

PLANNING APPROVED · JANUARY 2026



A World-Class Sport and Leisure Resort

A year-round destination for families, friends and adventurers of every kind.

Merthyr Tydfil · South Wales

A development by Marvel Limited (Isle of Man)



**Rhydycar
West**



Play Video

A resort, a destination, and a game-changer for Wales.

c.£38m

Annual direct GVA once open — nearly 2× the Principality Stadium's 2017–18 spend.

c.£317m

Added to the Welsh economy during construction. Direct only — the ripple effect will be far greater.

c.2,342

Direct jobs across construction and operation. Significant indirect jobs in addition to this.

c.£300m

Direct capital invested into Wales and the Heads of The Valleys.

Planning approved January 2026 · Construction 2027 · Doors open 2030

What we're building...

01

Indoor Snow Centre

UK's largest and longest. Skiing, boarding, snow play and more.

02

Indoor Tropical Waterpark

Year-round waterpark with a full mix of rides and pools.

03

Indoor & Outdoor Adventure Centre

Multi-activity centre for all ages and abilities.

04

Resort Hotels

c.418 rooms.

05

Woodland Lodges

30 luxury lodges in mature woodland.

06

Spa, Dining & Events

Conference centre, restaurants, spa and wellness.

07

Heritage & Nature Trails

To explore the site's industrial heritage and nature.



Within hours reach of most of Europe.

Rhydyar West sits inside one of the densest airport catchments in Western Europe. Within a 2.5-hour journey of the resort, four international airports — Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham and Heathrow — together carried **110 million passengers in 2025** and serve hundreds of unique direct destinations across Europe and beyond.

The four airports at a glance

Cardiff — 40 minutes by road. 34 direct destinations including Paris and Amsterdam. KLM connects to 150+ further global destinations via Amsterdam. ~954k passengers in 2025.

Bristol — 1 hour by road. 118 direct destinations across 34 countries. 10.8m passengers in 2025 — England's third largest regional airport.

Birmingham — 2 hours by road. 135+ direct destinations across 41 countries with 28+ airlines. 13.66m passengers in 2025, on track for 18m by 2033.

Heathrow — 2hr 30min by road. **The most-connected airport in the world** (OAG, 2025). 226 destinations across 80 countries. 84.5m passengers in 2025.

Sources: UK CAA passenger statistics 2025 · OAG Megahubs Index 2025 · Heathrow, Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff Airport annual reports 2025.

500+

direct destinations served between airports within 2.5 hours of Rhydyar West



40 minutes from Cardiff. Within hours reach of most of Europe.

ROAD

A470 adjacent
M4 19 miles
A465 2.2 miles

RAIL

3 stations within 1km
Cardiff 40 min
London 3 hrs

AIR

Cardiff 40 min
Bristol 1 hr
Birmingham 2 hrs
Heathrow 2.25 hrs

The recent **£2 billion** completion of the Heads of the Valleys Road, just **two miles** from Rhydycar West, has significantly enhanced connectivity to South Wales, the Midlands and the wider UK, positioning the resort as one of the country's most accessible leisure destinations.

REACH

c.70m in the UK

*c.50m people within 4hrs
by road or rail*

Over 450m in the EU

*most major cities
by short-haul flight*

Via Heathrow, Gatwick, Bristol, Birmingham and Cardiff International.

A market that's ready — and underserved.

1.69m

annual visitors to Merthyr Tydfil in 2023.

4m+

annual visitors to Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park — where development is not permitted.

~£6bn

annual turnover of the Welsh tourism industry.
44% of tourism jobs sit in South East Wales.

Sources: ONS 2021 Census · Welsh Government tourism statistics · Visit Wales visitor economy profile · Merthyr Tydfil CBC annual visitor data

As the local Member of the Senedd and the Member of Parliament we want to make clear our general support for major developments like Rhydyar West with the significant economic boost that they can bring to the area.

Dawn Bowden · Former MS for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney and Gerald Jones · MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare · August 2024



Not just a resort. The centre of Britain's outdoor capital.

Rhydycar West will join a hub of successful leisure attractions creating a new complementary leisure destination.

WITHIN MINUTES OF THE RESORT

- Bannau Brycheiniog** 10 min drive
4m+ annual visitors. The UK's most dramatic mountain landscape.
- BikePark Wales** Adjacent, cycle-linked
One of Europe's premier mountain bike destinations.
- Zip World Tower** 10 miles
One of Europe's longest zip lines. Former colliery site.
- Cyfarthfa Castle & Ironworks** 5 min drive
Iconic industrial heritage site and attraction.
- Brecon Mountain Railway** 10 min drive
Historic steam railway
- Rock UK & Parkwood Dolygaer** Nearby
Outdoor education and adventure centres.



Cyfarthfa Park & Castle, a 5 minute drive from Rhydycar West



One resort.

Everything a great destination needs.

The UK's largest and longest indoor snow centre. From family snow play to Olympic athletes.

Skiing. Snowboarding. Tubing. Snow play for all. School trips and lessons for beginners. Elite training for GB and Welsh teams. One centre. Every audience.

At c.400 metres, Rhydycar West's snow centre is more than twice the size of any in the UK.

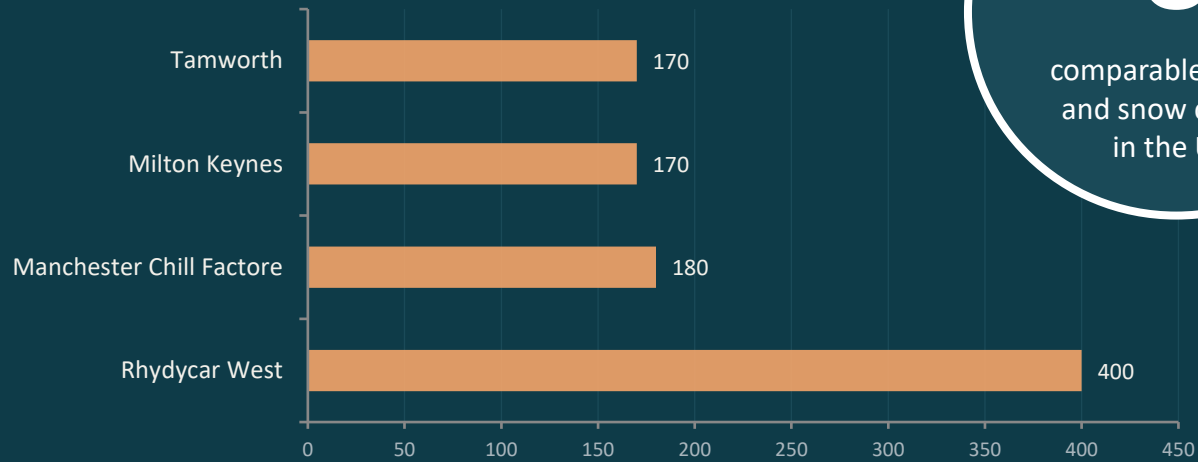


0
comparable resorts
and snow centres
in the UK.

6hrs
to the nearest
European snow
centres.



UK indoor snow centres by length



Home and training HQ of Team GB and Snowsport Wales – National, Olympic and Paralympic teams.

The snow centre will be built to FIS (International Ski Federation) specification, enabling the venue to host regional, national, and international competitions together with international team training.



GB SNOWSPORT

"Rhydycar West would be the natural home headquarters for GB Snowsport's training needs."

Vicky Gosling OBE, CEO



SNOWSPORT CYMRU WALES

*"A game-changing opportunity for snow sport in Wales."
"We've campaigned for this facility for nearly a decade."*

Robin Kellen, Chief Executive

ELEMENT · INDOOR TROPICAL WATERPARK



A tropical escape, every day of the year.

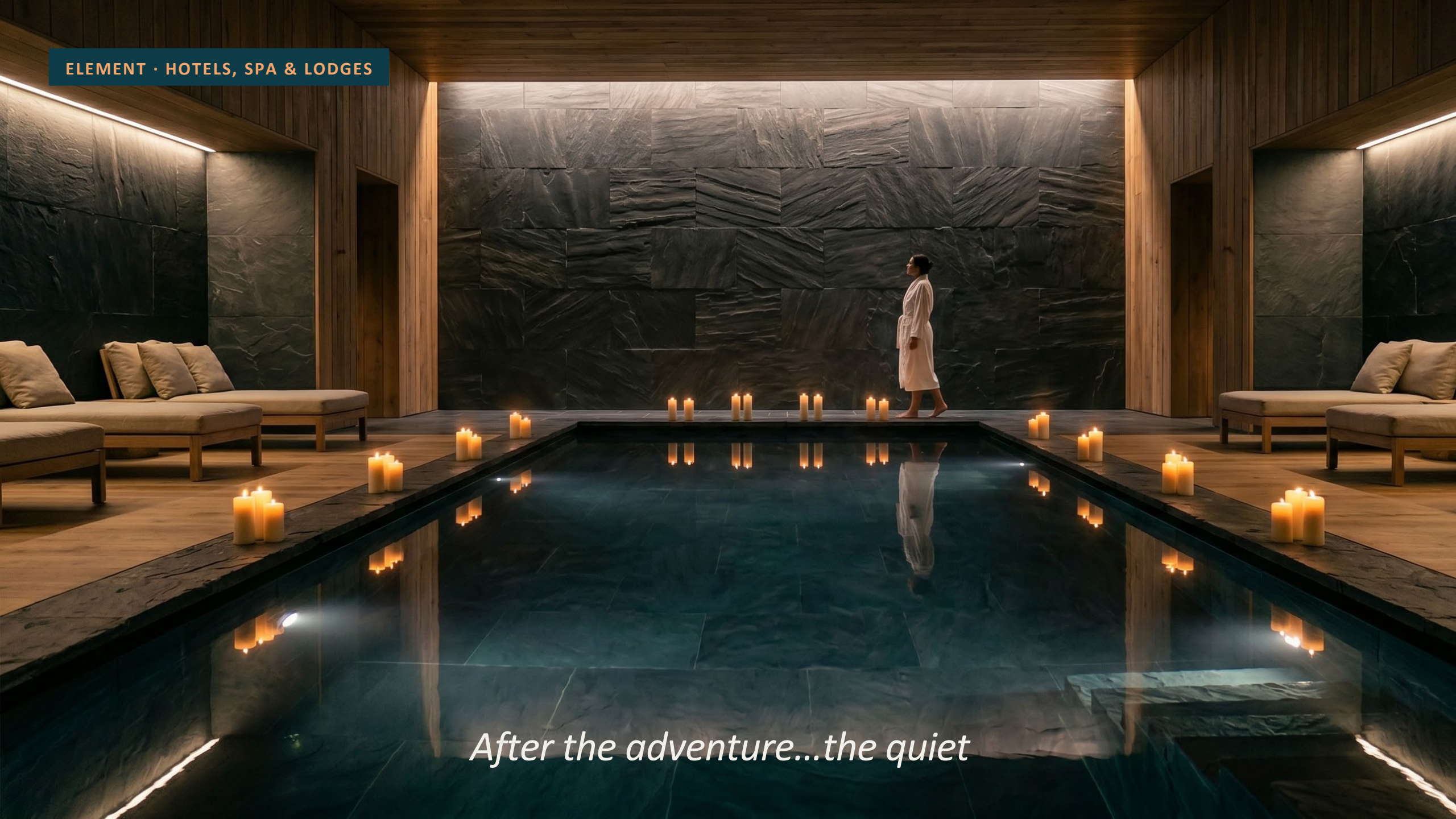
Designed by Holder Mathias Architects — the team behind Center Parcs' premier waterparks — the Rhydycar West waterpark will bring the best of the European and North American indoor resort experience to the UK.

- A full range of family-friendly pools, slides and rides
- Adventure elements for thrill-seekers and teens
- Calmer zones for relaxation and wellbeing
- All under a tropical, year-round setting





Adventure for every age.



After the adventure...the quiet

418 luxury rooms. Three styles. One resort.

198

rooms

Family Resort Wing

100

rooms

Luxury Spa Wing

120

rooms

Sport & Value Wing

30

lodges

Woodland Lodges



A transformational project for Wales and the Northern Valleys.



Regeneration and economic development

Regeneration of former mining land into a destination that boosts an emerging economy for Merthyr Tydfil and the Northern Valleys.



Jobs, skills and apprenticeships

Apprenticeships, long-term careers and training pathways, sourced locally wherever possible. MoUs signed with The College Merthyr Tydfil and Tydfil Training.



Local Business opportunities and Town Centre upliftment

Extensive supply chain and business opportunities for local and regional businesses. Driving essential footfall to the town centre. MoU signed with Merthyr Town Centre businesses.



Social value

Creating long-term benefit and making a difference to people, place and community beyond economic returns including – wellbeing, prosperity, employment, skills, training, supply chains and access.



Ripple effect on the region

Indirect and induced impact on the supply chain, hospitality, retail and transport sits on top of all direct figures. The benefit extends well beyond the town and the region.



Synergy, not competition

BikePark Wales, Zip World, Cyfarthfa, Trago Mills, Rock UK, Brecon Mountain Railway — Rhydycar West amplifies and compliments the region's existing attractions.

"ZipWorld has had a near £1bn impact on the Welsh economy over the last decade." — Wales Online, May 2024

GERALD JONES MP

"Merthyr Tydfil rarely gets the chance for a major development that could transform the town's fortunes, benefit its young people, and significantly boost the profile of the wider Valleys region."

Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare ·
August 2024

HUW THOMAS

"A landmark development for the Heads of the Valley and will make a significant contribution in attracting further investment, visitors and tourists to this strategic location in the Cardiff Capital Region."

Former Leader, Cardiff Council
Member of Senedd for Cardiff and Penarth

CLLR BRENT CARTER

"Rhydycar West is groundbreaking – a complete game changer for Merthyr Tydfil. It will massively support and boost our economy and offer multiple opportunities for future generations. The amount of support has been overwhelming."

Leader, Merthyr Tydfil CBC

A project Wales believes in.

Endorsed by locals, the public and private sector.

- Blaenau Gwent CBC
- Cardiff Council
- Torfaen CBC
- Newport City Council
- Cardiff Capital Region
- The College Merthyr Tydfil
- Tydfil Training
- The Cyfarthfa Foundation
- Zip World
- Bikepark Wales
- Snowsport Wales Cymru
- GB Snowsport
- SnowWorld

3000+

Petition signatures

95%

PUBLIC SUPPORT



FEATURED ON:

BBC, ITV, SKY, THE SUN, THE MIRROR, THE INDEPENDENT, WALES ONLINE

Wales Online - <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/longest-indoor-ski-slope-water-3318683>

Timeout - <https://www.timeout.com/uk/news/the-longest-ski-slope-in-britain-officially-approved-010826>

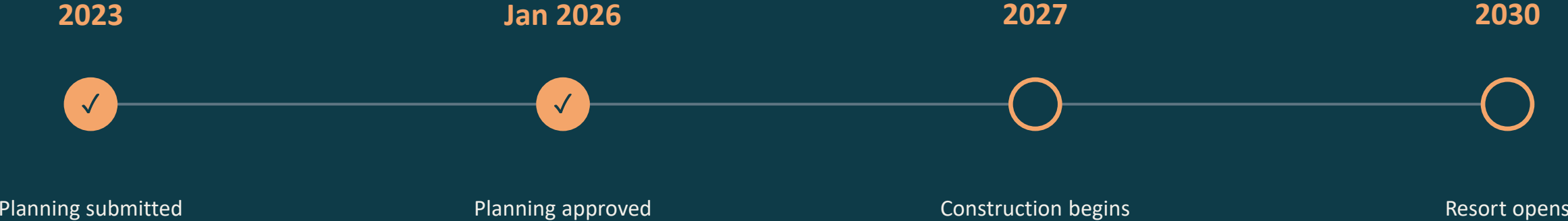
BBC - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czrk71ey73eo>

The Sun - <https://www.thesun.co.uk/travel/37885160/giant-resort-britains-longest-ski-slope-waterpark-hotel-uk/>

Independent - <https://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/new-ski-resort-wales-welsh-council-b2900150.html>

ITV - <https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2026-01-07/uks-longest-snow-centre-and-huge-hotel-approved-for-welsh-town>

Timeline



The team delivering Rhydyar West.



Ali Tyebkhan

Chief Executive Officer

University of Oxford, Solicitor (Hogan Lovells, ENOC Dubai).
20+ years international commercial experience. With the project since inception.



Andy Coleman

Chief Financial Officer

30 years in financial services — Standard Life, AXA, Cofunds/Aegon. Joined Rhydyar West in 2020.



Pritesh Desai

Director

Chartered Certified Accountant. 25+ years in corporate, real estate and hospitality. Founder of Cavendish Trust.

OUR CONSULTANTS

Best-in-class consultants delivering the project



CARNEYSWEENEY PLANNING



HolderMathiasarchitects





Diolch yn fawr.

Thank you.

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rhydycarwest.com

A project by Marvel Limited (Isle of Man)