

# Morgantown Conservation Area



## Character Appraisal



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December 2009





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## Character Appraisal

**December 2009**

This document is the adopted Morgantown Conservation Area Character Appraisal and is a publicly agreed statement on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area

Following public consultation, this document was adopted by Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee on the 16th December 2009.

Morgantown was declared as a Conservation Area under s.69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 on the 16th December 2009.

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#### Acknowledgement:

This document was compiled by Mr Lewis Thomas (Design, Heritage and Conservation Officer) of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. Historical information was provided by Ms Carolyn Jacob (Information Librarian) of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council.

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# 1 Introduction

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## 1.1 Purpose

The Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Strategy ("The Strategy"), approved by Council in September 2008, was commissioned in order to improve the way in which the rich heritage assets of Merthyr Tydfil are managed. The Strategy assesses the survival of these assets and develops an action plan to address designation, funding, policy and management. As one of the recommendations in this Action Plan, it is proposed to review existing Conservation Areas while considering the designation of a number of new Conservation Areas, of which, Morgantown is deemed to be a priority.

## 1.2 Conservation Areas

A Conservation Area is an area of special architectural or historic interest. The decision to designate a Conservation Area is made by the Council following an assessment of the character and historic interest of the area. Once a Conservation Area is designated by the Local Planning Authority, the Council has recognised that the area has a special character and identity which is worth protecting.

The Council is required by legislation to preserve or enhance the character of each Conservation Area and all new proposals which affect that special character have to be considered in the light of this requirement.

## 1.3 Appraisal

Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Council is

continuously reviewing its Conservation Areas to establish whether boundaries need amendment or new areas require designation altogether. Additional measures for enhancing and protecting Conservation Areas should also be devised.

A Conservation Area Appraisal is the first step in a dynamic process, which records and analyses the various features that give the Area its special architectural and historic interest. This appraisal aims to provide a clear and sound understanding of the Conservation Area by recording, evaluating and presenting all of the key elements that together make up its special interest.

The appraisal is not intended to be comprehensive and does not provide detailed descriptions of all individual historic buildings. The omission of any particular building, feature or space should not be taken to imply that it is of no interest.

## 1.4 Implications of Designation

The Conservation Area designation provides statutory protection for the built heritage and landscape. It is an acknowledgement of the heritage merit of the locality and seeks to ensure that change is managed to protect and enhance the local character of the area.

Proposals for new development will be required to preserve or enhance this special character and the designation will enable applications for grant assistance to improve the landscape and buildings to be made to both the County Borough and Cadw.

Within a Conservation Area, additional control is afforded to the elements which contribute to its

significant character. This may be summarised as follows:

- The Local Planning Authority is under a general duty to ensure the preservation and enhancement of Conservation Areas and a particular duty to prepare proposals to that end;
- Notice must be given to the Local Authority before works are carried out to any tree within the area;
- Conservation Area Consent must be obtained for the demolition or partial demolition of any unlisted building or structure in the area, including stone walls;
- Extra publicity is given to planning applications affecting Conservation Areas and the planning authority is to take into account the desirability of preserving and enhancing the character of the area when determining such applications;
- Details as to the limits of what works may be carried out without Planning Permission are somewhat different. This includes the cladding of buildings, roof alterations, building extensions, construction of new buildings and the installation of antennas.

The local authority or the Secretary of State may take enforcement action or institute a criminal prosecution if planning consent is not obtained.



Morgantown Conservation Area Aerial Photograph



## 1.5 Management Plan

The Management Plan is based on the identified negative features and opportunities for preservation or enhancement and sets out proposals and policies which may enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.

These proposals are prioritised in order for the enhancement of the Conservation Area to be more effective and to avoid harmful change to the fabric which makes the Area unique. The principal objective of the Management Plan is to formulate proposals which provide a basis for making sustainable decisions on the Conservation Area's future.

## 1.6 Review

The designation and appraisal of a Conservation Area should not be regarded as a static process. It will be subject to periodic review and update, especially in the light of new research, as more information and knowledge becomes available

along with the continuing enhancement of the Conservation Area.

## 1.7 Public Consultation

A draft of this Character Appraisal and a proposed boundary was made available for inspection by the public during a consultation period of 22 days from 13th November until the 4th December 2009. Consultation included a flyer sent to all properties within the proposed Conservation Area boundary informing them of the consultation process and inviting them to a consultation event.

The consultation event was held at Cyfarthfa Castle on the 19th November from 10.00am until 4.00pm and was attended by local

residents, ward Councillors, property and business owners, members of the Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trust and other interested parties. The draft appraisal was made available at Merthyr Tydfil Public Library and at the Council's Planning Division for viewing. The draft appraisal was also uploaded to the Council's website.

Feedback from the public was encouraged through



Looking south down Garth Street



a questionnaire which was available at the consultation event and from the Council's website. Briefly, the questionnaire asked the following questions:

- The desirability of designating Morgantown as a Conservation Area;
- Views on the historic interest of the area;
- Views on the key positive features of the area;
- Views on any negative features or issues that detracted from the area's character and appearance.

A report on the public consultation has been prepared and forms an appendix to the character appraisal.

Minor changes were made to the character appraisal to take into account comments received from the public during the consultation period, with the inclusion of a number of issues identified as detracting from the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.



The Grade II Listed Vulcan House, presently decaying



## 2 Planning Policy Framework

Council has a duty in exercising its planning powers to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. This is set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and assisted by relevant Planning Policy Guidance. This Planning Policy Framework is set out below:

### 2.1 National Legislation

Conservation Areas are designated under the provisions of Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. As the principal form of legislation, its definition of Conservation Areas shall be used for the purpose of this Conservation Area Appraisal:

*“A Conservation Area is an area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”.*

This definition often extends beyond buildings alone, and includes the road layout, street scene, trees and green spaces; reiterating the quality and interest of the area.

Development proposals within Conservation Areas will be subject to control through statutory legislation, encompassing the following three primary Acts:

- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;
- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004;
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

These acts restate that in making a decision on an application for development in a Conservation Area, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of that area.

### 2.2 National Policy

In terms of national policy and guidance specific to Conservation Areas, the framework is established by the following policy documents:

- Planning Policy Wales (*March, 2002*);
- Welsh Office Circular 61/96 – Planning and the Historic Environment: Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas (*December, 1996*) (As Amended);
- Technical Advice Note 12 (Design).

The guidance provided at the national level provides advice on the designation of Conservation Areas, and the importance of assessing the special interest of each one in an appropriate manner. The guidance also stresses the need for the Council to ensure that the character and appearance of Conservation Areas is preserved and enhanced. This should be addressed in the provision of Planning Policy and in the implementation of Development Control functions at a local level.

### 2.3 Local Policy

The existing development plan framework in Merthyr Tydfil is provided by:-

- The adopted Mid Glamorgan (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough) Replacement Structure Plan



1991-2006

- The adopted Merthyr Tydfil Borough Local Plan
- The deposit Merthyr Tydfil Local Development Plan 2006-2021.

National Policy Guidance is echoed under Policies EV9 and EV10 of the Structure Plan in stating that development of features of the built and historic environment or environmental improvement schemes will not be permitted where it is likely to damage the existing character of structures designated as being of special architectural or historic interest.

The Merthyr Tydfil Borough Local Plan was adopted in May 1999. The plan sets out the Council's aspirations for protecting and enhancing the historic environment and states how applications affecting Conservation Areas will be assessed. Policy BH2 relates directly to the management of Conservation Areas and states that new development should preserve or enhance the Conservation Area.

Additionally the following policies are important in the assessment of planning applications relating to Conservation Areas:

- Policy BH3 (Archaeology and Ancient Monuments)
- Policy BH4 (Listed Buildings and Structures of Special Architectural and Historic Interest)
- Policy BH5 (Buildings and Structures of Local Architectural and Historic Merit)

Furthermore, it is considered that the Draft Deposit Local Development Plan for Merthyr Tydfil

is a material planning consideration that must be taken into account. Policy BW6 states that proposals must not have an unacceptable impact on the setting of any Conservation Area.

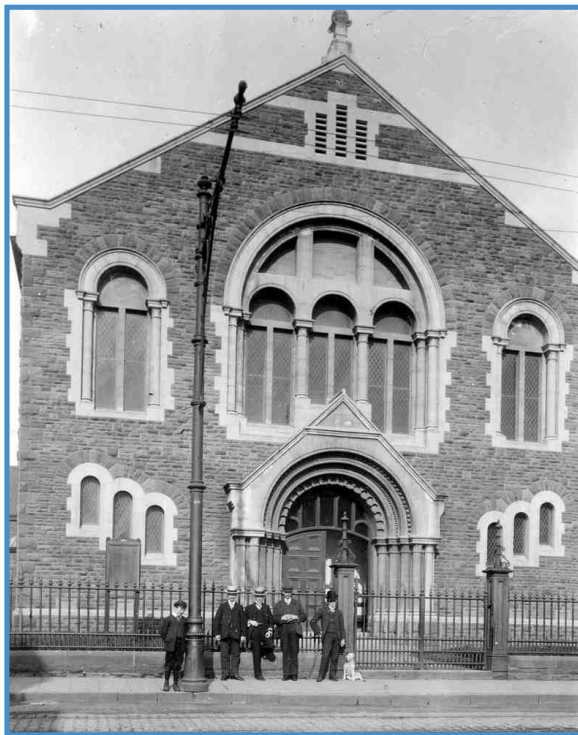
The above named policies will be strengthened by this Conservation Area Appraisal, offering greater scope and detail to features which offer an area its distinctiveness. It is important that such features are preserved and enhanced. For this reason, strict controls exist over applications for new development.



## 3 History

This section provides an overview of the history of Morgantown. It considers the area within a wider region, its history and setting.

### 3.1 Historic Evolution



Tabernacle Chapel, c1904

The Morgantown Conservation Area contains a number of historic elements. This includes the site of the former Vulcan Brewery, which was the oldest independent brewery in Merthyr Tydfil and Vulcan House which was centre to Chartist activity in the early 19th Century. The houses on the intersecting rectangular terraces of David Street, Garth Street and Cambrian Street were also workers dwellings for employees at the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. The area developed as the Ironworks reached the peak of its powers by the end of the 19th Century. Below is a summary of the special historic interest of key features within the area.

#### *Derivatives of Morgantown*

The name 'Morgan-town' derives from the surname of a prosperous farming family, whose estate at the Bolgoed and Grawen farms lay on the borders of the former Breconshire County. The Morgans are also reputed to have owned the Gwaelodygarth Estate. The land on which Morgantown currently stands was leased from William Morgan as part of his estate from the 1830s onwards.

#### *Chartist Linkages*

After the Chartist march of November 1839 to Newport, where unfortunate incidents ensued, the Chartist movement in South Wales received a severe setback. The disaffection resulting from the treatment of convicted Chartists shifted from Monmouthshire to Merthyr district. Georgetown and Morgantown became notable spots for Chartist activities.

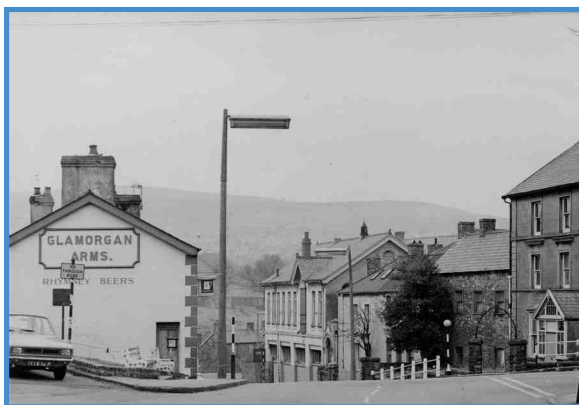
During the early 19th Century, it was the Vulcan House foundry and parts of its adjoining rear brewery which were the only buildings present in Morgantown. It was the home of Matthew John, a notable Chartist during the 1840s who built up a substantial business as a steel and iron founder at Vulcan House. Members of over 20 lodges belonging to the National Charter Association met regularly in Merthyr's Public Houses, notably around Morgantown, the Star in Caedraw and the Three Horse Shoes, nearby in Georgetown. In an era which predated local government, they provided an alternative political leadership to the ironmasters and their agents.

Matthew John resided in Vulcan House until the



1880s and died there.

### *Industrial Settlement*



Bethesda Street, c1960

Morgantown had developed directly from Merthyr Tydfil and its association with the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. The 1836 map of the area displays ribbon development alongside Brecon Road and Bethesda Street, while the space within this parameter was filled on 1851 maps with two rectangular terraces with one entrance on Brecon Road. This newly built community was intended as an industrial settlement for the skilled worker's of Cyfarthfa ironworks, and as such, initial design standards were not high in consideration. This is reflected in the density of the area although; it may be considered that the defensible layout may have provided shelter from undesirable areas such as China and Quarry Row. Later Edwardian development displays a stark contrast in terms of intended build quality.

The construction of Morgantown commenced in 1846 and census returns in 1851 indicate that the area was in partial occupation. The industrial settlement of Morgantown is recorded on the first registered building plan for Merthyr Tydfil in 1856.

The houses around the Garth Street area were built at a time where the standards of living were being raised. A Board of Health was set up to maintain sanitation standards, which included regulations that properties had to have opening front windows, a running water supply and back doors; meaning that back-to-back houses no longer met the standards.

Morgantown was the first large area of housing to be built to meet these new standards. Resultantly, housing built in this residential area was far superior to residential building for workers which had gone beforehand. Therefore, research indicates that although the homes were utilitarian and dense in design, they possessed a number of features which would not have normally been attributed to the poor living standards of Merthyr Tydfil.



The former Penydarren House

Morgantown had become an identifiable district by the 1860s, and a thorough housing check was done of each home in 1868. This was in order to check whether the sanitation standards were being adhered to.

An extract of the survey, shown below, revealed



that there was a distinctly low number of lodgers in Morgantown at a time where lodgings were very commonplace in Merthyr Tydfil. Most of the homes were occupied by families, averaging around 4 persons. Apart from Garth Street, every home had its own toilet, which set excellent standards as several houses in the same street would often share a toilets during the industrial revolution, and Rhydyar Cottages (now located in St. Fagans) is historically known to have none.

Excellent water supply was offered to the homes as the wells and water pumps were still in use during the 1860s. The only apparent failing of Morgantown was that some properties in Garth Street and Moriah Street lack the ventilation of a proper back door.

The houses of Morgantown were predominantly occupied by minor clerks, skilled workers in the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, hauliers and dressmakers.

#### Addition of Key Buildings

Later development in Morgantown had occurred between the late 1890s and 1900s, mostly to the east of the Conservation Area, adding a new dimension to its character. This could be

attributed to the transformation of the Cyfarthfa works from Iron to Steel. As the town became a thriving industrial area, the district to the east of Morgantown was laid out as a higher class dormitory area of the Town.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, as it is locally known, was built in 1893-94 by Tom Rees of Ynysyored for Reverend Canon Wade. This Romanesque Church has matured to become one of the more recognisable buildings within the Conservation Area, located as a divide between its differing eastern and western Character areas.

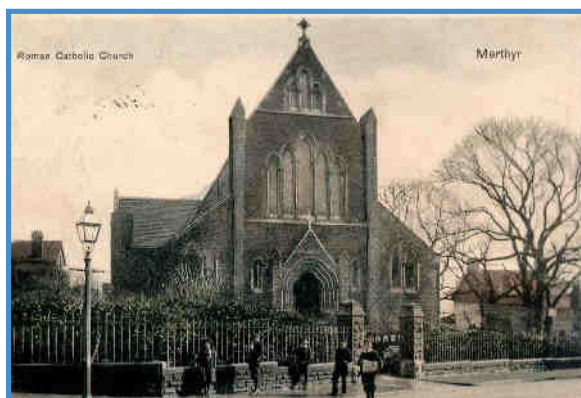
Capel Tabernacl, located opposite the former Vulcan Brewery site was built shortly afterwards in 1896. It was designed by George Morgan, an architect of Carmarthen to the cost of £4,650 and dedicated to Merthyr Tydfil's Well, in the Benefice of Merthyr Tydfil, St. David and Diocese of Llandaff. The Church was built on the site of a former fish pond, which was on a watercourse feeding the Vulcan Brewery.

Edwardian style homes, which make up the eastern side of the Conservation Area, were built on the former site of Penyardarren Park. They were intended as a 'middle class' suburb, reflected in

	Houses	Family	Lodges	Total	Back doors	Windows	Toilets	Water supply
Garth Street								
Moriah Street		71	2	73	11	18	18	18
David Street		50	0	50	12	12	12	12
Cambrian Street		42	2	44	10	10	10	10
Edward Street		40	0	40	11	11	11	11
Sand Street		55	5	60	12	12	12	12
William Street		54	12	65	14	14	14	14

Health Standards of dwellings in Morgantown, c1850

their size, architectural expression and the fact that they have front and rear gardens. Houses were built of dressed stone and bricks instead of irregular stone construction of the 1800s.



St. Mary's RC Church

With the development of the Edwardian houses, Penyarden Park became obsolete by the 1930s. The site is known to have linkages to the Roman era, with recorded remains of a Roman fort under the current stadium. A number of Roman Villas were also subsequently destroyed with the development of the football ground.

#### *Development from the end of the Steel Era*

Brecon Road had established itself at the start of the 20th Century as a reputable commercial district, which was used by the local residents of Morgantown, however; marked its decline with the cessation of steel production in Cyfarthfa.

As a result, very few dwellings were built between 1915 and 1948, while unemployment increased. Morgantown, resultantly, stagnated and along with the demolition of the odd building, remains largely in the same form and layout as it is today.



St. Mary's RC Church

### **3.2 Historic Significance**

The Morgantown Conservation Area is significant as it contains an important cross-section of heritage features of the industrial era.

The terraced homes located on Garth Street, David Street, Moriah Street, Upper and Lower Edward Street, Sand Street, William Street and Cambrian Street are of historic significance. The housing layout is unique to Merthyr Tydfil in that two rectangular intersections are incorporated rather than linear grids. There are no other examples of this within the Borough, or any known examples of this within South Wales. These homes were built for use by the skilled workers of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, which was rare at the time of construction as the earlier Crawshay dynasty very rarely built homes for their workers.

The homes are also some of the earliest built examples to comply with Board of Health standards set during the 1850s, with higher sanitation and ventilation standards built in. In spite of this, the houses remain within a confined street pattern, and in a space efficient manner.



Edwardian style houses to the east of the Conservation Area further enhance the quality of the area and show a contrast between the intended industrial workers' homes and the intended higher quality homes and rise in standards of construction. Conservation Area status further adds protection to the quality and setting of this area.

The important heritage features of Morgantown are within close proximity of each other and demonstrate a high group value, combined with the 6 structures which are of national importance.



View up Garth Street, c1960



Historic Morgantown c1875



## 4 Spatial Analysis

### 4.1 Preface

The Morgantown Conservation Area contains a number of historic elements. This includes the site of the former Vulcan Brewery, which was the oldest independent brewery in Merthyr Tydfil and Vulcan House which was centre to chartist activity in the early 19th Century. The homes on the rectangular shaped terraces of David Street, Garth Street and Cambrian Street were also workers dwellings for workers at the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. The area developed as the Ironworks reached the peak of its powers by the end of the 19th Century. Below is a summary of the special historic and architectural interest of the Conservation Area.

### 4.2 Location and Context

The settlement of Morgantown is located adjacent to the north east of Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre. The area is bound by Bethesda Street and Pontmorlais West which creates a physical barrier between the Conservation Area and the Town Centre. It is bordered by Brecon Road to the East and Penydarren Park to the West. The area stretches as far north as Tudor Terrace and contains a number of industrial workers' homes and higher status Edwardian dwellings.

The proposed area is important historically and architecturally as it contains a cross-section of well preserved industrial dwellings displayed in the densely populated terraced homes around Cambrian Street and Garth Street, which is set in a unique layout in its own right. The Conservation Area may be separated into two distinct character areas; the west being of smaller industrial workers' cottages, while the east consists of higher class

Edwardian properties at the time of construction.

### 4.3 General Character



The former RM's Rock Club, Bethesda Street

The area is noted as a well preserved iron works settlement with early industrial settlement expansion linked with mixed linear and rectangular layouts. Morgantown, as it survives today comprises of a core area of pre-1850s industrial settlement. The area of Morgantown, particularly along Brecon Road developed a small but significant commercial function characterised by the conversion of existing domestic structures to shops with the addition of wooden shop fronts.

The proposed Conservation Area consists of two areas of interest. The western area consists of early 19th Century development in an intersecting rectangular street pattern of low, two storey terraced housing originally in rock-faced stone. This creates a generally evocative character to the space with a strong sense of enclosure. The eastern section of the Conservation Area includes a well preserved part of intended homes for middle class settlers covering the former park of Penydarren House.



The combination of these two characters creates a unique area within Merthyr Tydfil, offering a sound level of contrast. There is also a fair amount of prevalent detailing within the Conservation Area such as coping above stone walls, intricate dormers, the detailing of Edwardian homes and the simplicity of workers' homes.

#### 4.4 The Character and Interrelationship of Places



Modern development on the corner of Bethesda Street and Brecon Road

Morgantown Conservation Area lies immediately to the north of Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre and varies on the grid-iron pattern of Merthyr Tydfil. The Area contains almost 150 separate buildings and residences and is located within the wider urban area of Merthyr Tydfil. The Conservation Area is strongly defined around early 19th Century industry to its western side, while it is characterised by more elaborate late 19th Century Edwardian style homes on its eastern side.

A number of predominant elements and themes have been produced from this which shape its

character:

- **Density** – Morgantown has a high consistency of homes within a small area, and is highly urban in character as a result. This makes for a unique atmosphere with a network of narrow streets.
- **Land form** – Morgantown is located on higher ground overlooking the Town Centre. There is a steep ascent from its southern ridges concentrating towards the north eastern point.
- **Contrasting Character Areas** – Two character areas display a good contrast with each other and are a showcase for two differing architectural styles. This adds to the uniqueness of the area.
- **Historic Significance** – The Area is steeped in historic importance being home to skilled workers of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks during the 1850s. It is also part of the former Morgan family estate, which are synonymous with holdings in Merthyr Tydfil.
- **Residential Dwellings** – The homes of Morgantown represent an exemplar cross-section of industrial dwellings in Merthyr Tydfil. Higher class dwellings to the east signify a change in architectural styling with time.

The built heritage of Morgantown largely derives from iron production which occurred during the 19th Century. This is reflected in the terraced layout of many of the homes, a notable feature of

workers' housing.

The Conservation Area is set within a larger urban sprawl as a relic of the Iron producing era of Merthyr Tydfil. Due to the area's more varying topography, its layout interrupts the grid iron pattern of the north westerly spread of Merthyr Tydfil. This could also potentially be down to land ownership issues over 150 years ago. Much of the setting of Morgantown has not changed significantly over the past 50 years, and has avoided large scale demolition, as seen in Dowlais and Pentrebach.



Some commercial activity on Brecon Road

Earlier Ordinance survey maps (1875) display a dense character to Western Morgantown, where a distinct lack of open space exists. Subsequent demolitions of homes fronting Bethesda Street to accommodate junctions associated with Avenue de Clichy have occurred, as well as the odd dwelling within Morgantown. This has caused a slightly more open aspect to the area and has created a more breathable character to the local area.

The East of Morgantown developed in the 1890s,

where finely constructed homes were established, and with it, Brecon Road developed a commercial function. This area, consisting of St Mary's Church provided a landmark for the Conservation Area. The Church allows for a majestic centrepiece to the area bridging the gap between the previously poorer industrial buildings & cottages and the grand middle class suburban area to the east.

#### 4.5 Landscape Setting

The popular residential area of Morgantown is located very close to the Town Centre. However, it also appears to be slightly removed from it. The reason for this being that it is separated by a rise in the contours and the larger buildings fronting Pontmorlais West, including the YMCA building and the Masonic Temple, which screen its presence.



View towards the wider landscape from Vulcan Road

The heritage features of Morgantown Conservation Area, such as Vulcan House and the workmen's dwellings are located within close proximity of each other, and as such, demonstrate a high group value; which is a characteristic of Conservation Areas. This contributes to the crowded landscape

of the area.

Its location on undulating topography offers an elevated position for the Conservation Area above town centre. Views are also offered from this position down towards Merthyr Tydfil and the rest of the valley. The area however can be deemed as insignificant in stature being a small part of a wider span of linear industrial settlement.

#### 4.6 Layout

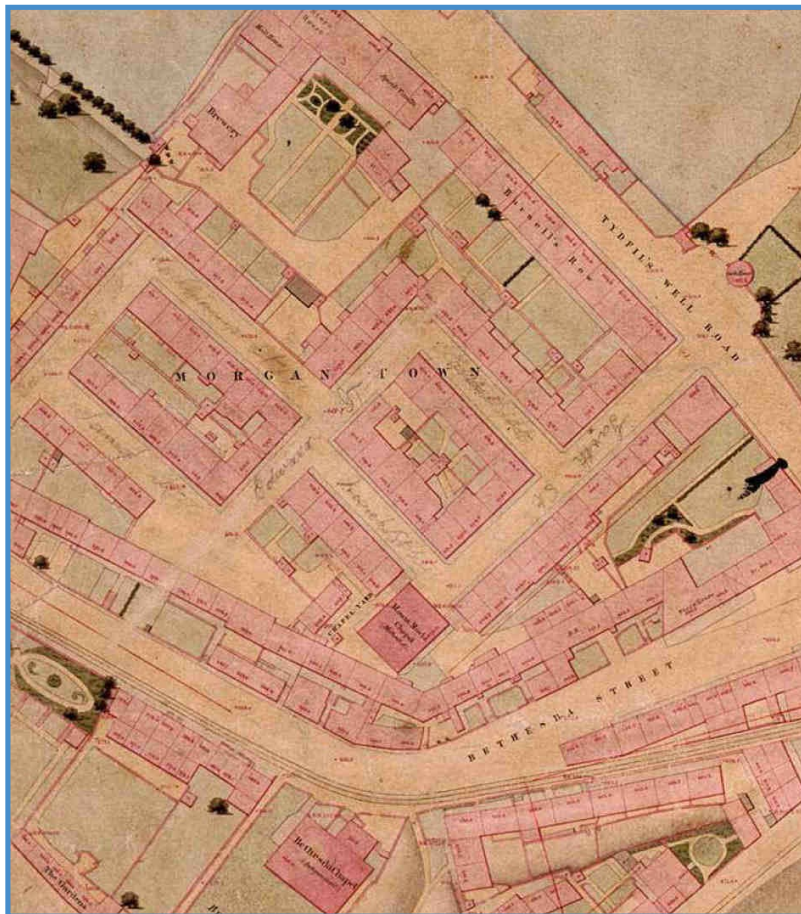
The Area consists of two particular character areas of interest. The first of which is of an early 19th century development containing two rectangular and intersecting grids of workers housing. The low, two-storey terraced housing was originally constructed of rock-faced stone, and can be entered through one entrance on Brecon Road.

Historically, this area was surrounded by a parameter of terraced homes with Vulcan House and the Brewery flanking the western side of this area. This layout is reputedly due to land

ownership issues, and the central area, where the historic layout is incorporated, was designed not to encroach on others' land. The secluded layout also offered residents safety from less desirable communities such as the Quar and Chinatown.

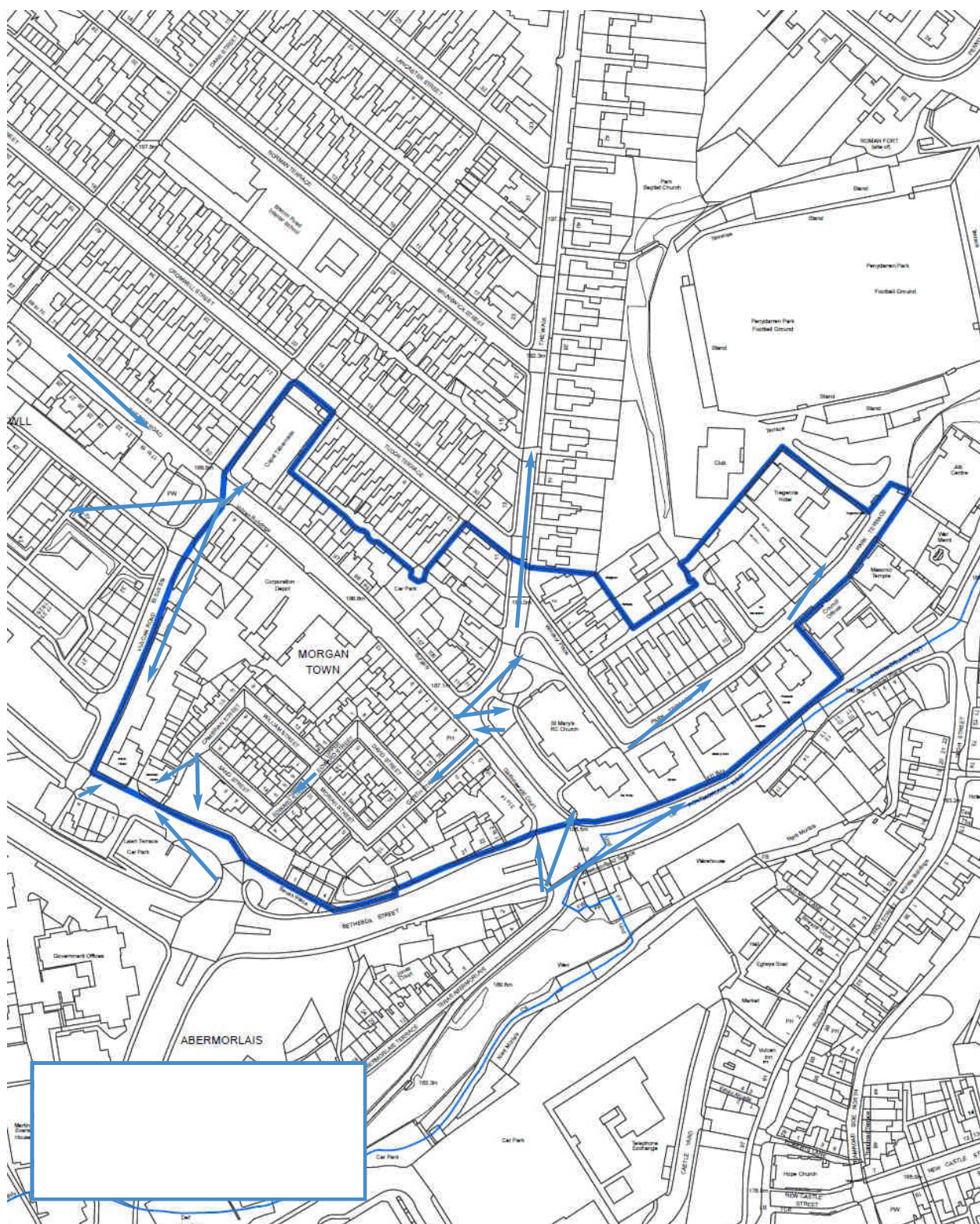
A more open and inviting layout is located to the

East of the Conservation Area, where the later well-preserved quarter of Edwardian development exists. The area consists of terraces dating to the late 19th Century and Early 20th Century. Particularly good examples of which consist of Park Terrace as well as a number of semi detached properties on The Walk, with St. Mary's Church providing a link between the two character areas. The area encompasses much of the former parkland areas of Penydarren House.



Morgantown c1850 in Board of Health Maps





Key views and vistas in Morgantown





#### 4.7 Key Views and Vistas

A number of prominent vistas can be found within the Conservation Area looking out towards the historic landscape of Merthyr Tydfil.

Views in a southern direction may be achieved from the higher typology of Park Terrace looking down the Merthyr Valley and Town Centre. This may also be achieved from the corner of Sand Street and Cambrian Street from the site of a demolished home.



St. Mary's RC Church, one of the key vistas in the Conservation Area

From the highest point of Brecon Road, a striking vista looking north towards the Brecon Beacons may be achieved, incorporating much of Merthyr Tydfil's Industrial Landscape. This fits in such

structures as the Cefn Viaduct, and vaguely the Cyfarthfa Ironworks Blast Furnaces.

The aesthetically pleasing St. Mary's RC Church offers an area of amenity within the Conservation Area. This imposing building within a mature landscape setting provides for good vistas from the tip of Garth Street or alongside Brecon Road. This may be equally true for views alongside Park Terrace where trees line a row of middle class housing leading towards the former park.

Unfortunately, due to the dense built heritage of Morgantown, views from vantage points around the Conservation Area do not offer spectacular viewing. This is as the parameter development to Morgantown is of a less substantial quality. A particularly imposing view however could be achieved at the junction of Brecon Road and Pontmorlais West looking in a northern direction, capturing large Edwardian Villas and St. Mary's Church.

#### 4.8 Activity and Prevailing of Former Uses

The predominant land use within the Conservation Area to date is residential, and has been traditionally associated with which. Strong links with the industrial past remain by the evidence of Workers' cottages, public houses and the Vulcan House foundry. The layout of this Area had evolved since the construction of the Vulcan House and Brewery, the first known structures within the area.

Board of Health maps of circa 1851 indicate that there were two public houses, a church, a brewery, a foundry and a number of residential units within

Morgantown. A number of fishing ponds and water bodies were also prevalent to the north west of the area. The setting of Morgantown was of open fields and woodland to the north and west.



Traditional commercial shopfront on Brecon Road

The general layout of Morgantown had scarcely changed until 1900 where the introduction of Edwardian Homes to the east of the Conservation Area had been introduced. Additionally, a number of religious buildings were introduced to the Conservation Area, including Capel Tabernacl and St. Mary's Church. The setting of the Conservation Area had changed considerably with the introduction of housing to the north and west. Homes to the north largely remain today; however, a more modern development had been initiated in recent times to the western boundary.

The buildings of Vulcan House and the Lantern have largely remained in their entire form since the earliest published maps of the area while only a few remaining homes on Bevan Place and Bethesda Street remain. The iconic layout of Morgantown has not been modified, though a number of individual homes have been demolished on Sand

Street, offering a more open aspect to this section.

Brecon Road retains some of its commercial functionality with the retention of the Park Inn, a Convenience Store and a Hairdresser to name but a few. Some old shop fronts are also detailed on Brecon Road, though many of which appear to have been made redundant and form part of larger residential units.

Very recent additions to the Conservation area include a number of flats to the south, fronting Bethesda Street and an ongoing residential development at the former Vulcan Brewery site. The demolition of which, has made a significant change to the character of Morgantown.

#### 4.9 Public and Private Spaces



Dwellings fronting onto scarce streetscape

The Conservation Area offers poor levels of access to open space and accessible countryside. However, this forms part of its predominantly industrial character.



The Area is locked by subsequent housing development to its northern and western directions, a football stadium to the east and offices to the south. Public highways also surround the southern belt of the Conservation Area.

The nearest public park to the Conservation Area is Cyfarthfa Park, which is approximately 0.5 miles to the west. This large area of open space was formerly the estate of the Crawshay Dynasty, and provides a direct historic link to Morgantown Conservation Area.

Some small areas of green space are included within the Conservation Area, though these are mostly defined as private space. This includes front courtyards, rear gardens and churchyards. Boundaries to these spaces within the Conservation Area are often defined by rock-faced pennant stone walls, such as the frontage of Vulcan House, Churchyard to St. Mary's Church and on Park Terrace.

Buildings on Park Terrace demonstrate a good example of green spaces between buildings, although these are clearly defined private spaces. Trees are lined alongside Park Terrace which adds to the public amenity of the space outside the dwellings. Other private spaces are defined by the buildings themselves, such as Capel Tabernacl, homes within Morgantown and on Brecon Road, which immediately front onto the public highway, with rear private space.

The definition of space adds to the character of the Conservation Area, though the settings of many buildings are cramped amidst a densely

built-up area. The lack of public open space, although not desirable, is considered to be a characteristic of this Conservation Area.

#### 4.10 Key Buildings

There are 6 Listed Buildings within the Conservation Area. These are listed as:

- Vulcan House (**Grade II**);
- Garden Gate to Vulcan House (**Grade II**);
- Rear Range to Vulcan House (**Grade II**);
- Capel Tabernacle (**Grade II**);
- Church Hall, Tabernacle (**Grade II**); and
- St. Mary's Church (**Grade II**).

The Listed Buildings contribute significantly to the historic interest of the Conservation Area, while their amalgamation relates to the legacy that the Industrial Revolution had left in Merthyr Tydfil. Meanwhile two Locally Listed Buildings are contained within the Conservation Area. These are both public houses and contribute to the local history and architecture of the Area. These are Listed as:

- The Lantern; and
- The Park View.

In addition to Listed Structures, the Built Heritage of Morgantown Conservation Area is characterised by terraced homes which were shown on maps dating back to 1839. This allows for a number of prevalent architectural features within the Conservation Area.

Two character areas have been identified within the Conservation Area.

## 5 Character Analysis

### 5.1 Preface

The purpose of this section is to look at the Morgantown Conservation Area as a whole, as well as the character of the individual buildings and structures. Grouped in Character Areas, this section assesses the architectural and historic merits of the Conservation Area, whilst identifying those areas which enhance or possibly detract from the special character. An assessment has been undertaken of the existing buildings' and structural features' impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. The character areas for this section are listed as follows:

- **Character Area 1** - Industrial Morgantown (West)
- **Character Area 2** - Edwardian Morgantown (East)

### 5.2 Industrial Morgantown (West)

The Western Area of Morgantown is acknowledged as the first established section of the Conservation Area. This is of 19th Century development containing two rectangular and intersecting grids of workers' housing, terraces alongside Brecon Road and remaining dwellings alongside Bethesda Street. Vulcan House (former foundry) and the Lantern Public House illustrate the survival of remaining amenity and employment areas which are associated with an industry other than iron or coal. The documented use of the site dates back to the early 19th century.

The area offers a densely constructed and historically evocative space with a strong sense of

enclosure and it provides a sense of seclusion as the narrow terraces in a rectangular format provides difficult viewing to the external landscape.

The key elements which are essential to this character area are detailed below:

#### Scale

The Western Character Area largely consists of modestly proportioned worker's homes mazing



Dwellings fronting onto dense and narrow streetscape

around two prominent buildings. Homes alongside Brecon Road are two storeys in height, augmenting slightly as the road reaches the former Vulcan Brewery site and Capel Tabernacl. Similarly, homes within the rectangular terraces are of two storeys in height with small roofs allowing minimal loft space. The homes are densely laid out offering a tight living landscape.

The dwellings of the Conservation Area contrast with its buildings of higher status which possess an elevated scale. Vulcan House and Capel Tabernacl are three floored structures with elaborate



architectural features. These large buildings create the necessary setting for the housing and commercial blocks of the Character Area.

### *Hard Landscaping Features*



The Postal box makes for an interesting hard landscaping feature in Morgantown

In terms of hard landscaping features, the amount of detailing is very scarce in the Western Morgantown Character Area. Road surfacing is largely of tarmacadum, while pavements have been paved in concrete setts. Although these are an improvement in quality and differentiate from tarmac surfacing, they are generally not in character with the dwellings of Brecon Road and inner Morgantown.

There are hardly any stone walls within the Character Area, and boundary treatments are generally marked by the presence of a dwelling fronting the street. Key buildings, such as the Tabernacl – which house black wrought iron railings with gold arrow heads and Vulcan House – which has a round-coped rubble stone wall, are rare examples of boundary treatments within the Character Area. Vulcan House also contains a Victorian Brick gatepier.

A number of elements of street furniture are present throughout the Character Area, such as street lighting columns, traffic signposts and

street signs. These are generally of an intrusive character, where overhead wires from streetlights and electricity feeds are located above Brecon Road. A number of street signs are accommodated on streets around Morgantown, however these contribute to the clutter and detract from the living environment.

An item of interest is located on Brecon Road by means of a traditional cast iron post box. This makes an excellent contribution to the Conservation Area, and should be preserved.

### *Soft Landscaping*



Informal green area in Morgantown, though poorly maintained

Western Morgantown is not notable for its soft landscaping and has a distinct lack of open space. Only a small landscaped area to the front of Capel Tabernacl has been cultivated to offer a small private area of green space containing grass and small trees. The remaining vegetation in this character area derives from overgrown grassland and invasive species, notably outside of Vulcan House and in areas of Morgantown where homes have been demolished. Spaces fronting the public highway do not appear to have any flowering.

### *Terraced Homes*

In terms of historic context, the terraced homes located on Garth Street, David Street, Moriah Street, Upper and Lower Edward Street, Sand Street, William Street and Cambrian Street are of great significance. The housing layout is unique to Merthyr Tydfil in that two rectangular intersections are incorporated rather than linear grids. There are no other examples of this within the Borough.

In addition, these homes were built in conjunction with the nearby Cyfarthfa Ironworks. Though vastly improved in terms of internal and external facilities, the homes were originally built for poorer families during the industrial revolution. This is emphasised by the narrow street pattern, and space efficient homes. Each home has very meagre garden space to the rear, which was presumably used to accommodate outhouses and washing lines. Large modern extensions occupy the rear of the dwellings allowing for less garden space at the compromise of improved living standards.

A brief analysis of the details and materials of the homes within this Character Area is detailed below:

### *Windows and Openings*

Western Morgantown retains a much uniformed style of window throughout the character area. These are invariably square in shape and appear to originally be timber casement windows.

Dwellings within the main streets of Morgantown such as Brecon Road, Garth Street, Edward Street and Sand Street have either two or four windows.

These generally have rubble stone surrounds in a marginally different pattern to the buildings' frontage. Some buildings have been altered to include cement rendered window decorations. There is minimal detail to doors where only a small fanlight exists above each doorway, most of which are uPVC in material, diverting from the original timber and windowless doors.



Most traditional sash windows have been replaced by uPVC counterparts

Unfortunately, there are many examples of uPVC alterations to windows, and many of the original timber box sash windows have been removed.

### *External Decorations and Materials*

The low two storey dwellings of Morgantown do not accommodate intricate levels of detailing. These are predominantly of a rubble stone front with minor detailing above windows and doorways. Some corner dwellings contain stone quoins; however, these are hardly noticeable given that they are of the same material as their original frontages.



There are many fine examples of homes which have been largely unaltered amidst the many examples of over-rendering with spar-dash and plain white render.



Many dwellings have been over-rendered with spar-dash

### Colours

There is a fair consistency in colours throughout the Character Area. Through observations, the predominant material on the earlier buildings is of pennant rubble stone which offers a dark stone frontage. This is exemplified by the homes within Morgantown, Brecon Road and on Capel Tabernacl. Dressings and decorations are largely coloured in beige.

Examples of divergence from original building frontages are by means of rendering in either plain white render or darker shades of spar dash rendering. The latter is considered to be of detriment to the character of the Conservation Area. Plain white render offers an attractive variation to some buildings within terraced streets, and echoes colour used on the Vulcan House façade. Some examples of rendering have resulted

in the loss of decorative features, such as stone quoins, window surrounds and dressings.



Variations in colour on Bethesda Street

A number of peculiar examples of coloured rendering and window decorations prevail within this Character Area, some of which offer vibrant colouring to the Conservation Area.

### Roofs

The roofs of this Character Area are generally low, pitched and covered with Welsh Slate. This is true on prominent buildings and on terraced homes within Morgantown. There appears to be minimal decoration of roofs, with most buildings containing simple timber gable ends (some subsequently altered with uPVC capping), or none at all. A number of roofs along Brecon Road or within Morgantown are covered with concrete tiles, differing from the original, naturally slated, style of the Character Area. Such buildings, however, by means of their massing, external layout and presence still offer a positive contribution to the Conservation Area.



The simplicity of the roofs within the character area are emphasised by the very scarce examples of dormer windows (only two found on Brecon Road) and lack of roof openings.

### *Vulcan House and Brewery*



*Vulcan House during the 1990s*

The site was reputedly the oldest brewery in Merthyr Tydfil. Its location on Brecon Road was important as a major route to the next major town, which is 18 miles away. Two culverts pass underneath the site which slope from north to south, and a fish pond was once located on the corner of Vulcan Road and Brecon Road. This was subsequently renamed the Old Brewery Pond, while another fishing pond is located to the north of Brecon Road. It is assumed that the brewery was located in this manner to take advantage of the topography as the water supply is penned up from the stream.

Vulcan House was an early 19th Century foundry, and provides a rare example of an industrial revolution remnant which was not directly related one of the four major ironworks. It is one of the

only surviving foundry buildings within the borough, and the yards surrounding this industrial complex until recently retained many small subsidiary buildings and interesting spaces.



*Detailing on the Vulcan Brewery, prior to demolition in 2009*

Vulcan House was also the home of Matthew John, a prominent Merthyr Chartist during the 1840s who built up a substantial business as a steel and iron founder at Vulcan House. Members of over 20 lodges belonging to the National Charter Association met regularly in Merthyr's Public Houses, notably around Morgantown and the Star in Caedraw and the Three Horse Shoes, nearby in Georgetown. At a time where authority by means of a local government was scarce in Merthyr Tydfil, they provided an alternative political leadership to the ironmasters and their agents.



## Public Houses

Adjacent to this foundry is the Locally Listed Public House of the Lantern. This four bay painted render public house is one of two remaining in the Conservation Area and retains much of its original feel with a retained chimney and partial stone wall boundary.



The Park View, Brecon Road

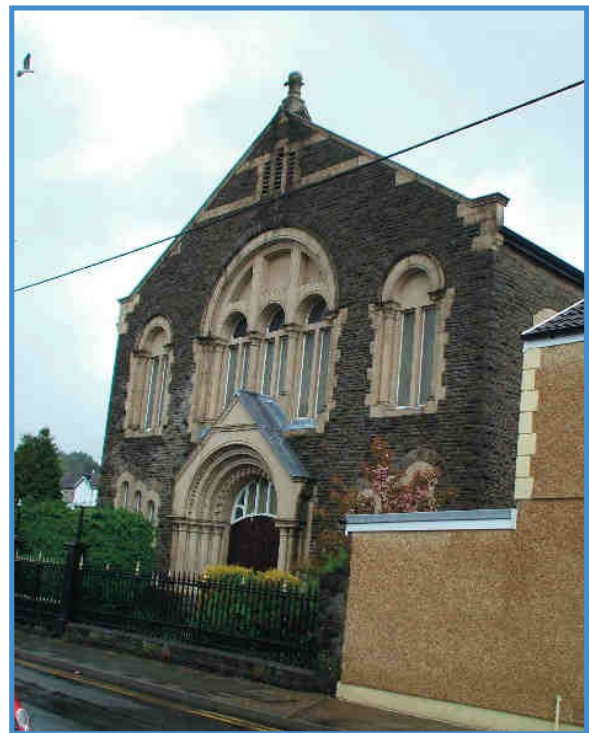
The Park View is located on Brecon Road and still appears as a public house of the same name in the 1875 Ordinance Survey map. The building keeps many features such as its snecked stone corners and traditional window decorations. The building is clad in painted render and decorations are uniformed in dark green colouring.



The Lantern, near Vulcan House

## Capel Tabernacl

The Welsh Tabernacle Church occupies a prominent corner site facing down Vulcan Road. The chapel itself is dated 1896 and was designed by George Morgan, an architect of Carmarthen, to the cost of £4,650. The Church was built on a former fish pond, which was on a watercourse feeding the Vulcan Brewery. The church is dedicated to St. Tydfil's Well, in the Benefice of Merthyr Tydfil, St. David, and Diocese of Llandaff. The Church contains a number of plaques around the front and side walls, dated 1896.



Capel Tabernacl, Brecon Road

### 5.3 Edwardian Morgantown (East)

The Eastern section of the Conservation Area was established in the early 1900s. It includes an especially well preserved chunk of middle-class development encompassing the former parkland areas of Penydarren House. The character area consists of terraces dating back to the late 19th century and early 20th Century by means of Park Terrace and properties on The Walk.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church allows for a majestic centrepiece to the area bridging the gap between the two character areas. The Eastern area offers an open feel with a number of trees, shrubberies and stone walls.

The key elements which are essential to this character area are detailed below:

#### Scale



Eastern Morgantown offers a wider and open scale

The eastern character area of Morgantown is characterised by wider street patterns with housing offset from the public highway. Larger gardens are predominant to the front of dwellings. The higher-status Edwardian settlement is denoted

by the scale and architectural detailing of the prominent and positive buildings.

The buildings within the character area are generally larger than those in Western Morgantown, reaching 2.5 to 3 stories in height. Buildings fronting Park Terrace are offset from the highway sufficiently to allow an open aspect between dwellings. The buildings which front Pontmorlais West are detached, of a high presence and are generously spaced. St. Mary's Church offers a distinctly large building within the Conservation set within grassland with a number of mature trees.

#### Hard Landscaping Features

A number of hard landscaping features are present within Eastern Morgantown, which makes for a high quality feel to the Character Area. Various treatments to walls, for instance, are incorporated offering a speckled; yet superior feel.



Waterworn copings on Windsor Place

Incidental detailing of particular note within the Conservation Area comes by means of the stone walls. These are predominantly noted as boundary





walls to gardens for the rear and side areas of the homes on Windsor Place and Park Terrace. Many walls house waterworn limestone copings, which appears to be prevalent within this Character Area.

Other treatments of walls display uniformity with the principal dwellings or buildings which they are intended to border. The Masonic Hall contains a boundary of cast iron fencing and Victorian Brick walls to match the building materials. This can also be said for the dressed stone walls on Park Terrace and brick quoins to the gate piers on The Walk.

A number of detrimental treatments are found in rear passages behind The Walk and Park Terrace where unnatural materials such as painted breezeblocks and spar dash render walls are present. A vertical steel fence is located to the rear of Merthyr Tydfil War memorial as a vandal proof solution. This is one of the few elements which cause a large detriment to the Conservation Area.

In terms of pavements and roads, these are all surfaced in tarmac with concrete edges while a number of standard road signs offer a modern influence. These do not proffer the traditional feel of the Conservation Area.

### *Soft Landscaping*

Linear expressions of soft landscaping can be seen throughout the Eastern Character Area. This is apparent by means of tree-lined streets, front gardens and overhanging vegetation over rubble stone walls.



*Green landscaping outside dwellings on Park Terrace*

A particularly pleasant area of private soft landscaping can be enjoyed at the corner of Pontmorlais West and Brecon Road where a number of specimen trees, grass and vegetation is hung over a stone wall within the grounds of St. Mary's RC Church and The Priory. Similar patterns of growth may be seen further down Pontmorlais West.

Park Terrace also offers an area of good quality and subtle soft landscaping, with dotted specimen trees alongside the public highway. Individual residents have also made admirable contributions to the soft landscaping of the area by means of small trees, shrubs and large plants in gardens, offering a green quality within the Area.

Within this character area, there appears to be a far larger emphasis on soft landscaping in the street scene, and this creates a mature character.

### *Edwardian Homes*

The Edwardian homes to the eastern side of the Conservation Area were part of the former site of Penydarren Park. The park itself had become obsolete by the 1930s with the rise of Merthyr

Tydfil Football Club and the requirement for a stadium. The homes in this area were built as a middle class suburb. This is emphasised in the quality of architectural features, their size and the provision for front and rear gardens.

A brief analysis of the common and unique details on residential units of the Character Area is described below.



Streetscape of Park Terrace

### *Windows and Openings*

The shapes of window openings vary considerably throughout this character area adding diversity to the interest of the building facades. The majority of the Edwardian style buildings have a vertical emphasis and openings are largely rectangular in shape. The terrace on Park Terrace consists of vertical casement windows to the second floor with one large bay window protruding from the front. Traditional casement windows are also prevalent on Windsor Place and The Walk, though many of which have been altered to modern equivalents.

Varying styles of window surrounds are noted within the Character Area. Dressed keystone decorations in stone are incorporated on Park

Terrace, while on The Walk and Windsor Place, coloured brick is used in a stepped pattern. This adds distinctive window detailing and enhances the richness of the building façades. There is an obvious variation in window design on homes along Pontmorlais West, incorporating various components of architectural styles. A number of dormer windows and roof lights are noted on Park Terrace and The Walk, many of which appear to be part of the original design of the buildings.



Example of arched openings on larger dwellings, though now uPVC in materials

In terms of entrances, the most notable feature is the large fanlights over symmetrical square entrance hoods on Park Terrace. There is little detailing on Windsor Place while the Walk offers bricked arched entrances to buildings.

The survival of timber framed sash windows on many of the buildings throughout the Character Area adds considerably to the positive contribution of buildings; Listed or otherwise. However, some terraced homes incorporate uPVC alterations.



### *External Decorations and Materials*

Unlike the Western Morgantown Character Area, most of the earlier buildings to the East are constructed of dressed stone, as opposed to rubble. Some homes alongside Pontmorlais West have been altered by means of rendering, almost removing their entire original detailing. Nonetheless, the Character Area contains an abundance of architectural detailing to the frontage which adds to the character of the Area. Most building decorations are not required to ensure a structural integrity to the building, but they present an enhanced aesthetic value.



*External detailing on Park Terrace*

Pontmorlais West is characterised by villa style dwellings, all of which detached and displaying many architectural peculiarities. This includes elongated gable ends to roofs, brick quoins, raised plinths, two storey bayed windows and arched openings. Also, many different materials are exemplified. The very variation of these private buildings offers deviation within the vernacular style of the Character Area, but still offers a stock of high quality buildings.

Dwellings alongside The Walk are fairly large in scale and demonstrate some architectural elements which are not normally shown in dwellings of this size. This includes rock faced rubble stone frontages, coloured brick quoins and window dressings, bay windows and decorated roof pitch beams. Arched openings signify a higher status of these dwellings. Travelling up Windsor Place shows a variation on this theme in hosting similar architectural elements on a smaller, more traditional scale without arched openings. .

Park Terrace displays the grandest uniformed theme of the Conservation Area in being constructed of dressed stone rather than coursed rubble. The terraced dwellings show Edwardian Pillasters each side of entryways and dormer windows as an intended part of construction. End of terraced building have a marked corner emphasis in being set closer to the highway with a 90 degree rotated roof angle.

Decorations of the Character Area dwellings appear to have withstood the test of time and all remaining decorations should be sought to be preserved or conserved.

### *Colours*

The Eastern Character Area contains a greater variation in colouring than the remainder of the Conservation Area. Although the dark stone frontages of the dwellings on Park Terrace and Windsor Place offer a darker setting, it is the brighter dressed stone on the buildings which are given the most emphasis, contributing in various colours.

Different from the normal dressed stone patterns of the Character Area are buildings such as the Treganna Hotel, large dwellings alongside Pontmorlais West and a detached pair on The Walk, which are plain rendered in white. St Mary's Church is clad with rock-faced rubble stone with beige coloured dressings. This matches the colour scheme adopted by Capel Tabernacl.

The amount of trees, shrubberies and green areas adds an element of green to the Character Area. With semi-mature trees dotted along the street scene, this harmonises with the colours of the buildings.

### Roofs



Joined rooflines to the western side of Park Terrace

The roofs of the Character Area are generally pitched and covered with natural quarried slate. Roofs alongside Park Terrace appear to be of a steep pitch, allowing for the presence of dormer windows to their frontage. Rotated roof pitches to end-of-terrace homes add to the distinctiveness of the end-dwelling and allow for an appreciation of their elongated timber gable ends. These are

decorated with rendered plinths. The apex of the roofs are decorated with terracotta ridge tiles. Similar roof patterns are adopted alongside the walk, with an emphasis on the central dormer window.

Windsor Place show examples of roofing, more freely associated with the Western Character Area with shallower pitches, plain gable ends and minimal decoration along the pitch. These examples have been tiled using concrete.



View from Pontmorlais West

Homes alongside Pontmorlais West display a variation in roof patterns with multiple pitches common on most buildings. These roofs are all tiled in natural slate and accommodate dormers and roof lights in various positions. Roofing on this street is far more hap-hazard in design with the accommodation of various subsequent extensions on buildings.



### *Our Lady of Rosary Roman Catholic Church*

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, as it is locally known, was built in 1893-94 by Tom Rees of Ynysyored for Reverend Canon Wade. The imposing church occupies an elevated site above Brecon Road in between Pontmorlais West and The Walk. It is also surrounded by mature landscape by means of grass and tall trees. This Romanesque Church is one of the more recognisable buildings within the Conservation Area.

## **5.4 Architectural Character Assessment**

### **5.4.1 Preface**

The purpose of this survey is to identify the contributions buildings and features make to the character of the Morgantown Conservation Area. The building types, as noted above, tend to reflect the historic uses of the Conservation Area. This part of the appraisal will draw attention to a number of structures which contribute to the historic and architectural merit of Morgantown.

Three categories are used for this assessment. These are Key Buildings, Positive Buildings and Neutral or Negative Buildings. In assessing individual buildings, it is the combination of their form, design and architectural potential which is most important, though historical contribution is also assessed. Degradation and modern additions such as uPVC windows and doors may result in a lower categorisation whereas fine examples of preserved buildings will be categorised higher.

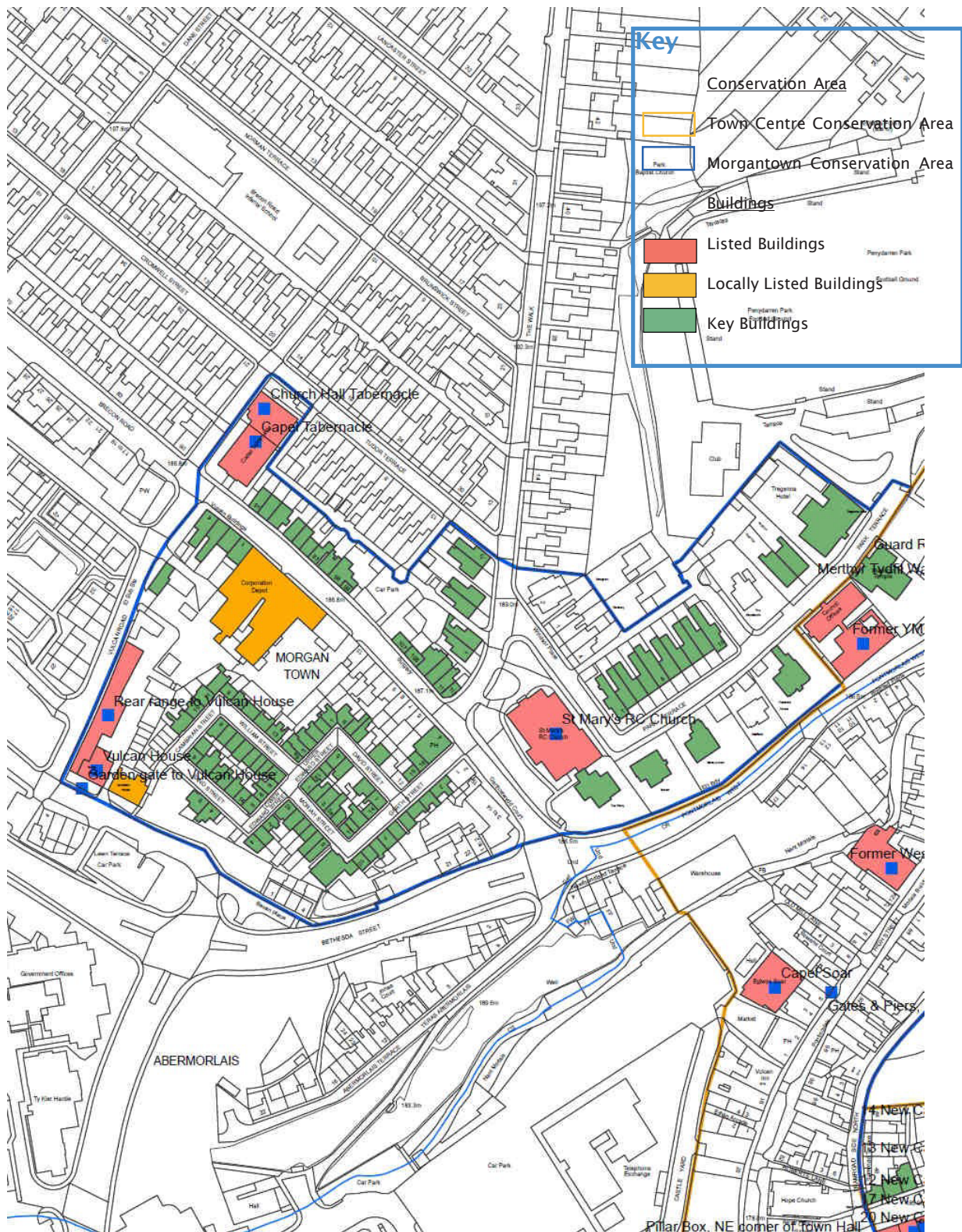
Structures and buildings that may provide a good

contribution to the special interest of the Conservation Area may be contain some of the following characteristics:

- A good association with the landscape of the Conservation Area;
- A contribution to the character or appearance of the Conservation Area;
- Local and national historic linkages with people and events;
- A reflection of the traditional character of the Conservation Area;
- A recognisable attraction or sight within the Conservation Area;
- An integral part of a group of buildings within the Conservation Area;
- A relic of the gradual development of the settlement;
- Historic relationship with other buildings within the Conservation Area; or
- A principle-setting building of later development in the Conservation Area.

There are 6 Listed Buildings and 2 Locally Listed Buildings within the Conservation Area, allowing for an impressive cross-section of architectural and historic quality within such a small area. There are also a number of buildings which make a positive contribution to the area such as the dwellings on Park Terrace and within Morgantown.









#### 5.4.2 Key Elements

These buildings and areas are essential to the development of the Conservation area and can be distinctive examples of a particular architectural style, or be synonymous with the settlement. Planning applications and other proposals which may affect their character, siting or setting should only be considered if they offer an enhancement. Harmful proposals must be rejected and demolition should not be accepted under any circumstances.

##### *Vulcan House (Grade II Listed)*

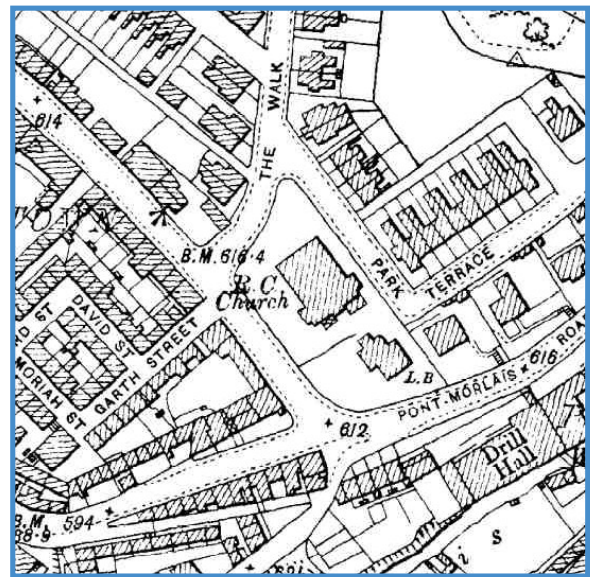


Vulcan House and the Lantern c1984

Vulcan House still retains its original character of an early 19th Century foundry, despite its condition. The frontage consists of three storeys and five bays. Architectural detailing in the windows and centre arched doorway appears to have eroded along with the building, though some details still remain apparent which justifies its listing, including its window layout consisting of half lunettes on the top floor, the pattern of its raised plinths and its right-hand carriage archway to its rear range. Originally, the hipped roof was covered in Welsh slate; however this had been

removed in early in 2009. A range consisting of minimal window frontage extends to the rear of Vulcan House along Vulcan Road.

##### *Our Lady of Rosary Roman Catholic Church (St. Mary's Church) (Grade II Listed)*

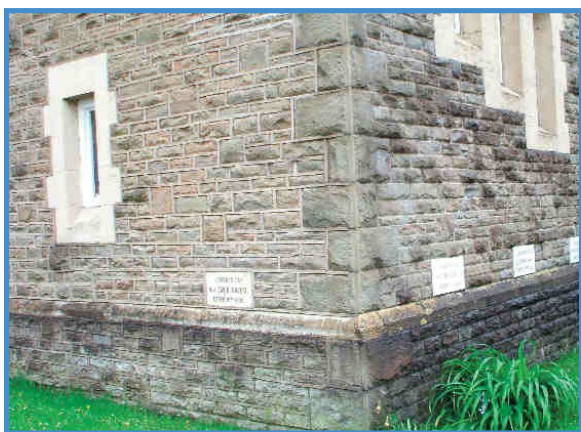


Area near the church c1900

St. Mary's Church occupies a prominent elevated position above Brecon Road in between Pontmorlais West and The Walk. This location combined with the building size emphasises its scale exponentially and creates an imposing corner point on Brecon Road. Its frontage consists of snecked stone facings and painted freestone dressings. A significant feature of the building is its gabled porch entranceway, which appears similar in style to that which fronts the nearby Capel Tabernacl. Above which is a number of arch windows which offer light into this large building. A number of additional arch windows extend down the side of the Church, though far smaller in size. The building is roofed in quarried slate tiles, though some elevations which have subsequent extensions are tiled in concrete.

### *Capel Tabernacl (Grade II Listed)*

Another building of architectural significance; the Tabernacle is located to the rear of Vulcan House and is a prominent building facing down Vulcan Road. The building has a wide gabled front with 'snecked' facing stone. The three bay front consists of major window and entrance features such as a wide archway, with tracery within its fanlight, while three ventilated windows are banded by one large arch frame flanked by two smaller arched windows. Stepped triple windows are located each side of the entranceways which add to the architectural character of the building. The side elevations of the building consist of 5 arched window bays in a similar style to those on the frontage. The exterior of this Chapel indicates that no expense was spared in the design of the building reflecting its Romanesque and Classical style.



External detailing on Capel Tabernacl

The building also stands out within the western side of the Conservation Area in being surrounded by terraced homes with minimal detailing. Its location at the tip of Vulcan Road also emphasises its higher status while creating a striking vista.

### *5.4.3 Positive Elements*

Buildings, structures and areas in this category are the backbone of the Conservation Area. They often show a uniformed character and features which make the Conservation Area unique. These are typically unpretentious buildings that do not command individual attention, but possess considerable group value. Some have been altered or extended in uncomplimentary ways, but the true character of these buildings can potentially be restored.



Entrance to the Masonic Hall, Park Terrace

Alterations should only be made to positive items if they result in an enhancement of the buildings or space and the contribution they make to the character or appearance of the conservation area. Demolition or development must only be considered in exceptional circumstances where significant aesthetic enhancement and/or community benefits would be realised.

There are a small amount of positive buildings, structures and areas which complement the Listed Buildings. These are listed as follows:



### *Terraced Homes*

The Terraced Homes make a positive contribution to the Conservation Areas as they emphasise the area's quality as an early industrial settlement. Many of the terraced homes show a uniformed character and do not command individual attention, however possess a high group value. Some have been altered or extended in uncomplimentary ways, but the true character of such buildings can potentially be restored.



View down Garth Street

The lack of specific architectural features of these homes is what offers such an interest. Such homes are specifically located on the two intersecting squares of Garth Street, David Street, Moriah Street, Upper & Lower Edward Street, Sand Street, William Street and Cambrian Street. The layout of these homes is of interest in its uniqueness to Merthyr Tydfil. Each home originally consisted of a rock faced pennant stone two bay frontage with a chimney, two pane timber sash windows and sills with a wooden door. More original examples on the street contain a stone surround pattern above each window, though no different materials are used for detailing. It appears that concrete tiles

were the predominant form of roofing, though some examples exist of quarried slate around the streets. It is apparent that many of these original features have changed, most notably the materials of windows and the use of spar dash render to the front of formerly rock-faced stone dwellings.

Further terraced homes are located alongside Brecon Road and they display a less unified character. Variations to each frontage containing shop front conversions are later additions to the original street design, dating from the 1900s. However, these buildings still contribute to the character of the locality by means of their original decoration and layout, though many have been altered. These homes are also located on a main access route into the Conservation Area.



View towards Windsor Place

### *Edwardian Homes*

The larger dwellings and guest homes to the eastern side of the conservation area display a higher level of architectural detailing. Park Terrace itself is surrounded at both sides of the public highway by semi-mature trees which create a good setting for the larger stone-clad Edwardian



homes on the northern side of the terrace. These buildings are clad in rock faced stone with slate roofing. Roof dormers extend from these predominantly two bay homes creating a third floor to which plain timber gable ends extend from the end of the roofing. Bay windows extend from the front of most of these properties into large gardens capturing higher level views over Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre and beyond. Further east along Park Terrace is the Treganna Hotel which encompasses the Edwardian design principles and is white lime rendered in exterior to stand out from the rest of these dwellings.



View through Park Terrace with stone walls fronting dwellings

To the south of Park Terrace are larger detached homes of the title period. These overlook Pontmorlais West and are not visible from within the Conservation Area. On ground level, these impose the street scene of the Town Centre and are bound by large lime stone walls and their respective gardens. The buildings themselves are three storeys in height with plain timber gable ends and slate roofs. Bay windows are included on primary elevations though many appear not to retain their original timber sash windows or roofing materials. External cladding varies

between these larger homes with different coloured renders and stonework used on properties.

### *Stone Walls*

Incidental detailing of particular note within the Conservation Area comes by means of the stone walls located in the Eastern Character Area. These are predominant as boundary walls to gardens to the rear and side areas of the homes. Many walls house waterworn limestone copings, which appears to be prevalent within the Conservation Area.

### *Housing surrounding the Conservation Area*



Surrounding dwellings on Tudor Terrace

The Conservation Area is surrounded in part by housing development built during the late 19th Century. This was largely the result of Merthyr Tydfil's expansion during the Iron and Steel area. The housing is built in a grid-iron pattern and was originally uniformed in style. Many of the homes are in a similar style, but at a larger scale to those which are located in the Western Character Area. The housing adds context to the Conservation Area and emphasises its industrial roots.

#### 5.4.4 Neutral Elements

Most conservation areas have buildings that are neither positive nor negative in their contribution to overall character. These will often be 20th century buildings which may be inoffensive in scale and location, but which lack quality in terms of detailing, materials and design. It must also be accepted that there are usually some buildings in conservation areas which cause actual harm to the appearance and character of that area. These will most commonly be more modern buildings which, by a combination of scale, form, location, materials or design, are harmful to the character of the area. Judgements on these matters will always be open to criticism that they are subjective so the 'neutral' and 'negative' categories have been combined.



Roof dormer detailing on Brecon Road

Planning applications for the alteration, extension or replacement of buildings in this combined category will be expected to offer a significant enhancement of the conservation area. Where a building is clearly detrimental due to design, scale or location, its replacement will be encouraged. The use of planting, or other landscaping, to

reduce the visual impact of less attractive buildings, may achieve considerable aesthetic benefits at relatively low cost.

#### *Modern Development fronting Bethesda Street*



Aforementioned development on the corner of Bethesda Street and Brecon Road

This building, consisting largely of smaller units of living accommodation is a more recent addition to the Conservation Area. The two-storey building is rendered in white and contains a natural slate roof. The window frames are painted red, and its surrounds are raised and coloured grey. The building offers a peculiar layout in that some windows are inset from the building line, using multiple roof pitches, pillars, and in some areas, cantilever brackets connecting the roof to the building.

The building appears detached from the rest of the Conservation Area, though it is acknowledged as an attempt to offer a unique design to the Area.

### Shop fronts on Brecon Road



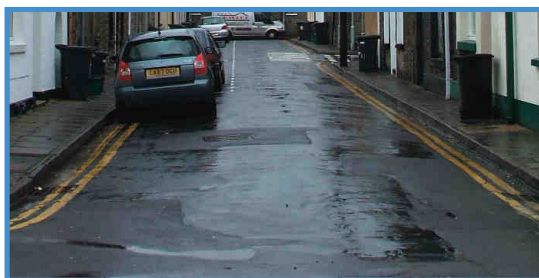
Sporadic commercial units on Brecon Road

The commercial function of Brecon Road is displayed by the number of shop fronts, fronting this main route. A number of the shopfront fascias are designed sympathetically, including the Park View and Rite Stop which incorporate decorated wooden designs. However, some elements of advertising on the fronts of shops are less sympathetic, incorporating back-lit block signs, plastic materials and designs which are not associated with traditional Morgantown.



### Paving

The Conservation Area is largely paved with concrete slabs, or tarmac. Concrete edges are also incorporated to all roadsides. No original paving of the Conservation Area appears to have been retained, and as such, the standard highway materials used offer an indifferent element to Morgantown.



Typical examples of paving in the Conservation Area



## 6 Management Framework

### 6.1 Preface

The previous sections in this document describe the elements of the Conservation Area which contribute to its character and broadly identify areas for enhancement. This section outlines these in further detail and sets out ways in which these negative factors can be mitigated for the benefit of the Conservation Area.

### 6.2 General Condition

The condition of Morgantown Conservation Area generally is fair; however the appraisal indicates that there are a few areas in need of improvement. While there are a number of buildings which positively contribute to the Conservation Area and a number of key buildings which remain in excellent condition, it is considered that the amount of demolitions as well as the sub-standard landscaping and paving of the area demonstrates its elements of decay.

All of the original paving and surfacing of the Conservation Area has been lost and a number of positive buildings have been altered unsympathetically. However, it is considered that the condition of the area is still amply sufficient to merit Conservation Area status while its historic and architectural merit cannot be questioned.

### 6.3 Use of the Appraisal

The primary function of this appraisal is to express the potential for the enhancement of the Conservation Area. This in turn informs a management plan which will serve as a guide to future development within the Area and to

preserve or enhance the Area's special qualities.

The following management framework lists how the Conservation Area could be enhanced or improved with the support of the Local Authority, residents and other agencies. It should be seen as a working document that:

- Encourages future planning applications that respect and promote the elements that are special about the Conservation Area;
- Seeks to improve or remove totally any negative elements;
- Encourages 'ownership' of the area by local residents and Council officials;
- Promotes closer working between all parties with vested interests in the Conservation Area including Local Authority departments, local communities and business owners.

Both the appraisal and management framework will be subject to monitoring and reviews periodically.

### 6.4 Enhancement Opportunities

There are a number of features within Morgantown Conservation Area which have a negative or negligible impact on its special character meanwhile other elements should be sought to be retained or maintained. These areas which represent opportunities for improvement are shown below.





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## ***Vulcan House***

### ***Issue***

The poor condition and lack of use and maintenance of Vulcan House has a significantly negative impact on the appearance of this Conservation Area. This building provides the strongest link back to the industrial past of Morgantown and is reputed to be the oldest building within the Conservation Area.

### ***Recommendation***

The Council should explore options for securing the preservation of Vulcan House. This includes improving its chances for external funding and allowing consideration of residential development on the site.

## ***Vulcan Brewery***

### ***Issue***

The former Vulcan Brewery site is the main area within Morgantown has been granted Planning Permission for a housing development. This site is historically significant and offers a strong link to Vulcan House.

### ***Recommendation***

The general character of the Conservation Area is of small terraced homes constructed of traditional materials while the higher status buildings are approximately three floors in height. Any development at the former Vulcan Brewery site should be designed sympathetically with the layout

and pattern of the Conservation Area while incorporating materials which are sympathetic to its setting.

## ***Unsympathetic Alterations to Buildings***

### ***Issue***

Many buildings within the Conservation Area suffer from insensitive modifications to their architectural fabric, notably within the enclosed area of Morgantown. This includes minor alterations such as the change in windows, doors, cladding and the addition of satellite dishes to the front of properties. The majority of these alterations are currently not the subject of planning control, and the gradual degradation of the building fabric may affect the general appearance of the Conservation Area.

### ***Recommendation***

The Council will seek to review the possibility of an Article 4 direction on dwellings within the Conservation Area in order to gain an element of control over development. The Council will also seek to encourage the restoration of architectural details and the reversal of unsympathetic alterations by means of information leaflets and the encouragement of grant applications such as the reinstatement of window and door surrounds as well as the re-pointing of stonework. When considering planning applications, the Local Planning Authority should seek for original building materials to be preserved and protected.



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## *Untidy Areas*

### *Issue*

Although perhaps lacking in open space, parts of the Conservation Area are unkempt and suffer from poor maintenance. Some small open areas to the north of the Lantern has a fair amount of overgrown vegetation while occasional trees are scarcely maintained.

### *Recommendation*

The Council should seek appropriate landscaping of these areas in character with the Conservation Area while a range of uses should be considered for the open space to the north of the Lantern. It is considered that basic maintenance offers the chance to improve the amenity of Morgantown.

## *Poor Public Realm*

### *Issue*

Some parts of the Conservation Area suffer from poor public realm including a lack of street furniture, and inadequate street surfacing. Such a lack of investment offers a poor setting for the buildings of special interest in the area.

### *Recommendation*

The Council should seek to improve public realm by offering improved signage, benches and hard landscaping in character with the Conservation Area, where possible.

## *Conservation Area Guidance*

### *Issue*

Additional guidance will be required for local residents and stakeholders to ensure that inappropriate development within the Conservation Area is averted. Furthermore, information is required to raise the profile of the Conservation Area.

### *Recommendation*

The Council will source and prepare advisory guidance in order to assist that development will not affect the area's prevalent historic character and to help raise awareness of the importance of the Conservation Area.

## *Historic Linkages*

### *Issue*

The Conservation Area has strong linkages and is within close proximity of a number of historic sites within Merthyr Tydfil. Examples include Cyfarthfa Park, Pontmorlais and Gwaelodygarth House.

### *Recommendation*

Consider strengthening the historic identity of the area by using signage and better links with the surrounding historic area.



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## *Maintenance of Key Hard Furnishings*

### *Issue*

Townscape elements such as rubble stone walls, heritage plaques, flagstones and cast iron railings make a large contribution to the Conservation Area in adding an element of distinctiveness. A number of walls and railings appear to have been neglected and some areas are in disrepair.

### *Recommendation*

Any element which contributes to the character of the Conservation Area should be maintained. The Council should seek resources to secure the maintenance and repair of key hard furnishings. The Council will also seek to prevent any proposals which remove or adversely alter boundary walls, while recommending that new walls should be in character with those present.

## *Boundary Treatments*

### *Issue*

Some boundary treatments within the Conservation Area lack the quality which would normally be associated with their surroundings. Some walls, iron fences and chain link fences offer very poor amenity to the Conservation Area and are substantial in size.

### *Recommendation*

The Council should seek to improve key viewable boundary treatments in their reconstruction in original materials which respect the setting and

character of the Conservation Area.

## *Unoccupied Buildings*

### *Issue*

Some buildings which front Bethesda Street appear to be in a poor state of repair or are unoccupied. This area provides the frontage for Morgantown from Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre and is key to the Conservation Area.

### *Recommendation*

The Council should seek a beneficial use for these buildings and a programme of maintenance for these buildings must be sought, where possible.

## *Locally Listed Buildings*

### *Issue*

A number of buildings within the Conservation Area have been identified as key positive buildings within this character appraisal and merit inclusion in the List of Local Buildings of Importance. This includes the Park View Public House and The Lantern. Some buildings which front Pontmorlais West also merit inclusion.

### *Recommendation*

Protection will also be sought to these buildings in the case of any potential demolition proposals, applying the same criteria as proposals to demolish Listed Buildings.



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## *Loss of Shopfronts*

### *Issue*

Some traditional shopfronts have been altered to include such designs as backlit boards, and the use of materials that are not of a vernacular style to match Morgantown.

### *Recommendation*

Additional protection will be required to shopfronts by means of more stringent planning controls. Funding should also be accessible to shop owners to alter unsympathetic signage to original.



# Appendix A

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## Sources



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**Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust (2003)** Historic Landscape Characterisation: Merthyr Tydfil

**Maylan, N (2009)** Merthyr Tydfil Brewery (Vulcan Brewery) Brecon Road, Historic Building Record (GGAT)

**Owen, Wilf (2009)** The Morgans of the Grawn and Bolgoed

**The Conservation Studio (2008)** Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Built Heritage Strategy and Action Plan (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

**Welsh Assembly Government (1996)** Welsh Office Planning Circular 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology (WAG)

**Welsh Assembly Government (1996)** Welsh Office Planning Circular 61/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas (WAG)

**Welsh Assembly Government (2002)** Planning Policy Wales (WAG)

# Appendix B

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## Public Consultation Report



## 1. Methodology

The Morgantown Conservation Area Character Appraisal was written between June and October 2009, following a number of surveys undertaken in April and June 2009. A Designation Statement was also prepared and approved by full Council in June 2009.

The Character Appraisal was drawn up following the approval of the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Built Heritage Strategy and Action Plan by the County Borough Council in December 2008. Public consultation was undertaken to take into regard public opinion on the desirability of designating a conservation area and on the accuracy of the contents of the draft character appraisal, including the key positive characteristics of Morgantown and key issues to be addressed.

The public consultation ran for 22 days from 13th November to 4th December 2009. A consultation event was held at Cyfarthfa Castle on the 19th November 2009 and copies of the Character Appraisal and proposed boundary was made available to the public at Merthyr Tydfil Public Library, the Council's Town Planning Division and on the Council's website. A questionnaire was also made available via all of the above media and during the consultation event.

## 2. Publicity

An advertisement was delivered to all properties within the area affected by the proposed Conservation Area. Furthermore, the local Heritage Trust was notified as well as the amenities societies, Communities First

representatives and other Council departments on the 10th November 2009. This information informed the above groups and persons of the consultation process and inviting them to attend the consultation event or to view the documents online.

## 3. Public Consultation Event

The public consultation event took the form of a walk in surgery held within Cyfarthfa Castle on 19th November from 10.00am until 4.00pm. The Council's Heritage and Conservation Officer was available to explain the background to the proposed designation of the Conservation Area, its consequences and to answer any queries the public had. An exhibition included copies of the draft character appraisal and boards explaining the process and reasons for designating a conservation area, the changes in planning consequent to designation, characteristics of the conservation area and the key issues to be addressed by its designation.

A questionnaire, which provided questions to guide responses from attendees, was made available and attendees were encouraged to fill it in at the event or to return it later. Approximately 22 members of the public attended the event and included local residents, business and property owners.

## 4. Questionnaire

To encourage stakeholders to provide their views on the proposed Conservation Area designation, a Questionnaire was prepared and made available at the Public Consultation Event, at the Council's





Town Planning Division and from the Council's website. The questionnaire included one question that required a basic yes/no response to ascertain whether respondents agreed with the principal of designating the conservation area and three 'open' questions to elicit qualitative responses. The open questions asked for views on the accuracy of the Draft Character Appraisal, factors contributing to the special historic or architectural interest of Morgantown and negative features or issues that detracted from its special interest.

## 5. Responses

Three written responses were returned by the 4th December 2009. These responses generally confirm that Morgantown has a special historic or architectural interest and support the notion of a Morgantown Conservation Area. The responses also point out a number of areas for addressing should proper management of the Conservation Area be implemented. Below is a summary of all issues and concerns raised by consultees during the consultation process. The Town Planning Division's response is noted in italic font following each comment:

### *Condition of public spaces*

A response indicated that the area to the north of the Lantern is unkempt and that public highways have been surfaced poorly.

*These issues have been identified within the character appraisal as areas in need of attention. This comment has been noted and will be reiterated further in the final published Conservation Area Character Appraisal.*

### *Restriction of Permitted Development Rights*

Some respondents feared that designation as a Conservation Area will result in unreasonable restrictions by means of alterations to dwellings.

*The Council acknowledges that there will be the removal of some permitted development rights relating to satellite dishes, the felling of trees, front and rear extensions. These are not considered to be significant changes, and any already implemented alterations which are contrary to new Permitted Development rights cannot be enforced against. The Council reserves the right to enforce an Article 4 Direction on any Conservation Area within its Borough, should it consider it necessary. However, there are no imminent plans to do so.*

### *Conservation Area Boundary*

A respondent commented that the Conservation Area boundary is too large. It noted that Morgantown should consist solely the industrial workers housing within the Garth Street and Edward Street area.

*The eastern area of Edwardian development has been included as it also contains an architectural merit worth protecting, which has been identified within the Character Appraisal. This area, along with Brecon Road, continues to be administratively referred to as Morgantown, and has retained this eponymous title as part of the Conservation Area designation.*



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### *Condition of Vulcan House*

Respondents cited the poor condition of Vulcan House as a particular issue

*Designation as a Conservation Area will aid the prospective owners of Vulcan House to gain funding from various sources, including Cadw, to aid its restoration.*

### *Alleged potential demolition of Vulcan House*

A respondent had objected to the proposal of a Conservation Area covering the core of Morgantown. The respondent claimed that proposal was a Council mechanism for demolishing Vulcan House and facilitating its replacement.

*The object of a Conservation Area is for the preservation of its built heritage and to add additional protection of buildings from demolition. Designation as a Conservation Area would improve the chances of buildings to receive funding for restoration and will protect buildings further from demolition. The Conservation Area character appraisal identified that Morgantown has unquestionable historic and architectural quality worthy of Conservation Area status.*

# Appendix C

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## Useful Addresses



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**Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council**

Design, Heritage and Conservation Officer

Ty Keir Hardie,

Riverside Court

Avenue de Clichy

Merthyr Tydfil

CF47 8XF

Tel: 01685 726268

heritage&conservation@merthyr.gov.uk

**Cadw**

Welsh Assembly Government

Plas Carew

Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed

Parc Nantgarw

Cardiff

CF15 7QQ

Tel: 01443 33 6000

Fax: 01443 33 6001

**The Royal Commission on the Ancient and  
Historical Monuments of Wales**

National Monuments Record of Wales

Plas Crug

Aberystwyth

SY23 1NJ

Tel: 01970 621200

Fax: 01970 627701

nmr.wales@rcahmw.gov.uk

**The Victorian Society**

1 Priory Gardens

London

W4 1TT

Tel: 020 8994 1019

Fax: 020 8747 5899

admin@victoriansociety.org.uk

**The Georgian Group**

6 Fitzroy Square

London

W1P 6DX

Tel 087 1750 2936

info@georgiangroup.org.uk

**Twentieth Century Society**

70 Cowcross Street

London EC1M 6EJ

Tel: 020 7250 3857

Fax: 020 7251 8985

caseworker@c20society.org.uk

**Council for British Archaeology**

St Mary's House

66 Bootham

York YO30 7BZ

Tel: 01904 671417

Fax: 01904 671384

**Ancient Monuments Society**

St Ann's Vestry Hall

2 Church Entry

London

EC4V 5HB

Tel: 020 7236 3934

office@ancientmonumentsociety.org.uk

**The Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings**

37 Spital Square

London

E1 6DY

Tel: 020 7377 1644

Fax: 020 7247 5296

info@SPAB.org.uk





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**Garden History Society**

70 Cowcross Street

London

EC1M 6EJ

Phone: 020 7608 2409

[enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org)

**International Council on Monuments & Sites UK**

70 Cowcross Street

London

EC1M 6EJ

Phone: 020 7566 0031

[admin@icomos-uk.org](mailto:admin@icomos-uk.org)

**The Royal Town Planning Institute**

41 Botolph Lane

London

EC3R 8DL

[www.rtpi.org.uk](http://www.rtpi.org.uk)

**Merthyr Tydfil Heritage Trust Ltd**

Ynysfach Engine House

Ynysfach Road

Merthyr Tydfil

CF48 1AG

[Mtheritagetrust@aol.com](mailto:Mtheritagetrust@aol.com)



# Appendix D

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## Glossary of Architectural Terms



**ABUTMENT** Solid masonry placed to counteract the lateral thrust of a vault or arch and so give the arch or vault strength.

**ARCH** A structure forming the curved, pointed, or flat upper edge of an open space and supporting the weight above it, as in a bridge or doorway.

**APEX** The highest, pointed part of a gable

**ARCHITRAVE / ARCHIVOLT** A moulded surround to a door or window opening. An archivolt refers to an arched opening.

**ASHLAR** Worked stone with flat surface, usually of regular shape and square edges. As opposed to rough stone, which is not squared off. Due to its expense, you will often find buildings made of rough stone or rubble with quoins of Ashlar at the corners of the building, often laid alternately with their long-side and short side facing out; this is a common feature of Regency architecture.

**BALUSTER** A short post or pillar in a series that supports a rail, forming a balustrade. May be curved or straight.

**BARGE BOARD** Timber boards fixed to a gable end of a roof, can be ornamental in detail

**BATTER** An inclined face of wall; hence battered.

**BATTLEMENT** A parapet with upstanding pieces and indentations. For instance, Castellated or Crenellated, like the turrets of castles.

**BAY , BOW and ORIEL windows** These windows project out from the front or side of a house. Oriel windows generally project from an upper story, supported by a bracket. Bay windows are angled projections that rise up from the ground on the first floor. Bow windows are rounded projections, often formed of the window glass itself.

**BUTTRESS** A mass of stone or brick built against, or as part of a wall, to provide additional strength to it.

**CASEMENT WINDOWS** Windows with a hinged opening

**CILL** The horizontal feature at the bottom of a window or door which throws water away from the face of a building

**COLUMN** An upright vertical member which usually stands clear of the main body of a building. Usually circular in cross-section and is a common motif of classical architecture

**CONSOLE** An ornamental scrolled bracket, normally in stone or timber usually supporting a fascia

**COPING** Stones, usually large and hard-wearing, placed at the top of for example walls, in order to take the brunt of the weather and protect the more delicate stone-work below.

**CORBEL** A projecting block which supports a parapet or sill. Often carved.



**COLUMN** A vertical weight-carrying architectural member, circular in cross section and consisting of a base (sometimes omitted), a shaft, and a capital.

**CONSERVATION AREA** An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance

**CORNICE** Any projecting ornamental moulding that finishes or crowns the top of a building, wall, arch, etc.

**COURSED** A continuous layer of building material, such as brick or tile, on a wall or roof of a building.

**DORMER** A window which projects from the pitch of a roof

**DRESSED STONE** Blocks of stone that have been trimmed and given a smooth face, i.e. ashlar stone.

**DRESSING** Carved stonework around openings

**DUTCH GABLE** A term to describe gables which are curved

**EAVES** That part of a sloping roof which is overhanging.

**EDWARDIAN** Period during the reign of King Edward VII (1901-1910) where architecture was chiefly influenced by arts and crafts and natural materials.

**ELEVATION** One of the external faces of a building; also, an architect's drawing of a facade, set out to scale.

**FACADE** The front of a building.

**FANLIGHT** Glazed area above a doorway, designed to brighten the hallway inside

**FASCIA** The broad horizontal board over a shopfront which carries the name of a shop, often flanked by corbels.

**FINIAL** A sculptured ornament, at the top of a gable, pinnacle, or similar structure. Common in Victorian architecture

**GABLE** The generally triangular section of wall at the end of a double-pitched roof, occupying the space between the two slopes of the roof. By extension, sometimes refers to the whole end wall of a building or wing having a pitched roof.

**GEORGIAN** Covering the period from 1714 to 1830 where architecture was influenced by the principles of Rome and Ancient Greece. Regularly spaced openings and 8 pane timber sash windows are common.

**GOTHIC ARCHITECTURE** A style of architecture that was prevalent in Western Europe from about 1200 until 1550. Gothic Revival refers to the Victorian revival of Gothic architecture, characterised by pointed and arched openings.

**HIPPED ROOF** Pitched roof without gables, where all sides of the roof meet at an angle





**HOODMOULD** Projecting moulding over an arch or lintel designed to throw off water

**KEystone** A wedge-shaped or tapered stone placed at the top of an arch or vault. In vaulting it occurs at the intersection of the ribs of a ribbed vault.

**LANCET or LANCET WINDOW** A long, narrow window with a sharply pointed head.

**LEAN-TO ROOF** A roof which is built up against a vertical wall and has one slope only

**LINTEL** A horizontal structural member spanning an opening (e.g. window or door). Usually made of wood, stone or steel (such as a beam). Carries the weight, and provides support to, the wall above the opening.

**LISTED BUILDING** A building or structure of specific architectural or historic importance and which is afforded statutory protection by Cadw

**MORTAR** A material used in construction to fill gaps between stones or bricks and bind them together

**MOULDING** A continuous, narrow surface (projecting or recesses, plain or ornamented) designed to break up a surface, to accent, or to decorate.

**OCCULUS** A small circular panel or window

**ORIEL** A projecting window in a wall. Originally the term was given to a form of porch, often of wood.

**PANEL** A portion of a surface, often a wall lining or in a door, that is usually rectangular and can be recessed or above another surface.

**PARAPET** A low protective wall or railing along the edge of a raised structure such as a roof or balcony.

**PEDIMENT** A low-pitched gable over porticos, doors, windows, etc

**PILASTER** A flat, rectangular, vertical member projecting from a wall of which it forms a part. Usually has a base and a capital and is often fluted. It is designed to be a flat representation of a classical column in shallow relief.

**PLINTH** The projecting base of wall.

**POINTING** The joints between the stonework, often in lime mortar

**PORTICO** A porch in the form of a Classical colonnade, usually described in terms of the number of columns.

**QUATREFOIL** A traceried opening made of four cusps or lobes

**QUOINS** The dressed stones at the corners of buildings, usually laid so their faces are alternately large and small. Usually in contrasting colour of brick from the rest of the wall. Common feature of Georgian buildings.



**REGENCY** Strictly the period from 1811 to 1820 when George, Prince of Wales was Prince Regent due to the madness of his father George IV. In architecture it is more generally considered the period from the 1790's to about 1840.

**RENDER** To coat (brick, for example) with plaster or cement.

**REVEAL** The part of the side of a window or door opening that is between the outer surface of a wall and the window or door frame; the jamb.

**RIDGE TILES** Tiles that cover the highest point of the roof

**ROCK FACED** Stonework dressed in such a way to make it look natural

**ROOF LIGHT** A glazed opening set in a roof

**RUBBLE STONE** Stones of irregular shape and size

**RUSTICATED** The treatment of stone in a way which emphasises its appearance. This is usually done by leaving the visible stone rock faced or rough

**SANDSTONE** A sedimentary rock formed by the consolidation and compaction of sand and held together by a natural cement, such as silica. Pennant stone, common in Merthyr Tydfil, is a type of sandstone

**SASH WINDOW** A window formed with sashes i.e. glazed wooden frames which slide up and down in vertical grooves by means of counterbalanced weights. The standard form has two moveable sashes and is termed a "double-hung sash."

**SNECKED** Coursed stonework where the squared stones have not been fully dressed and the coursing is varied by smaller filler stones or 'snecks'

**SOFFIT** The exposed undersurface of any overhead component of a building such as an arch, balcony, beam, cornice, lintel or vault.

**STRING COURSE** A continuous projecting horizontal band set in the surface of a wall and usually moulded. Often in a different coloured brick or stone, and used for decoration.

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER (TPO)** Provides protection for trees specified in the order.

**TREFOIL** Ornamental tracery in the form of a flower with three symmetrical petals.

**TURRET** A small, often ornamental tower projecting from a building, usually at a corner.

**TYMPANUM** The ornamental recessed space or panel enclosed by the cornices of a triangular pediment. Also, a similar space between an arch and the lintel of a portal or window.

**VERNACULAR** An indigenous building constructed of locally available materials, to local detail, usually without the benefit of an architect.



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**VESTRY** A room in, or attached to, a church where the clergy put on their vestments and where these robes and other sacred objects are stored; synonymous with a sacristy.

**VISTA** A distant view through or along an avenue or opening

**VOUSSOIR** The radiating wedge-shaped blocks forming an arch

**WHITEWASH** A mixture of lime and water, often with whiting, size, or glue added, that is used to whiten walls, fences, or other structures.



## Appendix E

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### Conservation Area Boundary Map





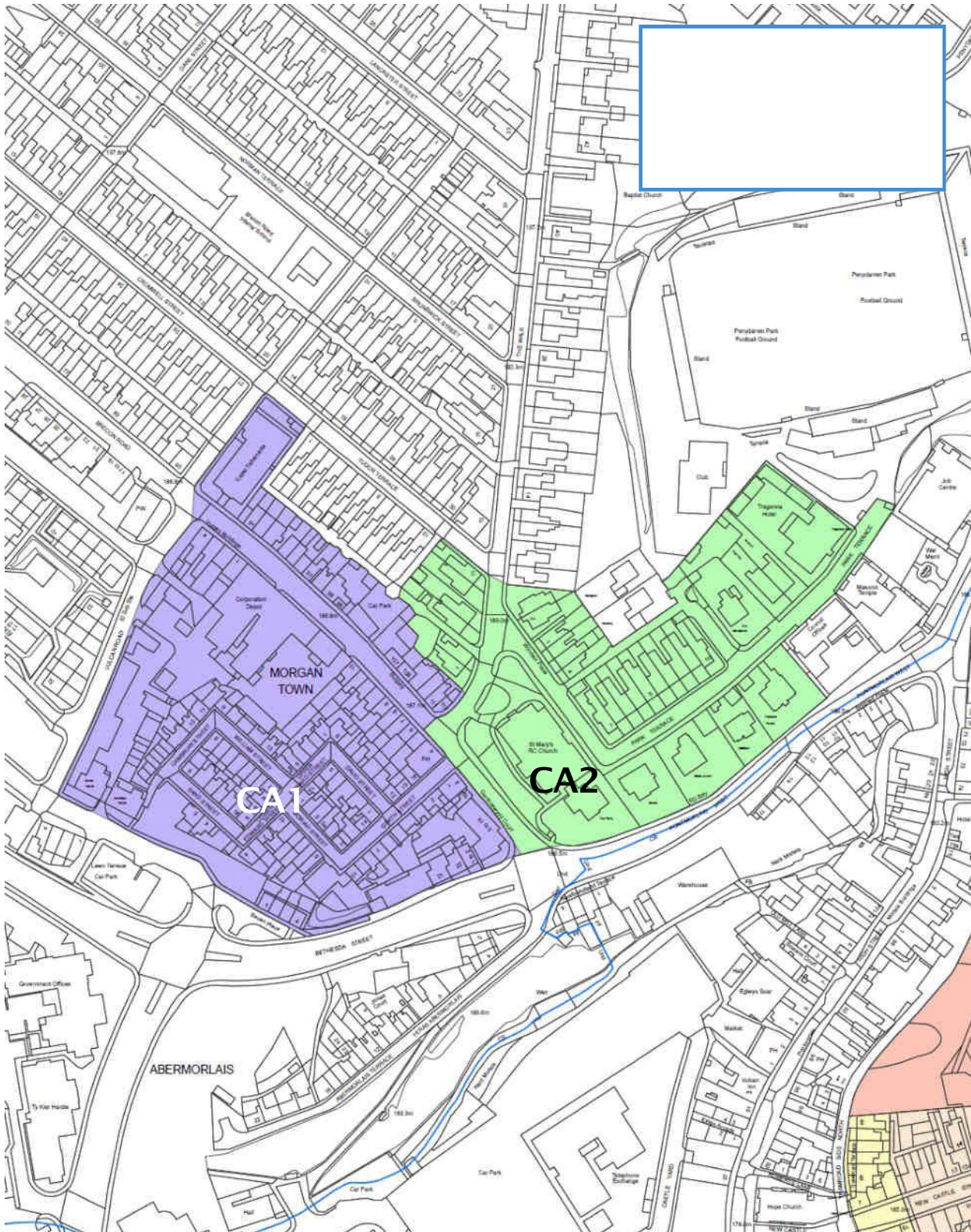


## Appendix F

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### Conservation Area Character Areas





Character Areas of Morgantown Conservation Area