Order (No.1) 1998 and shall come into force on 29th June 1998

SCHEDULE

Part I

Land designated by description

1. Carriageways with a speed limit of 40 m.p.h. or less and adjoining footpaths, verges and embankments.
2. Parks, recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds, playing fields and playgrounds maintained by the Council.
3. All cemeteries within the County.
4. Cycle tracks maintained by the Council.
5. Car parks maintained by the Council.
6. Grounds surrounding village halls.
7. Registered village greens but excluding the dog exercise area which forms part of Chippenham Mead Village Green at Monmouth.
8. Housing amenity areas being parcels of land held by the Council by virtue of section 12 of the Housing Act 1985 which are not covered by buildings or included in the curtilage of a building or forming part of a highway.
9. Land laid or sown with grass or planted with trees, shrubs or plants and mown or otherwise maintained in an ornamental condition by the Council.
10. Land which is used as an amenity area or for the purpose of public open space, recreation or lies waste or unoccupied and not being land falling within the description contained in section 1(3) of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996

11. Paved areas, steps and subways, shopping precincts and arcades, pedestrian areas and bridges not comprised in or running alongside a highway
12. Lanes, courts, alleys, squares, footways, passages, walkway and all public rights of way, whether a throughfare or not

Part II

Land designated specifically

1. Llanbadoc Island
2. The Island, Usk
3. Caldicot Castle County Park
4. The Old Station, Tintern
5. Angidy Ironworks, Tintern
6. Black Rock Picnic Site, Portskewett
7. Bluebell Green Picnic Site, Wentwood
8. Clydach Picnic Site, Caravan Site and Ironworks
9. Goytre Wood
10. Vauxhall Fields
11. Gilwern Picnic Site
12. Bailey Park, Abergavenny
13. Belgrave Park, Abergavenny
14. Linda Vista Gardens, Abergavenny
15. Rogiet Playing Fields
16. St Mary Place Playing Field, Caldicot
17. Hardwick Avenue Playing Field, Chepstow
18. The Warren, off Alpha Road, Chepstow
19. Western Avenue Playing Field, Chepstow
20. Thornwell Playing Fields, Chepstow
21. Castle Dell, Chepstow

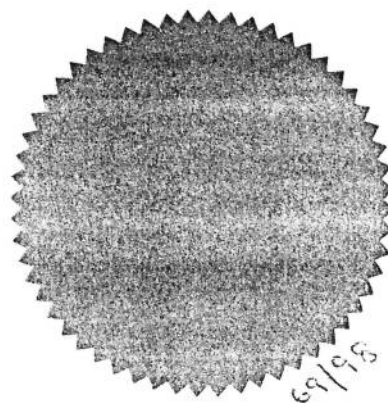
22. Chepstow River Bank
23. Playing Fields to the rear of Magor School
24. Undy Playing Fields
25. Llandewi Rhydderch Play Area
26. Llanvapley Cricket and Play Area
27. Llanvair Kilgeddin Play Area
28. Monmouth School Playing Fields
29. Usk Cricket Ground
30. Abergavenny Cricket Ground

Dated this *first* day of *June*
ninety eight

one thousand nine hundred and

GIVEN under the **COMMON SEAL** of)
MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL)

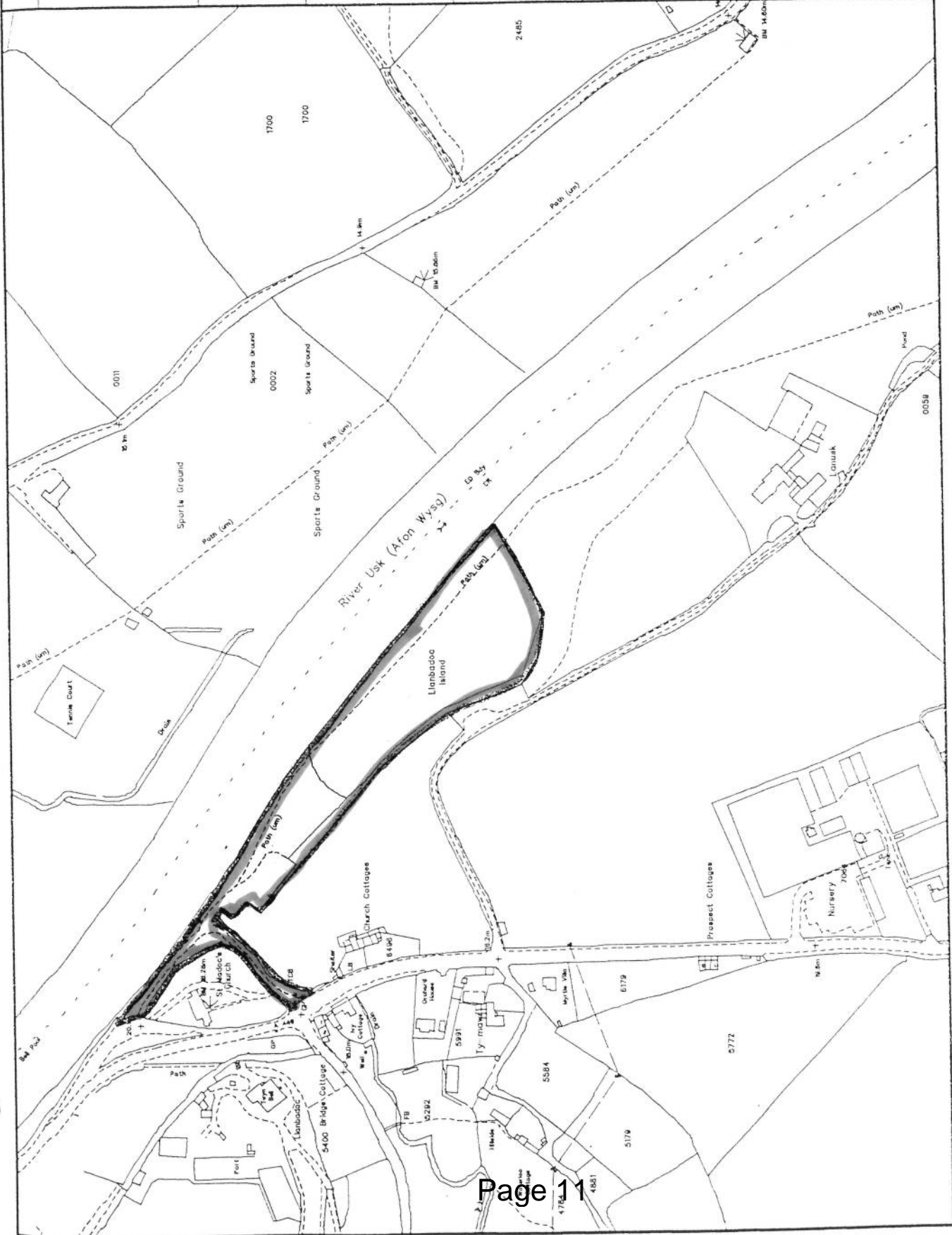
G. Powell
Member of the Council
[Signature]
Deputy Chief Executive and Solicitor



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Lanbadoc Island.

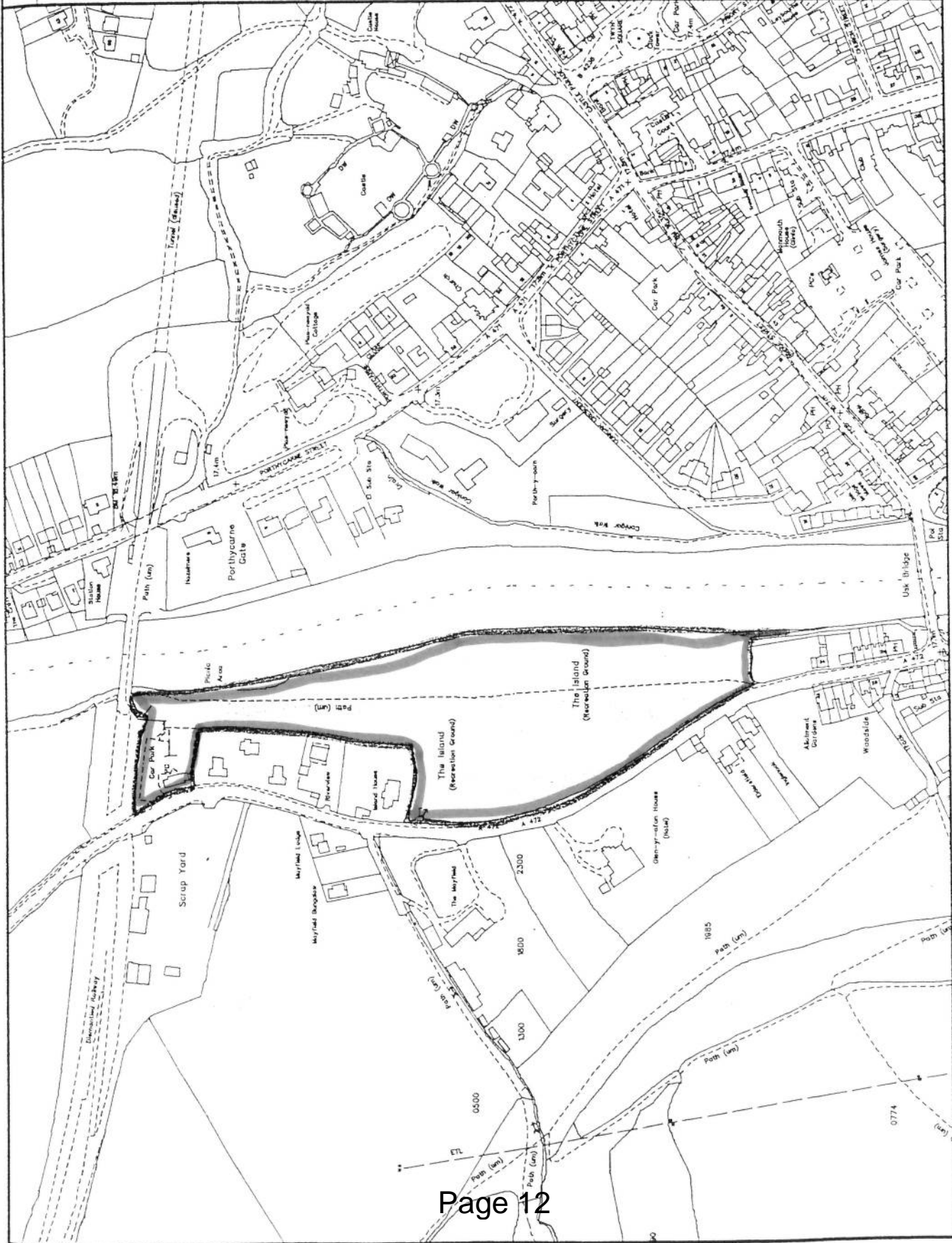
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The Island Recreation Ground, Usk.

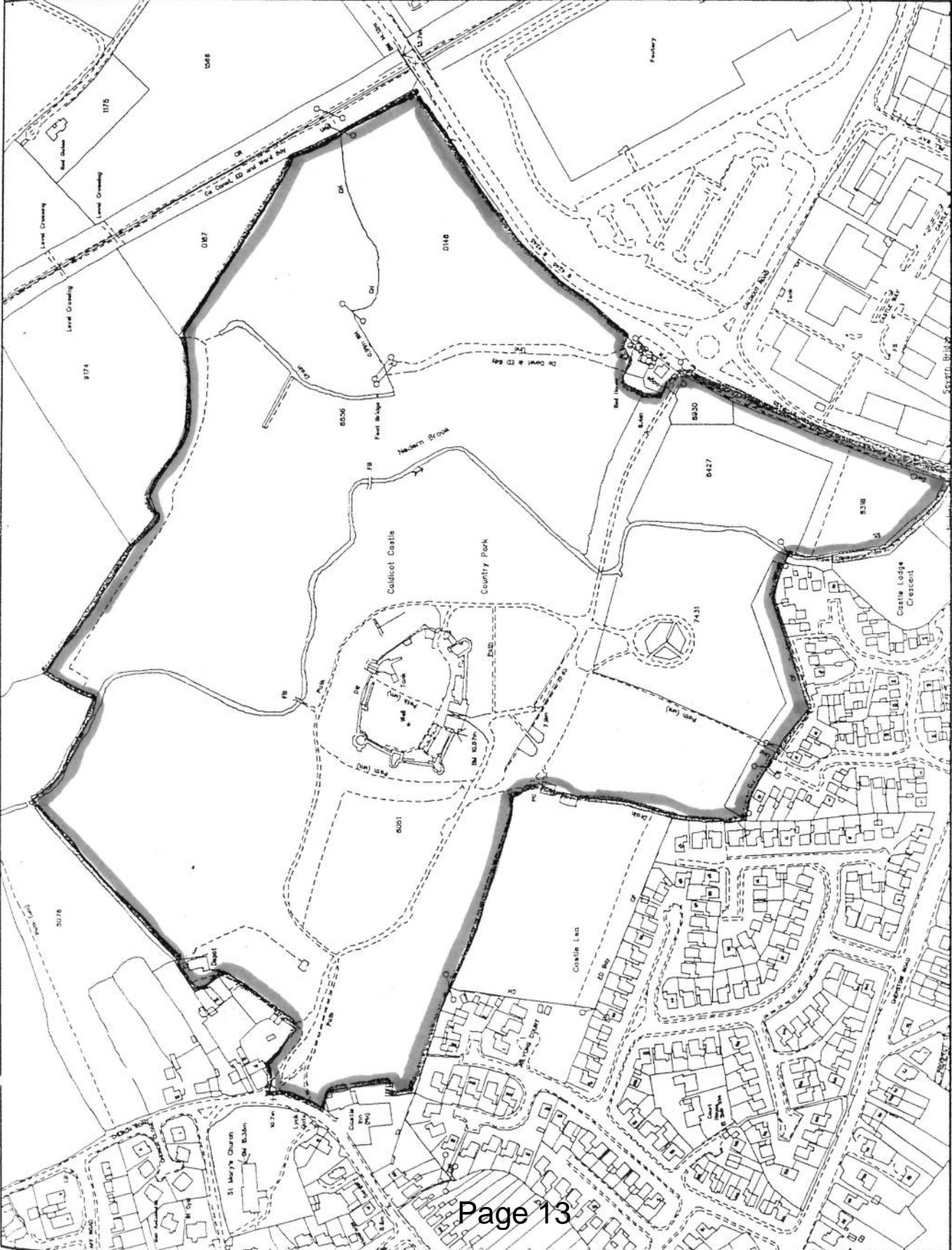
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Caldicot Castle Country Park.

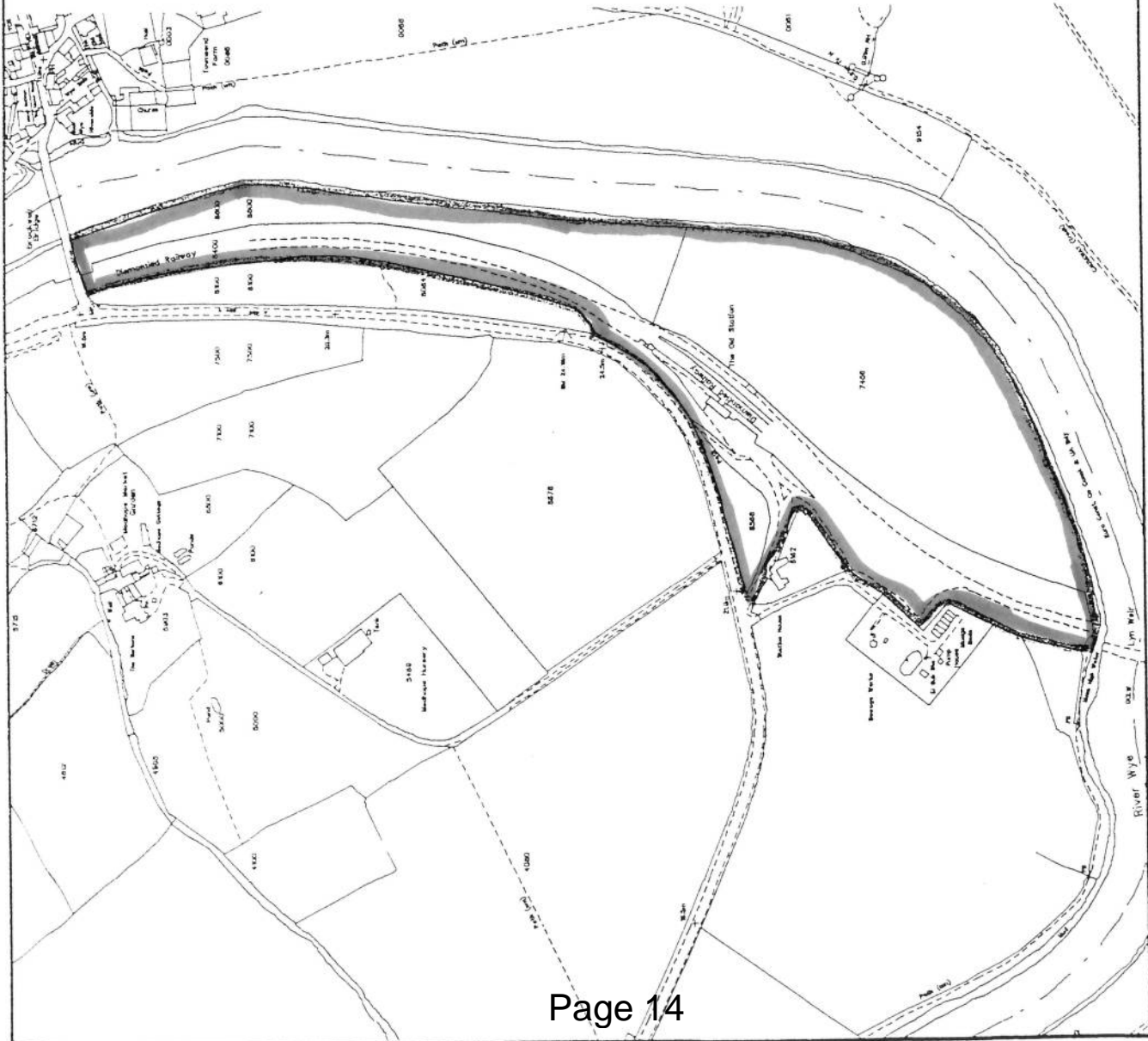
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The Old Station, Tintern.

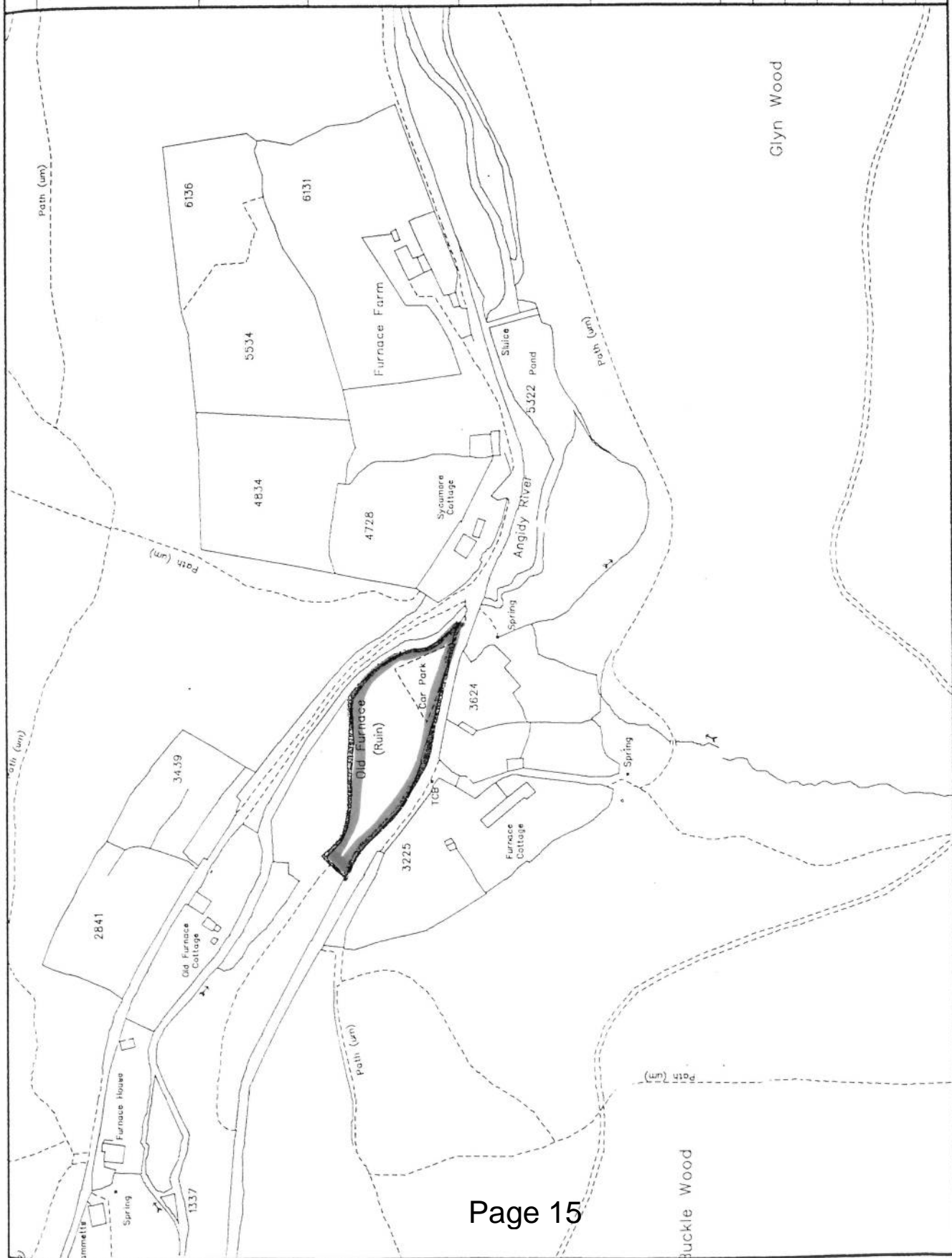
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Angidy Ironworks, Intern.

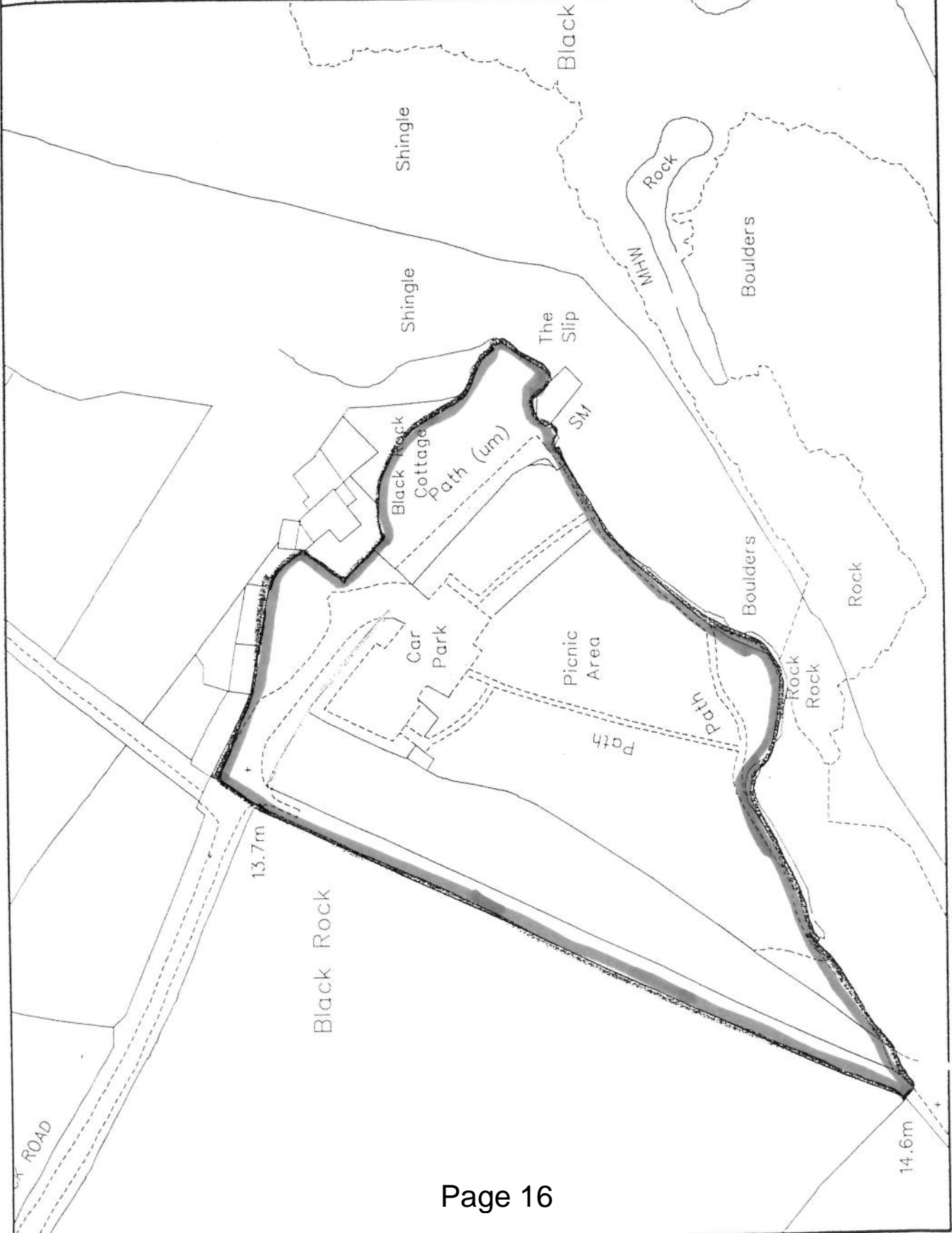
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Black Rock Picnic Site, Portskewett.

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Bluebell Green Picnic Site, Wentwood.

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Clydach picnic site, caravan site and ironworks.

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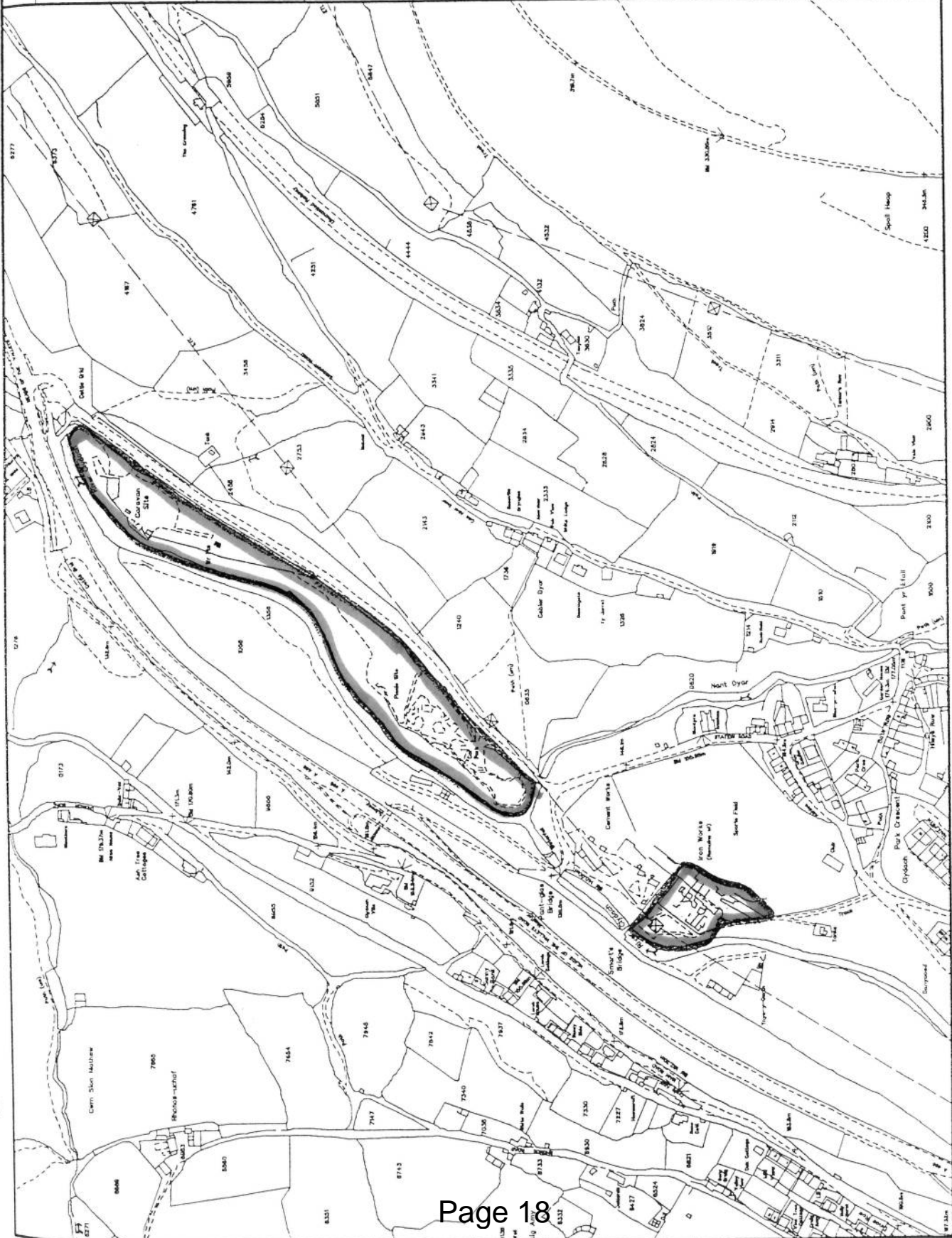
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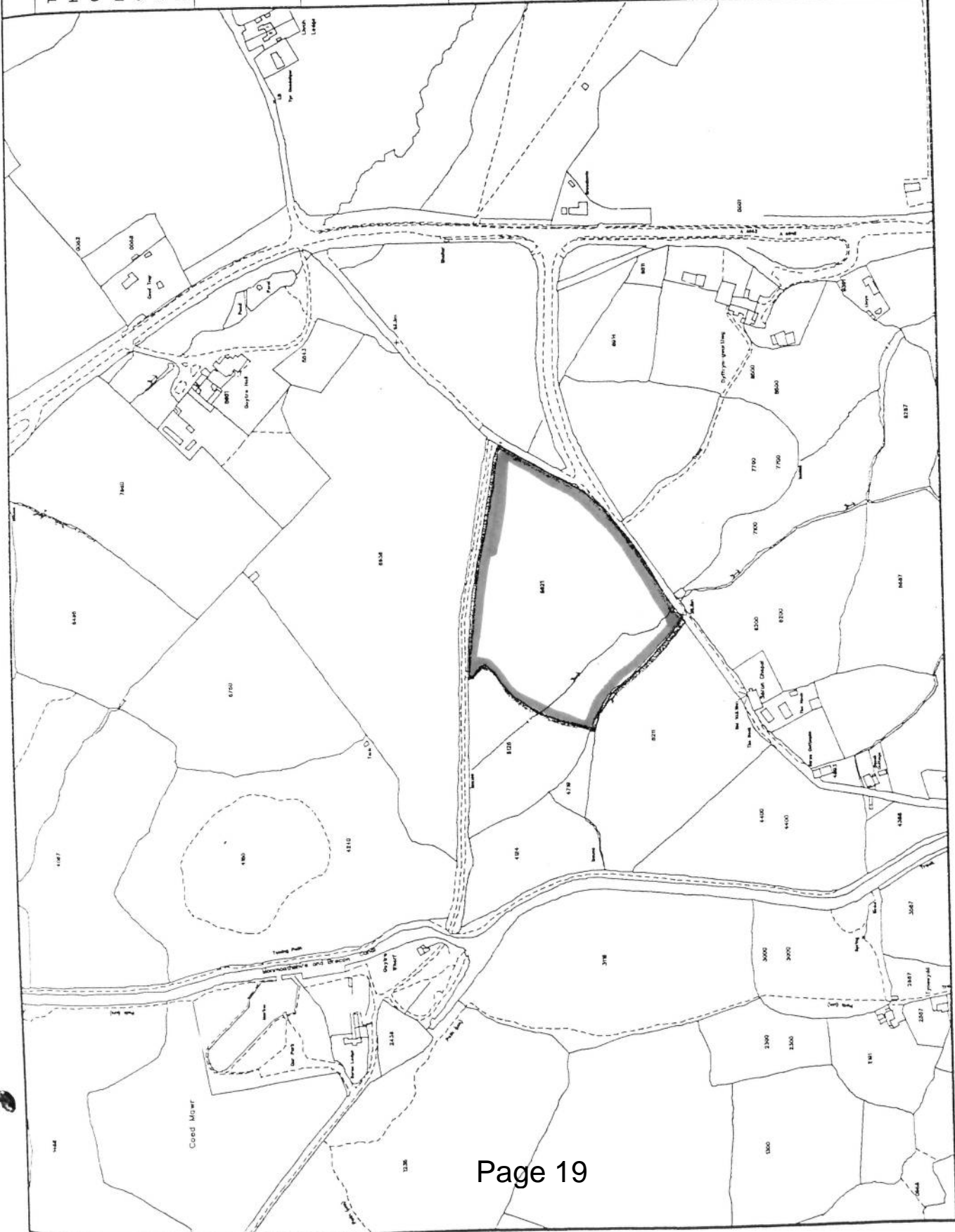
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Vauxhall Fields,
Monmouth.

Drawn repro 24/09/97

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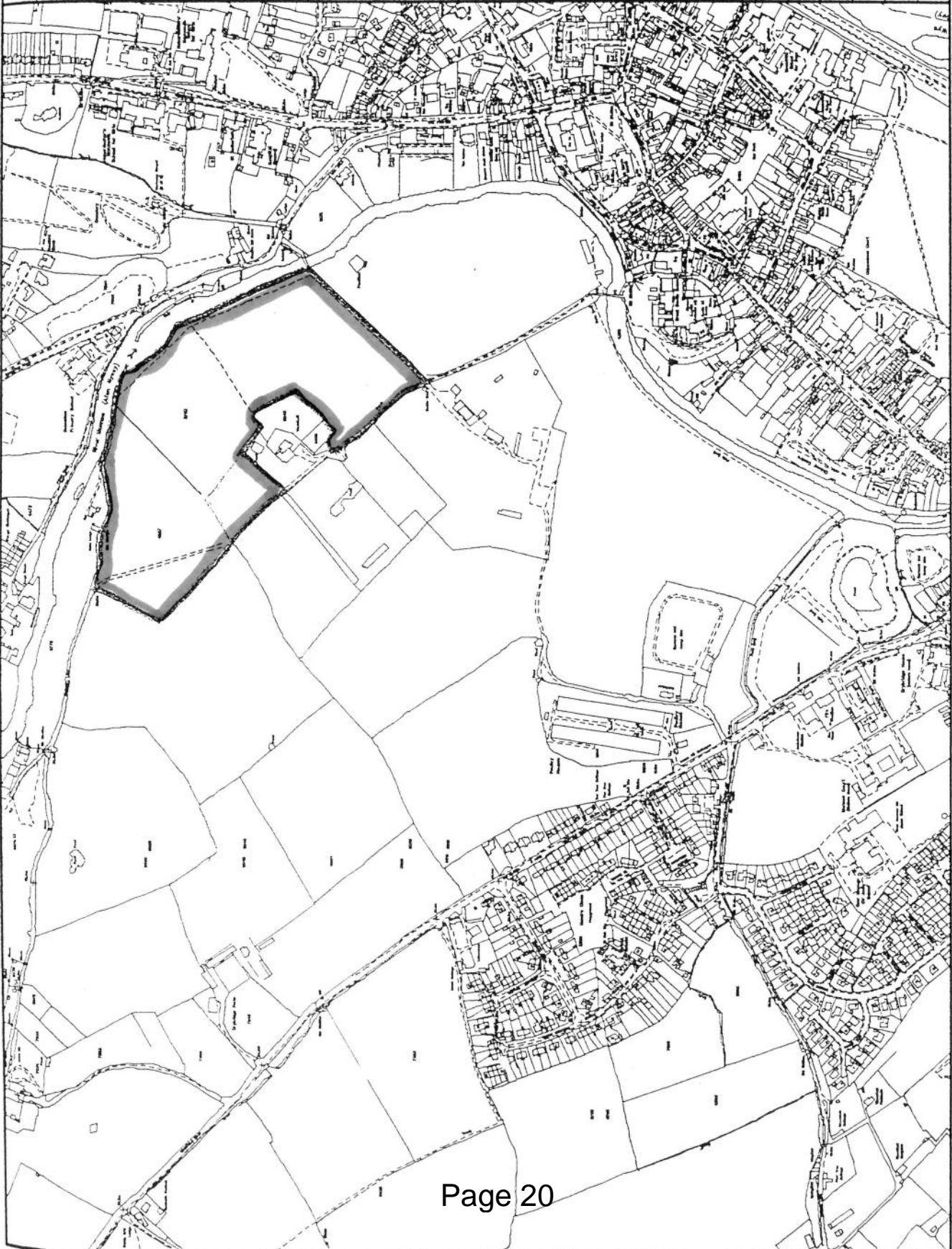
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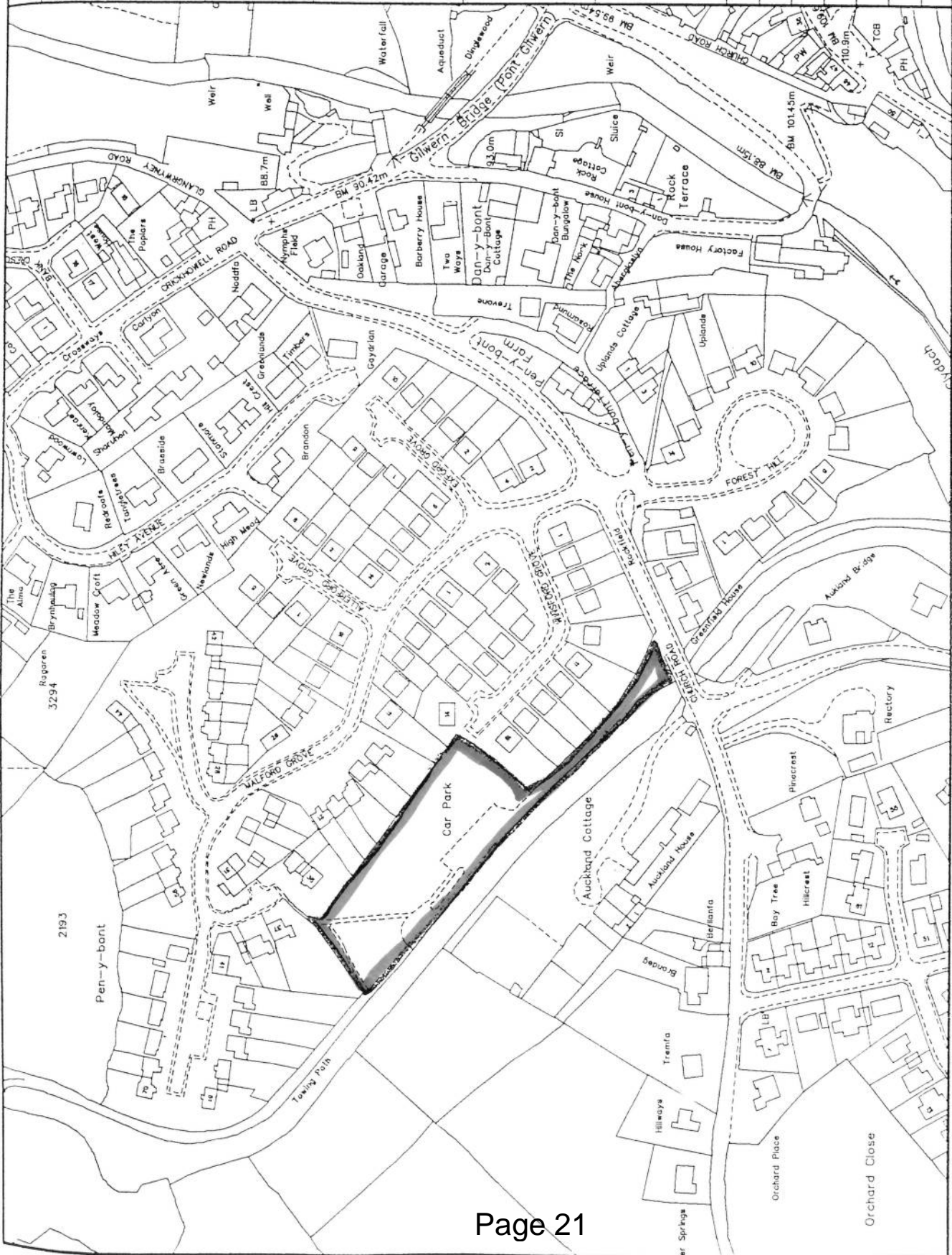
Gilwern Picnic Site.

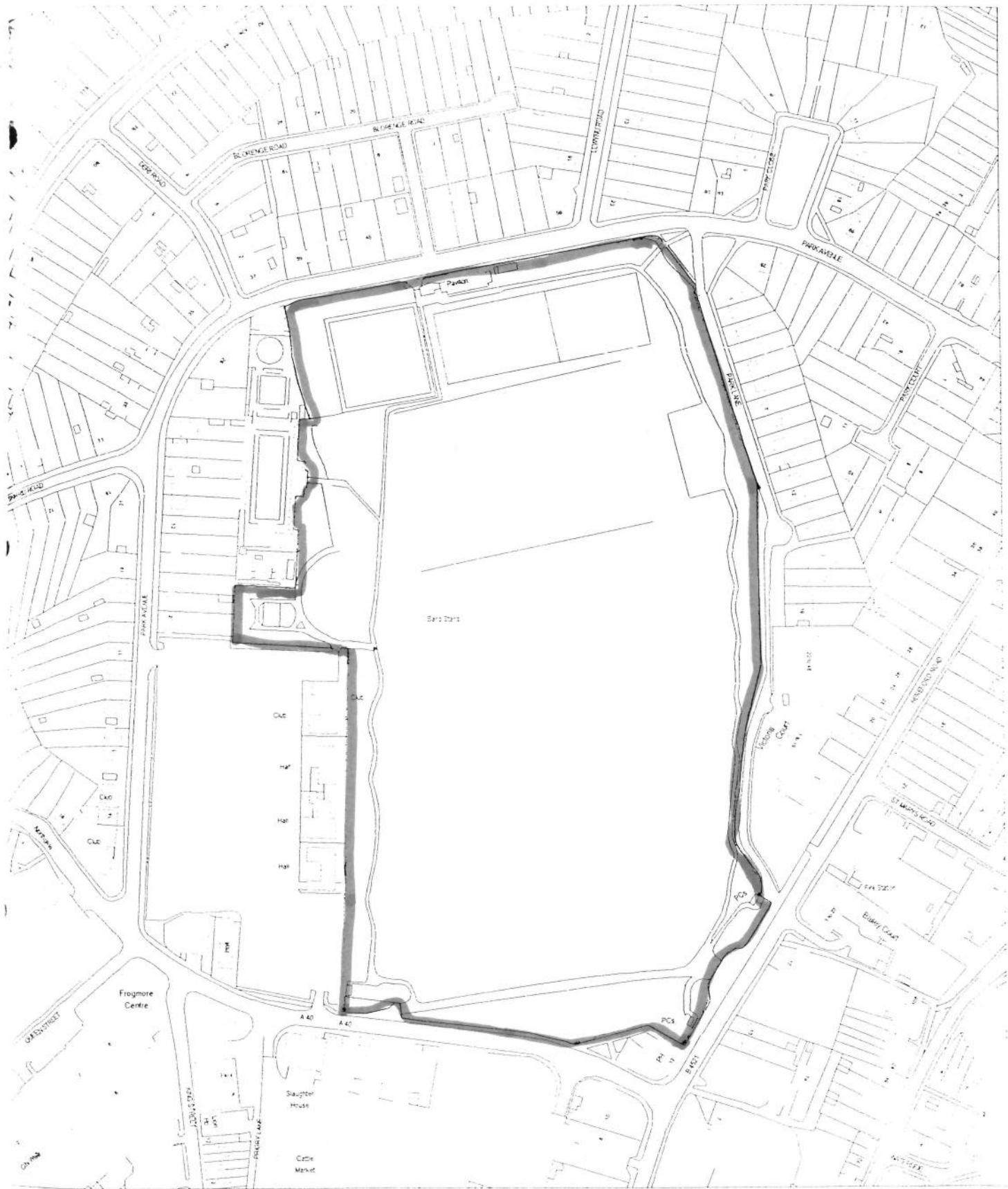
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A. J. DAVIES MCIEH FRSH
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

D. J. HARRIS BSc CEng MICE MCIWEM MinstWM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Monmouthshire
COUNTY COUNCIL



JOB TITLE

DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
BAILEY PARK ABERGAVENNY

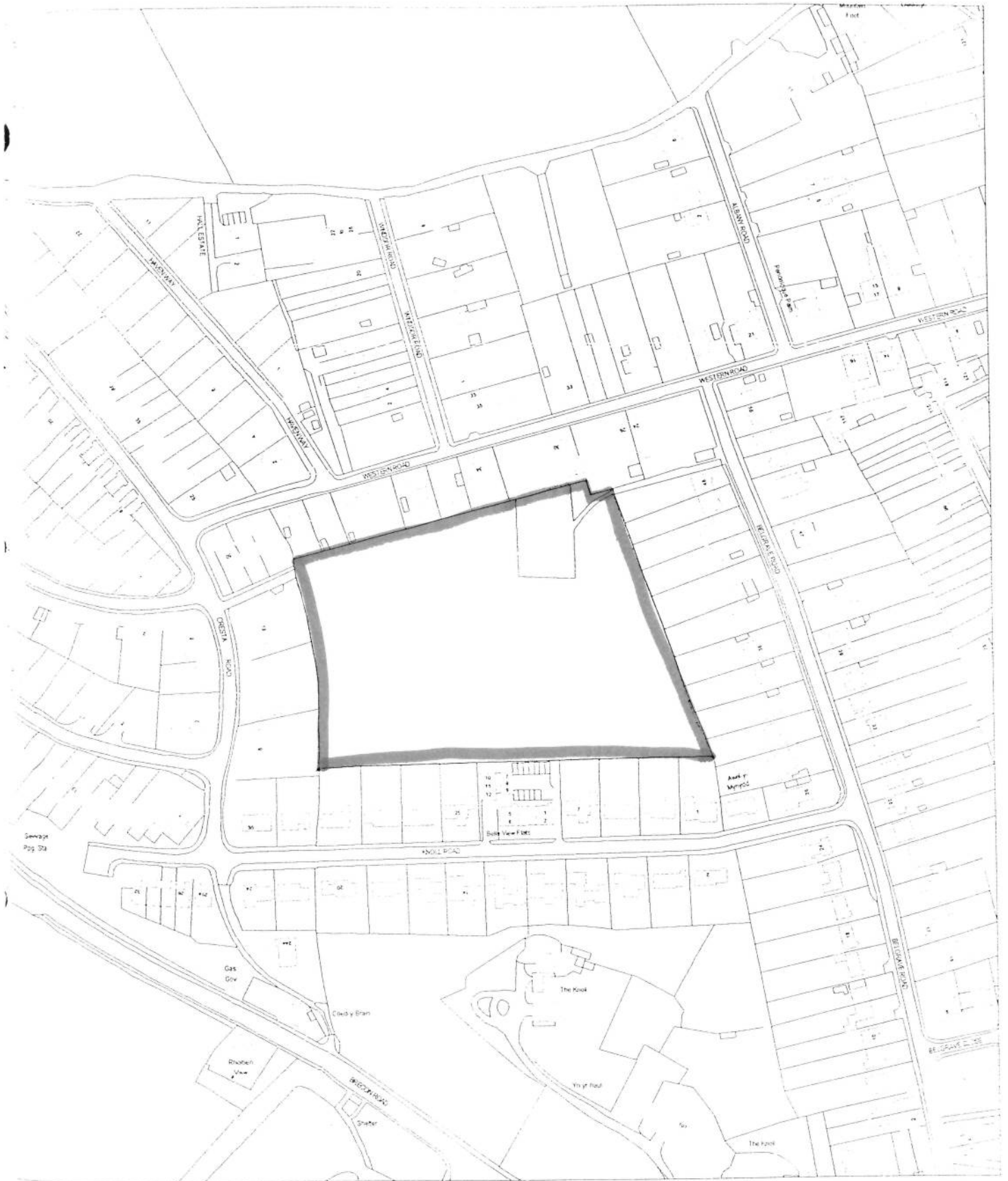
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A. J. DAVIES MCIEH FRSH
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 D. J. HARRIS BSc CEng MICE MCIWEM MInstWM
 DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



JOB TITLE

DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 BELGRAVE PARK ABERGAVENNY

DRAWING No DDO14

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Monmouthshire
 COUNTY COUNCIL



JOB TITLE
**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 LINDA VISTA GARDENS ABERGAVENNY**

DRAWING No. DDO15 SCALE 1:2500
 DATE 8/12/1997
 MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
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Rogiet Primary School

Sea View Terrace

Seaview Terrace

Rogiet Terrace

Rogiet Hill

The Larches

Home

E136-50



A.J. DAVIES MCIEM FRSH
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
D.J. HARRIS BSc CEng MICE MCIWEM MinstWM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Monmouthshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

JOB TITLE

DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
ROGIET PLAYING FIELD

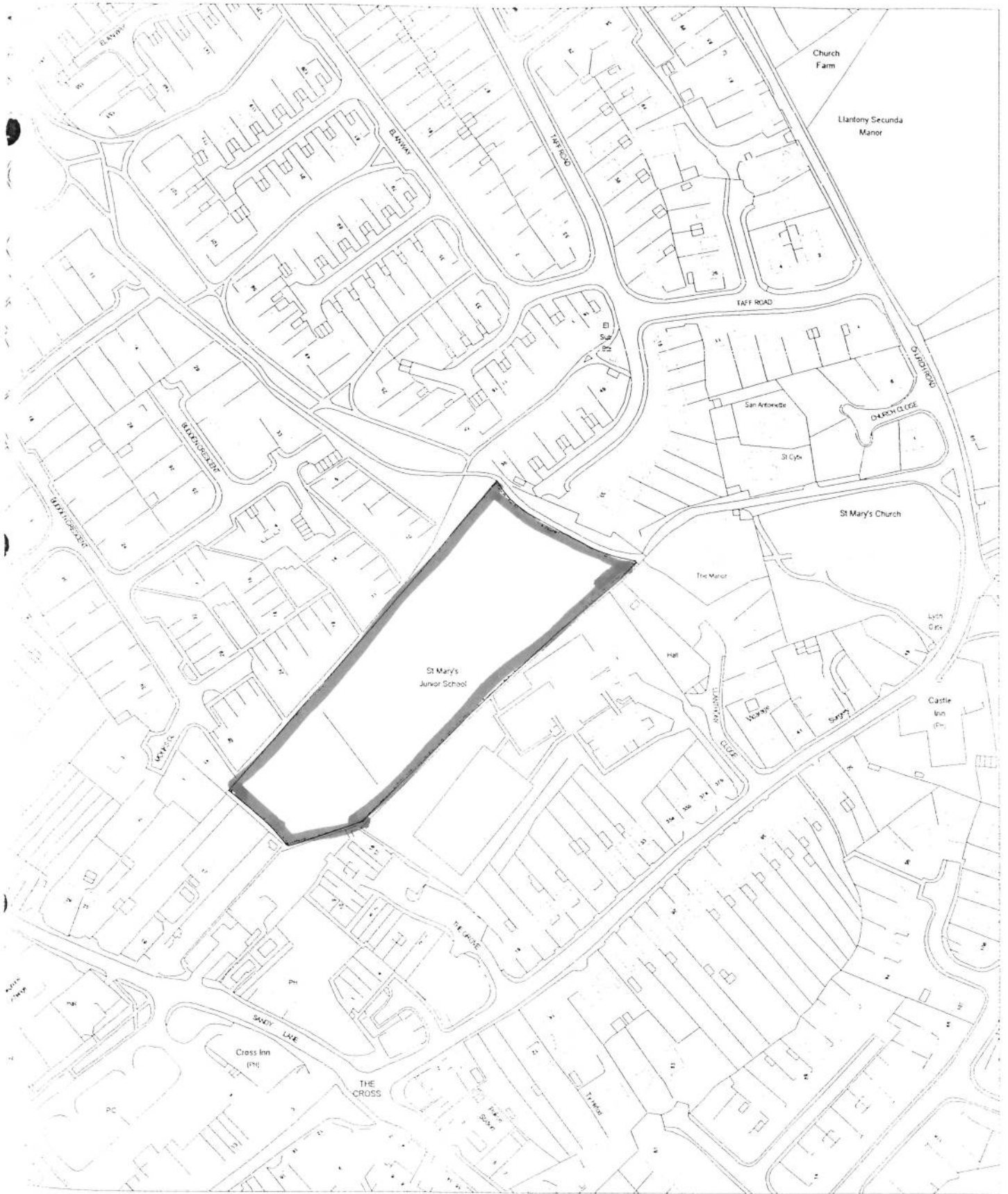
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DATE 8/12/1997

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D.J. HARRIS BSc CEng MICE MCIWEM MinStWM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Monmouthshire
COUNCIL



JOB TITLE

DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
ST MARY PLACE PLAYING FIELD CALDICOT

DRAWING No DDO17

SCALE 1:2500

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JOB TITLE

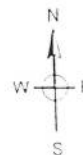
**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
HARDWICK AVENUE PLAYING FIELD CHEPSTOW**

DRAWING No DDO18

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**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 THE WARREN, OFF ALPHA ROAD CHEPSTOW**



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 DATE 8/12/1997

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JOB TITLE

**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 WESTERN AVENUE PLAYING FIELD CHEPSTOW**

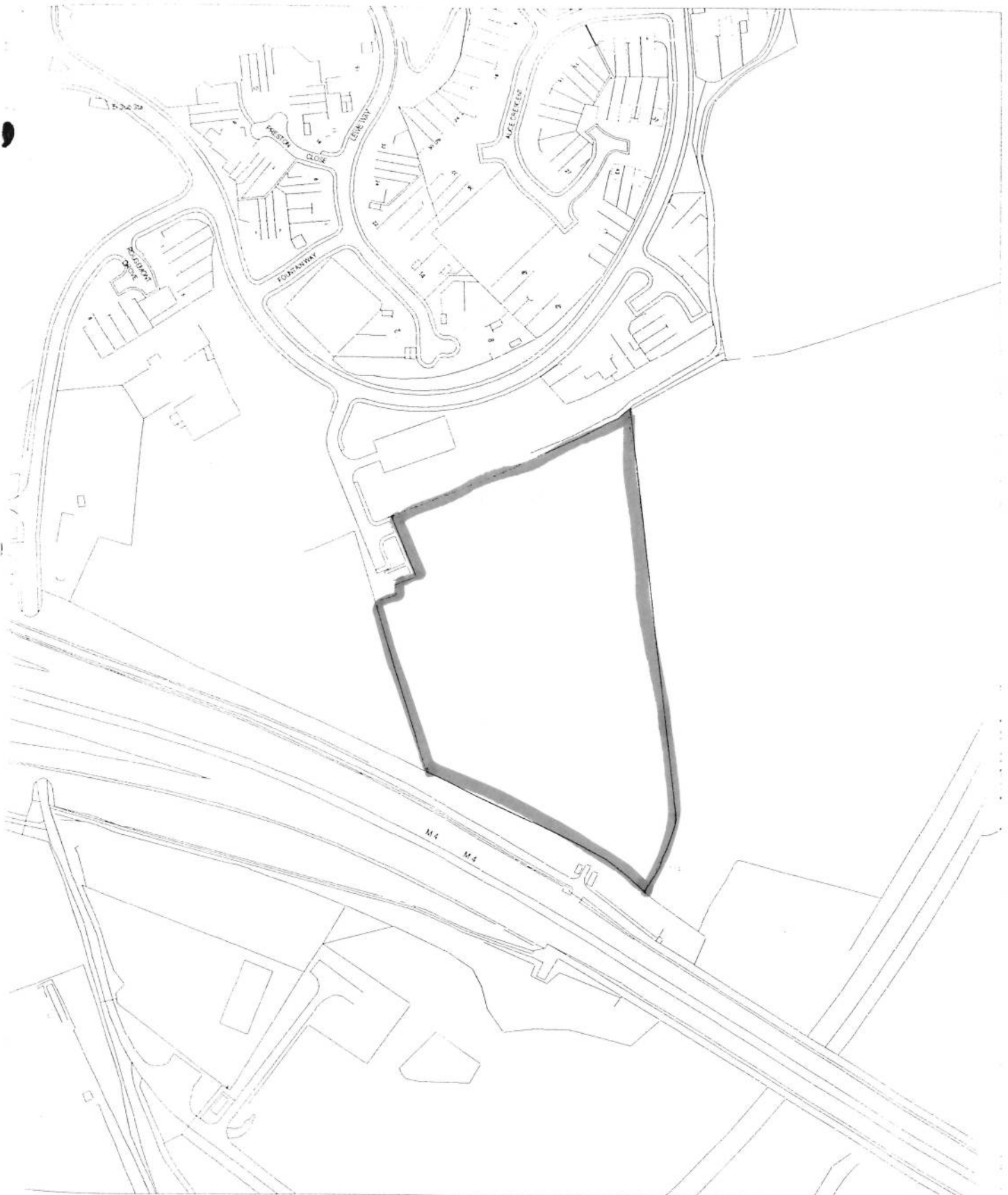
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JOB TITLE

DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 THORNWELL PLAYING FIELDS CHEPSTOW

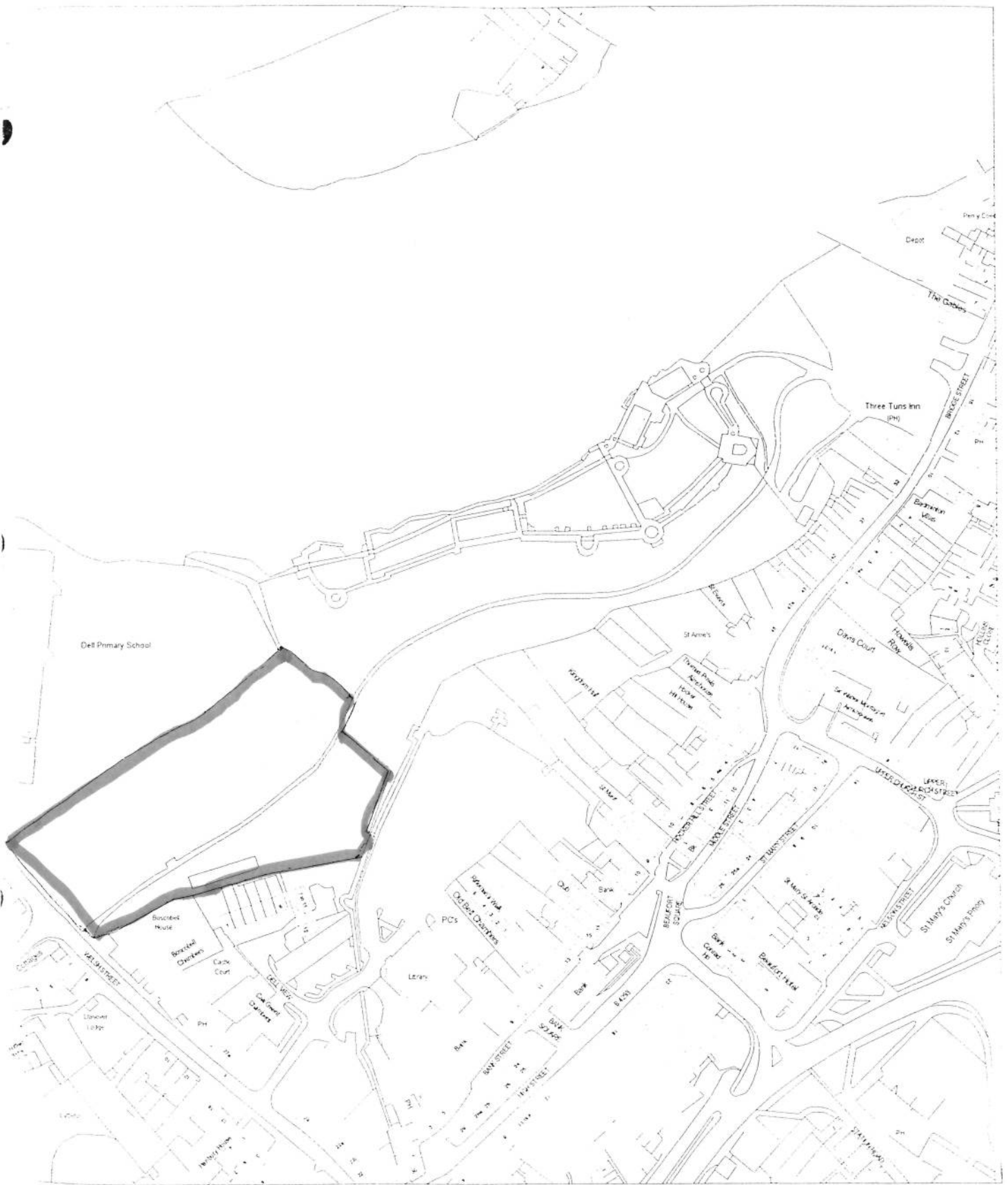
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JOB TITLE

DOGS (FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 CASTLE DELL CHEPSTOW

DRAWING No DDO22

SCALE 1:2500

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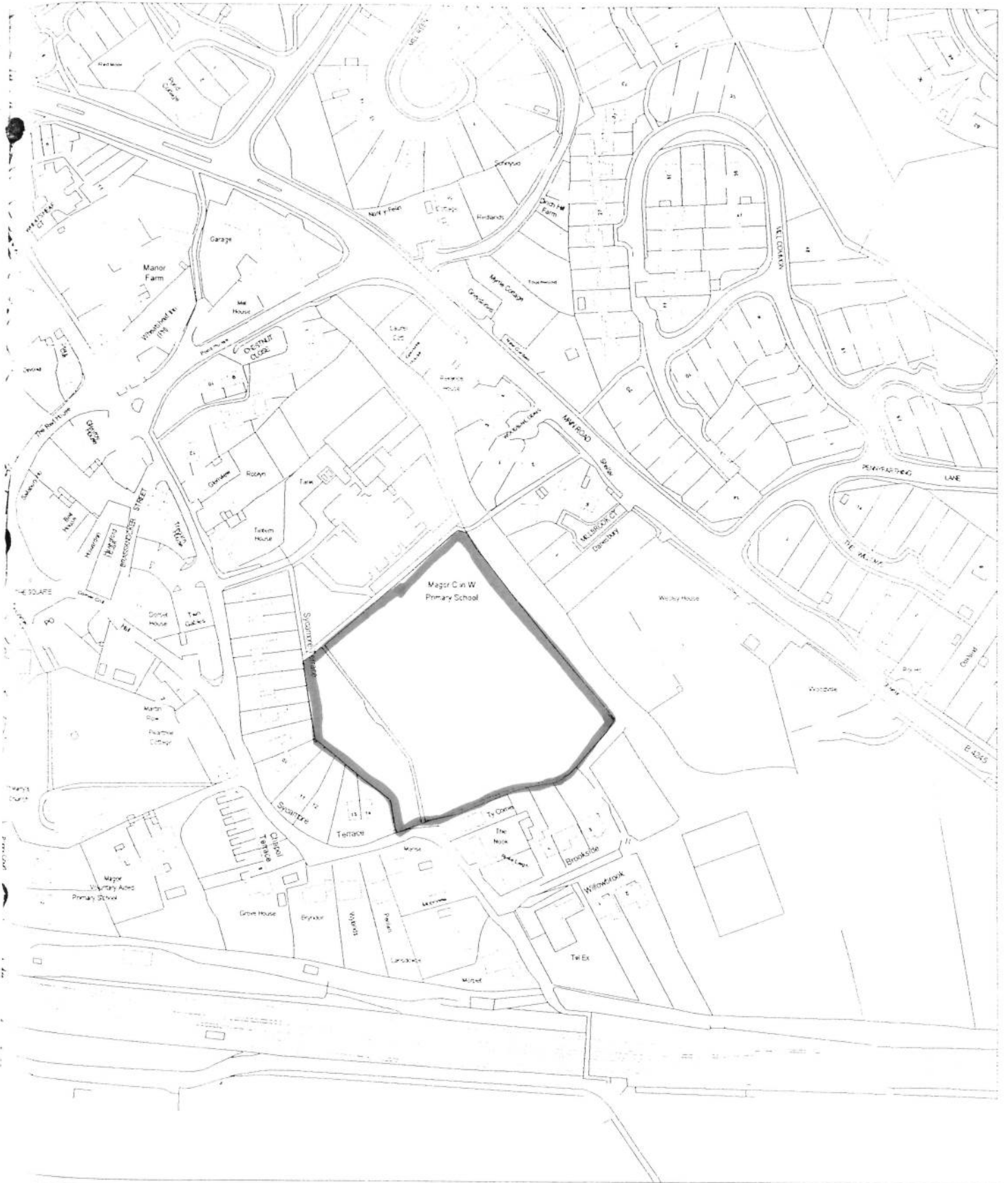
mouthshire
 COUNTY COUNCIL



JOB TITLE
**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 CHEPSTOW RIVER BANK**

DRAWING No DDO23 SCALE 1:2500
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JOB TITLE

**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 PLAYING FIELDS TO THE REAR OF MAGOR SCHOOL**

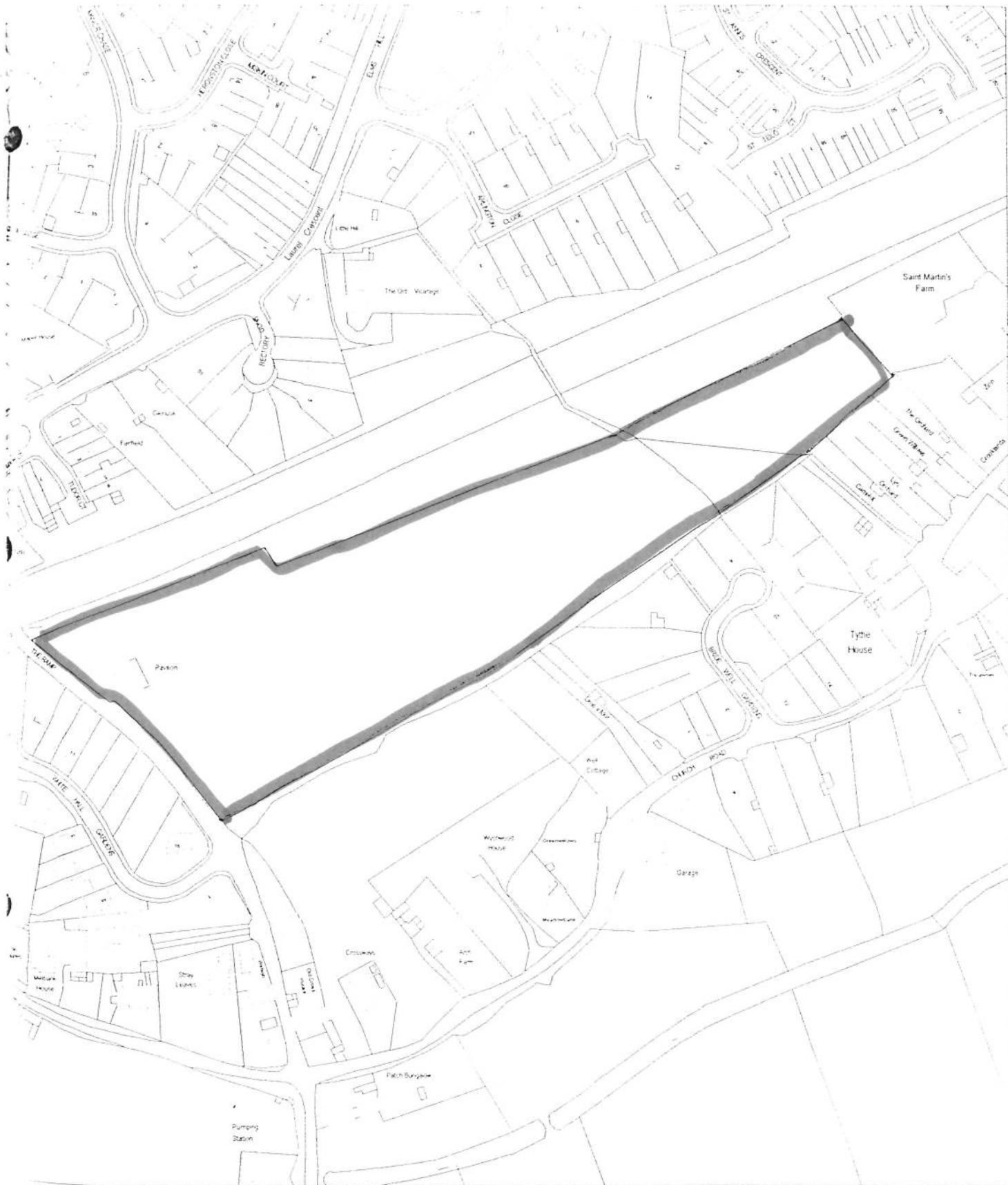
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JOB TITLE

DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
UNDY PLAYING FIELDS

DRAWING No. DDO25

SCALE 1:2500

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JOB TITLE
**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 LLANDEWI RHYDDERCH PLAY AREA**



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JOB TITLE

DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
LLANVAPLEY CRICKET AND PLAY AREA

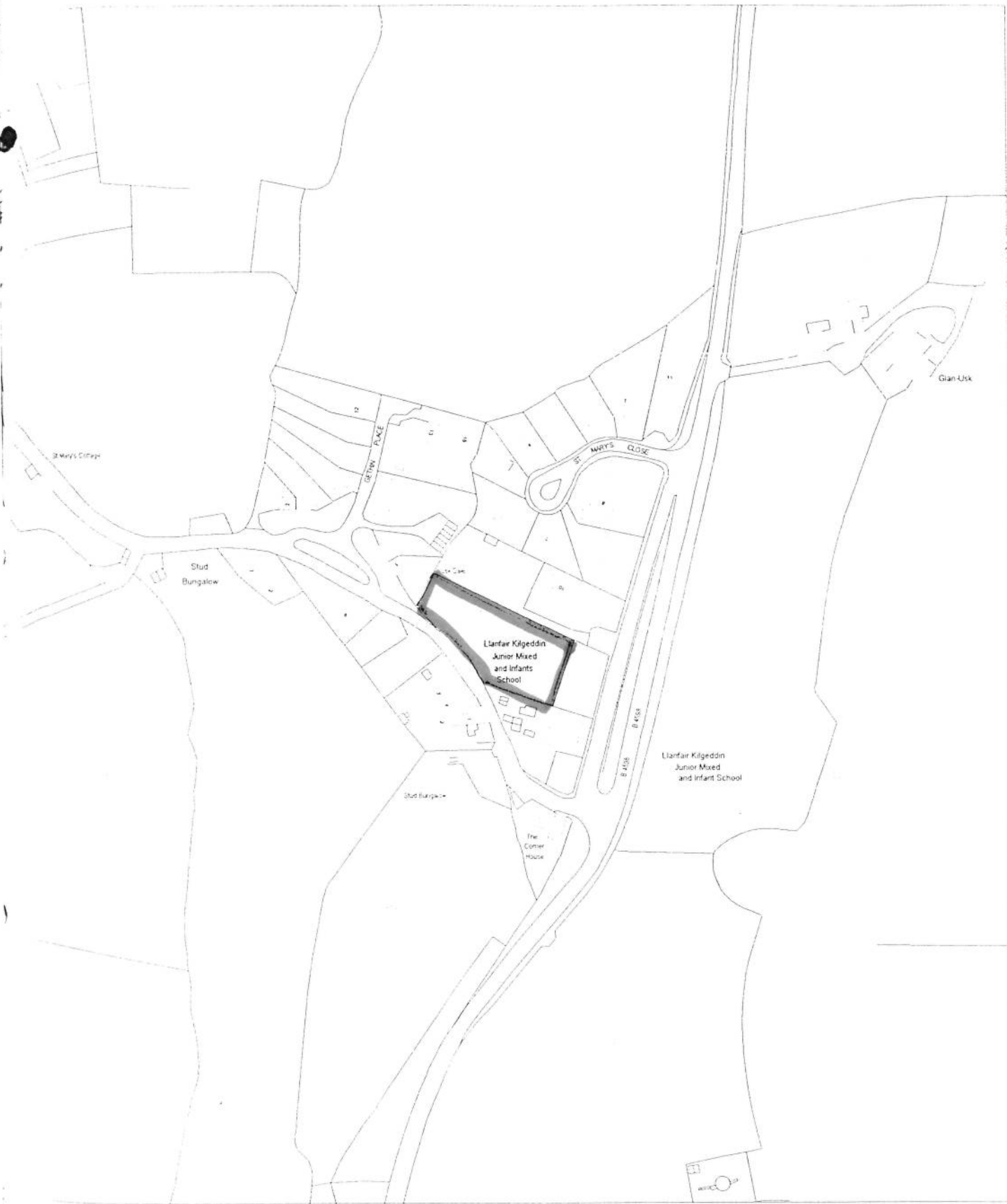
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JOB TITLE

**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
LLANVAIR KILGEDDIN PLAY AREA**

DRAWING No DDO28

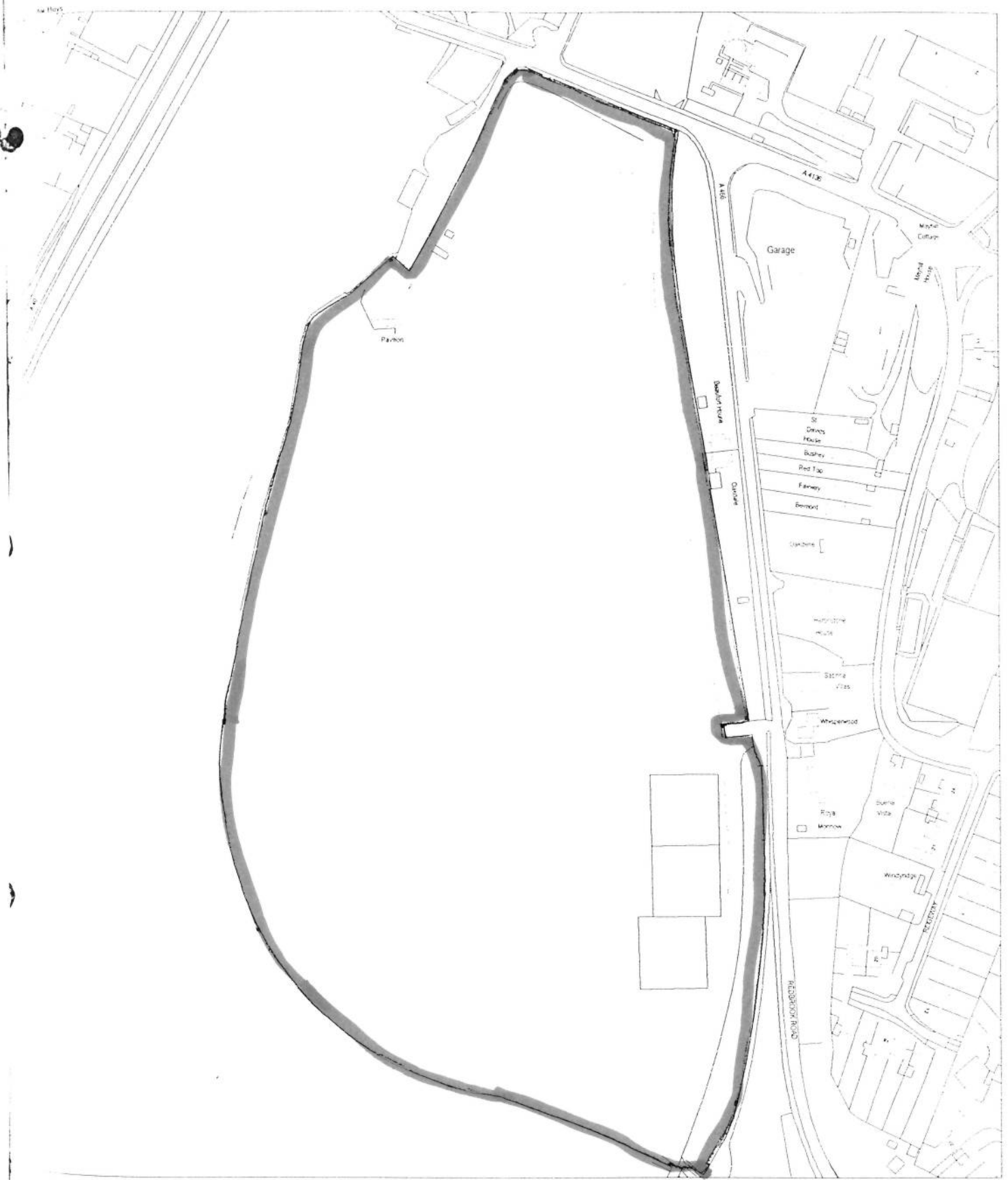
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JOB TITLE
**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 MONMOUTH SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS**



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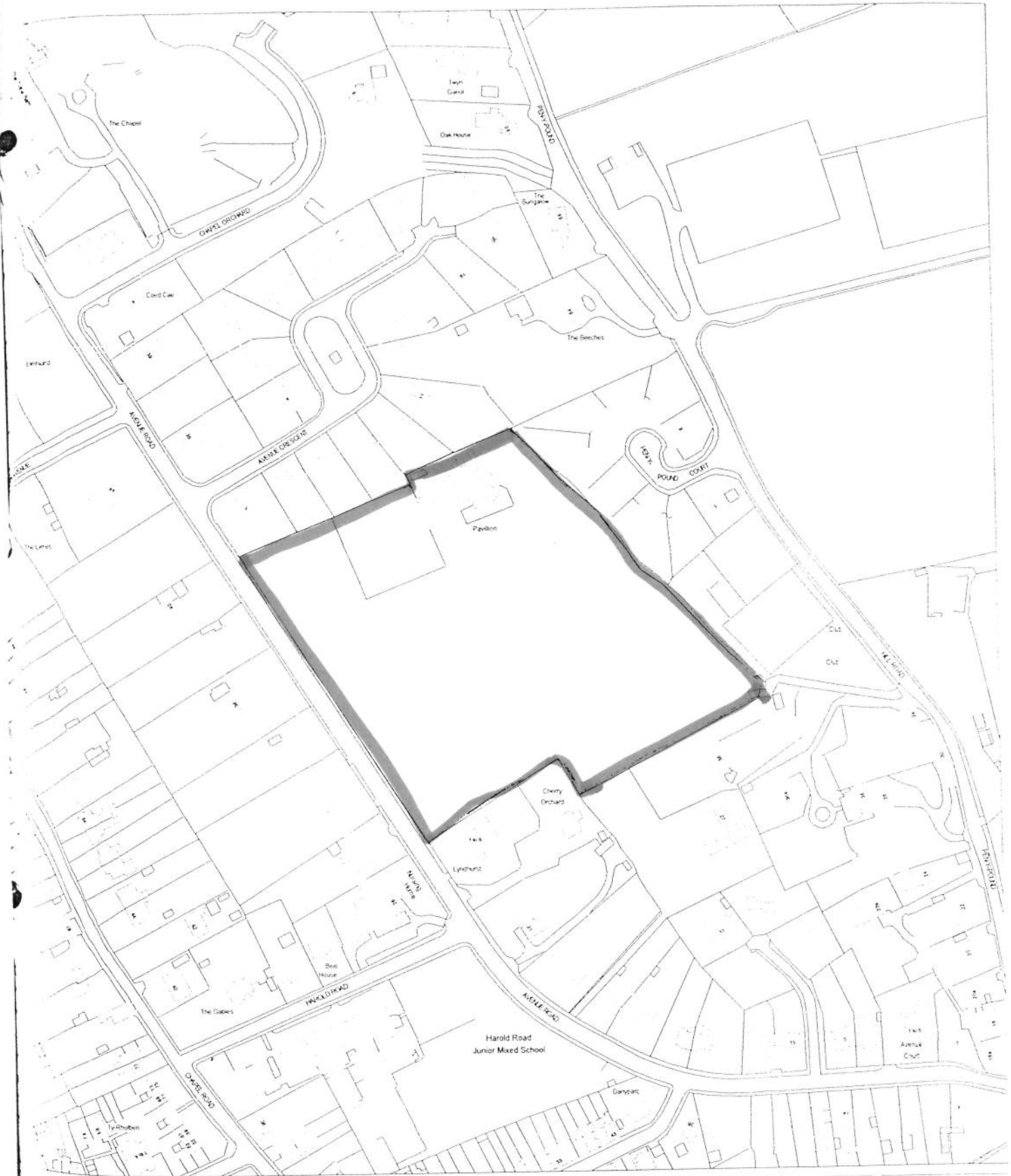
JOB TITLE
**DOGS (FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 USK CRICKET GROUND**



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JOB TITLE
**DOGS(FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996 - DESIGNATION ORDER
 ABERGAVENNY CRICKET GROUND**

DRAWING No. DDO32 SCALE 1:2500
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<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Huw Owen</p> <p>Phone no: 01873 735433 E-mail: huwowen@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>To seek endorsement from Members to commence public consultation on the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order for dog controls in Monmouthshire under the provisions of the Anti – social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Public Protection</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>February 2020</p>

Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Young children are most likely to be exposed to dog fouling through their outside play activities and potential health impacts if personal hygiene has not fully developed.	Proposed public consultation to enable this to be fully explored.	Public consultation feedback to be fully considered in due course.
Disability	Wheelchair users particularly affected by dog fouling on streets, pathways etc.	Proposed public consultation to enable this to be fully explored.	Public consultation feedback to be fully considered in due course.
Gender reassignment	None	None	N/A
Marriage or civil partnership	None	None	N/A

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Pregnancy or maternity	None	None	N/A
Race	None	None	N/A
Religion or Belief	None	None	N/A
Sex	None	None	N/A
Sexual Orientation	None	None	N/A
Welsh Language	<p>Advice to be taken if public consultation on Council's website etc to be bi lingual.</p> <p>Public Spaces Protection Order signage will need to be bi lingual</p>	None	N/A
Poverty	None	None	N/A

PS9642


2. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!





Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	Positive: Aim is to ensure the Council uses legislative tools available to be efficient and effective in carrying out its responsibilities to help provide a clean, healthy environment.	N/A
A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	Positive: To help secure a behavioural change so that dog fouling is socially unacceptable and reduce pressure on the county, town and community councils to deal with it. Resources then freed up to deal with other priorities.	N/A
A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	Positive: the public consultation will help guide council officers in the best way to deal with dog fouling issues, which negatively affect the community's quality of life, in a proportionate and efficient manner.	N/A
A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	Positive: dog fouling is considered to be the environmental problem which has the greatest impact on the look and feel of a neighbourhood. Public consultation to help guide officers in the best way to help deliver behavioural change.	N/A
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local	Positive: setting an example for developing communities which are attractive, viable and safe.	N/A

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
social, economic and environmental wellbeing		
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Positive: aim is to ensure sports and play areas in Monmouthshire are free from dog fouling	N/A
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	N/A	N/A

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3. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	The consultation is aimed at guiding officers as to how best to reduce fouling in public areas both in the short and long term.	Public consultation feedback to be fully considered in due course.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>Wide ranging public consultation proposed to take into account views of public in Monmouthshire and external agencies that have a vested interest in responsible dog ownership and welfare.</p>	<p>Public consultation feedback to be fully considered in due course.</p>
 <p>Involvement</p> <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>Wide ranging public consultation proposed to take into account views of public in Monmouthshire and external agencies that have a vested interest in responsible dog ownership and welfare.</p>	<p>Public consultation feedback to be fully considered in due course.</p>
 <p>Prevention</p> <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p>Intention is to consider and where appropriate use the legislative tools available with the aim of helping to achieve behavioural change in the small percentage of dog owners who are not acting responsibly.</p>	<p>Public consultation feedback to be fully considered in due course.</p>
 <p>Integration</p> <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p>Wide ranging public consultation on Public Spaces Protection Order to be followed at a later date by a further public consultation on draft Order if considered needed.</p>	<p>Public consultation feedback to be fully considered in due course.</p>

4. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Social Justice, Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Social Justice	Public Spaces Protection Order powers being considered enable a proportionate response / penalty for an offence.	Public consultation feedback to be fully considered in due course.	
Safeguarding	Having the legislative powers available helps protect the public health of all age groups.		
Corporate Parenting			

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5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

Complaints received by Environmental Health, Waste and Street Services and participants in Give Dog Fouling The Red Card Working Group.

6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

Proposed public consultation will help fully consider the dog control issues in the county and how best to use the legislation available to improve the situation and secure cleaner, healthier public areas.

A second report to Stronger Communities Select following the consultation is proposed with recommendations on the merits of making a Public Spaces Protection Order and the detail of controls to be included in such an Order.

Further public consultation on a draft Order if such an Order is considered appropriate following initial consultation appraisal.

A third report to Stronger Communities Select will be needed for pre decision scrutiny before the Order goes to Individual Cabinet Member Decision.

7. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

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What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Public consultation if endorsed by Select.	Expediate consultation once endorsed, proposed consultation period 3 months.	Huw Owen

8. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Stronger Communities Select Committee	12.3.20	

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Strong Communities Select Committee held at on Thursday, 23rd January, 2020 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor L.Dymock (Chairman)
County Councillor A. Webb (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: P. Clarke, D. Dovey,
A. Easson, L. Guppy, R. Harris, V. Smith,
B. Strong and P. Murphy

Also in attendance County Councillors: P.
Murphy, Cabinet Member for Resources and B.
Strong (substituting for County Councillor J.
Treharne)
Peter Sutherland, Llanbadoc Community Council

Officers in Attendance

Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Peter Davies, Chief Officer, Resources
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Matthew Phillips, Head of Law/ Monitoring Officer
Andrew Blake, Wye Valley AONB Officer
Matthew Lewis (Countryside), Interim Performance,
Evaluation and Programme Development Lead for
MonLife
Dave Loder, Finance Manager
Ruth Rourke, Principal Officer - Countryside Access

APOLOGIES: County Councillor J.Treharne

1. Declarations of Interest

None.

2. Open Public Forum

Peter Sutherland spoke on behalf of Llanbadoc Community Council to raise 3 issues:

- The Public Consultation on the final draft of the Usk Regeneration Plan ~ on behalf of Llanbadoc Community Council, he acknowledged the resources, initiative and support from both officers and members, citing the project as an example of effective joint working.
- Issues related to Monkswood ~ Parking outside St Matthews Church and Speeding Signage ~ a proposed site meeting between the community council and council officers had not taken place following a request in December and he requested this be chased.
- Proposed closure of recycling centre ~ requested it be recorded that the community council has strong objections for three reasons: a potential increase in flytipping, a greater carbon footprint implication and a negative impact for the older population in having to undertake an extra round mile trip of 12 miles to visit the nearest alternative facility. The community council would like the council to consider joint working with Torfaen who have an 88% recycling rate.

The Cabinet Member responded to advise that the closure of Usk Household Waste and Recycling Centre would be fully discussed at the cluster meeting the following Tuesday. The Chair agreed to chase officers on the site meeting at Monkswood that had not taken place. The

committee suggested that the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee may be the appropriate forum to raise future area related issues.

3. Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The committee was asked to undertake pre- decision scrutiny of the Countryside Access Improvement Plan (Rights of Way Improvement Plan) following the completion of public consultation and prior to consideration by cabinet. Officers explained that the ROWIP is a statutory plan under the Countryside Rights of Way Act and that in essence, it is a Countryside Access Plan. The plan is being consulted upon, appendix 3 illustrating the proposed amendments as a result of the consultation. Officers confirmed that the Local Access Forum were content with the plan and that the next step would be to prepare the first version of what is required under the legislation, which would be published alongside the approved plan.

Challenge:

- The report is detailed and very inclusive. The concern is that the countryside team is thinly stretched and now has extra responsibilities, so how will you manage this? You mentioned financial implications within your report, so how will you mitigate this?

We have to prioritise what we spend money on day to day as our capital budget is limited. Our ideal budget would be 10 times the current budget. Our approach is to demonstrate benefits from countryside access, not just to treat this as a statutory requirement and this approach does help us to access funding through different avenues, working closely with the Gwent Levels. The Central Monmouthshire Area Committee has raised that individual group grants are focussed often around Wye Valley or coasts with a tourism development focus. We have reviewed all of our procedures and we have prioritisation schemes in place. We cannot do everything and the document is weighted heavily on value of partnerships and volunteering aspects, so trying to find funding through other means to find funding to do more good work in the future is our priority. We are extremely fortunate in Monmouthshire to have excellent community backing. We can see some good examples coming forward, related to signposting and we hope to be in a strong position to be involved in the different schemes. We are extremely lucky to have a large number of volunteers who work with the tourism ambassadors and we are continually looking at new ways to enable volunteers to do more for us.

Outcome and chairs conclusion

Pre-decision scrutiny of the plan has been welcomed by this committee. We are very supportive of the volunteering that the service benefits greatly from, however, we have some concern relating to the resources of the team. We consider the plan is fit for purpose and we support you in taking it forward to Cabinet for endorsement on 19th February.

4. Wye Valley AONB Management Plan

Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2020-2025

The committee were invited to inform the review of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan 2020-2025 and identify any issues they feel should be considered further. The manager of the AONB explained that the council has a collective responsibility with Herefordshire, Gloucestershire and the Forest of Dean to prepare a management plan for the Wye Valley AONB. Whilst this is developed by the Joint Advisory Committee, the input of the relevant councils is sought, as the plan essentially belongs to those

councils. It was explained that this is the core document for the ANOB and acts as a joint plan for all 4 local authorities and is sent to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and to Westminster. Members were advised that whilst we have had a number of plans, we felt a light touch review was proportionate at this stage with so many uncertainties nationally. A full review would be undertaken for the next plan in 2025. The committee heard that a 12-week public consultation had been undertaken with 20 responses being received. The Well-being of Future Generations evaluation had highlighted a number of considerations to be included within the plan, which will be considered by the Joint Advisory Committee in July prior to being taken to each of the councils for formal adoption.

Challenge:

- Please could you explain the financial set up?
It is complicated, but there is a formula based on a geographical basis. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Welsh Government provide grant funding and for each £1 we spend, we receive £8 in funding, which is outstanding value for money.

Chair's Conclusion:

The committee fully supports this excellent document and are happy that you progress to the next stage, which is agreement by the Joint Advisory Committee.

5. Budget Monitoring Report - Month 7

Scrutiny of the Month 7 Budget Monitoring Report and the draft Capital and Revenue proposals for 2020-21 within the context of the four-year Medium Term Financial Plan

The has discussed in its pre-meeting that it would like to attend the Economy and Development Select Committee on 30th January as there were issues of interest and relevance to this committee on the agenda of that meeting. Members asked whether it would be possible to convene a joint meeting of the committees which would enable Strong Communities Select Committee members to have an equal contribution and voting rights on the subject matter. It was confirmed by our Monitoring Officer that this could be scheduled. Members were asked to diarise the meeting.

The committee agreed to discuss the Month 7 Budget Monitoring report in conjunction with the draft Capital and Revenue proposals for 2020-21 and the budget monitoring report provided the wider context for the challenges being faced in the current year and moving forward.

Members heard that at month 7, the council is facing significant challenges, with the level of service overspends being very significant and extraordinary compared to recent years. Officers explained that in previous years, we have had an exemplary track record of managing overspends so that at the point of budget outturn, we are usually breaking even or returning a small surplus and that continues to be our attempt.

Paragraph 3.2 provides a table which shows a net council surplus of £4 million. In terms of context, these are driven from 3 areas:

- Children's services and looked after children pressures
- Pressures in adult social care
- Support for children with additional learning needs

In terms of matters concerning the operations directorate, which we will consider more fully at next week's Economy and Development Select Committee, pressures are being contained around car parking, passenger transport and planning income. And these are placing significant strain on the revenue budget.

We haven't got significant levels of reserves, so we have had to put recovery plans in place and react and respond to the situation we are in. Recovery plans are to curb all non-essential expenditure and where possible, to look to generate further savings whilst arresting the current position.

If you refer to 3.10 of report, this shows position we are currently in and details our plan of action. We are forecasting a deficit of £3.987m and we were fortunate we were able to make the teachers' pay awards in the current year, £310k being provided by Welsh Government WG. The £1.9m VAT recovery due to the Ealing ruling around leisure services income also will assist the position. Consultants were appointed to work with us on securing this recovery and we have a strong case pending. The final aspect to brief the committee upon is the work we have been doing with Welsh Government which offers us the flexibility to use capital receipts to funds costs associated with service reform. This has been helpful to us. Previously, permission was needed but now in line with Welsh Government guidance, the council can make that decision. Furthermore, we have been interrogating our spend to identify costs associated with service reform and over £2m reform costs could actually be addressed through the use of capital receipts.

Winter pressures could still be risk areas in terms of the budget and also the volatile service areas that are pressure points, notably children's services, however, we are looking at where we stand with that long before the outturn budgetary position. This has hopefully provided useful context in terms of the revenue account.

In terms of the capital position, there is a small level of underspend in relation to 21st Century Schools. Capital receipts are shown in the report and these have been impacted by the decision to make flexible use of capital receipts. That will have an impact for this year and next year, but we have to balance the revenue account pressures with the capital. In terms of month 7, the report provides the detail on overspends and underspends specific to the committees remit together with directors' commentary.

We've mentioned the capitalisation directive already and we have transferred £500k expenditure across to the capital budget. In terms of savings, if you refer to paragraph 3.11, you will see that of the £6.446 million built into this year's budget, we've found 86%. The rest of those savings are either delayed or unachievable and greater detail on this is provided in the report, with the detail for this committee's portfolio provided in the appendix.

Challenge:

- Can you explain the issues in relation to solar farming and sale of electricity to the national grid? *Just to clarify that the overspend detailed within the report on the solar farm was in relation to monitoring systems and we had a shortfall of income as a result, but this has now been rectified and shouldn't pose that problem into 2021. In terms of your questions, the issue with solar farm is grid restraints and it is not easily overcome. This is an issue for the national grid and providers to resolve and Cardiff Capital Region City Deal are attempting to resolve this through their conversations at a national level.*

6. Scrutiny of the 2020/21 draft budget proposals

Draft Capital and Revenue Proposals for 2020-21

Officers explained that having talked extensively about the pressure points at month 7 which have been at the forefront of the budget challenge, paragraph 3.4 of the report shows pressures of £9.7 million, which is unprecedented. They explained that it had been very difficult bring forward a set of coherent proposals to consult upon and that all the feedback would need to be taken into account for Cabinet to consider on 19th February prior to Council on the 5th march. Officers drew attention to paragraph 3.7 which presented the draft proposals and asked members for their views. Assumptions had been made that funding from Welsh Government would fund teachers' pay award and also that pensions would be fully funded. They reiterated that the ability to use capital receipts to assist the revenue budget will be helpful. Fees and charges had also been explored and the proposal for a 2% saving could potentially be made to Individual Schools Budget as a last resort. Officers explained that council tax had been modelled at a prudent level.

Challenge:

- You have referred in paragraph 3.5 to the pressures and in paragraph 3.18, you broke it down further. Where have these pressures come from over the last 12 months. Were they always there, or has there been a spike?
Children's services has seen an unprecedented rise in the number of looked after children cases and we are unsure why, but there are a number of potential reasons. We have become more successful in preventative activity and there is also more focus on the judiciary side in terms of views taken by courts on the need for corporate parental responsibility. This has brought significant cost but is a very necessary endeavour. In terms of children with additional learning needs, more assessment has led to more support being identified as needed at the acute end, in terms of out of county placements. In terms of adult's social care, the situation has only become more acute in recent months. Adults with disabilities are living longer and their parents are aging and are unable to look after them and this is a national dynamic.
- Is there a need for concern about the costs associated with new school curriculum? Has this been identified in your discussions with schools, particularly in respect of the 2% saving on Individual Schools Budgets?
We have held meetings with head teachers and consultation events and discussions with the schools' budget forum and feedback is coming through. We understand that schools have pressures and that is the rationale for the loan mechanism that enables schools up to 10 years to apply their budget recovery plans to bring their budgets out of a deficit position. There is no appetite for us to impose a 2% reduction on schools, but the financial pressures upon the council are so significant that we have to consider it. If we obtain any additional funding, we will look to reduce it or remove it.
- Are other councils in the same position as us?
Some councils are disadvantaged by the funding formula. We feel Monmouthshire is particularly disadvantaged and we are having discussions nationally about what we feel is the funding flaw. If this was addressed, five local authorities would benefit and it wouldn't cost Welsh Government much, but would offer us an extra £1 million.

Chairs conclusion:

The committee has discussed reasons for the significant pressures in social services, acknowledging this is outside of our remit but we have done so in order to understand the context for the budget proposals being presented to us. We have scrutinised the proposals within our remit, but have no specific recommendations. We support the request made by Monmouthshire to Welsh Government for a funding floor and the need for an independent review, noting that a seminar will be held in the spring. The committee has not discussed the

operations proposals which were presented late to us, but we have agreed to attend the Economy and Development Select Committee to undertake joint scrutiny of these.

7. Action list

8. To confirm minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

9. Strong Communities forward work programme

The committee's work programme was noted.

10. Cabinet & Council forward work programme

The programme was noted and no requests were made for reports to be brought to the committee.

11. Date and time of next meeting

The meeting ended at **Time Not Specified**

Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Strong Communities Select Committee held at Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr USK - County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk on Monday, 24th February, 2020 at 2.00 pm

Councillors Present

County Councillor L.Dymock (Chairman)
County Councillor (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Batrouni, D. Dovey,
A. Easson, V. Smith and J.Treharne

Also in attendance County Councillors: R. Harris

Officers in Attendance

Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Alan Burkitt, Policy Officer Equalities and Welsh Language
Carl Touhig, Head of Neighbourhood Services
Gareth Sage, SWTRA /Street Lighting Manager
Matthew Gatehouse, Head of Policy and Governance

APOLOGIES: Councillors P. Clarke and A. Webb

1. Declarations of Interest.

2. Performance Monitoring of the Previous Strategic Equality Plan 2018-19.

The committee was presented with an annual report detailing the council's performance in embedding equalities legislation into practice. The Equality Act 2010 was introduced in April 2011 and within the specific duties of the act is the requirement to publish an annual report that aligns with a Strategic Equality Plan and to detail its equality objectives through a comprehensive action Plan. The committee's role is to ensure that policy and practice delivers these legislative requirements. The officer presented the report and highlighted how the council has tried to deliver on their responsibilities, offering examples. The chair invited questions from members.

Challenge:

- Can you please check your reference to FEDEP as I believe this has been disbanded? *I can check this, but at the point of drafting this report, I believe FEDEP was still in place.*
- We have an anti-poverty plan which is still in progress 2 years later and that concerns me. The reports of last year and the year before seem to suggest the same, so I'm conscious that progress needs to be made. I feel the report needs some updating and an example of this is that there is hardly any mention of racism in the report and yet I'm aware of incidences in schools. Have you looked at data round this? It's not taught in schools and I know of 6 incidences. I believe that 45% of schools say they would like training around this, so I would like to see this reflected in the report. *In terms of racism, this is discussed more in the Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 3, but I agree with you as I am aware of incidences. This new SEP 3 is looking to address that and there is a task group established to focus on this. We're looking at how we can disseminate best practice and I'm not sure why schools are not reporting incidences.*

We have a forthcoming meeting called 'show racism the red card' and I would be really pleased if you could attend, so I will send you the details. We are aware that some of the information is out of date, but this is the monitoring report for 2018-19, so it doesn't reflect new evidence that we have received. We feel that it would be more helpful if this report was brought to members earlier in the year to give the committee a fuller picture of the evidence.

- In response, I would appreciate earlier oversight of this report. It also depends upon the purpose of you bringing the report to us. If we are simply signing it off, it doesn't really matter when we consider it, but if it is to be used as a critical document to hone and improve our practice, it does need to be brought earlier.
The purpose of the report is the latter of your suggestions and you are right, we need to gather the evidence to shape our actions.

- You have produced 2 reports, but are you operating as a lone ranger? Do people report their progress to you or do you actively have to go to them? My concern is around resources.
I do have to engage with my colleagues to receive the information, as this is effectively the council's response and my role is to coordinate what activities are being undertaken and report on progress, but I always receive the information.

Chairs Conclusion:

I think officers have taken our comments on board and will make any necessary amendments to the report in terms of our suggestions around checking on FEDEP and I'm asking for consideration of the future timing of the scrutiny of the monitoring report, in line with our discussions on role and purpose. We would like to invite the Children and Young People's Select Committee to do an engagement piece jointly with us on racism.

3. Pre-Decision Scrutiny of the New Strategic Equality Plan 2020 (Strategic Equality Plan to follow).

The Council is required to present their Strategic Equality Objectives within a Strategic Equality Plan (SEP). This plan is the Council's third such SEP and replaces the version 2016 – 2020 on the 1st April 2020. The plan was brought to the committee for pre-decision scrutiny prior to adoption. The officer briefly presented the plan, given that the context had been discussed during the previous item when the committee scrutinised the performance of the previous year in delivering on the council's legislative responsibilities. The chair invited questions.

- In terms of the Well-being of Future Generations assessments having be undertaken on all decisions, I could only find one out of thirteen for the budget decisions. Similarly, in terms of the Cumulative Impact Assessments you refer to, I haven't seen these and I would be interested to know how they were they calculated and what policies were included in the drafting of them.
The WFG assessments should be undertaken for all decisions and to my knowledge, I thought they had been. I have seen the Cumulative Impact Assessments so I can locate those and send them to you.

- There is no mention of homelessness in this report, which seems like an omission to me, because whilst I cannot provide evidence, I have been made aware of instances of homeless people from Monmouthshire presenting as homeless in Newport because there are more services there.
I will need to check with our Housing Manager on this as we tend to only include issues where evidence suggests there is an issue, but I will certainly follow this up after the committee and before finalising my report.
- I cannot see any mention of the Income Equality Grant in this report and yet there was cross party agreement for this last year, so it feels like not enough progress is being made and I'm not sure if that is a lack of political will.
I will also check on this.
- The gender pay gap is mentioned, but I'm not sure it is adequately captured through the objective in the report and I'm unsure as to whether it accurately reflects the disparity in the county and the real situation.
This is something I can take back and discuss with colleagues in finalising the report.
- The language used feels overly strategic and as a result, it just feels very 'tick boxy', and yet under closer scrutiny, it lacks the detail I would expect.
That is helpful and is something I can address for future documents.
- The definition of poverty is a real issue in my view, because I want to understand the benchmark by which assessments can be made and particularly when there is no agreed definition of poverty? I am unsure how we can say we have embedded something that we cannot even define?
I recognise what you are saying here and the ability to define poverty is something we have struggled with and perhaps I need to review the statement regarding 'embedding'.
- I feel there should be more analysis on improvement and I would have liked to have seen a section on what worked well in the last plan, what didn't and so forth. I feel this plan needs to be bolder, if we are serious about tackling poverty on a cross-party basis.
This is something I can take back and think about for the next plan and I will pass your views to the cabinet member ahead of finalising the plan.

Chair's Conclusion:

I feel we have given this sufficient scrutiny and have raised issues for consideration prior to the final draft of the plan being taken to council. We will ensure that the comments and views of members will be reflected to the cabinet member and relevant officers after the meeting to enable them to refine the report prior to consideration by Council.

4. Update on Street Lighting (report to follow).

The committee had requested an update on street lighting policy. A report was presented which gave an update on the service and its pressures and reaffirmed that there were no proposed changes to the current street lighting policy.

Members heard that in 2014, a decision was taken to achieve cost savings and wider

environmental benefits in carbon reduction, light pollution and biodiversity through switching off streetlights in residential areas in the main towns. A further roll out in 2017 included smaller towns and villages. The council had used a loan to upgrade the control system to the Harvard system, which provided options for switching times, dimming and part-night operation. Savings were primarily achieved through reduced energy usage from reduced operating hours and improvements in technology, together with the switch from traditional halogen bulbs to LED bulbs. The committee were informed that unlike many authorities, the council decided that none would be completely turned off and as such, the council's policy for residential lighting is to only switch off between midnight and 5:30 and to implement dimming at other times. Improvements to technology has meant that the latest LED bulbs can be dimmed across a much wider range and these are being used in all replacements. For new lanterns, the council now dims residential areas to 20% instead of switching lights off.

Officers explained that the cost of replacing all the RC units with the pre-programmed units is unbudgeted and in the region of £210,000. As the older RC units fail they will be replaced with the new technology. Members were advised that whilst there were many concerns regarding safety and increased crime levels when the policy was consulted on, there is no evidence to prove that levels of crime have increased since the policy was introduced. The team work closely with the Police and where the Police have specific concerns for safety, the switch-off period has been reduced and the new LEDs that are 20% dimmed will resolve the issue of the perception of crime.

In terms of resources, the committee heard that the costs savings from reduced energy usage are being used to repay the SALIX loan over the next 16 years but this leaves very little for reinvestment in the ageing infrastructure. The team are 3 people with responsibility for street lighting overall, so there is a resource issue.

Challenge:

- You mentioned that Harvard has gone bust, where does that leave us?
Another company has taken over but not all of our lighting is on the Harvard system, some are on different systems.
- If technology is changing all the time, are we improving with the times? Is there merit in upgrading the infrastructure?
We have a mixed batch out there. The market is continually evolving so we upgrade when it's defunct with the best technology. To change all the lighting would be a huge cost so we are changing as we need to. Our budgets are decreasing but there is no cashable saving coming back as that's paying off the loan. We manage traffic lighting and safety signs not just street lighting columns and we have to maintain and upgrade these. Some are run on aluminium cable and replacing all of that is very expensive, so it's about investing in the infrastructure.
- Initially there were concerns for safety. Where there are concerns, can we do anything?
We haven't had lots of complaints with crime or safety issues. Where identified, we can put lights back on but we've taken a pragmatic approach to the policy.
- When do we anticipate all the old lighting will have been replaced?

All will be replaced by the summer. The first phase went in 5-6 years ago, so they are not as efficient.

- Will there be any monetary benefit?
No, it's invested back in to LED. This is essentially a budget diversion exercise as opposed to budget saving. It's not just about the money, there are environmental considerations here too.
- I'm concerned that you are saying that it can take 10 years for adoption of the highway so that the lighting is old technology ~ it is ridiculous that it would take so long to go through that process.
The reason is often that it costs the developer money and therefore they aren't particularly pushing for progress.

Chair's Conclusion:

We have welcomed the opportunity to have an update on this issues since it was raised by Councillor Easson. The report was very clear in presenting the resource issues that we need to be aware of and confirming to us that the existing policy is not subject to change. I would like to raise the matter of adoption of highways with the Head of Planning. If any members have any further questions on this, I recommend you liaise with officers directly.

The meeting ended at **Time Not Specified**

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Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2019-20

Strong Communities Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
12th March 2020	Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Controls	To scrutinise proposals to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order for dog controls in Monmouthshire. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 enables councils to introduce such orders to encompass dog fouling, designating exclusion areas and specifying 'dogs on leads areas'. The proposals will undergo public consultation prior to any decision and each stage will be scrutinised.	Huw Owen David Jones	Policy Development
30th March 2020 All Member Workshop jointly hosted by Economy and Development	Car Parking Proposals	To provide an initial briefing for members prior to undertaking a formal call for evidence.	Mark Hand	Policy Development
27th April 2020 All Member Workshop	Scrutiny Workshop on County Lines		Sharran Lloyd Andy Mason	Performance Monitoring
23rd April 2020	Tackling Poverty	Scrutiny of the Council's Tackling Poverty Action Plan following the recent Wales Audit Office Review.	Cath Fallon Matthew Gatehouse Cabinet Member Councillor Sara Jones	Performance Monitoring
	Hubs / Contact Centre / Customer Service	Performance report requested.	Matthew Gatehouse	Performance Monitoring
May 2020	Public Protection Performance Update	Annual scrutiny of the performance of the service and risks.	David Jones	Performance Monitoring
	Public Toilet Progress	Progress report on the implementation of the Public Toilet Strategy and action plan.	David Jones Roger Hoggins	Performance Monitoring

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2019-20

Strong Communities Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
Date to be confirmed	Car Parking Strategy and Proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement of the Car Parking Strategy • Consideration of Car Parking Charging Options 	Mark Hand	Pre-decision Scrutiny

Future Agreed Work Programme Items: Dates to be determined

- × Street Furniture policy
- × SEP Annual Monitoring Report 9 (2019 – 2020) ~ June 2020
- × Welsh Language Annual Monitoring Report (2019 – 2020) ~ June 2020
- × Annual monitoring of Public Protection in May, a half year exception report, highlighting any gaps in service delivery, to be scheduled in November of each year.
- × Registrars Service ~ annual monitoring in May
- × Air Pollution Monitoring Report ~ Multiple departments – Autumn
- × Social Justice Policy update
- × Open Space Review ~ review of open spaces and the prioritisation and management of highways ~ strategic review rather than operational.
- × Civil Parking Enforcement ~ members seminar in Autumn
- × Cremations and Burials ~ 3 Members to investigate/report back. Social issues and financial.

Emerging issues/topics to be raised with the committee before inclusion ~ some reports to be received by email for comment rather than in-depth scrutiny

Cabinet, Council and Individual Cabinet Member Decisions (ICMD) Forward Plan

Monmouthshire County Council is required to publish a forward plan of all key decisions to be taken. Council and Cabinet items will only be considered for decision if they have been included on the planner no later than the month preceding the meeting, unless the item is considered urgent.

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Subject	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner	Date item originally scheduled for decision
Council	01/03/22	LDP for Adoption	Check Date	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/06/21	Final Deposit Plan for submission to WG	Check Date	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	14/01/21	Deposit Plan	Endorsement of Deposit Plan	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Cabinet	03/06/20	Budget Monitoring report - month 12 (period3) - outturn	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2019/20 financial year	Mark Howcroft	18/04/19	
Council	14/05/20	LDP Preferred Strategy	Endorsement of final preferred strategy	Mark Hand	19/09/19	
Council	14/05/20	Constitution Review		Matt Phillips	14/08/19	
Council	02/04/20	Refit Programme		Ian Hoccom	28/02/20	
Cabinet	01/04/20	Guaranteed Interview Scheme for Care Leavers		Gareth James	28/02/20	

Cabinet	01/04/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2019/20, meeting 9 held on 5th March 2020.	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
ICMD	25/03/20	Non Domestic Rates: High Street and Retail Rate Relief 2020/21	for approval of the adoption of a High Street and Retail Rate Relief Scheme for 2020/21, in accordance with Welsh Government guidance.	Ruth Donovan	12/02/20	
ICMD	25/03/20	Newport CC and MCC Partnership - transfer of GIS functionality		Sian Hayward	06/02/20	
ICMD	25/03/20	Contract Extension		Tracey Harry	14/02/20	
Council	05/03/20	Pay Policy		Sally Thomas	23/01/20	
Council	05/03/20	Annual Safeguarding Report		Julie Boothroyd	06/02/20	
Council	05/03/20	Strategic Equality Plan		Alan Burkitt	26/09/19	
Council	05/03/20	LDP Preferred Strategy	Endorsement to consult on Preferred Strategy	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	05/03/20	Council Tax Resolution	To set budget and Council Tax	Ruth Donovan	18/04/19	
Council	05/03/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Matt Gatehouse		

Cabinet	04/03/20	Investment Committee		Peter Davies	13/02/20	
ICMD	26/02/20	CHARGING APPLICANTS FOR THE MONITORING OF SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS		Phil Thomas	06/02/20	
ICMD	26/02/20	Non Domestic Rates - Application for Hardship Relief		Ruth Donovan	14/01/20	
Cabinet	19/02/20	2020/21 Education and Welsh Church Trust Funds Investment and Fund Strategies	The purpose of this report is to present to Cabinet for approval the 2020/21 Investment and Fund Strategy for Trust Funds for which the Authority acts as sole or custodian trustee for adoption and to approve the 2019/20 grant allocation to Local Authority beneficiaries of the Welsh Church Fund.	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Matt Gatehouse		
Cabinet	19/02/20	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2019/20, meeting 7 held on 5th December 2019	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Consideration of Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	03/10/19	
Cabinet	19/02/20	Proposal to change the school funding formula.		Nikki Wellington		
Cabinet	19/02/20	Strategic Review of Outdoor Education		Marie Bartlett	18/10/20	

Cabinet	19/02/20	Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) review/ Policy Statement - Results of statutory consultation and proposed Final Plan	To seek approval of the Review of the ROWIP and associated policies	Matthew Lewis	18/07/19	
ICMD	29/01/20	Various roads, county wide Amendment No. 1 of consolidation order 2019 (part 2)		Paul Keeble	13/01/20	
Council	16/01/20	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	18/04/19	
Council	16/01/20	Mid Term Review of the Corporate Plan		Peter Davies	26/09/19	
Council	16/01/20	Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy		Mark Hand	06/09/19	
Council	16/01/20	Constitution Review		Matt Phillips	14/08/19	
Council	16/01/20	Safeguarding - Annual Report to Council		Jane Rodgers	20/06/19	
Council	16/01/20	Proposed Development Company		Deb Hill-Howells	16/09/19	
ICMD	15/01/20	Archaeology Planning Advice	Adoption post-guidance	Mark Hand	19/09/19	Deferred
ICMD	15/01/20	SPG S106 guidance note	To clarify how S106 contributions are calculated	Mark Hand	01/05/19	Deferred

Cabinet	08/01/20	Ethical Employment code of practice - Approval Paper Draft		Scott James	08/11/19	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Budget Monitoring report - month 7 (period 2)	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2019/20 financial year.	Mark Howcroft	18/04/19	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Redundancy implications within MonLife		Marie Bartlett	07/11/20	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Homelessness Report		Deb Hill-Howells	07/11/19	
Cabinet	08/01/20	Primary School Places Reiview in Caldicot		Matthew Jones	02/10/19	
Cabinet	20/12/19	ARUP Report		Cath Fallon	07/11/19	
Cabinet	20/12/19	Draft Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	26/09/19	
Cabinet	20/12/19	Tree management Strategy Update		Carl Touhig	16/09/19	
Cabinet	20/12/19	Green Infrastructure Strategy	To approve the Green Infrastructure Strategy	Matt Lewis	18/07/19	
Cabinet	20/12/19	Road Safety Strategy		Frances O'Brien	16/09/19	

Cabinet	20/12/19	Home to School Transport Policy		Frances O'Brien	16/09/19	
Cabinet	20/12/19	Long Term Household Recycling		Carl Touhig	29/01/19	
Cabinet	20/12/19	Statutory consultation to establish a new Welsh Medium Primary School in Monmouth		Debbie Morgan	15/08/19	
IMCD	18/12/19	Council Tax Base 2020/21 and associated matters	To agree the Council Tax Base figure for submission to the Welsh Government, together with the collection rate to be applied for 2020/21 and to make other necessary related statutory decisions	Sue Deacy/Ruth Donovan	18/04/19	
ICMD	18/12/19	SPG Landscape	To provide guidance on landscape character to inform planning decisions	Mark Hand/Amy Longford	02/05/19	
ICMD	18/12/19	SPG archaeology	To identify three new Archaeologically Sensitive Areas	Mark Hand/Amy Longford	01/05/19	
ICMD	27/11/19	Museum Review	To seek agreement to implement a staffing restructure and new public opening hours following a review of the Museums Service	Matthew Lewis		
ICMD	27/11/19	Infill SPG		Phil Thomas	06/11/19	
ICMD	27/11/19	Structure Change - Outdorr Education Service		Ian Saunders	08/11/19	
ICMD	27/11/19	Strategic Lead for Youth Enterprise & Skills		Cath Fallon	06/11/19	ITEM WITHDRAWN

ICMD	27/11/19	New Posts within MonLife		Marie Bartlett	01/11/19	ITEM WITHDRAWN
ICMD	27/11/19	LANDSCAPE SPG		Andrew Nevill	31/10/19	
ICMD	27/11/19	Sale of land at Llanvair Discoed for use as garden land'	To seek consent to dispose of two sections of land in Llanvair Discoed to current occupiers for use as garden land'	Gareth King/Cllr P Murphy	31/10/19	
ICMD	27/11/19	Infill Development Supplementary Planning Guidance	For adoption post-consultation	Mark Hand	19/09/19	
ICMD	13/11/19	CYP staffing structure – ALN Team		Nikki Wellington		
ICMD	13/11/19	MONLIFE AMENDMENTS TO TEAM CONFIGURATIONS		Marie Bartlett		
Cabinet	06/11/19	Climate Emergency Action Plan	Deferred	Matt Gatehouse	16/09/19	
Cabinet	06/11/19	Welsh Church Fund Working Group	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2019/20, meeting 5 held on 19th September 2019 and meeting 6 held on 24th October 2019	Dave Jarrett	18/04/19	
Cabinet	06/11/19	Section 106 Funding – The Hill, Abergavenny		Mike Moran	20/02/19	
Cabinet	06/11/19	Caldicot Leisure Centre		Ian Saunders	16/09/19	

Cabinet	06/11/19	Economic Growth		Cath Fallon	16/09/19	
Cabinet	06/11/19	Section 106 Funding – Penperlleni		Mike Moran	20/02/19	
Cabinet	06/11/19	Croesonen S106 Off-Site Recreation Funding		Mike Moran	30/09/19	
Cabinet	06/11/19	Monmouth S106 Off-Site Recreation Funding		Mike Moran	30/09/19	
Council	24/10/19	Corporate Parenting Annual Report		Jane Rodgers	28/08/19	
Council	24/10/19	Re-appointment of Monmouthshire Local Access Forum	To secure the appointment of members to the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum (LAF) for its next 3 year period	Matt Lewis	18/07/19	
Council	24/10/19	Change to Terms of Reference of PSB Select	To approve a wider remit for the PSB Select Committee to enable it to focus on broader public service activity within Monmouthshire	Hazel Ilett	01/08/19	
Council	24/10/19	National Development Framework		Mark Hand	06/09/19	
Council	24/10/19	Modern Day Slavery & Exploitation Protocol		Dave Jones	11/09/19	
ICMD	23/10/19	Museums - Collections rationalisation	Cllr Paul Jordan	Rachael Rogers	07/08/19	

ICMD	23/10/19	SPG S106 guidance note	To clarify how S106 contributions are calculated	Mark Hand	01/05/19	deferred to 27/11/19
ICMD	09/10/19	VARIOUS ROADS, COUNTY WIDE AMENDMENT NO.1 OF CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2019		Paul Keeble	20/09/19	
ICMD	09/10/19	Archaeology Planning Advice	Endorsement to consult on this advice note, which includes designating new Archaeologically sensitive Areas	Mark Hand	19/09/19	
ICMD	09/10/19	Planning Report		Rachel Lewis	11/09/19	
ICMD	09/10/19	Planning Services - Annual Performance Report 2018/19		Phil Thomas	11/09/19	
Council	19/09/19	Capital Strategy Approval		Mark Howcroft	09/08/19	
Council	19/09/19	Rights of Way Orders Decision Making	To review rights of way order decision making and remove the need for objected public rights of way Section 53 Wildlife and Countryside Act and 1980 Highway Act applications to be approved by ICMD	Matt Lewis	18/07/19	
Council	19/09/19	MCC Audited Accounts and ISA 260	To notify Council of completed Audit process and resultant accounts - To go to Audit Committee	Mark Howcroft	18/04/19	
Council	19/09/19	SE Wales Strategic Development Plan		Mark Hand	18/06/19	
Council	19/09/19	Corporate Plan Annual Report		Richard Jones	19/06/19	

Council	19/09/19	Director of Social Services Annual Report		Julie Boothroyd	04/06/19	
Council	19/09/19	MonLife		Tracey Thomas	03/05/19	
Cabinet	18/09/19	Decision on the closure of Mouton House School	Special Meeting	Matthew Lewis	20/05/19	
Cabinet	18/09/19	VAT Management arrangements		Peter Davies	08/08/19	
Cabinet	18/09/19	MTFP and Budget Process	To outline the context and process within which the MTFP over the next 4 years and the budget will be developed.	Mark Howcroft	18/04/19	
ICMD	11/09/19	Proposed acquisition of MOD railway line.		Deb Hill Howells/ P Murphy	222/08/19	
ICMD	11/09/19	Property Appreciation	Equity Release Scheme	Ian Bakewell	07/08/19	
ICMD	11/09/19	SPG Landscape	To provide guidance on landscape character to inform planning decisions	Mark Hand/Amy Longford	02/05/19	WITHDRAWN
ICMD	11/09/19	Skills @ Work Programme	To seek approval for Monmouthshire's approach to delivering this pan-Wales, fully funded, scheme designed to enhance skills and increase productivity in the workplace, providing opportunities for employers in all sectors to gain accredited qualifications for their workforce	Richard Drinkwater/Nikki Jones	05/08/19	
ICMD	11/09/19	SPG archaeology	To identify three new Archaeologically Sensitive Areas	Mark Hand/Amy Longford	01/05/19	WITHDRAWN

ICMD	11/09/19	Sale of land for Garden use Llanfair Discoed	To seek consent for the sale of the section of the land at Llanfair Discoed to the existing leaseholder for use as garden land.	Gareth King/Cllr P Murphy	08/08/19	
Cabinet	04/09/19	Public Services Ombudsman Annual Report		Paul Matthews	07/08/19	
Cabinet	04/09/19	Sec 106 Funding; Countryside Sites	To seek approval for section 106 expenditure on various countryside sites	Matthew Lewis	18/07/19	
Cabinet	04/09/19	Digital Infrastructure Action Plan		Cath Fallon	01/04/19	
Cabinet	04/09/19	Windows 10 Laptop Replacement	This report seeks funding for the replacement or upgrade of workplace laptop stocks, bringing them up to a minimum of Windows 10 operating system and meeting our ICT security requirements	Sian Hayward	01/08/19	
Cabinet	04/09/19	Digital Infrastructure Action Plan		Cath Fallon	08/05/19	
Cabinet	04/09/19	School Partnership Agreement		Cath Sheen	01/07/19	
Cabinet	04/09/19	Restructure of Resources Directorate	deferred	Peter Davies	07/06/19	
Cabinet	04/09/19	Brexit Preparedness		Cath Fallon		

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