

SUBJECT:	Recycling Review
DIRECTORATE:	Operations / Waste & Street Services
MEETING:	Strong Communities Select Committee
DATE:	16 th June 2016
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	All

PURPOSE:

1. To update Select Committee on the recycling collections pilot planned to commence in September this year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. For Members to note and comment on the proposals for the trial for the Recycling Review as previously reported to Committee and Cabinet.

The Trial

3. The recycling review has been before Select Committee many times. It was agreed that a further report would be brought before Members with the details of the approved pilot so that there was a full understanding of what we were planning to do ahead of further reports in early 2017 with a final recommendation for the authority. Just to recap the pilot will:
 - Remove glass from the purple bags and be collected separately
 - Red and purple bags to remain separate for the trial
 - Food and garden to be collected as now, recognising that a commitment has already been given to collect this separately
 - Residual – fortnightly and 2 bags (see below for proposal to reintroduce grey bags)
4. The pilot area has been mapped, subject to a detailed vehicular access review. The rounds are shown in appendix 1. As previously reported the pilot was to be based around Llanfoist Transfer Station due to the site being able to receive glass separately without the need for any investment in infrastructure. The pilot includes approximately 5,500 households within Abergavenny, Gilwern, Govilon, Goytre, Llanellen, LLanover, Llangybi and Little Mill. This area has been chosen as it represents a good demographic cross section of the County and includes a mix of urban, semi-rural and rural areas.

5. We are still engaging with the market to determine the final specification for the pilot vehicle but our goal is to secure a three-stream vehicle with a pod for glass and a split body to collect red and purple bags separately. A visual is below for ease of reference:



6. At previous meetings Members have been concerned about the receptacle used to collect glass. Further research and investigations have been undertaken and we believe that glass should be collected in a box. Why? We have investigated the use of both a box and a reusable 'hessian-type' bag with our crews, other authorities, our MCC H&S officer and an external H&S consultancy. Feedback from a health and safety perspective is that a box is more suitable due to several reasons:
- Bags - strain is placed on one shoulder when carrying/loading, Box - Better techniques in lifting, good stance and posture, weight distributed between both arms.
 - Bags - potential for loaders being cut due to close proximity of the bag during emptying with the risk of broken glass.
 - Bags – No rigidity to support loader during emptying, box is more rigid, very unlikely to break, therefore less risk of injury to loader.
 - Bags - Higher risk of blowing away and spillage onto pavement

- Bags - Higher rate of replacement due to blowing away and their durability – estimated life of bag 2-3 years, box up to 10 years.

MCC officers feel that the bags present too much of a health and safety risk to our loaders and are therefore proposing that we do not continue to proceed any further with this option.

7. Whilst there maybe concerns regarding visual amenity and street scene we must remember that we are removing glass from our recycling stream to ensure compliance with existing law whilst maintaining the integrity of the existing red and purple service.
8. We are also recommending that the re-introduction of the grey bags occurs within the pilot area during the trial. With the current trend of increasing residual waste (overall residual waste went up 10% in 2015-16 compared to 2014-15), it would be opportune to gauge whether re-introduction and compulsory use of the grey bags has a positive effect in terms of a reduction in residual waste presented kerbside and/or an increase in recycling capture.

Communications & Engagement

9. The pilot will only be a success if there is robust and inclusive engagement. Officers are currently working on a detailed communications plan to ensure that we inform the public as widely as possible by as many means as possible. We will ensure that there are targeted communications to households directly involved in the pilot which will include leaflets and letters. We will include an offer of meetings with directly affected County Councillors as well as Community Councils and resident groups to explain the what/where/why/when/how. We will also make use of social media, local advertising, our website and local papers, newsletters to ensure the message is clear, concise and hits our target audience.

Measuring the Impact

10. To ensure a robust decision can be made in 2017 measures for monitoring are being prepared now. These include:

- Public
 - Complaints received
 - Replacement containers, loss, breakage
 - Resident feedback e.g. view on impact of street scene, ease of use, quality of the communications received, understanding of the change

- Operational
 - Operational productivity including crew/vehicle start and finish times
 - Pick rates
 - Weights per round
 - Crew feedback will be collated.

- Quality
 - Participation and compositional analysis is scheduled to take place pre – trial and then again during the trial to monitor and establish what effect the trial has on recycling rates. Levels of contamination with the red and purple bags will also be measured pre and during to establish any effect here. Compositional analysis at the MRF will also take place to establish how compliant the public are by measuring how much glass remains within the purple bag.
 - End markets and attractiveness and value of the MCC material with glass collected separately. As well as value what is done to the material is a very important consideration to achieve Directive requirements of “high quality recycling”
Data including separate glass weight and ideally separate paper and card tonnages will be collected and will inform the potential tonnage that Monmouthshire could supply to reprocessors.

Making a decision on the future

11. The review has been through a robust and inclusive process. The service needs to change its fleet over 2017-18 and procure a new CA Site contractor. Therefore it is imperative that a decision is made in 2017 on the next 7 years for the recycling service.

12. It is proposed that the results of the trial will be reported back to Select in January 2017, a report taken to Cabinet in March 2017 which will then give the go ahead for procurement and service reconfiguration work to begin with a date of potentially early 2018 being the earliest it can be implemented.

Conclusion

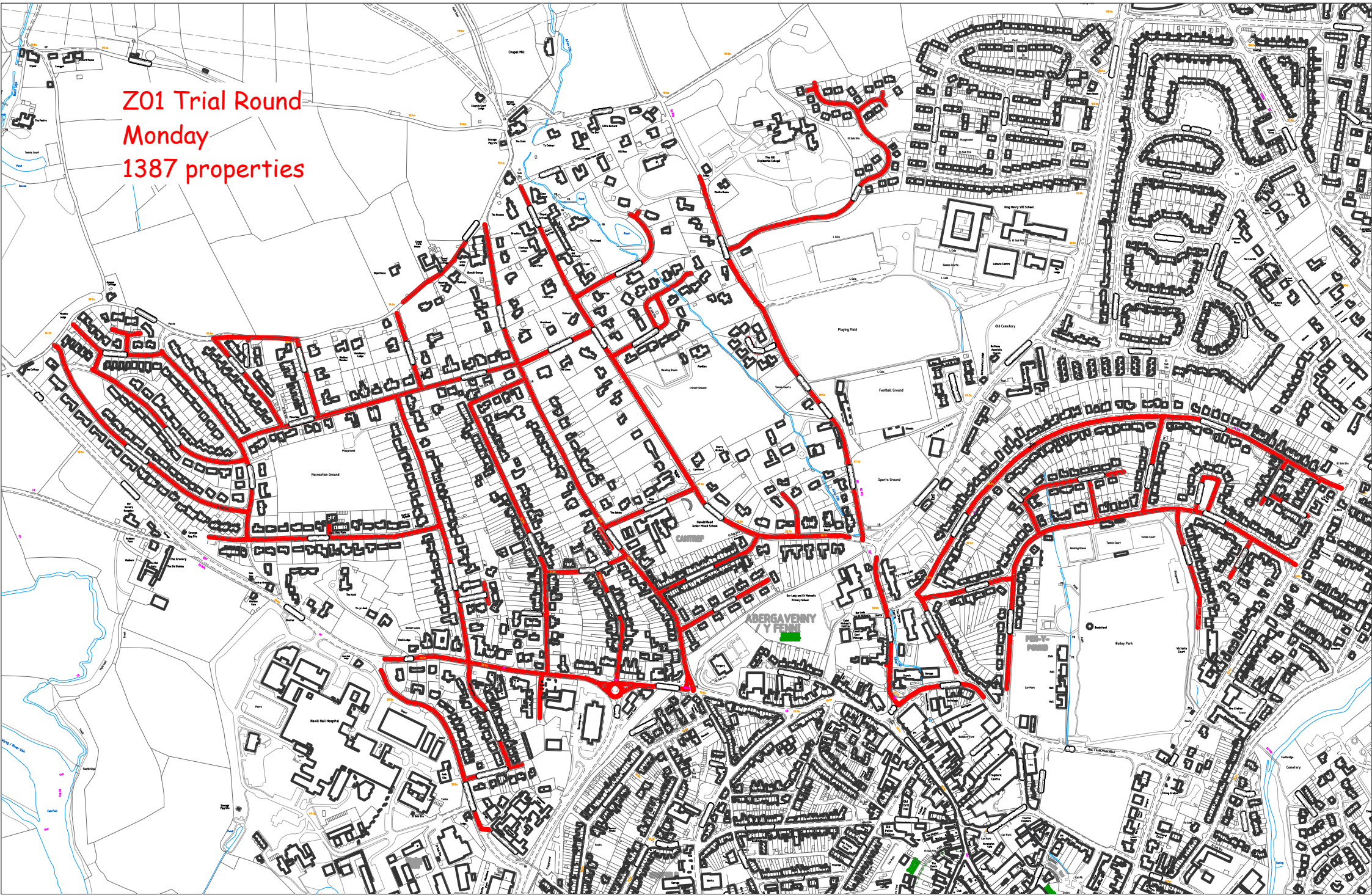
13. Members are asked to comment on the plans for the trial

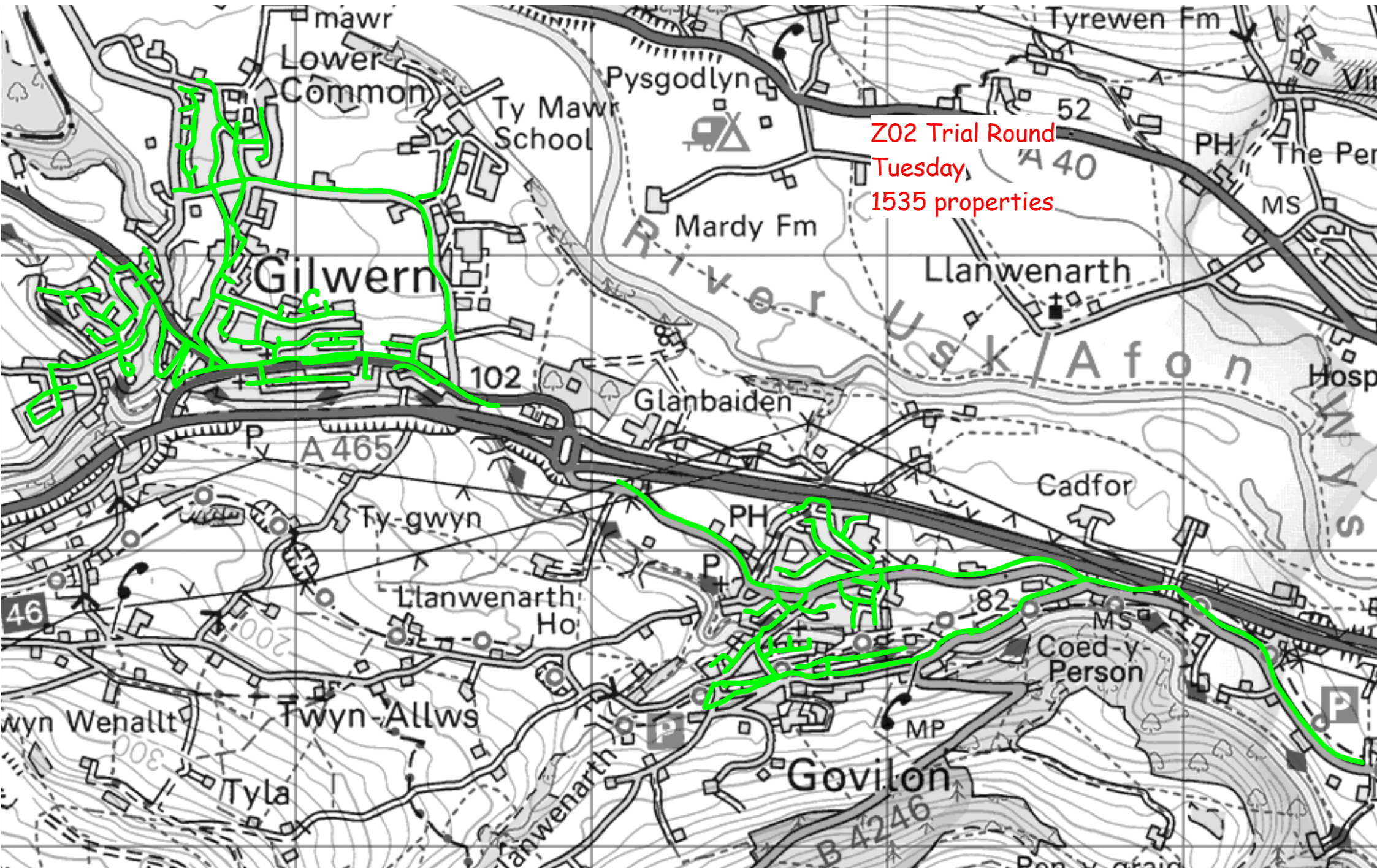
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Z01 Trial Round
Monday
1387 properties



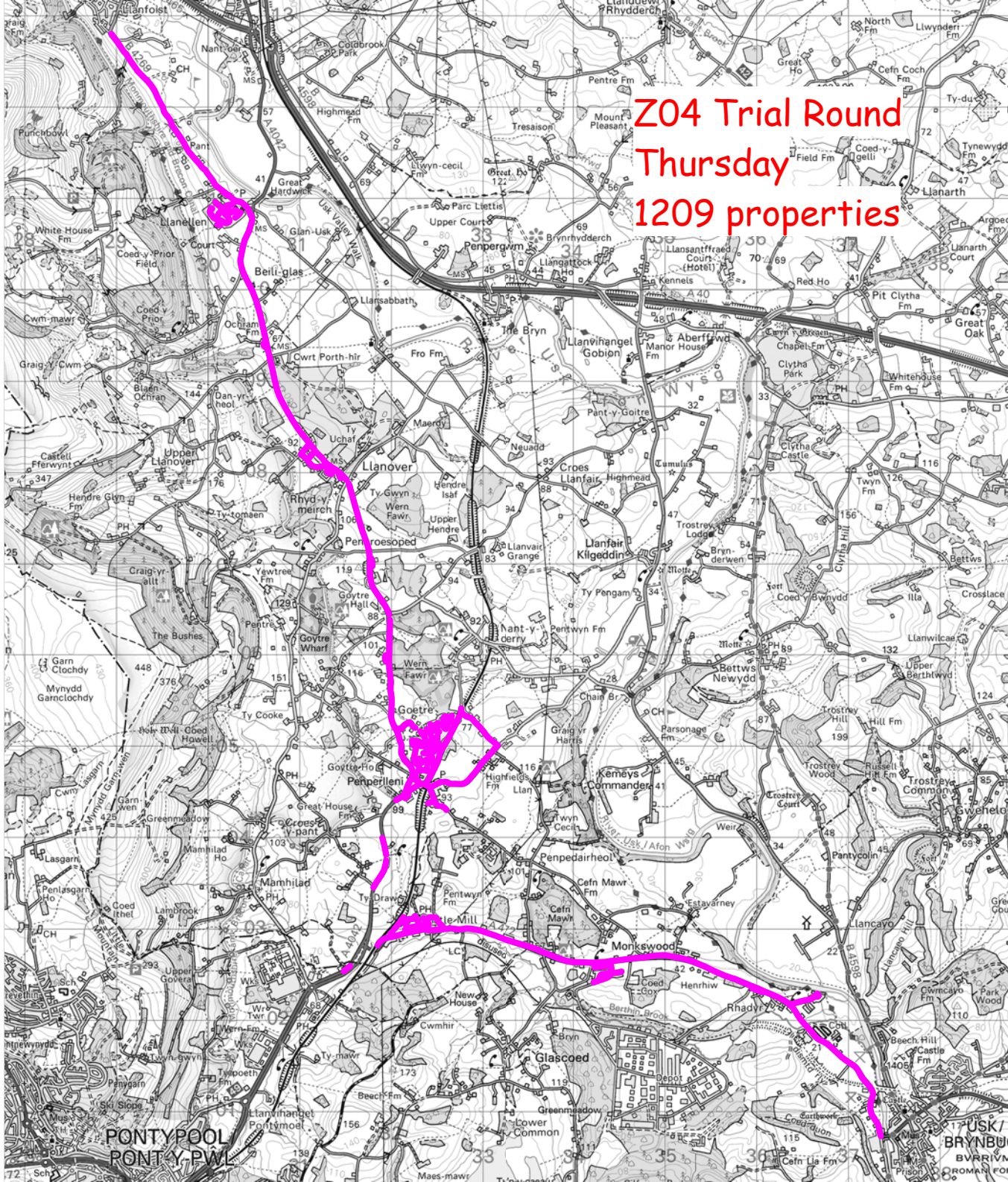


Z02 Trial Round
Tuesday
1535 properties

Z03 Trial Round
Wednesday
1641 properties



Z04 Trial Round
Thursday
1209 properties



PONTYPOOL
PONT-Y-PWLL

USK/
BRYNBNWL
BRYNBNWL
ROMAN FORT

Z05 Trial round
Friday
642 properties

